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**BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)
AT MECOX BAY, LONG ISLAND, 28-29 MAY, 2004:
NEW YORK STATE'S SIXTH RECORD**

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A Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) was discovered on sand flats at Mecox Bay in eastern Suffolk Co., NY on Friday, 28 May 2004 as it fed with Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) and Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*). It remained at this location about another thirty-six hours and was studied by numerous observers. Several observers were able to obtain recognizable digital photographs, both on Friday, when viewing conditions were impaired by rain and fog, and on Saturday, under bright sunny conditions, documenting its identification as the nominate, European race.

Setting

Mecox Bay is one of several South Fork salt ponds, including Sagaponack and Georgica Ponds, which are periodically opened to the Atlantic Ocean by Southampton Town Trustees in response to rising water levels to prevent the malfunctioning of on-site septic systems and flooding of basements in nearby homes. Pond opening is eagerly awaited by LI birders due to the lowering of impounded waters and exposure of sand flats attractive to migrating shorebirds. This procedure also allows for flushing of excessive nutrients and contaminants typically associated with stormwater runoff, thereby maintaining the salt ponds' ecological health.

In addition to the planned openings of these waterbodies, high tides and severe storms also breach the closed inlets, forcing temporary openings. Based on anecdotal discussions with area birders who closely monitor these salt ponds during migration, it is believed that a storm or high tide breached Mecox Bay a few days before discovery of the godwit.

The initial opening of the Mecox Bay inlet, both by natural processes and human intervention, creates a strong current as the waters rush through the narrow cut to the Atlantic Ocean. The current is too strong for the deposition of fine sediments high in organic content. Hence, the exposed flats are mainly made up of medium to fine grained sands and can more properly be termed "sand flats" than "mud flats"—a popular term among local birders.

One of the unique features of birding at Mecox Bay during migration is the frequent change in the number and variety of shorebirds. This phenomenon may be related to the proximity of the sand flats to the ocean, drawing in shorebirds, gulls, and terns that are migrating along Long Island's South Shore. The propensity for birds at Mecox Bay to stay for relatively short periods of time has been a source of frustration to birders when a rare bird appears. As an

example, as recently as 1 Sep 2003 a Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) appeared at Mecox Bay (McGuinness 2003) and remained for approximately three hours!

Observation

Early Friday morning the authors were traveling east to the South Fork of Long Island for the Memorial Day weekend to census breeding blocks in the Montauk area for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. There were a number of breeding blocks along the way that were also our responsibility, one of which included the eastern portion of Mecox Bay.

We arrived at the east side of Mecox Bay at 7:15 am EDT and parked in the W. Scott Cameron Town Beach parking lot. The day was overcast with a fog of varying intensity. Climbing a nearby dune and observing the flats with our binoculars, it was quickly apparent that the inlet to the ocean was open, and that there were over two hundred shorebirds of various species feeding in the shallow water and on the exposed sand flats. Since our primary objective was to identify potential breeding birds, migrant shorebirds were initially ignored. One large shorebird was noted sleeping on the edge of one of the mud flats about 150 yards away, but was not scrutinized carefully.

Upon completing a sweep of the flats with our spotting scope, we turned our attention to the shorebirds present. By this time, the sleeping shorebird observed earlier was actively feeding. The long bi-colored bill, slightly upturned towards the tip, quickly identified the bird as a godwit. Knowing that a godwit of any species is exceedingly unusual on Long Island in spring, this bird piqued our curiosity. The overall pale brown plumage and the dark brown primaries with pale edges made us realize that this was either a species of godwit we had never seen before, or an unknown plumage of one we had previously encountered.

We both felt that Bar-tailed Godwit was a definite possibility, but neither of us had prior experience with this species. We took down some field notes and headed back to the car to consult the National Geographic Society Field Guide. The foggy conditions provided poor long-distance viewing, so we walked out on the flats to obtain a better look and to take some digital photographs through our spotting scope. While walking out on the flats brought us closer to the bird, the godwit never stopped feeding to preen or raise its wings. As a result, the barring on the tail was not observed and Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) could not be ruled out. We were reasonably certain that this bird was not a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), since it seemed to lack any cinnamon or rufous tones anywhere in the observable portion of its plumage. However, we still needed to see its tail, rump, and underwing for confirmation.

After an hour of observation the godwit showed no sign of ceasing its active feeding. We looked to the north and saw a severe thunderstorm rolling south across Mecox Bay and quickly headed for the car. For the next hour and a half there were torrential downpours and lightning followed by brief periods of light rain. While sitting in the car we discussed what we should do. Should we start making phone calls to alert birders to the presence of a species whose

identification had not been confirmed? Given the transitory nature of the shorebirds at Mecox Bay, we knew that this bird might abruptly leave. On the other hand, the weather was not conducive to shorebird migration and there was good chance it would at least stay the rest of the day. We had taken perhaps twenty-five digital photographs, and knew that while the photos were of poor quality, they would probably be identifiable to birders familiar with Bar-tailed Godwit. The decision was made to make the phone calls.

We were immediately faced with a host of problems. We were in Sue's car, while the cellular phone with birders' phone numbers was in my car at home in Babylon. Additionally, Sue's cellular phone minutes had expired and had to be renewed. Fortunately, we remembered a friend who had the home phone number of John and Gerta Fritz. After renewing our cell phone minutes, we called our friend's cell phone, interrupting her in the middle of teaching a class. Being familiar with birders' eccentricities, our friend patiently gave us the Fritzes' phone number.

We reached John Fritz at home, a minor miracle in and of itself, and related to him the details of a *possible* Bar-tailed Godwit. John then alerted other birders. Perhaps ten minutes after calling John, our cell phone rang—it was Paul Buckley calling from Rhode Island with questions about our bird. I warned him that we had not confirmed the identification of the bird as a Bar-tailed Godwit and he should wait to get a second opinion before hopping a ferry to Long Island. He advised that what we had seen and described so far actually favored Bar-tailed Godwit.

Shortly after 10:00 am other birders started to arrive. The first birder to arrive on the east side of the Mecox Bay inlet was Hugh McGuinness. Shortly after Hugh set up his scope, the godwit raised its wings, showing its barred tail and whitish rump. Other birders had arrived on the west side of the temporary inlet, including Shai Mitra, Tony Lauro, John & Gerta Fritz, and Joan Quinlan. Just minutes after Shai set up his spotting scope to study the bird, his cell phone rang, and it was Paul Buckley wanting to know if he should get on the ferry. Paul received the thumbs up and was on his way. Shai kept notes on the arrival of other birders, and from his notes we estimate that a total of forty birders saw the godwit on Friday and Saturday. We remained at Mecox until approximately 11:45 am, when, satisfied as to its identity, we headed east to continue atlasing. We stopped at Mecox on our way home on Monday, 31 May. The Bar-tailed Godwit was no longer there and the inlet was in the process of closing, as evidenced by the higher water levels and considerably reduced flats. We subsequently learned it had last been seen shortly before dark on Saturday, 29 May (Arie Gilbert, personal communication).

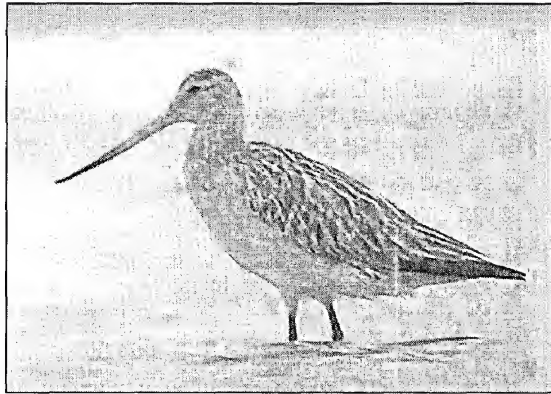
Description

The Bar-tailed Godwit conveyed the appearance of a large, chunky shorebird as it actively fed in thigh-deep water, where it loosely associated with Willets and Greater Yellowlegs (See Figure 1). The godwit dwarfed the Greater Yellowlegs and was significantly larger than the Willets.

Figure 1.
Bar-tailed Godwit
Mecox Bay
28 May 2004

Note long re-curved bill,
large size, and striped
appearance of the upperparts.
Size, very long bill, and
long legs indicate a female.

© Angus Wilson



Upon first viewing it, we were struck by the color and pattern of the upper parts, paler than on any godwit we remembered. The darkest parts of the plumage were the long, brown primaries, bordered by pale edges at their tips, and the blackish centers of the otherwise pale brown tertials, wing coverts, scapulars, and back feathers, which together gave the upperparts a striped look. We also felt that the bird looked short-necked when compared to other godwits we had seen, but lacking any direct comparison, we were unsure whether this was actually the case.

A conspicuous white supercilium and dark eye stripe off-set a brownish crown. The nape was brown, but considerably lighter than the mantle. The streaked pattern of the upper breast could clearly be seen in some of our better digital photos and had a fairly clear demarcation. The underparts were mostly white, but did show some dark streaking on the lower flanks near the undertail coverts.

Our initial confusion when we first found it was related to its relatively long bill and legs, which didn't seem suggestive of Bar-tailed Godwit. After looking at the National Geographic Society Field Guide we realized that the female depicted in the guide seemed more consistent with the bird we were seeing. The size of the bird and curvature of the bill reinforced that this bird was a female. Paulson (1993), presumably speaking about both Bar-tailed Godwit races, indicated that sexual dimorphism in bill length is greater than in other godwits, measurements of adult males and females not overlapping.

The bird's winter-plumaged appearance was also a topic of conversation. If it were a breeding adult, one would expect that by the end of May the bird would show some evidence of acquiring breeding plumage. However, Chandler (1989) indicates that adult female Bar-tailed Godwits in summer look much like winter adults. Rosair & Cottridge (1995) stated that female Bar-tailed Godwits frequently remain in non-breeding plumage during the breeding season. Angus Wilson (2004) indicated that he did not observe any retained juvenile coverts on the bird, but included a qualification that these feathers could be very worn by this time and difficult to see. An alternative possibility is that the godwit was a one

year old bird. Paul Buckley (personal communication) points out that out-of-range shorebirds in spring in eastern North America often prove to be one year olds, presumably having arrived in North America the previous fall as juveniles.

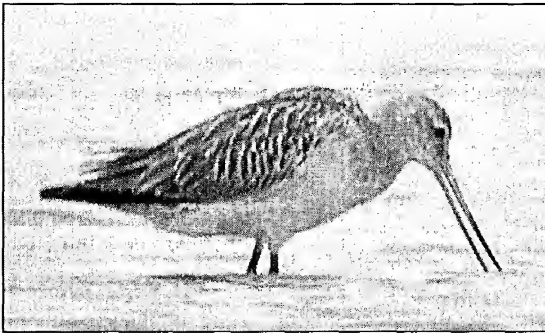


Figure 2.
Bar-tailed Godwit
Mecox Bay
28 May 2004

Note bicolored bill, streaking on the throat and upper breast, prominent white supercilium and dark eye stripe, and streaking on the lower flank.

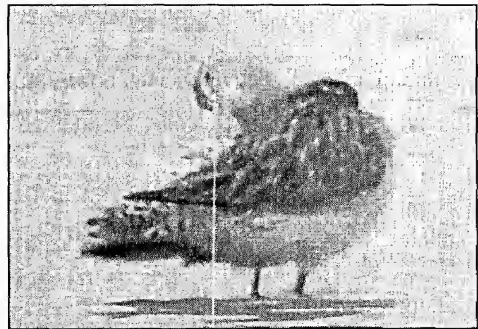
© Angus Wilson

When the godwit finally raised its wings it revealed a black and white barred tail, a whitish rump, and whitish axillaries and underwing coverts, conclusively eliminating Marbled, Hudsonian and Black-tailed Godwits, and also the Siberian race of Bar-tailed Godwit, *L. l. baueri* (see Figure 3). Although the white axillaries showed a scattering of small brown flecks, the generally whitish appearance of the underwings and rump clearly indicated the nominate subspecies *L.l. lapponica*, which breeds in northern Scandinavia and western Russia. *L.l. baueri* breeds in Alaska and eastern Russia and has a heavily mottled rump, and brown axillaries with white barring.

Figure 3.
Bar-tailed Godwit
Mecox Bay
28 May 2004

Note the barred tail feathers.
Black-tailed and Hudsonian
godwits would have a black tail,
Marbled a plain rump.

© Angus Wilson



Other Photos & Illustration Analysis

A Bar-tailed Godwit observed and photographed by Blair Nikula at South Beach in Chatham, MA on 5 Jun 2004 resembled the Mecox Bay bird in general appearance (Figure 4). Furthermore, the dates and locations of these two records raise the possibility that they might pertain to the same individual. In our

opinion, the overall plumage color of the South Beach bird seems more grayish than that of the bird at Mecox Bay, and the dark brown, streaked upperparts, prominent on the latter, don't stand out on the South Beach bird. However, these differences could be a function of lighting on the particular days the digital photographs of the Massachusetts and New York birds were taken. Birders who saw the Mecox Bay bird on both Friday and Saturday have commented on its different appearance in the overcast, foggy weather on Friday, when the bird appeared a warmer brown, with peachy tones in the breast, and the bright sun on Saturday, when the bird exhibited generally cold and grayer plumage tones (S. S. Mitra, personal communication).



Figure 4
Bar-tailed Godwit South Beach, Chatham, MA 5 June 2004
In color photos, this bird appears grayer than the Mecox Bay bird.
See text.

©Blair Nikula.

Of the Bar-tailed Godwit illustrations we have reviewed, the drawing coming closest to the Mecox Bay bird is, in our opinion, Lars Jonsson's (1993) depiction of a winter female Bar-tailed. This illustration looks particularly like the South Beach, MA Bar-tailed Godwit in Figure 4.

Discussion

Away from *baueri's* Alaskan breeding range, the Bar-tailed Godwit is a rare but regular, annual visitor along both coasts, south to Florida and California (Sibley 2000, P.A. Buckley, personal communication). The species has been observed frequently in Massachusetts, with approximately 23 records accepted

through 2002, and recently it has proven almost annual as close to LI as Cape Cod. Records from Massachusetts include individuals of the Asian/Alaskan subspecies *bauri* in 1988 and 2002 (most east coast records that have been identified sub-specifically are attributed to the nominate European race *lapponica*), and New England's only winter record, 29 Dec 1997-12 Feb 1998 (Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, 2004).

In contrast, New York has had only five previous Bar-tailed Godwit records (Levine, 1998). Three records are from Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., the first being recorded on 15 Nov 1946 (specimen), also on 10 May 1971 and 17 Aug 1974. Another was at the Oak Beach Marsh, Suffolk Co., on 23 Aug 1977, and again at Bay Park, East Rockaway, Nassau Co. on 5 Jun 1985. Thus, this paper documents just the sixth record for New York State and the first since 1985

This spring has been a banner season for Bar-tailed Godwits in the Northeast. One observer in Massachusetts, Blair Nikula, found and identified no fewer than three this spring: MA's third *bauri* on North Monomoy Island on 9 May, a nominate bird at the same location on 12 May, and the previously discussed individual on South Beach, Chatham on 5 Jun.

The nominate race of Bar-tailed Godwit, *lapponica*, winters primarily on the Atlantic and North Sea coast of western and northwestern Europe, while some migrate south along the North African Coast to Mauritania (Hayman et al. 1986). Wilson (2004) hypothesizes that during fall migration, *lapponica* Bar-tailed Godwits heading south may overshoot the African coast, crossing the narrowest part of the Atlantic to winter in South America and the Caribbean. Thus, their occurrence on the Atlantic coast of the United States in spring might represent a northward movement of birds from these locations. The Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) follows a similar fall migration route to its wintering grounds in West Africa. Wilson notes that this has also been a good spring for Ruffs on eastern Long Island, and that we may be witnessing the belated consequences of a significant shorebird displacement in the fall of 2003.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank P. A. Buckley and S. S. Mitra for reviewing the draft of this article and offering their helpful comments and suggestions, and to A. Wilson for his insightful commentary concerning the Bar-tailed Godwit on his website as well as use of his photographs. Thanks as well to B. Nikula for his photograph of the MA Bar-tail.

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AN UNUSUAL HERMIT THRUSH NEST IN CATTARAUGUS COUNTY, NEW YORK

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In August 2003, I discovered a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttata*) nest placed high in an Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) in the South Valley State Forest, in southwestern Cattaraugus County, NY (Atlas Block 1665A). Measurement of the nest determined the height at 7.9 m above the ground—exceptionally high for this species, which typically nests on or near the ground.

The South Valley State Forest is an area of mature eastern hardwood forest in the Allegheny Hills containing chiefly American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Eastern Hemlock, and, on the drier ridges, White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). Eaton (1981) notes that forests in this region of New York State provide nesting habitat for several species in the family Turdidae, including Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), and American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Of these, only the Wood Thrush was encountered in the vicinity of the Hermit Thrush nest under discussion. The immediate surroundings of the nest site were mature hemlock-northern hardwoods and a planted stand of Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). This Hermit Thrush nest was located at an approximate elevation of 550 m above sea level. I did not encounter Swainson's Thrush in this block, although it is present in nearby Allegheny State Park at somewhat higher elevations with similar hemlock-northern hardwood habitat. Eaton (1981) reports the Swainson's Thrush nests in a Hemlock zone at elevations above 1900 ft (584 m) in this region.

Identification of the species occupying the nest was determined by a variety of observed characteristics in plumage and behavior of the nesting pair. The birds' plumages were consistent with Hermit Thrush, having a reddish-brown tail, moderate breast-spotting and a distinct eye-ring. The birds lacked the buffy lores characteristic of Swainson's Thrush, and lacked the rufous dorsal color and larger spotting found on Wood Thrush. In addition to plumage, the birds characteristically raised and lowered their tails in the manner of the Hermit Thrush. The male was not heard to sing during four visits totaling eight hours of observation (3-21 Aug), though other Hermit Thrushes were singing in early August in this Atlas block. The 'chuck' call of the Hermit Thrush was noted. During my final observation of the occupied nest (21 Aug), the edges of the bill (flanges) of the nestlings were observed to be a bright yellow color characteristic of Hermit Thrush nestlings (Baicich and Harrison 1997, p.255).

I made a final visit to the nest site on 31 Aug. There was no activity at the nest, and the young had apparently fledged. During this visit, by direct measurement (extending a pole to the nest), I determined the nest was 7.9 m above

the ground. I estimated it to be 4.6 m from the bole and 3.4 m from the end of the branch in dense foliage. Two living branches of the tree were below the nest branch. The nest branch was about halfway from the ground to the top of the canopy. There were about 6 m of open space above the nest before White Ash and Black Birch (*Betula lentago*) branches formed a closed canopy.



Jones and Donovan (1996) summarize nests of the Hermit Thrush east of the Rocky Mountains as having a mean height of 0.07 m and a range of 0-0.3 m—i.e., generally within one foot of the ground. During 12 years of studying the nesting habits of the birds Allegany State Park (western NY), Saunders (1947, p 219) found nests of the Hermit Thrush every year “...usually on the ground or on tops of logs, mounds or the sides of banks...”—and he did not note any instances of tree-nesting. Eaton (1981) also describes the ground-nesting habit of the Hermit Thrush in Cattaraugus County, but he documents one nest 2.4 m above the ground in an Eastern Hemlock.

Western subspecies of the Hermit Thrush tend to nest higher above the ground than the eastern subspecies (Bent 1949), and Jones and Donovan (1996) report that nest heights can exceed 6 m in the West. Considering the species as a whole, Clement and Hathway (2000, p. 315) report that the Hermit Thrush usually nests on the ground, but occasionally up to 3 m from the ground.

Evans Mack and Yong (2000) report that 70% of Swainson’s Thrush nests in northeastern North America are 1-2.5 m above the ground. In contrast, Eaton (1998) reports that Swainson’s Thrush nest sites in the Allegany Hills average 5.8 m and range up to 9.8 m. Also, eleven of twelve of Eaton’s nests in the Allegany Hills were placed on the lowest living branch of Eastern Hemlock trees, several meters out from the trunk. Eaton’s descriptions of Swainson’s Thrush nest sites suggest that some environmental factor might favor unusually high nest placement in the Allegany Hills. If so, perhaps the Hermit Thrush is affected similarly.

The factors that might cause these thrush species to build nests higher off the ground in this region are not known. One possibility could be the general openness of the under story vegetation owing to browsing by deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Another factor, at least for 2003, might be high rainfall. Weather summaries published in *The Prothonotary* (Rising 2003, Thill 2003, Zebehazy 2003, D'Anna 2003) indicate the months of May, June, July, and early August of 2003 were characterized by high rainfall including some heavy downpours in the southern tier of western New York State. My observations revealed many areas of forest floor scoured by water runoff that removed the leaf litter and reduced the density of herbaceous ground cover. The reduction of ground cover by deer and heavy runoff might promote nest placement above the ground. Eaton (1998) speculates that the placement of Swainson's Thrush nests away from the trunk might help reduce predation by squirrels and other small mammals.

I thank Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, Emanuel Levine, and Dr. S. S. Mitra for reviewing this article.

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AMERICAN GOLDFINCH SONG ASSEMBLIES

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According to Alex L.A. Middleton's monograph for the Birds of North America (1993), the song and breeding calls of the American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) are "characteristic of summer months" with "song heard throughout late spring and breeding season." Perhaps this is true in Ontario, where Middleton lives and works, but on Eastern Long Island goldfinches reach their vocal peak in mid and late April, when the foliage is barely in the first stages of early spring and goldfinch breeding season is still weeks if not months away.

The males, newly molted into their black and yellow breeding plumage, sing long and intense versions of their characteristic "random and warbling" songs. These singing bouts often seem to take the form of song assemblies with numbers of male birds perched high on the bare branches of a circle of trees. These songs are significantly longer, more complex, and more continuous than most of the songs these birds sing later in the season. Sometimes the singers are in adjacent trees, sometimes they are more widely spaced but always within hearing distance and, due to the high perches on leafless trees, usually within visual range as well. In my experience, this behavior appears to involve birds that have over-wintered locally, and the behavior itself might have increased with the steady increase in the numbers of over-wintering goldfinches on LI in recent years (reference).

American Goldfinch is a member of the Carduelinae, the Holarctic Fringillid subfamily that includes siskins, redpolls, crossbills, and Purple and House Finches. *Carduelis tristis* has a number of distinctive traits including distinct winter and summer plumages, the latter produced by an extensive early spring molt that is unique within the subfamily. It is also the latest nester of all our local birds, often raising young well into June, July and even August (Middleton 1993). Like most cardueline finches, but unlike the majority of North American songbirds, American Goldfinches do not defend breeding territories (Middleton 1993).

The songs heard in early spring assemblies differ from those given later in the season, and some additional details might be in order. The vocalizations are quite elaborate and include a variety of notes: the familiar rhythmic Contact Call, a longer drawn-out *wheeeeeee*, typical "*sweet, sweet, sweet*" sounds, and a variety of tweety warbles, generally in a high pitch range. Although Middleton describes the song as "rambling," it actually has a distinctive form and timbre with short, run-on phrases that can be extended and varied over long periods—sometimes several minutes in length. Because the song is high-pitched with a buzzy or sibilant edge to most of the sounds, it is not often thought to be conventionally musical although from a structural point of view, it is one of the

most elaborate and highly developed songs in our local repertoire. Unlike most bird song, goldfinch song seems to pick up strength as the day advances and, in the week or two before the leafing out of the trees, the songs continue throughout most of the day. A recording of American Goldfinch ensemble singing is provided by Elliott (2004).

Occasionally (but not routinely), individual males indulge in a striking circular song flight. These flights, seen more often later in the season, certainly have the character of courtship display but they do not seem to be connected with territory nor do they seem directed at particular females. This “long song,” which is characteristic of the song assemblies as well as the courtship flights, is quite distinct from the much shorter song that dominates later in the season. The latter is the familiar and commonly described vocalization with short repeated phrases. It resembles the common Indigo Bunting song but, in contrast to the bunting, it has a slightly different (“edgier” or “wirier”) quality and is somewhat less stereotyped. The difference between the two song types—what I am calling the “long” and “short songs”—is striking and it is curious that it has been so little discussed in the literature.

Although it seems odd that song assemblies should have apparently escaped the notice of latter-day biologists, they were in fact noted by more than one of Arthur Cleveland Bent’s correspondents in his *Life Histories of North American Birds* (1968). Francis Beach White writes from Concord, N.J. in 1937: “On arrival in the spring, flocks great or small are likely to cluster in the foliage of large trees and singing goes on by the hour.” Bent himself comments on the goldfinches singing “in chorus from the trees.”

John Burroughs is quoted as follows: “When the change [in plumage] is complete, and the males have got their bright uniforms of yellow and black, the courting begins. All the goldfinches of a neighborhood collect together and hold a sort of musical festival. To the number of many dozens they may be seen in some large tree, all singing and calling the most joyous and vivacious manner. The males sing and the female chirp and call. Whether there is actual competition on a trial of musical abilities of the males before the females or not, I do not know. The best of feeling seems to pervade the company; there is no sign of quarreling or fighting; ‘all goes merry as a marriage bell,’ and the matches seem actually to be made during these musical picnics. *** I have known the goldfinches to keep up this musical and love-making festival through three consecutive days of a cold northeast rainstorm.”

There are some differences here. As noted above, it is not clear that Long Island breeders actually “arrive” in spring; they might instead represent the same birds that winter here (or winter birds might be augmented by new arrivals). In any case, song assemblies are definitely a feature of early spring. The assumption that the purpose of these aggregations is to make matches may or may not be correct and the numbers cited seem large (and possibly overstated). But the descriptions of the activity otherwise are perfectly consistent with local observations, even to the point of singing through some heavy weather.

What then is the purpose of these music festivals?

Feeders are present in the area where I have made my observations, including feeders supplying the niger seed that these birds prefer. These feeders have certainly helped to attract a concentration of goldfinches to the area.

But it is difficult to understand any other direct connection between the availability of a major food resource and the extensive song bouts.

American Goldfinch song assemblies superficially resemble leks—display grounds where multiple males display close together, at the same time. True leks are characteristic of the most promiscuous bird species, such as Ruffs, birds of paradise, and various cotingas and manakins, in which social pair-bonds are absent and males provide no resources at all to their mates or young (Alcock 1989). American Goldfinches form social pair-bonds and males feed both their mates and their young. Thus, their song assemblies are not true leks—although they might prove to share some similar functions relating to mate choice.

According to Middleton (1993), “song may serve to attract mates, advertise territory and support territorial defense” but he then goes on to say that “territorial behavior in American Goldfinch is debatable” and “the territorial aspects of song need thorough study.” Their late nesting habits—supposed to synchronize with the availability of thistle seed—apparently affect their breeding biology. As notoriously late nesters, it is not easy for them to raise more than one brood. Females solve this “problem” by deserting their mates, leaving them to raise the first brood while they go off with another male to raise a second.

Because of the obvious costs of abandoning their young to the care of poor quality males, females have a lot to gain from any opportunity to assess the relative quality of their potential mates. In fact, among both American Goldfinches and their relatives, House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), females are known to prefer those males with the brightest coloration, apparently as an indication of health, good genes and ability to find food (reference). Song assemblies clearly would provide female goldfinches an excellent opportunity to sort out male social status and to assess male quality immediately after the spring molt. From the males’ point of view, an opportunity to advertise one’s quality would have obvious advantages if females were at a premium. This appears to be the case among American Goldfinches, among which males live longer than females and sex ratios are skewed as much as 1.6/1 in favor of males in wild populations (Middleton 1993).

Contrary to Burroughs, there are occasional chases between birds, and not all these are love pursuits; I have observed agonistic behavior between breeding-plumaged males. Hill (2002) describes similar behavior in the House Finch: “During the pre-mating period, males sometimes displace one-another from perches, and occasionally one sees males chasing each other.” Are these males simply defending a good feeding source? In my experience, the goldfinch chases described above take place during the music, not during visits to the feeders. In my opinion, this suggests that agonism, like the singing behavior itself, likely has a social function. Although Hill (2002) says of House Finches, “In the absence of territories, male-male interactions play only a minor role in pairing,” it seems quite plausible that, by displacing their rivals during song assemblies, male goldfinches may be advertising their status and quality in front of potential future mates. At the very least, they might be defending preferred singing perches, to enhance their performances.

In a species that is highly social and probably not territorial, social structure may assume an important role in many aspects of its biology including breeding behavior. Whatever their *raison d'être*, these congregations and the ensemble singing associated with them cease abruptly as soon as the trees leaf out. The birds disperse and the majority of them appear to leave the neighborhood.

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A DISCUSSION OF CHANGES ARISING FROM THE FORTY-FIFTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AOU CHECK-LIST

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Supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-List of North American Birds* are now published annually, and the 45th Supplement appeared in *The Auk*: 121: 985-995. The present note provides some discussion and explanation of changes relevant to the NYS Checklist.

Many decisions involved minor alterations of scientific names for the sake of gender agreement between genus and species, two of which affect birds on the NYS Checklist: Spotted Sandpiper (formerly *Actitis macularia*) now should be spelled *macularius*; and Worm-eating Warbler (formerly *Helmitheros vermivorus*) now should be spelled *vermivorum*.

A genuinely significant change is the AOU's decision to split the white-cheeked geese, formerly united under Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), into two species: one retaining the former collective name, and the other to be called Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Using the standard subspecies taxonomy of Delacour's (1954) *Waterfowl of the World* (London: Country Life), Canada Goose now includes only the following, generally large-bodied, geographical races: *canadensis*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *parvipes*, *fulva*, and *occidentalis*. Cackling Goose includes the smaller subspecies, *hutchinsii*, *asiatica*, *leucopareia*, *taverneri*, and *minima*. Finally, the sequence of species in the genus *Branta* should be changed to: Brant (*B. bernicla*), Barnacle Goose (*B. leucopsis*), Cackling Goose, and then Canada Goose.

The vast majority of white-cheeked geese occurring in NYS are large birds that remain attributable to Canada Goose. This includes our feral resident population (of poorly documented subspecific origin), and wild passage migrants and winter visitors breeding at higher latitudes in Canada and Greenland (*canadensis* and *interior*). Even so, Cackling Geese of the subspecies *hutchinsii* ("Richardson's Goose") have been occurring with increasing frequency in NYS, to the extent that flocks are now regular in western NY and singles/pairs are annual on LI. The NYSARC, regarding this form as a somewhat rare and difficult to identify subspecies, has reviewed and accepted numerous reports of *hutchinsii* in recent years. The elevation of Cackling Goose to species rank will require a decision concerning whether or not to add it to the formal Review List.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2004

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THE WEATHER

March provided a gentle welcome to the spring season, with above average temperatures recorded across the state. Precipitation was generally low, although Regions 1 and 2 recorded notable snowfalls. Warm spells in late March proved favorable for a good push of early migrants in many areas. April's temperatures were more typical in western Regions, while eastern New York experienced extremely high temperatures in the third week, including highs of 81°F in Region 7, 89°F in Region 8, and 91°F in Region 9. This southerly flow also apparently contributed to some early migrant arrivals. May varied a bit across the state, but most regions experienced warm spells during the first half of the month. May was also very wet statewide, with Regions 2 and 5 recording precipitation on 19 and 24 days during the month, respectively; in Region 5 this added up to the second highest May precipitation total since 1903. Region 1 similarly recorded the fourth wettest May on record.

WINTER LINGERERS

A number of interesting winter birds lingered from the previous reporting season into March and April. In Region 2, the Sodus Bay Gyrfalcon was last reported on 7 March. Another Gyrfalcon was at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 on 12 April. Fourteen Long-eared Owls in Region 9 constitute a good early spring count. Northern Shrikes were reported in March or April in all regions except downstate Regions 9 and 10, the last on 7 April in Region 1. Bohemian Waxwings carried on from the winter's strong showing, with reports from Regions 2, 4, and 6, where the largest concentration of the season was 250 in Adams on 8 March. A Pine Grosbeak in Region 4 was the only report for the season. Common Redpolls were reported in all ten regions, with a maximum of 540 in Region 3, with two on the late date of 21 May in Region 2. The winter's Hoary Redpoll invasion also carried into early spring, with reports from Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in all but Region 10, though numbers were described as low in Regions 1, 2, and 4. A late American Tree Sparrow was at Braddock Bay in Region 2 on 9 May.

SPRING MIGRATION

Some of the earliest spring movement is seen when ducks and geese follow opening water north. Warm weather in March seemed to accelerate the northbound waterfowl migration especially in northern and western regions. The most spectacular phenomenon this spring was the appearance of unprecedented numbers of Snow Geese, especially in central and western New York. Regions 1,

2, 4, 5, and 7 recorded excellent numbers of migrating Snow Geese, including maxima of 1400 in Region 1 and 5800 in Region 2. These counts, however, were dwarfed by the numbers of Snow Geese in Regions 3 and 5. Derby Hill in Region 5 experienced a “spectacular” Snow Goose flight when, after several days of already high counts of 15,000 – 20,000 geese, an estimated 530,000 Snow Geese flew past in an hour on 26 March. Even this count was surpassed by an estimated 1 million plus Snow Geese on Cayuga Lake—a remarkable count, approaching 40-50% of the eastern Arctic breeding population of Lesser Snow Goose. Both the Region 3 and Region 5 counts, which likely involve at least some overlap, greatly exceed the previous high counts for the state. See the Region 3 report for further details on the sighting there and how the numbers were estimated. The increase in Snow Goose numbers has been paralleled by an increase in Ross’s Goose reports; this spring Ross’s Geese were in Regions 1, 2, and 3. A Snow Goose x Ross’s Goose hybrid was reported in Region 3’s Savannah Mucklands; intermediate-type small white geese are also on the increase, and can cause problems for observers trying to identify Ross’s. Reports of “Richardson’s” Goose came from opposite ends of the state—groups of nine and ten birds were found in Region 1, and a single bird was found in Montauk in Region 10. Interest in these geese will no doubt increase now that the American Ornithologists’ Union has revised North American goose taxonomy, with Richardson’s Goose, among other forms, now in the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) species complex. The Mucklands in Region 3 also hosted a high count of 6000 Northern Pintail. Cinnamon Teals in mid-May in Region 1 and in March in Region 2 were the rarest waterfowl for the season. Region 1’s was the fourth regional record, and first since 1977; Region 2’s was a regional first. Other rarities included Greater White-fronted Geese in Regions 1 and 2; Barnacle Goose in Region 8; “Black” Brant in Region 10; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 10; Barrow’s Goldeneye in Regions 1, 3, 6, and 7; Harlequin Duck in Region 6; Tufted Duck in Region 5; a female eider in Region 4; and Green-winged “Common” Teal in Region 2. Additional waterfowl hybrids reported were a Barrow’s x Common Goldeneye in Region 7 and last season’s lingering Green-winged x “Common” Teal hybrid in Region 10. A rare dark morph Ruddy Duck was reported from Braddock Bay in Region 2. Maximum counts of Tundra Swan were 661 in Region 1 and 450 in Region 3, and the recently-created impoundments at the Wallkill NWR in Region 9 hosted up to eighteen, a good number for downstate.

In Region 10, a basic-plumaged Pacific Loon was found on the ocean near Shinnecock Inlet on 18 May, and a Western Grebe was at Staten Island for a month from early March to early April—the third consecutive year the species has been found in that general vicinity. Red-necked and Horned Grebes were in good numbers in Region 2, including a maximum of 1487 Red-necked Grebes on 3 April at Hamlin Beach. Eared Grebes appeared in Regions 1 and 3. Four adult Great Cormorants flying past Hamlin Beach were a Region 2 high count. As expected, genuinely pelagic species were limited to Region 10, where a 23 May trip from Barnegat, NJ into the New York waters of Hudson Canyon produced Northern Fulmar; Cory’s, Greater, Sooty and Manx Shearwater; and Wilson’s and Leach’s Storm-Petrels. Most intriguing was a bird off of Moriches Inlet on 23 May, which was identified as a Yellow-nosed Albatross. Although the written

description posted to the internet did not firmly rule out other species, the report brings to mind the recent onshore occurrences of Yellow-nosed Albatross, possibly the same individual, in various northeastern states, including one photographed standing on the beach on Fire Island.

Hérons and allies made a decent showing across the state, with Glossy Ibis upstate in Regions 4 and 8; Cattle Egrets in Regions 1, 3, 5, 6 and 10; both Snowy Egret and Tricolored Heron in Regions 2 and 3; Little Blue Heron in Region 2; and an adult White-faced Ibis at Jamaica Bay in Region 10, this last bird only seen briefly on 16 May before being flushed by sirens on nearby Cross Bay Boulevard. A Least Bittern in a leafless tree in Prospect Park on 9 April preceded the earliest record in *Bull's Birds of New York* by a week.

Region 10 hosted a Black Vulture at the eastern tip of the state, Montauk Point. Black Vultures have become annual in spring at western New York hawk watches, so two at the Hamburg Hawkwatch in Region 1 and singles at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill were not unexpected; one in Elba, Region 2, was more of a surprise. Turkey Vultures were noted to be increasing in Regions 1 and 10; the Region 10 editors discuss a possible correlation between Long Island's increasing deer population and the increase in vulture numbers.

The south shore of Lake Ontario is generally the focal point of spring hawk migration in New York, as northbound migrants move along the lakeshore rather than heading out over the open water. Highlights of this spring's hawk watches included two Swainson's Hawks and a Gyrfalcon at Braddock Bay in Region 2 and a Swainson's Hawk at Derby Hill in Region 5. Four Golden Eagles migrating past Wilson in Region 1 on 11 April were a good count there. The maximum single-day Broad-winged Hawk count was 11,639 at Braddock Bay on 19 April. A record single-day count of Bald Eagle and a record seasonal count of Peregrine Falcon were also noted at Braddock Bay.

Sandhill Cranes also made appearance at various upstate hawk watches, highlighted by the remarkable 59 counted passing the Ripley Hawk Watch in Region 1. Seventeen Sandhill Cranes were also reported for the season in Region 2.

There was a good showing of spring shorebirds across the state. High numbers of Whimbrel were noted in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, with a record count of 216 on 23 May at Hamlin Beach in Region 2. Willets were noted upstate in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Wilson's Phalaropes were found five regions across the state, and Red-necked Phalaropes were found in Regions 1, 4, and 5, the latter a first spring regional record. Ruffs were reported from Montezuma NWR in Region 3 and Shinnecock Inlet in Region 10. Region 10 also hosted a Black-necked Stilt at Jamaica Bay. A sighting of three American Golden Plovers in Region 3 was the only spring report for the state. Western Sandpipers, now known to be very rare spring migrants, were reported from Region 3 and Region 5. Even rarer in spring is Baird's Sandpiper—this species typically occurs in eastern North America only when southbound juveniles appear in the fall; prior to this year, there have only been two confirmed spring records in the state. Four Baird's Sandpipers at Sodus Bay in Region 2 are therefore highly noteworthy, and this single occurrence exceeds the previous number of spring individuals combined. Hopefully a report will be sent to NYSARC to document this important record. Wilson's Plover is a

rarity at any time, especially upstate, so it's no surprise that an individual at Sandy Pond was a first Region 5 record. Interestingly, Wilson's Plovers were also found inland this spring and early summer in Ontario and Missouri. The highlight shorebird of the spring was a Bar-tailed Godwit at Mecox Bay in Region 10 on 28-30 May. This is the sixth record for the state and the first since June 1985. Reminiscent of the spring of 2001, when a Black-tailed Godwit appeared in Connecticut shortly after New York's first disappeared from its temporary haunt in Moriches, it seems that the Mecox Bar-tailed was also seen to north. On 5 June what was very possibly the same bird, based on comparison of photographs posted to the internet, appeared at South Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts (remarkably, the *third* different Bar-tailed Godwit in that vicinity this spring). See Ken Fuestel's article on this sighting on page 190 of this issue.

Notable gulls included Black-headed Gull—a single in Region 1 and multiple reports in Region 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull—a late individual on 29 May in Region 1 and Region 2 high counts of five at two locations; a late Glaucous Gull in Region 3; and Thayer's Gulls reported in Regions 2 and 4. Region 5 hosted two Laughing Gulls and a Franklin's Gull. A Little Gull at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Region 9 was a noteworthy regional record; Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also recorded there during the season. Terns made a good showing, with highlights including Arctic Terns—a notable rarity, especially in spring—in Regions 7 and 10, and two Sandwich Terns and a Royal Tern in Region 10. Black Terns were fairly widely reported, but were noted to be decreasing or absent as breeders in Regions 2 and 5. Caspian Terns were newly found to be breeding in Region 7, close to Noblewood on Lake Champlain, where they have been seen in good numbers in recent springs.

Good numbers of both species of cuckoos were reported in Regions 3 and 4, and Black-billed Cuckoo arrived early in Region 8 on 15 April. Common Nighthawks were down in several regions, including only a few reported in Region 4, and one of the worst springs in years in Region 8, where the maximum count was four. An injured Great Gray Owl found in Region 5 on 16 April and taken to a rehabilitator is notable not only for its rarity, especially following a non-invasion winter, but also for the late date. Saw-whet Owl counts in Region 1 seem to be an example of the difficulty sorting out early breeding species from migrants; breeding atlas surveys in early March turned up nine Saw-whets in appropriate breeding habitat, while a month later, nine were also located at a lakeshore migrant location. A Red-bellied Woodpecker at the Boquet River in Region 7 was a good find there.

The warm weather in late April and early May brought a number of somewhat early passerines, particularly flycatchers, many warblers, and migrants such as Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. In Region 1, thirteen warblers species had arrival dates in April, the highest such count in ten years. Similarly, nine of the twenty-eight warbler species recorded during the season in Region 7 arrived in April. Interestingly, an overall analysis of arrival dates showed that migration in Regions 1-7 was early compared to historical averages, but was later than average in Regions 8-10. Birders in several regions commented that the early warm weather also led to earlier than normal leaf-out, making later migrants more difficult to observe.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on 30 April in Region 1 was the earliest ever in NYS. Region 1 hosted Loggerhead Shrike and Sedge Wren, two species of concern in NYS. A particularly cooperative Sedge Wren put on a good show in New Paltz in Region 9 from 16 May through the end of the season.

A Cerulean Warbler on 18 April in Region 10 was the earliest ever in NYS. Blackpoll Warblers were noted occurring in high numbers in several regions, while Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Cape May Warblers were down—the latter unreported in Regions 5, 8, and 9. Unusual warblers included multiple Kentucky Warblers in Regions 2, 9, and 10; Yellow-throated Warblers in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 10; and Prothonotary Warblers outside normal breeding areas in Regions 2, 4, 9 and 10. Connecticut Warblers are rare in spring, but based on previous history, Region 2 is the most likely area for them to occur, so the two found there are not unexpected. Even rarer were two warblers found in Region 10. A Swainson's Warbler singing in a residential area on Staten Island on 20 May was unfortunately only seen during the original observation. A MacGillivray's Warbler seen and photographed in Forest Park, Queens on 7 May will be the second or third record for New York State, pending NYSARC acceptance; this bird was only slightly more cooperative, present for several hours after being found but disappearing overnight.

Summer Tanagers were reported in excellent numbers in Region 10, and a singing bird was found on 15 May at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye in Region 9.

Clay-colored Sparrows, increasing as breeders in the state, made a good appearance during migration, with reports from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 10. Besides those mentioned above, rarities in Region 1 included Harris's Sparrow and the third regional record of Painted Bunting, a male at Tiff Nature Preserve on 12 May. Another Painted Bunting was found at the opposite end of the state, at a feeder in Southold in Region 10. The identification of this bird was confirmed by photographs after it had already departed. Rare icterids included a heard-only Western Meadowlark in Region 1, a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 5, and an upstate report of Boat-tailed Grackle at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 on 19 April. Extremely rare even short distances from its normal Atlantic coast range, Boat-tailed Grackle seems like an unlikely candidate to make an appearance upstate. Hopefully a report will be sent to NYSARC to document this record. One concern in identifying out-of-range Boat-tailed Grackle is eliminating the very similar Great-tailed Grackle, which has been expanding its range in interior western North America, and is a candidate for vagrancy to New York.

BREEDING BIRDS

Breeding activity increases throughout the spring season, beginning with early nesters such as Great Horned Owl and crossbills, through to the end of May, when most local breeding birds have arrived on territory. Last winter's incursion of winter finches, and diligent observation by birders, led to the discovery of breeding activity by Red Crossbills in nine Breeding Bird Atlas blocks in Region 4, where two juveniles were found, and in six blocks in Region 5. White-winged Crossbill appeared in three blocks and one blocks, respectively, in these two

regions; Pine Siskin was even more widespread, and breeding was confirmed in both regions. Grassland breeding birds continue to be a concern; examples from this spring include only one Henslow's Sparrow report for the state this season—three arriving at a known breeding colony in Region 1, only two Upland Sandpipers reported from Region 2, and an on-going decrease in Grasshopper Sparrow breeding habitat in Region 10. Regions 2 and 5 noted that Sedge Wren was unreported for the season. Other downward trends noted were low numbers of Wood Thrush and Veery in Region 2 and declining Canada Warbler in Region 4. On the positive side, Great Egrets continued to increase at the Niagara River rookery in Region 1. In Region 2 there were reports of new Cliff Swallow colonies; also there, Carolina Wren numbers continue to be good. Region 4 noted a continuing increase of Hooded Warbler and "southern" birds such as Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Increasing as well in the region are nesting Common Ravens, which in recent years have expanded into pine plantations from the traditional cliff-side nest locations. Also see the Region 4 report for a description of interesting breeding activity in the extensive Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area. White-eyed Vireos exhibited breeding activity in Regions 1 and 4; additional individuals were found in Regions 2, 3 and 5. Prothonotary Warblers returned to traditional breeding spots in Regions 1 and 5. Sixteen pairs of Palm Warblers at Massawepie Mire in Region 6 matches counts of twenty years ago. In Region 7, a Green Ash thinning project has helped numbers of birds which favor more open conditions, such as American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher, and Field Sparrow. Also in Region 7, a male Wilson's Warbler found on 29 May was possibly territorial. Two Brewster's Warblers and three Lawrence's Warblers in Region 9 are evidence that the area's Golden-winged Warbler population remains at risk of genetic swamping by Blue-winged Warbler. Region 4 noted a good number of confirmed breeding raptors, including two nesting pairs of Merlins. In Region 10, two new breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcons were noted on the coastal plain of Nassau County, leading one to wonder what impact there might be of these avian predators on the area's colonial nesting terns and shorebirds. The Region 8 report contains an interesting discussion of the impact of the spring's wet weather on breeding Spotted Sandpipers.

FAREWELL AND MANY THANKS

With this issue, long-time regional editors Seymour (Sy) Schiff and Alvin (Al) Wollin announce their "retirement" from producing the Region 10 report. Compiling the data and producing write-ups for four regional reports a year is a time-consuming, and, I suspect, largely thankless task. Reading *The Kingbird*, it is easy to take for granted the information in the regional reports, which, along with NYSARC reviews, provides the substantial basis for New York's avian history. Many thanks to Sy and Al for their years of service, and hopefully they enjoy their new status as *Kingbird* contributors!

BIRD OF THE SEASON

Several birds are good BOTS candidates—Region 1 and 10's Painted Buntings, the Wilson's Plover which provided Region 5 its first record, the MacGillivray's Warbler in Region 10. My choice for the Bird of the Season, however, is the Bar-tailed Godwit that spent a few days at Mecox Bay in Region 10. Godwits are among the most spectacular shorebirds, and this individual was no exception. It is also notable as only the sixth record for the state, and for the long-overdue reappearance of the species in New York after an absence of almost twenty years.



EDITOR'S NOTE

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After many years of dedicated service as Editor of *The Kingbird*, Emanuel Levine decided to step down in July of this year. I feel deeply honored that Manny proposed me as his successor, and that NYSOA's President, Kevin McGowan, and its Board of Directors promptly vetted my appointment as Editor at their meeting on 31 July at Vestal, NY.

Commencing with the present issue, my goals for *The Kingbird* are to strive for continuity with the journal's exemplary traditions, and to pursue new directions as appropriate. As Manny so frequently has mentioned, both in conversation and in various *Editor's Notes*, this publication strives to be responsive to its readership as it pursues its function as the primary repository of ornithological data collected by NYS's birders.

As the ongoing acceleration of electronic communication affects all aspects of modern life, including birding, a vast amount of information can be shared rapidly and widely across the birding community. Although the benefits of this discourse are obvious, its limitations should not be ignored. Two of the most significant weaknesses of websites and email lists involve archival stability and quality control. Although the reader will find a number of website addresses in the *Literature Cited* sections of the present issue, it must be remembered that even the addresses themselves often prove ephemeral over very short time-scales. More seriously, as the content of these sites is revised and updated (one of the good things about the internet!), the very essence of any prior reference to them, in any medium, is destroyed. Thus, there really is no substitute for archival media, like *The Kingbird*, which preserve painstakingly distilled data and analysis—along with any shortcomings, gaps, and errors—as a stable reference point for all future readers and researchers.

Established journals like *The Kingbird* also offer advantages over electronic media in terms of quality control. The fluid, minimally regulated content of websites and email lists is one of their principal strengths, but the advantage inevitably comes at a cost in terms of quality control. In contrast, readers of the Regional Reports can approach the data published therein knowing that these data were carefully collected, sorted, analyzed, and vetted by a corps of dedicated editors, specifically chosen for their local and Regional expertise.

This same concept can be, and to some extent always has been, applied to *Kingbird's* feature articles—in the form of peer review. One of my primary goals is to expand the scope of peer review to include all *Kingbird* articles that present data and scientific analysis. In other words, such articles will be read and reviewed by individuals intimately familiar with the subject matter in question.

The prospect of outside review should encourage, rather than discourage, potential contributors, because they can be sure that their hard work will be read by persons with similar interests and passions. The advantages of this approach, in terms of constructive criticism and improvement of early drafts, can hardly be overstated.

I ask that readers consider contributing scientific papers, summaries of longterm studies, photos and descriptions of exceptional bird records, accounts of important birding areas, discussions of conservation issues, birding narratives, and short notes on unusual observations. If an observation is noteworthy enough to merit posting to a website or email group and includes a little background analysis or interpretation, it probably would constitute an excellent short note for *The Kingbird*. My hope is that *The Kingbird* will continue to serve the New York State Ornithological Association as a respected, credible, useful, and permanent archive of our ornithological knowledge and interests.



Mecox Bay, 28 May 2004

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Spring Arrival Dates 2004 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	18-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	10 Apr	3 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	11 Apr	15 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	10 Apr		18 Apr	16 Apr
Green Heron	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr		23 Apr	16 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	1 Mar	2 Mar	4 Mar	1 Mar	1 Mar	11 Mar	27 Mar	6 Mar			6 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	3 Mar	29 Feb	1 Mar	10 Mar	1 Mar	8 Mar	16 Apr	7 Apr			13 Mar	18 Mar
Northern Pintail	5 Mar	29 Feb	3 Mar	29 Feb	22 Feb	8 Mar	19 Mar				4 Mar	6 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	5 Mar	24 Mar	18 Mar	26 Mar	27 Mar	17 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr			30 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	24 Mar	27 Mar	14 Mar	9 Apr	25 Mar	8 Apr	6 Apr	24 Mar	24 Mar	25 Feb	25 Mar	27 Mar
Virginia Rail	9 Apr	17 Apr	11 Apr	1 May	16 Apr	8 May	1 May	1 May	27 Mar	28 Mar	17 Apr	19 Apr
Sora	17 Apr	24 Apr	6 May	5 May	23 Apr	8 May	22 May	1 May	10 Apr	14 May	1 May	28 Apr
Common Moorhen	10 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr		12 May		22 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover		27 Apr	21 May		21 May	25 Apr	12 May		30 Apr		7 May	10 May
Semipalmated Plover	1 May	24 Apr	19 May		10 May	20 May	10 May	14 May	30 Apr	2 May	7 May	10 May
Killdeer	28 Feb	28 Feb	29 Feb	1 Mar	16 Feb	4 Mar	5 Mar	4 Mar		1 Mar	29 Feb	3 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	30 Mar	24 Mar	1 Apr	14 Apr	2 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	2 May	11 Mar		6 Apr	7 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	4 Apr	10 Apr	31 Mar		18 Apr	17 Apr	7 May	2 May	10 Apr	9 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	23 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	4 May	18 May	9 Apr	24 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	17 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	14 May	19 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling	28 May	22 May	30 May		26 May		14 May				24 May	15 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1 May	14 May	11 May	7 May	20 May	19 May	22 May	14 May	18 May	29 Apr	12 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	7 May	1 May	29 Apr	7 May	25 Apr	13 May	10 May	9 May	18 Apr	17 Apr	1 May	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	17 Apr	23 Mar	17 Apr		21 Apr	22 Apr				14 May	18 Apr	20 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	16 Mar	27 Mar	9 Mar	7 Apr	4 Mar	17 Apr	3 Apr	25 Mar			25 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	4 Mar	25 Mar	3 Mar	6 Mar	6 Mar	10 Mar	28 Mar	5 Mar	23 Feb		9 Mar	10 Mar
Caspian Tern	10 Apr	5 Apr	10 Apr	1 May	8 Apr	21 Apr	10 May	22 Apr		16 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr
Common Tern	15 Apr	10 Apr	26 Apr	25 May	30 Apr	8 May	10 May	6 May	17 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr
Black Tern	23 Apr	5 May	29 Apr	6 May	11 May	30 Apr	5 May	21 May	20 May	7 May	6 May	6 May
Marsh Wren	21 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr		28 Apr	18 Apr		1 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr

Spring Arrival Dates 2004 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	18-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	6 May	2 May	9 May	11 May	10 May	3 May	10 May	14 Apr	7 May	29 Apr	4 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	30 Apr	29 Apr	15 May	15 May	8 May	28 May	12 May	23 May	11 May	30 Apr	11 May	11 May
Chimney Swift	17 Apr	24 Apr	17 Apr	25 Apr	17 Apr	6 May	1 May	5 May	17 Apr	10 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	1 May	9 May	3 May	26 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10 Apr	2 Apr	28 Mar	30 Mar	31 Mar		8 Apr				2 Apr	3 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15 May	29 Apr	14 May	16 May	28 May		11 May	29 May	9 May	15 May	15 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6 May	3 May	10 May	6 May	9 May	11 May	18 May	13 May	30 Apr	4 May	8 May	8 May
Alder Flycatcher	14 May	10 May	14 May	14 May	11 May	24 May	10 May	10 May	14 May	15 May	13 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	14 May	10 May	12 May	14 May	10 May	24 May		11 May		7 May	12 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	5 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	19 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	23 Mar	24 Mar	25 Mar	24 Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar	24 Mar	10 Mar	7 Apr	24 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	29 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	1 May	8 May	29 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr
Purple Martin	12 Apr	23 Mar	12 Apr	2 May	20 Apr	2 Apr	23 Apr	21 May	23 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr
Tree Swallow	26 Mar	23 Mar	24 Mar	20 Mar	23 Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar	25 Mar	25 Mar		24 Mar	21 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	7 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr	12 May	9 Apr	3 Apr	3 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	12 Apr	15 Apr	23 Apr	3 May	26 Apr	6 May	10 May	29 Apr	20 Apr	17 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	17 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	4 May	20 Apr	11 May	18 May	14 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr
Barn Swallow	10 Apr	8 Apr	11 Apr	20 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	28 Mar	13 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	23 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29 Mar	15 Apr	16 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr			11 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	17 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	29 Apr	15 Apr	6 May	10 May	29 Apr		16 Apr	4 Apr	22 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		29 Feb	29 Feb	23 Mar	1 Mar	16 Apr	2 Apr			29 Feb	14 Mar	8 Mar
Veery	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	1 May	9 May	12 May	1 May	3 May	21 Apr	2 May	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	8 May	28 Apr	14 May	14 May	9 May	6 May	1 May	5 May	9 May	4 May	6 May	7 May
Hermit Thrush	11 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	8 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr			14 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	30 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	9 May	18 Apr	23 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Gray Catbird	24 Apr	13 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	9 May	29 Apr	29 Apr		27 Apr	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	17 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	5 May	21 Apr		10 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	17 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	16 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	30 Apr		15 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Warbling Vireo	28 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	9 May	28 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	30 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	1 May	7 May	30 Apr	11 May	28 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	1 May	3 May

Spring Arrival Dates 2004 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	18-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	9 May	8 May	2 May	15 May	7 May	8 May	25 May	15 May	6 May	3 May	9 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	24 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	18 Apr	29 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	21 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Parula	30 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	6 May	3 May		28 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	27 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	30 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	6 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Magnolia Warbler	5 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	6 May	5 May	3 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	4 May
Cape May Warbler	1 May	3 May	18 May	1 May		23 May	16 May			4 May	9 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	29 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	6 May	29 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	21 Apr	22 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	16 Apr	5 May	18 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	29 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	6 May	29 Apr	7 May	1 May	26 Apr	1 May	3 May
Pine Warbler	29 Mar	15 Apr	29 Mar	16 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	20 Mar		9 Apr	11 Apr
Palm Warbler	17 Apr	23 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	16 Apr	30 Mar	28 Mar	14 Apr	18 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	30 Apr	11 May	8 May	30 Apr	21 May	11 May		6 May	6 May	7 May	9 May
Blackpoll Warbler	30 Apr	11 May	11 May	11 May	11 May	12 May	13 May	13 May	1 May	1 May	8 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	22 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	30 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	17 Apr	9 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr
American Redstart	29 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	6 May	30 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	1 May
Ovenbird	1 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	21 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	12 May	17 Apr	8 May	2 May	28 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	8 May	9 May	9 May	7 May	9 May		9 May	21 May	11 May	10 May	10 May	14 May
Common Yellowthroat	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	6 May	1 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	9 May	9 May	10 May	11 May	10 May	16 May	22 May	10 May	9 May	4 May	11 May	10 May
Canada Warbler	9 May	9 May	5 May	15 May	7 May	11 May	10 May	18 May	10 May	28 Apr	9 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	30 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	4 May	1 May	13 Apr	28 Apr	3 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	25 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	1 May	30 Apr	29 Apr	9 May	30 Apr	11 May	23 Apr	1 May	16 Apr	13 Apr	28 Apr	3 May
Eastern Towhee	27 Mar	18 Mar	27 Mar	17 Apr	30 Mar	21 Apr	4 May	17 Apr			8 Apr	10 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	9 Apr	28 Mar	1 Apr	10 Apr	31 Mar	15 Apr	16 Apr	23 Mar	4 Apr		4 Apr	5 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	3 Apr	1 Apr	6 Apr	7 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	14 Apr	5 May		10 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	29 Mar	29 Mar	11 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr			10 Apr	8 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	30 Apr	29 Apr	5 May		26 Apr		5 May	14 May	10 May	6 May	4 May	4 May
White-crowned Sparrow	17 Apr	27 Apr	20 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	10 Apr	29 Apr		24 Apr	25 Apr
Bobolink	29 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	1 May	5 May	30 Apr	1 May
Baltimore Oriole	28 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	6 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Overall Average	18 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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March was mild and the cloudiest on record. The average temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 37.1° F, 2.8° above average. There was 3.10" of precipitation, 0.11" above average, along with 20.6" of snow, most of which (14") fell on 16 March during the fourth largest March snowfall in history. The April average temperature was near normal at 46.0°, just 0.7° above average. Precipitation was 3.94", 0.90" above average, with 3.3" of snow. Severe thunderstorms and strong winds hit the Region on 18 April. The average temperature in May was 58.2°, 1.2° above normal, with a chilly first week followed by warmer than usual conditions that helped bring many migrants in a little early. The precipitation was 5.72", 2.37" above normal, with rainfall occurring on 20 days. It was the fourth wettest May on record and third consecutive year with above normal rain in May.

Waterfowl migration was on schedule, if not a little early. A cold front on 8 March grounded some waterfowl, as evidenced by a Long-tailed Duck observed in a field in Alexander. Snow Geese were reported in much higher numbers than usual, including a very high count of 1400 on Lake Ontario off Shadigee on 13 March. Spring maxima for this species are usually in double digits for the Region. Rare geese included several reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, two groups of "Richardson's" Canada Goose and two reports of **Ross's Goose**, which have increased in frequency in recent years.

Great Egrets continue to increase at the Motor Island rookery, but reports were down from other locations. The only rare wader to appear this spring was **Cattle Egret**; the species had a much bigger showing than usual with a total of four birds reported from three locations.

The number of Osprey nests increased by one to three in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR, the only nests away from Allegheny Reservoir. Bald Eagles were again reported in good numbers throughout the Region. The highlight of the raptor migration was a high count of four juvenile Golden Eagles passing over the Town of Wilson along Lake Ontario within an hour and a half on 11 April. Two **Black Vultures** were observed at the Hamburg Hawkwatch this spring. This species should now be anticipated annually at the hawk watches, where Turkey Vultures also continue to increase. Peregrine Falcons were at their customary location in downtown Buffalo and were suspected of nesting again at the gorge in Niagara Falls.

Sandhill Crane sightings have quickly become regular. Fifty-nine were counted at the Ripley Hawk Watch this spring and increased numbers were also observed elsewhere. It is almost mind-boggling for long-time observers to think of Sandhill Crane numbers higher than those of Great Egret this spring season.

Shorebirding was typically inconsistent. The best locations were the new pool east of Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR and Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. The biggest concentrations of shorebirds were around the time of the Buffalo

Ornithological Society (BOS) May Count in mid-May. Very unusual were multiple sightings of **Whimbrels**. This species is frequently seen in high numbers just west of Region 1 along the north shore of Lake Erie in Ontario and to the east in Region 2. However, they are rarely seen in this part of western New York. Rarities included **Willet**, two Wilson's Phalaropes and one **Red-necked Phalarope**.

Northern Saw-whet Owls were well reported this spring. Kurt Fox spent several nights canvassing Wyoming County to add owl species to the Atlas 2000 project. He found Saw-whets in 15 atlas blocks, with a maximum of nine birds on the night of 9 March. Fox described the habitat as typically alder bogs or swamps, often with low scrub and stunted/water-soaked hemlocks, standing dead trees and small patches of open water. Searching by day, Betsy Potter equaled Kurt's high count of nine on 7 April at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park.

Unusually high temperatures and south winds at the end of April brought many early arrival songbirds to the Region from 29 April to 2 May. Bill Watson remarked that 13 warbler species had first arrivals in April, the most in ten years. The warmer weather also prompted earlier leaf-out conditions than usual. So, while it was a good May for warbler numbers, they were tougher to see. Featured rarities this year included one **Worm-eating Warbler** and one **Yellow-throated Warbler**. Several birders commented on the high numbers of Blackpolls around during the last two weeks of May, while a few others remarked on fewer Tennessee Warblers than usual.

There were some very interesting rarities this season. The rarest, in terms of fewest previous appearances, was a male **Painted Bunting**. Nancy and Paul Vigiyan found this colorful songbird with White-crowned Sparrows at Tiff Nature Preserve in Buffalo on 12 May. It was only the third record for the Region, all of which occurred in the month of May.

Bill Broderick found a **Cinnamon Teal** at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR on 14 May. Several other birders were able to see it before dusk and very early the next morning. This was only the fourth record for the Region and the first since 1977.

A **Harris's Sparrow** frequented the feeder of Theodore and Francine Swiatek in West Seneca on 16-17 May. This species occurs a few times a decade. There were three reports of migrant **Clay-colored Sparrows**. This species is a rare breeder in the Region and is infrequently detected during migration.

Other rarities for the season included: **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Eared Grebe**, **Barn Owl**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Sedge Wren** and **Western Meadowlark**.

The BOS April Count on 18 April tallied 147 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. Many of the 22 record high counts since the 1935 inception were influenced by the later count date (due to the timing of Easter). Record highs of note included Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Pine Warbler and American Goldfinch. No record low counts were recorded.

The BOS May Count on 16 May tallied a record high 217 species and record high number of individuals: 115,864. The count compiler was Bob DeLeon. Eighteen species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935).

Noteworthy highs included: Canada Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Least Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pine Warbler and Northern Cardinal. There were no record low counts although Vesper Sparrow was notably lower than usual.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gordon Bellerby, Jim Berry, Bill Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Greg Coniglio, David Cooney, Willie D'Anna, Len DeFrancisco, Michael DeSha, Dean DiTommaso, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Mark Gretch, Don Harris, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Dave & Sandy Junkin, Tom LeBlanc, Lynne Landon, Garner Light, Christopher Marcello, Mike Morgante, Andrew Morrison, Solon Morse, Terry Mosher, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Rodney Pack, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Fran Rew, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, Victoria Rothman, Richard Salembier (RSa), Gail Seamans, Jeanne Skelly, Nick Sly, Robert Spahn (RSp), Francine & Theodore Swiatek, Nancy & Paul Vignykan, William Watson, John Welte, David Wheeler, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazi.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALSP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver 1 SP ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count 18 Apr; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count 16 May; BuSP – Buckhorn 1 SP ERIE; BWWT – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; Carlton Hill MUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM; EvSP – Evangola SP ERIE; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I, NF NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; LESP – Lake Erie SP CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; PG – Point Gratiot CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch CHAU; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WeBSP – Wendt Beach SP ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!); 1-4 INWR 30 Mar-9 Apr (PH, JP, DW, LH), multiple reports but unknown how many total geese.

Snow Goose: arr 4 Alexander GENE 3 Mar; 412 there 8 Mar; 37 Yates ORLE 6 Mar; 200 INWR 7 Mar (JW); 75 Lyndonville ORLE 8 Mar (VR); max 1400 Shadigee ORLE 13 Mar (WD!), very high count for Reg; 38 Hartland

NIAG

21 Mar; 47 Alfred ALLE 24 Mar (EB); 30 SPNS 28 Mar; Somerset NIAG 8 Apr; last INWR 11 Apr; higher numbers than usual.

ROSS'S GOOSE: 2 Yates ORLE 10 Mar (BE); 2 TWMA 13 Mar (KF); reports increasing in recent years.

Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): 9 Newstead ERIE 6,7,14 Mar (WW! NYSARC); 10 Hartland NIAG 7,14 Mar (PY!); high counts for spring.

Mute Swan: BeSP 4-24 Mar; INWR 31 Mar; Amherst ERIE 7 Apr; 7 BOSAC; nesting has spread to WTSP and Pt Breeze ORLE in addition to Olcott NIAG.

Trumpeter Swan: INWR 4 May (GS!), thru mid-May.

Tundra Swan: 56 Machias CATT 6-7 Mar (MD); 80 Hartland NIAG 14 Mar; max 661 INWR 14 Mar (WW); 140 Cambria NIAG 21 Mar; 136 Grand I NR 24 Mar; 550 Royalton NIAG 25 Mar (KF); last BWWTP 9-19 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: INWR 3-4 Apr (JP, PH), rare.

Am. Wigeon: max 198 OOWMA 31 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 INWR 6 Mar (WW! WD!); Pomfret CHAU 7 Mar (TM!); early.

CINNAMON TEAL: INWR 14-15 May (BB, WW!, DH), very rare, 4th report ever, first since 1977.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 INWR 6 Mar; max 157 BWWTP 31 Mar.

N. Pintail: 55 Newstead ERIE 6 Mar; max 92 INWR 16 Apr; 2 BOSMC.

Green-winged Teal: arr 3 Pomfret CHAU 4 Mar.

Canvasback: arr Newstead ERIE 6 Mar; 8 INWR 4 Apr.

Redhead: BWWTP 19 May; max 10 INWR 30 May, breeding location.

Ring-necked Duck: 203 INWR 16 Apr; 760 BOSAC; 57 BWWTP 8 May; last 2 BOSMC.

Greater Scaup: last 2 BWWTP 19 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 207 BWWTP 7 May (GS).

Surf Scoter: arr Buffalo Harbor ERIE 6 Apr (MM); CATT BOSAC, rare inland; 2 Wilson NIAG 9 May (BE); only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 4 Bear L CHAU 4 Apr (TM); 4 BWWTP 7 Apr; 2 BWWTP 9 May (KF, MM); unusual inland.

Black Scoter: 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 25 Mar (WD!); only report.

Long-tailed Duck: Alexander GENE 8

Mar (KF), unusual location; 5 Freedom CATT 28 Mar (MD); 1250 Wilson NIAG 9 May; last 50 BOSMC.

Bufflehead: last 37 BOSMC.

Com. Goldeneye: last BOSMC.

Ruddy Duck: arr 40 BWWTP 31 Mar; max 262 BWWTP 15 Apr; 229 BWWTP 7 May; 32 INWR 16 Apr.

Red-throated Loon: arr FNSP 7 Mar (PY!), early or wintered; 6 FMCSF 14 Mar; 9 BOSAC; BOSMC; last BWWTP 23 May (GS!), rare inland.

Com. Loon: arr 4 Bear L CHAU 4 Apr; 16 Cuba L CATT 6 Apr; last GHSP 29 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr BuSP 24 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 BuSP 24 Mar; 13 Bear L CHAU 4 Apr; 92 BWWTP 7 Apr (KF), good count; last 7 BOSMC.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 FNSP 7, 14 Mar; FMCSF 14 Mar; 18 Olcott NIAG 8 Apr; Oakfield GENE 9 Apr; 37 BOSAC; 34 Somerset NIAG 18 Apr (WW).

EARED GREBE: BWWTP 8 May (KF), unusual in spring.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 10 INWR 4 Apr; 80 Buffalo NR 6 Apr; max 248 Motor I NR 22 Apr; 3748 BOSAC, record high for count.

Am. Bittern: arr 4 TWMA 11 Apr (PY); INWR 24 Apr; Machias CATT 4 May.

Least Bittern: arr 4 BOSMC.

Great Blue Heron: 27 nests Motor I NR May, rookery.

Great Egret: arr Motor I NR 28 Mar (S&TO); max 25 with 20 nests Motor I NR 6 May (WW); 2 BWWTP 7, 23 May; Tift NP 15 May; few reports away from Motor I.

CATTLE EGRET: Carlton ORLE 1 May (KF); 2 BWWTP 7 May (GS!); INWR 21, 23 May (BP, WD!, S&TO!); very good showing.

Green Heron: arr 4 BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 68 Motor I NR 7 May; 96 nests at this site.

BLACK VULTURE: Hamburg HW 22

Mar (WW!); Hamburg HW 19 Apr (DD, WW!); rare but now annual in spring.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 4 Allegheny Res CATT 25 Mar (WW!), continued nesting at this location; 2 nests INWR & TWMA again; new nest location at OOWMA.

Bald Eagle: 13 Allegheny Res CATT 7 Mar (JR); 18 BOSAC, record count; 15 BOSMC; continued strong showing throughout Reg.

N. Harrier: 17 Porter NIAG 5 Apr, in one field.

N. Goshawk: Gerry CHAU 29 May (JB); Chautauqua CHAU 30 May (RR), good atlas finds.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2 FMCSP 7 Mar; max 37 Hamburg HW 24 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 3 Hamburg HW 12 Apr (WW!), slightly early; max 1016 Hamburg HW 26 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 43 S Dayton CATT 14 Mar (AM), traditional wintering location; last INWR 11 May (LH).

GOLDEN EAGLE: FMCSP 7 Mar (PY!); 4 Wilson NIAG 11 Apr (WD!), impressive count; Westfield CHAU 15 Apr (MM!).

Merlin: 5 Buffalo ERIE 19 Mar; last reported at SUNY Buffalo roost 25 Mar; Alabama GENE 10 Apr; Wilson NIAG 11 Apr; Hamburg HW 12 Apr; 4 BOSAC; FNSP 29 Apr; E Aurora ERIE 29 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 2 yg Buffalo ERIE, from annual nest location; nesting suspected at NF as well; Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!); Shelby ORLE 21 Mar (S&TO!); imm Buffalo Harbor ERIE 25 Mar (WD!, DD); INWR 17 Apr; Tift NP 30 Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr 3 SPNS 10 Apr (LH); 2 Collins ERIE 22 May (MG), new location.

Sora: arr 2 BOSAC; Newfane NIAG 23 Apr (WW); 3 Tift NP 9 May; Machias CATT 28 May (MD).

Com. Moorhen: arr INWR 11 Apr (PY!), early.

Am. Coot: arr 22 INWR 31 Mar.

SANDHILL CRANE: 16 INWR 28 Mar (RP), high count; 15 Ripley HW 28 Mar (LD); 59 reported for season at Ripley HW; 3 Westfield CHAU 16 Apr, 12 May (MM!); Porter NIAG 17 Apr (WD!); INWR 7 Apr (GL), 2 May reports here; 3 BOSAC; 3, 1 Hamburg HW 29, 30 Apr (FR!, BC!); FNSP 30 Apr (LL!); WTSP 1 May (WD!); marked increase along migration routes.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Randolph CATT and Hartland NIAG 2 May (MD WD!), early; max 42 INWR 19 May (WW).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 7 INWR 31 Mar; 75 BOSAC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr INWR 5 Apr; max 30 BWWTP 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr SPNS 24 Apr.

WILLET: BWWTP 8 May (KF), rare in spring.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 6 BOSAC.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 BOSAC; 2 Alexander GENE 29 Apr; GHSP 1 May; 3 BOSMC; 2 Tillman WMA ERIE 30 May.

Whimbrel: arr 3 BWWTP 22 May (RSp); 16 BeSP 23 May (JP); rarely reported in spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr Pt Breeze ORLE 16 May (DH, JP); 4 BWWTP 22 May (RSp).

Sanderling: Wilson NIAG 29 May (WD, BP), only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 11 Randolph CATT 2 May (MD!), early; 3 BWWTP 9 May; max 17 Hartland NIAG 29 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 BWWTP 8 May; 70 INWR 16 May; max 76 BWWTP 19 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BOSMC, only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 11 BOSAC; 4 INWR 24 Apr; last 2 BOSMC.

Dunlin: arr 2 Wheatfield NIAG 17 Apr; 3 INWR 24 Apr; Randolph CATT 2 May; 37 INWR 16 May; max 40 BWWT 23 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 INWR 9 May (MM); 2, 1 INWR 11, 16 May; only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 17 Mar (TM); max 15 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 17 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 5 Mar (TM).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr BWWT 7-8 May (GS, KF); 2 Wilson NIAG 21 May (WD, BP).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: INWR 16 May (DH, JP), rare in spring.

Little Gull: Somerset NIAG 27 Mar (WD); 6 Lewiston NR 4 Apr; 2 BOSAC; last Buffalo NR 4 May (PH).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Lewiston NR 28 Mar, 4 Apr (GB, DW), regular in recent years.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1310 NR Apr (GB); 12 BWWT 9 May; 75 FN 28 May, good count for date.

Iceland Gull: Yates ORLE 15 Mar; last Lewiston NR 7 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD); 3 BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 29 May (WD!, BP), late.

Glaucous Gull: NF 7 Mar, 25 Apr; 2 BOSAC; last Wilson NIAG 9 May.

Caspian Tern: arr 4 WTSP 11 Apr; 81 BOSAC; 12 Evans ERIE 8 May.

Com. Tern: arr 2 FN 16 Apr; 100 Lewiston NR 27 Apr; 120 FN 29 Apr; 2 BWWT 7 May; 12 INWR 9 May, in migrating flock.

Forster's Tern: Pt Breeze ORLE 1 May (KF), unusual in spring.

Black Tern: arr INWR 24 Apr (WW!), early; 5 BWWT 8 May (JS); 28 BOSMC; 6 INWR 30 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Tiff NP 7 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Tiff NP 13 May; max 5 AmSP 21 May.

BARN OWL: ALLE BOSMC, very rare breeder.

Barred Owl: Bond L P NIAG 7 Mar (NS, CR), unusual location.

Long-eared Owl: FMCS 1 Mar (BP); WYOM 9 Mar (KF); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 9, 5 Porter NIAG 1 Mar, 5 Apr; NF 4 Mar; Yates ORLE 13 Mar; 3 Eagle WYOM 15 Apr (KF); last 2 BOSAC.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Porter NIAG 1 Mar (CR, JP); 3 FMCS 6 Mar (BP, CR); 9 WYOM 9 Mar (KF), during all night atlas run; E Aurora ERIE 20 Mar; 4, 9 WTSP 24 Mar, 7 Apr (BP), impressive count; Newfane NIAG 7 Apr; Bennington WYOM 15 Apr (KF).

Com. Nighthawk: arr GHSP 1 May; Buffalo ERIE 13 May; 7 BOSMC; NF 18 May; 1 Lancaster 22, 27 May; 2 Hartland NIAG 29 May; Amherst ERIE 30 May; TWMA 30 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr GHSP 1 May (KF), only report.

Chimney Swift: arr BOSAC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr EvSP 30 Apr (DH).

Red-headed Woodpecker: SPNS 15 Apr (LH); arr Alden ERIE 30 Apr (GC); 2 LESP 1 May; 2 PG 1 May; GI 2 May; Youngstown NIAG 8 May; max 4 EvSP 8 May (MM); WeBSP 8 May; Porter NIAG 21 May.

Pileated Woodpecker: FMCS 11 Apr (WD, BP), unusual along L Ontario plain.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BOSMC, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Tiff NP 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr GI 12 May (DR); AmSP 26 May; only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Attica WYOM 14 May (KF); 3 BOSMC; only reports.
Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 INWR 15 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 2 INWR 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr BeSP 6 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Pomfret CHAU, Wheatfield NIAG 25 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr GI 30 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr Poland CHAU 1 May.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Hartland NIAG 27 Mar (WD!, WW!, NYSARC), first Mar record since 1991.
N. Shrike: last WTSP 7 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr EvSP 30 Apr (DH); Tift NP 1 May (MZ!); BOSMC; Wethersfield WYOM 18 May (D&SJ); RTP1 18-28 May (SM, JB), building nest.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Tift NP 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 5 BOSAC.
Warbling Vireo: arr WYOM 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 2, 1 Tift NP, SPNS 10 May; 3 other May reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr GI, PG 1 May (BP!, PY!), early.
Com. Raven: 16 BOSAC; 11 BOSMC; Attica Res WYOM 14 May (KF); Orangeville WYOM 16 May (KF, MM); 2 Ellington CHAU 30 May (MM!); only reports outside ALLE, CATT.
Purple Martin: arr TWMA & Grand 1 ERIE 13 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr 9 Somerset NIAG to Carlton ORLE 27 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr S Ripley CHAU 8 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr Tift NP 13 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 13 BOSAC; 40 BWWTP 8 May.
Barn Swallow: arr SPNS 11 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 4 FMCS 11 Apr (WD); 29 BOSAC and 27 BOSMC, both slightly up from last year but less than peak year of 2002.
House Wren: arr Pomfret CHAU 24 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr BeSP 28 Mar.
SEDGE WREN: INWR late May (PH);

TWMA 30 May (S&TO!); breeds in small numbers in vicinity of INWR.
Marsh Wren: arr 2 TWMA 22 Apr (S&TO), early; LBSP 1 May; Wilson NIAG 5 May; infrequently seen as migrants away from breeding areas.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WTSP 30 Mar; last 3 BOSMC.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 7 BOSAC.
Veery: arr GHSP 1 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 4 BOSMC; Tonawanda ERIE 18 May; last 2 AmSP 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Tift NP 9 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Buffalo ERIE 12 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr various locations 1 May.
Gray Catbird: 6 BOSAC; arr FMCS 25 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: Hamburg ERIE 29 Mar; Cheektowaga ERIE 25 May; Lyndon CATT 26 May; away from typical breeding areas.
Brown Thrasher: arr 8 BOSAC.
Am. Pipit: arr Cambria NIAG 17 Mar; last 48 BOSMC.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 6 May; BeSP 7 May; Tift NP 9 May; Barre ORLE 15, 19 May; 5 BOSMC; Hartland NIAG 29 May; 2 Shelby ORLE 30 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 10 May; INWR 15 May; 2 BOSMC; Stockton CHAU 27 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: E Otto CATT 2-3 May (DC, MD!), early; BOSMC.
Tennessee Warbler: arr SPNS & Tift NP 10 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr PG 1 May; BeSP 6 May; Tift NP 7, 11 May; 1, 2 FNTP 22, 23 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Tift NP 25 Apr.
N. Parula: arr GI, FMCS 1 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr AmSP 28 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr GI 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Tiff NP 6 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr GHSP 2
May.**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 2
GI 30 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3 Lewiston
NIAG 1 Mar; arr AmSP 13 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr
AmSP 22 Apr (RSa).

Blackburnian Warbler: arr GI 30 Apr.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:
Porter NIAG 16 May (BP, WD!, DR!),
less than annual spring overshoot.

Pine Warbler: arr 2 AISP 30 Mar (TL!),
early; 2, 1 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 2 Apr,
29 May (MM!); 13 BOSAC, 12 BOSMC,
record highs; Ward ALLE 30 May (EB);
increasing as breeder.

Prairie Warbler: arr BeSP 7 May;
Almond ALLE 9 May; FNSP 11 May; 5
BOSMC; 2 Andover ALLE 23 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 18 Apr
(WD!), early; last 4 BOSMC.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Pomfret
CHAU 7 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr PG 1 May (PY!),
early; widespread last 2 weeks May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 7
May (TM).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr AmSP 23
Apr (RSa).

Am. Redstart: arr Tiff NP 30 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 TWMA 30
May (PY), has bred in this area in recent
years.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: FNSP 1
May (WD!), rare.

Ovenbird: arr Ward ALLE, Poland
CHAU 2 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr Tiff NP 22 Apr
(WW!), early.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pomfret
CHAU 23 Apr; 2 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE
24 Apr; Ischua CATT 25 Apr; 3 WYOM
29 Apr; 5 BOSMC.

Mourning Warbler: arr TWMA 9 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Tiff NP 30 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr EvSP 30 Apr.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Tiff NP 10 May;
last GI 30 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 2 Tiff NP 10 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Pomfret CHAU 1
May.

E. Towhee: 2 Deveaux NIAG 8 Mar; arr
Stockton CHAU 28 Mar.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Lancaster ERIE
23 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Alden ERIE 10
Apr.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: GHSP 2
May (WD!); Lancaster ERIE 7 May
(MM!), at feeder; 2 Lewiston NIAG 16
May (NS!); all apparent migrants.

Field Sparrow: arr Lancaster ERIE 1
Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Pomfret CHAU 4
Apr; Colden ERIE 5-6 Apr, at feeder; 13
BOSAC; Carlton Hill MUA 28 Apr;
Ridgeway ORLE 29 May; Andover ALLE
31 May.

Savannah Sparrow: arr N Tonawanda
NIAG 30 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 5 BOSMC; 2
Tillman WMA ERIE 30 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr 3 Lancaster
ERIE 9 May (MM), previously
documented breeding colony; only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr Colden ERIE 5 Apr;
last Tiff NP 22 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr WTSP 1 May;
max 5 Tiff NP 10 May; last AISP 23
May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr SPNS 28 Mar.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: West Seneca
ERIE 16-17 May (F&TS, S&TO!,
NYSARC), at feeder with White-
crowned, very rare.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 23
BOSAC.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Yates ORLE 21
Mar; 2 Hartland NIAG 21 Mar; 3

Oakfield GENE 21 Mar; last 2 Pomfret CHAU 4 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 200 Oakfield GENE 21 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Lancaster ERIE (CM!) & 2 Jamestown CHAU 26 Apr (JB), slightly early.
Indigo Bunting: arr Middleport NIAG 2 May.
PAINTED BUNTING: Tifft NP 12 May (N&PV!, NYSARC), male, 3rd report for Reg, all in May.
Bobolink: arr Pomfret CHAU 30 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Hartland NIAG 20 Mar.
W. MEADOWLARK: Bennington WYOM 27 Mar (KF), rare, heard only.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 SPNS 9 Mar; last 31 BOSMC.

Orchard Oriole: arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 8 May (MM!); Somerset NIAG 9 May; 8 BOSMC; FNSP 21 May; GHSP 21 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Colden ERIE 29 Apr.
Purple Finch: widespread at feeders Apr, early May.
Com. Redpoll: 40 Hamburg HW 1 Mar; max 102 Franklinville CATT Mar; 50 Colden ERIE 13, 25 Mar; last 4 BOSAC.
Pine Siskin: max 14 Franklinville CATT Mar; widespread in small numbers; 18 BOSMC; last Youngstown NIAG & FNSP 21 May.
Evening Grosbeak: 14 BOSAC; BOSMC; only reports, all from ALLE, CATT.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The season was off to an interesting start in March, with a notable lack of sunshine. It was the cloudiest March on record. The first week experienced above normal temperatures and was followed by two weeks of cold and snowfall, with a record 11.6" on the 16th. The final week of the month was characterized by above normal temperatures again. The result was an average temperature that was 4.7° above normal at 38.6° F. Precipitation was 2.04", which was only 0.54" below normal. Snowfall was a mere 0.3" below normal at 16.3". April was a more typical month. Temperatures fluctuated throughout the month, with a final average of 45.7°. This was 0.4° above normal. Precipitation was 0.73" above normal at 3.48", due in part to severe thunderstorms on the 13th and 18th and periods of heavy rain during the last week. May ended the season with an average temperature of 58.7°. This was 1.7° above normal. The beginning of the month was cool, while the middle was generally warm, followed by a cool end. Precipitation totals were influenced by a period of heavy rain 22–24 May, with accompanying flooding in some areas. Of the 31 days of May, rain fell on 19.

With the cool beginnings to March and April, arrivals for the early part of the season were slightly late. Thanks to the warming trends towards the terminus of each month, some of the later arrivals were a tad early. May arrivals contrasted

with this pattern as early migrants came in early and traditionally late arrivals were about normal with some scattered late dates. Clear, windy days may have contributed to groups of migrants flying over the Region due to the lack of grounding conditions. There were some good days at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, conducted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and manned this year by Tim Smart, with strong south and southwest winds during each month. The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was carried out for a good portion of the season, with William Symonds manning the post on the majority of the days. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding program at Kaiser-Manitou Beach was a major contributor to the seasonal records.

Waterfowl peaked early and then moved out early. This continued the recent trend. Of note were excellent numbers of Snow Geese, with William Symonds and Dave Tetlow recording an estimated maximum of 5800 in Hamlin on 24 March. These large numbers also contributed to the now almost annual reports of Ross's Goose. Other highlights included the usual scattered reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Green-winged "Common" Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, a rare dark morph Ruddy Duck on Braddock Bay and the Region's first **Cinnamon Teal**, a male discovered in Hamlin on 25 March by Geoffrey Buell and Rodney Pack. Loons moved through steadily, with no noteworthy counts. Horned Grebes were good, as were Red-necked Grebes. The latter experienced some high counts in early April due to conditions conducive to grounding near the Lake Ontario south shore. Four **Great Cormorants** observed by Bob and Susan Spahn moving along the Hamlin shoreline in April were a Regional high count for this species. Waders were generally good, with reports of Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret and Snowy Egret heading the list. **Black Vulture** is now expected yearly at Braddock Bay, but the individual discovered by Bob Spahn and Kinsley Whittum in Elba in late May was a surprise.

It was a good hawkwatch year. The Bald Eagle numbers were excellent, with a seasonal total of 366 and a record single day high of 60 on 24 May. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were good, with a maximum of 136 on 19 April. Golden Eagle totals were down, with only three in April. Swainson's Hawks were reported in April and May. Merlin totals were good, with 27 in April. A gray phase Gyrfalcon flew over on 30 March. The Sodus Bay Gyrfalcon was still reported through 7 March. The hawkwatch tallied a record total of 47 Peregrine Falcons for the season.

Common Moorhen continues to be poorly reported from the marshes along the lake. Sandhill Crane continued its upward trend with up to 17 individuals reported and the Wayne County pair on territory. Typically early shorebirds were late. As the season progressed, things improved with some good counts and all the expected species except Red Knot reported. Good counts of Black-bellied Plover came from Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach in May. The 23rd turned out to be an exceptionally good spring shorebird day at Hamlin Beach, with the Region's only Willet and a record total of 216 Whimbrels. Upland Sandpiper continues to be a species of concern, with a paltry two reports. The four **Baird's Sandpipers** observed at Sodus Point in May by Mike Tetlow were a very rare spring occurrence. Two Wilson's Phalarope reports were good, considering recent trends. Gulls were generally poor, with the Perinton landfill being the most consistent spot for observing Iceland, Thayer's, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous into the

season. A Regional high count of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls was spotted at the Perinton landfill and at Hamlin Beach during the season. Little Gull reports were lower than expected. Caspian and Common tern totals were good, as were the less common Forster's Tern. Black Tern is no longer a regional breeder and even migrants are now few.

The owl migration produced lower than usual counts during most of the season. Late March produced some days with good totals. Kurt Fox carried out a systematic search for owls in the hill regions of Wyoming County. He found Barred Owl in nearly every Breeding Bird Atlas Block he visited and located Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared owls in more than expected. This is a major contribution to the Regional data. Common Nighthawk was interesting this spring. It arrived somewhat early, with a single report in Greece on 30 April. Dave Tetlow recorded a total of 304 in the evening hours of 24 May after having tallied 184 in the morning hours. Kevin Griffith and Karen Huey had nighthawks roosting in their yards as well as feeding at night from 11 May through the end of the season and into June in the town of Greece. They conducted daily counts throughout May. This is by no means an indication that numbers of this declining species are increasing, but rather an indicator of conditions conducive to their presence. Whip-poor-will reports were about normal, with the Rose's Marsh area continuing to be a good spot during spring migration.

A huge surprise this spring was a record early Olive-sided Flycatcher found by Mike Tetlow on 30 April. The usual late May sightings occurred with no reports in between. Flycatchers in general were slightly early and in pretty much expected numbers. Northern Shrike was reported into April, as is typically the case. Vireos were about average, with an above average four reports of White-eyed Vireo and good numbers of Philadelphia Vireos early in their migration period. Common Raven continued the trend of scattered reports, with lakeshore reports from April and May. Cliff Swallow reports were encouraging, with new colonies reported along the Lake Ontario State Parkway. The historical colony at Braddock Bay was decimated years ago with the demolition of the structures on which they nested. They have been a little tougher to locate since that time. Carolina Wren numbers continued to be good. Winter Wrens and both kinglets were noticeably down this spring. Sedge Wren went unreported during the season. In the thrush category, Eastern Bluebirds were good, with arrivals at the early end of expected dates. For other species, numbers were generally low and observers particularly remarked that the local breeders, Veery and Wood Thrush, were noticeably low. Mimids were about average. American Pipits exhibited their usual split migration with the March arrivals, meager April totals and good numbers through May. Cedar Waxwing counts were poor early, but picked up considerably in May. The March report of five Bohemian Waxwings in Hamlin was an early spring, late winter surprise.

Warblers showed their usual mix of highs and lows. On the plus side were Orange-crowned, Blackpoll, Mourning, Hooded, Wilson's and Canada. On the negative side were Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted and Ovenbird. There were good numbers of Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut warblers this spring. Prothonotary is recorded each spring but is quite rare, as is the case for Prairie. The **Yellow-throated Warbler**, observed by Sandra Hazen in Durand-Eastman Park on 1 May, was a warbler highlight.

Scarlet Tanager was early and reported in good numbers. American Tree Sparrow at Braddock Bay Park on 9 May was quite late. Sparrow pluses included good numbers of Clay-colored, Fox, Vesper, Lincoln's, White-throated and White-crowned, although the last two seemed to move out early this year. Some observers felt that Savannah Sparrow numbers were down. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were fairly numerous early. Among the icterids, observers remarked that Bobolink numbers were up, Rusty Blackbirds were down and Baltimore Orioles were early and present in good numbers. The **Boat-tailed Grackle** reported by Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 19 April was the third report of this species for the Region. Purple Finch was well reported this spring. Common Redpolls were recorded on the record late date of 21 May and Pine Siskins were reported through the end of the season. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce.

March's species total was 129, April reached an above ten-year average of 196 and May was just about at the ten-year average at 235. The total for the year stood at 266, slightly above the ten-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Amy's Pd, T Ontario WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; C – T Carlton ORLE; CB – Chimney Bluffs WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester MONR; CI – Conesus L Inlet LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; I – T Irondequoit MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; PA – T Parma MONR; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; PU- T Pultneyville; S – T Savannah WAYN; SO – T Sodus WAYN; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1 ad HB 3 Mar (WS); 2 H 26 Mar (M&JT).
Snow Goose: max 5800 H 24 Mar (WS, DT); last 4 K 2 Apr.
ROSS'S GOOSE: 2 H 8-10 Mar (DT); 1-2 K 20-27 Mar (GC,DS,WS,RS).
Tundra Swan: max 129 E. Barre 3 Apr; last H 13 May.
Eurasian Wigeon: H 25-26, 30 Mar (DT, BC); BB 12 May (TS).
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2-6 BB 25 Mar.
CINNAMON TEAL: H 25 Mar (GB, RP), 1st Reg report.
N. Shoveler: last 6 H 2 May.
N. Pintail: max 1200 BB 24 Mar; last 2 HB 5 May.
Green-winged Teal: arr 2 HB, BB 1 Mar.
GREEN-WINGED "COMMON" TEAL: BB 25 Mar (DT); BB 8 Apr (TS), likely the same bird.
Ring-necked Duck: max 242 BB 14 Mar; last 2 BB 5 May.
Surf Scoter: max 25 HB 4 May; last 4 HB 16 May.
Black Scoter: last 2 HB 11 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last BB 6 May.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: K 20-27 Mar (WS, mob).
Ruddy Duck: max 22 BB 26 Mar; dark morph m BB Apr (TS, mob), very rare, poor photos.
Red-throated Loon: max 78 HB 9 Apr.
Com. Loon: max 350 HB 9 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr WL 6 Mar.
Horned Grebe: max 126 HB 19 Apr; last HB 28 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 1487 HB-K 3 Apr (RS, WS); 665 PA-H 7 Apr (RS); last HB 12 May.
GREAT CORMORANT: 4 ad Troutsburg 18 Apr (R&SS), Reg high count.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr BB 6 Mar; max 815 HB 4 May.
Least Bittern: arr CU 13 May.
Great Egret: arr W 10 Apr.
Snowy Egret: 3 BB 1 May (ST), only

report.

Little Blue Heron: ad Henrietta (RIT Campus) 30 Apr (MZ).
Cattle Egret: SO 25 Apr (D&DT); BB 14 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Powdermill P MONR 20 Mar, still hanging around at winter roost site.
Turkey Vulture: max 1447 BB 19 Apr.
BLACK VULTURE: BB 8-9 Apr. (TS); Elba 22 May (RS, KW).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 60 BB 24 May (TS), record high.
N. Harrier: max 52 BB 19 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1136 BB 19 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 20 BB 19 Apr.
N. Goshawk: max 9 BB 19 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BB 6 Mar; max 393 BB 25 Mar (TS).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 25 BB 14 Apr; max 11,639 BB 19 Apr.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: ad lt morph BB 16 Apr (TS); imm lt morph BB 26 May (TS).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 571 BB 19 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 136 BB 19 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 90 BB 19 Apr.
Merlin: arr 2 BB 11 Mar; max 8 BB 19 Apr.
GYRFALCON: SO 1-7 Mar (LC), bird reported in winter season; BB 30 Mar (RS, TS, CC).
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 BB 27 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr 3 BB 26 Mar; 3 BB 30 Mar; 3 W 30 Mar; 3 WAYN 30 Mar, probably the same birds moving along the shore; K 18 Apr; BB 19 Apr; S 20 Apr; BB 26 Apr; BB, IC 1 May; 2 BB 6 May; 2 S 9 May; CB 16 May.
Black-bellied Plover: 14 BB 24 May; 14 H 23 May; 18-19 H 28-29 May; max 31 H 30 May, good spring counts.
Greater Yellowlegs: last HB 22 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last HB 30 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: last IC 24 May.
Willet: arr HB 23 May (DT, TS).
Upland Sandpiper: arr HB 18 Apr.
Whimbrel: max 216 HB 23 May; 3 HB 24 May; HB 24 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 HB 23 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 440 HB 28 May.
Western Sandpiper: arr 2 Byron 21 May (WS).
Least Sandpiper: max 51 PE 19 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 23 May.
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 4 SO 30 May (MT), very rare in spring.
Dunlin: arr G 24 Apr; max 2240 HB 23 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 32 HB 15 May.
Wilson's Snipe: max 29 H 22 Apr.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr m CU 7 May (JK); m PE 16 May (DSh).
Little Gull: arr 3 ad BB 19 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 10 BB 26 Mar.
Thayer's Gull: 1st yr PE 20 Mar (MT).
Iceland Gull: max 2 PE 17 Apr; last PE 7 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 H 20 Mar (JB, GC); 5 P 20 Mar, 1-19 Apr (MT, DSh).
Caspian Tern: max 102 HB 6 May.
Com. Tern: 11 HB 19 Apr; max 67 HB 21 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 7 BB 19 Apr; 7 HB 21 Apr; PE 2 May (DSh), unusual location.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr IC 19 May.
Com. Nighthawk: max 304 DE-PB 24 May (DT).
Whip-poor-will: arr Rush 29 Apr; max 6 M 1 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BB 30 Apr

(MT), record early; G 24 May; M 25 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr G 18 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr IC 19 May.
N. Shrike: last H 2 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr IC 1 –2 May (BC, RS); G 7 May (TS); M 14 May; M 29 May (ST).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr CH, IC 11 May.
Com. Raven: M 30 Apr (DN); BB 6 May (TS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 83 M 10 May; last M 31 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr IC 11 May.
Am. Pipit: arr Byron 24 Mar; last 2 WL 19 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: 5 H 25 Mar (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr M, LW 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr LW 8 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: M 7 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: M 18 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 2 M 30 Apr; IC 30 Apr; max 3 M 6, 10 May; last M 22 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 90 M 20 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 55 M 10 May.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: DE 1 May (SH).
Prairie Warbler: arr IC, LW 30 Apr.
Palm Warbler: max 67 M 10 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr CH 11 May.
Am. Redstart: max 42 M 26 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr G 30 Apr (RR).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 2 May (ST); CH 6 May (PM, JG); G 11 May (KG); G 16 May (JL).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr IC 10 May, late.
Kentucky Warbler: arr M 30 Apr; CH 11-12 May (GC, DS); G 14 May (RS); CB 16 May (DD).

Connecticut Warbler: IC 18 May (JM);
CH 23 May (KF).
Hooded Warbler: arr IC 29 Apr.
Wilson's Warbler: max 23 M 24 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Leroy 13 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 9 May (TS),
quite late.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Warsaw
WYOM 1 May (JK); G 6 May (TS); G 26
May (RS).
Field Sparrow: arr H 2 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr NR 18 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 H 29 Mar; last 4 M 7

May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last G 26 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: last M 31
May.
Snow Bunting: last 3 H 29 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr BB 6 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: last WL 14 May.
BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: m East
Spit BB 19 Apr (DT), 3rd Reg report.
Orchard Oriole: arr IC 1 May.
Com. Redpoll: last 2 G 21 May (DT),
record late.
Pine Siskin: max 500 BB 29 Mar (TS).
Evening Grosbeak: Churchville 3 Apr;
DE 25 Apr; W 29 Apr.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

Bill Ostrander

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Spring 2004 was generally wet and warm. Precipitation varied from being a little to a lot less than normal in March, but was way above normal in April and May. The precipitation figures from Ithaca were 92% of normal in March, 131% in April and 189% in May. Every month was above normal in temperature: +4°F in March, +0.7° in April and +5.4° in May. Thanks to the warmer temperatures, little of the precipitation fell as snow. February passed a 6" snow cover on to March, but it melted the very first day. Nothing more than a trace occurred after that until 17 March when another 6.5" fell, followed by another 2.4" the next day. This snow kept the ground covered for one week. The only other snowfall of the spring was 2" 6 April.

It was a generally good season for waterfowl. Snow Geese were present in record numbers with more than 1,000,000 estimated at one site on Cayuga Lake. Attempts were made, both in the field and using photos afterward, to quantify the estimate, recognizing that it represents a large proportion of the eastern continental population of Snow Geese. For the interested, photos are posted at: <<http://birds.cornell.edu/CayugaBirdClub/WBird2004.htm>>. Both Snow and Canada geese were in significantly higher numbers for the second consecutive year. This was also true for several duck species, including American Black Duck, Mallard, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck. Northern Pintails were up for the third consecutive year and have increased exponentially, with a 45% increase in 2002, a 243% increase in 2003 and a 504% increase in 2004. With all of the season's rain, turbid water may have been the reason for the decrease of all three merganser species. While Ross's Goose was not noted in significantly different numbers than last year, looking for them among the huge numbers of Snow Geese may have been discouraging to most birders. Jay McGowan and Bard Prentiss managed to

find, identify, and Jay carefully described, a Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrid. Eurasian Wigeon showed up at both the Savannah Mucklands and Montezuma NWR. Jay McGowan discovered a Eurasian Green-winged Teal in the flooded field on George Road, Dryden, 5 March; it stayed through 7 March. Another, or possibly the same one, appeared at the same location 24-25 April. A Barrow's Goldeneye was at Myers Point when the season started and remained through 5 March. Dave Wheeler saw what was probably the same bird at Mud Lock the next day, but it was not reported again.

Loons and grebes were all down in numbers. As expected after last year's record numbers, Red-necked Grebe numbers were down, but still quite good compared with other years. It was another cold winter and there may have been some movement again due to freezing on the Great Lakes. The Eared Grebe continued in Aurora Bay, Cayuga Lake through 21 March.

None of the herons showed a significant change in numbers, but there were some interesting species. An eBird report noted a Snowy Egret at Montezuma NWR on 7 May. It was there the following day, however, when it gained listserve publicity by posing next to a Tricolored Heron for photographs by Joe Brin and members of the Cornell Ornithology Class. Another heron of note was a Cattle Egret at the George Road flooded field on 24 April. Another appeared at Montezuma NWR on 26 May.

The only raptor to show a significant change was Golden Eagle, which was down in numbers. Candace Cornell and Nancy Ostman reported the only Gyrfalcon. It was hunting at Montezuma NWR on 12 April.

While most shorebird numbers were similar to last year's, Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers and Lesser Yellowlegs showed huge increases. High water was certainly to blame for the decline in Spotted Sandpipers and perhaps in Pectoral Sandpipers. Dunlin increased for the fourth consecutive year – a very rare feat for any species. There were a number of very interesting shorebird reports. The draining of the Knox-Marcellus pool in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex contributed to the increased plover numbers and also produced a rare spring record of three American Golden-Plovers, found by Bob Spahn, and two Red Knots found by David Neveu. Tim Johnson watched a Willet fly away from the construction site adjacent to the Hawthorn Orchard, a location that Ithaca birders know as a hot spot for warblers. Bob Guthrie watched 32 Whimbrels fly by at Montezuma NWR and also discovered the Ruff at the refuge's Benning Marsh. The McGowan family, minus ornithologist father, Kevin, but with Bob McGuire and Bard Prentiss, found three Wilson's Phalaropes at the George Road flooded field. Finally, Allison Wells found a Western Sandpiper at Myers Point in Lansing.

There were no unusual gulls, but the usual species were all up in number except Bonaparte's, which was down. Increases by Ring-billed and Herring gulls were the second consecutive for both species. A pair of Herring Gulls was incubating at the Ring-billed Gull colony in downtown Elmira and a second pair was nesting by itself on the edge of another island to the west. About 1500 adult Ring-billed Gulls were in the nesting colony this spring, in spite of having to evacuate the island several times due to high water before egg laying began. Only

the usual terns were around this spring. Both Caspian and Forster's showed significant increases.

The Rock Pigeon's new name seems to have done the species some good. It has shown gains each of the last two years. Hopefully, the Federation's change to the Association will have similar effects on the organization's membership. Observations of migrating Common Nighthawks increased, but there was no evidence that any were staying in the Region to nest. The best passerines of the season were two White-eyed Vireos. Mike Andersen and Tim Lenz found one at Cornell University's Mundy Wildflower Garden and Bob Guthrie found one at Bluff Point near Keuka Lake in Yates County.

In spite of West Nile Virus, all of the corvid species were up, though Common Raven was not up significantly. It was the second straight increase for Fish Crow. Both Tufted Titmouse and the two nuthatch species numbers were up as well. Carolina Wren numbers were down by just over 50%. The difficult winter of 2002-03 did not have an immediate effect on their numbers until after the spring season last year. This winter was also cold and snowy. If there is a delayed effect again, Carolina Wrens could be way down by later this year.

Eastern Bluebird, American Robin and Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrush numbers were all down this spring. It was the second consecutive decline for the robin. The robin's frequent companion in fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, Cedar Waxwing, also had its second consecutive decline.

There was nothing particularly unusual among the warblers. Best was Roger Sleeper's discovery of a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve on the early date of 30 April. Tom Fredericks of Van Etten had the only Cape May Warbler reports. Northern Parula numbers were down for the second straight year. Yellow and Blackpoll warbler numbers were both up for the second consecutive year. From the birder's perspective, the Blackpoll Warblers showed up in numbers too early, signaling an early end to spring warbler migration.

Most of the sparrow numbers were stable. White-crowned Sparrows increased for the second consecutive year. Clay-colored Sparrows returned to the same site in Caroline that they occupied last year. Tim Whitens also found one in the Town of Niles and John and Sue Gregoire banded one at their station in Hector. Red-winged and Rusty blackbirds and Common Grackles decreased from last year, but Bobolinks increased for the third year in a row.

The winter's redpoll invasion continued into the spring season. Julie Siler and Matt Young found a remarkable four Hoary Redpolls in a day of birding in Summerhill. Matt Young also found a White-winged Crossbill in Dryden. Ken Smith discovered Red Crossbills in Fillmore Glen State Park. Pine Siskins were widespread throughout the Region. American Goldfinches increased for the second consecutive spring. Except for the two crossbill species, finch numbers were up this spring.

The following data include comparisons of bird populations in the Region between spring 2003 and spring 2004, with occasional reference to a species' status in prior years. The cited comparisons, designated by a "+" or "-" at the end of each species account, showed statistically significant changes ($X^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). 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*.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BH – Beam Hill TOMP; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CWMA – Cayuga L WMA; CygL – Cayuga L; DLP – Dryden L Pk; DLT – Dryden L Trai; , eB – report on e-Bird; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way; GRFF – George Rd Flooded Field TOMP; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP; ML – Mud Lock CAYU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE; MyPt –

Myers Pt TOMP; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SHSF – Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP; SLSP – Seneca L SP; StP – Stewart Park Ithaca; SW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; TCAH – The Center At Horseheads CHEM; WCB – Wells College Boathouse CAYU; WERF – West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: est max 1,000,000 CylG 11 Mar (JMc, BP), record high; attempts were made to quantify the estimate; *intro*; last MNWR 19 May, +.

SNOW GOOSE X ROSS'S GOOSE (Hybrid): SaMu 11 Mar (JMc!, BP).

ROSS'S GOOSE: max 2 Ithaca 14 Mar; last SaMu 14 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 10,000 SLSP 4 Mar, +.

Brant: arr & max 50 Emerson P CAYU 9 May; last StP 26 May, +.

Mute Swan: arr ML 7 Mar; max & last 3 MNWR 8 May.

Tundra Swan: max 450 ML 7 Mar; last MNWR 19 May (DG, BT), late.

Trumpeter Swan: max 2 MWC 21 Mar; last MNWR 29 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: arr SaMu 28 Mar (GCh); last MNWR 6 May (GCh, DSh).

Am. Wigeon: arr 3 East Shore P TOMP 4 Mar; max 150 SaMu 14 Mar; last MNWR 8 May, +.

Am. Black Duck: max 100 SaMu 21 Mar, +.

Mallard: max 203 MWC 26 May (StF), high, +.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 CWMA 3 Mar; max 40 MNWR 28 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 6000 SaMu 14 Mar (eB), high; last 2 MNWR 1 May, +.

Green-winged Teal: max 21 GRFF 25 Apr, -.

Canvasback: max 200 ML 7 Mar, low; last MNWR 8 May, -.

Redhead: max 5000 CylG SP 14 Mar (KR), high, +.

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 MNWR 17 Apr; last 2 TCAH 15 May, +.

Greater Scaup: max 20 SLSP 7 Mar; last

many SLSP 9 May, +.

Lesser Scaup: max 50 MNWR 11 Apr; last 2 StP 1 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 29 SLSP 9 May; last 2 DLP 9 May.

Black Scoter: Park Station CHEM 15 May (DR), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 30 MNWR 27 Mar; last 2 DLP 6 May.

Bufflehead: max & last 101 Marcus Whitman ECO Property YATE 8 May, -.

Com. Goldeneye: max 100 CylG 13 Mar; last StP 18 May (KR), late.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: MyPt thru 5 Mar (B&GP); last ML 6 Mar (DWh).

Hooded Merganser: max 49 Ervay's Marina SCHU 17 Mar (J&SGg), high, +.

Com. Merganser: max 100 CylG 13 Mar, -.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 20 CLB 24 Mar; last Elmira Dam CHEM 27 May, -.

Ruddy Duck: arr 3 StP 11 Mar; max 21 MNWR 14 May, -.

Red-throated Loon: max & last 2 DLP 20 Apr (BP), early, -.

Com. Loon: max 13 SW 7 Apr; last 3 Keuka L SP 31 May, -.

Horned Grebe: max 58 MyPt 28 Mar; last DLP 27 Apr, -.

Red-necked Grebe: max 13 CylG 3 Mar; last SLSP 9 May, -.

EARED GREBE: WCB 5 Mar (DG, BT); WCB 19 Mar (AMJ); last WCB 20 Mar (TL).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 2 CylG 11 Mar (JMc, BP), early; max 42 StP 26 Apr; last MNWR 31 May.

Great Egret: arr MNWR 12 Apr; max 3 MNWR 6 May; last Chemung R 30 May.

SNOWY EGRET: arr MNWR 7-19 May (MA!, JBr ph, COC, SH, LMa ph, DWi).

TRICOLORED HERON: MNWR 8 May (MA!, JBr ph, COC, SH, LMa ph, DWi).
CATTLE EGRET: arr GRFF 24 Apr (J!&Ke&PMc, AW); last MNWR 26 May (StF).
Turkey Vulture: max 20 MNWR 11 Apr, low.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 11 MWC 3 May (fide CSa), high.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr MNWR 12 Apr; max 13 Mt Pleasant TOMP 21 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 Veteran 17 Mar; last Veteran 26 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Groton 23 Mar; last DLT 18 Apr, -.
Merlin: last Long Pt SP 28 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: max Dryden 21 Mar; last MNWR 24 Apr.
GYRFALCON: MNWR 12 Apr (CC!, NO).
Com. Moorhen: max 16 MNWR 25 Apr (JKr, BO, RY), high.
Am. Coot: max 210 Clute Memorial P SCHU 14 Apr, -.
Sandhill Crane: arr SaMu 27 Mar; max 2 Branchport 6 May.
Black-bellied Plover: max 34 Potter Mucklands YATE 25 May (BBe), high, +.
AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: arr 3 MWC 30 May (BS).
Killdeer: max 9 TCAH 16 Apr (eB), low.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 MNWR 18 Apr (CSa), high.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 MNWR 17 Apr (SH, EH, LSa, BW), high, +.
WILLET: EIRW 11 May (TJ!).
Spotted Sandpiper: max 6 StP 25 Apr, -.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 Fayette 6 May; max 7 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 7 May.
WHIMBREL: arr MyPt 20 May (KR); max 32 MNWR 27 May (BG), high.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MyPt 13 May; MWC 31 May.

RED KNOT: 2 MWC 31 May (DNe).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max swarms MWC 31 May.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: MyPt 15 May(AW!).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max GRFF 30 Apr, -
Dunlin: arr SaMu 10 Apr; max 200 MWC 26 May (StF), high, +.
RUFF: MNWR 7 May (BG, GCa, LL!).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 5 MyPt 15 May (MC); max 8 MyPt 22 May.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: arr & max 3 GRFF 30 Apr (J&Ki&PMc, BoMc, BP), early.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 9 TCAH 27 Mar; max 55 Gibson Bridge STEU 17 Apr; last MNWR 30 May, -.
Ring-billed Gull: max 1500 Seneca Falls 20 Mar, +.
Herring Gull: max 6000 MWC 14 Mar (Sa&StK), high, +.
Iceland Gull: max 3 SaMu 14 Mar (eB), high; last 2 MNWR 28 Mar, +.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 SaMu 14 Mar (eB), high; last MWC 27 Mar, +.
Glaucous Gull: Co Rt 5 Sweet Potato Field ONTA 3 Mar; last MyPt 6 Apr (JGn!), late.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 300 MWC 14 Mar (Sa&StK), high, +.
Caspian Tern: max 18 StP 20 Apr (KR), high; last 2 MNWR 13 May, +.
Forster's Tern: arr StP 22 Apr; max & last 11 City Pier Canandaigua 28 May (eB), high, +.
Black Tern: max 25 MNWR 4 May (MHa), high.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: max 205 CLB 22 Mar (eB), high, +.
Mourning Dove: max 15 Genoa 14 Mar, +.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 3 McIlroy Preserve CAYU 15 May (MY), high.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr SW 13 May;

max 6 KH 17 May (J&SGg), high.
Short-eared Owl: max 6 Canoga Marsh
SENE 1 Mar; last GRFF 3 May (JohB),
late.
Com. Nighthawk: max 6 Seneca Falls 25
May, +.
Belted Kingfisher: max 5 CLB 10 Apr
(CSFO, DNu), high.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Riverfront
P CHEM 30 Apr; Ovid 4 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 WERF
7 Apr (BO), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 12 BH 8
Apr (JMc), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 5 WERF 7
Apr (BO), low.
N. Flicker: max 10 Dryden 18 Apr
(J&Ke&PMc), high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr EIRW 19
May, -.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Threemile Pt
Gulf CAYU 20 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 6 EIRW 19 May
(JMc, BP), high.
Willow Flycatcher: max 10 Danby 31
May, +.
Least Flycatcher: max 15 SHSF 9 May,
+.
N. Shrike: last Stevenson Preserve TOMP
5 Apr.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: Cornell U 1
May (MA, TL); last Bluff Pt YATE 11
May (BG).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr & max 2 EIRW
10 May; last EIRW 14 May, early.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 20 Cayuta 22 May
(eB), high, +.
Blue Jay: max 16 WERF 7 May, +.
Am. Crow: max 600 Ithaca Game Farm
TOMP 1 Mar (KeMc), high, +.
Fish Crow: max 20 Dryden 4 May (LSa),
high, +.
Tree Swallow: max 300 Hile School Rd
Swamp TOMP 25 Apr, +.
Cliff Swallow: max 18 Riverfront P

CHEM 19 May, +.
Barn Swallow: max 32 WERF 3 May,
low.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 13
Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU 6
Mar, low, +.
Tufted Titmouse: max 10 CLB 10 Apr
(CSFO, DNu), high, +.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 3 StP 25
Apr, +.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 Camp
Dittmer ONTA 20 Mar, +.
Brown Creeper: max 10 SW 4 Apr (BC,
CSFO), high.
Carolina Wren: max 3 WERF 7 Apr, -.
House Wren: arr Enfield 17 Apr; max 15
DLT 2 May, +.
Winter Wren: arr EIRW 28 Mar; max 6
BH 8 Apr, +.
Marsh Wren: max 21 MNWR 30 May
(MC, MHa), high.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 SHSF
25 Apr (CBC, StF), high; last Ontario
Pathways Trail ONTA 15 May.
E. Bluebird: max 6 Big Flats 27 May,
low, -.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr EIRW 19
May; last EIRW 27 May, -.
Swainson's Thrush: max & last 3 EIRW
27 May, -.
Am. Robin: max 41 Sullivanville Dam
CHEM 13 Mar, low, -.
Gray Catbird: max 30 DLT 2 May, +.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 LPBP 1 May
(J&Ke&PMc), high.
European Starling: max 1500 Genoa 14
Mar, -.
Am. Pipit: max 100 Fayette 15 Apr; last
many Potter Mucklands YATE 8 May, -.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Lansing 25
Mar, -.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Ontario
Pathways Trail ONTA 30 Apr; max 7
LPBP 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Lansing 6

May; MWC 28 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr EIRW 7 May; LPBP 16 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 6 EIRW 11 May; last 2 EIRW 27 May (SH), late.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr EIRW 6 May; max 2 EIRW 10 May; last EIRW 16 May.
N. Parula: SW 6 May; last EIRW 19 May, -.
Yellow Warbler: max 30 MNWR 19 May, +.
Magnolia Warbler: max 4 EIRW 16 May, -.
Cape May Warbler: last Van Etten 18 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr StP 6 Apr; max 101 Marcus Whitman ECO Property YATE 8 May (BBe), high.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 24 BH 6 May (JMc), high.
Pine Warbler: max 10 Dryden 19 Apr (DSt, SFS), high.
Prairie Warbler: arr LPBP 30 Apr; max 8 Gleason Meadows CHEM 15 May (B&JO), high.
Palm Warbler: max 6 StP 8 May; last 6 TCAH 9 May, -.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 Meads Creek STEU 14 May; last SHSF 19 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 EIRW 16 May (CSFO, JMo, CTH), high, +.
Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 6 May; max 10 MNWR 19 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 18 Apr, late; max 6 SHSF 19 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr W Danby 8 May; max "lots" Moravia 22 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 2 EIRW 10 May; last EIRW 27 May (SH), late.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr LPBP 30 Apr (RS), early.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 14 CLB 22 Mar; last MNWR 1 May.

Chipping Sparrow: max 11 Ithaca 22 Apr, +.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: arr Niles 18 Apr; max 2 Caroline 25 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Hector 31 Mar; max 10 Dryden 18 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr Dryden 7 Mar; max 11 Dryden 5 Apr; last Ithaca 25 Apr, -.
Song Sparrow: max 67 Lansing 24 Mar, +.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last KH 8 May, early.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 Dryden 31 Mar; max 25 MNWR 17 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 50 Horseheads 4 May (DE), high; last Corning 22 May, +.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 71 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 3 Apr, -.
Lapland Longspur: max 3 Lansing 19 Mar; last 2 SaMu 27 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 70 CLB 21 Mar; last SaMu 27 Mar, -.
N. Cardinal: max 20 CLB 1 Mar, +.
Indigo Bunting: max "lots and lots" Danby 31 May, +.
Bobolink: max 100 Danby 31 May (MHa), high, +.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 TCAH 22 Mar, -.
E. Meadowlark: arr Elmira Dam CHEM 15 Mar; max 10 Dryden 18 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 10 SW 13 Mar; max 20 DLT 10 Apr; last 3 SW 8 May, -.
Com. Grackle: arr 2 Corning 1 Mar; max 1000 ML 6 Mar, -.
Orchard Oriole: arr EIRW 4 May; EIRW 11 May.
Baltimore Oriole: max 10 EIRW 11 May, +.
Purple Finch: max 16 Covert 19 Apr, +.
House Finch: max 12 Phelps 3 May, +.
Red Crossbill: max 4 Fillmore Glen SP 13 Mar; last Fillmore Glen SP 6 May.
White-winged Crossbill: George Junior Republic TOMP 5 May (MY), only report.
Com. Redpoll: max 540 CLB 22 Mar

(eB), high; last 3 KH 11 Apr, early, +.
HOARY REDPOLL: max 4 Summerhill
18 Mar (JSi, MY), high; last CLB 22
Mar, +.
Pine Siskin: max 60 CLB 22 Mar (eB),
high, +.

Am. Goldfinch: max 91 Caroline 3
Mar, +.
Evening Grosbeak: max 62 Summerhill
6 Mar; last 2 Summerhill 3 May, early, +.
House Sparrow: max 17 Corning 12 Apr,
low, +.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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March in the Binghamton area began and ended on mild notes, with some more typical weather mid-month. The average temperature was 35.5° F, 2.8° F above normal. March 1st kicked in with a high of 52° F, and the high remained above 40° F for the following week. A snowstorm on the 16th and 17th dropped about 8". The low temperature of 10° F occurred on the 22nd. A high of 65° F and winds out of the south on the 26th were favorable conditions for a push of migrants. The precipitation total for the month was 1.85", which was 1.12" below normal. A gradual thaw created open water in February, and some flooding occurred around 5 March, providing more open areas for migrating waterfowl. April's average temperature was 45° F, about 1° above normal. Temperatures dropped below freezing overnight until mid-month, after which the highs were mostly in the 50s. The lowest temp was 17° on 5 April and highest was 81° F on the 19th. Precipitation was 3.34", slightly below normal. Less than 1" of snow fell in some areas on 5 April. South winds at the end of April and beginning of May were favorable, although over an inch of rain also fell. Early May was warm and in the 70s. Then, after a low of 34° F on the 4th, the average high remained around 60° F. May's highest temperature of 82° F occurred on the 13th. Precipitation was 1.74" above normal with a total of 5.29". A thunderstorm hit on 24 May with damaging winds and nickel-sized hail in some areas.

Canada and Snow geese were seen migrating in great numbers on 2 and 3 March. Waterfowl appeared in fairly regular numbers through March and April, with all species represented except Brant, Redhead, scoters and Red-necked Grebe. The discovery of a **female eider** by Dick Andrus at Hillcrest Gravel Pits, was certainly a highlight. The bird was identified as a Common Eider, although other observers the following day felt that it might have been a King Eider. In either case, a great rarity was seen. At the south end of Skaneateles Lake, breeding plumaged Common Loons were seen in May where they have successfully bred in recent years. An out-of-season Great Egret was found on 21 April in Endicott and a Black-crowned Night-Heron was discovered at Binghamton University Nature Preserve on 27 May. Other great birds in May were **Glossy Ibis** and **Red-necked Phalarope**, discovered by Jim McKenna in Cortlandville, and 2 Sandhill

Cranes observed flying near the Susquehanna River in Oneonta by Gerianne Carillo.

Seven gull species were reported in Broome County during March; most notable were **Thayer's Gull** and **Glaucous Gull**. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in late March and mid-April in Broome and Otsego counties. A Caspian Tern was spotted at Upper Lisle on 2 May and the Weed Walkers had a three-tern day at Dorchester Park on 26 May, with Common Tern, Black Tern and Forster's Tern spotted.

Raptors were well represented, with 13 species reported, many with confirmed nesting. For a second year, **Merlins** were nesting in a Binghamton cemetery, although presence of young had yet to be reported. Additionally, Gail Kirch saw a second pair of nesting Merlins on 6 May not far from the Binghamton ones in nearby Endicott. The Binghamton Peregrines' nest was unsuccessful this year for reasons unknown.

Throughout the Region, owls were reported in respectable numbers, highlighted by a probable nesting **Northern Saw-whet Owl** that called persistently during March and into April in Burlington. Interestingly, the Region's only Short-eared Owl was reported from the same Burlington location. Only a few Common Nighthawks were reported, but both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were reported in good numbers in response to this year's tent caterpillar outbreak.

Three of the Region's rarest flycatchers were seen, which is good considering how under-covered Region 4 is. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Chenango County, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Owego and an **Acadian Flycatcher** at the southeast end of Skaneateles Lake. At this last location, the Acadian Flycatcher was a probable nester, which is quite unusual for Region 4.

There were six Northern Shrike reports, with the last being seen at the end of March. A **White-eyed Vireo**, another rare and possible nester in the Region, was seen during the first half of May at the Binghamton University Nature Preserve. During April, Matt Young witnessed dozens to hundreds of migrating American Crows and Blue Jays moving through Chenango County. This is very interesting since these two birds are often not seen or reported in migration. Others from adjacent Regions also commented about the number of migrating Blue Jays. Additionally, Common Ravens continue to increase as nesters throughout the area. Numerous breeders were seen/heard in various state forests and parks. Ravens seem to prefer nesting on cliffs or even towers, but in recent years they have nested in pine plantations at a number of state forests across the Region and state.

The Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area and surrounding state forests in Chenango County continue to be very underbirded, but an incredibly exciting place to bird year round. It's an extensive area of state forest in southwestern Chenango County that is recognized as an Audubon Important Bird Area. The area offers some really great boreal-like birding in the many continuous tracts of coniferous and mixed forest types. Once again, **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on nesting grounds in mid-May. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in Region 4 where Swainson's

Thrushes can be found nesting. To the casual birder or birder who doesn't like climbing hills to see this bird, this is one unusual area where one can walk along the CCC Trucking Road off North Road and hear all four breeding thrushes without climbing in elevation. Lastly, the warblers one more often associates with more northerly areas, e.g. Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Mourning and perhaps even Northern Parula (given an early July record), can be heard in the area along with Pine Siskins, both crossbills, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven and many other northern specialties. In Otselec in mid-May, Matt Young heard a few night-migrating Gray-cheeked Thrushes and more than 15 Swainson's Thrushes.

There was a handful of warblers seen that are rare to uncommon in the Region: Golden-winged, Cape May, **Cerulean** and **Prothonotary**. A Prothonotary Warbler put in appearance at the end of May at the Binghamton University Nature Preserve. In an area where they've been reported historically, Matt Young observed five singing Cerulean Warblers along the ridge at the southeastern tip of Skaneateles Lake. Additionally, Northern Parula was reported from Otsego Lake, where it has been suspected of breeding for a few years. Hooded Warblers appear to be still increasing in the Region, whereas Canada Warbler appears to be in a steady decline, with only one report.

Birds with a more southern affinity, such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Northern Cardinal, appear to be still increasing in the area. Although most reports are still from river valleys, more and more are coming from higher elevations.

In March, the winter finch event continued. Through early April, moderate to large numbers of Common Redpolls were reported, with a few **Hoary Redpolls** mixed in. Evening Grosbeaks, rather uncommon this winter even though they were due, seemed to stage a decent late winter flight in March, with birds increasing in numbers particularly across Chenango County where many feeders had small flocks of 10-30. However, this species continues to decline in wintering numbers across the state. Eugene Kirch saw the Region's only **Pine Grosbeak** in Vestal on 11 and 13 April. The big story though was the siskin and crossbill nesting event that just continued to pick up steam through late winter and into early summer. By the end of March and beginning of April, **Pine Siskins** were reported from all counties and **Red Crossbills** from a few. Pine Siskin nesting behavior was very common in western Chenango County, where large state forests are nearly continuous for many miles. In the town of German on 26 April, two downy, recently fledged siskins were seen at a roadside, gathering grit with parents. Juvenile Red Crossbills were seen on 8 April at Bowman Lake State Park, where birds had been seen since the end of February. All told, in just Chenango County, Pine Siskins were found in 25 Atlas blocks, Red Crossbills in nine Atlas blocks and **White-winged Crossbills** in three Atlas blocks. This nesting event was very unusual, given that nearly no siskins or crossbills were seen in the northern parts of the state. Birds were primarily seen using the bumper white and Norway spruce cone crops. These are two tree species that are relatively rare in the red and black spruce dominated Adirondacks. **Bohemian Waxwing**, although not a northern finch, but an equally unpredictable irruptive, was also seen in the area with a flock of 35 in March at Cuyler State Forest in Cortland County and a single bird in a flock of Cedar Waxwings in a yard in Morris.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqP – Aquaterra P BROO; BCC – Binghamton Country Club; BPd – Boland Pd; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; GP – Greenwood P BROO; ML – Mirror L TIOG; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow BROO; OtL – Otsego L OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia WMA; SkanL – Skaneateles L; UL – Upper Lisle; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO; WPR – Whitney Pt Res BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1260 Nanticoke BROO 3 Mar; last Chenango BROO 30 Apr.
Mute Swan: last BPd 5 Mar.
Tundra Swan: BPd 14 Mar -7 Apr, 29 Apr.
Wood Duck: 6 Endwell BROO 2 Mar; max 30 Oxford CHEN 22 May.
 Gadwall: arr BPd 8 Mar; last 2 BPd 28 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: BPd 8 Mar-13 Apr; max 20 BPd 16 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: max 12 BPd 24 Mar, 10 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Maine BROO 27 Mar; max 5 UL 15 Apr; last BROO 16 May.
N. Shoveler: arr BPd 10 Mar; max & last 2 BPd 21 Mar.
N. Pintail: arr 2 BPd 1 Mar; max 14 BPd 13 May; last 8 UL 19 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: arr BPd 11 Mar; max & last 8 UL 19 Apr.
Canvasback: BROO 27-28 Mar; 12 WPR 7 Apr, only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 6 BPd 8 Mar; max 50 OTSE 27 Mar; last GP 9 May.
Greater Scaup: WPR 8, 26 Apr; only reports.

Lesser Scaup: arr 3 BPd 1 Mar; last WPR 26 Apr.
EIDER SP.: f Hillcrest BROO 2 Mar (DA), 3 Mar (MP, DW), intro.
Long-tailed Duck: 5 reports BROO/OTSE 25-28 Mar; 2 OTSE 23 May, late.
Bufflehead: arr 2 Hillcrest BROO 8 Mar; max 15 UL 28 Mar; several small groups Mar, Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: arr & max 7 UL 4 Mar; last UL 19 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: max 32 BPd 22 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 4 reports BROO 27 Mar-10 May; max 6 WPR 7 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: WPR 26 Apr (PB), only report.
Ring-necked Pheasant: No. Norwich CHEN 26 Mar; 4 reports BROO Apr.
Ruffed Grouse: 10 reports of singles BROO/CHEN.
Wild Turkey: max 50 Port Crane BROO 15 Mar; large flocks Mar; small flocks & singles Apr/May.
Red-throated Loon: Endwell BROO 28 Mar (ED); UL 28 Apr (NCBC).
Com. Loon: max 6 WPR 26 Apr; 15 reports 22 Mar -26 May; pair seen early May south end SkanL where birds have nested past 2 years (MY).
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 3 Binghamton BROO 25 Mar; last UL 3 May.
Horned Grebe: arr Binghamton BROO 12 Mar; max 20 Hillcrest BROO 27 Mar; last Endwell BROO 12 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr & max 26 WPR 7 Apr; last BROO 25 May.
Am. Bittern: Middlefield OTSE 29 Apr, 1, 5 May(BD); WCM 17 May (MP, SK).
Great Blue Heron: active rookeries in BROO, TIOG, OTSE.
Great Egret: Union BROO 21 Apr (SO, MP)
Green Heron: arr Maine BROO 28 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: BUNP 27 May (DQ).

GLOSSY IBIS: Cortlandville CORT 8 May (JM).
Turkey Vulture: max 19 Vestal BROO 26 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Delhi DELA 7 Apr; max 5 BROO 28 Apr; many reports.
Bald Eagle: max 3 ad UL 19 Apr; nest site Delancey DELA 20 Apr; many reports throughout.
N. Harrier: Nanticoke BROO 10 Mar; steady reports BROO, CHEN; pair OTSE.
N. Goshawk: Coventry CHEN nest site 22 Apr; 4 other reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Triangle BROO several dates 17 Mar - 1 May; 11 other reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Endwell BROO 10 Apr; Unadilla OTSE 11, 18 Apr; other reports.
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Burlington OTSE 2 Mar; last OTSE/BROO 16 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: arr Vestal BROO 2 Mar; max 6 BROO 7 Apr.
Merlin: nesting pr Binghamton BROO, 2nd consecutive year, seen all season; nesting pr Endicott 6 May (GK).
Peregrine Falcon: regular pr Binghamton BROO, nest unsuccessful.
Virginia Rail: BPd 28 Mar; 8 other reports BROO, CHEN, CORT, OTSE.
Sora: WCM 6 May; 2 WCM 17 May (SK, MP); only reports.
Com. Moorhen: UL 11 Apr (JH), only report.
Am. Coot: arr BPd 18 Mar; max 10 OTSE 27 Mar; last BPd 30 Mar.
SANDHILL CRANE: 2 Oneonta OTSE 11 May (GC), rare.
Semipalmated Plover: BROO 16 May, only report.
Killdeer: arr Vestal BROO 2 Mar; max 10 Hillcrest BROO 21 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 9 UL 15 Apr; last BROO 16 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 23 Apr; max 12 BROO 8 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr ML 26 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 Vestal BROO 8 May, only report.
Least Sandpiper: BROO 8 & 16 May; only reports.
Dunlin: ML 26 Apr; Cortlandville CORT 22 May; only reports.
Wilson's Snipe: arr W.Burlington OTSE 8 Apr, displaying; mating pr OTSE 23 May.
Am. Woodcock: arr AqP 7 Mar; max 3-5 NuH 23 Mar; Maine BROO nest site 7 May; ad & yg BUNP 16 May.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Cortlandville CORT 22 May, rare.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 50 Endwell BROO 28 Mar; 41 Hillcrest BROO 14 Apr; last 12 OtL 20 Apr.
THAYER'S GULL: Vestal BROO 2 Mar (DW, MP).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Hillcrest BROO 21 Mar (BG).
GLAUCOUS GULL: Port Crane BROO 14 Mar (JW).
Great Black-backed Gull: 2 Hillcrest BROO 21 Mar (JW).
Caspian Tern: UL 2 May (JH, JW).
Com. Tern: 2 WPR 26 May (NCBC).
FORSTER'S TERN: WPR 26 May (NCBC).
Black Tern: BPd 7 May (DW); 2 WPR 26 May (NCBC); only reports.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Death Valley Rd, Maine BROO 9 May (JH); 11 reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr UL 11 May (PB); 5 reports, mostly from lower elevations than Black-billed.
E. Screech-Owl: 4 reports Apalachin TIOG Mar; scattered along river valleys and farm lands < 1200' and occasionally higher.
Barred Owl: 7 reports, mainly from swamps and wet woods >1000'.
Short-eared Owl: Burlington OTSE 24 Mar (TS).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 3 reports; Johnson Rd Kirkwood BROO 4 Apr; Burlington OTSE 25 Mar (TS).
Com. Nighthawk: only 2 reports; arr BROO 16 May (Team BU).
Chimney Swift: arr Oakdale Mall JC 26 Apr (WW); max 4 Vestal BROO 5 May (JW).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr TIOG 2 May (DK).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports along river valleys and towns <1500'; increasing.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Spaulding/Snyder TIOG 31 Mar (WW).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: East Hill Rd CHEN 17 May (MP, SK), only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr CVSP 7 May (MP, EC); increasing reports after 15 May.
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: Owego TIOG 16 May (C&J Bald), only report.
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: High Vista Preserve s. end SkanL 15 May (MY).
Alder Flycatcher: arr 15 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr UL 15 May (JW).
Least Flycatcher: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 29 Apr (JW).
E. Phoebe: arr many loc 26 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Binghamton 23 Apr (BG); increasing reports after 2 May.
E. Kingbird: arr OtL 1 May (BD).
N. Shrike: 6 scattered reports; last Barker 23 Mar.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: BUNP 1-16 May (VL, mob).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr UL 2 May (JH, JW).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr TIOG 17 Apr (LB).
Warbling Vireo: arr Vestal BROO 27 Apr (PB).
Philadelphia Vireo: Parsons Rd Barker 8 May (PB); only 3 reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: Vestal 2 May (EH), early.
Blue Jay: dozens to 100+ migrating CHEN late Apr (MY).
Am. Crow: dozens migrating CHEN late Mar-early Apr (MY).
Fish Crow: UL 2 May (JH, JW); BROO 16 May; other reports Endwell, Binghamton, Maine BROO in Apr.
Com. Raven: widespread and increasing nester throughout wilder forests at higher elevations (> 1500'), particularly state forest conifer plantations; also nesting on towers and cliffs.
Horned Lark: max 30+ Holland Hill Rd Lisle BROO 13 Mar; arrival of breeding subspecies flocks and flocks breaking up in Mar; nesting Newark Valley TIOG 16 May (DW).
Purple Martin: arr BCC Lisle BROO 3 May (MP); max 3 Endwell 5 May (WW).
Tree Swallow: arr Hillcrest Pits BROO 21 Mar (JW); max 100+ Hillcrest Pits 28 Mar (JW).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BPd 10 Apr (JW).
Bank Swallow: arr & max Susq R Vestal BROO 4 May (MP).
Cliff Swallow: arr Keibel Rd 5 May (JW); max 27 Keibel Rd 18 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 21 Apr (JW).
Tufted Titmouse: increasing nester along many river valleys below 1500'.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread in higher elevation state forests; perhaps increased nesting after last year's incursion?
Brown Creeper: widespread thru Apr.
Carolina Wren: 7 reports different locales TIOG Apr; nesting along many major river valleys.
House Wren: arr TIOG 20 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr Hawkins Pd BROO 9 Apr (TT); fairly common after mid Apr.
Marsh Wren: WCM BROO 17 May (SK, MP), only report.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce before

9 Apr; increasing after at high elevation spruce plantations.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr TIOG 10 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Endwell BROO 30 Apr (DW); local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.

E. Bluebird: locally common before 24 Mar; increasingly common afterwards.

Veery: arr East Hill Rd CHEN 8 May (JW, DW).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: a few heard during night migration Otselic CHEN 15 May (MY).

Swainson's Thrush: 15+ heard during night migration Otselic CHEN 15 May (MY); breeders returned to PharsWMA 29 May (MY); intro.

Hermit Thrush: arr Maine BROO 17 Apr (JH).

Wood Thrush: arr BUNP 1 May (VL); widespread after 8 May.

Am. Robin: max 12 FHNC; low.

Gray Catbird: overwintering bird 1 & 13 Mar Bunn Hill Rd Vestal BROO (JW); arr Port Crane BROO 30 Apr.

N. Mockingbird: scattered overwintering birds Hartwell Rd Maine BROO, Watson Blvd Binghamton, Johnson City BROO during Mar.

Brown Thrasher: arr Triangle BROO 18 Apr (TT).

Am. Pipit: arr & max 20 Hillcrest Pits BROO 21 Mar (BG); 10 Smith Hill Rd Lisle BROO 8 May (JW, DW).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: max 35 Cuyler State Forest CORT 25 Mar (MY); Morris OTSE 3 Mar (JF, GF).

Cedar Waxwing: decent numbers thru Mar; increasing Apr & May; max 73 FHNC.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr & max 2 UL 2 May (JH, JW).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Harpursville BROO 10 May (GK), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: Vestal 16 May (Team BU), only report.
Nashville Warbler: arr FHNC 30 Apr. N. Parula: Clifton Blvd Binghamton 5 May (JS); along OtL where breeding is strongly suspected 10 May (BD), rare nester.
Yellow Warbler: max 6 BUNP; arr 19 Apr (SK).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 30 Apr (JW0); max 6 BROO 28 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Bunn Hill Vestal BROO 8 May (VL).
CAPE MAY WARBLER: BROO 2 May (M&MC); Vestal BROO 15 May (BG).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Barker 8 May (JW, DW).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Triangle BROO 4 Apr (TT); max 6 Port Crane BROO 29 Apr (JW).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Barker 22 Apr (JBW).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Barker 8 May; max 3 BROO 11 May (DW).
Pine Warbler: CVSP 30 Mar; nesting Roundtop P (MP).
Prairie Warbler: arr Jones P Vestal BROO 2 May (EH); max 4 Maine BROO 11 May (JH); local nester in southern part of Reg.
Palm Warbler: arr BUNP 17 April (DK, NK); max 8 UL 29 May (DW).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Glenwood P BROO 9 May (JH).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Port Crane BROO 12 May (JH); max 6+ Maine BROO 16 May.
CERULEAN WARBLER: arr SkanL 9 May (MY); Basswood Pd 24 May (SP, TS); max 5 SkanL 15 May (MY).
Black-and-white Warbler: low numbers; only 7 reports; arr OtL 1 May (BD). Am. Redstart: arr Ely P BROO 4 May (DW); max 6 Fenton BROO 14 May (JW).
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: BUNP 27 & 29 May (DQ).

Ovenbird: arr TIOGA 30 Apr (DK); max 8 Nanticoke L 30 May (MP, MF).
N. Waterthrush: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 13 May (JW).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Long Pd CHEN 18 Apr (JH); nests Jones and Greenwood P BROO.
Mourning Warbler: arr King St Barker 8 May (DW, JW); max 4 Guilford CHEN 17 May (TS).
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Cafferty Rd Colesville 30 Apr; max 10 BUNP 10 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr King St Barker (DW); max 4 BROO 11 May (DW); 1 report CORT; indicates perhaps increased breeding in Reg.
Wilson's Warbler: Port Crane BROO 12-13 May (JW), only report.
Canada Warbler: Maine BROO 16 May (Team BU), only report; perhaps in a fairly steady decline in parts of state?

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Parsons Rd Barker 8 May (PB); max 3 Maine/Lisle BROO 28 May.
E. Towhee: arr Greybark Lane JC 18 Apr (MP); max 2 many locations.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 20+ BP (JW) 1 Mar; last Triangle BROO 11 Apr (TT).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Richford TIOG 11 Apr (DM); max 9 Dorchester P BROO 21 Apr (WW).
Field Sparrow: arr & max 3 Greybark Lane 18 Apr (MP).
Vesper Sparrow: UL 8 Apr (MP); Smith Hill Rd Lisle BROO 29 Apr (DW); only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: arr BP 17 Apr (TL).
Grasshopper Sparrow: Banta Rd Conklin BROO 25 Apr (MP, SKr, EC), only report.
Fox Sparrow: arr Morris OTSE 27 Mar (GF, JF); only a few reports.
Song Sparrow: overwintered Port Crane BROO; arr BROO 24 Mar.

Swamp Sparrow: arr UL 3 Apr (BG); max 3 BPd 7 Apr (WW).

White-throated Sparrow: overwintered in small numbers: arr mid to late Apr; max 8 Greybark Lane JC 18 Apr (MP).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr BROO 2 May (M&MC).

Snow Bunting: max 300 CHEN 15 Mar (MY); last CHEN 30 Mar.

N. Cardinal: common primarily in river valleys, small numbers >1500'.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: TIOG 29 Apr; max 4 Port Crane BROO 1 May (JW).

Indigo Bunting: arr Endwell BROO 10 May (MP, PB).

Bobolink: arr Port Rd CHEN 8 May (JW, DW); "many" there 12 May (WW).

Red-winged Blackbird: arr large numbers early Mar; max 1000+ Port Crane BROO & BPd 11, 13 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr BROO Apr 7 (WW).

Rusty Blackbird: BPd 10 Mar; 2 Port Crane BROO 23 Mar (JW); 5 Afton CHEN 25 Apr (TS).

Com. Grackle: arr large numbers early Mar; max 1000+ Port Crane BROO 13 Mar (JW).

Brown-headed Cowbird: "many" arr Port Crane BROO 13 Mar (JW).

Baltimore Oriole: arr TIOG 30 Apr (JW); max 7 BROO 11 May.

PINE GROSBEAK: Vestal BROO 10-11 Apr (GeK).

Purple Finch: max 25+ at feeders late Apr; widespread breeding behavior in May at >1000'.

House Finch: small breeding number in towns, hamlets, farms.

RED CROSSBILL: possible/probable/confirmed breeding evidence in 10 Atlas blocks mostly CHEN; fl Bowman L CHEN 8 Apr (MY); 1 CORT & OTSE (HK); max 35 Smyrna CHEN 20 Apr (MY); "many" singing PharsWMA 29 May (MY); intro.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: possible/probable breeding evidence 3 Atlas blocks; singing m & pr 2 locales PharsWMA 11 & 18 Mar (MY); max 4 singing m Afton CHEN 11 Apr (TS); intro.

Com. Redpoll: flocks of 50-200 common at >1000' CHEN/OTSE thru mid Apr (MY); max 750 CHEN 23 Mar; last mid Apr.

HOARY REDPOLL: PharsWMA 11 Mar (MY); Burlington OTSE 21 Mar (TS).

PINE SISKIN: various breeding evidence in 30+ Atlas blocks; widespread breeding throughout CHEN, with smaller numbers in adjacent counties; fl German CHEN 26 Apr; max 40+ CHEN 11 Mar (MY); intro.

Evening Grosbeak: small flocks of 10-30 hills of CHEN, OTSE, DELA Mar and Apr (MY); small numbers PharsWMA; last 1 May; continues to decline in state in winter.

Am. Goldfinch: higher than usual numbers of 30-50+ across area at many feeders Mar (MY).



REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The March average temperature was 37.5° F, 3.9° warmer than normal, with 2.03" of precipitation, 0.99" below normal. Snow cover quickly receded early in the month with a warm spell. The April averages were 46.1°, +0.8°, and 3.72", +0.33". In May, the temperature averaged 60.3°, 3.2° above normal, and there was 7.86" of precipitation, 4.47" above normal and the second highest May total since 1903. There was measurable rainfall on 24 days during the month. There was 24.8" of snow for the period, mostly in March.

Waterfowl numbers were generally low to average, but with a spectacular Snow Goose flight. After several days with flights of 15-20,000 Snow Geese past Derby Hill, 530,000 flew overhead in a one hour flight of skein after skein on the morning of 26 March. Tundra Swan reports were few; perhaps so many lingered into January no one bothered to check for spring migrants? Dabbling duck numbers were low and many diving duck maxima were winter holdovers. There was only a single Ruddy Duck reported. The Common Loon flight was not as good as in the past few years, and there were only scattered reports of grebes with no concentrations.

The shorebird season was the best in years, a result of observers in the field and the unsettled weather over the last two weeks of May. David Wheeler spent much of that time at Sandy Pond watching the cast of birds change each day. On one day a **Wilson's Plover** was a first report for the Region and a Western Sandpiper was only the fifth spring sighting. Large numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlin were recorded. Between Oneida Lake and Sandy Pond, there was a record spring Whimbrel flight. A pair of Red-necked Phalaropes at Sandy Pond provided the first spring record for the Region. A seasonal pond in Schroepfel had a Wilson's Phalarope with a good variety of other shorebirds.

Two Laughing Gulls and a Forster's Tern were found at Sandy Pond, a Franklin's Gull was seen in Schroepfel and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in Oswego. Black Tern numbers were very low. We may be close to losing this species as a breeder in the Region. All of the regular owl species were found, although there were only single sightings of Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet. An injured Great Gray Owl was taken by a rehabilitator and shown to Joe Brin. A very rare bird for our Region, it seems more improbable due to the lack of winter reports to our north.

The first big movement of passerine migrants occurred on 17 April with Yellow-rumped, Palm and Pine warblers all arriving in numbers. It was also a good day for sparrows, which had been delayed by chilly weather over the first half of the month. More warm weather from 29 April to 2 May brought in all of the early May migrants along with a Worm-eating Warbler. On 10 May there was a flight of tens of thousands passerines at Derby Hill as birds pushed over Lake Ontario on strong south winds were forced down by storms. Through May, the warbler flight was steady along Lake Ontario, with birds on the move most days, but elsewhere

numbers were low. Reports from St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt were few and indicated only 10 May as a good day. Prothonotary Warblers returned to West Monroe and rarities included White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler and Yellow-headed Blackbird, the latter two seen on the same day at Derby Hill.

Over most of the Region there was little or no cone crop, but southern Madison County was the exception. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins could be found in the area along with large numbers of Common Redpolls and a few Hoary Redpolls. Matt Young found Red Crossbills in six Atlas blocks, White-winged Crossbills in one block and Pine Siskins in over 25 blocks, with confirmed breeding in four of them. Elsewhere, Common Redpolls were widespread and several Hoaries were reported. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were in the Tug Hill. Adirondack reports were few but indicated no finches.

For the season, 253 species were seen, the highest total in at least 25 years. Highlights were Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Wilson's Plover**, Western Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Laughing Gull, **Great Gray Owl**, White-eyed Vireo, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird and the winter finches. Species not reported this season included Surf Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Cape May Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; DeR – DeRuyter; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Pt area, Scriba and New Haven; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SCH – T Schroepfel; SE – Sithe Energy, Scriba; SPd – Sandy Pd; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 530,000 DH 26 Mar (KM, GP, JT).

Canada Goose: max 12,000 SVB 24 Mar.

Brant: max 2165 DH 20 May.

Mute Swan: max 6 FH 6 Mar.

Tundra Swan: max 5 DH 7 Mar.

Gadwall: max 14 FH 14 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: TRWMA 11 Apr (JB).

Am. Wigeon: max 120 TRWMA 3 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 75 Verona 5 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 14 Scriba 8 May.

N. Shoveler: max 8 WM 1 Apr; last SPd 23 May.

N. Pintail: max 60 TRWMA 3 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 115 CM 21 Apr.
Canvasback: max 6 FH 6 Mar.
Redhead: max 50 OnonL 13 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 230 FH 14 Mar.
TUFTED DUCK: FH thru 14 Mar, winter holdover.
Greater Scaup: max 2100 FH 14 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 140 FH 6 Mar; last 2 FH 15 May.
White-winged Scoter: max 60 Oswego 7 Mar; 39 OneiL 21 May.
Black Scoter: NMP 1 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: max 108 Oswego 28 Mar.
Bufflehead: max 114 Constantia 23 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 1800 FH 6 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 1800 OnonL 13 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: OneiL 30 Apr, only report.
Red-throated Loon: 1-2 Oswego to 20 Mar; Oswego 15 May.

Com. Loon: max 70 DH 17 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: migrants 1-4 per day; increasing as breeder on beaver ponds.
Horned Grebe: arr OnonL 21 Mar; max 6 per day.
Red-necked Grebe: Oswego 6 Mar, 7 Apr; NMP 1-9 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 14 Mar.
Am. Bittern: max 2-3 per day WM and SCH.
Least Bittern: max 3 SCH 15 May; CM 15 May; 2 UM 25 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr DH 20 Mar.
Great Egret: WM 23 Apr thru; SCH 24 May.
CATTLE EGRET: Camillus after 20 May (PR, mob).
Green Heron: max 14 CM 15 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SCH 23 May.
Black Vulture: DH 23 Apr, not part of DH count since it was flying west (GP).

HAWKS – ALCIDS
Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	1025	29 Mar	6676
Osprey	29 Mar	54	10 May	343
Bald Eagle	5 Mar	27	14 May	228
N. Harrier	1 Mar	50	21 Apr	596
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7 Mar	344	19 Apr	2732
Cooper's Hawk	2 Mar	67	29 Mar	452
N. Goshawk	1 Mar	7	11 Mar	54
Red-shouldered Hawk	10 Mar	294	28 Mar	930
Broad-winged Hawk	16 Apr	6445	19 Apr	12661
Red-tailed Hawk	29 Feb	676	29 Mar	4770
Rough-legged Hawk	1 Mar	71	29 Mar	462
Golden Eagle	7 Mar	16	29 Mar	55
Am. Kestrel	5 Mar	68	18 Apr	354
Merlin	5 Mar	8	18 Apr	24
Peregrine Falcon	7 Mar	4	10 May	15
Total, including unidentified & rarities				30302

Bald Eagle: 6 Redfield on deer carcass 4 Mar; 2 TRWMA after 28 Mar, ad m & imm f should nest in 2005.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: DH 24 May.

Golden Eagle: subadult Geo 12-13 Mar, wintered locally?

Merlin: m on territory Stillwater Res 27 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: breeding confirmed Syr 26 May, ONON first.

Virginia Rail: max 4 CM 15 May.

Sora: max 4 CM 15 May.

Com. Moorhen: max 2-3 per day.

Am. Coot: 2 Syr 7 Mar overwintered; no spring migrants reported.

Sandhill Crane: Howland Is WMA 10 Apr, probable breeder from nearby WAYN; 4 DH 28 Mar; DH 16 Apr; DH 10 May; DH 26 May.

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 SCH 28 May.

WILSON'S PLOVER: SPd 21 May (DW, KM ph, NYSARC), first Reg report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 33 SCH 24 May.

Killdeer: max 53 DH 25 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 SCH 28 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 SCH 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 DH 10 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: 3-4 per day many sites in May.

Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Fulton 14 Apr.

Whimbrel: max 20 Oneil 19 May (JC); 8 SPd 22 May (BP); SPd 23 May (DW); record spring numbers.

Ruddy Turnstone: singles SPd 23-28 May; max 2 SPd 29 May.

Red Knot: SPd 29 May, only report.

Sanderling: 2 SPd 27 May, only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30-150 per day SPd after 21 May.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: SPd 21 May, 5th spring report (DW, NYSARC).

Least Sandpiper: max 12 SPd 22 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 WM 22 Apr.

Dunlin: max 320 SPd 23 May; 175 SCH 23 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 WM 15 May; SPd 21 May; only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: max 10 SCH 21 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: max 15 TRWMA 24 Apr; 11 CM 6 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: SCH 23 May (KM).

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 SPd 23 May (DW).

LAUGHING GULL: SPd 23 May (DW, ph); different bird SPd 27 May (DW).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: SCH 25 May (KM, JT, mob).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 DH 12 Apr; max 13 DH 14 Apr.

Iceland Gull: Cicero 13 Mar; 3 Oswego 7 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: singles Oswego 7 Apr (GP) & 15 May (AV, NV).

Glaucous Gull: last OnonL 6 Mar.

Caspian Tern: max 170 SPd 22 May.

Com. Tern: nesting SPd on Carl I 27 May.

Forster's Tern: SPd 29 May (DW).

Black Tern: max 4 SSSP after 14 May, discouraging numbers.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: widespread even by mid-May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Camillus 12 May; about 8 other reports.

Snowy Owl: singles Sterling 4 Mar & Cazenovia 9 Mar.

GREAT GRAY OWL: Clay, injured and picked up by rehabilitator Jean Soprano, 16 Apr, especially surprising in a non-invasion year (JB).

Long-eared Owl: 1-3 per day NMP 3-23 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: DH 16 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: NMP 23 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: max 4 DH 16 May.

Whip-poor-will: "arr" Constantia 15 May, likely present earlier.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr DH 30 Apr; SE 9 May, excavating nest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3-4 per day LOL, mostly 17-30 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: South L HERK 27 Mar, slightly south of expected range.
N. Flicker: max 219 DH 17 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Labrador Hollow 29 May, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 Pompey 26 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Syr 13 May; 3 other reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: 2-4 per day LOL after 20 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 11 CM 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 10 LOL 12 May.
E. Phoebe: max 24 DH 17 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: peak 15 May, "calling everywhere."
E. Kingbird: max 30 DH 14 May.
N. Shrike: 4 singles thru 12 Mar; last Happy Valley WMA 25 Mar.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: SSSP 12 May (DN, KM, mob).
Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 LOL 23 May; 3 other reports, all LOL.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 52 Pompey 26 Apr.
Blue Jay: max 11,780 DH 10 May.
Am. Crow: max 3285 DH 11 Mar.
Fish Crow: 2 OnonL 21 Mar; max 4 Syr 21 Mar.
Com. Raven: singles DH 5, 31 Mar, 5 May; Oswego 23 May, seemed out of place.
Horned Lark: max 50 New Woodstock 20 Mar; widespread but no large flocks.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 45 DH 18 Apr, small return flight.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants only 1-2 per day LOL in Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 10 DH 12 Apr.
Winter Wren: max 6 NMP 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: max 29 CM 15 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 26 Mar; max 20 S Onondaga 9 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 24 NMP 17 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 8 WM 6 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Schiller P 21 May; 2 Scriba 23 May; Pratts Falls 29 May; many nocturnal calls DH 23-24 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 5 Scriba 23 May; many nocturnal calls DH 23-24 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 18 NMP 17 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 53 CM 15 May.
Am. Robin: max 11,000 DH 25 Mar.
Gray Catbird: max 62 CM 15 May.
N. Mockingbird: Carleys Mill 5 May; Fernwood 9 May; pr Griffiss AFB after 26 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 DH 24 Mar; max 50 Van Buren 19 Apr.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 180 DH 14 Mar; 50-60 per day Tioghnioaga WMA thru 20 Mar.
Cedar Waxwing: max 470 DH 20 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Oswego 29 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 May; migrants only 1 per day.
"Brewster's" Warbler: about 7 reports.
Tennessee Warbler: max only 3 per day late May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: SE 1 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 20 DH 10 May.
N. Parula: max 7 LOL 9 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 50 DH 14 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 Oswego 23 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 22 Oswego 23 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3500 DH 10 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 DH 10 May.
Pine Warbler: max 10 Noyes 18 Apr; last LOL 26 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:

DH 23 Apr (GP ph, DW, NYSARC).

Prairie Warbler: arr 2 Geo 1 May; 2 reports LOL May.

Palm Warbler: max 50+ DH 5 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max only 1-2 per day.

Blackpoll Warbler: 10 CM 15 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Toad Harbor 6 May.

Am. Redstart: max 25 DH 10 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr Toad Harbor 14 May.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: NMP 29 Apr (KM, mob).

N. Waterthrush: max 8 Labrador Pd 18 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 18 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: max 4 WH 22 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 50 CM 15 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 22 Apr, early.

Wilson's Warbler: max 6 Oswego 23 May.

Canada Warbler: max 3 Labrador Pd 18 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 35 DH 10 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 52 Durhamville 17 Mar; last T Onondaga 27 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: CM 19 Apr (DN); DH 29 Apr (GP).

Field Sparrow: arr Clay 9 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: max 5 NMP 23 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: max 5 Western 8 Apr and NMP 17 Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 90 NMP 17 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DH 27 Apr, early; 1-3 per day LOL May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 55 NMP 17 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: last Geo 26 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 245 NMP 17 May.

Lapland Longspur: 2 New Woodstock 20 Mar; 2 DH 30 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 300 Lysander 6 Mar; 100 New Hartford 22 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 70 DH 10 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 DH 20 May.

Bobolink: max 2500 DH 10 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000+ DH 11 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: max 200 DH 26 Mar.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: DH 23 Apr (GP).

Rusty Blackbird: Geo 3 Mar; max 450 CM 16 Apr.

Com. Grackle: arr 1 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: Camillus 10 May; Tully 12 May; Cross L 16 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 1450 DH 10 May.

Purple Finch: 1-4 per day Geo-DeR in Mar; migrants noted 1 Apr; max 750 DH 10 May.

Red Crossbill: juv Geo 16 Mar; Western 27 Mar; found in 6 Atlas blocks MADI (MY).

White-winged Crossbill: Geo 1 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: max 2000 DH 30 Mar; 500 per day in southern highlands thru Mar; last 6 Deerfield 11 May.

Hoary Redpoll: DH 1 Mar; Geo 8 Mar; Sauquoit 16 Mar; Hastings 16 Mar; 2 Geo 18 Mar; 6 Geo-DeR 20 Mar; DH 21 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 100 Geo-DeR 8 Mar and 40-70 per day thru; breeding activity with several pairs copulating Geo 14 Apr.

Am. Goldfinch: max 5000 DH 10 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 60 Geo 5 Mar; 20 per day Boylston to early Apr.



REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March weather was a pleasant change from frigid February, as a slow moving low pressure system in the Ohio River Valley brought warm south winds and temperatures in the 40s for the first ten days. As bays and rivers opened up, ducks and geese arrived in large numbers. Except for a few days of temperatures in the 30s in mid month, the remainder of March was above 40° F. An Arctic cold front during the first week in April kept temperatures below 40° F, but south winds returned and the remainder of the month was warmer than average. March and April had average precipitation. As the snow pack melted, streams, rivers and marshes were flooded well into May. A warm front during the first week of May was followed by a cold front, with temperatures in the 30s. Gouverneur had the lowest temperature, 26° F on 8 May. Thereafter, May was somewhat cool, with average temperatures of 63 to 67° F. May precipitation was average with the exception of the Tug Hill, which had 2" above the norm.

Due to favorable weather conditions, the waterfowl migration was on time. Snow Gooe numbers however, dropped from 300 in 2003 to ten this year. Clearly their migration path changed again, and they may become scarce, as they were some years ago. Twenty-two species of ducks were reported. Large flocks were confined to only two species: 5000 Greater Scaup at Wellesly Island on the St. Lawrence River and 220 Bufflehead at Pillar Point on Lake Ontario.

Coverage of the Region this spring was the best ever, mainly due to the fact that 12 out of the 14 observers are active in the Breeding Bird Atlas, and they were spread out through the Region, checking out their blocks rather than bunching up at the popular bird spots. Jeff Bolsinger is covering the western slope of the Adirondacks just outside the Park in places where no one has birded in recent memory. Among his discoveries were: Louisiana Waterthrush singing for two weeks and the only reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Canada Warbler. Joan Collins took a field trip through Massawepie Mire and found 16 pairs of Palm Warblers. This matches the counts of the species 20 years ago and is a good sign of the stability of the area. The largest number of Bohemian Waxwings, 250, was located in the Town of Adams, Jefferson County, on 8 March.

The total number of species counted was 176, with a total of 30 species of warblers. Rarities included; Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid, Cattle Egret, Northern Saw-whet Owl, "Brewster's" Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRV – Black R Valley LEWI; CI – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; EB – Eel Bay WI Orleans JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FL – Fishers Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; MM – Massawepie Mire T Colton STLA; Mon Pt – Montario Pt T Ellisburg JEFF; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course Canton STLA; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SH – Sackets Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; StPt – Stony Pt THEN; TBr – T Brownsville JEFF; Ted – T Edwards STLA; TEI – T Ellisburg JEFF; THEN – T Henderson JEFF; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Masena STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; TPhil – T Philadelphia JEFF; TPot – T Potsdam STLA; TTh – T Theresa JEFF; TWad – T Waddington STLA; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay, L Ontario CV; WesB – Wescott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 10 TMas 18 Mar.
Canada Goose: arr Potsdam 1 Mar; max 800-1000 THou 9 Mar.
Wood Duck: arr 13 BRV 12 Mar.
Gadwall: arr 2 pr CV 18 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: arr 4 PtPen 28 Mar.
Am Black Duck: arr 2 TBr 16 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr TLou 17 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr 3 Fl 26 Mar.
N. Pintail: arr 20 THou 9 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr 15 THou 9 Mar; max 87 BRV 26 Apr.
Canvasback: arr 12 Fl 9 Mar.
Redhead: arr 12 Fl 9 Mar; max 200 WI 9 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Fl 9 Mar.
Greater Scaup: arr 3000 Fl 9 Mar; max 5000 Eel Bay WI 9 Apr.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: f PIPt 14 Apr (NL).
White-winged Scoter: arr 5 Mon Pt 2 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 36 CV 18 Apr.
Bufflehead: arr Fl 9 Apr; max 220 PIPt 18 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 9 CV 17 Apr; max

220 PIPt 18 Apr.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: arr ad f Fl 7 Mar; ad m Fl 9 Mar.

COMMON GOLDENEYE X

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE hybrid: arr ad m Fl 9 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: 13 TLou 13 Mar.

Com. Merganser: arr 8 CV 17 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 7 PtPen 11 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr TMas 17 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr TMas 17 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr SLR TMas 2 May.

Am. Bittern: one calling Ted 16 Apr.

Great Blue Heron: arr 15 THou 19 Mar.

Green Heron: arr TMas 28 Apr.

Great Egret: PLWMA 16 May.

CATTLE EGRET: TLou 25 May (MB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr PIPt 18 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: arr WATN 15 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr SH 11 Apr.

N. Harrier: arr PLWMA 22 Mar.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr pr Brasher

Falls STLA 24 Mar.

Cooper's Hawk: arr Fl 9 Mar; pr nesting
Canton 2nd yr in same location.

N. Goshawk: 5 reports of singles: Oseola
LEWI, CV, KC, TLou, TMas.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr TTh 26 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr StPt 21 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Canton 28 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: arr Canton 28 Mar.

Virginia Rail: arr TMas 9 May.

Sora: arr TMas 9 May.

Com. Moorhen: arr PRWMA 30 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr TWad 16 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: arr BRV LEWI 26
Apr.

Killdeer: arr Canton 5 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MonPt 13 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TPot 18 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr TPot 5 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr TLou 7 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr TBr 5 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 TLou
23 Apr.

Least Sandpiper: arr 5 TPot 14 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr TLou 23 Apr.

Wilson's Snipe: arr TLou 27 Mar.

Am. Woodcock: arr WATN 11 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: arr PtPen 1
May.

Caspian Tern: arr WesB 22 Apr.

Black Tern: arr 33 WB 17 May.

Com. Tern: arr TLou 9 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Pitcairn
STLA 14 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr T Russell
STLA; heard 1-3 per day FD last wk
May.

Barrred Owl: pr TLou 1 Mar; pr T
Russell 15 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 singing many nights
TLou 11-18 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: LC 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: Brasher Falls STLA 1
May; 6 calling during a Woodcock survey
T Hermon STLA 16 May; 5 LC 30 May.

Chimney Swift: arr WATN 7 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr TLou
10 May.

Belted Kingfisher: arr KC 15 Apr.

N. Flicker: arr CV 17 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr FD 12
May; pr at nest hole FD 27 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: arr BRV 26
Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: arr StPt 12 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr large influx
Downersville SF T Russell STLA 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr TMas 28 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr KC 2
May.

E. Kingbird: arr WATN 2 May.

N. Shrike: last WI 3 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr FDS 21 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr KC 1 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TLou 9 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr KC 1 May.

Gray Jay: 1 pr and 3 ind MM 25 Apr.
(JC).

Com. Raven: ad on nest in a three-sided
shed FD 12 Apr.

Horned Lark: arr CV 17 Apr.

Purple Martin: arr HP 3 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Canton 28 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr StPt 21
Apr

Bank Swallow: arr TLou 7 May; 54 T
Limeric JEFF May.

Cliff Swallow: arr TMas 12 May.

Barn Swallow: arr StPt 21 Apr.

Tufted Titmouse: St Pt 16 May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 TLou 12 Mar.

Brown Creeper: arr TLou 7 Mar.

House Wren: arr WesB 22 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr PRWMA 1 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr TLou 19 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 17
Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 17 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FD 22 Apr.
E. Bluebird: arr TLou 17 Apr.
Veery: arr TMas 14 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TLou 7 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr FD 20 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr TLou 3 May.
Am. Robin: arr TLou 1 Mar.
N. Mockingbird: WATN 30 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 25 PRGC 28 Mar; 250 Rt 11 near Talcott T WATN 8 Mar (RC).
Brown Thrasher: arr WesB 22 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr CV 17 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr T Dekalb STLA 15 May; TMas 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Canton 10 May; 4 TLou 19 May.
"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: m FD 24 May, singing near a Golden-winged Warbler.
Tennessee Warbler: arr STLA 9 May; widespread 1-5 per day 13-25 May; singles TLou 9 May & 19 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: arr 2 singing TPit 4 May (JB).
Nashville Warbler: arr WATN 30 Apr.
N. Parula: arr StPt 7 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr PLWMA 30 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr TMas 8 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr TMas 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: 3 singing m FD 24 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr StPt 7 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TMas 1 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TLou 30 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr TMas 7 May.
Pine Warbler: arr TLou 21 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr LC 19 May.
Palm Warbler: arr T Brasher STLA 22 Apr; 16 singing m along the old railroad bed MM 25 Apr (JC).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 13 May;

TMas 22 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr FD 13 May; 1-5 heard daily through end May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr TMas 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr Canton 7 May.
Ovenbird: arr Wolf L SF T Hermon STLA 30 Apr..
N. Waterthrush: arr TEI 9 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: singing m Grass R Downersville SF T Russell STLA 1 May-13 Jun (JB); singing m TLou 8-16 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr TMas 19 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr singing m T Hermon STLA 17 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Hermon 12 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr TLou 2 May.
E. Towhee: arr WesB 22 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Brasher Falls STLA 24 Apr.
Clay-Colored Sparrow: arr StPt 19 May; pr Weaver Rd TBr 29 May.
Field Sparrow: arr StPt 21 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr THou 28 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr KC 17 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr FI 26 Mar
Swamp Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr TMas 2 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr TLou 16 Mar.
Snow Bunting: 20 Canton 18 Apr..
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TLou 7 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr StPt 12 May.
Bobolink: arr PRWMA 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr TB 13 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 50+ PRGC 26 Apr.
Com. Grackle: arr GRSP 7 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 3 TMas 3 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr TMas 1 May.
Purple Finch: arr TMas 3 May.

Com. Redpoll: 25+ PRGC 28 Mar; last 18 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: Three Mi Pt 10 Mar.
Pine Siskin: 6 Canton 17 Apr; last WATN 6 May.

Am. Goldfinch: arr TLou 16 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: 30 Brasher Falls STLA 14 Mar; 2 Oseola LEWI 15 Apr.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Early March was relatively warm, with daytime highs in the 40s before dropping to a low of 17°F on St. Patrick's Day, then rising to a high of 66° on the 26th. Inlet still had 6" of snow cover at month's end, while the ground was bare at lower elevations. Early April was rainy, and Champlain rose from just over 96' in mid-March to 98.44' by 7 April. April 19th was the warmest day since 18 September 2003, with a high of 81° at Plattsburgh, winds of 30 mph and 3'-6' waves on Lake Champlain. May was mostly sunny and dry, and, in spite of heavy early morning rains on both 22 and 23 May, Champlain had dropped to 97.74' by the 31st.

Migration was early, as illustrated by Turkey Vultures at Tahawus 13 March, Wawbeck 24 March, Jay 25 March and Elizabethtown 27 March. A number of Regional and county early arrival dates were set, and, in spite of few northerly cold fronts to ground migrant waves, variety was exceptionally good. Nine of the 28 warbler species arrived in April, including a **Worm-eating Warbler** found in alders along the creek at the Saranac Lake high school on 30 April by Tom Dudones.

The banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 15 days, 9-24 May, for the 29th consecutive year. A total of 575 individuals of 52 species were banded, including 16 different warblers, among them two **Blue-winged Warblers** and an Orange-crowned Warbler. There were an additional 20 returns of 11 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. This past winter's green ash thinning project had an immediate positive impact on such species as American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrow, whose territories had dwindled at this Audubon Important Bird Area in recent years. The banding and educational program is now a project of the Crown Point Banding Association, the current board of High Peaks Audubon having withdrawn sponsorship after nearly three decades. Visitors this year included 15 groups of 170+ students plus 28+ adult teachers/supervisors.

Last summer and fall we commented upon the numbers of **Caspian Terns**

frequenting Noblewood Park, just five miles SSW of the Four Brothers, concluding, "Whether they constituted a tenth colonial-nesting species at Four Brothers cannot be known, The Nature Conservancy being unable to provide for new management of the colonies and the 20-year census no longer done by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc." This spring, three **Caspian Tern** nests with eggs were located in the Ring-billed Gull colony on Island "C" of Four Brothers on 28 May, and Matt Medler continued to sight adults almost daily at Noblewood Park from 22-31 May. Medler also added to the 2003 records of Common Terns at Noblewood between 22-30 May, with 15 on 29 May. This species was also a subject of speculation last year. In addition to the terns, Medler's almost daily surveys also turned up 11 shorebird species at Noblewood Park, including 7 Whimbrel on 23 May.

At the productive area between the Chazy Rivers, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Charlie Mitchell and the Booths were having similar success, with sightings of **Caspian**, Common, Arctic and Black terns. The two **Caspian Terns** seen there 11-25 May, probably originate on Young (*aka* South Sister) Island, VT, where they nested in 2000 and returned twice, but without results, while the Common Terns near Chazy undoubtedly originate from the 130 nests this year on Popasquash and Rock Islands, VT – across Lake Champlain from the Chazy riverlands, but some 40 miles NNE of Noblewood Park. These observers also located at least nine shorebird species, including 100+ Dunlin and three Short-billed Dowitchers 23 May, plus a late **Eurasian Wigeon** the following day.

Other notable finds included a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** along the Boquet River found by the Medlers and a male Wilson's Warbler singing and chasing a Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat at Bloomingdale Bog, St. Armand, Essex County, located by Larry Master on 29 May. A total of 207 species was reported, short of the 1997 record of 219, but still a fine showing.

Birds of Hamilton County, New York (1st Ed., 2004, 36 pp.), and accompanying *Birding Trail Map* by John M.C. Peterson & Gary N. Lee are now available free upon request from Hamilton County Tourism [P.O. Box 771, Indian Lake, NY 12842 / 1-800-648-5239]. Write or call for your copies today! The book lists 238 species, while the detailed county map provides written suggestions on "Where to Find Birds" for a dozen noted birding sites.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CP – Crown Point SHS; CR – Chazy Ri; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LL – Long L; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; SL – Saranac L; TL – Tupper L.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000s heard over LL, L Placid, SL night of 25 Mar (JC, BM, L&PO).
Canada Goose: "Richardson's" CR 22 Apr (BK); 35 CP 19 May (GH, JP), fairly late.
Brant: CR 22 Apr (BK), early CLIN.
Gadwall: drake CP 13 May (J&SP), only report.
EURASIAN WIGEON: CR 24 May (BK), late.
N. Pintail: arr 2 AP 30 Mar (DR); pr L Adirondack HAMI 17 Apr (MM).
Green-winged Teal: arr L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI; drake & 2 hens there 12 Apr (MM).
Canvasback: hen AP 5 Apr (DR), only report.
Ring-necked Duck: max 45 L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), HAMI record.
Greater Scaup: arr AP 5 Apr (DR); L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI; SL 1 May (TD); pr CP 13 May (J&SP); 4 pr CR 24 May (BK), late.
Lesser Scaup: arr pr Essex 22 Mar (DR); drake CR 24 May (BK), late.
Long-tailed Duck: pr L Snow 17 Apr (MM), only report.
Bufflehead: arr 10 L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI.
Com. Goldeneye: 15 NP 28 May (MM), late for a flock.
Barrow's Goldeneye: CH 20 Mar (J&RH), always a good find.

Ruddy Duck: subad drake Essex 22 Mar (DR), rare there.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 CH 14 Apr (MD), paddling north.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 AP 24 Mar (J&RH), early; Ausable Forks 28 Apr (PO); 250 CP 13 May (J&SP), but no nests; Blue Mt 16 May (JC); 20 Auger Pd 29 May (GH).

Great Blue Heron: NP late May (MM), carrying nesting material to Four Brothers colony.

Great Egret: NP 28-30 May (MM), 5 mi. from historic Four Brothers colony.

Turkey Vulture: arr 2 Tahawus 13 Mar (LL); 2 Wawbeek 24 Mar (TD); Jay 25 Mar (L&PO); Elizabethtown 27 Mar (JP), early.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 Oseetah L 21 Mar (LL) with NYS blue color-bands; many other reports.

Golden Eagle: ad N. Jay Rd 21 Mar flying NE; imm Jay 22 Mar vs. pr Peregrine Falcons; 2 subads Ausable R Jay 22 Mar (L&PO); imm Wilmington Notch 1 May (BM) attacked by Peregrines; imm CP 12 May (GH, GL, J&SP); a good showing.

Sora: CR 23 May (SJ, BK); more reports needed for Atlas.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 CR 13 May (BK, CM); NP 22-23 May (MM); max 12 CR 23 May (SJ, BK).

Semipalmated Plover: arr CR 11 May; 20 CR 15 May (BK, CM); max 32 NP 23 May, ESSE record; NP 28 May (MM), record late ESSE.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 24 Apr (BK, CM); max 7 CR 6 May (BK); NP 22 May (MM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 8 May (BK, CM), only report.

WHIMBREL: 7 NP 23 May (MM), 3rd ESSE record (last in spring 1969) and new county max.

Ruddy Turnstone: 5 NP 28 May; 4 NP 30 May (MM).

Sanderling: arr NP 15 May (MM), 1st ESSE spring record; CR 23 May (SJ, BK), 2nd CLIN spring record.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: NP 23 May; 4 NP 29 May; 2 NP 30 May (MM), late ESSE.

Least Sandpiper: arr CR 11 May; max 24+ CR 15 May (BK, CM); NP 29 May (MM).

Dunlin: arr 8 CR 6 May (BK); NP 15 May, early ESSE; 35+ NP 23 May (MM); max 100+ CR 23 May (SJ, BK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CR 23 May (SJ, BK), a good find.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 17 TL munic pk 12 May (CD); 3 NP 29 May; 5 NP 30 May; 7 Willsboro Bay 30 May (MM).

CASPIAN TERN: 2 CR 11-25 May (BK, CM); 2 NP 22 May (MM); 3 nests with eggs Four Brothers I "C" 28 May (DH), 1st documented Reg & ESSE nests; 1-3 NP 29-31 May (MM).

Com. Tern: arr 4 CR 11 May (BK, CM); NP 22 May; max 15 NP 29 May, ESSE maxima; 8 NP 30 May (MM), nearest known colonies are on Popasquash & Rock Is VT ~40 mi NNE of NP (Four Brothers are just 5 mi NNE of NP).

ARCTIC TERN: 2 Chazy Landing 17 May (H&RB), 2nd CLIN record.

Black Tern: 3 CR 6 May (BK), encouraging.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 11 May (GH, JP); Lost Nation Rd 17 May (BK), early CLIN.

E. Screech-Owl: McCollums 29 Mar (TD), gray-phase at noon; calling CP 10 May (GL).

Com. Nighthawk: over Plattsburgh Wal-Mart 21 May (NO); pr CH 30 May (BK), but now absent SL (TD).

Whip-poor-will: many singing Lewis 3 am 26 May (CS); also reported from CP, Peru, Trembleau Mt & Pt, Willsboro.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Boquet R, Willsboro 30 May (DM, MM), 7th ESSE & 4th Reg during Atlas 2000.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: fem FB 8 May (JN ph) to 30 May (LM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Chubb R; LL; Paul Smiths.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Oseetah L 7 Mar (LL); imm Jay 9 Mar (L&PO); Beekmantown feeder; last SL 27 Mar (TD).

Philadelphia Vireo: singing transient male CP 11 May (JP, RW), only report.

Gray Jay: Bloomingdale feeder; BB; Bog R; Chubb R; FB; L Clear.

Am. Crow: Plattsburgh 27 Mar (J&RH), apparent case of schizochroism, black on head, back mottled brown with white, breast dark brown, undertail coverts very black.

Horned Lark: 10-20 Norman Ridge 13 Mar (TD); 7 AP 5 Apr (DR); 10 TL munic pk 20 Apr (CD).

Boreal Chickadee: Bloomingdale & LL.

Tufted Titmouse: pr Elizabethtown Mar-Apr (JP); PtR 8 May (BK, CM); CP 19-20 May (JP), only 2nd banded there.

Carolina Wren: pr Crown Pt village 2 Mar (LC), present 5 wks; Redford 15 Apr (DF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CP 11 May (RW), only report.

Bicknell's Thrush: arr 5-6 Whiteface Mt 29 May (M&WM).

N. Mockingbird: magnificent mimic CP 11-16 May (GL, JP); less-talented m CP 19 May (JP).

Am. Pipit: arr 3 AP 5 Apr (DR); CR 6 May; max 40+ CR 11 May (BK, CM).

Bohemian Waxwing: flocks Akey Rd, CLIN, Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, Jay, Jericho; max 50 Plattsburgh 2 Mar (EF); last Pt Kent 23 Apr (DR).

WARBLERS

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: 3 singing m CP 10 May (GL, JP, RW), 1 banded; f banded CP 12 May (JP), only 5 previous ESSE records 1981-2001.

Golden-winged Warbler: Ellenburg 18 May (J&RH), only report.

Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 10 May (JP), only 4th banded there.

Cape May Warbler: singing m Giant Mt 24 May (KA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 127 banded CP 11-17 May (JP).

Prairie Warbler: m SL 1 May (TD); m CP 12 May (GL); excellent finds.

(“Western”) Palm Warbler: 5 banded CP 11-12 May (JP).

(“Yellow”) Palm Warbler: 2-4 singing m Paul Smiths bogs 29 Apr-29 May (BM, LM); many Bog R 8 May (JC); 3 BB & Madawaska 29 May (LM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 transients banded CP 12 May (JP); singing m LL 12 May (JC); singing m Giant Mt 24 May (KA).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: SL 30 Apr (TD), in alders along creek at high school, 1st FRAN & 2nd Reg record.

Wilson's Warbler: transient banded CP 23 May (JP); singing m BB St. Armand ESSE 29 May (LM), chasing Yellow Warbler & Com. Yellowthroat, an outstanding find.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Field Sparrow: arr Plattsburgh 14 Apr (J&RH), early CLIN.

Vesper Sparrow: arr IL 16 Apr; max 12 IL 17 Apr (M&WM); 2 Elizabethtown PO 10 May (TD).

Savannah Sparrow: max 45 IL 17 Apr (M&WM).

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 LL 31 Mar (PG); 5 IL 5 Apr (DS); max 6 Pt Kent 5-11 Apr (DR); LL 13-18 Apr (JC).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 singing m Barnum Bog Paul Smiths 5 May (BM); FB 9 May (JN), 6 transients banded CP 11-14 May (JP).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Jay 29 Apr (L&PO); SL 1 May (TD); Pt Kent 7 May (DR); 23 banded CP 11-15 May (JP).

Dark-eyed Junco: leucistic forehead Jay Apr (L&PO).

Lapland Longspur: 2 AP 5 Apr (DR), late CLIN.

Snow Bunting: BB 11 Mar (G,J&MT), only spring report.

Rusty Blackbird: arr IL 5 Apr (DS); TL 8 Apr; LL 10 Apr (JC); m SL 11 Apr (TD); TL 25 Apr (JC).

Purple Finch: max 66 TL 25 Apr (CD).

House Finch: arr 3 Inlet 5 Apr (GL), still uncommon HAMI.

Com. Redpoll: max 400 L Placid 8-10 Mar (LM); last 3 LL 19 Apr (JC).

Hoary Redpoll: 4 L Placid 8-10 Mar; max 7 same feeder 17 Mar (LM); LL 18 Mar; 2 same feeder 24 Mar (JC).

Pine Siskin: max 100 Berryhill Flow ESSE 18 Apr (WL), singing & feeding on hemlock cones; 44 TL feeder same day (CD).

Am. Goldfinch: many Wadhams 1 Apr (SS); 105 banded CP 10-23 May (JP), widespread.

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Oseetah L 7 Mar (LL), others Jay, LL, Wadhams.

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring exhibited consistently mild temperatures with low to average storm activity. Small snow showers occurred throughout March and into early April, periodically dusting fields and lawns with short-lived traces of snow and ice. Most bodies of water began to shed their ice layers by mid-March, although some of the Region's shaded northern ponds remained covered until mid-April. The last frost occurred on 16 April, and a warm spell peaking at 91° F on 19 April seemed to force an early push of black flies and mosquitoes.

Among this season's rarities, a **Barnacle Goose** lingered on the Hoosic River long enough for several dozen birders to ponder its origins. While its identification is unmistakable, it's always difficult to sort wild birds from domesticated escapes. This particular bird appeared wary of observers, feeding in a large flock of Canada Geese.

Fast becoming an annual visitor, another Glossy Ibis appeared this spring, discovered on 21 March in a field in Northumberland, Saratoga County. A second ibis, spotted in Schuylerville six days later, may have been the same bird.

Not surprising, bitterns, rails and Upland Sandpipers remained unnoticed until they arrived at known breeding areas. A Caspian Tern on the upper Hudson was a pleasant surprise, as they are often overlooked most years.

Heavy rains on 24 May flooded the Hudson, which briefly swelled over six feet above its average high-water mark. Research conducted on Spotted Sandpipers by staff working for the Department of the Interior revealed that more than half of nests located north of Albany washed away. Remarkably, the sandpipers laid new clutches within a week, often choosing alternate sites farther inland. Some birds were observed nesting in cornrows as much as a quarter mile from the river. Researchers discovered that wet spots in fields might mimic naturally occurring shoreline, prompting the birds to choose to nest far from the Hudson. The apparent tolerance for nesting sites in areas of intensive agriculture (fields regularly applied with herbicides) was surprising. Also of note, many sandpipers favored nesting in dense stands of purple loosestrife, adding further evidence that native species of birds can adapt and even profit by this notorious invasive.

Sandpiper migration was noticeably better this year, but detected only by those willing to get out in a canoe or johnboat to access our Region's limited mudflats. I discovered a particularly interesting area, accessible only by boat, on the Hoosic River east of Johnsonville, Rensselaer County. Hundreds of shorebirds were feeding in the shallows, including good numbers of Semipalmated Plovers, yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, a Dunlin and a scattering of Short-billed Dowitchers. As we often lament our lack of good shorebird habitat here, one wonders what other local hotspots remain hidden, ready to be discovered by those eager to venture a few miles from the road?

Warm weather, few serious storms and early insect activity all contributed to

a slightly early passerine migration. Heaviest on the clear, calm nights of 29 and 30 April, many vireos, warblers and thrushes showed arrival dates several days earlier than historic averages. A Black-billed Cuckoo observed in Saratoga County on 15 April represented the earliest spring arrival date for this species in the Region. This spring's Common Nighthawk migration ended as one of the worst in years, with a seasonal maximum of only four observed in Saratoga County. Those who chose to stock their feeders into May were treated to a close look at this year's particularly heavy Blue Jay migration, which peaked around 6 May. Also of note, Blackpoll Warblers were numerous in migration this year. Despite the early songbird migration, this was the second spring in which no birder recorded Cape May or Bay-Breasted warblers. By the third week of May, a diligent listener could record multiple singing birds every few hundred yards in the floodplain forests of the Hudson Valley. Flocks of icterids were typically large and diverse, with the heaviest movement during the second week of March.

Observers discovered 216 species this season, 13 more than the previous spring.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edward WASH; GHE – T Ghent COLU; HcR – Hoosic Ri; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; LIV – T Livingston COLU; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; NOR – T Northumberland SARA; SCH – T Schuylerville SARA; VF – Vischers Ferry NHP SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 75 HR WASH 14 Mar; 1000 NBA 7 Apr.

Brant: 15 Delmar ALBA 21 May.

BARNACLE GOOSE: HcR at Schaghticoke RENS 14 Mar (mob).

Tundra Swan: Ft Miller WASH 14-21 Mar, only report.

Wood Duck: arr LIV 7 Mar.

Gadwall: max 12 HR ALBA 19 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 Fourmile Pt GREE

7 Mar (RG).

Am. Wigeon: 4 VF 8 Apr.

N. Shoveler: FtE 25 Mar; 2 VF 11-17 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 20 Vosburghs Marsh GREE 8 Apr.

Canvasback: max 250 Germantown COLU 21 Mar.

Redhead: HR at NOR 21 Mar; 2 HR at Stillwater 27 Mar; Saratoga L SARA 10

Apr.

White-winged Scoter: 2 Schodack ICOLU 6 May; Myosotis L ALBA 15 May.
Long-tailed Duck: 2 FtE 27 Mar.
Bufflehead: last HR SARA 6 May.
Com. Goldeneye: 24 Cohoes Falls ALBA 1 Mar; max 150 HR at SCH 1 Mar.
Barrow's Goldeneye: HR at SCH 1 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: Collins L SCHE 5 Apr; 3 NBA 6 May.
Ruddy Duck: 24 Tomhannock Res RENS 19 Apr.
Com. Loon: 2 Tomhannock Res RENS 30 Mar; 2 Sacandaga Res 4 Apr; 3 Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr; JL 29 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr NBA 23 Mar; VF 27 Mar; 2 Scotia SCHE 5 Apr.
Horned Grebe: LIV 11 Mar; FtE 27 Mar; HR at NBA 31 Mar.
Red-necked Grebe: Ft Miller WASH 14 Mar; Saratoga L SARA 10 Apr; max 3 NBA 5 May.
Great Cormorant: Clermont SP COLU 21 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr Duaneburg SCHE 29 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr BCM 2 May.
Great Egret: HR at Poolsburg COLU 6 May.
Green Heron: arr NBA 24 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Troy RENS 6 May; LIV 11 May.
GLOSSY IBIS: HR at NOR 21 Mar; Rt 29 SCH 27 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr FtE 25 Mar, early.
N. Harrier: 2 FtE thru, breeding pr?
Cooper's Hawk: nesting GE plant Waterford SARA May; nesting School House Rd ALBA May, unusual urban habitat.
N. Goshawk: HR at Waterford 14 Mar.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Grafton RENS 31 Mar; VF 1 May; Providence SARA 30 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr LIV 22 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last 4 FtE 14-27 Mar.
Merlin: Mayfield FULT 24 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: successful fl at Dunn Memorial Bridge ALBA.
Virginia Rail: arr BCM 2 May.
Sora: arr BCM 2 May; Milton SARA 31 May.
Com. Moorhen: BCM 13 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: 40-50 HcR 20-25 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 3 HcR 3 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 HcR RENS 3 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr VF 10 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr HR at Thompsons Pd WASH 26 Apr; widespread nest failure HR 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: NOR 30 May; West Galway SARA 31 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 15 May; 2 Stuyvesant COLU 22 May.
Least Sandpiper: 8 Coveville SARA 10 May; 25 Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 24 May.
Dunlin: HcR 21 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 HcR 30 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr LIV 26 Mar; last reported display RENS 2 May.
Am. Woodcock: arr Duaneburg SCHE 1 Mar, slightly early; max 7 LIV 15 Mar; last reported display LIV 15 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Collins L SCHE 26 Mar.

Iceland Gull: 2 HR at Crescent SCHE 1 Mar; HR at Coxsackie 17-21 Mar.
Caspian Tern: HR at NOR 23 Apr.
Com. Tern: HR at Castleton RENS 7 May, only report.
Black Tern: FtE 22-23 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Milton SARA 15 Apr, record early.
Snowy Owl: Coxsackie Flats GREE 18 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: Clarksville ALBA 24 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: Taghkanic COLU 10 Mar; NBA 14 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Clarksville ALBA 24 Mar; Athens GREE 31 Mar; Hillsdale COLU 1 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Claverack COLU 24 May; max 4 SARA 24 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Albany 27 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Troy RENS 23 Apr, harassed by Downy Woodpecker while excavating nesting cavity (JG).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Glenwild SARA 30 May, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Mechanicville SARA 14 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr ALBA 11 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr LIV 12 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr JL 30 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Johnsonville RENS 29 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr HcR 30 Apr.
N. Shrike: FtE 14 Mar; last GHE 21 Mar.
White-eyed Vireo: GHE 15 May; singing NBA 26 May.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr HR 30 Apr.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Chatham COLU 24 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr LIV 29 Apr.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Clermont COLU 29 Apr.
Fish Crow: arr Greenport COLU 8 Mar; max 11 NBA 2 Apr.
Horned Lark: 7 Glen MONT 20 Mar; 2 Saratoga Airport SARA 30 Apr.
Purple Martin: colony of unspecified number Crescent Rd Saratoga L SARA 22 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Stockport COLU 21 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Amsterdam MONT 10 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr HcR 30 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Gansevoort SARA 15 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr LIV 18 Apr.
House Wren: arr GHE 18 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 5 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 2 May.
Veery: arr 2 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Catskill GREE 6 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Colonie ALBA 12 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Duanesburg SCHE 19 Apr.
Am. Pipit: Amsterdam MONT 6 Apr; 2 Glen MONT 29 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr LIV 29 Apr.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Saratoga NP SARA 27 May.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Albany Century Run 15 May.
Tennessee Warbler: Amsterdam MONT 16 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr NBA 29 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr LIV 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr VF 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 4 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr L George WARR 3 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Greenwich WASH 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Thatcher SP ALBA 8 May.
Pine Warbler: arr GHE 10 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr 3 LIV 18 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Clermont COLU 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr SCH 7 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Rensselaer RENS 30 Apr.
Ovenbird: arr Austerlitz COLU 30 Apr; max 5 Catskill GREE 10 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr NBA 29 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hannacroix Preserve GREE 20 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr Hadley SARA 22 May; Eddy Rd SARA 23 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: LIV 11 May; East

Greenbush RENS 11 May; Knox ALBA 23 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Bog Meadow Trail SARA 19 May; VF 22 May; Queensbury WASH 29 May; Providence SARA 30 May; only reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr NBA 5 May.

E. Towhee: arr GHE 18 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last LIV 26 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr LIV 24 Mar.

Field Sparrow: arr LIV 30 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: Ballston Spa SARA 6 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: ALBA 15 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr East Greenbush RENS 11 Apr.

Snow Bunting: last 12 FtE 1 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Eagle

Bridge RENS 29 Apr.

E. Meadowlark: arr Windham GREE 19 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: VF 8 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr SCH 3 May; Shakers Mill COLU 20 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Catskill GREE 29 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: Raup Rd COLU 11 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: Hillsdale COLU 13 Mar; Rexford SARA 14 Mar; last Gansevoort SARA 3 Apr.

Pine Siskin: 4 Galway SARA 3 Apr; 2 Claverack COLU 8 Apr; East Greenbush 6 May; 5 New Salem ALBA 23 May; widespread and common thru.

Evening Grosbeak: 12 Galway SARA 3 Apr; Eddy Rd SARA 23 May.

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The entire spring season was warm and dry, especially in the northern half of the Region. March started with a warm first week, with temperatures reaching into the 60s. The latter half was cooler, but Poughkeepsie still ended 4°F above normal. Rain was well below normal, with Poughkeepsie coming in at 1.9", 1.7" below normal. In the southern area, the month's temperature and rain were closer to normal, with White Plains 0.5° warmer and 0.9" drier than normal. April and May continued as March. Poughkeepsie reached 89° on 19 April and was 3.7° warmer and 1.2" drier than normal. May was the same, coming in 0.7° warmer but 2.2" drier than normal. Sullivan County did have a cool spell the last week of May, with lows in Rockport in the 30s each night. Despite the warm and dry weather, migration was lackluster. Many people reported that common migrant numbers were down.

Steven Kahl found surprisingly good numbers of Tundra Swans at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. There were 13 on 6 and 7 March and 18 on the 19th. Renee Davis and John Sauchuck found an injured White-winged Scoter in Swan Lake on 26 March. The bird was rehabbed and released two days later. Tom Burke recorded 145 White-winged Scoters at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on

18 April along with a single Black Scoter, two Northern Gannets and 62 Red-necked Grebes; 31 grebes were seen at one time. Two were seen flying in a White-winged Scoter flock. Another unusual duck for Sullivan County was a Long-tailed Duck at the Bashakill on 21 March.

Edith G. Read Sanctuary was the site for a few of our rare gulls. The highlight was a Little Gull on 11 April. A week earlier, an Iceland Gull, a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Glaucous Gull were found. Another Glaucous Gull was in Memorial Park, Nyack on 15, 17-18 March. A Black Tern turned up at the Bashakill 21 May.

Ken McDermott found 14 Long-eared Owls in a hemlock grove in Montgomery 1 March, continuing the good numbers seen in the past winter.

The best find of the season was a very cooperative Sedge Wren found in New Paltz by Christine Guarino on 16 May that remained through the period. Many people had their life looks at this tame bird.

The warbler migration was disappointing; numbers appeared low. I received no reports of Cape May Warbler. There were two "Brewster's" Warblers and three "Lawrence's" Warblers reported. Prothonotary and Kentucky warblers made a good showing, with Prothonotaries found in Westchester and Orange counties. Kentucky Warblers were found in Westchester, Sullivan, Dutchess and Rockland counties.

There was only a single report of Summer Tanager, a singing bird at Marshlands Conservancy on 15 May.

Common Redpolls stayed until March in Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess counties. Pine Siskins lingered into April as far south as Bronxville in Westchester County, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Sullivan and Dutchess counties in April.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill River NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 65 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 30 Table Mt 27 Mar; 350 Upper Cape Pd 4 Apr; Vanderburg Cove 1 May; Warwick 21 May.
Canada Goose: 5600 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 2000 Stissing L 9 Mar.
Brant: 1000 Claryville 6 Apr.
Tundra Swan: 13 WRNWR 6-7 Mar (SK); 18 WRNWR 19 Mar (SK).
Wood Duck: 48 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 72 WRNWR 8 Mar; 85 Bashakill 11 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 116 WRNWR 19 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 EGR 3 Apr; 2 Bashakill 4 Apr; 2 Upper Kays Pd DUTC 7 Apr; 9 WRNWR 15 May.
N. Shoveler: WRNWR 6-7 Mar.
N. Pintail: 290 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 500 WRNWR 24 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: 246 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 655 WRNWR 21 Mar.
Canvasback: 1000 East Kingston 7 Mar.
Redhead: 2 Esopus Meadows 3 Mar; 4 Cohecton 4 Mar; 2 WRNWR 6-10 Mar; 8 Redwing 15-16 Mar; last Redwing 21 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 110 Twin I L DUTC 14 Mar; 356 WRNWR 15 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 200 EGR 12 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: 250 EGR 3 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: Swan L 26 Mar (JS, RD); 145 EGR 18 Apr (TB).
Black Scoter: EGR 18 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: 20 EGR 16 Mar; Bashakill 21 Mar (JH, ABo, ED, RD); 170 EGR 11 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: 50 Bashakill 11 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 350 Sprain Res 10

Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 60 MC 17

Apr.

Red-throated Loon: 65 EGR 20 Mar; 70 EGR 3 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: 3 Tamarack L 7 Apr; Bashakill 11 Apr.

Horned Grebe: Redwing Beekman 15-20 Mar; Vanderburgh Cove 15 Mar; 8

Bashakill 21 Mar; Ashokan Res 17 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 62 EGR 18 Apr (TB).

N. Gannet: 3 EGR 16 Mar; 6 EGR 3 Apr; 4 EGR 16 Apr; 2 EGR 18 Apr.

Great Cormorant: EGR 19 May.

Am. Bittern: Bashakill 11 Apr; Doodletown 13 May.

Least Bittern: Bashakill 23 May.

Great Egret: arr 20 Mar.

Snowy Egret: EGR 4 Apr.

Green Heron: Piermont Pier 17 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 7 May (TB); Larchmont Res 10 May (MB).

Black Vulture: 8 Bear Mt SP 13 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 12 Esopus Meadows 3 Mar; still 2 CPP 18 Mar; 8 Mongaup Res 20 Mar; ad on nest Ashokan Res 1 May.

N. Harrier: 8-16 WRNWR 1 Mar-10 Apr; 5-10 SGNWR 1 Mar-10 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Rhinebeck 21 Mar; Verplank 29 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 18 Apr

Rough-legged Hawk: Amenia 14 Mar; Thompson Pd 5 Apr.

Golden Eagle: 2 Stissing Mt 13 Mar; Thompson Pd 5 Apr.

Merlin: Napanoch 2 Mar; Ellenville 11

Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 eggs Newburgh-Beacon Bridge 12 Apr; 3 chicks there 10 May.

Clapper Rail: 3 MC 1, 25 May.

Sora: Thompson Pd 11 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: 13 MC 19-20 May.

Semipalmated Plover: 15 WRNWR 21 May; 8 MC 24 May.

Killdeer: arr 18 Mar; 10 WRNWR 21 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 3 Apr; 9 Milton Pt 4 Apr; 3 MC 27 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 20 MC 1 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: EGR 11, 17 Apr; MC 19 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: 12 WRNWR 10 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: 15 WRNWR 21 May

Ruddy Turnstone: 8 EGR 27 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 WRNWR 21 May; 10 MC 24 May.

Least Sandpiper: 50 WRNWR 21 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 35 EGR 18 Apr; 70 EGR 1 May.

Dunlin: Tivoli Bay 12 May; 20 WRNWR 21 May.

Wilson's Snipe: WRNWR 6-7 Mar.

Little Gull: EGR 11 Apr (TB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 160 EGR 3 Apr (TB).

Iceland Gull: EGR 3-4 Apr (TB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 EGR 4 Apr (TB).

Glaucous Gull: Memorial P Nyack 15, 17-18 Mar (ET, CW); EGR 3 Apr (TB).

Com. Tern: arr 18 Apr.

Forster's Tern: 3-4 MC 1-4 May.

Least Tern: MC 4 May.

Black Tern: Bashakill 21 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: EGR 4 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 6 May.

Long-eared Owl: 14 Montgomery 1 Mar (KM); 1-2 Baird P 22-26 Mar; Norrie Pt 27 Mar; 1-4 Domin Farm 1 Mar-18 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 7-9 SGNWR 6-7, 11 Mar; WRNWR 6-7 Mar; Pugsley Hill Rd Amenia 28 Mar; still 2 SGNWR 10 Apr; Claryville 20 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Pawling Nature Preserve 1 Mar; 1-3 Thompsons Pd 1-9, 14, 24 Mar; Loch Sheldrake 13-14 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: 78 Mt Vernon 23 May.

Whip-poor-will: MC 15 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farm 2 May thru (JH, RD); Humpo Marsh New Paltz 12 May (LA, SCho, FM).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Rye 10, 19 May; Esopus 12 May; Doodletown 13-16 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 12 May.

Alder Flycatcher: Warwick ORAN 15-20 May; MC 22-28 May.

E. Kingbird: Ward Pound Ridge 18 Apr (SW).

White-eyed Vireo: arr Doodletown 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: Camp Taconic 8 May (JC).

Purple Martin: 50 New Paltz 24 May.

Tree Swallow: 300 Bashakill 11 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 40

Larchmont Res 25 Apr.

Bank Swallow: 100 Amenia 29 May.

Cliff Swallow: 15 Cross River 18 Apr.

Sedge Wren: New Paltz 16 May thru (CG).

Marsh Wren: 9 MC 19 May.

Gray-cheeked / Bicknell's Thrush: RNC 20 May; MC 26 May.

Gray Catbird: arr north 30 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr 19 Apr.

Cedar Waxwing: many reports May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Mine Rd 13 May; Harriman SP 15 May; Port Orange Rd 15 May; Vassar Farms 29 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Mohonk Preserve 6 May (JV); Vassar Farms 25 May (BM).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Kakiat P 10 May; Mine Rd 15-16 May (SD); Clinton 28 May (BBo).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 26 Mar; 50 Saugerties 19 Apr (SC).

Prairie Warbler: arr 1 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr; RNC 7 May; Camp Taconic 8 May; Ward Pound Ridge 15 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: Liberty Marsh 8 Mar (LHa), overwintering; arr MC 18 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: Larchmont Res 1 May (LS); Port Orange Rd 23 May (SM, PL).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Doodletown 2 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Saugerties 17 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: RNC 11 May (TB); Bashakill 13-23 May (BBu, CP, VF); Vassar Farms 14, 25 May (BM); Norrie Pt 26 May (KD).

Mourning Warbler: Deep Hollow 12 May; MC 22-28 May; Bashakill 23 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 13-16 May; 2 Doodletown 21-22 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: MC 15 May (MB).

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Harlen Valley

Rail Trail 24 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Warwick ORAN 15 May.

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-4 MC 25-28 May.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 20, 25 May.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 1, 13 May.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: 2 MC 11 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: Ellenville 5 Mar; arr Red Hook 30 Apr.

Dark-eyed Junco: last wintering 16 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: White Sulphur Springs 15 Mar (JW ph); arr RNC 17 Apr.

Bobolink: 23 CPP 18 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: 3000 New Paltz 1-2 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: 3 SGNWR 6-7 Mar; 8 Ellenville 18 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 50 Bashakill 11 Apr.

Com. Grackle: 200 EGR 4 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr 27 Apr; 6 Rockefeller SP 6-13 May (ABI); many other reports from each county.

Com. Redpoll: 11-40 Rhinebeck 5-19 Mar; 12 Grahamsville 12 Mar (JW); 400 East branch Neversink R Denning 27 Mar (SC, FM).

Pine Siskin: Bronxville 1 Apr (ABI); 5 Claryville 13 Apr (JW); 3 Poughquag 17 Apr (CP); 2 Kerhonkson 26 Apr (ASt).

Evening Grosbeak: 8 Claryville 3 Apr (JW); sev Verbank 28 Apr (BB).

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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March was warm and dry, April was warm and May was very warm and wet. The early flowering shrubs bloomed late and the mid-spring shrubs and trees bloomed early, compressing the botanical season. Thus, the woods were bare to mid March and completely leafed out by mid May. The lack of March rain undoubtedly delayed the vegetation and the subsequent May precipitation and warm weather brought the season into full stream. After a late migration, as far as the birding was concerned, the birds disappeared into the foliage.

On 18 May, P.A. Buckley, Shai Mitra, Pat Lindsay and Andy Baldelli found a Pacific Loon at the Tiana Beach overlook at Shinnecock Bay. The bird was in winter plumage and was swimming in the ocean directly in front of the concession stand. It was not relocated.

On 8 March, Phil Brown found a **Western Grebe** off Wolfes Pond Park on Staten Island. The cooperative bird was viewed by many and remained until 10 April.

On 23 May, Michael R. Wasilco, while fishing with his dad just off and east of Moriches Inlet, saw a large sea bird. The posted description was consistent with that of a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, although the meager notes do not rule out other species. For the past several summers there have been probable or certain reports of Yellow-nosed Albatross off the south shore of Long Island. It is interesting to speculate on the possible source of these birds and whether they represent the same individual.

The geography of the Town of Hempstead in Nassau County is flat coastal plain. The entire town has virtually no elevation. To have Peregrine Falcons breed, it would seem to require tall structures to emulate the cliffs one usually associates with their nesting sites. For a number of years there has been a nest atop the Nassau University Medical Center, the tallest building in the county. This season two additional nests were added within the town. The first was on the northeast corner of the Jones Beach water tower, a high precipice. The nest was discovered when a workman complained of dive-bombing birds. The second addition is an anomaly. It is on a formerly active Osprey nesting platform on one of the bay islands off the end of the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside. A pair of peregrines has visited this site for several prior years and were promptly driven off by the Ospreys who used the platform. This year the Ospreys did not show up and the peregrines moved in. One member of this pair coming to the platform for the last four years has an attached radio antenna on its back. It has also been seen on the local Christmas count. We are assuming that only a single bird with an antenna is involved.

On 16 May, Angus Wilson saw an adult or near-adult **White-faced Ibis** at the northeast corner of the West Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. On 6 April, a **Black Vulture** was seen near Big Reed Pond in Montauk.

On 23 June, *Newsday*, Long Island's newspaper, ran an extensive article on the major increase in the deer population. It also discussed the significant numbers of dead deer found in the woods. The correlation between deer populations and Turkey Vultures has long been suspected over much of the Northeast probably with good reason. Concurrent with the deer expansion, we are seeing a significant increase in Turkey Vultures, both in numbers and in length of season when they are found.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Ken and Sue Feustel went to Montauk to atlas some blocks on the east end. [Ken is the Region 10 Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator]. Stopping at Mecox Bay on 28 May, they discovered a **Bar-tailed Godwit** on the flats. Word spread quickly by phone and internet. Before the day was over, Angus Wilson had driven to the site from New York City with camera and his photos were available on the internet that evening. The bird was seen the next day and then only very late in the day on 30 May. This is the sixth record for New York and the first since June 1985.

In a follow-up summary of the weekend trip, Ken indicated that a "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" might have been started by birders pursuing the godwit. On 28 May, an **Arctic Tern** was present at Mecox Bay. It was described by Shai Mitra as "a 'second-summer type,' essentially adult-looking, but with a faint carpal bar and some black on the bill – very different from first-summer 'portlandica' plumage." On the same day, a Royal Tern appeared late in the afternoon. Later, an adult light morph Parasitic Jaeger flew past the ocean beach. When the godwit did not reappear two days later, birders looked farther afield. At Georgica Pond on 30 May, there was a Black Tern and up to 40 Roseate Terns. At Shinnecock on 31 May, Mike Wasilco found two **Sandwich Terns** sitting on a mud flat. In addition, on the flat the same day Paul Gillen found a male Ruff.

On 18 May, a **Black-necked Stilt** visited the south end of the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge late in the afternoon.

On 18 April, Dr. Roger Pasquier reported a Cerulean Warbler from Central Park. This is the earliest state date for this species. On 20 May, Howard Fischer found a singing **Swainson's Warbler** in the Grymes Hills section of Staten Island near Wagner College. The bird was observed well at close range while it sang for a 20-minute period; it was not relocated. On 7 May, Eric Miller found an adult male **MacGillivray's Warbler** at the water hole in Forest Park. Through the magic of modern technology now in use by the birding community (including cell phones, internet, etc), Andy Guthrie, birding in the field, was alerted, arrived and obtained a set of photographs to accompany descriptions by the birders on the site. Andy's photos appeared on the internet almost immediately with comments: "[the photos] show the pertinent field marks, primarily the bright, blunt-tipped eye arcs that are the key separation point for adult male MacGillivray's compared with Mourning and Connecticut warblers." This is the third New York State report. The first record was a bird on Staten Island 15 Dec 1999 to 1 Jan 2000 (note correct end date); the second, a bird banded in Rochester 4 June 2003.

On 17-18 April, Diane Judge reported that a **Painted Bunting** visited a Southold feeder. Hugh McGuinness saw the photo and confirmed the identification.

A FINAL NOTE FROM YOUR REGION 10 EDITORS:

This issue brings to a close 16 full, long years under this by-line. For those not completely familiar with us, I (Sy) write the draft of the column and Al supplies criticism, wisdom and general knowledge to the output prior to submission. We wish to take a bit of time here to sincerely thank the multitude of birders who have contributed to this space over the years, have enjoyed reading the deathless prose prepared and have expressed their appreciation and approval. We enjoyed this and tried to prepare an interesting and informative column. But it's time for someone else to take over. I think I just got tired. Good birding and hope to see you in the field.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Ken Allaire, Gene Arpino, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Berlingeri, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block, Vicki Bustamante, Ardith Bondi, Phil Brown, P.A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Michael Farina, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, John J. Fritz, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Ken Harris, Dan Heglund, Gene Herskovics, Joel Horman, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Diane Judge, Joan Payne Kincaid, David W. Klauber, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Nellie Larsen, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Joe Manzione, Robert McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Lauren Miller, Shai Mitra, Israel Mizrahi, Steve Nanz, Chris & Lauren Nuzzi, Al Ott, Roger Pasquier, Pat Pollock, Peter W. Post, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Patrick Santinello, Starr Saphir (SSa), Barbara Saunders, Vinnie Schiappa, Seymour Schiff, Marty Sohmer, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Steve Walter, Alex Wilson (AIW), Angus Wilson (AnW), Michael R. Wasilco, Cindy Wodinsky, Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clove L P SI; CP – Central P; 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; In – Inlet; INH – Inwood Hill P Manhattan; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; M – Montauk; MASH – Mashomack Preserve, Shelter I; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; MTL – Mount Loretto SI; NYBG – New York Botanical Gardens BRON; PB – Pikes Beach Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; PT – pelagic trip from Barnegat Light to Hudson canyon; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP – Riis P; SG – Sagaponack Pd; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; WPP – Wolfes Pd P SI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Canada Goose: “Richardson’s” subspecies M 15 Mar.

Brant: “Black” morph Marine P Nature Center KING 14, 30 Mar; Miller Field SI 25 Mar.

Tundra Swan: up to 6 shuttling back and forth between Hook Pd, East Hampton and Rt 114 farm fields south of Stephen Hands Path to early Mar; 6 PBP 7 Mar; CP 18 Apr; HLSP 28 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: West Islip pd thru 7 Mar; FBF thru 21 Mar.

“Common” X Green-winged Teal, hybrid: HLSP thru 21 Mar.

Harlequin Duck: PL to mid Apr; MP to mid May.

PACIFIC LOON: Tiana Beach SHIN 18 May (PAB, AB, SM, PL).

WESTERN GREBE: WPP 8 Mar-10 Apr (PB, et al).

ALBATROSS SP.: east of Moriches Inlet 23 May (MW); the posted description was consistent with **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, although the meager notes do not rule out other species.

N. Fulmar: 8 fishing trip 20 miles s of MP 6 Mar; PT 23 May.

Cory’s Shearwater: PT 23 May.

Greater Shearwater: 2 PT 23 May.

Sooty Shearwater: 2 in ocean at Tiana Beach 20 May; MP 20 May; PT 23 May; 2 FTT 23 May; 5 MOR 26 May; 5 SHIN 29 May; 3 Hither Hills 29 May.

Manx Shearwater: PT 23 May.

Wilson’s Storm-Petrel: PT 23 May.

LEACH’S STORM-PETREL: PT 23 May.

Least Bittern: perched 20’ up in a bare tree PP 9 Apr (RJ); JBWR 16 May on; MEB 24, 28 May.

Cattle Egret: 3 MTL 23 Apr; 1 MTL 25 Apr, 15 May; FBF 8 May; JBWR 16 May.

Glossy Ibis: after an explosive expansion, fewer reported this year.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: JBWR 16 May (AnW).

BLACK VULTURE: Big Reed Pd M 6

Apr, unusual on LI.

Turkey Vulture: 6 PP 2 Mar; 12 in a tree Rocky Pt SUFF 7 Mar; 18 Greenport same week; 14 Shelter I 15 Mar; many others widely scattered throughout.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: early reports: Shelter I 26 Feb; CP 2 Mar; Cutchogue 5 Mar.

Bald Eagle: Watermill 4 Mar; Shu Swamp (Mill Neck Preserve) 7 Mar; Hampton Bays 14 Mar; CP 26 Mar; 2 Watermill 20 Mar; Connetquot Ri SP 4 Apr; PP 19 Apr; NYBG 24 Apr; MASH 30 Apr, 6, 9, 23, 25 May; Northville beach 23 May.

N. Goshawk: Bronx Zoo 11 Mar; Riverhead 11 Mar; Connetquot Ri SP 4 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: 14 migrating high CP 27 Apr; 2 M 28 Apr; East Hampton 17 May; M 29 May; others.

Rough-legged Hawk: Theodore Roosevelt County P 2 Mar; Calverton 7 Mar; CP 9 Mar; Eastport 10-11 Mar; JBWR early Mar; Mattituck 13 Mar; Gilgo 21 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 new nests: JBCH water tower, site anticipated for a number of years; on an unused Osprey platform on a bay island off MNSA; latter nest is a most improbable location for this species.

Com. Moorhen: Sore Thumb pd Oak Beach 23-24 Apr, 1, 10 May; SI 15 May; JBWR 23 May.

Piping Plover: early Mar thru.

Black-necked Stilt: JBWR 18 May (EM).

Whimbrel: Hempstead Bay 7 May; 2 JBWR 13 May; SHIN 9, 18, 20, 31 May; BP 23 May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: MEB 28-30 (K&SE, mob).

Purple Sandpiper: PL to 22 Mar; L Montauk jetties 13 May; SI to 15 May; BP to 23 May; Ditch Plains 23 May.

Ruff: f SG 9-15 May; m SG 11 May; m Dune Rd SHIN 22-23,30 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: SG 10 May; JBWR 24 May.

Pomarine Jaeger: PT 23 May.

Parasitic Jaeger: ocean MEB 28 May.

Little Gull: 2 PL 7 Mar; PL 15 Mar, 4, 10 Apr; BP 4 Apr; GKP 10 Apr.

Black-headed Gull: PL 7, 15, 20 Mar, 4, 9 Apr; Bay P East Rockaway 25 Mar; BP 15 Mar; 4 PL 24 Mar; WPP 29 Mar; GKP 10 Apr; Georgica Pd 8 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 350+ PL early Mar, seen only sporadically, only a few dozen wintered there.

Iceland Gull: widespread SI to MP including CP, HLSP in addition to more traditional ocean sites; to late Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: widespread to mid May.

Glaucous Gull: CP 10 Mar, 22-23, 30 Apr; WPP 10-13 Mar; BP 15, 17 Mar; T Southold Beach 11, 23 Apr; JBWE 24 Apr; SI 15 May.

Gull-billed Tern: JBWE 29 Apr-mid May; 2 SG 10 May; JBWR mid May on.

Caspian Tern: Swan L Patchogue 18 Apr; MEB 17, 24 Apr; 4 MEB 25, 27 Apr, 3 May; 2 MEB 4 May; SG Pd 27 Apr; L Agawam 28 Apr.

Royal Tern: 3 BP 23 May; MEB 28 May.

SANDWICH TERN: 2 mud flat SHIN 31 May (MW).

Roseate Tern: 40 Georgica Pd 30 May.

ARCTIC TERN: "second-summer type" MEB 28 May (SM, et al).

Forster's Tern: several JBWR 15 Mar (TF), early.

Black Tern: BP 8 May; 2 off Sagaponack 18 May; South Ferry Shelter 1 27 May 27; Georgica 30 May.

Dovekie: MP 3, 6 Mar.

Com. Murre: oiled bird found MP 7 Mar, taken to wildlife rehabilitator.

Razorbill: 15 MP 3, 6 Mar; 12 MP 5 Mar; 4 MP 7, 13 Mar; Breezy Pt 15 Mar; JBWE 27 Mar; MQR 20, 23 May; previous late date was 18 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: JBWR 15 Mar; SI 15 May.

Snowy Owl: 1 found dead just west of Wading River Creek 24 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: CP 4-8 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 2 Dune Rd to 11 Apr; Orient Beach SP to 3 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: RP 15 Mar; 2 Southampton 23 May (GA).

Chuck-will's-widow: SI 15 May; East Quogue 30 Apr thru; Napeague Harbor Rd & Poxabogue Pd 23 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Calverton 15 Apr, 4 May; JBWE 1, 5 May; CB 2 May; MASH 9 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 15-22 May; MASH 16 May; Cupsogue Co P 21 May; others.

Bicknell's Thrush: singing CP 19 May.

Am. Pipit: CP 8 Mar; Theodore Roosevelt P 24 Mar; JBWE 11 Apr.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 29 Apr.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: CP 29 Apr; singing Blue-winged song M 30-31 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 23 Apr; SI 15 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: PP 20 Apr, - 3 May; HLSP 20 Apr; NYBG 24 Apr; Bronx Zoo 30 Apr; Muttontown Preserve East Norwich 1 May; FP 5-6 May; CP 7 May; JBWR 15 May; CP 26 May.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 18 Apr (RP), earliest state date; PP 24 Apr; FP 29 Apr, 8 May; CP 5 May; INH 13-14 May; JBWR 15 May; PP 19 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Shirley 19 Apr; CLP 22-26 Apr; Massapequa Preserve 25 Apr; HLSP 28 Apr; CP 5-6 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: widespread NYC & NASS late Apr, eastern LI early May.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Grymes Hills section SI 20 May (HF).

Kentucky Warbler: 2 PP 23-28 Apr; CP 24, 27, 30 Apr, 1, 6, 8, 11, 26 May; E. Northport 6 May; CLP 9 May; APP 11 May; FP 11 May; Hunter's Garden Eastport 11 May.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: FP 7 May (EM), 3rd documented NYS record.
Hooded Warbler: CP 21 Apr; 3 CP 23 Apr; CP 24-25, 27-29 Apr, 1-4, 7-10 May; PP 24 Apr, 5 May; CLP 22-24 Apr; PP 25 Apr; E. Quogue 8 May; NYBG 15 May; Northville 8 May; Southold 11 May; CP 26 May; MASH 2 May on.
Yellow-breasted Chat: INH 30 Apr; CP 27-29 Apr, 7 May; SI 15 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 22 Apr, 3-4, 10 May; PP 24 Apr, 8 May; FP 23-24, 27-29 Apr, 1, 7-8, 22 May; CP 28 Apr; INH 29 Apr; JBWR 1 May; CLP 1 May; HLSP 2, 16 May; former Grumman facility 4 May; Eastport, 7 May; E. Quogue 9 May; Riverside P Manhattan 10 May; Northwest Woods 30 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: JBWE 20-27 Apr; JBWR 13 May.
Vesper Sparrow: CP 11, 17 Apr; PP 14-17 Apr; JBWE 14 Apr; Gabrieski Airport Westhampton and other east end locations where it breeds from mid-May thru.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Calverton 11, 14 May; a few others in breeding areas that become fewer and fewer.

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 24, 29 Apr, 9, 20, 26 May; PP 6, 19 May; INH 7 May; FP 8 May; APP 9 May; Northville 11-12 May.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: JBWR 10 Apr.
Lapland Longspur: with Snow Buntings RP 15 Mar.
Snow Bunting: JBWE to 14 Mar; RP to 15 Mar.
Blue Grosbeak: RMSP 19 Apr; HLSP 5 May; PP 8 May; others in the area where they bred last summer.
PAINTED BUNTING: Southold feeder 17-18 Apr (DJ).
Dickcissel: MP 30 Apr.
Bobolink: arr 6 May; on breeding areas mid to late May.
Com. Redpoll: CP Ramble thistle feeders thru 4 Mar; 2 Shelter I 7 Mar; 3 Breezy Pt 15 Mar; Wading River feeder 19 Mar, 2 on 21-22 Mar, 28 Mar-3 Apr; CP 19 Mar; 2 another Wading River feeder 2, 4-5 Apr.
Pine Siskin: RP 15 Mar; Rocky Pt feeder 27-29 Mar, 2, 10 Apr; Sag Harbor feeder 3, 10 Apr; CP 17 Apr; Farmingville 9 May; CP 26 May.



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; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

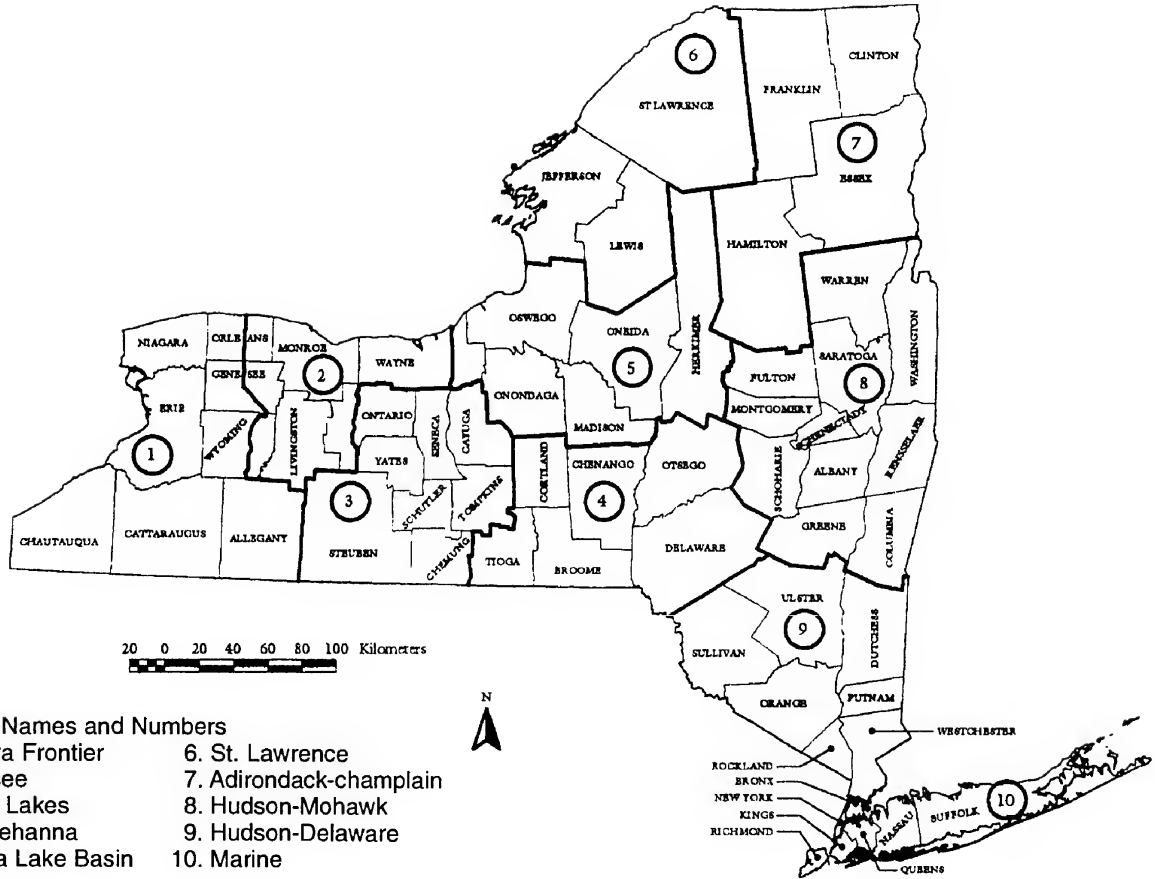
REPORTING DEADLINES

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



Region Names and Numbers

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Niagara Frontier | 6. St. Lawrence |
| 2. Genesee | 7. Adirondack-champlain |
| 3. Finger Lakes | 8. Hudson-Mohawk |
| 4. Susquehanna | 9. Hudson-Delaware |
| 5. Oneida Lake Basin | 10. Marine |

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