

The

KINGBIRD

Federation of
New York State
Bird Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 51 No. 3

September 2001



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State and maintain the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State.

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Editor- Emanuel Levine
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UPSTATE NEW YORK'S FIRST GREAT EGRET COLONY

William Watson

771 Fletcher St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

www.watsonsr@cs.com

ABSTRACT

The first documented colonization of Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) in upstate New York was studied at Motor Island in the Niagara River during the 1995 to 2000 breeding seasons. The mixed colony of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants was studied at a distance of 2000 feet in an effort to unobtrusively study Great Egret breeding behaviors and document the colony's progress. The author presents evidence that egg dates in New York State should be extended from 23 May - 4 Jun to 18 Apr - 7 Aug, unfledged juvenile dates from 25 Jun - 25 Jul to 16 May - 18 Sep and the fledging date of 25 Jul to 12 Jul - 18 Sep.

INTRODUCTION

The Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) population has made a spectacular recovery from near extirpation by plume hunters during the late nineteenth century. The species returned as a breeder to New Jersey in the late 1920's (Walsh et al. 1999) and the first New York State breeding was confirmed in 1953 on Fisher's Island in extreme eastern Suffolk County (Griffith 1998). Since that date the species has established itself as a regular breeder on Long Island (which includes Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties) as well as in Richmond, Bronx and Westchester counties, with numerous colonies. The colony described here is the first recorded in upstate New York.

David M. Peterson (1988) states, "The Great Egret record in central New York was of birds flying in and out of a Great Blue Heron colony. The Atlas also documents a record on Lake Champlain. However, breeding has never been confirmed there or on the Vermont side, where a pair was recorded by the Vermont Atlas at Missisquoi NWR in 1977 (Fichtel 1985). The Great Egret recently nested to the west of New York on the Canadian side of Lake Erie in 1981 and 1982 (Weir 1982), and to the north at Dundee, Quebec, in 1984 (J. Peterson 1984). It may be just a matter of time before the Great Egret is found breeding either on Lake Champlain or the Great Lakes basin of New York."

This prediction would be fulfilled.

In the spring of 1995 I was studying the dates of Great Blue Heron incubation in several western New York colonies, when on 13 May, I was surprised to observe four Great Egrets at a colony on Motor Island in the Niagara River. I was even more astonished to see some of these egrets carrying sticks for the purpose of building nests! This observation represented the first confirmed nest building of Great Egrets in upstate New York State, and further study at this site documented Great Egret copulation, incubation, and nestlings.

THE NESTING SITE

Motor Island (also called Pirate's Island) is located in the east branch of the Niagara River, due east of Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, New York at 78° 55' 30" W longitude and 42° 53' 40" N latitude. It is teardrop shaped with a maximum length of slightly more than 1000 feet and a maximum width of nearly 400 feet. At the southern end is a colony of Great Blue Herons, established in 1990 (Watson 1994). By 1994 there were eight Great Blue Heron nests and twelve Black-crowned Night-Heron nests. By 2001 the colony completely covered Motor Island with 108 Great Blue Heron nests, 102 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, and eight Great Egret nests.

Double-crested Cormorants built fifteen nests in a tree at the edge of the colony in 1997, but only three produced young. In 1998, a Red-tailed Hawk nested in the same tree, which probably discouraged the cormorants from nesting. The last attempt in 1999 was thwarted by the NYSDEC when, on 11 Jun, they knocked down eight cormorant nests, most of which contained eggs.

Canada Geese and Ring-billed Gulls also nest on Motor Island.

OBSERVATIONS

Observations were made from a distance of 2200 feet with an 8-inch Celestron telescope from the boat launch at the west end of Sheridan Drive in the Township of Tonawanda, and from Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island from a distance of 1800 feet. To use the sun to best advantage most morning observations were from Sheridan Drive and most afternoon and evening observations were from Beaver Island.

From 13 May 1995 to 20 Jul 1995, a total of forty-five observations of Great Egrets was made on thirty-two different days, totaling 20 1/4 hours. Thirty-seven were made from the boat launch at Sheridan Drive and averaged 30 minutes each, while eight made from Beaver Island averaged 17 minutes each. Observations ranged in duration from checks and counts of egrets lasting only 3 to 5 minutes, to longer behavioral studies lasting 85 minutes. The following contains highlights from eight of the forty-five observations in 1995, which were made from the Sheridan Drive boat launch unless noted otherwise.

13 May 10:48-11:21 AM - While studying incubating Great Blue Herons at Motor Island, I was surprised to observe a Great Egret on the ground below the heron colony. I initially assumed that the egret was scavenging for dropped food under the herons' nests. However, subsequent observations revealed that there were four Great Egrets, and they were picking up sticks instead of food! After a stick was deemed acceptable, the egret flew off with the stick and disappeared behind a scrubby fruit tree. This procedure was repeated several times. Between 8:05 and 8:15 PM that same day, observations were made from Beaver Island to

better study the location where the nest was being built. The upper half of a Great Egret was observed at the presumed location (as well as on 14, 15 and 17 May) but the presumed nest was obstructed by foliage. As early as 14 May, as well as later, observations indicated that the four Great Egrets had staked out two nesting territories within the colony. One territory was in the eastern central half of the rookery and best studied from Sheridan Drive, and the other was near the north-western margin of the rookery and best studied from Beaver Island.

22 May 3:50-4:17 PM - White spots at the east nest indicated incubation. At 4:05 the incubating egret stood, stretched, and radiated its long breeding body plumage into a beautiful display looking much like a pincushion, and three minutes later a second Great Egret landed next to it. At 4:14, this second egret flew to and mounted the largely obscured egret at the northwest nest location and copulated with it. After about 15 seconds it returned to its original mate at the eastern nest. Observations from Beaver Island between 4:33 and 4:52 suggested that the egret at the northwestern nest had dropped into a hidden sitting position and might also be incubating.

27 May 7:55-9:18 AM - One egret was in incubating position on the east nest, a second egret gathered sticks in the heron colony and a third gathered sticks in a field just north of the colony. The Great Egret collecting sticks in the Great Blue Heron colony was then chased away by a Great Blue Heron. Between 7:55 and 8:10, adult egrets landed four times at the supposed northeast nest location. At 8:14 an egret in the field radiated the breeding plumage on its back into a striking display. Then suddenly at 8:27 two egrets and five Great Blue Herons in the field rose into the air. At 8:33 about 20 seconds of copulation was observed at the east nest where the incubating egret was now standing. Then at 8:35 the Great Egret at the east nest returned to its incubating position.

29 Jun 8:20-9:20 AM - Five adult, not four, Great Egrets were observed around the east nest, and at 8:59 a sixth egret landed at the nest and appeared to be feeding young! At 9:06 an egret using bill thrusts drove three young Black-crowned Night-Herons off a nest, and was then itself chased by a Great Blue Heron. The end result was that two egrets now occupied the Black-crowned Night-Heron site.

6 Jul 6:49-7:45 AM - Two wing flaps of an egret nestling were observed at the east nest. This represented the first documented record of Great Egret nestlings in upstate New York. When a third egret landed near the nest, the adult egret standing on the nest tentatively pecked at it causing it to retreat a couple of feet south of the nest. White spots representing nestling(s) could be seen at the feet of the egret on the nest. A fourth egret was seen near the location of the northwest nest.

11 Jul 6:25-6:47 AM - An adult Great Egret flew from the northwest nest location to the east nest, then left the east nest a minute later. At 6:37 an egret landed at the east nest and two egret nestlings grabbed the adult's bill with their bills and a tug-of-war ensued until the adult disgorged the food for the nestlings. A second egret landed at the nest at 6:40, and after a minute the feeding egret left. Three egret nestlings were counted on that nest. At the Beaver Island observation site, the west side of Motor Island was observed from 8:10 to 8:45 PM. Four adult egrets were observed. Two appeared to be at or near the location of the east nest, one was on top of the bush at the southernmost point of the colony, and the head and bill of the fourth egret was briefly seen near the northwest nest. The foliage obscured viewing to such an extent that only the head of an erect standing adult could be observed, and observations did not produce any evidence of nestlings on the supposed northwest nest.

13 Jul 8:37-9:20 AM- There appeared to be evidence of communal protection and feeding. Four adult egrets were observed. Three appeared to be standing about two, five and seven feet south of the east nest and the fourth was standing on top of the main south bush. A Great Egret arose from an incubating position on the east nest and now appeared to be tending to young or rearranging nesting material. At 9:03 a fifth egret flying in from the north landed on the nest. Three young egrets raised their heads, pulled at the bill of the adult with their bills and feeding activity commenced. At 9:15 there were still four adult egrets and three nestling egrets at the rookery in about the same positions. The nestlings became more active after the arrival of the food-carrying adult and were stretching their necks, exercising their wings and preening their feathers.

16 Jul 6:30-7:55 AM- Strangely no adult egrets could be seen, but the three nestlings were preening and exercising their wings. At 6:42 an adult landed at the east nest and the young egrets seized its bill with their shorter bills and the usual tug-of-war transpired. Every so often the adult broke free raising its head above the fray as though rearranging the regurgitated food in its throat or simply resting for a minute. At 6:44 the adult left, and the young egrets were so spread out, that it appeared as if they might be walking outside the nest or at least on the edge of the nest. At 7:37 an adult landed and a second session of bill grabbing and feeding ensued. From 7:37 to 7:48 the adult roosted on top of the south bush and then flew toward Beaver Island State Park. All three young with their spiky head feathers were visible. From 9:35 to 9:40 the colony was checked again with the adult roosting on the south bush and all three young were observed. Unfortunately that was the last time that there was an unequivocal observation of these egret nestlings.

On 18 Jul between 6:20 and 6:40 AM white specks, probably representing egret plumage, were observed at the nest, but oddly no motion was evident. An adult landed at 6:31, but there still was no movement on the nest. On 19 Jul the nest site was studied from 8:15 to 9:40 AM and from 3:00 to 3:48 PM. For all except for three periods totaling 19 minutes of the 18 Jul 133 minute study period, an adult Great Egret was observed spending practically all of its time maintaining a vigil atop the south bush.

Concerned about the absence of young egrets at the nest site, the author called Senior Wildlife Biologist Mark Kandel of the NYSDEC and an excursion to Motor Island was arranged for 20 Jul. When on 20 Jul the nest site was observed from 8:33 to 9:30 AM without any sign of adult or young Great Egrets, Mark Kandel, John Curtis and the author investigated the Motor Island colony. Two dead Great Egret nestlings were found under a nest believed to be the northwest nest. The two birds were severely desiccated being only about an inch or less in thickness, and had probably been dead for at least two weeks. The estimated length of these nestlings was 12-15 inches.

Near the eastern nest site large stones were strewn around on the ground and larger than fist-sized stones were found in tree crotches and even in a Black-crowned Night-Heron nest. The nest believed to be the eastern egret nest had a stone in its center that was about 8x4x4 inches in size. None of the three egret nestlings previously observed on the east nest was found.

All of this evidence is proof of an act of willful vandalism. It is difficult to understand the reasoning and motivation of the perpetrators of such a heinous crime.

The 1995 study documents the first stick-carrying, display, copulation, and feeding behavior of Great Egrets, as well as the first documented egret nestlings observed in upstate New York. All other nestings in the state have taken place well downstate in Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Kings, Bronx, Westchester and Richmond counties.

Since the two nests were not directly observed, but inferred from the territorial behavior of the Great Egrets in the mixed Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron colony, most of the observations described the location of the egrets within the colony. Preening and incubation were common behaviors observed. Incubation was inferred on all thirteen study days from 22 May to 24 Jun. Stick-carrying behavior to build or repair nests occurred on 13 and 27 May. Displays occurred on 22, 27, and 29 May and as late as 11 and 17 June, while copulation was observed the 22, 27, and 29 May. All three acts of copulation occurred following displays of four, nine, and nineteen minutes. Oddly, the observed displays and copulation were after the start of incubation. This, and the fact that on 22 May an egret tending the east nest flew to the egret tending the northwest nest and copulated with it, possibly attests to the Great Egrets' promiscuous nature. In the last two weeks in this May of 1995, the author saw more copulation while studying egrets, than in five years of studying Great Blue Herons at the same colony.

Feeding was inferred 2 and 4 Jul solely from the behavior of adults, and directly observed 11, 13 and 16 Jul. Great Egret nestlings were observed at the east nest on 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 Jul. Curiously there was bill-to-bill activity at the east nest 29 May between an incubating bird and its mate, as well as a display and copulation. The bill-to-bill activity is probably an attempt to secure food by the incubating mate, or some other pair bonding behavior, and occurred ten minutes after sexual activity.

Minor territorial squabbles occurred with Great Blue Herons chasing Great Egrets, or Great Egrets chasing Black-crowned Night-Herons.

Although the actual nests were not directly observed from the observation sites, it is reasonably certain, based on behavior, territorialization, and a subsequent on-site investigation of the colony, that two pairs of Great Egrets built two nests, bred, incubated eggs, and started raising young at the Motor Island colony on the Niagara River from at least 13 May until 16 Jul 1995.

During the observation window as many as six adult egrets were observed at one time (29 Jun) on the colony. Based on the dead nestlings, the northwest nest, had contained at least two nestlings. I was never able to actually see into the the northwest nest and had inferred breeding activity from the activities of the adults, and of course later, from the two dead nestlings under the nest.

Direct observations established that the east nest contained three nestlings. The nesting at the east nest was probably terminated on 17 Jul due to stone throwing vandals but it is not known what happened to the nestlings as we could find no sign of their remains. The demise of the northwest nesting is more mysterious. The state of desiccation suggested a death date prior to 6 Jul at least two weeks previous to 20 Jul, the day we made the discovery. This is confirmed in part by the changes in territorialization of the adult egrets with evidence of communal protection and possible feeding by four adults at the east nest.

THE 1996-2000 BREEDING SEASONS

1996 - With the willful destruction of the colony in 1995, and the failure to sight any returning egrets as late 13 Apr 1996, the hope that Great Egrets would make a second nesting attempt on Motor Island was regarded with pessimism. On 19 Apr, pessimism changed to optimism when Michael Galas reported a Great Egret at the Motor Island colony. Observations 19, 20 and 21 Apr, demonstrated that at least three Great Egrets had territorialized two areas in the colony, with one Great Egret sitting on a nest all three days. By 5 May there were as many as nine Great Egrets and one Snowy Egret in the colony. Although a Great Blue Heron confiscated the nest upon which a Great Egret was standing and sitting on 19, 20 and 21 Apr, other egrets were observed incubating and carrying sticks. On 16 Jun between 12:00 and 12:48 PM one Great Egret was observed carrying sticks to the same location seven times. By this date, evidence indicated that egrets were incubating on three nests. In July, three groups of nestlings (one with

two nestlings and two with three nestlings each) were studied. These late fledging egrets showed uncharacteristic nesting site fidelity even after they fledged. All eight could be found on Motor Island during September, while five of the presumed juvenile egrets remained until 7 Oct and one as late as 24 Oct .

The nest with two egret nestlings set unprecedented late nesting records for New York State. On 28 Jul (nearly two months after the New York State late egg date of 4 Jun) a Great Egret repeatedly carried sticks to the same location. On 9 Aug the adult spent an unusually long period of time in a standing position with its head down tending the nest. My experience suggests this long duration nest tending behavior of the adults indicates the presents of newly hatched egret chicks. This is supported by Douglas W. Mock's observations at distances of less than 50 feet. Great Egrets spend a lot more time in a nest tending position when the chicks are hatching, "watching the chicks, regurgitating food, reswallowing food (the new babies can't eat much), and preening the albumen out of the down" (Mock pers. comm). The nestlings were directly observed 22 Aug while being fed by an adult. As late as 2, 5, 9, and 12 Sep these birds were never more than a couple of feet from the nest. From 13 Sep to 18 Sep they were found farther and farther from the nest. A short flight of about four feet (consisting of a hop, one flap and a glide) by one of the two egret nestlings was observed 16 Sep (38 days after the 9 Aug hatching) and a flight of about twenty yards was observed on 18 Sep. These dates are nearly two months later than the late nestling date of 25 Jul and fledging date of 25 Jul in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State*, Andrie & Carroll eds., Cornell University Press 1988 (hereafter *The 1988 Atlas*).

1997 - The 1997 Great Egret nesting season had both unusually early and unusually late records. By 19 Apr four Great Egrets had arrived at the Motor Island colony. On 24 Apr three Great Egrets were on nests in incubating position. If any of them were on eggs, this would be nearly a month earlier than *The 1988 Atlas* early egg date of 23 May. The number of adult Great Egrets increased to fourteen on 21 May. On 5 Jun an adult egret was feeding three sizable nestlings. This is twenty days earlier than the earliest unfledged juvenile date of 25 Jun in *The 1988 Atlas*. On 11 Jun these three very active nestling egrets were waddling around the nest as well as vigorously pulling on the beak of an adult forcing the adult to regurgitate food. On 20 Jun they were exercising their wings with as many as thirteen flaps, walking about the nest , and one nestling was pecking at a nearby old nest, probably for food. A second nest with at least one nestling was also observed. On 7 Jul a total of ten nestling Great Egrets was counted indicating four successful nests. One or two other nests were inferred by observing adult Great Egrets repeatedly follow the same route to disappear into the foliage. Over the next two weeks the older nestlings lost their downy crests, wandered farther from their nests and were difficult to distinguish from adults unless they were being fed. Also the number of nestlings decreased from the 7 Jul maximum of ten. On 22 Jul a presumed nestling egret took a short flight. Three presumed young egrets feeding at the shoreline of the colony, later flew upriver. A 22 Jul

fledging date would be three days earlier than the 25 Jul date stated in the The 1988 Atlas. On 3 Aug four nestling Great Egrets were fed by an adult. This is nine days later than the latest date of 25 Jul stated in The 1988 Atlas. Egrets were observed at the colony until 27 Aug..

1998 - The 1998 Great Egret breeding season was highlighted by unusually early nesting and a record eight nests. In previous years, seven of these nests might not have been visible, but now were, due to the defoliation of one of the nesting trees. This year, the colony's Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night-Herons would continue to breed successfully, but the tree where Double-crested Cormorants nested in 1997, now would only contain a Red-tailed Hawk nest. Actually the hawk had appropriated a Great Blue Heron's nest. No interaction between the hawk and the other occupants of the colony was observed.

On 21 Apr five Great Egrets were on the colony. On 23 Apr a Great Egret was observed sitting on a nest. When the nest was checked to confirm incubation three hours later, a Great Blue Heron was on the egret nest and three Great Egrets were now sitting on nests located in a tree further to the north. The first Great Egret nestling was observed 23 May. This is almost a month earlier than the earliest unfledged juvenile date of 25 Jun in the The 1988 Atlas. There were seven egret nests in the tree at the north edge of the colony, and another that I could see in the colony's center. On 7 Jun four of the eight egret nests contained young. At 8:20 PM a second adult egret landed at nest 3, and three of the nestlings grabbed its bill to feed, but their attention quickly diverted to the fourth nestling, savagely and relentlessly striking their sibling with their bills for about three minutes. These three egret nestlings were clearly more interested in killing their sibling than they were in feeding. This was the last time that four nestlings were seen on nest 3.

On 2 Jul a record 21 Great Egret nestlings were counted on eight egret nests. By 8 Jul the three nestlings on the southernmost nest had widely dispersed from the nest and had no down on their heads. On 13 Jul there were only two Great Egrets near this nest and these flew away at 9:35. This is twelve days earlier than the fledging date in The 1988 Atlas. Twenty-four Great Egrets were counted on the colony, with only thirteen of these being identified as certain nestlings. Although there were 21 Great Egrets on the colony (including five nestlings that still showed a little down) on 21 Jul, by 2 Aug no egrets were observed on Motor Island.

1999 - In 1999, the first week of Apr was more than ten degrees above the average temperature, and southerly winds ushered in a Great Egret on 6 Apr, thirteen day earlier than any of the previous years. This year none of the trees prematurely lost their leaves and egret nest locations could only be inferred by adults repeatedly standing up and sitting at a nest location, or repeatedly disappearing into the same foliage location. The first egret nestlings were only directly observed when they were old enough to wander from the nest to a more conspic-

uous location. On 27 Jun however, once the adult left to hunt for food these youngsters would disappear back to their hidden nest. Three days later, a possible second group was observed, and by 12 Jul short flights were observed moving the previously recorded fledging date of July 25 up thirteen days. A possible third group of two roaming nestlings was found on 20 Jul, but after 26 Jul neither adult nor young Great Egrets were found on Motor Island. Although only groups of three, four and two nestlings were observed, there were probably more than two or three nests in 1999, as suggested by the territorialization of adult egrets in several parts of the colony and the maximum of thirteen adult Great Egrets counted on 9 Jun. This year, Mark Kandel reported an on-site colony complete count of 40 Great Blue Heron nests and an incomplete count (due to dense foliage) of seven Great Egret nests. Counts before foliage leaf-out on 24 Apr by Buffalo State College in 1999, and previous counts by the NYSDEC suggest there are about 60 to 70 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests annually.

2000 - In the year 2000, unusually warm weather at the end of February and in the month of March resulted in very early breeding records for both Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. As early as February 29 a Great Blue Heron was sitting on a nest. A Great Egret arrived at the colony 1 Apr, the earliest date recorded in this study. By 13 Apr three pairs of Great Egrets were standing or sitting at three different nests. On 18 Apr, one egret was particularly low and still on its nest for the hour long study period. The next day at 10:18 AM this same egret arose from its incubating position for a minute to either roll its eggs or rearrange nesting material and then resumed its incubating position. At the same nest on which a Great Blue Heron was sitting 29 Feb, there was at least one unfledged juvenile Great Blue Heron. This is a month earlier than the earliest date for Great Blue Heron unfledged juveniles of 19 May in the The 1988 Atlas. Also a stick-carrying Great Blue Heron displaced another Great Egret from its nest. On the 16 May two nestling Great Egrets were observed on the same nest on which incubation was observed on 18 Apr. This is 40 days earlier than earliest date for unfledged juveniles of 25 Jun in The 1988 Atlas.

There were three egret nest positions that were not completely hidden by vegetation. These will be called top nest (on which the nestlings were observed 16 May) middle nest, and bottom nest. By 31 May it was determined that there were four nestlings on the top nest and at least two nestlings on the middle nest, while incubation continued on the bottom nest. Both groups of nestlings were extremely early. On 9 Jun the early heron nest is empty and two fledgling Great Blue Herons were feeding along the shore of Motor Island, more than a month earlier than the early fledging date of 17 Jul in The 1988 Atlas. On 22 Jun there were four egret nestlings on or near the top nest, three egret nestlings on the middle nest, and two adult Great Egrets with two nestlings on the bottom nest. By 12 Jul eighteen Great Egrets were observed in the colony. Most of the egrets were believed to be nestlings, but these nestlings were not separated by nest, but mixed together in one large group. A presumed juvenile was observed making a short



Great Egret

© Michael Stubblefield

flight. Unlike Great Blue Herons, Great Egret fledglings can be easily confused with adults. This, and the wandering tendencies of the egret nestlings made it difficult to identify them as non-adults. From 12 Jul the number of egrets at the colony gradually decreased until the last two egrets left between 19 Aug and 23 Aug.

The breeding seasons from 1996 to 2000 were highlighted by visiting Snowy Egrets. A single Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) was observed on the Motor Island colony in 1996 (6-8 May, 26-28 Jun), in 1997 (5, 23, 25 Jun), none in 1998, in 1999 (8, 12 Jun) and in 2000 (26-28 Apr, 23, 27, 30.) A pair of Snowy Egrets was observed at the colony in 2000 on 28 May, 9 and 26 Jun, raising its status to a possible nesting species. In the evening, the pair would land in the same part of the colony and disappear into the same location, suggesting either a nest or a preferred night roost location. A Tricolored Heron (*E. tricolor*) was observed on the colony in on 2 Jun 1999, and 26 May 2000. It will be interesting to see if these species are confirmed as breeding birds in the near future.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, based on the study of Great Egrets at Motor Island, the author suggests the following changes be made in established breeding season dates for New York State: (1) egg dates should be expanded from 23 May - 4 Jun to 18 Apr - 7 Aug (2) unfledged juvenile dates from 25 Jun - 25 Jul to 16 May - 18 Sep and (3) the fledging date of 25 Jul should be expanded to 12 Jul - 18 Sep. Egg dates based on observations of the incubation of the adult at a distance of 600 or 700 yards can be treated with a fair degree of skepticism. Birds could be sitting on nests to protect their real estate rather than incubating eggs. To determine if incubation was taking place I considered three factors: duration of incubation period (both on the study day and subsequent days) position of the bird (incubating egrets are lower on the nest and less like to be moving or looking around) and the date nestlings were first observed. Since the incubation period for Great Egrets is 25 to 28 days, an egret sitting on a nest, 25 days before the nestling appears on the nest, must have been incubating. The early egg date of 18 Apr 2000 is mainly based on 60 minutes of observation 18 Apr, 15 minutes of observation 19 Apr, 9 minutes of observation 20 Apr in which possible egg rolling behavior was observed, and the appearance of an unfledged juvenile on the nest 27 days later. Since the unfledged juvenile could be seen in a partially concealed nest at a distance of 700 yards, it was probably more than a few days old, and it is possible that incubation could have started on 13 Apr when the egret was first observed sitting on the nest. However, the 18 Apr early egg date has a much higher degree of certainty. The late egg date of 7 Aug 1996 was the last observation before the long duration nest tending activity (which is indicative of hatching) was observed 9 Aug 1996. Directly observed early unfledged juveniles on 16 May 2000 and 23 May 1998 are certain. The early date for fledglings of 12 Jul is sup-

ported by the previously described observations of 12 Jul 1999 and 13 Jul 98. The first sustained flight of 18 Sep 1996 established the late nestling and late fledging date of 18 Sep. The proposed nestling, egg, and fledging dates cover periods of 125 days, 112 days, and 69 days respectively. One reason for this is that unfledged juveniles can be directly observed and are most easily identified in this unobtrusive study, while fledglings are more difficult to distinguish from adults.

QUESTIONS

The Great Egret (*A. alba*) and the Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*) are both presently members of the genus *Ardea*, which implies that they may have evolved from a common prehistoric ancestor. What could have caused the ancestral *Ardea* heron to split into distinct species? The possible answer is that a mutation or series of mutations could cause a physical or physiological change that would be great enough to not allow the mutant to interbreed with the stock *Ardea* species, but not a change great enough as to be lethal to the mutated species. But what was the nature of this change? Perhaps the answer lies in studying the behavior between the two species. As discussed in the preceding paragraphs, Great Blue Herons confiscated previously established Great Egret nests on 5 May 1996, 23 Apr 1998, and 19 Apr 2000. The eviction of Great Egrets that attempt to nest early, results in Great Blue Herons breeding about a month earlier than Great Egrets. Only when all the Great Blue Herons have settled into their nests, can Great Egrets successfully nest without the risk of eviction. This behavior could cause temporal reproductive isolation between the two ancestral species. It would be impossible for the ancestral Great Blue Heron's genes to mix with the ancestral Great Egret's genes, because they would not breed at the same time. Over time this asynchronous breeding behavior could result in the evolution of very different species. Over the past six years observations seem to confirm that each year Great Blue Herons as a group breed before Great Egrets as a group. In 2000, when Great Egret nestlings appeared an extremely early 40 days before the published early nestling date, the average temperature for Apr was only a little over one degree above average and the three subsequent months all had below average temperatures. However, Feb was more than five degrees above average and Mar was more than 6 degrees above average. Based on these monthly average temperatures, if one assumes Feb and Mar are the months when Great Blue Herons (and not Great Egrets) make their breeding decisions, one could conclude that the early Great Egret breeding depends on how warm the weather is when Great Blue Herons are making their breeding decisions, not how warm the weather is when Great Egrets are making their breeding decision. Lastly, even if the initial splitting of the ancestral Great Heron-Egret into separate species was not caused by Great Blue Herons confiscating Great Egret nests, this behavior is possibly a mechanism that has helped maintain the separation of these two species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank Gerry Rising and Emanuel Levine for reviewing this article and making many helpful suggestions, and Mark Kandel of the NYSDEC ,and Buffalo State College for providing on-site nest count information.

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Great Blue Heron © Michael Stubblefield

MASS MORTALITIES OF EUROPEAN STARLINGS FROM COLLISIONS WITH MOTOR VEHICLES

Ward B. Stone, Kevin Hynes, and Joseph C. Okoniewski
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Wildlife Pathology Unit, 108 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054

ABSTRACT

Between 1993 and 2000, six mass mortalities of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) along roadways in New York State were determined to have been caused by impacts with motor vehicles. The unusual flight behavior of starling flocks is suspected to be a contributing factor.

Keywords: flock, mortality, road, starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*

The flight maneuvers of large flocks of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) are described by Bent (1950) as "...most remarkable...as they wheel, turn and swing into fantastic formations with remarkable precision, with no apparent leader...". The purpose or function of this flock behavior is unknown although it may include protection from avian predators (Wynne - Edwards 1929). The spectacular flight maneuvers may, however, predispose starlings to certain types of accidental trauma such as collisions with motor vehicles. Between 1993 and 2001, in the course of our responsibilities for the diagnosis of morbidity and mortality of wildlife in New York State, we examined starlings from six incidents where tight flocks of *S. vulgaris* were intercepted by motor vehicles.

FINDINGS

The cases occurred across New York State, from Long Island to Niagara Falls (Table 1). The numbers of birds killed ranged from about 20 to over 100. Four of the cases occurred along heavily traveled highways where speed limits were 55 mph (89 km/h), one incident transpired on a village boulevard, and one took place along a rural secondary road not suited for high speeds. In four instances, the birds were found dead by the individuals reporting or submitting them for examination. The vehicle collision diagnoses in these cases were inferred from the nature of the trauma observed at necropsy in conjunction with carcass recovery on or adjacent to roads. Typical post-mortem evidence of high-speed collision included fractures, tears of the liver, and variable hemorrhage.

Eye-witness accounts were available for two cases. In the first (Monroe County), a large flock of starlings was observed "swooping around" prior to colliding with an automobile traveling about 60 mph (97 km/h). The vehicle sustained a broken parking light, a damaged windshield wiper, and the loss of a hood ornament. Newspaper coverage of this case elicited a claim by a driver of a Jeep Cherokee to have struck 50-75 starlings on another highway in the Rochester vicinity earlier that month.



The second eye-witness account accompanied the Albany County incident in December 2000. The driver of an emergency medical vehicle reported driving slowly (10-15 mph) on a rural secondary road when he approached a flock of starlings perched in roadside trees. The starlings rose into the air and performed what was described as a figure eight pattern at the end of which a portion of the middle of the flock struck the vehicle head-on.

In addition to these New York cases, we examined two starlings out of an estimated 40 starlings and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) found dead at a highway overpass in Connecticut (Merritt Parkway, Exit 68) in March 1998. Necropsy findings for both birds were consistent with high-speed impact.

DISCUSSION

Collisions between motor vehicles and flocks of starlings attract more public attention than do collisions between vehicles and individual passerines. Some people are reluctant to believe that a large number of dead birds can be attributed to a single vehicle impact. In two of the New York cases and the Connecticut incident, poisoning was suspected by the submitting parties. In six of the cases we investigated, a pooled sample of alimentary canal contents was analyzed for organophosphate and carbamate pesticides occasionally used to intentionally poison birds. No pesticides were detected.

The sequence of events related to these flock-vehicle collisions is no doubt more complex than collisions involving single birds. Individuals in a flock are reacting not only to their own interpretation of the physical environment, but also to the position of neighboring flock members (Potts 1984). As one of the eye-witness accounts suggests, it would seem likely that vehicles intercept the main body of the flock where evasive flight maneuvers may be constrained by the flight paths of their neighbors.

The birds in the Niagara County incident were found beneath a bridge, and those in the Connecticut case were found at an overpass. In these instances, it is possible that the bridge/ overpass structures may have temporarily blocked the birds' view of traffic and/or may have channeled the movements of the flocks in some manner. The Niagara County incident may have been additionally complicated by fog conditions.

We suspect incidents such as we report here are not rare. The literature record concerning such events, however, is apparently sparse. The only report we found that specifically addressed this topic (NWHC, 2000) briefly described an incident in which 200-250 starlings "rained down" on traffic during rush hour on a highway in Maryland.

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Table 1. Incidents of mass mortality of European Starlings caused by collisions of flocks with motor vehicles on highways in New York 1993-2001.

County	Date	No. Killed	Ingesta
Niagara	12/93	>100	none
Dutchess	12/96	20±	cedar fruit (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>)
Monroe	2/98	>139	grapes (<i>Vitus sp.</i>)
Albany	12/00	>69	grapes (<i>Vitus sp.</i>)
Livingston	12/00	55	cedar fruit (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>)
Suffolk	2/01	50-60	seed/grain fragments



A SOUTH POLAR SKUA SEEN FROM LAND, WITH NOTES ON THE SPECIES' STATUS IN NEW YORK

Shaibal S. Mitra ¹ and Patricia J. Lindsay ²

¹ 80 S. Clinton Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706

² 28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

The various species of pelagic birds inhabiting the waters south of Long Island, New York vary considerably in their tendencies to approach land. For instance, although Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) is several orders of magnitude less numerous than Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) in New York waters, it has actually been recorded more frequently from inland sites in New York State (generally after hurricanes or other powerful storms; Askildsen 1998). Parasitic (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and Pomarine (*S.pomarinus*) Jaegers provide another example, less dependent on exceptional weather. Both jaeger species are regular visitors to NY waters, but Parasitic is observed much more frequently from land, whereas Pomarine is generally the more numerous species far offshore. A few species of more or less regular occurrence offshore have been recorded from land so rarely that any such observations warrant special attention and documentation-e.g., Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*), Long-tailed Jaeger (*S. longicaudus*), Great Skua (*S. skua*), South Polar Skua (*S. maccormicki*), and Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arcticus*).

On Saturday, 23 Jun 2001, we had the good fortune to see a South Polar Skua from Democrat Point, at the western end of Fire Island, Long Island, NY. Below is an account of our experience, a detailed description of the bird, and a discussion of prior records of skuas in New York and adjacent states-especially those made from land.

A MEMORABLE SEAWATCH AT DEMOCRAT POINT

The weather on 23 Jun 2001 had been extremely unsettled, featuring high heat and humidity, increasingly strong winds from the south, leaden skies, and ocean fog. When we headed out to Democrat Pt. for an evening seawatch, we noticed immediately that the 20 mph onshore wind actually felt warm-at least 70° F. This was in marked contrast to the cool sea breezes we had experienced on other recent trips to this site, and we surmised that the water must have been unusually warm for the date. This perception was corroborated by unusually early reports of warm water fish on the LI shore (J. Fritz, pers. comm.) and by the *New York Times* weather map, which showed a bulge of 70° F water extending northward to the shores of southwestern LI that day.

We arrived at the jetty, our first targeted vantage point, at about 18:10 EDT and immediately noticed several shearwaters close to the beach. As we worked through these, we realized that dozens of Greater (*P.gravis*) and Cory's (*Calonectris diomedea*) Shearwaters were present. Excited, we set up our scopes

and determined that most of the shearwaters were flying past from west to east and that Greater outnumbered Cory's by approximately two to one. Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels appeared, three in all, and an immature Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) flew by. We immediately called Gerta and John Fritz, and struggling with the fickle cellular service, managed to get word to them about what we were seeing.

Several Greater Shearwaters rested on the water just beyond the surf, only 50 m from where we stood. An adult Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) attended them, lunging occasionally and causing them to lift off the water briefly between calmer moments when the whole group would settle back down together. Continued scanning revealed that other singles and small groups of shearwaters were present on the water, visible intermittently between cresting swells. Meanwhile the flight continued, and we had nearly constant views of shearwaters arcing past. Eventually we both returned our attention to the closer group of resting shearwaters. Simultaneously, we both saw a large, dark bird flapping and circling above them. The gull was no longer present. From the first glance, we recognized the new bird as a stercorariid and noticed that it was very large, bulky, short-tailed, and dark. With adrenaline rushing, we needed just a few more seconds to comprehend that the striking white wing flashes were present on the upperwing as well as the underwing and that the nape was extensively pale, contrasting with the otherwise uniformly dark, gray-brown plumage. The bird was surprisingly cooperative—it actually settled on the water among the shearwaters, allowing us to study it at length. Raw excitement evolved into elation as we became confident that we were indeed watching a South Polar Skua.

The skua remained on the water for 15 minutes, raising and flapping its wings a few times, lunging at one or another shearwater on occasion, and slowly drifting with them about 50 m to the westward. Where were the Fritzes? By now they were overdue. Between scope views we struggled with the cell phone, but after repeated failures to make a connection, we pinned our hopes on the bird's apparent satisfaction with the site. We had ample time to record our impressions and to consult the *NGS* guide.

At 18:35 the skua arose and flew strongly eastward. Its flight at this point was very different from the hovering/circling flight it had shown while inspecting the shearwaters. Now it flew with steady, powerful strokes 2-3 m above the water until it was about 500 m to the east, treating us to spectacular views along the way. Just as we were about ready to accept that the bird was gone, it banked to its left and returned toward us. As it approached, it rose to a height of 20 m and gave us excellent views of its underparts. When it was no more than 100 m from us, the bird turned to its left once more and angled out to sea on a southeast bearing, descending somewhat as it did so. We watched it until it vanished in the distance at 18:40.

Soon after, the winds shifted to the west, the sky brightened somewhat, and the fog withdrew. The shearwater flight abated. The Fritzes at last arrived, their delay caused in part by their discovery along the way of a moribund Cory's Shearwater. Together we counted several more shearwaters and another gannet, then set out on foot toward the inlet itself to see if any wayward birds had come in to rest among the sand bars and lagoons there.

We found nothing but the expected species ashore-these including Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*), a "portlandica" (one-year-old) Common Tern (*S. hirundo*), and newly hatched Least Terns (*S. albifrons*) - but scanning the waters from the mouth of the inlet we saw another Wilson's Storm-Petrel and had stunning views of Greater Shearwaters hanging almost stationary over the waves, just a few scant meters from shore. As our scope fields overflowed with the image of one particularly obliging individual, we realized that this combination of proximity, the bird's slow flight, and our own stable footing produced the best views we had ever enjoyed of a free-flying shearwater. Finally darkness precluded any further efforts and, exhilarated, we made our way back to our vehicles. Our final tally of shearwaters included 40 Greaters, 18 Cory's, and about 20 too distant for positive identification.

DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION

The bird was massive, broad-winged, and short-tailed. The tail was somewhat wedge-shaped and lacked projecting central feathers. In general, its plumage was uniformly dark gray-brown. This prevailing color had a very cold quality, lacking any reddish or golden hues. Its nape was extensively pale, somewhat golden or yellowish in tone, and in stark contrast to the rest of the upperparts. Bold white flashes were conspicuous on both the upperwings and underwings. These flashes involved the visible bases of all the primaries, where they emerged from the coverts. On certain views (particularly when the bird returned from the east at a greater height), we could discern that the underparts of the body were slightly paler than the underwing coverts and mantle, but otherwise similarly unmottled. The bill and eye were entirely dark. The bill was large but not massive.

In direct comparison with Greater Shearwaters the bird appeared twice as massive and about 15% (several inches) longer from bill to tail. The neck and breast were very deep. While on the water, it raised its head several times, extending its neck somewhat. When it did so, the neck still appeared very thick, and the pale nape was well shown. Both observers specifically noted that the bird lacked any speckling or pattern to the mantle or underparts and likewise lacked any hint at all of warm golden or light brown tones save for the nape. This impression was confirmed at leisure with the bird in flight and at rest, both before and after consultation of *NGS*.

This bird could not have been a Pomarine Jaeger. As noted above, it was too large; it was differently shaped (especially re its broad wings and strikingly short, wedge-shaped tail); and it was differently plumaged (especially re the extensive white upperwing flashes, but also in its lack of barring to uppertail, undertail, and underwing coverts).

Great Skua was excluded after careful consideration of the range of plumage variation in all ages of both species (Harrison 1983, Jonsson 1993, Malling Olsen and Larsson 1997, *NGS*, Mullarney et al. 1999). In brief, all Great Skuas, with the exception of some juveniles, are expected to show mottled upperparts, abundant brown tones to the plumage, and contrast on the upperwing between lighter mantle, scapulars, and coverts on the one hand and blacker flight

feathers on the other. We were able confidently to conclude that the bird we observed lacked these three characteristics. Furthermore, those few juvenile Great Skuas also lacking these features would be expected to lack also the conspicuously pale nape and all black bill shown by the bird we observed. The not-so-massive appearance of our bird's bill is also more consistent with South Polar Skua than with Great Skua. Similar reasoning apparently is adequate to exclude the remote possibilities of other southern skuas-i.e., Chilean Skua (*S. s. chilensis*) and the various forms of Brown Skua (ssp. *antarctica*, *hamiltoni*, and *lonnbergi*).

The only widely cited field mark of dark or intermediate morph South Polar Skua that we did not detect was the "pale frontal blaze"-or contrasting pale feathering at the base of the upper mandible. Neither observer knew of the importance of this character while the bird was in view, and thus it might have been overlooked. Several photos of darker South Polar Skuas in Malling Olsen and Larsson (1997) suggest that this feature is not always conspicuous, and we feel confident that our failure to record it does not constitute an obstacle to our identification.

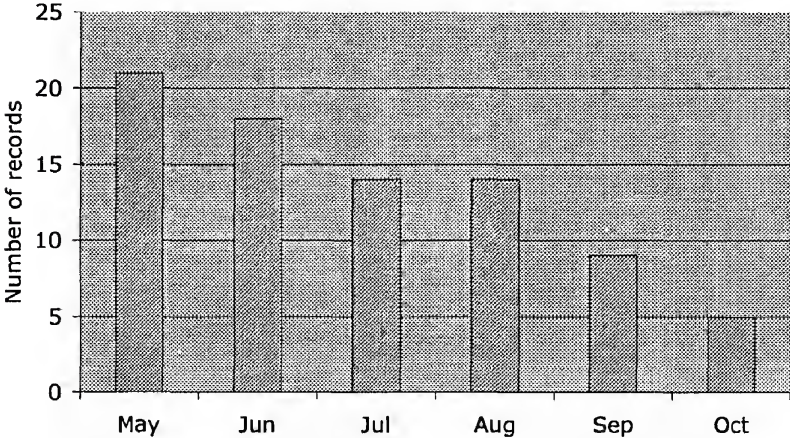
SOUTH POLAR SKUAS IN NEW YORK AND ADJACENT STATES

The historical record of skua observations in NY has been complicated-not only by the very real objective difficulties involved in distinguishing the various forms, but also by shifting taxonomic treatments and even a little birding parochialism. The fact that all forms of "large skuas" (the erstwhile *Catharacta*) were treated as a single species as recently as 1977 (AOU Checklist) has condemned most North American sight records prior to that date to a murky, uninterpretable status. Meanwhile, changing perceptions regarding listing jurisdictions over such important birding waters as Cox's Ledge, Block Canyon, and Hudson Canyon have produced unfortunate outcomes. Not only have many records been listed by more than one state (e.g., the White-faced Storm-Petrel collected 18 Aug 1953 near Block Canyon appears in official summaries for MA, RI, and NY!), but even worse, several outstanding records (including several skuas) have gone "unclaimed" by any state's archivists (e.g., birds observed in RI waters by NY birders sailing from Montauk). The situation has improved greatly since the late 1970's, following the elevation of *maccormicki* to full species status, the elucidation of this form's occurrence in the Northern Hemisphere by Devillers (1977) and Veit (1978), and a détente like stabilization of *de facto* state boundaries at sea.

Enough data have accumulated during the last 25 years to demonstrate that Great Skua is a rare winter visitor to the waters off the New York Bight, primarily Dec-Mar, and that South Polar Skua occurs considerably more frequently as a spring/summer visitor to this area, primarily May-Sep (Balch 1981). A series of records from Hudson Canyon during late May 1976-1979, just as the general status of the species was beginning to emerge, created the perception that South Polar Skua shared with Sooty Shearwater (*P. griseus*) a pronounced "Memorial Day peak." Implied was a clockwise migratory path around the North Atlantic during the austral winter, along the course of which South Polar

Skuas were believed to pass NY during a relatively brief period from late May to early Jun. Subsequent field work south of Block Island, at Cox's Ledge, and at George's Bank has produced many skuas during the period Jul-Sep, the great majority of which were likely South Polar (Veit and Petersen 1993, *Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, R. Ferren, in litt.). Thus, this species' diminution after mid Jun might prove to be less abrupt than first suspected (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Seasonal occurrence of known and presumed South Polar Skuas in NY, NJ, and RI.



Eighty-one records of known and presumed South Polar Skuas from NY, NJ, and RI are summarized in **Table 1** (Bull 1976, Askildsen 1998, Walsh et al. 1999, *North American Birds* and antecedents, *Kingbird*, *Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, Focus on Nature Tours Website, R. Ferren in litt.). Five of these were seen from land, only two of which were explicitly identified as South Polar Skuas on the basis of field marks. Buckley, Lauro, and Paxton observed one at Fire Island Inlet on 8 June 1974 (*Kingbird* 25:62); and Baldelli and McGuinness observed one from Easthampton's Main Beach on 16 July 2000 (*Kingbird* 50:445). The other three land-based records are the oft-cited individual that struck the Montauk Lighthouse 10 Aug 1896, an enigmatic inland record from Braddock's Bay, Monroe County 7 Oct 1973 (Lloyd and Sunderlin, *Kingbird* 24:59-60), and a bird seen harassing terns at Robert Moses State Park on 1 Oct 1977 (Spencer, *Kingbird* 28:62).

It is particularly striking that two of the five previous land-based, NY records of known or presumed South Polar Skuas came from around Fire Island Inlet—the location of our observation on 23 Jun 2001. Also noteworthy is the fact that a third land-based record, that of 16 Jul 2000, was made under very similar circumstances to those we encountered: an unusual inshore incursion of shearwaters after sustained southerly winds. Thus, although our observation was admittedly very unusual, it was certainly not without precedent.

Table 1. Records May-Oct of skuas (South Polar and other "*Catharacta*" not specifically identified as Great Skua) from New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

Area	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Totals
NJ s + w HC	5	1		1			7
Hudson Canyon	9			1			10
LI shelf waters, w MP			1				1
20-30 mi. s MP	1	2	2	1			6
NY from land		1	1	1		2	5
Block Canyon	2	1			1		4
Cox's Ledge	4	12	9	6	3	1	35
Other RI		1	1	4	5	2	13
Totals	21	18	14	14	9	5	81

Virtually absent from the historical record are reports of South Polar Skuas from the shelf waters south of LI and west of Montauk Pt., between the immediate shore and the continental slope. In fact, just a single record exists from these waters: three birds 30-70 miles south of Fire Island Inlet, 5-7 July 1975 (*Kingbird* 25:235). This deficit stands in marked contrast to the experience on shelf waters in the vicinity of Montauk Point and in neighboring RI, where relatively extensive coverage has produced approximately 50 records within 40 miles of land. When one considers further that these 50 records have translated into just a single summer skua from land at Montauk (the August 1886 specimen) and none from RI, the LI South Shore's four land-based records (including the one reported herein) would seem to promise that enhanced coverage of the waters 10-50 miles south of LI, between late May and early Oct, should produce additional records in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

R.L. Ferren generously shared detailed, unpublished information regarding many records of skuas from RI waters and provided helpful comments on the manuscript. P.A. Buckley and H. McGuinness shared details concerning the skuas they observed from land on LI. G. and J. Fritz helped inspire our seawatch on 23 Jun with their news that warm-water fish had made an early appearance in our area.

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Female Common Eider – 6 Aug 2000 Fisher's Island, New York
This photo appeared in *Kingbird* 51, No. 2 but was poorly reproduced.
Edwin Horning



Female Common Eider and Young – 6 Aug 2000
Fisher's Island, New York
Edwin Horning

MY BIG YEAR (2000)

Matt Victoria

2164 Bitters Rd. Camillus, NY 13031

In the summer of 1999, I read *Kingbird Highway* (Houghton Mifflin 1997) by Kenn Kaufman, which held me spellbound throughout its 318 pages. For me, it was not just a great story, but posed an intriguing possibility. I knew for quite sometime that I would be able to take the year 2000 off from work, to travel or simply pursue my interests. My wife and I had discussed this at length, and we both thought it was a good idea. I hoped a sizable portion of the year would include some birding, and maybe I could even organize a two week trip to Texas in late April to tally some new Lifers. This was the plan, until I read Kaufman's book.

Kaufman's *Odyssey*, taken to identify as many species of birds as possible in one calendar year, seemed quite daunting. After all, he hitchhiked across the country to accomplish his goal, even going as far as northern Alaska. I knew I couldn't hope to mimic his efforts and attempt a nationwide Big Year. As much as I would love to try this, I would end up single and destitute after the first week! In the autumn of 1999, a much better idea took shape. Why not try a Big Year confined simply to New York State? This seemed much more feasible, and I began planning my strategy in earnest.

The winter of 1999 was shaping up to be quite mild. A big bonus was the large numbers of COMMON REDPOLLS and other winter finches that began appearing in November. If the start of 2000 was to include these birds, a group of normally difficult-to-find bird species would be readily observable. I decided to make a list of all species I thought would be possible to see in NY in one very good year with the major effort being put in to see the really rare ones. Poring over various NY State checklists, I compiled a list of 325 birds. I decided to call my little endeavor "The Race For 325."

While counting the days until New Year's Eve 1999, I began a small side project. My mother, Nancy McFarland, offered to design a web page to track my efforts. In this fashion, birders from around NY State could check in, see what I was observing, and follow up on rarities for their own pleasure. Similarly, advisories could be posted to me if rare birds turned up in the far corners of NY State. The web site would also serve as an archive of my efforts, and document my attempt long after the 2000 year had passed. Successful or not, I would have my observations posted for peer review, and names of other birders that were present would also lend legitimacy to my sightings. A full list of the birds I observed in 2000, along with field notes and a list of other observers is still available for review online at my web site:

<http://members.fortunecity.com/mattv2>

New Year's Eve 1999 was spent quietly at home awaiting the drop of the ball and the Y2K nonsense to begin. The world did not end that night, as some had

hoped, so I set out at 1:30 AM to a local hotspot and Important Bird Area (IBA) called Whiskey Hollow in the Town of Van Buren. My first bird for the Big Year would NOT be a European Starling, I was determined to find something native. Shortly after I turned off my car's engine, I heard the haunting duet of two GREAT HORNED OWLS. The year was off to a great start! By the end of the day, 1 Jan, 2000, I would also relocate and identify a male DICKCISSEL that was coming to a feeder in Oneida Castle and a HOARY REDPOLL that was making similar forays to a feeder in Lafayette. The day list would reflect a total of 36 species, with two of these being whopping rarities! A great start indeed.

A trip to Niagara Falls in the first week of January turned up LITTLE GULL, THAYER'S GULL and LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. A visit to the Tug Hill State Forest found both PINE GROSBEAK and RED CROSSBILL. Three trips to Montauk Point that first winter yielded KING EIDER, COMMON EIDER, HARLEQUIN DUCK, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE and DOVEKIE. Cape Vincent held the elusive GRAY PARTRIDGE, although I had to make five attempts due to lack of sufficient snow accumulations. On the last day of February, I traveled to the Adirondack Mountains and Bloomingdale Bog. Here, I found GRAY JAY and BOREAL CHICKADEE. On the trip back to Syracuse that night, I realized I had seen 141 different species of birds in just two months! The year was going quite well.

Thus far, the list of 325 species I was working towards seemed prophetic. Nothing had appeared in the first winter that I had not counted on seeing (I knew about the Dickcissel and Hoary Redpoll weeks in advance, so they were not surprising). When spring arrived, some genuinely rare species that no one would have predicted began to appear. There was an AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN in Ellenville, a WESTERN MEADOWLARK in Dryden, and a LARK BUNTING in Alabama. Fortunately, all were content to stay and be viewed (over the course of several weeks in some cases) by many avid birders. When the much anticipated month of May arrived, I spent nearly every day at the Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center (NIMO EIC) in Scriba on Lake Ontario. Many hours spent performing diligent searches with the aid of talented local birders turned up huge rarities like NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW on 4 May and an adult HARRIS'S SPARROW on 9 May. Other good finds in May at the NIMO EIC included SEDGE WREN, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT and BLUE GROSBEAK. Later in the month, I made a trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and saw a BLACK-NECKED STILT and a guided excursion into Spring Pond Bog in the Adirondacks with Gary Lee found a SPRUCE GROUSE. On the last day of May, I was still searching for migrants along the lakeshore. On Long Pond Rd. near Rochester's Braddock Bay, I was elated to find a singing CONNECTICUT WARBLER! The year's total at the end of that day was 293 species.

I intended to go birding every day, such was the obsession with my goal. However, in June, I took a position with National Audubon of NY State to conduct searches of IBA's and survey for species of "Special Concern." None of these investigations found any rarities. However, the geographic locations I was sent to did assist me in finding some very rare nesting species in NY State. By the end of June, I had seen BARN OWL and CHUCK WILL'S-WIDOW on Long

Island, a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER in Sterling Forest, and a KENTUCKY WARBLER in North Tarrytown. The final rare nesting species discovered ended up being a Life Bird, a BICKNELL'S THRUSH atop Whiteface Mountain. In mid-summer, I took a brief hiatus for the month of July to plan my autumn and determine what I would need to see during migration.

Also, I knew I had to go to sea.

Certain bird species in NY State can only be seen out in the ocean. Up until August, I had been fortunate to view many WILSON'S STORM- PETRELS and even a SOOTY SHEARWATER from the secure comfort of the beach at Shinnecock, Long Island. However, skuas, jaegers and their kin all favor the vast open sea, so I booked a trip with FONT tours in New Jersey. Our vessel, the Atlantis, would depart from Brielle, NJ but at some point would cross into the NY waters of Hudson Canyon. Since there were no signs or billboards out there, a handheld GPS unit would be consulted to determine when the trip was 'officially' entering NY. This sounds foolish, but rules are rules.

Thus, we set to sea on 2 Sep. The day was flat calm and quite hot. The trip lasted 14 hours, six of which were spent in NY waters. The birds observed that day included staggering rarities like AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, RED-NECKED PHALAROPE and BRIDLED TERN. It seemed we could not have picked a better day, and my first pelagic trip ever was an incredible success. To fully document the enormity of this trip, there is an account on my web site under 'Field Notes' for the month of September.

After the pelagic trip, a major change in home life quickly usurped my birding time. We finally purchased some property, and planned to build our first home. The excitement and procedures we needed to follow kept me pretty busy during autumn migration. Still, I was able to get out a bit to fill some gaps in my Year List, including a PARASITIC JAEGER from the bluffs of the Derby Hill Bird Observatory (my 325th Year Bird!), GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH at Braddock Bay, and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR). As the final winter months of November and December approached, I succeeded in chasing and observing new birds like CALIFORNIA and SABINE'S gulls in Niagara Falls, SNOWY OWL in Fairhaven, a female SUMMER TANAGER in Tift Nature Preserve in Buffalo. Finally, another pelagic trip from Brielle was taken on 9 Dec. This trip was just as exciting, but conditions were much rougher. Highlights included a DOVEKIE, ATLANTIC PUFFIN, , and a murre species. The murre dove and swam away too quickly, so an exact identification was not possible.

My final Year Bird, an ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, was observed in Alley Pond Park on 10 Dec.

The grand total of bird species observed in 2000 ended up being 334. I had hoped for 325, and was quite pleased with the results! Besides keeping track of what I did see, I also kept notes of what I missed. Most notable was the Western Kingbird, a species that regularly appears in NY State each autumn. Unfortunately, I have yet to see one, and missed at least four different individuals during my 2000 Big Year. In addition to the Western Kingbird, a list of 39 additional species that were all reported in NY during the Big Year attempt can be found on my web page (see 'Big Misses').

After my Big Year ended, I was informed that 334 birds represents the greatest number of species reported in one year in NY State to date. I am very pleased that I was able to pursue such a laborious endeavor, but I would never have been successful if not for the assistance and aid of a great many NY birders. Folks like Andy Baldelli, and Orhan Birol on Long Island, Mike Bochnik in Yonkers, and John and Mary Yrizarry in Tuxedo all gave me invaluable assistance. Gary Lee and Rich MacDonald in the Adirondacks, Bill Lee and Jane Graves in Albany, Willie D'Anna in Buffalo, David Tetlow in Rochester, and Nick Leone in Watertown all kept their eyes open for me. Gerard Phillips and Mickey Scilingo were my birding partners and shared in the strategy,. Bill Purcell, MA Koencke and Dorothy Crumb were similarly very knowledgeable and helpful locally. The biggest thanks and loudest praise must go to my wife Cynthia. Anyone who can allow someone to spend so much time and dedicate so much effort to their favorite pastime surely deserves major recognition! Perhaps even a nomination for sainthood...

I wish anyone trying a NY Big Year in the future a lot of luck and success! I hope that the method of making the final tally and field notes available to the public by means of a web site becomes the standard and will be employed by others as well. In this fashion, many other avid birders can follow in future attempts, and delight in reading the trials, tribulations, and ultimate successes. If anyone wishes to perform a 2002 attempt, feel free to contact me. I will be very happy to assist with strategy and have no issue with divulging any locations where I found birds. I am very grateful for the opportunity to recount my efforts, the race for 325 was an experience I will definitely remember long into my twilight years.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 2001

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

WEATHER EFFECTS

March was cold and snowy, with only Region 10 missing out on the white stuff. It was the snowiest March in 65 years at Buffalo, the fifth snowiest on record at Rochester, and the second snowiest at Syracuse. Ithaca experienced its wettest March since 1879 with much of the precipitation in the form of snow. The snowstorm on 4-6 Mar was one of the 20 biggest winter storms in over 100 years at Albany and the biggest March storm ever in Region 7, with about three feet of snow in much of the Adirondacks. Even Region 9 had areas that received over two feet of snow for the month. The persistently adverse weather had a noticeable effect upon waterfowl, which arrived and peaked much later than usual. April's mild, benign weather permitted them to move quickly on and allowed many passerines to arrive on record early dates, most notably in Regions 1 and 2. Even where records were not set, the list of warblers present in late April and early May was impressive, with 15-20 species in mid-latitude Regions and 34 in Region 10. The traditional warbler peak in mid-May, however, was generally disappointing with few concentrations of significance. No doubt this was due in part to the continued fine weather during the first half of May, allowing birds to proceed quickly to their breeding grounds well ahead of schedule. One notable exception was in Region 5, where record numbers (according to *Bull's Birds of New York State*) of Magnolia (170) and Wilson's (75) dropped down on 24 May, along with high numbers of Canada Warblers (50) and Lincoln's Sparrows (20). Another exception was in Region 7 on 12 May when the Crown Point banders were besieged by Yellow-rumped Warblers - 87 found their way into the nets.

SNOW GEESE

The burgeoning population of Snow Geese reached new heights in New York this spring. According to *Bull's Birds of New York State* the highest count was 30,000 at Montezuma NWR on 18 Apr 1983. That record was shattered by the 80,000 reported there this spring on 29 Mar. In all, six Regions had counts of 2000 or more. Region 5 had a count of 17,000 and Region 6 had counts of 22,000 and 14,000 at separate locations on the same date, 3 Apr.. In Region 1 a few dozen is a normal high count but this season even they reached a maximum of 450. And, along with the Snow Geese came more than the usual smattering of Ross's Goose reports - two were in Region 1, one in Region 2, and five in Region 3, the latter including a group of three at the Montezuma wetlands complex. One last thing to ponder about Snow Geese - the predominant form this spring, even in western New York, was by far the white morph. Traditionally, high counts of this species in Region 1 (>75) have consisted of a substantial percentage of "Blue Geese".

Flocks with several "Blue Geese" are a tip-off that you are looking at the western nominate subspecies *caerulescens*, since this morph is common in that race and very rare in the eastern race, *atlanticus*. The presence of large numbers of "Snows" and very few "Blues" on the other hand, likely indicates that most of the birds seen in New York this spring were of the larger eastern race, even the birds in Region 1.

RAPTORS

As with many other species in April, Broad-winged Hawks arrived early. This species was surprising, however, in the strength of its early push - four on 8 Apr in Region 5; one on 9 Apr in Region 9; one on 10 Apr in Region 1; 59 in Region 1, 8230(!) in Region 2, and one in Region 3, all on 12 Apr. In addition peak counts were very good at the two Lake Ontario hawkwatches - 17,855 at Derby Hill in Region 5 and 22,800 at Braddock Bay in Region 2. Both counts were on 23 Apr after a warm front passed through the state. These are great counts, the highest in over ten years at Derby Hill. However, to the veteran Lake Ontario hawkwatcher they represent what the numbers "should be". It was a long wait to return to normal. Will it last?

Other significant counts at the hawkwatches included a record 5834 Turkey Vultures at Braddock Bay on 8 Apr and 23 Golden Eagles at Derby Hill on 23 Apr, just two short of the record there. Away from the hawkwatches a count of 55 Short-eared Owls in Region 2 was an excellent tally. The count was made at the Nations Road grasslands, a designated Important Bird Area (IBA). Returning to Golden Eagles, a pair of adults was observed engaging in courtship display, including talon-grasping and rolling in Region 6. The last known nesting attempt in NYS was in 1979 in Hamilton County (Peter Nye in *Bull's Birds of New York State*). This spring's sighting occurred over Fort Drum on the suspiciously late date of 29 May, when adults of this species are almost unheard of in New York.. The sighting was not near any historical breeding sites. However, the species has recovered well in the East during the post-DDT era, so nesting does not seem out of the question. The major problem, according to Peter Nye, may be the availability of the proper habitat (generally open country) well away from possible disturbance by human beings. With farms reverting to forest and development creeping into every corner of the state, this majestic bird may need to develop a tolerance for people if it is to breed once more in New York. As for the birds at Fort Drum, they were not seen again after the initial sighting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Something appeared to be going on with Glossy Ibis this spring. Record counts for Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve in Region 10 were made during the second week of April. Normally a rare bird away from coastal areas, six other Regions reported the species, including four with more than single birds (Regions

2, 3, 5, & 7). Of these, Region 5 had groups of four and two birds while Region 3's group of 12 birds tied the second highest inland count ever per *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Interestingly, in the Regions with multiple birds, the initial sightings occurred around the second week of April, when the peak counts were being made at Jamaica Bay. It seems likely that the coastal and inland ibises all originated from the same general wintering area and migrated north at the same time, with more than usual going off-track into inland Regions. Perhaps the same weather factors were responsible for the 30 Laughing Gulls in Region 3 (see the Rarities section) since they appeared around the same time and winter in the same areas as the ibises. If these birds came from the Texas/Louisiana region, the possibility of a White-faced Ibis among them would increase. Let's hope the observers considered that possibility!

There were not many high counts this spring. Most of the record-setters have already been mentioned. Another is the amazing count of 600 Song Sparrows at Nine Mile Point in Region 5 on 5 Apr, a record for one location according to *Bull's Birds of New York State* and *Birds of New York State*. Other noteworthy counts were: 500 Green-winged Teals in Region 1 on 22 Apr; 1150 Ring-necked Ducks in Region 3 on 1 Apr, 150 Caspian Terns in Region 5 on 5 May; and 900 Snow Buntings in Region 1 on 18 Mar, the latter no doubt concentrated by the heavy snows.

The breeding activities of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins noted in the winter season continued this spring and spread out from the central Adirondacks. Region 6 Editor Long called it "the largest incursion in several years". Evidence of breeding (Possible, Probable, or Confirmed) was obtained in Regions 3, 5, 6, & 7 for the crossbill and Regions 1, 3, 5, 6, & 7 for the siskin. Even Purple Finch was getting into the act in mid March in Region 7, exceptionally early for that species. The coincidence of this invasion with Atlas 2000 is certainly fortuitous!

Although most observers do not notice an obvious change in numbers of American Crows in New York through the year, there is a sizeable migration that occurs, most noticeably along the Great Lakes in spring. Thus, it is not too surprising, though still interesting to hear about a crow, banded in Ithaca on 13 March, that showed up in Region 7 less than a month later.

RARITIES

There are probably more people out birding during spring in New York than at any other season (Atlas years perhaps notwithstanding). As a result many rarities are discovered and this season there were several that were exceptional. The following discussion is mostly limited to the rarest species, nearly all of which require documentation to the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC).

Swainson's Hawks are now of near annual spring occurrence in New York at one or more of the Great Lakes hawkwatches. This year two were found

at Braddock Bay and one at Derby Hill. The bird in Region 5 was a dark morph seen on the same date as a dark morph in Region 2. This color morph is exceptionally rare in the state. The times of the sightings leave little doubt that the same individual passed both hawkwatches. Of the regular herons in New York, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is the rarest inland. That makes the sighting in Region 2 of particular note. Another great find in Region 2, especially for an inland Region, was a Bullock's Oriole. Due to the possibility of hybridization with Baltimore Oriole, identification as this species requires careful documentation. A super bird was the Boreal Owl at Braddock Bay, lingering for four days. Another Boreal Owl at Buffalo in Region 1 was not only the first record of a live bird in the Region but the first record in the western half of New York away from the Lake Ontario Plain (*Bull's Birds of New York State*). In addition, this record-setting owl was also the latest ever in New York, occurring on the remarkable date of 6 May! Black Vultures have increased to the point where they no longer require a NYSARC report. However, away from southeastern New York and the Great Lakes hawkwatches, they remain very rare. Thus, the sighting in Region 3 was very noteworthy. Inland Laughing Gulls are good finds in the state though not quite the caliber of most of the birds in this paragraph. However, the report of 30 in Region 3 is absolutely startling, especially without a tropical storm to bring them inland. Surprisingly, this is not an inland record count - that remains the 50 birds seen in Otsego County on 25 Nov 1950, following the passage of a "great storm" (*Birds of New York State*). Prior to 1997 there was only one record of Lewis's Woodpecker in New York. Since then there has been a spate of reports from New York as well as Ontario. Another provided the first record for Region 6 this spring, staying three days but at a difficult to access military reservation. Hudsonian and Marbled godwits are both very rare spring migrants. Thus the discovery in Region 7 of a group of five Hudsonian and a Marbled (not together) is remarkable. My search of *Bull's Birds of New York State* and *Birds of New York State* did not turn up any inland records of multiple Hudsonian Godwits in spring. Though this species is not on the NYSARC review list, this report cries out to be documented. In a non-invasion year, there were only two reports of Common Redpoll this spring, with the one in Region 8 the only one found away from the Adirondacks. A Ruff, believed to be a female or Reeve, was a fine highlight in Region 9. A Swallow-tailed Kite on 13 Mar on Long Island is likely the earliest ever for this great rarity. Remarkably, there was another report of this species over a month later. An alternate-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper in Region 10 must have been a real beauty! Region 5 had a stellar season at its Lake Ontario hotspots, with sightings of Lark Sparrow (second Regional record), White-winged Dove (one of very few away from coastal Regions), and a Eurasian Collared-Dove. There have been reports of the latter species on Long Island, but in such a heavily populated area there is the concern that those sightings could involve escapes. In Region 5, at a well-known migrant trap, the chances of acceptance by NYSARC would appear to be better. Could this at last become the first accepted record in New York of this rapidly expanding species?

Several of the above are worthy of the Bird-of-the-Season (BOTS) Award. In particular, I am thinking of the five Hudsonian Godwits in Region 7, the 30 Laughing Gulls in Region 3, the Lark Sparrow, White-winged Dove and, especially, the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Region 5, the Bullock's Oriole in Region 2, the Boreal Owls in Regions 1 & 2, and the Lewis's Woodpecker in Region 6. However, there is one light that shines brighter than the rest. One bird, not yet mentioned, has everything going for it. This bird was cooperative, being regularly observed and well-photographed for 13 days. It was both elegant and colorful and, if accepted by NYSARC, will provide the first record for New York State. I am referring to the splendid Black-tailed Godwit (*Kingbird* 51:572) that graced the South Shore of Long Island and my choice for the BOTS Award this season.

CORRECTION

In last season's Highlights I mentioned that there were no regular wintering sites for Golden Eagle in New York State, which I considered somewhat surprising (*Kingbird* 51: 601). Thanks to Barbara Butler and Otis Waterman, I now know that that is not the case. Apparently, a small number of Golden Eagles have been wintering in Dutchess County in Region 9 for many years. If I had only checked *Bull's Birds of New York State*, that error would not have happened!



POET'S CORNER

OCTOBER

I noticed them suddenly,
the V-wedged flocks nearly overhead
flapping and gliding over the pine woods.
Strange, I had not heard the boreal honking
that comes before the big Canadas.
I did not breathe, listening
for the faint trumpeting I used to hear over our farmhouse.
Mother and all us kids plummeting into the yard
when Father shouted up from the pumpkin field,
"Hurry, everybody ! The geese are flying south!"

We waved and I believed
the "honkers" were waving their wings and calling back to us.
Today, I waved....waited. No sound.

It was like a medieval procession
of monks passing to bury their brother.
These were not geese, but cormorants. Mute birds.
Elegant dark forms against the shrouded sky.
Trappists going down the horizon
into winter.

Maxwell C. Wheat Jr.

Spring Arrival Dates 2001 Waterbirds

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	15-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	07-Apr	24-Apr	01-Apr		06-Apr	17 Apr	21-Apr	12-Apr	04-May		15 Apr	17 Apr
Green Heron	15-Apr	21-Apr	20-Apr		22-Apr		04-May	22-Apr	28-Apr	04-Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr
Wood Duck	04-Mar	04-Mar	14-Mar		18-Mar	26 Mar	01-Apr	11-Mar			15 Mar	14 Mar
Green-winged Teal	09-Mar	11-Mar	14-Mar		04-Apr	24 Mar	26-Mar	16-Mar			19 Mar	19 Mar
Northern Pintail	04-Mar	04-Mar	17-Feb		10-Mar	24 Mar	01-Apr	11-Mar			10 Mar	8 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	24-Mar	23-Mar	14-Mar		10-Mar	12 Apr	27-Apr	29-Mar			28 Mar	30 Mar
Osprey	29-Mar	03-Apr	25-Mar		29-Mar	11 Apr	02-Apr	01-Apr	24-Mar	01-Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar
Virginia Rail	20-Apr	23-Apr	10-Apr		21-Apr	30 Apr	26-Apr	22-Apr			21 Apr	17 Apr
Sora	08-Apr	25-Apr	21-Apr		26-Apr		28-May	25-Apr			27 Apr	27 Apr
Common Moorhen	22-Apr	13-Apr	27-Apr		22-Apr			19-May			26 Apr	25 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	20-May	16-May	05-May			23 May			10-May		14 May	11 May
Semipalmated Plover	11-May	10-May	08-May		09-May		10-May	07-May	10-May	02-May	8 May	10 May
Killdeer	09-Feb	16-Feb	11-Feb		15-Mar	24 Mar	20-Mar	08-Mar			2 Mar	4 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	25-Mar	04-Apr	09-Apr		24-Mar	16 Apr	28-Apr	28-Apr	21-Apr		11 Apr	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	08-Apr	12-Apr	28-Apr		07-Apr	16 Apr	04-May	03-May	21-Apr	25-Mar	17 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	21-Apr	26-Apr	02-May		22-Apr	7 May	11-May	01-May	03-May	02-May	30 Apr	27 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	23-Apr	26-Apr	14-Apr		24-Apr	7 May	24-Apr	22-Apr	01-May	20-Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr
Sanderling	19-May										19 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15-May	19-May	17-May		29-May		12-May	28-May	12-May	13-May	18 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	06-May	30-Apr	05-May		05-May	7 May		19-May	10-May	14-Apr	4 May	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	08-Apr	12-Apr	05-May		07-Apr			12-May	05-Apr		18 Apr	19 Apr
Common Snipe	31-Mar	07-Apr	19-Mar		30-Mar	6 Apr	08-Apr	02-Apr	12-Mar		29 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	15-Mar	26-Feb	03-Mar		20-Mar	18 Mar	21-Mar	26-Mar	20-Feb		11 Mar	10 Mar
Caspian Tern	08-Apr	04-Apr	09-Apr		07-Apr	27 Apr		19-Apr		25-Apr	14 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	08-Apr	12-Apr	12-Apr		01-May		23-Apr	19-May	02-May	28-Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	25-Apr	24-Apr	05-May		09-May	17 May		19-May		19-May	8 May	7 May
Marsh Wren	29-Apr	23-Apr	05-May		26-Apr		17-May	02-May	02-May	05-Apr	27 Apr	1 May

Spring Arrival Dates 2001 Landbirds

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	15-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	02-May	16-May	05-May		09-May	5 May	17-May	12-May	04-May	02-May	8 May	13 May
Common Nighthawk	10-Apr	02-May	05-May		18-May	28 May	21-May	04-May	11-May	15-May	9 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	20-Apr	23-Apr	21-May		08-Apr	20 Apr	04-May	27-Apr	14-Apr	14-Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	03-May	25-Apr	05-May		02-May		04-May	02-May	02-May	15-Apr	29 Apr	4 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31-Mar	06-Apr	01-Apr		06-Apr		06-Apr	06-Apr	11-Apr		5 Apr	4 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	20-May	27-May	27-May		19-May		20-May	20-May	12-May	30-Apr	18 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	06-May	08-May	05-May		12-May		02-May	01-May	11-May	12-May	7 May	10 May
Alder Flycatcher	15-May	19-May	08-May		18-May	25 May	08-May	18-May	17-May		16 May	17 May
Willow Flycatcher	11-May	04-May	12-May		07-May	5 May	28-May	14-May	12-May	02-May	10 May	16 May
Least Flycatcher	25-Apr	30-Apr	27-Apr		24-Apr	2 May	02-May	02-May	01-May	27-Apr	28 Apr	2 May
Eastern Phoebe	25-Mar	29-Mar	21-Mar		03-Apr	3 Apr	05-Apr	16-Mar	20-Mar	14-Mar	25 Mar	22 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	23-Apr	28-Apr	24-Apr		30-Apr	2 May	02-May	02-May	30-Apr	24-Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Eastern Kingbird	23-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr		27-Apr	24 Apr	04-May	26-Apr	25-Apr	15-Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr
Purple Martin	08-Apr	23-Mar	07-Apr		08-Apr	10 Apr	24-Apr	19-May	12-May	05-Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr
Tree Swallow	20-Mar	20-Mar	13-Mar		20-Mar	3 Apr	05-Apr	25-Mar	17-Mar		23 Mar	22 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	08-Apr	14-Apr	07-Apr		08-Apr	30 Apr	26-Apr	11-Apr	14-Apr	14-Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr
Bank Swallow	28-Apr	12-Apr	14-Apr		17-Apr	30 Apr	04-May	28-Apr	14-Apr	11-Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	07-May	21-Apr	07-Apr		28-Apr	2 May	10-May	09-May	22-Apr	25-Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Barn Swallow	04-Apr	07-Apr	07-Apr		08-Apr	12 Apr	18-Apr	22-Apr	14-Apr	11-Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	15-Apr	11-Apr	05-Apr		20-Apr	26 Apr	24-Apr	19-Apr	10-Apr	09-Apr	15 Apr	22 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	08-Apr	13-Apr	09-Apr		13-Apr	24 Apr	19-Apr	19-Apr			15 Apr	7 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14-Apr	14-Apr	13-Apr		13-Apr	20 May	02-May	22-Apr	14-Apr	05-Apr	19 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		03-Mar			07-Mar	30 Mar	02-Apr				18 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	30-Apr	02-May	25-Apr		06-May	6 May	01-May	01-May	04-May	24-Apr	1 May	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	28-Apr	01-May	05-May		18-May	16 May	10-May	09-May	09-May	02-May	7 May	7 May
Hermit Thrush	08-Apr	07-Apr	07-Apr		08-Apr	14 Apr	11-Apr	11-Apr	07-Apr		9 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	23-Apr	26-Apr	24-Apr		26-Apr	3 May	05-May	02-May	01-May	24-Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Gray Catbird	22-Apr	26-Apr	07-Apr		26-Apr		01-May	28-Apr	24-Apr	11-Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr
Brown Thrasher	14-Apr	16-Apr	18-Apr		14-Apr	26 Apr	25-Apr	22-Apr	20-Apr		19 Apr	16 Apr
Solitary Vireo	14-Apr	21-Apr	14-Apr		18-Apr	30 Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	21-Apr	15-Mar	16 Apr	20 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	28-Apr	01-May	04-May		05-May	26 Apr	02-May	01-May	30-Apr	23-Apr	30 Apr	4 May
Warbling Vireo	25-Apr	29-Apr	26-Apr		25-Apr	2 May	03-May	24-Apr	24-Apr	28-Apr	27 Apr	2 May
Red-eyed Vireo	04-May	01-May	24-Apr		03-May	7 May	30-Apr	05-May	02-May	27-Apr	1 May	4 May

Spring Arrival Dates 2001 Landbirds (cont'd)

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	15-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	04-May	03-May	02-May		03-May	10 May	11-May	27-May	04-May	02-May	7 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	23-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr		28-Apr	2 May	02-May	24-Apr	27-Apr	25-Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Parula	30-Apr	27-Apr	24-Apr		25-Apr	27 Apr	03-May	03-May	27-Apr	14-Apr	26 Apr	3 May
Yellow Warbler	23-Apr	22-Apr	20-Apr		24-Apr	2 May	03-May	15-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	01-May	01-May	05-May		01-May	4 May	04-May	24-Apr	01-May	29-Apr	1 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	01-May	02-May	30-Apr		03-May	13 May	07-May	05-May	03-May	30-Apr	3 May	5 May
Cape May Warbler	06-May	05-May	04-May		02-May	27 May		12-May	12-May	30-Apr	8 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	01-May	30-Apr	24-Apr		27-Apr	3 May	02-May	03-May	30-Apr	13-Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	12-Apr	23-Apr	22-Apr		24-Apr	30 Apr	02-May	24-Apr	23-Apr	18-Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	27-Apr	01-May	28-Apr		01-May	9 May	07-May	30-Apr	27-Apr	29-Apr	1 May	4 May
Pine Warbler	21-Apr	12-Apr	09-Apr		15-Apr	18 Apr	13-Apr	15-Apr	07-Apr	29-Mar	12 Apr	12 Apr
Palm Warbler	21-Apr	22-Apr	22-Apr		22-Apr	10 May	26-Apr	13-Apr	05-Apr	05-Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	04-May	28-Apr	05-May		03-May		12-May	12-May	09-May	01-May	5 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	16-May	08-May	12-May		12-May	24 May	28-May	19-May	09-May	30-Apr	14 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	23-Apr	22-Apr	22-Apr		22-Apr	27 Apr	22-Apr	24-Apr	21-Apr	11-Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	01-May	30-Apr	25-Apr		01-May	2 May	02-May	29-Apr	24-Apr	27-Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Ovenbird	22-Apr	01-May	22-Apr		29-Apr	3 May	02-May	03-May	30-Apr	15-Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	28-Apr	27-Apr	22-Apr		24-Apr	30 Apr	05-May	22-Apr	23-Apr	15-Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr
Mourning Warbler	18-May	09-May	08-May		09-May	31 May	05-May	13-May	16-May	14-May	13 May	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	28-Apr	27-Apr	24-Apr		25-Apr	13 May	04-May	01-May	30-Apr	22-Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	11-May	02-May	05-May		07-May	16 May	19-May	07-May	11-May	01-May	8 May	11 May
Canada Warbler	06-May	07-May	05-May		12-May	20 May	25-May	19-May	08-May	01-May	11 May	11 May
Scarlet Tanager	04-May	03-May	28-Apr		02-May	7 May	10-May	01-May	03-May	30-Apr	3 May	5 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	27-Apr	30-Apr	26-Apr		27-Apr		02-May	23-Apr	30-Apr	22-Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	02-May	03-May	05-May		06-May		01-May	15-May	30-Apr	14-Apr	2 May	5 May
Eastern Towhee	31-Mar	06-Apr	06-Apr		31-Mar	27 May	20-Apr	18-Apr	22-Apr		16 Apr	11 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	08-Apr	22-Mar	05-Apr		06-Apr	23 Apr	11-Apr	06-Apr	06-Apr		7 Apr	6 Apr
Veesper Sparrow	08-Apr	01-Apr	06-Apr		04-Apr	27 May	02-May	24-Apr		22-Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	05-Apr	14-Apr	07-Apr		06-Apr	30 Apr	09-Apr		21-Apr		13 Apr	8 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	25-Apr	30-Apr	05-May		25-Apr		05-May	24-May	14-May	01-May	4 May	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow	08-Apr	23-Apr	04-Apr		21-Apr	3 May	17-Apr	02-May	09-May		22 Apr	25 Apr
Bobolink	25-Apr	24-Apr	05-May		30-Apr	9 May	30-Apr	30-Apr		03-May	30 Apr	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	27-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr		29-Apr	2 May	02-May	27-Apr	28-Apr	23-Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Overall Average	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr		21 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr

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

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

MIKE MORGANTE

16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster NY 14086

The weather was cold and snowy throughout March. The average temperature was 31.1°F, 2.7° below average, and there was 3.31" of precipitation, 0.63" above average. The 32.8" (22.5" above normal) of snow made for the snowiest March in 65 years and pushed the winter snowfall total to 158.1", for the second snowiest winter in history.

After the dreary winter, April was a welcome change as the month was very mild and dry. The average temperature was 47.3°, 2.1° above average, and featured two days, the 12th and 23rd, in the 80s. It was the driest April in 66 years, with only 1.26" of precipitation, 1.61" below average. The ice pack on Lake Erie melted by the 24th, about 10 days later than usual. Strong southwesterly winds occurred on the 8th, 12th and 24th and winds were from this migrant-friendly direction for most of the month, no doubt having a role in the large number of early records.

The first half of May was warm, sunny and dry. The second half was cool, cloudy and wet. The average temperature was 58.8°, 2.2° above average. The precipitation was 4.28", 1.14" above normal. Heavy rains occurred on the 18th and 21st. Many migrants were grounded on the 18th but were noticeably absent the next day.

While March weather was very snowy, so was the Region's goose migration. Snow Geese are typically recorded in Region 1 in small numbers every spring and fall, usually mixed in with Canada Geese. However, this spring there were several Snow Goose flock counts in the hundreds from the agricultural fields around Genesee and Orleans counties plus many more reports than usual from other locations. These numbers pale when compared with some other Regions, but 1993 was the only other year that counts were in the hundreds for this species here and, unlike that year, these geese were nearly all the white form. Mixed in with the large Snow Goose flocks in Oakfield were an adult **Ross's Goose** on 31 March and an immature the next day. These sightings were the fourth and fifth for the Region and the first spring reports. Only one Greater White-fronted Goose and one Brant, remarkably early, were reported this spring.

The warm April brought four vireo and 14 warbler species to the Region plus numerous early reports for a wide range of species. Verification reports were accepted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society for early dates in April and six more in May for 16 species. Common Nighthawks observed by Joe Thill over Kenmore on 10 and 11 April were nearly a month earlier than usual and the earliest report for the Region since 1947. A Black-throated Green Warbler on 12 April was also very early and comes after last year's record early date of 7 April.

The migration continued to be very good in early May as evidenced by some high warbler species lists and some early records, but tapered off during the

traditional mid-month peak. Rare warbler species included "Yellow" Palm, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Yellow-breasted Chat, with the last three species observed within two days at Point Gratiot.

The Ripley Hawkwatch was not maintained full time this spring. There were several days in April, most notably the 8th, when Turkey Vultures pushed through the Region in high numbers. Five Golden Eagles were reported, which is higher than usual for this Region. A late raptor movement was documented on 6 May, featuring ten Bald Eagles with decent numbers of Ospreys and Broad-winged Hawks. Peregrine Falcons hatched two young from the Statler Tower in downtown Buffalo. Ospreys again nested at Ring-neck Marsh at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge after Canada Geese displaced them last year. Ten Osprey nests were surveyed near the Allegheny Reservoir. There were two Bald Eagle nests at Iroquois NWR this spring. The traditional nest at Mohawk Pool (with the video camera) was unsuccessful, while a new nest at Cayuga Pool hatched one eaglet. There were four Bald Eagle nests near the Allegheny Reservoir and two along Cattaraugus Creek.

A NYSDEC survey of the Motor Island Rookery in May found eight Great Egret nests, 108 Great Blue Heron nests, 102 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, 70 Canada Goose nests and no Double-crested Cormorant nests. NYSDEC is removing cormorant (13) and Ring-billed Gull (458) nests on adjacent Strawberry Island, while leaving one Herring Gull nest undisturbed. A breeding-plumaged Snowy Egret was again found several times at Motor Island and vicinity this May.

There were some exceptional rarities found in May. A **Boreal Owl** was found by Bob Andrle and Brendan Klick on the unexpectedly late date of 6 May during a B.O.S. field trip to Tiffit Nature Preserve. Many birders were able to see this very rare bird throughout the day. It was the second record and the first observed alive for the Region.

I found a **Loggerhead Shrike** in the Town of Carlton on 18 May. The bird was in the same location the next day, but several attempts to find it during the next week were unsuccessful. The bird was observed sitting on a utility wire and frequently flying down to a plowed field to catch insects. This was the first May record since 1981 and the date hopefully may suggest possible breeding.

A **Piping Plover** was found at Dunkirk Harbor on 12 May. It was seen by several birders and reportedly photographed. We hope a report and photograph will be submitted to NYSARC for the first spring record of this species in the Region since the 1950s.

The third **Blue Grosbeak** for the Region, a male, was found at Point Gratiot by Joe Gula on 4 and 5 May. Other rarities for the season included: Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, "Richardson's" Canada Geese, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Sandhill Cranes, Sedge Wren, Clay-colored Sparrow, and "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco.

The B.O.S. April Count on the 8th, compiled by Mike Hamilton, tallied 139 species. High counts were for Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Eastern Phoebe, while lows were noted for Long-tailed Duck, Common Snipe and Evening Grosbeak.

The B.O.S. May Count on the 20th tallied 201 species and was compiled by Jim Landau. A notable ten record high counts were recorded as compared with tallies since the count began in 1935, including: Wood Duck, Mallard, Caspian Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird and Hooded Warbler. Other high counts were noted for Alder Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery and Savannah Sparrow. Only 12 Blue-winged Teals was a record low count. Other low counts for at least one decade were noted for Northern Shoveler, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Redstart, White-throated Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Bill Burch, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Elsie Cushing, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis (MDa), Len DeFrancisco, Michael DeSha, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Mike Galas, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula (JGu), Susan Harvey, Mark Kandel, Brendan Klick, Tom LeBlanc, Jim & Karen Landau, Lynne Landon, Dick Miga, Miley Miller (MMi), Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Fran Rew, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, Kayo Roy, Gail Seamans, Debbie Sharon (DSh), Jack Skalicky, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Joe Thill, Kirk Vanstrom, Anne Vogt, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count (8 Apr); BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count (20 May); BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; GI – Goat I, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawkwatch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara River; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE; PG – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawkwatch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, East Aurora, ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; Tillman WMA – Tillman WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr Oakfield GENE & BWWTP 1 Apr (WW!, PY!); 7 BOSAC; last Yates BOSMC.
Com. Loon: arr Celeron CHAU 27 Mar.

Horned Grebe: 28 Salamanca CATT 26 Mar (TL); max 40 BOSAC.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Somerset NIAG 24 Mar; last BWWTP 6 May (MM); 5 other reports of singles.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 3 INWR 7 Apr; max 878 Strawberry I & Motor I NR ERIE 26 Apr; NYSDEC preventing incubation at Strawberry I.

Am. Bittern: arr TWMA 7 Apr; 2 Machias CATT 16 Apr (MD); Tift NP 26 May (RA).

Least Bittern: arr OOWMA 11 May; TWMA 15 May; Pomfret CHAU 26 May (DN).

Great Blue Heron: max 68 Motor I NR 15 Apr; 108 nests counted there in May by NYSDEC (MK).

Great Egret: arr 5 Motor I NR 5 Apr; max 18 Motor I NR 24 May; 8 nests counted there in May by NYSDEC (MK).

SNOWY EGRET: Grand I NR ERIE 11 May & Motor I NR 23 May (BRBA), likely same bird that was observed twice on Ontario side of Niagara Ri in full breeding plumage (KR!); species recorded in 5 of last 7 spring seasons.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: reported from Tift NP early May.

Green Heron: arr Newstead ERIE 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 83 Motor I NR 23 Apr; 102 nests recorded there in May by NYSDEC (MK).

GLOSSY IBIS: INWR 5, 6, 12, 15 May (BB,TO!,BK!), 8th May record in 40 years.

Turkey Vulture: 4514 BOSAC, 10 times the 22-year mean.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: Shelby ORLE 31 Mar–8 Apr (BK!, MM!, WW!, WD!), only report.

Snow Goose: arr 60 Wethersfield WYOM 8 Mar; 50 Hamburg HW 28 Mar (RA); max 450 Oakfield GENE 31 Mar (BK), only one previous year (1993) with counts in hundreds; last 2 BOSAC.

ROSS'S GOOSE: ad Oakfield GENE 31 Mar (BK! NYSARC); imm Oakfield GENE 1 Apr (WW! WD! NYSARC); 4th & 5th records for Region, first in spring.

Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*):

Oakfield 18 Mar (BK!); Shelby ORLE 1 Apr (WD!); 2 Alabama GENE 1 Apr (WD!); Albion ORLE 22 Apr (BK!); good spring showing.

Brant: Somerset NIAG 24 Mar (WD!), unusually early and only report.

Mute Swan: Olcott NIAG 14 Apr thru 20 May; Barre ORLE 20 Apr (KF); Newstead ERIE 5-16 May; Carlton ORLE 20-28 May; very slowly increasing.

Tundra Swan: max 390 Hamburg HW 15 Mar (RA); last OOWMA 29 Apr.

EURASIAN WIGEON: male OOWMA 20 Apr (KF!); recorded in 6 of last 8 spring seasons.

Am. Wigeon: max 350 OOWMA 22 Apr (BK).

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 Yates ORLE 24 Mar; 12 BOSMC, historical count low.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 TWMA 25 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 280 OOWMA 22 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 9 Mar; max 500 OOWMA 22 Apr.

Canvasback: last BWWTP 26 May (BK!), late.

Redhead: Salamanca CATT 26 Mar (TL), unusual location; 18 INWR BOSMC.

Ring-necked Duck: last 4 INWR 15 May.

Lesser Scaup: last Times Beach NP ERIE 25-31 May.

KING EIDER: female BeSP 18 Mar (BRBA), rare.

Surf Scoter: 2 DH 4 Mar; 1 DH 2 Apr (DM); Salamanca CATT 26 Mar (TL), unusual location; 3 Somerset NIAG 22 Apr (WD), only reports.

Black Scoter: NF 1 May (WD), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 5000 FNSP 23 Mar (LL); last 4 Carlton ORLE 28 May.

Com. Merganser: 2 pairs Elma ERIE 28 May, unusual location for date, possible breeders.

Ruddy Duck: arr 29 BWWTP 31 Mar;
max 288 BWWTP 14 Apr (WW).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 6 Allegheny Res CATT 29 Mar (TL); 2 at nest INWR 11 Apr thru; 10 nests Allegheny Res CATT.

Bald Eagle: 2 nests INWR Mar; 4 nests Allegheny Res CATT; 2 nests Cattaraugus Creek CATT; max 8 Allegheny Res CATT 3 Mar (TL); many sightings at hawk watches and elsewhere; 5 Carlton ORLE 25 May (WW, MG); 4 Pomfret CHAU 26 May (DN), good late migrant push.

N. Goshawk: 6 migrant reports 1-14 Apr; Sardinia ERIE 29 Apr (KF!); E. Holland Bog ERIE May (RR); nest Harmony CHAU 26 May (MMi).

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 106 Hamburg HW 20 Mar (FR); Carlton ORLE 26 May (WW), late migrant.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Alfred ALLE 10 Apr (EB); 59 Hamburg HW 12 Apr (BK!); Colden ERIE 12 Apr (JW!), earlier than usual; 219 Carlton ORLE 26 May (WW, MG), good late count.

Rough-legged Hawk: well reported Mar & Apr.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Hamburg HW 20 Mar (RA! WD!); 2 ORLE BOSAC (BK!); Hamburg HW 14 Apr (FR!); Alfred ALLE 19 Apr (EC); Buffalo ERIE 20 Apr (BK!), strong showing for Reg.

Merlin: 3 SUNY Buffalo campus ERIE thru 20 Mar (PY!); Buffalo State College ERIE 7 Mar (BK!); arr Wheatfield NIAG 18 Mar (WD!); 4 Hamburg HW 29 Mar - 19 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad + 2 yg Buffalo ERIE, from now-annual nest location; Hamburg HW 23 Apr (FR); BuSP 10 May (WW).

Virginia Rail: arr OOWMA 20 Apr.
Sora: arr BOSAC.

Com. Moorhen: arr 2 OOWMA 22 Apr; Tiff NP 13 May, possible return as nesting species for location.

Am. Coot: 2 ad + 11 yg INWR 26 May (WW, MG).

SANDHILL CRANE: 1 Hamburg HW 5 & 23 Apr (WD! WW!); 2 BOSAC; Ripley HW 11 Apr (LD); Porter NIAG 21 Apr (SO!); INWR 11 May (BK!); GHSP 26 May (TO!).

Black-bellied Plover: arr 12 BOSMC; 39 Clarence ERIE 30 May (BK), high spring count.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Tiff NP, 2 OOWMA 11 May.

PIPING PLOVER: DH 12 May (DM, et al), reportedly ph; first spring record since 1950s.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr OOWMA 25 Mar; max 35 BWWTP 15 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 BOSAC.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Alexander GENE 21 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Tiff NP 23 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 Hartland NIAG

23 Apr; 2 Somerset NIAG 1 May; 2 Alabama GENE 15 May; only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 BWWTP 19 May-BOSMC; 2 Pt Breeze ORLE 23 May; 2 Times Beach ERIE 31 May; more spring reports than usual.

Sanderling: Olcott NIAG 19 May (WD, MM), only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR 15 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 8 BWWTP, 3 Tiff NP 6 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr TWMA 13 May (WD!), early; Canadaway Creek CHAU 23 May (DM); only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr BOSAC; max 36 Arcade WYOM 29 Apr (KF).

Dunlin: arr TWMA 14 Apr.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Times Beach ERIE 16 May (BK); 34 Yates ORLE 18 May (BE); 4 BOSMC.

Com. Snipe: 50 East Randolph CATT 31 Mar (MD); 29 Elba GENE 14 Apr (KF), good counts for single flocks.

Am. Woodcock: arr Pomfret CHAU 15 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: Yates ORLE 27 May (BRBA), first spring report since 1997.

Little Gull: max 18 Porter NIAG 4 Mar (BP); Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr; Wilson NIAG 5 May (WD).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 12,616 BOSAC; 5000 Bird I Pier NR 20 Apr (WW).

Ring-billed Gull: 1 with egg BWWT 29 Apr (GS), only nesting location in Region away from L Erie /NR.

Iceland Gull: 2 DH 7 Mar (DM); max 5 Buffalo ERIE 20 Apr (WD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 7 Buffalo ERIE 20 Apr (WD); 2 GI 24 May (BK!), late.

Glaucous Gull: max 5 Buffalo ERIE 20 Apr (WD).

Caspian Tern: arr 12 BOSAC; 160 BOSMC, historical high for count.

Com. Tern: arr 8 BOSAC; 3 Bennington WYOM 12 May (GS), unusual inland location.

Black Tern: arr INWR 25 Apr (LH), early; 28 BOSMC.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Lancaster ERIE 2 May (MM!), early.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 INWR 13 May.

Snowy Owl: Sheldon WYOM 10 Mar; Buffalo ERIE 15 Mar, driven away by nesting Peregrines.

Long-eared Owl: 3 BOSAC, only report.

Short-eared Owl: Hamburg HW 25 Mar (RA); Porter NIAG 16 Apr; Yates ORLE 22 Apr.

BOREAL OWL: Tift NP 6 May (RA! BK! et al NYSARC), only 2nd record for Region.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 WTSP 4 & 29 Mar (BP); Alfred ALLE 8 Mar (EB); 3 BOSAC; Yorkshire ERIE 9 Apr (BK); E. Holland Bog ERIE May (RR), probable breeder.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 5 Kenmore ERIE

10 Apr, 6 on 11 Apr (JT!), remarkably early, 3rd earliest record; max 52 Wilson NIAG 27 May (TO); 6 other May reports.

Chimney Swift: arr Buffalo ERIE 20 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Amity L ALLE 3 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Mar; max 5 Lakeside Beach SP ORLE 13 May (BK); 10 other reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Tift NP 31 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 GENE BOSMC, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Attica WYOM 6 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Somerset NIAG 18 May; 9 other reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr INWR 15 May; Attica WYOM 18 May; 4 BOSMC; 2 Pomfret CHAU 26 May (DN).

Alder Flycatcher: arr INWR 15 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr OOWMA 11 May (BK); 79 BOSMC, historical high count.

Least Flycatcher: arr INWR 25 Apr (LH), early.

E. Phoebe: arr OOWMA 25 Mar; 437 BOSAC, 3 times the 22-year mean.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (PY!), early.

E. Kingbird: arr Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (WW! PY), early.

N. Shrike: last 2 BOSAC.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Carlton ORLE 18 & 19 May (MM! WD! NYSARC); first May record since 1981.

White-eyed Vireo: Tift NP 27 Apr - 6 May (KF! et al); GI 30 Apr (DR!); Pomfret CHAU 1 May (TM); 4 GENE BOSMC.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr AmSP 28 Apr (MM!), early.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 Wales ERIE 14 Apr (MDa! JS!); Pfeiffer Nat Ctr CATT 14 Apr (TL), early.

Warbling Vireo: arr INWR 25 Apr (LH), early.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP 1 May (PY!), very early.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Pfeiffer Nat Ctr CATT 4 May.
Com. Raven: Ischua Valley CATT 18 Mar (JR); Golden Hill SF CATT 19 Mar (MD); Alfred ALLE 2 Apr; 14 BOSAC; 3 Sardinia ERIE 14 Apr (JW!), probable first documented breeder in ERIE; Bush Hill SF CATT 15 Apr (KF); Otto CATT 28 Apr (WD); Gounilock's Pd WYOM 6 May (MM!); 1-2 Carlton Hill MUA 19 May (MM! WD!); 10 BOSMC.
Purple Martin: arr 40 BOSAC.
Tree Swallow: arr 3 Hamburg HW 20 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 4 BOSAC.
Bank Swallow: arr 6 Tillman WMA 28 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr Hamburg HW 4 Apr (WW! WD!), early; Tift NP 5 Apr (WD!).
Cliff Swallow: arr 2 Olean CATT 7 May; 40 + 29 nests BuSP 10 May (WW), growing nesting colony under N. Grand I Bridge.
Carolina Wren: 14 BOSAC; 15 BOSMC; reports from 8 locations.
House Wren: arr OOWMA 15 Apr (PY!), early.
SEDGE WREN: Panama CHAU 18 May (KV), very rare spring report.
Marsh Wren: arr 4 OOWMA 29 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: Krull P NIAG thru May (WD), possible breeding along L Ontario.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BOSAC.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr GHSP 14 Apr.
Veery: arr Hamburg ERIE 30 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 BOSMC; GHSP 23 May; 2 Krull Park NIAG 26 May; Tift NP 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Gerry CHAU 28 Apr (FR!), early.

N. Mockingbird: Newstead ERIE 18 Mar; Lancaster ERIE 7 Apr; Hamburg ERIE 9 Apr; Jamestown CHAU 27-28 Apr; Yates ORLE 13-20 May; Pomfret CHAU 26 May; these sightings from non-traditional breeding areas.
Brown Thrasher: arr Newstead ERIE 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 TWMA 17 Mar; 24 Boston ERIE 22 Apr; last 49 BOSMC.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr GI and Amity L ALLE 1 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Tift NP 1 May; Olean CATT 5, 6 May; INWR 13-19 May; Shelby ORLE 13-20 May; PG 19 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr Alexander GENE 2 May (KF); Lancaster ERIE 4 May (MM!); PG 4 May (DM).
Tennessee Warbler: arr GI 4 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Yates ORLE 13 May; 2 BOSMC.
Nashville Warbler: arr Somerset NIAG 23 Apr (WD!); Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (PY!); early.
N. Parula: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr SPNS 23 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Tift NP and Salamanca CATT 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 WTSP 1 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 6 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr WTSP, AmSP, Napoli CATT 1 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Youngstown NIAG 6 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Tift NP 12 Apr (DSh!), very early.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Bush Hill SF CATT 27 Apr.
Pine Warbler: Fredonia CHAU 1-20 Mar at feeder (SH); arr 2 Tift NP 21 Apr; Krull P NIAG 13-28 May (WD! BK!); Wilson NIAG 26 May (WD!); Centerville ALLE 26 May (KF); Bush Hill SF CATT 26 May (KF); 3 pairs E.

Holland Bog ERIE May (RR); continued increase as breeder in Region.

Prairie Warbler: arr Amity ALLE and PG 2 May; 3 Machias CATT 3, 23 May; Tift NP 13, 15 May, migrant; 8 BOSMC; Bliss WYOM 26 May (KF).

Palm Warbler: arr Tift NP 21 Apr.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler (*D. p. hypochrysea*): Tift NP 3 May (WW!), rarely documented in Region.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Lancaster ERIE and GI 4 May (MM! DR); Tift NP 5 May (JL!), earlier than usual.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Tift NP 16 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr 3 INWR and 6 OOWMA 11 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr SPNS 23 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr WTSP 1 May.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: PG 15 May (JG), rare migrant.

Ovenbird: arr Wilson NIAG 22 Apr (WD!); Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (PY!); earlier than usual.

N. Waterthrush: arr OOWMA and Tift NP 28 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Wales ERIE 14 Apr (MDal, JS!); 3 Boston ERIE 22 Apr; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 24 May.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: PG 16 May (DM), rare migrant.

Mourning Warbler: arr 2 FNSP and GHSP 18 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Zoar Valley MUA CATT 28 Apr (WD!), early.

Hooded Warbler: arr Tift NP 23 Apr (DSh), early.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Tift NP 11 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Olean CATT 6 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: PG 15 May (JG, DM), rare.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 GI 4 May.

E. Towhee: arr Tift NP 31 Mar.

Chipping Sparrow: 82 BOSAC.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Ward ALLE BOSMC (VP! MP!), new possible breeding location.

Field Sparrow: 21 BOSAC.

Vesper Sparrow: 12 BOSAC.

Savannah Sparrow: arr SPNS 5 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Alexander GENE 27 Apr; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 6 May, 2 there 19 May; Bethany GENE 6 & 19 May; 2 Middlebury WYOM 19 May; 10 BOSMC; Clarence ERIE 25 May; Lancaster ERIE 27 May.

Henslow’s Sparrow: arr 4 Lancaster ERIE 27 Apr (KF); max 6 Lancaster ERIE 14 May (MM); Clarence ERIE 25 May (BK).

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 Alfred ALLE 26 Mar; 24 BOSAC.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr Tift NP 25 Apr (BC!), early; last BOSMC.

Swamp Sparrow: arr WTSP 6 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 BOSAC.

Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco (*J. l. oreganus*): Eden ERIE 1 Mar - 4 Apr (RA!), continued from Nov at feeder.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Oakfield GENE 18 Mar; 3 Fredonia CHAU 25 Mar; 3 Oakfield GENE 7 Apr; last BOSAC.

Snow Bunting: max 900 Somerset NIAG 18 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr East Aurora ERIE 27 Apr (AV!); Colden ERIE 28 Apr (JW), early.

BLUE GROSBEAK: male PG 4 - 5 May (JGu; DM), 3rd report for Region.

Indigo Bunting: arr Lancaster ERIE 2 May (MM).

Bobolink: arr INWR 25 Apr (LH); BWWTP 30 Apr (GS); early.

E. Meadowlark: arr Buffalo ERIE 11 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Ischua Valley CATT 25 Mar; last 12 ALLE BOSMC.

Orchard Oriole: Tift NP 5 May (KL!); OOWMA 11 May (BK!); 2 Yates ORLE 13 - 20 May; Somerset NIAG 18 May; Carlton ORLE 23 May; Hunter’s Creek P ERIE 24 May (BK!); SPNS 24 May

(LH); good showing.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Tift NP 27 Apr.

Purple Finch: max 16 Franklinville
CATT thru Mar; seemingly more
widespread than typical.

Red Crossbill: CATT BOSMC, only
report.

White-winged Crossbill: Ward ALLE
14 Apr (EB); 2 Carlton ORLE 23 May

(BK).

Pine Siskin: 16 reports thru with max of
10; possible breeder in some ALLE,
WYOM and southern ERIE locations.

Evening Grosbeak: 4 Attica Res
WYOM 13 Apr (KF); 2 ALLE BOSMC;
only reports.

morgmmm@aol.com

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

Once again spring was a roller coaster ride. March was brutal. The average temperature was 4° below normal at 30.3°F, with the highest recorded temperature a balmy 49°. One three-day stretch, from the 25th to the 27th, averaged a full ten degrees below normal. Precipitation was 4.13", which was 1.85" above normal. The real story, though, was the snowfall, which totaled 41.4", the fifth snowiest March ever recorded. Fortunately, April showed a marked improvement. It was considerably milder and brought an end to a string of gloomy months. The average temperature was 47.7°, 1.8° on the plus side. Warm spikes on the 8th, 12th and 22nd-23rd brought bursts of raptors to the hawkwatch, and warm spells towards the end of the month helped usher in some early migrants and improved the birding. Precipitation was less than half the usual amount at 1.19". No periods of extended rain occurred, allowing for good, comfortable field conditions. May was really a month of two distinct halves. The first half was warm and very dry. The second half was cooler, with extended periods of cloudy conditions and more persistent showers. By month's end the average temperature was 2.4° warmer than normal at 59.5° and precipitation totaled a very normal 2.66".

The season was, as it usually is, a mixture of positive and negative trends. It was a good spring for loons at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, with decent totals for Red-throated and good numbers of Common. Horned Grebes were quite slow after a very good winter season. Red-necked Grebes were scarce. Waders were generally slow, with very poor numbers of American Bitterns reported. **Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** and Glossy Ibis were highlights. Black Vulture was reported again this season. It was observed at Braddock Bay on 22 April. A Ross's Goose was discovered in Wayne County by Willie D'Anna and others. This continued the increased sightings of this species in the Region. Most waterfowl seemed to move through quickly with fewer reports of lingering individuals. Mute Swans, unfortunately, continued to be reported in fairly large numbers in a variety of locations.

The number of scoters and Long-tailed Ducks at the lakewatch was generally okay this spring. The hawk flight was generally poor at the outset of the season, but improved considerably in April with some very good days. One such day, the 8th, included a record high count of 5834 Turkey Vultures at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Osprey and Bald Eagle totals were also noteworthy for the season. Two **Swainson's Hawks** were reported in April, one of these a rare dark morph bird recorded on the same day and a few hours earlier than a similar bird at Derby hill. This species continues to be rare but regular. The Peregrine Falcons took up residence again on the Kodak Tower. Good totals of Sandhill Cranes were observed passing the hawkwatch again this spring. Shorebird habitat was once again scarce, so shorebird reports and totals were down. The only reliable location was the traditional farm pond in Perinton east of Fairport. Gull records were generally lackluster, with Little Gull at Hamlin Beach, Black-headed Gull in Kendall and late reports of Glaucous and Iceland gulls from Hamlin Beach as highlights. A record early Forster's Tern at Hamlin was a tern highlight.

The owl migration was fair this spring. Fifty-five Short-eared Owls lingering at Nations Road were a good find in March. However, the real owl highlight was the **Boreal Owl** discovered at Braddock Bay in late March. The bird was quite cooperative and was observed by numerous observers over a three-day period. On two of those days it was roosting in fairly close proximity to a Northern Saw-whet Owl, allowing visitors immediate comparison of the two species. Common Nighthawk continued its downward spiral and Whip-poor-will reports were few and concentrated in the Manitou area at Braddock Bay. Ruby-throated Hummingbird put in a record early appearance in Brockport. In addition, an amazing 123 were netted and released during May at the Kaiser-Mantiou Beach banding station during normal operation. Fifty-one of these were males and 72 were females.

There were a couple of early flycatcher arrivals this spring. Yellow-bellied was observed in Island Cottage Woods on 4 May and an Acadian was banded at Manitou Beach 10 May. Great Crested Flycatcher numbers were good this year. There were three reports of **White-eyed Vireo** this spring: Jim Kimball found one in Geneseo, Don and Donna Traver observed one in Webster and Dave Tetlow and Mike Davids discovered another individual at Braddock Bay. **Fish Crow** was again reported in the Region. Sightings of Common Raven also continued in the Region, fueling the speculation that we may confirm nesting one of these Atlas years. The kinglet flight this year seemed to be over a very narrow time. Numbers weren't bad, but the bulk of both species came through during a relatively short span of days. Eastern Bluebirds continued to do well. The later thrushes, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked in particular, were generally in poor numbers.

Warbler highlights included record early arrivals for Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow, Bay-breasted and Wilson's. Observers reported very good numbers of Wilson's and American Redstart. Yellow-rumped continued to be the most abundant of this group, and Magnolias also were well represented. Unusual but regular species, such as Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut were also sighted. The usual few Yellow-breasted Chats were reported. Observers

noted a scarcity of Cape May and Blackpoll warblers.

Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Island Cottage Woods on 3 May, but the birds from Mendon Ponds went unreported. This may be related to habitat improvement work, including much shrub removal in the areas they frequented the past two years. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was sighted at Braddock Bay in May. High numbers of Baltimore Orioles were noted by many observers and also similarly, but on a lower scale, for Orchard Oriole. **Bullock's Oriole** was discovered at Braddock Bay by Dominic Sherony and seen by a number of observers on 10 May. This was only the 2nd Regional report for the species

This season saw the total species for the year to date climb to 254, about the same as last year but slightly lower than the ten-year average of 261 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jack and Joan Barlett, Jessie Barry, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Gary Chapin, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Willie D'Anna, Kathleen Dalton, Mike Davids, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Kurt Fox, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Jason Guerard, Helen Haller, Tom Hampson, B. Kerr, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Max Mason, Richard Mather, Bob Mauceli, Tom McDonald, Chita and Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Betty and Bill Powell, Dick Rosche, Ed and Kim Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Robert and Susan Spahn, Jeff and Paul Spindler, David and Grace Strong, William Symonds, Dave and Kathy Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Marion and William Thompson, Don and Donna Traver, J. Thurston, Peter Vandenberg, Ellen Wagner, Ann Watson, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum, Bruce Zollner.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BE – Bergen Swamp GENE; CH – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; CO – Cobbs Hill MONR; E – Elba GENE; G – Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo LIVI; H – Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach MONR; HP – Hogan Pt; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; IC – Island Cottage Woods MONR; K – Kendall ORLE; L – Lyons WAYN; M – Manitou MONR; NR – Nations Road Area LIVI; P – Perinton; W – Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 64 HB 15 Apr.

Com. Loon: max 500 HB 14 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 408 HB 15 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: last HB 28 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr IC 21 Apr.

Great Egret: arr BB 23 Apr.

TRICOLORED HERON: HP 12 Apr

(DT).

Green Heron: arr G 21 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr M 23 Apr.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: M 23 Apr (DT, JG), record early for this rarity in the Region.

Glossy Ibis: 2 North Rose WAYN 11

Apr (D&DT).
BLACK VULTURE: BB 22 Apr (KF, mob).
Turkey Vulture: max 5834 BB 8 Apr (JG).
Greater White-fronted Goose: K 11 Mar (DT); HP 23 Mar (DT); annual but uncommon.
ROSS'S GOOSE: L 31 Mar-1 Apr (WD, KF).
Snow Goose: max 2000 NR 21, 28 Mar.

Brant: arr H 19 Apr.
Tundra Swan: max 265 WL 11 Mar; last 3 HB 26 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 H 23 Mar.
N. Shoveler: arr 4 CH 4 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 175 Galen WAYN 20 Apr.
Canvasback: last BB 8 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr IB 18 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Date Range</u>
Black Vulture	1	1	4/22	4/22
Turkey Vulture	16,844	5834	4/8	3/13 – 5/31
Osprey	340	49	5/22	3/31 – 5/29
Bald Eagle	234	44	5/26	3/8 – 5/31
Northern Harrier	435	79	4/8	3/10 – 5/27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2955	931	4/8	3/8 – 5/28
Cooper's Hawk	324	78	4/8	3/13 – 5/25
N. Goshawk	35	6	4/12	3/8 – 5/27
Red-shouldered Hawk	509	114	4/8	3/14 – 4/25
Broad-winged Hawk	44,100	22,600	4/23	4/14 – 5/31
Red-tailed Hawk	2845	728	4/8	3/7 – 5/31
Rough-legged Hawk	230	57	4/12	3/7 – 5/9
Golden Eagle	31	7	4/21,4/23	3/14 – 5/9
American Kestrel	181	45	4/12	3/13 – 5/27
Merlin	15	1	sev.	4/5 – 5/24
Peregrine Falcon	11	2	5/2,5/3	4/2 – 5/31
Total	69,118			

Osprey: arr BB 3 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 931 BB 8 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: 8230 BB 12 Apr; max 22,600 BB 23 Apr.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: dark morph BB 8 Apr (MT, DSh); light morph HP 12 Apr (DT).
Golden Eagle: arr BB 14 Mar; max 7 BB 21, 23 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr BB 23 Apr.
Sora: arr NR 25 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr 4 Murray Swamp

ORLE 13 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr 3 BB 19 Apr; BB 22 Apr; Clarkson 22 Apr; 4 BB 23 Apr; BB 25 Apr; BB 27 Apr.
Black-bellied Plover: arr Elba 16 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr P 10 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr H 4 Apr; last Elba 28 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BB 30 Apr; last P 27 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 26 Apr; last WL 30 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr P 26 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr HB 12 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr P 19 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr P 30 Apr.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 45 BB 12 Apr.
Dunlin: arr HP, HB 13 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher (L. g. griseus):
P 25-30 May (DSh).
Com. Snipe: arr K 7 Apr.
Little Gull: max 8 HB 28 Apr.
Black-headed Gull: K 28 May (DT,
MD), 1st summer.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 3500 HB 28
Apr.
Iceland Gull: HB 20 Apr; last BB 24
May.
Glaucous Gull: last HB 5 Apr.
Caspian Tern: arr BB 4 Apr; max 86 HB
20 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr 8 HB 12 Apr; max 104
HB 22 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 8 Apr (WS),
record early.
Black Tern: arr BB 24 Apr.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Norway Rd,
Murray ORLE 16 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr BE 19 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 55 NR 31 Mar;
last NR 19 Apr.
BOREAL OWL: M 25-28 Mar (TM,
mob).
Com. Nighthawk: arr G 2 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M 23 Apr; last M
19 May.
Chimney Swift: arr BB 23 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
Brockport 23 Apr (JT), record early.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BB 27 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr M 10 May,
early, banded.
Alder Flycatcher: arr sev 19 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr HP 4 May, early.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr BB 8 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr IC 4 May
(DT), record early; max 34 WL 27 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr M 30 Apr.
E. Phoebe: arr HB 29 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr HB 28
Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr BB 23 Apr.
N. Shrike: last HP 21 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr GE 28 Apr (JK);
W 4 May (D&DT); BB 26 May (DT).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CO, W 1
May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr IC 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 5 GE 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr G 8 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr sev 1 May.
Fish Crow: arr BB 10 May (DT).
Com. Raven: Byron 29 Apr (KG),
unusual location; Honoeye L 19 May.
Purple Martin: arr BB 23 Mar.
Tree Swallow: arr 2 WL 20 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 HB 14
Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 2 BB 12 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 BB 21 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr CH 7 Apr.
House Wren: arr GE 11 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr BB 23 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr IC, GE 13
Apr; max 75 M 23 Apr, banded; last M
24 May, banded.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr IC 14 Apr.
Veery: arr 2 CO 2 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr IC 21 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr IC 1 May.
Wood Thrush: arr BB 26 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr BB 26 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr NR 16 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 15 NR 17 Mar; last 2 E 20
May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr IC 28 Apr,
record early.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr M 1 May,
banded.
Tennessee Warbler: arr W 3 May (RS),
record early.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 4
May, banded; last M 23 May, banded.

Nashville Warbler: arr 2 BB 23 Apr (DT, JG), tied record early.
N. Parula: arr Pittsford 27 Apr; last M 25 May, banded.
Yellow Warbler: arr IC 22 Apr (LG, BC), record early.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr W 1 May; max 29 M 22 May, banded.
Magnolia Warbler: arr M 2 May, banded; G 1 May; max 132 M 22 May, banded.
Cape May Warbler: arr G 5 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CO 30 Apr; 5 M 30 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 BB 20 Mar; max 235 M 8 May, banded.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr IC 23 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr IC 1 May.
Pine Warbler: arr BB 12 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr G 8 May; 2 IC 8 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 2 IC 22 Apr; last CO 16 May.
"Yellow" **Palm Warbler:** M 22 Apr (EB), banded.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Durand-Eastman P 28 Apr (RS), record early.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr G 8 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr IC 2 May.
Am. Redstart: arr M 30 Apr, banded; max 54 M 21 May, banded.
Prothonotary Warbler: IC 2 May, only report.
Worm-eating Warbler: CO 30 Apr; M 2 May; W 8 May.
Ovenbird: arr M, IC 1 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr IC 22 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr M 22 Apr, banded.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr G 14 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: W 17 May (BK), only report.
Connecticut Warbler: M 24 May, banded.
Mourning Warbler: arr M 9 May,

banded.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Galen WAYN 27 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr G 8 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr M 2 May, banded, record early.
Canada Warbler: arr M 7 May, banded.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr W 10 May (D&DT); M 17 May, banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 IC 3 May.
E. Towhee: arr M 6 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Mendon Ponds 19 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 Irondequoit 22 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: IC 3 May (RS), only report.
Field Sparrow: arr NR 7 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr NR 1 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: 6 NR 5 Mar, overwintered.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr NR 28 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr Hemlock 10 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Irondequoit 6 Apr; last CO 30 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 30 Apr, banded, early.
Lapland Longspur: max 100+ NR 7 Mar; last 2 Bergen 21 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, Penfield 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr G 3 May.
Bobolink: arr Avon 24 Apr, very early.
E. Meadowlark: arr E 14 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: female HB 23 Apr (DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr Ontario 3 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Rochester 27 Apr.
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: BB 10 May (DSh, mob), 2nd Regional report, previous 7 May 1979.

ckgrif@localnet.com

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

BILL OSTRANDER

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira NY 14905

The weather of spring 2001 seemed to have a profound influence on how migration proceeded. March was the second wettest since 1879, with 5.53" of precipitation recorded in Ithaca. Much of this was in the form of the 35" of snow that fell during the month. Snow cover persisted throughout the month, not dropping below the 3" mark until 26 March. Cool temperatures throughout March not only kept the snow from melting but also made this the coolest March since 1994. For the first time ever, the daily high temperatures never reached 50°F. The warmest overnight low was only 33°. April was dry with less than an inch of precipitation and no snow. A trace of snow cover managed to survive the first three days of the month but disappeared forever as temperatures climbed over 50°. The average temperature was 1.6° warmer than normal, aided by a record tying 85° on 24 April. May was 2.9° warmer than normal, with highs running in the 70s and 80s for most days between 1 and 12 May. High temperatures cooled to the 60s and low 70s for the rest of the month.

The following account includes comparisons of observed bird populations in the Region between spring 2000 and spring 2001, with occasional reference to a species' status in summer 1998. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report that appeared in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*.

Seven Red-throated Loons on Cayuga Lake highlighted a birding trip taken by Nicolas Barbarin, Bob Fogg and Matt Williams on a cold 11 March. In spite of this seven-year high, the total number of Red-throated Loons observed in the season was not up significantly. Common Loons seemed little affected by the season's weather. Pied-billed, Horned and Red-necked grebes all declined, the Horned for the second consecutive year. The reason for the decline is not obvious.

Cormorant control measures in Lake Ontario are perhaps beginning to have an effect on the number of Double-crested Cormorants observed by birders in the Finger Lakes Region. Their numbers were down 75% from last year.

Great Blue Heron numbers decreased for the second consecutive year. Water suited to their wading style of hunting remained largely frozen through March. Water levels in rivers had also remained relatively high since fall 1999. No unusual herons wandered into the Region, but a flock of 12 Glossy Ibises in the Town of Owasco on 14 April, was part of a larger movement of this species through central New York State this spring.

March's persistent snow cover changed the migratory pattern of geese and swans through the Region. In the Southern Tier, the goose migration usually consists of two or three days of spectacular flights overhead with a few flocks stopping briefly to feed and rest on the rivers, gravel pits and corn fields. The

snow-covered fields in the northern half of the Region, however, had many flocks lingering through the month in the Southern Tier. The result was higher than usual numbers of Canada and Snow geese being reported. Dave and Mark Russell found spectacular gatherings of geese and ducks in a flooded cornfield in the Town of Veteran and located Chemung County's first **Ross's Goose** among them. Meena Haribal and Ben Fambrough found three **Ross's Geese** among the Snow Geese in the Savannah Mucklands. Only the late migrating Brant was down in numbers.

Dabbling ducks, except for Mallards and American Black Ducks, were down in numbers, probably due to the late thaw. The American Black Duck actually increased for the third consecutive year. Canvasback, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck numbers also rose for the third consecutive year. Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Common Goldeneye also increased this year. Lesser Scaup decreased. Hooded and Common merganser numbers were up; Red-breasted were down. Bob Fogg had a hand in the discovery of all three Eurasian Wigeons reported. Bob Guthrie found the only Black Scoter on Keuka Lake. Ken Rosenberg found a male Barrow's Goldeneye at Long Point State Park. Matt Williams found one a few days later in Aurora Bay.

Hawk numbers remained stable. Broad-winged Hawks were down while Rough-legged Hawks more than recovered from last year's decline. Ruffed Grouse declined. Wild Turkeys increased enough to offset the declines of the two previous years. The appearance of Chukars in at least four widely separated places in Chemung County indicates some success for intensified efforts to introduce this species for sport hunting.

American Coot was the only rail to show marked change. Its numbers dropped almost 38% following two years of spectacular increases. Not many shorebird species showed significant changes. Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper were all up this spring. Spotted Sandpiper and Common Snipe were both down. A group of Ithaca birders found the only Wilson's Phalarope. Bard Prentiss's flock of 30 Laughing Gulls on Dryden Lake accounted for that species' increase. Bonaparte's and Ring-billed gulls also increased. Herring and Great Black-backed decreased. Two Little Gulls appeared in the Cayuga Lake Basin.

Only Short-eared Owl increased among the owls. Common Nighthawks were down by 65%. Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Eastern Kingbird dropped in numbers. Yellow-throated Vireos increased, while Red-eyed decreased. Blue Jays decreased. American Crows increased. Horned Larks were up in numbers, as were their field companions, the Snow Buntings. Lapland Longspurs, however, were down for the second consecutive year.

All swallows were down (though Purple Martin only statistically insignificantly) except for Cliff Swallow, which increased. Black-capped Chickadee, Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet were all down. Veery, Swainson's Thrush and American Robin were also all down. American Pipit decreased, but Cedar Waxwing and European Starling increased.

The hot spell in April and the hot early May led to nearly uniformly early arrival

dates for the warbler species. Fallouts occurred as early as 24 April. By the time the Chemung Valley Audubon Society conducted its annual spring census, warblers had to be visited on their breeding grounds and transient species were very scarce. The cold latter half of May slowed the remaining migrants down, so that virtually all of the transient species also had later than usual departure dates. Only Louisiana Waterthrush increased. Tennessee, Nashville, Bay-breasted and Wilson's warblers and Ovenbird all decreased.

Scarlet Tanagers were down in numbers this spring. American Tree Sparrows increased, but nearly all the locally breeding sparrow species, except the less common grassland species, decreased. Fox Sparrow also decreased. Led by Matt Sarver, a Cornell Spring Field Ornithology group discovered a Clay-colored Sparrow on territory near the Arnot Forest.

Among blackbirds, Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds and Rusty Blackbirds declined; Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds increased. Mary Jane Thomas enjoyed the visit of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at her Town of Romulus feeder.

Matt Young kept everyone abreast of the winter finch breeding activity in the Adirondacks and central New York and finally found evidence of probable breeding by Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills in Region 3 in the Town of Summerhill. Nevertheless, Pine Siskins joined Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks as being less numerous than last spring. Betty Miller of Big Flats was the only one to report Evening Grosbeaks stopping at her feeders. A probably escaped European Goldfinch was found by Renee Burgevin on Connecticut Hill.

CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Aliperti, Bob Anderson, Sylvia Anglin, Jeanne & Joel Baines, Ryan Bakelaar, Jai Balakrishnan, Eric Banford, Nicolas Barbarin, Virginia Barker, Sherm Barnes, Susan Barnett, Fred Bertram, Brenda Best, Gladys Birdsall, Diane Black, Gordon Bonnet, Michele Brown, Renee Burgevin, Georgette Carr, Chris Caudill, Cayuga Bird Club, Lois Chaplin, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Jacquelyn & John Chotkowski, Art Clark, Dick & Joan Clements, Linda Clougherty, Nate Cole, Steve Cooper, Cornell Campus Club Bird Group, Cornell Spring Field Ornithology Class, Matt Coulter, Nancy Cusumano, Donna Jean Darling, Betsy & Willie D'Anna, Greg Delisle, Mike Demunn, Nancy Dickinson, Rachel Dickinson, Dean DiTommaso, Bud & Dorothy & Rebecca Dolch, Vern Durkee, Eaton Birding Society, Jessica Eberhard, Karen Edelstein, Nora Ettinger, Chuck Etzel, Bill Evans, Ben Fambrough, Steve & Susan Fast, Annette Finney, Martha Fischer, Maureen Fisher, Bob Fogg, Tom Fredericks, Tim Gallagher, Ed Gates, Jeff Gerbracht, Emily Germano, Marva Gingrich, David & Sunny Gooding, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Bob Guthrie, Elizabeth Hibbard, Paul Hai, Stefan Hames, Meena Haribal, Kyle Harms, Mitschka Hartley, Philip Herold, Wesley Hochachka, Norma Hood, Pete Hosner, George Houghton, Jim Houghton, Wayne Hsu, Larry & Sara Jane Hymes, Carolyn Jacobs, Anne Marie & Tim Johnson, Dick Jorgenson, Liliane

Jorgenson, Judy Keil, Steve Kelling, Nancy Kelly, Graham Kerslick, Elizabeth & Ken King, Geo Kloppel, Jon Kloppel, Mindy LaBranche, Vanessa Lane, Paul Larrabee, Jaymi LeBrun, Jim Leet, Tim Lenz, Patricia Lia, Nan Lisk, Jim Lowe, Ellen Luce, Judy Lutes, James Manley, Don Marks, Bill & Shirley McAneny, Dave McDermitt, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Marie McRae, Matt Medler, Betty Miller, Harold Mills, Brian Mingle, Ginny & Nari Mistry, Ann Mitchell, Montezuma Once-A-Month Count Volunteers, Roy Murdough, Michael Murphy, New York Audubon Council, Ruth & Tom Nix, Christian Nunes, Brendan & Dave Nutter, Michael O'Brien, Jim Ochterski, David Olmstead, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Mary Passage, Thomas Patterson, Dave Pickering, Mike Pitzrick, Sandy Podulka, Donna & Mike Powers, Bard & Gina Prentiss, Bill Purcell, Laurie Ray, Stefan Rayer, Marie Read, Mark Reaves, Michelle Reidy, Ronda Roaring, Bruce Robertson, Sue Robertson, Ken Rosenberg, Jennie Ruhanen, Dave & Mark & Matt Russell, Matt Sarver, Nava Scharf, Stanley Scharf, Janet & Mark Scheel, Marty Schlabach, Joan Scrocarelli, Sandy Sharp, Margaret Shepard, Julie Siler, Ken Smith, Nancy Spero, Karen Steffy, Laura & Ton Stenzler, Sarah Fern Striffler, Gary Stiles, Ben Taft, Dianna Taylor, Chris & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Julian Thomas, Mary Jane Thomas, Anne Thurber, Bruce Tracey, Melanie & Mitch Uhlir, Matt Victoria, Jake & Jane Walker, Gil & Lynne Weakland, Watt Webb, Allison & Jeff Wells, Dan Wells, Anne Marie Whelan, Derek & Kristin White, Mary Wilcox, Matt Williams, Caissa Wilmer, Sandy Wold, Richard Wood, Matt Young, Ruth Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AF – Arnot Forest TOMP; AurB – Aurora Bay; BF – Big Flats; CayL – Cayuga L; ChR – Chemung River; CorU – Cornell University; CVT – Catharine Valley Trail SCHU; CWMA – Cayuga L WMA SENE; DryL – Dryden L TOMP; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP; EID – Elmira Dam CHEM; Fay – Fayette; HGP – Horseheads Gravel Pits CHEM; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; Led – Ledyard; Lan – Lansing; LPSP – Long Point SP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtPl – Mt. Pleasant TOMP; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; PSt – Park Station CHEM; SavM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SaW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SCNC – Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU; SF – State Forest; SMP – State Marine P; StP – Stewart P TOMP; SuSF – Summerhill SF CAYU; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads; USM – Union Springs Marina CAYU; Vet – Veteran.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr & max 7 CayL 11 Mar (NB,BFo,MatW), early and high; last DryL 12 May.
Com. Loon: arr MyPt 19 Mar; max 20 CayL 14 Apr; 15 MtPl 9 Apr; last HGP 31 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr ChR 16 Mar; max 6 MNWR 16 Apr; 4 MyPt 9 Apr.

Horned Grebe: arr AurB, CayL 10 Mar; max 18 MyPt 17 Apr, low; 9 DryL 11 Apr; last SuSF 20 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr & max 2 StP 8 Apr (KR), late; last DryL 14 Apr.

EARED GREBE: MyPt 18 Mar (KM); last StP 18 Apr (SK), late.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr MyPt 3 Apr; max 25 StP 17 Apr; last EID 28 May.
Least Bittern: TCAH 24 May (DRu), only report.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Walnut St Bridge CHEM 7 Apr; Mark Twain SP 7 Apr.
GLOSSY IBIS: arr & max 12 Owasco 14 Apr (fide Bill Purcell); last MNWR 10 May (MG).
BLACK VULTURE: Ithaca 25 Apr (MeH,MatW).
Snow Goose: arr 20 Erin 3 Mar; max 80,000 MNWR 29 Mar (fide MJT), NYS record high; last MNWR 5 May.
ROSS'S GOOSE: arr Vet 17 Mar (D&MRu), late, first CHEM record; Covert 17 Mar (MatW); max & last 3 SavM 25 Mar (BFa,MeH), high.
Brant: 4 Cayuga Marsh 19 May (JBal).
Mute Swan: arr & max 4 CWMA 10 Mar; 3 DryL 28 May; last 3 DryL 29 May (KR), late.
Tundra Swan: max 400 High Tor WMA 12 Mar (LJ), high; 101 CWMA 10 Mar; last Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE 7 Apr.
EURASIAN WIGEON: arr USM 10 Mar (BFo,MY), early; last SavM 1 Apr (NB,BFo).
Am. Wigeon: arr 2 ChR 6 Mar; max 50 CWMA 26 Mar; last StP 5 May.
Am. Black Duck: max 155 CayL 10 Mar (CVAS), high.
Mallard: max 200 CayL 3 Mar (BA), high; 163 Vet 3 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: max 8 TCAH 5 Apr, low; 6 Foster I CHEM 7 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr 3 MyPt 10 Mar; max 67 MNWR 1 Apr; 36 MNWR 22 Apr; last 2 MNWR 5 May.
N. Pintail: max 180 MNWR 1 Apr; 25 Vet 1 Apr; last 2 DryL 6 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 59 MNWR 1 Apr; 18 TCAH 1 Apr; last Chemung

Valley CHEM/STEU 12 May.
Canvasback: max 2600 MNWR 1 Apr; 2000 CWMA 20 Mar; last 2 MNWR 5 May.
Redhead: max 3400 USM 10 Mar (CVAS), high; last MNWR 20 May.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1150 MNWR 1 Apr (CJ, Once-A-Month Count Vols), high; 500 CWMA 20 Mar; last TCAH 31 May (DRu), late.
Greater Scaup: arr Hog Hole TOMP 4 Mar; max 200 USM 10 Mar; 7 ChR 17 Mar; last 2 MNWR 5 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 20 DryL 12 Apr; 17 TCAH 7 Apr; last MyPt 17 Apr.
Surf Scoter: 2 DryL 5 May (BFa,BFo, JkW), late arr, only report.
White-winged Scoter: arr StP 11 Mar; max & last 2 StP 16 Mar.
BLACK SCOTER: Keuka L 14 Apr (BG), early.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 Deans Cove SMP 10 Mar (S&SuF), early; 22 ChR 1 Apr; max 58 CayL 2 Apr, high; last 2 DryL 25 Apr.
Bufflehead: 30 MyPt 18 Mar; max 50 CWMA 20 Mar; last StP 5 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 200 CWMA 20 Mar; last 6 AurB 5 Apr.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: LPSP 2 Apr; last AurB 5 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: arr ChR 3 Mar; 25 CayL 11 Mar; max 30 ChR 28 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 54 CayL 1 Apr; last EID 30 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr USM 11 Mar; 7 MyPt 3 Apr; max 12 MNWR 8 Apr, low.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 MNWR 1 Apr; max 5 KH 10 Apr (J&SGr), high.
N. Harrier: max 9 Ledyard 25 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Ithaca 12 Apr; max 5 PSt 14 Apr; 4 Horseheads 23 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 8 Ledyard 24 Mar (PHo), high; 6 Ledyard 25 Mar; last Summerhill 29 Apr (MY), late.
Golden Eagle: arr MtPl 12 Mar; last Van

Etten 14 Apr.
Merlin: last MNWR 29 Apr.
PEREGRINE FALCON: arr Covert 20 Mar (GD,SuBA); last MNWR 5 Apr (MatW).
Wild Turkey: 70 Danby 16 Mar; max 75 KH 13 Apr (J&SGrg), high.
Com. Moorhen: arr Hendy Creek CHEM 27 Apr; max 4 TCAH 5 May.
Black-bellied Plover: max 6 MyPt 30 May (LR), high.
Greater Yellowlegs: max & last 2 DryL 16 Apr, low.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 TCAH 5 May; 3 KH 15 May; last ChR 24 May (BO), late.
Upland Sandpiper: arr & max 5 SENE Fairgrounds 19 Apr.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MyPt 22 May; max 9 MyPt 29 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 MNWR 17 May; 6 MyPt 22 May; max 8 MNWR 28 May.
Least Sandpiper: 12 MNWR 8 May; max 15 TCAH 22 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr TCAH 22 May; max 5 MNWR 31 May (BFo,MatW), high.
Dunlin: arr MNWR 13 May; max 15 MNWR 28 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 20 May; MyPt 22 May; max 6 MNWR 25 May.
Com. Snipe: max 8 Fay 20 Apr; 3 SuSF 5 May; last Chemung Valley CHEM/STEU 12 May.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: MNWR 13 May (JBal,PHo,MMe,MatW).
LAUGHING GULL: 30 DryL 11 Apr (BPr!), very early.
LITTLE GULL: arr LPSP 15 Apr (SK,KR,JWe); last MNWR 5 May (BFo).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 23 Mar; 51 StP 8 Apr; max 64 ChR 11 Apr; last MyPt 12 May.
Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Seneca Meadows Landfill SENE 20 Mar (MMe,MatW), high; 1500 KH 10 Apr.

Iceland Gull: CWMA 10 Mar; last Seneca Falls 11 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CayL 3 Mar; last MNWR 20 Apr.
Great Black-backed Gull: 4 MyPt 10 Mar; max 7 MNWR 1 Apr; last MyPt 28 Apr.
Caspian Tern: max 3 MyPt 27 Apr; last 2 MNWR 5 May.
Com. Tern: max 4 StP 21 Apr; 3 StP 22 Apr; last MNWR 31 May (BFo,MatW), late.
Forster's Tern: arr & max 2 StP 8 Apr (KR), early; last 2 DryL 12 Apr.
Black Tern: max 5 MNWR 26 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 163 Genoa 10 Mar (CVAS), high.
Mourning Dove: 35 Caroline 1 Mar; max 50 Vet 4 Mar (DRu), high.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Danby 5 May (KR), early.
Barred Owl: max 3 SaW 29 May (EGe), high.
Long-eared Owl: max 2 Lan 28 Mar (KE), high.
Short-eared Owl: 6 Catliln 8 Apr; max 7 Ledyard 10 Mar (BFo), high; last 3 Catliln 16 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: max 2 ChR 30 May.
Chimney Swift: max 300 Belle Sherman School TOMP 14 May (JLu), high; 43 EID 21 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 10 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 29 May (CCCBG,EK), high; 2 EIRW 16 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr MtPl 18 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last EIRW 30 May (SuBa,GD).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr EIRW 24 May (CT), late; last TCAH 31 May (DRu).
Acadian Flycatcher: arr AF 24 May (PHo).

Alder Flycatcher: max 4 Mark Twain SP 20 May, low.

Blue-headed Vireo: 6 Sweedler Preserve TOMP 22 Apr; max 20 Mt Saviour Monastery CHEM 27 Apr (GKI), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Dryden 5 May; max 2 EIRW 15 May; last KH 22 May.

Am. Crow: 101 Cornell Pheasant Farm TOMP 1 Mar; max 200 Ithaca 10 Mar.

Com. Raven: max 7 DryL 5 May; 6 Treman SP 5 May.

Bank Swallow: max 10 MyPt 26 May, low.

Cliff Swallow: arr ChR 7 Apr (BO), record early; max 60 ChR 9 Apr; 40 EID 12 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 PSt 14 Apr, low; 5 SCNC 21 Apr.

Carolina Wren: max 5 CVT 4 May (BO), high; 4 LPSP 4 Mar.

House Wren: arr SuSF 5 Apr (fide MY), record early; max 7 CVT 4 May; 6 South Hill Rec Way TOMP 5 May.

Winter Wren: arr KH 29 Mar; max 2 Shindagin Hollow TOMP 8 Apr; 2 SaW 5 May.

Marsh Wren: max 10 MNWR 8 May, high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 SCNC 26 Apr; last Hammond Hill SF TOMP 29 May (JE,KH,MMe), late.

E. Bluebird: 6 Taughannock Creek TOMP 2 Mar; max 10 CVT 28 Mar (BO), high.

Gray-checked Thrush: AF 24 May (PHo), only report.

Swainson's Thrush: last EIRW 24 May, early for last.

Hermit Thrush: 6 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 20 Apr; max 16 Mt Saviour Monastery CHEM 27 Apr (GKI), high.

Wood Thrush: max 12 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 12 May (BO,JO), high; 9 EIRW 24 May.

European Starling: max 251 Fay 10 Mar, low.

Am. Pipit: arr Lan 12 Mar; max 77 Vet 7

Apr, low; 12 MtPl 8 Apr; last 12 MtPl 5 May.

Cedar Waxwing: 400 Danby 9 Mar; max 900 CorU 22 Apr (WHs), high.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Dryden 26 Apr (SRA), early; 10 SuSF 5 May; max 10 South Hill Rec Way TOMP 8 May (J&JBa), high.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Dryden 5 May; last EIRW 19 May.

"LAWRENCE'S WARBLER": Danby 5 May (GKI).

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 EIRW 16 May; last City Cemetery TOMP 18 May.

N. Parula: last CorU 24 May (LS), late.

Cape May Warbler: last AF 24 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 5 Ledyard 11 Mar; 60 SCNC 28 Apr; max 100 SaW 5 May (JkW), high.

Prairie Warbler: arr Elmira 4 May; max 8 Dryden 8 May (LS), high; 7 Gleason Meadows CHEM 12 May.

Palm Warbler: max 3 Jennings Pd TOMP 26 Apr; 2 TCAH 5 May; last EIRW 24 May (JBal), late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 EIRW 10 May; last 2 EIRW 16 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: 6 CorU 24 May; max 6 Dryden 27 May; last KH 31 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr SCNC 26 Apr; 3 Ford Hill TOMP 16 May; max 4 Salmon Creek Preserve TOMP 18 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr CVT 4 May; max 2 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 29 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr SaW 3 Apr (SK), early; max 8 Fillmore Glen SP 5 May (JSt,DWe,MY), high.

Hooded Warbler: arr 2 Dryden 5 May; max 6 Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 14 May; 6 Lake Shore Woods TOMP 21 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 2 EIRW 15 May; 2 SaW 24 May; last 2 EIRW 25 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:

Personius Woods CHEM 12 May (DMA);
Tanglewood Forest CHEM 12 May
(DMA).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 10 Danby 9 May
(GKI), high; 6 Cayuga Nature Center
TOMP 12 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 MNWR 4
Mar; 23 HGP 22 Mar; last 2 SCNC 6
May (MPo), late.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: arr
Irish Hill Rd Conifer Plantation TOMP
20-23 May (CSFOC, MSa).

Field Sparrow: arr Covert 6 Apr; max
10 SCNC 26 Apr; 9 Gleason Meadows
CHEM 12 May.

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 Dryden 9 Apr;
3 Cornell Pheasant Farm TOMP 9 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: 13 TCAH 23 Apr;
max 20 Tahoe Trail TOMP 25 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TCAH 29
Apr; max 3 TCAH 5 May; 3 Danby 12
May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr Ledyard 13
May; max 2 Lan 21 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr SaW 21 Mar; 5 DryL
7 Apr; max 5 PSt 14 Apr; last Erin 30
Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 20 SaW 31 Mar,
low; 20 Lan 1 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Danby 5 May; max
2 EIRW 10 May; last EIRW 19 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr Mill St Pd CHEM
22 Mar; max 7 Lowe Pd CHEM 28 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: 6 Danby 5
May; max 8 KH 6 May; last KH 23 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 18 SCNC 21

Apr. low.

Lapland Longspur: 6 SavM 25 Mar;
max & last 10 MtPl 5 Apr.

Snow Bunting: 300 Vet 4 Mar; max 501
Ulysses 10 Mar; last 6 SavM 8 Apr (KR),
late.

E. Meadowlark: arr BF Bird Sanctuary
CHEM 13 Mar; max 20 Dryden 24 Mar;
10 Fay 5 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:
Romulus 27 May (MJT).

Rusty Blackbird: arr 7 ChR 18 Mar;
max 50 HGP 22 Mar (DRu), high; 31 L
Como 15 Apr; last SaW 5 May.

Com. Grackle: arr 4 Orange 2 Mar (RY),
late; max 3000 KH 17 Mar; 2000 BF 25
Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr SuSF 3
Mar; max 120 Home 19 Mar; 50 Vet 24
Mar.

Orchard Oriole: arr EIRW 8 May;
MyPt 26 May; Sheldrake 28 May.

Purple Finch: max 25 Summerhill 10
Mar (MY), high; 20 Dryden 30 May.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: arr &
max 4 SuSF 3 Mar (MY); last SuSF 6
Apr (MY).

Pine Siskin: max 16 SuSF 8 Mar; last
Dryden 30 May (LS), late.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:
Connecticut Hill TOMP 12 Apr (RBu,
vide SK), probable escape.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 BF 9 May (BMil),
only report.

House Sparrow: max 27 Vet 4 Mar.

Brown_creeper@sg23.com

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

No report received.

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

BILL PURCELL

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The season started with a cold, snowy March, and there was little migration evident for most of the month. The average temperature of 29.9°F was 4° below normal, and the 45" of snow was the second highest March total for Syracuse. The temperature moderated in April, with the average of 47.8° being 2.1° above normal. Many observers thought that migration not only caught up but also began to outpace expected arrival dates. The month was dry, with only 1.53" of precipitation, 1.8" below normal. There was a mere 0.2" of snow. The warm trend continued in May as the average temperature was 2.2° above normal at 59.3°. In addition, the dry weather persisted with only 2.25" of rain, 1.03" below normal.

Ice-out on Oneida Lake was 12-13 April, and dates at Beaver Lake, Delta Lake, Woodman Pond, Minoa Quarry and other lowland areas were similar at 11-14 April. Many Adirondack lakes had ice into the last week of April. As is usually the case with a late spring, many waterfowl numbers were low as birds pushed through quickly when things finally opened up. Wintering waterfowl staying into March included Trumpeter Swan, Tufted Duck, a flock of King Eiders and scoters, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Other highlights were a Greater White-fronted Goose, large numbers of Snow Geese across the Region, a **Barnacle Goose** returning, for the second year, and a male Harlequin Duck.

There was a small invasion of **Glossy Ibis**, with six seen at two sites and several unverified reports of even more. Bald Eagle has been nesting in the Region for several years, but a new nest with young at Fulton is the closest one to a populated area. The hawk season at Derby Hill got off to a very slow start in March but April and May saw a more normal flight. The Region's first **dark-morph Swainson's Hawk** was the best bird at Derby Hill, where there were also two Black Vultures, an unprecedented late May Bald Eagle, a near record one day Golden Eagle flight and the best one day Broad-winged Hawk flight since the late 1980s. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were low at Derby Hill, although the site has never been a big concentration point for these two falcons. A Gyrfalcon remained at Fair Haven into late March, probably aided by the concentration of waterfowl on Little Sodus Bay. Interesting non-raptors at Derby Hill included a Great Cormorant and six Sandhill Cranes. Another Sandhill Crane was found in Oneida County.

Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were quite good this spring, but the late May shorebird flight was mostly unrecorded or didn't occur. Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling were missed, and there was only one report of Short-billed Dowitcher. Bonaparte's Gulls were found in good numbers and there were single late Iceland and Glaucous gulls.

The warm early May brought in many of both cuckoo species. Gerard Phillips and Dave Cowell saw a **White-winged Dove** at the Energy Information Center after Phillips recognized the distinctive call. Within a week, Marge Rusk had our first

Eurasian Collared-Dove (a species still under review by NYSARC for acceptance to the state list) at Derby Hill. Northern Saw-whet Owls were better reported than in many years, although the species is thought to be a widespread breeder.

In the second half of the season, warm weather and south winds on 21-24 April, 1-4 May and 8-9 May brought many migrants. There were more good flights on 18 and 20 May, but the best day was 24 May at the EIC where Gerard Phillips found hundreds of migrants put down by the morning rain, low clouds and fog on Lake Ontario. Record numbers of Magnolia and Wilson's warblers and Lincoln's Sparrows were found, along with good counts of other species. Cape May Warbler was better reported than in the past two years. There was one Kentucky Warbler for the season

There was a large sparrow fallout noted on the afternoon of 6 April after a rainstorm. Otherwise, April sparrow numbers were generally lower than in recent years along Lake Ontario. Two birders on their way to the EIC in late April discovered a Lark Sparrow, only the second Regional record. There were only two sightings of Clay-colored Sparrow this season and a single migrant Grasshopper Sparrow, but two very good flights of Lincoln's Sparrow in the latter half of May.

Large flocks of Purple Finches were still present in the Adirondacks well into March, and migrants began showing up throughout the Region late in the month. There were White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins everywhere in northern Herkimer County; many displaying pairs were seen. Only one pair of Red Crossbills was reported, and the few Common Redpolls that made it south departed in early March.

Other than shorebirds, misses for the season were few. They included: Sedge Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak. The season's total was 247 species, with the best birds being the **White-winged Dove**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove** and **Lark Sparrow**, along with the winter lingerers, **Tufted Duck** and **Gyrfalcon**. Other highlights were Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Swainson's Hawk, Kentucky Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Dorothy Crumb, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, John Moore, David Nash, Kevin McGann, Margaret Napoleon, Matt Perry, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Maureen Staloff, Matt Victoria, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; EIC – Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Pt;

FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, northern MADI; HIWMA – Howland I WMA; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Pt; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Paris; SPd – Sandy Pd; StMC – St Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow Rd, Van Buren.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 4 OnonL 5 Apr; 1-2 per day LOL 21 Mar to 15 Apr.
Com. Loon: arr 25 Mar; 98 LOL Oswego to EIC 15 Apr; max 117 DH 24 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 2-3 per day.
Horned Grebe: max 16 OnonL 7 Apr; 1 alt plumage Schroepel to 19 May, late.
Red-necked Grebe: Woodman Pd 14 Apr; OnonL 14 Apr; 2 OneiL 15 Apr; Minoa 17 Apr; UM 22 Apr; OneiL 19 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 506 past EIC 12 May.
GREAT CORMORANT: DH 22 Apr (GP, GS).
Am. Bittern: max 6 W Monroe 12 May; Split Rock 1 May; Sangerfield 19 May; Ava 30 May, all uncommon sites.
Least Bittern: arr UM 28 Apr, early; others GSC, HIWMA, W Monroe.
Great Blue Heron: arr 5 DL 15 Mar.
Great Egret: Schroepel 16 Apr (BH); Bville 26 May.
Green Heron: max 16 CM 19 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 OnonL 14 Apr, only location.
GLOSSY IBIS: 4 DH 13 Apr (GP, BP, MV); 2 GSC 21 Apr (MY).
BLACK VULTURE: singles DH 5, 23 Apr.
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: T Lenox 15 Mar (BB).
Snow Goose: 3550 DH 24 Mar; 7000+ at 6 sites 25 Mar; max 17,000 DH 1 Apr.
Brant: arr DH 16 May; max 1200 DH 18 May.
BARNACLE GOOSE: Lysander 29 Apr-1 May (mob), same location as 2000,

origin uncertain.

Mute Swan: max 3 FH 20 May.
Tundra Swan: max 15 Sterling 11 Mar; last Pompey 7 May, late.
TRUMPETER SWAN: up to 4 FH thru 31 Mar, origin uncertain.
Wood Duck: max 15 Snake Swamp 12 May.
Gadwall: max 30 GSC 28 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: max 30 CM 8 Apr.
Am. Black Duck: max 74 Verona Marsh 20 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: max 20 GSC 28 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 8 Schroepel 8 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 35 Schroepel 31 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 50 LOL 7 Apr.
Canvasback: max 200 OnonL outlet 20 Mar.
Redhead: max 20 FH 13 Mar and OnonL outlet 20 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 200 OnonL outlet 20 Mar and FH 27 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 800 FH 1 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 650 FH 20 Mar.
TUFTED DUCK: remained Oswego thru 12 Mar.
King Eider: 12 LOL 3 Mar.
Harlequin Duck: male EIC 6-8 Apr.
Surf Scoter: EIC thru 8 Apr; 2 OneiL 19 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 62 OneiL 17 May.
Black Scoter: 1-2 EIC to 8 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: max 200 Oswego 2 Mar; 130 LOL 15 Apr, most in alt plumage.
Bufflehead: max 200 FH 20 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: max 1400 FH 12 Mar.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: FH to 11 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 30 FH 1 Apr.
Com. Merganser: max 300 OnonL 24 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 60 FH 7

Apr.
Ruddy Duck: max 10 GSC 28 Apr; only 1 Beaver L where max often recorded.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	8 Mar	2643	8 Apr	7784
Osprey	29 Mar	49	23 Apr	533
Bald Eagle	8 Mar	59	27 May	224
No. Harrier	13 Mar	156	8 Apr	512
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12 Mar	785	12 Apr	3364
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	62	8 Apr	381
No. Goshawk	13 Mar	4	8 Apr	21
Red-shouldered Hawk	13 Mar	86	20 Mar	753
Broad-winged Hawk	8 Apr	10,813	23 Apr	17,855
Red-tailed Hawk	8 Mar	1008	8 Apr	4786
Rough-legged Hawk	8 Mar	68	8 Apr	336
Golden Eagle	8 Mar	23	23 Apr	58
Am. Kestrel	13 Mar	102	12 Apr	356
Merlin	29 Mar	6	12 Apr	26
Peregrine Falcon	4 Apr	1	4, 23 Apr	2
Total (including unidentified and rarities)				37,003

Osprey: on territory Bville & CM by 28 Mar.
Bald Eagle: new nesting site near Fulton 10 May; 2 4th yr birds in courtship Orwell 4 Mar; 59 DH 27 May & season total of 225, both record highs.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Orwell 4 Mar, unusual to winter on Tug Hill.
N. Goshawk: Parish 7 Mar; Bville 8 Mar; SFWS 11 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 4 DH 8 Apr, early; first 100+ day DH 13 Apr, early; peak flight at DH on schedule.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: *dark morph* DH 8 Apr (Jan & David Muir, GP, mob, NYSARC), same day as dark morph recorded at Braddock Bay in Reg 2.
Golden Eagle: max 23 DH 23 Apr, only 2 less than record.
Merlin: 4 reports away from DH.
Peregrine Falcon: remained Syr into early Mar; several sightings FH in Mar

while Gyrfalcon also present; Fayetteville 21 Apr; Camillus 17 Mar.
GYRFALCON: Feb bird remained FH thru 26 Mar.
Ruffed Grouse: several nests in early May.
Wild Turkey: max 83 Fabius 17 Mar.
Virginia Rail: 2-3 per day in larger wetlands.
Sora: max 4 W Monroe 29 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: max 5 W Monroe 12 May.
Sandhill Crane: 2 DH 24 Mar, 23 Apr; DH 7 Apr, 24 May; Verona 23 Apr.
Semipalmated Plover: max 4 Schroepfel 10 May; 4 SPd 29 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 9 Schroepfel 15 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 Schroepfel 29 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 W Monroe; max 3 NMP 12 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 EIC 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 DH 12 Apr, very early; 3 Fulton airport in May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 SPd 29 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 16 Lysander 8 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 38 Schroepfel 19 Apr; several other double-digit reports; a good season.
Dunlin: arr Lysander 15 Apr; max 3 several sites 4-29 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 SPd 29 May, only report.
Com. Snipe: max 30 Schroepfel 7 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 5 Sterling 19 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr LOL 5 Apr; 25 DL 20 Apr, large "inland" number; max 500 LOL 22 Apr, feeding on fly-hatch; last OneIL 19 May.
Iceland Gull: Phoenix 14 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Brewerton 2-3 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 150 Oswego 5 May.
Forster's Tern: OnonL 14 Apr (MV).
Black Tern: max 8 Selkirk Shores SP 19 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: EIC 9 May (GP, Dave Cowell, NYSARC).
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: intro, DH 15 May (MR, NYSARC).
Black-billed Cuckoo: about 18 reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr HIWMA 6 May; 6 other reports.
E. Screech-Owl: Beaver Ri Station 4 May, unusual Adks.
Snowy Owl: OneiL 16 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: 2 Pompey to 5 Mar, not found after heavy snow; EIC 7 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: 2 DH 5 Apr; EIC 24 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Pompey to 11 Mar; Pompey 30 Mar; EIC 24 Apr, wintering or migrants; 2 Parish 10 May; Williamstown 5 May thru; Five Ponds 19 May, presumed breeders.

Com. Nighthawk: FH 18 May; W Monroe 19 May; EIC 30 May.
Whip-poor-will: max 6 Constantia 3 May; StMC 3 May.
Chimney Swift: max 20 Oswego 12 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Adks 5 May; max 15 DH 27 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Bvllc 3 May; EIC 4 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 7 EIC 7 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Limekiln Swamp 3 Mar; Independence Ri 8 Mar; Five Ponds 19 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Happy Valley WMA 19 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 EIC 24 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 EIC 18 May; Sterling 19 May; max 6 EIC 24 May; EIC 25 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 7 Fulton 27 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 6 EIC 18 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 30 EIC 24 May.
E. Kingbird: max 40 DH 11 May.
N. Shrike: max 4 OSWE 1 Apr; last 2 T Western 5 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 6 HIWMA 19 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: many in breeding areas before first LOL migrants where only 2-3 per day.
Warbling Vireo: max 10 EIC 12 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: EIC 5 May; Ava 30 May, only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: max only 10-12 per day.
Gray Jay: Limekiln Swamp 8 Mar; Five Ponds 19 May.
Fish Crow: at usual Syr area sites; DH 29 Apr.
Com. Raven: displaying at many Tug Hill sites in Mar.
Horned Lark: max 150 DH 15 Mar; others 14-24 Mar.

Purple Martin: max 15 Constantia 15 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 41 Oswego 12 May.
Bank Swallow: first nesting site report 14 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: few migrants noted, max 4 DH 8 May; many on territory OSWE end of May.
Boreal Chickadee: Independence Ri 13 Mar; Balsam L 26 Mar; Ava 30 Mar (MSc), presumed migrant.
Tufted Titmouse: Forestport 10 Mar, north of usual range.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: few migrants noted.
White-breasted Nuthatch: no return flight at DH.
Brown Creeper: max 12 NMP 20 Apr.
Carolina Wren: Toad Harbor 13 May; also at expected sites StMC, University and south side Syr.
House Wren: max 20 EIC 4 May.
Winter Wren: max 7 NMP 7 Apr.
Marsh Wren: max 27 CM 19 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 30 NMP 5 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 NMP 21 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 9 GSC 29 Apr.
E. Bluebird: max 49 DH 8 Apr.
Veery: max 20 W Monroe 12 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: EIC 18 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 20 EIC 24 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 14 NMP 22 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 33 CM 19 May.
Am. Robin: max 4400 DH 8 Apr.
Gray Catbird: max 12 EIC 8 May.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Pine Plains Cemetery, Clay, new location.
Brown Thrasher: max 9 EIC 24 Apr; 7 pairs Ava 30 May (MSc).
Am. Pipit: arr Bolivar 18 Mar; max 60 Bvll 8 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: 10-30 per day Mar; several hundred per day DH after 15

May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Camillus 27 Apr; max 8 Pompey 10 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIC 30 Apr; max 1-2 per day.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Minetto 18 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 4 NMP 12 May
Nashville Warbler: max 12 EIC 4 May.
N. Parula: max 6 EIC 24 May; otherwise 1-2 per day.
Yellow Warbler: max 60 NMP 12 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: migrants only 2-3 per day.
Magnolia Warbler: max 170 EIC 24 May, record count (GP).
Cape May Warbler: about 10 reported; max 3 singles 9 May at various sites.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 13 NMP 12 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 250 EIC 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 EIC 24 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 NMP 12 May.
Pine Warbler: same location Green Lakes SP 10, 17 May, not a known breeding area.
Prairie Warbler: LOL migrants 2, 6 May; 3-4 on territory Dewitt after 5 May.
Palm Warbler: max 30 EIC 30 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 NMP 12 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 per day many sites.
Cerulean Warbler: arr WH 3 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 10 EIC 24 May.
Am. Redstart: max 40 EIC 24 May.
Ovenbird: max 30 EIC 9 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 10 EIC 24 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr New Hartford 9 Apr, early; WH 26 Apr-3 May.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: WH 12 May (JB).

Mourning Warbler: max 6 EIC 24 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 30 EIC 24 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr WH 2 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 75 EIC 24 May, record count (GP).

Canada Warbler: max 50 EIC 24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 15 DH 16 May.

E. Towhee: max 12 EIC 24 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 65 SFWS 10 Mar; last 4 EIC 20 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: max 30 EIC 22 Apr.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: EIC 29 Apr; EIC 18 May.

Field Sparrow: arr 5 Apr; max 10 EIC 22 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 T Marshall 14 Apr; max 7 EIC 22 Apr.

LARK SPARROW: Scriba 14 May, second Regional record (K. McIntyre, J. Cashier, mob, NYSARC).

Savannah Sparrow: max 25 EIC 5 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr EIC 22 Apr; 2 Sterling 19 May; 12 Dewitt landfill 19 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr SFWS 29 Mar; max 8 EIC 5 Apr; last SFWS 25 May, very late.

Song Sparrow: max 600 NMP 5 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 12 EIC 18 May; max 20 EIC 24 May, record high.

Swamp Sparrow: max 36 CM 19 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 35 EIC 3 May; 2 EIC 28 May, late migrants.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 75 EIC 3

May; last 28 May, late.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 NMP 5 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Sterling 11-12 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 110 DH 15 Mar; 100 Bvll 15 Mar; 30 Schroepel 6 Apr, late for a flock.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 HIWMA 6 May.

Indigo Bunting: max only 2-3 per day in May.

Bobolink: max 200 DH 16 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks not noted until mid-Mar.

E. Meadowlark: max 44 DH 8 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: max 400+ DH evening flight 7 Apr; last 3 DH 16 May.

Com. Grackle: numbers very low into mid-Mar.

Orchard Oriole: EIC 17 May; GSC 18 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 90 DH 16 May.

Purple Finch: max 53 Hinckley Res 3 Mar; many flocks Adks in early Mar with territorial males by end of month.

Red Crossbill: pair Boonville 18 Mar, only report.

White-winged Crossbill: pairs throughout northern HERK & ONEI in Mar; some still present thru May.

Com. Redpoll: the few that made it to Adks were last seen 3 Mar.

Pine Siskin: 8 DH 8 May; on territory Adks and Tug Hill.

Am. Goldfinch: max 1000 DH 8 May.

wpurcell@dreamscape.com
315-668-2871



REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

2807 Citation Drive, Pompey NY 13138

March of 2001 was cloudy and cold and the snow just kept on falling. The average temperature for the Region was 4°F below the norm. Precipitation was between 2" and 4" above normal, resulting in snowfall totals of 20" in the St. Lawrence River Valley, 30" in Watertown, 40" in the Tug Hill and 60" in the Adirondacks. April began with sunny skies and temperatures in the sixties. Large flocks of Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles appeared, along with other migrants that usually appear in March, such as Eastern Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Eastern Meadowlark. The jet stream dropped into the south, creating a movement of several low pressure areas preceded by strong south winds. This created a tremendous pulse of migration before each low pressure surge. April arrivals were on time, and many of the early May migrants came during the last week of April. The first two weeks of May were cloudy and cool with intermittent rainfall. Vireos and warblers were hard to find at normal migration areas. As the weather warmed in late May, no more large migratory waves were observed. Most observers felt that the passerine flight occurred on the earlier strong winds. Although rainfall was slightly below normal for the season, water levels for the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario were at seasonal norms for the period due to the melt of the deep snow pack.

The Great Blue Heron rookery on Ironsides Island in the St. Lawrence River, Town of Alexandria, Jefferson County, which was totally disrupted by predators last season, was reoccupied by 30 adults by 11 April. However, the disruption occurred again and all the herons left the island. Animal predation is suspected once again. This large colony, which contained as many as 900 nests 10 years ago, has been in decline over several years as the nest trees have fallen. Biologists who are studying this problem feel that the existence of this very large colony may be over as the birds disperse to smaller colonies. The increase in beaver ponds in the last decade has helped to start many small Great Blue Heron colonies in the Region.

The migration of Snow Geese was one of the more dramatic events of the season. Gerry Smith reported a count of 22,000 foraging in the fields along Routes 177 and 193 in the Towns of Adams and Henderson, Jefferson County, on 3 April. On the same date, Lee Harper counted over 14,000 Snow Geese in the St. Lawrence River at Massena. This event occurred during the first strong south wind of the spring. A Turkey Vulture nest with one egg was located in the Adirondack Park at Higley Flow State Park, St. Lawrence County, on 30 April, a very early date.

The sighting of a pair of adult Golden Eagles performing an aerial display, including talon clapping, over Fort Drum on 27 May was cause for wondering what this pair was doing far from the historic Adirondack breeding areas for this species. Since they were not seen again over the next several days, it was assumed they were migrants.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker**, discovered by Jeff Bolsinger in Fort Drum, was a new species for Region 6.

The massive invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins into the Adirondacks and Tug Hill, which began in February, brought several reports of breeding even before snow melt. This is the largest incursion in several years.

Other rarities included: Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Whimbrel, Worm-eating Warbler and Orchard Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick and Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Harper, Jeff Holbrook, Nick Leone, Gerry LeTendre, Robert Long, Nita and Tom Lord, Jean Miller, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith, Judy Sullivan, Dan Wells.

ABBREVIATIONS

Cl – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands Bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; ED – Eldorado Beach T Ellisburg & T Henderson JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FIL – Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; HFSP – Higley Flow SP T Colton STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; RMPD – Robert Moses Power Dam T Massena STLA; SH – Sackets Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; TThen – T Henderson JEFF; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; TPhil – T Philadelphia JEFF; TPot – T Potsdam STLA; TTher – T Theresa JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr ULLWMA 10 Apr.

Horned Grebe: arr Blackstone Bay TMor 7 Apr. (TL).

Pied-billed Grebe: arr TPot 13 Apr; max 6 ULLWMA 20 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 7 ULLWMA 20 Apr.

Great Blue Heron: arr ULLWMA 2 Mar, total desertion of rookery on Ironsides I by late Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr 5 ULLWMA 17Apr; max 8 ULLWMA 23 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: arr 5 CV 18 Mar; nest with single egg HFSP 30 Apr, early (JM).

Snow Goose: 22,000 TThen, T Adams

JEFF 5 Apr; 14,000 SLR T Massena 5 Apr.

Mute Swan: arr PtPen 24 Mar.

Wood Duck: arr PtPen 26 Mar.

Gadwall: arr TPot 5 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: arr SH 27 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: arr PtPen 24 Mar.

Mallard: arr TPot 26 Mar.

Mallard x Black Duck hybrid: TPot 26 Mar(SC).

Blue-winged Teal: arr SLR TLou 2 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr T Depeyster STLA 8 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr PtPen 24 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: arr Blackstone Bay TMor 24 Mar.

Redhead: arr TPot 29 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Pt Pen 24 Mar.
Greater Scaup: arr PtPen 24 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Black Scoter: 3 ULLWMA 30 Apr.
Surf Scoter: pair ULLWMA 30 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr pair ULLWMA 11 Apr.
Bald Eagle: singles TPot, PRWMA thru; many seen flying north along L Ontario shores Apr & May.
N. Harrier: arr PtPen 24 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 singles TLou, TPot, KC.
Cooper's Hawk: singles KC, TLou.
N. Goshawk: imm PtPen 26 Mar; ad TLou 27 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr KC 20 Mar; pair Red L TTher 14 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr ULLWMA 14 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: active nest KC.
Golden Eagle: pair ad over FD 29 May (MS), engaging aerial display, including talon grasping and rolling.
Rough-legged Hawk: TCV 1 Mar; 2 PtPen 1 Mar; ULLWMA 6 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: arr PtPen 24 Mar; many reports from JEFF.
Wild Turkey: tom stalked by a coyote, led the coyote away, then returned to the harem with no losses TPot (SC).
Virginia Rail: arr ULLWMA 30 Apr.
Killdeer: arr PtPen 24 Mar.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 Black Pd ED 23 May (MS).
WHIMBREL: Black Pd ED 23 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 16 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 16 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 7 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 7 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 7 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr TPhil 24 Apr.
Com. Snipe: arr ULLWMA 6 Apr.

Am. Woodcock:: arr Barnes Corners 18 Mar, still 3' of snow on the level.
Caspian Tern: arr PRWMA 27 Apr.
Black Tern: arr 22 ULLWMA 17 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Brownville JEFF 5 May.
Snowy Owl: T Orleans JEFF 7 Mar; PtPen 24 Mar.
Barred Owl: reports from TPot, FD, T Adams TTher JEFF.
Com. Nighthawk: T Canton STLA 28 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr TTher 30 Apr.
Chimney Swift: arr TTher 20 Apr.
LEWIS'S WOODPECKER: ad FD on Rt 3, 3 miles n of Great Bend 1-3 May (NYSARC!, JB), first record for Reg 6.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 FD 2 May.
Black-backed Woodpecker: FD 27 May.
N. Flicker: arr PtPen 24 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood Peewee: arr KC 7 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr T Brownville JEFF 5 May, very early.
Least Flycatcher: arr TLou 2 May.
E. Phoebe: arr TTher 3 Apr, late.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ULLWMA 2 May.
E. Kingbird: arr pair TPot 24 Apr, early.
N. Shrike: T Massena 5 Mar; ULLWMA 26 Mar.
Yellow Throated Vireo: arr TTher 26 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr TTher 30 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr TPot 2 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr TPot 6 May, early.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr TLou 7 May.
Horned Lark: arr TPot 25 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr FIL 10 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr 3 TLou 3 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr PIpt 30 Apr

Bank swallow: arr TPot 30 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr RMPD 2 May.
Barn Swallow: arr TPot 12 Apr.
House Wren: arr TTher 26 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr TTher 26 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ULLWMA 8 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr TPot 24 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair Red L TTher 20 May.
E. Bluebird: arr 30 Mar.
Veery: arr T Pitcairn STLA 6 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TLou 16 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr TTher 14 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr TLou 3 May.
N. Mockingbird: TTher 4Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr TPot, TLou 26 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr TLou 8 Mar; large flocks mid-Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr TTher 9 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr TTher 3 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr TLou 10 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 2 May.
N. Parula: arr TTher 27 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr TPot 2 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr T Watertown 4 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr TLou 13May.
Cape May Warbler: arr TLou 27 May, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TLou 3 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr PtPen 2 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TTher 30 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr TLou 9 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 18 TLou 18 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr TLou 10 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr TLou 15 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr TTher 24 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Hard Flats Rd TTher 16 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr TTher 27 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr TMas 2 May.
WORM-EATING WARBLER: ULLWMA.
Ovenbird: arr TLou 3 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr pair TLou 31 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr TTher 30 Apr.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr TPot, TLou 13 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr TLou 16 May.
Canada Warbler: arr TLou 20 May

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr TTher 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr TTher 27 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 3 ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr TLou 23 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr TTher 27 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 FD 27 May.
Savannah Sparrow: arr TLou 30 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 3 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr T Orleans JEFF 30 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr TLou 6 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr TLou 15 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Massena 3 May.
Snow Bunting: last 300 Co Rt 63 T Watertown 28 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TLou 6 May
Indigo Bunting: arr TTher 16 May.
Bobolink: arr TLou 9 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr TLou 4 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr PtPen 24 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr KC 16 Mar.
ORCHARD ORIOLE: female TLou 29 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr ULLWMA 2 May.
Purple Finch: arr TLou 15 Mar.
White-winged Crossbill: widespread irruption into all towns of the Adirondack

Park in STLA and continuing into higher regions of the Tug Hill in LEWI; numerous reports of flocks feeding along roads and yg being fed as early as 20 Mar.

Pine Siskin: large flocks in Adirondacks and Tug Hill with White-winged

Crossbills; several breeding confirmations in the Adirondacks; individuals at feeders in the lowlands of JEFF as well.

Evening Grosbeak: 4 TLou 20 Apr.

rlongmd@a-znet.com

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown NY 12932

As meteorologists had forewarned, a storm moving up from the Gulf of Mexico collided with a Canadian cold front in early March. Nor'easter 2001 arrived 5 March at about 7 a.m., with light, dry powder snow falling at about an inch per hour. By evening, Morrisonville had received 16", and the snow continued to drift down at the same rate throughout the next day, not ending until 9 p.m. on 6 March, some 37-38 hours later. Spruce Hill, between Elizabethtown and Keene, had received 37.5", with most other areas also reporting close to three feet of snowfall. Add winds gusting to 25 mph, and the drifts were often incredible. This was the greatest March snowfall on record, and third on the all-time list, surpassing even the 30" "Mother of All Storms" in March 1993. Birds were walking to hanging feeders at snow level. Following a thaw between 16-19 March, a second nor'easter arrived at 11 p.m. on the 21st, dumping another foot of wet snow across the Adirondacks by the following noon. (One can only imagine how the American Woodcock at Auger Lake on the 21st and Port Douglas on the 24th felt. Temperatures dropped to -8°F at Newcomb on the 27th, before a third nor'easter struck 30-31 March, dropping yet another foot on a snow-weary populace.

Early April saw temperatures reaching 51° at Plattsburgh by the 5th, but with the greatest amount of snow on the floor of the Champlain Valley since at least 1894. Snow cover ranged from 4.5' at Chilson, to 4' at Inlet, 3' near Elizabethtown and 2' at Ellenburg Depot, even after the thaw. The Great Chazy River reached 10.5' on 10 April, 2' above flood stage, which is 8', but most rivers remained within their banks, thanks to a drought that continued throughout the month.

By 11 May, when the Crown Point banding station opened, there had been less than 1" of rain over the previous six weeks, and Lake Champlain was finally below flood stage of 100'. Rain finally fell all day on 12 May, bringing a fallout of migrants, especially Yellow-rumped Warblers, to the Crown Point banders. Although some showers followed, May was mostly sunny and dry. On 31 May there was still snow at higher elevations, with the last frost that same day. A foot

of fresh snow had to be plowed from Whiteface Memorial Highway at month's end.

Winter finches continued their nesting activities. A female Purple Finch on Terry Mt. was carrying nesting material and engaged in chases with a female White-winged Crossbill on 19 March, the earliest NYS record of breeding activity for the former species. A pair of Red Crossbills and juvenile were at Ferd's Bog 5 May. A female White-winged Crossbill was carrying nesting material 7 March at Bloomingdale Bog, where a used nest was collected 30 March. A pair of White-winged Crossbills at Burnt Hill Road, Saranac, 16 March and others at Terry Mt. 18-24 March provided the 2nd and 3rd Breeding Bird Atlas records for Clinton County. Meanwhile, both **Northern Hawk Owls** remained into March. Nancy Olsen last saw the owl at Northway Exit 39 (which she found 13 January) on 17 March, and she was also the last to see the Bloomingdale Bog bird (present from 30 December) on 19 March.

The Crown Point banding station on the grounds of the Historic Site was open for the 26th season between 11-28 May. Some 523 individuals of 57 species were banded. Most numerous was Yellow-rumped Warbler, with 166 banded; 87 of these were netted during the fallout on rainy 12 May. A Northern Saw-whet Owl banded 20 May was netted again 27 May with a developing brood patch. On 15 May, a Pileated Woodpecker was caught in a net designed for wood warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was heard singing 12 May and a second-year male was banded on 14 May. Warbler variety was good, with 16 species banded, but the fair weather kept numbers low. There were 26 returns of 12 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. Making it to an age of 8 years and 11 months were a Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch, while an Eastern Kingbird made it to 7 years and 11 months. Double-crested Cormorants had 24 nests by 17 May, with more added by month's end. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had at least three territories on the Historic Site. Intrusive green ash that are choking out the hawthorn groves were flagged for winter removal in hopes of maintaining at least a small portion of the thickets in the vicinity of the net lanes. The banding station was to be featured in a *Champlain 2000* segment on WCAX-TV Plattsburgh, as well as in a film to be aired by *National Geographic Today* on the Society's new satellite channel.

Regionally, a total of just 193 species was reported, up from last year's 181, but again less than the more expected 200+. Given the fair weather in April and May, plus Atlas 2000 activity, one would expect greater variety. But there were some noteworthy sightings, including 2 **Glossy Ibises** feeding in a flooded field along North Farm Road, Chazy, 18 April. New DEC potholes created along Riley Brook near Monty Bay had a **Wilson's Phalarope** 4 May and **five Hudsonian Godwits** the next day. The productive Chazy Riverlands had a **Marbled Godwit** on the Gravelle Farm 6 May and on the neighboring Laurin Farm 8 May.

Even with the record snows, Atlas observers continued to make exciting discoveries, with more to come.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth Adams, Thomas Barber, Martin Bowman, Joan Clark, John Copp, Charlicie Delehanty, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Greg Furness, Mike Galas, Marty Greene, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candace Hess, David Hoag, Larry Hogan, Gillian Horgan, Gordon Howard, Mary Humiston, Anne Hungerford, Deborah & Ed Kanze, Russ Koch, Bill Krueger, Linda LaPan, Julie Latrell, Gary Lee, William Lenhart, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Kevin McGowan, Matt Medler, Janet Mihuc, Charles Mitchell, Megan Murphy, Nancy Olsen, John Ozard, John & Susan Peterson, Don Roberson, David Rutkowski, Inge Sapp, Carole Slatkin, Sally Smith, Susan Stuart, John & Patricia Thaxton, Donald Timmons, Susan Turner, Mary Beth Warburton, Robert Wei, Daniel Wells, Mike Winslow, Gary Worthington.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Rivers; EH – Essex Harbor; FB – Ferd's Bog; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; SR – Saranac Ri; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8-9 Apr (J&RH, NO); TL 21 Apr (CD), first seen there "in years."

Red-necked Grebe: Valcour 19 May (GW), late.

Double-crested Cormorant: 24 nests CP 15 May (J&SP), more added by season's end.

GLOSSY IBIS: 2 North Farm Rd, Chazy 18 Apr (MH), 5th CLIN record & same location where seen 21 Apr 1993 (BK, CM).

Turkey Vulture: TL 5 Mar (CD); Peru 14 Mar (GW), early.

Snow Goose: max 4500 CR 29 Mar (DH); 90 BB 1 Apr (LM), included 1 "Blue."

Brant: night migrants over CP 12 May (GL).

Mute Swan: 2 AP 9 Apr (NO).

Gadwall: 6 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); 2 SR 6 Apr (NO), scarce here.

Am. Wigeon: AP 5-9 Apr (NO); CR 18 Apr (MH), also scarce.

N. Shoveler: arr AP 4 Apr (JC); pair SR

5 Apr (NO); 5 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT) ties ESSE max; ~20 CR 27 Apr (J&RH), a strong showing.

Green-winged Teal: max 11 EH 6 Apr; pair Keene Valley 4 May, unexpected Atlas Probable (J&PT).

Redhead: CR 15 Apr; pair there 21-26 Apr (BK, CM).

Ring-necked Duck: 27 EH 6 Apr; max 30 AP 9 Apr (NO).

Red-breasted Merganser: SR 2 Apr (J&RH); 4 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); pair CH 15-30 Apr (BK); pair WM 20 Apr (JL); good numbers.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: ad & imm Inlet 9 Mar (GL); 5 TL 24 Mar (CD), on deer carcass; pair + 1, 2, & 3 yr olds Oseetah L 25 Mar (LL); one tried to take Canada Goose TL 24 Apr but fighting goose was dropped; also regular along Champlain into May.

Golden Eagle: found near death Hope Falls HAMI in Dec, rehabilitated, banded & released there Apr, tracked to lower Hudson Bay, Canada (MG).

Merlin: TL 17 Apr (RK), took Mourning Dove; Merrill 7 May (CH).

Peregrine Falcon: pairs Jay & Wilmington eyries 21 Mar (LL, MBW); Exit 31 Northway 6 May (MM); headed north CP 15 May (GH, JP, RW).

Ring-necked Pheasant: survived snows Chateaugay, Elizabethtown, Oregon Plains, Plattsburgh.

Spruce Grouse: hen SPB May (JO).

Semipalmated Plover: Riley Brook 10 May (BK), good in spring.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TL 4 May (CD); max 8 TL 5 May (RH); CP 17 May (GL, J&SP).

Solitary Sandpiper: Keene Valley 18 May (J&PT), unusual inland.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 5 Riley Brook DEC potholes 5 May (J&RH), 5th CLIN & Reg record.

MARbled GODWIT: Gravelle Farm CR 6 May (J&RH); Laurin Farm CR 8 May (BK, CM), *raddica* call heard, 2nd CLIN & Reg record.

Dunlin: 3 CR 13-15 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

Am. Woodcock: arr Auger L 21 Mar (JC); Port Douglas 24 Mar (CH), despite snow depth!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Riley Brook potholes 4 May (JC).

Com. Tern: pair CR 23 Apr-8 May (BK, CM).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: CP 17-22 May (GL, J&SP), only report.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The Gulf 26 May (J&RH), a good find.

N. HAWK OWL: Exit 39 Northway to 17 Mar (NO); BB to 19 Mar (NO); owl at latter site mobbed by Com. Raven, Black-capped & Boreal chickadees, White-winged Crossbill 7 Mar (MB, GH).

Short-eared Owl: pair Essex 17 Apr (CS), doing display flights & locking talons.

N. Saw-whet Owl: banded CP 20 May (JP,DT), retrapped 27 May with developing brood patch; others heard Chilson, Inlet, Peru, Rand Hill, TL.

Com. Nighthawk: Miner Inst 24 May (NO), only report.

Three-toed Woodpecker: FB only reported location.

Black-backed Woodpecker: pair Terry Mt (E&HF), a good find; 4 others in known locales.

Pileated Woodpecker: banded CP 15 May (GH, GL, JP), noisy.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded CP 28 May.

N. Shrike: Inlet to 25 Mar (GL).

Yellow-throated Vireo: CLIN 2 May (J&RH); Chateaugay 6 May (MH); CP 23 May (JP, RW); an excellent showing for this local breeding rarity.

Gray Jay: pair BB 4 Mar (DW) *nest-building*, carrying twigs into black spruce; on same nest BB 28 Mar (DW), apparently unobserved by host of birders intent on N. Hawk Owl.

Am. Crow: carrying grasses L Placid 1 Apr (LM); 1 TL 6 Apr (CD) had been banded & wing-tagged (#31) Ithaca TOMP 13 Mar as part of West Nile Virus study (KM); feeding yg Plattsburgh 27 Apr (BK, CM).

Com. Raven: AP 24 Apr (BK), increasingly regular along lakeshore.

Horned Lark: max 200 Chazy 29 Mar (DH).

Boreal Chickadee: 4 reports, known locations.

Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown, Rugar Woods, Wadhams, Willsboro; a good showing.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 2 May (MW); 5 on 3 territories CP 18 May (TB).

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh Mar (CM); CP 15 May (GL, J&SP), banded.

Am. Pipit: arr Chazy 29 Mar (DH);

Marcy Field 4 May (J&PT); max 10 TL 4 May (CD).

Bohemian Waxwing: Rt 22 CLIN 2 Mar (J&RH); flock Plattsburgh 20 Mar (CM); max 70 Chateaugay 22 Mar (MH); 6 Rand Hill 25 Mar; CH 9 Apr (NO), following winter absence.

Cedar Waxwing: max 30 Plattsburgh 24-25 Mar (NO), scarce after winter invasion.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: CP 12 May; banded CP 14 May (GH, GL, JP), 4th ESSE record, all CP.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 166 banded CP, 87 of those during 12 May fallout.

Palm Warbler: max 6 migrants WM 2 May (GW); "Western" banded CP 16 May; 5 territories of "Yellow" SPB 23 May (GL).

Bay-breasted Warbler: early transient banded CP 12 May; Bigelow Rd 17 May (MG), may have been on territory, but no details received.

Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male Big Brook, Willsboro 6 May (MM), good Atlas find.

Wilson's Warbler: transient CP 19 May (J&PT), only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Keene 22 Apr 1999, 21 Apr 2000, 20 Apr 2001 (*vide* J&PT); global warming?

Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 banded CP 12-21 May.

Rusty Blackbird: transient AP 2 May (MW).

Purple Finch: fem Terry Mt 19 Mar (E&HF), carrying nesting material & engaged in chases with fem White-winged Crossbill, for earliest NYS probable breeding record [Bull & Meade provide dates of 13 May for eggs, 2 Jun for nestlings]; regionally more abundant thereafter.

Red Crossbill: pair & juv FB 5 May (WL).

White-winged Crossbill: fem BB 7 Mar (MB, GH), carrying nesting material; pair Burnt Hill Rd, Saranac 16 Mar, 2nd CLIN Atlas record (CH); Terry Mt 18-24 Mar, 3rd CLIN record (EF, CH); used nest left by predator collected BB 30 Mar (LM); FB 26 Apr (LH); 3-4000' Whiteface Mt 1 May (NO); plus other reports.

Pine Siskin: West Chazy in jack pine barrens 22 Apr (KA); Bear Pd HAMI 3 May (GL), with fledged yg; FB 5 May (WL); Willsboro Bay 5 May, with flight song & nest-building Noblewood P 6 May (MM).

Evening Grosbeak: flocks of 10-20 reported, plus returning pairs at feeders by Apr.

jmcp7@juno.com



REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Avenue, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature for March was 30.9°F, 3.4° below normal, with 33% sunshine. It was a very wet month, with 5.50" of precipitation, 2.51" above normal, with 30.6" of snow, most occurring in a single storm on the 4th, 5th and 6th. It was the 20th biggest storm since 1884 in the Albany area and the 9th biggest ever recorded for March. The snow remained on the ground through the first week in April, when there was an abrupt warm-up and thaw. April's temperatures ended up at a slightly-above normal 47.5°, with 56% sunshine. There was only 1.34" of precipitation, 1.65" below normal. Late in the month and through early May, the Region experienced a heat wave, with temperatures in the upper 80s. At the same time, there was a near drought until late May. May averaged 59.4°, 1.8° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.94", 1.54" above normal.

It is difficult to say whether these weather extremes had any real effect on migration. Raptor migration was delayed somewhat due to the deep snow and lack of prey. It is certain that there were no early arrivals, and arrival dates in general were about as usual. As with the past few years, there were no notable fallout days. Many observers commented on the lack of birds in places where they are usually observed in migration. However, breeding birds appeared where they normally are found in about the usual numbers.

One of the highlights of the season was the discovery, by wildlife biologist Angie Berchielli, of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl nest in a Wood Duck box. While checking otter sign at her wooded pond in Westerlo, Albany County, on 9 May, she saw a juvenile peering at her from the hole of the box, which was mounted six feet up on a pondside hemlock. On opening the box, she found five juveniles. After her discovery, the box was monitored daily through 16 May, after which no owls were found. The day after the initial discovery there were four juveniles in the box; two juveniles and one adult were found in a nearby thicket of small hemlocks. Twice the adult was seen sitting next to dead prey, once a Woodland Jumping Mouse, the other time a Dark-eyed Junco. This represents the first confirmed breeding of this probably often-overlooked species in Albany County for nearly 50 years.

Regional observers reported a total of 221 species. Included were 29 waterfowl, 14 hawks, 6 gulls, 29 warblers, 13 sparrows and 8 finches. Rarities sighted during the period included Great Cormorant, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Common Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly reports, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Ruth Lamb, William Lee, Alan Mapes, Nancy Martin, Andy Mason, Frank Murphy, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Matt Young, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Alcove Resr, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CP – Cherry Plain SP, RENS; CSR – Cold Spring Rd, T Saratoga, SARA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward, WASH; FtM – Fort Miller, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; LG – L George, WARR; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NL – Nassau L, RENS; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP – Nott Rd P, Guilderland, ALBA; PB – Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PP – Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL – Round L, SARA; SCA – Saratoga County Airport; SISP – Schodack I SP, RENS (formerly Castleton I SP); SkW – Skidmore Woods, SARA; SL – Saratoga L, SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TP – John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS; TRd – Tower Rd, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR – Watervliet Res, ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: no reports.

Com. Loon: arr CL 6 Apr; max 30+ SL 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Cohoes 2 Apr; max 8 CL 8 Apr; 9 reports of singles; about a month later than usual.

Horned Grebe: arr VF 31 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: arr CL 31 Mar; max 14 CL 8 Apr.

Great Cormorant: NB 19 May (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 FtM 24 Mar; max 110 HR Germantown 12 May.

Am. Bittern: max 4 BCM 25 Apr.

Least Bittern: BCM 9, 13, 19 May.

Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported only from Bemis Heights, Tongue Mt.

Great Egret: BCM 16 Apr (SA).

Green Heron: 16 reports; max 4 BCM 24 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Ann Lee Pd 19 Apr; Taghkanic 14 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr Cohoes 6 Mar; max 21 Queensbury 22 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 3000 Amsterdam 1 Apr.

Canada Goose: max c. 3000 HR Stillwater 25 Mar.

Brant: 200 over Gallupville 17 May; 1000+ NB 28 May.

Mute Swan: 30 Coxsackie 11 Mar; 2 NL 29 Mar.

Tundra Swan: CBL 11, 15 Mar.

Wood Duck: 12 Papscanee Creek 11 Mar; max 21 VF 2 Apr; reported in good

numbers.

Gadwall: arr 2 CL 31 Mar; max 10 CL 8 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: StFl 13 Apr (Rob Taylor to BEN).

Am. Wigeon: arr Stillwater 25 Mar; max 36 CL 8 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 60 Tomhannock Creek Marsh 11 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr VF 31 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 30 Claverack 27 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 50 BCM 8 Apr; 42 L7 13 Apr.

Canvasback: 30 Catskill 11 Mar; 50+ CBL 15 Mar; only reports.

Redhead: 3 Catskill 11 Mar; 3 CL 2, 6 Apr; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 7 Stillwater 1 Mar; max 165 Cohoes/Crescent 2 Apr.

Greater Scaup: arr Coxsackie 11 Mar; few reports.

Lesser Scaup: arr L Taghkanic 13 Apr; 2 SL 30 Apr, only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 BCR, 8 AR 19 May.

Black Scoter: 2 NL 18 Apr.

Bufflehead: arr 3 Claverack 11 Mar.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Cheviot COLU 8, 9 Apr (BC, Kate Dunham).

Hooded Merganser: arr FtE 1 Mar; max 21 Papscanee Creek 11 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 151 CL 7 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: HR E. River Rd 1 Mar; MR River Rd 2 Apr; 2 CL 6 Apr; Stockport 8 Apr; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: no reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 20 Apr, 15 May reports of singles; nest reported from Crescent Dam MR (WE, NM).

Bald Eagle: 13 Mar reports, 5 ad, 2 imm, 6 unspecified; 6 April reports, 1 ad, 3 imm, 1 unspecified; 8 May reports, 5 ad, 3 unspecified; nesting records will appear in summer report.

N. Harrier: max 6-8 FtE 2 Apr; 17 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 Albany 24 Mar; 18 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 22 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: Kinderhook 1 Mar; Schodack Ctr 25 Mar; near Saratoga 27 Mar; CDWMA 19 Apr; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Grapeville T New Baltimore GREE 15 Apr, probable breeders; 3 CDWMA 19 Apr; 5 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 Jefferson 15 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 15 FtE 25 Apr; nesting Gateway Bridge SCHE.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 10 Ooms Pd COLU 24 Mar; 10-12 FtE 2 Apr; last FtE 7 Apr.

Golden Eagle: imm 4 Apr (BB, KB).

Am. Kestrel: 28 reports of singles.

Merlin: Livingston 15 Mar; Gallatin 15 Apr; Claverack 20 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: jct Rtes 4 & 32 SARA 1 Mar; Greenport 1 Apr; nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany.

Wild Turkey: continues in good numbers; max 80+ FtE 1 Mar.

Virginia Rail: max 4 BCM 25 Apr.

Sora: Bog Meadow Trail SARA 7, 21 May; BCM 19, 25 May; only reports.

Com. Moorhen: BCM 19 May, only report.

Am. Coot: only 5 reports of singles.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Austerlitz 7 May; Stanton Pd 19 May; 10 Colonie T Pk 27 May; only reports.

Killdeer: arr Claverack 8 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: only 7 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: only 10 reports of singles.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 FR 1 May; 7 reports of singles.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 Colonie T P 28 May; 28 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: Ghent 17 Apr; 3 Cary Rd FtE 28 Apr, 2 May; 6 Stairs Corners/Dutch Church Rd T Broadalbin

FULT 6 May (DH); Kobor Rd T Northumberland SARA 31 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 23 Colonie T Pk 28 May, only report.
Least Sandpiper: 8 Stanton Pd 19 May; 15-20 Colonie T P 27, 28 May; only reports.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Colonie T P 27 May (RG).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Colonie T P 27 May (RG).
Com. Snipe: max 12 Meadowdale Rd Guilderland 8 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: 8 L Taghkanic 13 Apr; 3 L7 13 Apr; 2 NR 13 Apr; SL 30 Apr.
Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Cossackie 11 Mar.
Iceland Gull: MR Schenectady 28 Mar; CL 11 Apr WL.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cohoes/Colonie 4, 18 Mar, 19 May (WE, NM).
Caspian Tern: 2 SL 19 May (WL).
Com. Tern: SL 19 May (WE, NM).
Black Tern: 2 HR Coeymans Ldg 19 May (RB, JG, AV).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5 reports of singles.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Gallatin 29 May; 2 NB 30 May; only reports.
E. Screech-Owl: only 5 reports.
Barred Owl: 11 reports of singles; pair CSR 19 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 15 FtE 2 Mar; last 7 FtE 2 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1-2 CDWMA 12 Mar (PC); 1 ad, 6 yg T Westerlo 9-16 May (RB).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 FtE 4 May; Colonie T P 27 May; Stuyvesant 27, 28 May; only reports.
Whip-poor-will: 3 L George Rec Area 6 May; calling CSR 19 May; Claverack 12 May; only reports.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15

at feeder T Hague 29 May (RL); 28 banded JL May plus 19 returns (RY).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 31 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6+ Rensselaer Plateau 19 Apr; 32 reports of singles.
Pileated Woodpecker: 20 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: T Hague 20 May; only report.
E. Wood Pewee: 15 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no reports.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 21 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 7 Papscaenee Creek 27 May; 11 reports of singles.
Least Flycatcher: max 7 Ancram 24 May; 30 reports of singles.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10 Ancram 25 May; 36 reports of singles.
E. Kingbird: max 6 Gallatin 29 May; 20 reports of singles.
N. Shrike: Daniels Rd SARA 31 Mar; Amsterdam 1 Apr; FtE 3 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 14 reports of singles.
Blue-headed Vireo: 7 reports of singles.
Warbling Vireo: max 8 Rotterdam Jct 27 May; 9 Gallatin 29 May; 27 reports of singles.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 6 Ancram 24 May.
Fish Crow: max 4 Niskayuna 4 Apr; family group of 4 Castleton 28 May; 21 reports.
Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.
Horned Lark: max 300 Amsterdam 7 Mar.
Purple Martin: 2 SL 22 May, only report.
Tree Swallow: max 300+ Schodack 18 Apr.
Bank Swallow: 15 nests in sand bank Wemple Rd ALBA 19 May; 20 Colonie T P 27 May.
Cliff Swallow: 3 Gansevoort 9 May;

Taghkanic 16 May; BCR 24 May; 3 Copake 28 May; only reports.
Brown Creeper: first singing CP 12 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 10 reports of singles.
Winter Wren: 0 Mar, 7 Apr, 5 May reports; max 4 Wilsey Rd T Berne ALBA 20 May; low numbers.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 CGCC field station 10 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 15 Rotterdam Jct 28 Apr (SA).
E. Bluebird: good numbers reported generally.
Veery: max 7 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 21 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.
Swainson's Thrush: 4 reports of singles.
Wood Thrush: max 7 Ancram 24 May.
Gray Catbird: max 30 Ancram 24 May.
N. Mockingbird: only 6 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: arr BCM 22 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Am. Pipit: Stuyvesant 3 May; 15 Stairs Corners Rd FULT 6 May; 2 Gansevoort 7 May; only reports.
Cedar Waxwing: max c. 100 Brookview 3 Mar; 58 Partridge Run 13 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr SNHP 30 Apr; max 12 FR 3 May; 10 Taghkanic 13 May; 19 singing males SNHP 28 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Claverack 15 May (Arthur Long to ADBC).
"Brewster's" Warbler: FR 3 May (Marty Connor).
Tennessee Warbler: Guilderland 27 May (RB), only report.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Amsterdam 7 May (TP).
Nashville Warbler: 12 reports 24 Apr-15 May; max 3 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 11 May.
N. Parula: 9 reports 3-25 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 18 Copake 18 May.
Magnolia Warbler: 13 reports 5-24 May.
Cape May Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 12 May, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 20 reports 3-27 May; max 4 Ramshorn/Livingston 27 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 75 VF 29 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 reports 24 Apr-27 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: 6 reports 30 Apr-24 May; max 6 Wilsey Rd T Berne ALBA 20 May.
Pine Warbler: at feeder Malta 28 Mar; 5 reports of singles.
Prairie Warbler: arr Gallupville 24 Apr; max 6 Livingston 8 May.
Palm Warbler: 9 reports 13 Apr-2 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 12 May; Bog Meadow Trail SARA 16 May; only reports.
Blackpoll Warbler: 5 reports 19-27 May.
Cerulean Warbler: continues at SISP.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr PISM 24 Apr; max 4 Ancram 24 May.
Am. Redstart: 26 reports 29 Apr-30 May; max 17 Ancram 24 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Blossom Hill Rd T Coeymans ALBA 16, 19 May; Holt Preserve T Coeymans ALBA 19 May; 2 Ancram 24 May.
Ovenbird: max 13 Taghkanic 14 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 4 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 7 May; 5 reports of singles.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Vly Creek T New Scotland 11 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Mourning Warbler: Partridge Run WMA 13 May; Copake 27 May; only reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 29 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 17 May.
Hooded Warbler: 2 m Holt Preserve T Coeymans ALBA 13-24 May; Beaver

Dam Rd T New Scotland ALBA 19 May.
Wilson's Warbler: 6 reports 7-27 May.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Bear Swamp
24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 T Ancram 18
May; 36 reports of singles.
E. Towhee: max 19 T Copake 27 May.
Chipping Sparrow: max 18 T Gallatin
29 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Amsterdam
6 Mar; last Amsterdam 20 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Ghent 31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: Saratoga National
Cemetery 24 Apr; Gansevoort 12 May;
6+ SCA 26 May.
Savannah Sparrow: max 8 T Ancram 25
May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: FtE 25 Apr;
Frederick Rd T Guilderland 19 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: Downmont Rd FtE
21 May; not present SNHP.
Fox Sparrow: arr Scotia 25 Mar; max 10
FR 8 Apr.
Song Sparrow: max 16 T Copake 28
May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Ancram 24 May,
only report.
Swamp Sparrow: arr Schenectady 13
Apr; max 16 BCM 22 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 VF 3
May; last Austerlitz 18 May.
Lapland Longspur: SCA 28 Apr
(George Hanson).
Snow Bunting: 2 Waterford GE plant 7

Mar; 6 T Florida MONT 7 Mar; 4
Snooks Corners Rd T Florida MONT 7
Mar; 100 T Livingston SCHO 10 Mar.
N. Cardinal: max 15 Brunswick 7 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Rotterdam
23 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: 20 reports of singles.
Bobolink: numerous FtE, farm fields
ALBA, COLU, MONT, RENS, also
SNHP 5 May thru; max 15 T Taghkanic
16 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr Rotterdam 31 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 29 BCM 16 Apr;
max 30 BCM 25 Apr; last 5 BCM 2 May.
Orchard Oriole: Claverack 1 May; FR
2, 3, 5, 8, 19 May; Taghkanic 14 May;
Bulls Head Rd T Florida MONT 14 May.
Baltimore Oriole: max 7 Ancram 25
May.
Purple Finch: max 24 Gallupville 30
Mar.
Red Crossbill: heard over JL 23 Mar, 2,
8 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: 11 Cherry
Plain area RENS 16 Mar; 13 Fox Hill Rd
SARA 18 Mar; pair Colgate L T Jewett
GREE 31 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: Yatesville Rd T Root
MONT 15 Mar (TP).
Pine Siskin: max 22 Cherry Plain area
RENS 16 Mar; widely reported in small
numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: max 25 Wardsboro
Rd T Hague 2, 3 Apr.

jgraves@skidmore.edu



REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

March was cool and wet, with temperatures averaging 4°F below normal. The Region was doused with 1.5 -2.5" above average total precipitation, with Westchester being the wettest at 6.28". Liberty had 17 days with at least a trace of snowfall and had over 24" for the month. Snow cover remained in parts of Sullivan County until mid April. April, on the other hand, was dry. Poughkeepsie only had 1" of rain and other areas had less than 2". Remarkably, it was in the 80s the third week of April. This calm, warm weather may be the reason why many observers reported seeing over a dozen species of warblers before the first of May. The dry spell continued through mid May and included an early mini- heat wave arriving on 1 May and lasting to 4 May, with Poughkeepsie reaching over 90° on three of those days. The latter half of May was wet, putting a damper on late migration.

Five Red-necked Grebes were off Rye on 21 and 25 April. The Eurasian nominate form of Green-winged Teal was found at Croton Falls Reservoir on 7 April. An impressive migration of White-winged Scoters, with over 600 counted, and Long-tailed Ducks was observed off Rye the evening of 17 April. A flock of 360 Long-tailed Ducks and 190 scoters rose from the water at 7 p.m. and headed out of the Sound.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked at Hook Mountain early this year, with 917 on 14 April. The normal peak is usually at least a few days later.

Tom Burke observed a bird that looked like a King Rail at Marshlands Conservancy 10 May. He thought it might be a female King Rail or a hybrid King X Clapper. It was join by another that seemed definitely to be a King Rail on 11 May and both were seen intermittently thereafter.

By far, the best bird of the season was a **Ruff**, believed to be a reeve, found at Blue Chip Farm just south of the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR on 19 May. One observer submitted a good, detailed drawing of the bird. I encourage anyone else who was lucky enough to see the bird to submit his or her observations to NYSARC.

The only Iceland Gull report came from Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 6 March.

Late winter sightings included two Northern Shrikes, one near Pine Island, Orange County on 11 May and another in Pine Plains, Dutchess County also on the 11th. The latter bird lingered to the next day. A trip up Slide Mountain on 27 May produced at least 5 Bicknell's Thrushes. Notable warblers included a Kentucky at the Bashakill on 12 May and two Yellow-throated, one at the traditional spot on the Sullivan/Orange County border near the Delaware River on 11 May and one in Dobbs Ferry on 12 May. Forty-five Snow Buntings were found in Dutchess County 15 March.

Other notable sightings included Least Bittern and Glossy Ibis at Bashakill 4 May, another Least Bittern at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye 9 May, Little Blue Heron in Dutchess on 7 May and a Summer Tanager at the Rye Nature Center 27 May.

CONTRIBUTORS

Helen Andrews, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Jesse Bontecou, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Carol Capobianco, Jim Citron, Kris Conklin, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Joan & Stan DeOrsey, Nat Donson, Dewi Edwards, Valerie Freer, Tom Fiore, Dot Fleury, Linda Gette, Dawn Hannay, Rob Hartshorne, John Haas, John Burroughs Natural History Society (JBNHS), Anna Kopitov, Mary Lewis, Robert Lewis, Berna Lincoln, Kathy Michel, Allan & Barbara Michelin, New York City Rare Bird Alert (NYRBA), Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Paul Osenbaugh, Alan & Jan Peterson, Carena Pooth, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Peter Relson, Barry & Edith Rosen, Jim Scheffel, Kathy Scullion, Lynn Shaw, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Chet Vincent, Kristine Wallstrom, Steve Walter, Gebe Weinstein, Carol Weiss, John & Mary Yrizarry.

ABBREVIATIONS

DMC – Dutchess County May Census; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; KP – Kakiat P; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: several Bashakill 4 May.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 14 Apr; 5 EGR 21, 25 Apr.
N. Gannet: 1-2 EGR 17, 21, 31 Mar; 5 EGR 7 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: Hudson River, DUTC 30 Mar, early for this far up the river.
Am. Bittern: several Bashakill 4 May.
Least Bittern: Bashakill 4 May (TF, KW); MC 9-28 May (TB).
Great Blue Heron: 70 DMC 12 May; 15 on nests in median of Taconic State Pkwy, DUTC 14 Mar; 6 PP 24 Mar.
Great Egret: arr 21 Mar.
Snowy Egret: arr New Rochelle 3 Apr.
Little Blue Heron: Plueffer Pd DUTC 7 Apr (BR, ER); EGR 21 Apr; Pleasant Valley 3 May.

Cattle Egret: Pine Plains 13 Apr (JC); Bashakill 5 May.
Green Heron: arr 28 Apr; 11 DMC 12 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 EGR 21 Mar; 6 mouth of Wappingers Creek 21 May.
Glossy Ibis: Bashakill 4 May (TF, KW).
Black Vulture: 3 Baird P 14 Mar; 12 Nellie Hill County P DUTC 12 May.
Snow Goose: 400 Round Pd 12 Mar.
Canada Goose: 5000 Round Pd 3 Mar.
Green-winged "Common" Teal: Croton Falls Res 7 Apr (BL).
Ring-necked Duck: 24 Vandenburg Cove 15 Mar; 21 EGR 18 Mar; 25 Bashakill 30 Mar; 30 Millbrook 7 Apr.
Greater Scaup: only 100 EGR 31 Mar, low for this location.
Lesser Scaup: 600 EGR 18 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: 624 EGR 17 Apr;

16 EGR 24 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 60 EGR 17 Mar; 400 EGR 17 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: 2 DMC 12 May; fem with 5 yg Sharpshoon County P DUTC 24 May.

Ruddy Duck: 860 PP 3 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: EGR 24 Mar; 62 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 30 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 20 Hook Mt 14 Apr; nesting at MC and Bashakill.

Bald Eagle: numerous sightings, mostly from the Hudson; nesting at Bashakill.

N. Harrier: 15 Hook Mt 9 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 43 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 50 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 69 Hook Mt 14 Apr.

Cooper's hawk: nest Ulster Landing P 17 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Horseshoe L Mar-Apr; Parkville 10 Mar; Stissing Mt 25 Mar; DMC 12 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 9 Apr; 476 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 907 Hook Mt 14 Apr (early high numbers); 345 Hook Mt 22 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: Youngsville early Mar; Waterbury Hill Rd, DUTC 3 Mar.

Golden Eagle: imm Mongaup Falls 19 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: 190 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 90 Hook Mt 13 Apr.

Merlin: 4 Hook Mt 9 Apr; Doodletown Rd 22 Apr.

N. Bobwhite: DMC 12 May.

Clapper Rail: MC 9, 10, 14 May.

King Rail: 1 or 2 MC 10, 11 May and after (TB); *intro.*

Black-bellied Plover: 5 MC 17 May.

Semipalmated Plover: 7 MC 10 May; 2 DMC 12 May.

Killdeer: nest with 2 eggs ROCK 8 Apr.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 31 Mar, 21, 28 Apr; 2 with 2 yg EGR 12 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 5 EGR 21 Apr; 16 MC 7 May; 4 DMC 12 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 EGR 21 Apr; 3

DMC 12 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 May; 11 DMC 12 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 May.

Upland Sandpiper: ULST 12 May; Millbrook 17 Apr (JB); Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May (NYRBA).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 MC 17 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 DMC 12 May.

Pectoral sandpiper: 6 DMC 12 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 20 EGR 31 Mar; 2 EGR 12 May.

RUFF: reeve, Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May (TB).

Com. Snipe: PP 12 Mar; 2 DUTC 12 Mar.

Laughing Gull: arr 2 MC 7 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: 6 EGR 31 Mar; 70 EGR 14 Apr.

Iceland Gull: EGR 6 Mar.

Com. Tern: arr 2 MC 2 May; 30 EGR 12 May.

Least Tern: arr 2 MC 10 May; 10 MC 14 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: few Bloomingburg 26 Apr.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 4 May; 3 DMC 12 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 29 Apr; MC 24 May; common this year.

Barred Owl: 10 DMC 12 May.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Youngsville 8 Apr; 2 Swan L 10 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Rye 11 May; several Bashakill 20 May.

Whip-poor-will: several Bashakill 20 May; DMC 12 May.

Chimney Swift: arr Hook Mt 14 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 2 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hyde Park 6-13 May; Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: DMC 12 May;

MC 12-14 May; Vassar Farm 17 May (BB); Bashakill 20 May; RNC 27 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Bashakill 20 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Bashakill 20 May; Pawling Nature Preserve 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: Vassar Farm 17, 20, 29 May; 2 Bashakill 20 May; MC 24 May; Union Vale County P 29 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 12 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 1 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Hook Mt 20 Mar; 3 Buttercup Sanctuary 21 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 30 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr 25 Apr.
N. Shrike: Pine Plains 11, 12 Mar (TF, ND); ORAN 11 Mar (J&MY).
White-eyed Vireo: arr MC 28 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 30 Apr.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 24 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: DMC 12 May; ULST 12 May (JBNHS).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 4 May.
Com. Raven: nesting near Hook Mt and Thompson Pd Preserve.
Horned Lark: 19 Pine Plains 11 Mar.
Purple Martin: 9 DMC 12 May; 2 Millwood Rd T Washington DUTC 23 Apr; 2 pairs there all May.
Tree Swallow: 7 PP 24 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Hook Mt 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 14 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: 6 Cross River Res 22 Apr; 40 there 27 May.
Barn Swallow: arr 14 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Rye 4, 6 Mar, 23, 24 Apr, 10 May; 2 Holiday Hills 10 Mar.
House Wren: arr Cape Pd SULL 10 Apr, early (VF).
Marsh Wren: arr 3 MC 2 May; 13 DMC 12 May; 4 Cruger I Rd 14 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 14 Apr.
Veery: arr 4 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: DUTC 29 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: 5 Slide Mt 27 May (RD, JH).
Swainson's Thrush: arr 9 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 4 May.
Am. Pipit: 20 DMC 12 May.
Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere end of May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 22 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Bashakill 4 May; few Sterling Forest 6 May; DMC 12 May; Vassar Farm 17-20 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Ulster Landing P 27 Apr (MD).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 4 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 27 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 13 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: DMC 12 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 23 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
Yellow-throated Warbler: SULL/ORAN border near Delaware Ri 11 May (JT); Dobbs Ferry 12 May (MB).
Pine Warbler: arr High Tor SP 7 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 4 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 5 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 9 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 9 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 22 Apr; Hastings-on-Hudson 12 May; "good" numbers at Doodletown 6 May (NYRBA); 2 Amenia 9 May; 2 DMC 12 May; Amenia 14 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 21 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 24 Apr.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 7 May.
Ovenbird: arr 30 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 23 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: Vassar Farm 10-29 May (PR); Bashakill 12 May (JT).
Mourning Warbler: MC 16, 14, 25 May; Bashakill 20 May; RNC 24, 26 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: "good" numbers at Doodletown 6 May (NYRBA).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 11 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 8 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: RNC 27 May (TB).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 3 May.
E. Towhee: arr n counties 22 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr DUTC 6 Apr; arr ROCK 7 Apr.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 MC 9 May.
Seaside Sparrow: 2 MC 21 May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 14, 24 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: 13 DMC 12

May; 3 Rombout Rd DUTC 18 Mar; 3 Iona I 1 May; many other May reports.
Snow Bunting: 45 Greigs DUTC 15 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr 30 Apr.
Bobolink: 148 DMC 12 May.
E. Meadowlark: 12 DMC 12 May.
Rusty Blackbird: Rye 6 Mar; Holiday Hills 10 Mar; 3 Clinton Corners 16 Mar; 3 Horseshoe L 28 Mar; few KP 15 Apr; Bashakill 27 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr 29 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 28 Apr.
Purple Finch: 10 DMC 12 May; most reports from SULL.
Evening Grosbeak: female at DUTC feeder 17 Apr (BB).

BochnikM@cs.com
914-785-3840 (work)
914-237-9331 (home)

REGION 10 – MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

ALVIN WOLLIN

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

March's actual temperature was a cold 39.6°F, against the norm of 42.4°. It also was wet, with 7.72" of rain falling, against a norm of 4.08"; a third of that came on the last day of month. While April was slightly warmer than normal at 53.9°, against a norm of 52.5°, April showers were almost nonexistent. Precipitation was 1.58", almost half coming on the 8th, against a norm of 4.2". As a result, spring had a late start this year, with flowering plants coming into bloom a week late. Early May saw four days of 90° and three new daily highs. It cooled off and then warmed, but only got over 80° on three days during the rest of the month. The hot start brought the average temperature to 63.6°, compared with a norm of 62.7°. Again, May was dry, with precipitation of 2.02", most falling on 21-22 May. The norm is 4.42". A deluge on 30 April followed by the hot spell in early May brought vegetation out in profusion. By mid May the season had caught up. The oaks were fully leafed out and birds were hard to see in the foliage.

This report amply demonstrates just how much technology has entered the birding world. Aside from the fact that the bulk of reports now comes via the internet and e-mail, verification of data is accomplished first hand by review of posted photos, and communications with observers is speedy and efficient.

An alternate-plumaged **Black-tailed Godwit** was found by Paul Gillen on the afternoon of 5 April in a tidal pond on Montauk Highway in Eastport. This bird was seen by a hastily summoned group that day, by many more on 6 April, and by literally hundreds thereafter. It was last seen on 17 April. With the advent of digital photography and the use of spotting scopes as telephoto lenses, pictures of this magnificent bird appeared on the internet the day after its first occurrence. This species, once vetted by NYSARC, will be an addition to the New York State Checklist.

At the end of the season, in mid to late May, a number of pelagic species were seen from shore at Democrat Pt. on the western tip of Fire Island. This area is accessible only by 4-wheel-drive vehicles with special permits, or by a one mile walk. Pat Lindsay's report says it all: "24 May --Shai Mitra and I had a Manx Shearwater fly well up into the inlet at Democrat Pt. It flew in and out, and then out to sea, then returned again about 15 minutes later to the mouth of the inlet. Red-throated Loons were numerous near shore, one in breeding plumage. Gannets were migrating by the 100s. 25 May --A light morph Parasitic Jaeger from Democrat Pt.; 26 May --3 Sooty Shearwaters from Democrat Pt."

Other pelagics seen near shore, as reported by the NYRBA, included Sooty Shearwater at Montauk Pt. 20 May, an adult Parasitic Jaeger off Sagaponack on 20 May, 3 Sooty Shearwaters spotted off Parking Field 2 at Robert Moses State Park 20 May, a **Manx Shearwater** seen near Fire Island Inlet 23-24 May, Wilson's Storm-Petrels the same days, plus Caspian Terns, Black Tern and a White-rumped Sandpiper on 25 May. Then, a **Northern Fulmar** was seen by Andy Guthrie off Robert Moses State Park 28 May. Earlier, Henry Flamm reported a Parasitic Jaeger was seen from Great Kills Park by George Bouquio, Bryan Schieffer and Howie Fischer on 12 May.

Ronald Bourque reported an extraordinary concentration of Glossy Ibises at Floyd Bennett: "On 6 April we observed about 125 ibises on the grasslands. The next week the number of Glossy Ibises increased to 250 and then by the 13th, there was a reported 350 or more. The count of 350 was made by David Burg. To my knowledge, this number of ibises in one area has never before been reported in the Jamaica Bay region." On 14 April, Rob Jett reported seeing hundreds of ibises moving together at the same site, while Isaac Grant, on the same day, counted 475.

In prior reports, we have commented on the increasing numbers of Turkey Vultures reported from the Region. The trend continues, with the species reported throughout the area in every week from early March to late April. This season they were joined by a significant number of **Black Vultures**. A single bird was found at Montauk Pt. on 23 March by Dan Stoebel and was seen again on 24 March. A single bird flew over Central Park on 3 April. On 15 April, on a stroll through the woods near Big Reed Pond at Montauk, Michael Stubblefield and Jeff Novik saw

an adult **Sandhill Crane** fly by heading northeast. They followed, but did not find the bird. Instead, they found a kettle of vultures consisting of one Turkey Vulture and **nine Black Vultures**. About 15 minutes later, they noticed another kettle. This one had several Turkey Vultures and **two Black Vultures**, plus another **Sandhill Crane**. During the day's birding, they also saw 20 Turkey Vultures, three Ospreys, Northern Harrier, an adult female Sharp-shinned Hawk, five Red-shouldered Hawks and five Red-tailed Hawks.

A "**Black**" Brant was found 19 May among a large number of Brant off Terrapin Trail at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge by Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson. A drake "Common" Teal, the nominate race of Green-winged Teal, was found in Van Cortlandt Park's lake in mid December by Alex Pirko (*vide* Chris Lyons) but not reported then. It remained until mid April. Another was at Floyd Bennett Field in mid April. The drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** continued off Ransom Beach, two miles west of Bayville. It was last reported 11 March. On 11 March, Andy Guthrie found a male Tufted Duck on Halsey Neck Pond, east of Shinnecock Inlet, also reported by Paul Gillen. The bird was with a large flock of scaup. The tuft was spectacularly long.

But for the extraordinary occurrence of the godwit, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** found on 13 March in West Sayville would easily have taken Regional honors. Photos confirmed the identity. A second sighting was reported by Chris Roberts from Bay Lane in Bridgehampton near Mecox Bay on 18 April.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons, one of 15 pairs nesting on bridges and buildings in the NYC area, nested on 55 Water Street in downtown Manhattan. The first egg was laid on 1 April and the last of five on approximately 8 April. Because of interest in these birds, a color TV monitor was installed in the lobby, showing the Peregrines, usually the female, at the nest. The lobby is open to the public seven days a week. Chris Nadareski of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection monitored the birds.

On 12 May, Hugh McGuinness found a nearly alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** at Mecox.

The best opportunity to see the smaller, less common gulls is to locate large concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls. On the falling tide at Point Lookout on 10 March, approximately 1000 of these gulls included two adult Little Gulls and three Black-headed Gulls, one adult and two immatures. Lesser numbers of both latter species occurred both before and after this date, but not always at the same time. The elusive **Mew Gull** found last season reappeared at Shinnecock Inlet on 5 March in the afternoon and again on 10 March. Tony Lauro reported both.

A **Thick-billed Murre** was rediscovered at Montauk Pt. 9 Mar and one or two remained until 7 April. On 16 March, a **Common Murre** was discovered at the point. It was last seen 7 April. Razorbills, which had been seen in abundance during the winter season, continued into spring, and some were present at the point till mid April. An **Atlantic Puffin** washed ashore alive at Flying Point Beach near Mecox Bay on 28 May. Though there were no signs of oil contamination, it was

soaked through and hypothermic. It was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator but died that day.

A Snowy Owl remained in the dunes at Jones Beach West End until 18 March. Other reports came from Shelter Island on 25 March and from Shinnecock 31 March.

On 15 March, a Northern Shrike was found behind the Jones Beach Amphitheater; it was possibly the one seen during the winter. It was seen again on the 17th. On 16 March, a Northern Shrike was found at the north end of Central Park, an unusual place for this species. The most unexpected passerine to appear was a **Western Kingbird** found 25 May at Democrat Point by Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra. There have been only a half dozen prior NYS spring records. It was present until 27 May.

By the end of April, 29 species of warblers were reported from the NYC parks, with 34 species by early May. On 22 April Lloyd & Sandy Spitalnik found a heavily spotted towhee in Central Park. Michael Stubblefield and Deborah Allen were able to capture the bird on film before it disappeared. The pictures, appearing on the Linnaean Society's web site, showed a bird with both Spotted and Eastern towhee characteristics. A very detailed article by Stubblefield, with photographs of the bird in question, as well as photographs of museum skins of both species, will appear in a future *Kingbird*.

On 1 May, Andy Guthrie found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Central Park. This species is extremely rare in this Region in spring.

On 12 May, an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in Amagansett by Leslie Beebe and Bruce Nussbaum. Jim Ash, who works nearby, was able to see the bird just before it flew into a yard and disappeared.

CONTRIBUTORS

Deborah Allen, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Steven Biasetti, Howard Boltson, Ron Bourque, Orhan Birol, David Burg, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, James Clinton Sr., John J. Collins, Mike Cooper, Willie D'Anna, Glen Davis, David Diaz, Bob DiCandido, Peter Dorosh, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Arie Gilbert, Paul H. Gillen, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Mike Higgiston, Dan Heglund, Stephen Janko, Rob Jett, Greg Kunkel, Robert J. Kurtz, Ed Lam (EL), Anthony J. Lauro, Nick Laviola, Emanuel Levine (EML), Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Hugh McGuinness, Shai Mitra, Jeff Novik, Al Ott, Alex Pirko, Adam Pitkin, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Ian Resnic, Chris Roberts, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Barbara Saunders, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Mark Schmalzried, Peter Shen, Lloyd & Sandy Spitalnik, Dan Stoebel, Michael Stubblefield, Steve Walter, Christina Wilkinson, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BRP – Breezy Pt; CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clove L P, SI; CP – Central Park; CRSP – Connetquot Ri SP; DP – Democrat Pt, FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, SI; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP – Montauk Pt; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect Park; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

LOONS – DUCKS

Horned Grebe: city parks (PP L and CP Res) to mid Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: up to 6 PL, some to mid Apr; SHIN 17 Mar; MP 12 Mar.

Eared Grebe: PL to 18 Apr; FTT 2, 6 Apr.

NORTHERN FULMAR: off RMSP 28 May (AG).

Sooty Shearwater: MP 20 May; 3 RMSP 20 May; 3 DP 26 May.

MANX SHEARWATER: DP 24 May (PL, SM).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: DP 23-24 May; SHIN 27 May.

Least Bittern: CLP 12 May; Mashomack, Shelter I to May 24; 2 MNSA 30-31 May.

Great Egret: arr 9 Mar.

Snowy Egret: arr mid Mar.

Little Blue Heron: arr 2 Apr.

Tricolored Heron: arr 11 Apr.

Cattle Egret: SI 12-13 May.

Green Heron: arr 5 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: confirmed nesting in HLSP.

Glossy Ibis: 125 FBF 6 Apr (RB) building to 350 on 13 Apr (DB), then “hundreds” 14 Apr (RJ) and a count of 475 same day (IG).

BLACK VULTURE: MP 23-24 Mar (DS); migrating NE over CP 3 Apr; 11 Big Reed Pd, Montauk 15 Apr (MS, JN); numbers are unprecedented in the Reg.

Turkey Vulture: reported every week

throughout Reg early Mar-late Apr.

“BLACK” Brant: JBWR 19 May (AG, AnW).

Eurasian Wigeon: FBF early Mar.

Green-winged “Common” Teal: VCP mid Dec (AP, *vide* CL) to mid Apr; FBF mid Apr.

Tufted Duck: Halsey Neck Pd 11 Mar (AG).

Harlequin Duck: PL to late Mar; SHIN to late Apr; GKP thru mid May; MP to 19 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: continued off Ransom Beach, Bayville to 11 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 1 Mar.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: West Sayville 13 Mar, ph; Bridgehampton near Mecox Bay 18 Apr (CR, *vide* HMG).

Bald Eagle: CP 1 Mar; Mill Neck 25 Mar; CP 31 Mar; PP 2 May; JBCH 8 May; MEC 15 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 migrating NE Montauk vicinity 15 Apr (MS, JN).

Red-tailed Hawk: 5 migrating NE Montauk vicinity 15 Apr (MS, JN).

Wild Turkey: Inwood Hill P 19 March; 5 Grumman property 26 Mar; Southampton Mar 29.

SANDHILL CRANE: 1, possibly 2, migrating NE Big Reed Pd, Montauk 15 Apr (MS, JN).

Am. Golden-Plover: CB 8 May; SHIN 13 May.

Piping Plover: arr 11 Mar.
Whimbrel: Dune Rd 6 May; Captree SP 8 May; JBWR 26 May.
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: Eastport 5-17 Apr (PG, et al), seen by hundreds and extensively ph; pending NYSARC acceptance, this Old World species is addition to NYS Checklist.
Purple Sandpiper: PL to mid Apr; 15 FTT to 12 May.
Curlew Sandpiper: MEC 12 May (HM).
Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 27 May.
Parasitic Jaeger: GKP 12 May; DP 25 May.
Laughing Gull: arr 17 Mar.
Little Gull: PL 3-24 Mar; Wainscot 24-25 Mar; Oak Beach Inn 25 Mar; BRP 31 Mar.
Black-headed Gull: 1-3 PL to mid Apr; PP early Mar; CP 29 Mar; 2 BRP 2 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: ~1000 PL 10 Mar.
MEW GULL: SHIN 5, 10 May (AL).
Glaucous Gull: RMSP early Mar to mid Apr; Southampton early to mid Apr; MP 24 Mar.
Gull-billed Tern: arr JBWE & MNSA early May; 3 Oak Beach 13 May; JBWR late May.
Caspian Tern: 2 MEB 25 Apr; 7 MEB 27 Apr, 5 MEB 1 May; 2 Massapequa P 5 May.
Royal Tern: 2 SHIN 12 May.
Least Tern: re-colonizing JBWE.
COMMON MURRE: MP 16 Mar - 7 Apr.
THICK-BILLED MURRE: 1-2 MP thru 7 Apr.
Razorbill: some MP thru early Apr; 515 MP 3 Mar; others along ocean south fork LI.
ATLANTIC PUFFIN: washed ashore alive near Mecox Bay 28 May, taken to rehab, but died that day.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS
Monk Parakeet: active nests Brooklyn.
Snowy Owl: JBWE to 24 Mar; Shelter I 25 Mar; SHIN to 31 Mar; Orient Beach

SP 7 Apr.
Chuck-will's-widow: Long Pd, SI 12 May; Oak Beach 12 May; Napeague 20 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 32 JBWE 23 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: CP 27 Apr; Tobay 29 Apr, 12 May; Gilgo May; JBWE 2, 3, 13 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: more than usual migrating along the barrier beach.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS
Olive-sided Flycatcher: PP 30 Apr (DD), early.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr 12 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 2 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 27 Apr.
Eastern Phoebe: arr 14 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 24 Apr.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: DP 25-27 May (PL, SM), only half a dozen prior NYS spring records.
E. Kingbird: arr 15 Apr.
N. Shrike: JBCH 15, 17 Mar; CP 16 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 23 Apr.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Wading Ri 15 Mar (AB), record early date.
Warbling Vireo: arr 28 Apr.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 27 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr 5 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 11 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 25 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr 11 Apr.
House Wren: arr 9 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 5 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 5 Apr.

WARBLERS
Golden-winged Warbler: CP 1, 6 May; VCP 14 May.
"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: Riverside P in n Manhattan 5 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 29 Apr; PP 3 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 14 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 20 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 29 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 30 Apr.
Cape May Warbler: arr 30 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 13 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 18 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 29 Apr.
Yellow-throated Warbler: CRSP 22 Apr; PP 2 May; VCP 14 May; JBWR 28 May.
Pine Warbler: 25 PP early morn with low fog 13 Apr (GD).
Prairie Warbler: arr 13 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr 5 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 30 Apr.
Cerulean Warbler: CP 24 Apr, 23 May; HLSP 5, 10 May; SI 12 May; FP 1, 14, 15 May; Riverdale BRON 14 May; Amagansett 20 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 11 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 27 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: CP 23 Apr; PP 25-29 Apr; JBWR 5 May; East Hampton early May.
Worm-eating Warbler: good numbers.
Ovenbird: arr 15 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 15 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: CP 30 Apr, 2 May; PP 1 May; Forest P 2 May; APP 3 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr 14 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 22 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: NY city parks 16 Apr - 12 May, many appeared to linger several days.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 1 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 1 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: reports from CP, JBWR, PP.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: several dozen reports, increasingly common throughout; Atlas workers should be on the lookout.
Scarlet Tanager: arr 30 Apr.
Spotted Towhee x Eastern Towhee: probable hybrid CP 22 Apr (L&SS), ph (MS, DA), *intro*.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: CP 1 May (AG), extremely rare in Reg in spring.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 Sands Pt 27 May (GQ).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CP 30 Apr, unusual place.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 22 Apr.
Blue Grosbeak: RMSP 14 Apr; CP 29 Apr.
Dickcissel: Gilgo to 12 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Amagansett 12 May.

syschiff@ascensionet.com



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters.

In species accounts:

Number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported

!	Details seen by Regional Editor
ad	Adult
Alt	Alternate plumage
Am.	American
arr	Arrival or first of season
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BOTS	Bird of the season
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
CO	Confirmed nesting
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
FL	Fledgling
FY	Adult feeding young
I	Island
imm	Immature
intro	See introduction to report
juv	Juvenile
L	Lake
max	Maximum
mob	Multiple observers
N.	Northern
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NYSARC	report to New York State Avian Records Committee
P	Park
Pd	Pond
ph	photographed
Pt	Point
Res	Reservoir
Ri	River
SP	State Park
spm	Specimen
subad	Subadult
T	Town of
thru	Throughout period
Tw	Township
W.	Western
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
y	Young

REPORTING REGIONS

See map next page

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines,
except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties

The boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

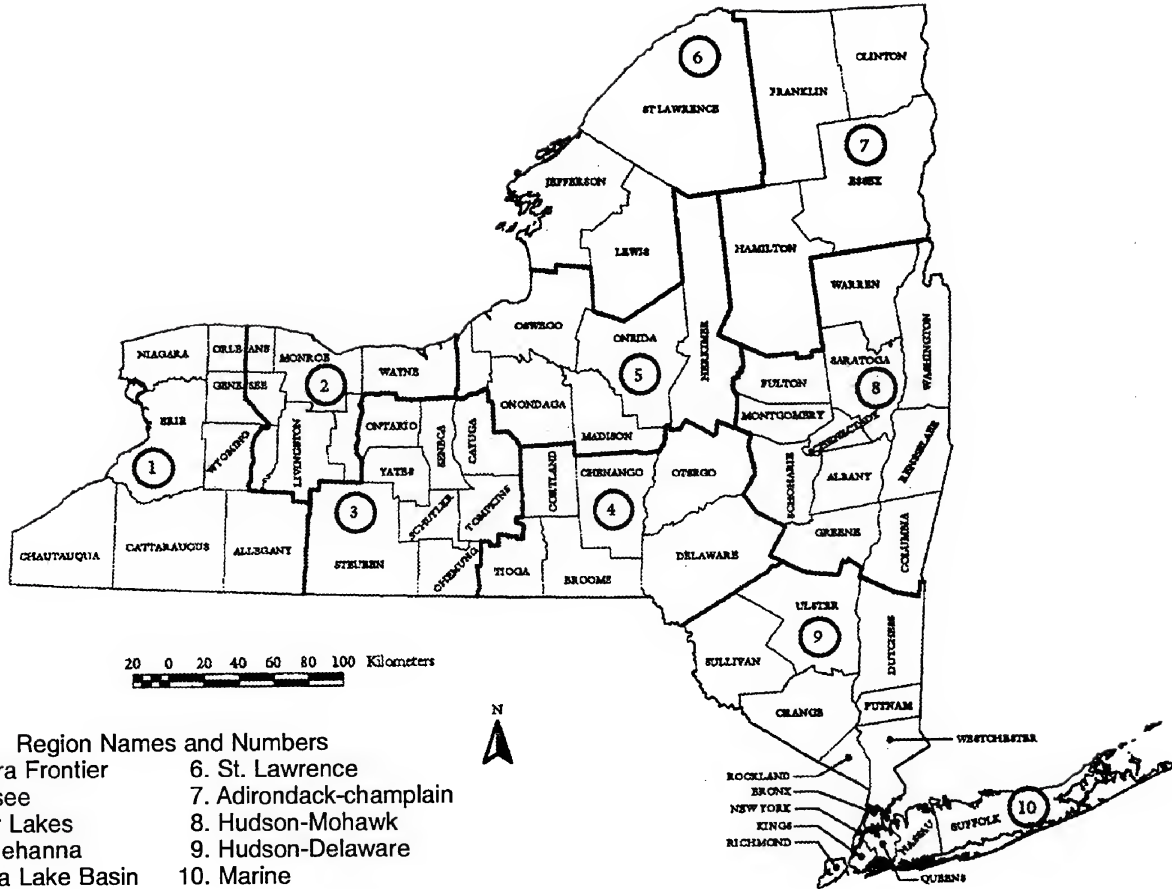
Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County

The boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County

The boundary is NY Route 31.





REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season:

December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season:

March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season:

June, July, August

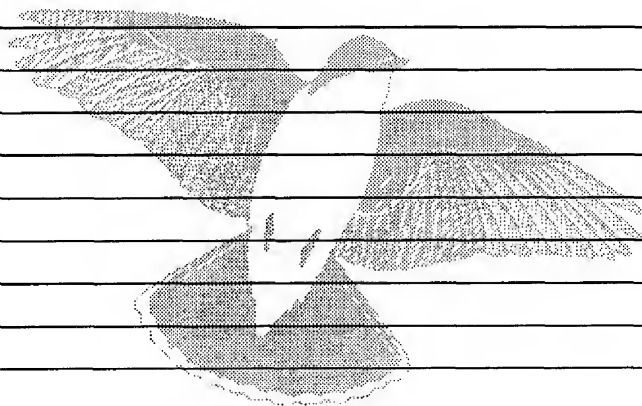
Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season:

September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

NOTES:



Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Sue Adair, 107 Fox Run Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303

Appointed Committees

Archives:

Phyllis R. Jones, Chair
9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

Awards:

Richard Miga, 38 Elm St., Fredonia, NY 14063

Conservation:

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Field Trips:

William J. Lee, Chair
2171 Grand Blvd, Schenectady, NY 12309

Finance:

William B. Reeves, Chair
19 Brian Lane, East Northport, NY 11731-3810

John J. Elliott Memorial:

Emanuel Levine, Chair
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair
Send reports to:
Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

Publications:

Emanuel Levine, Chair
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site:

Barbara A. Butler
55 Old Camby Rd., Verbank, NY 12585

Elected Committees

Nominating:

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The Kingbird

Publication of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 440

Loch Sheldrake NY 12759

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