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CONTENTS

West Nile virus infection and other causes of bird mortality in New York City Gabriela Fonseca, Liyang Zhou, and Waheed Bajwa	174
The Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch 2017 Season John L. Turner	179
Highlights of the Season—Spring 2018 Shaibal S. Mitra	182
Spring arrival dates for 2018	183
Regional Reports	187
Photo Gallery	213
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines and Map of Reporting Regions	255

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Front Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Central Park, *New York*, 11 May 2018, © Peter Post.

Back Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Erie County Forest, *Erie*, 5 May 2018, © Sue Barth.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION AND OTHER CAUSES OF BIRD MORTALITY IN NEW YORK CITY

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Abstract—At the time when West Nile (WN) virus was first detected in New York City and other parts of the United States, many jurisdictions, including the New York City Health Department, began collecting dead birds to analyze them for cause of death in order to determine the species of birds that were infected and/or dying due to WN virus infections. Across all species, blunt impact trauma was the leading cause of death between 2001 and 2007 in New York City (49%), and WN disease was implicated in 25% of deaths overall. In contrast, among the four species of birds that were most affected by WN disease (American Crow, Blue Jay, House Finch and House Sparrow), no less than 18% of dead specimens harbored WN virus. In New York City, House Sparrows show a high correlation to human WN cases and are a likely reservoir for WN virus, perhaps in part due to lower mortality rates compared to other species.

West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in New York City in 1999. Since that time, this mosquito-borne virus has spread quickly to every state in the continental US, infecting thousands and causing hundreds of deaths (Lindsey et al. 2010). Although mosquitoes are the vectors that transmit WN virus disease to humans, birds play an integral role as the primary host of the virus. In 1999, the NYC Health Department began surveillance of mosquitoes and dead birds as a potential early warning system for WN disease transmission to humans in the city. Dead birds that were reported to the health department were classified by species and cause of death was determined for each bird at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Wildlife Pathology Unit, Albany, and the New York State Public Health Laboratory, Wadsworth. Collected birds underwent pathology and laboratory testing to determine cause of death. Avian tissue samples were tested for WN virus by real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Confirmatory tests were performed using RT-PCR, virus isolation in cell culture and immunofluorescence assays. Bird samples were confirmed positive when they tested positive on at least two tests (Kulasekera et al. 2001). Dead bird collection and testing concluded in New York City in 2007 due to the fact that it was not an effective surveillance system as it was time consuming and costly compared to mosquito surveillance and testing. Between 2001 and 2007, 119 human cases of WN virus occurred within the five boroughs of New York City.

RESULTS

The birds analyzed in this paper are American Crow, American Robin, Blue Jay, Common Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow and Mourning Dove. The largest cause of death among all birds between the years of 2001 and 2007 was blunt impact trauma among 49% of dead birds tested (Fig. 1, p. 216). The second largest cause of death was WN virus infection (25%) followed by undetermined causes of death (11%), poisoning (5.3%), pneumonia (3.4%), infections other than WN and pneumonia (3.8%), and lastly, starvation (1.7%) (Fig. 1). All other causes of death remained relatively steady across the time period in which dead birds were being collected. After 2004, deaths due to WN virus dropped off under twenty percent; at the same time, blunt impact trauma rose to a high of 71% of dead birds as primary cause of death in 2005 (Fig. 1). Blunt impact trauma was the primary cause of death for many species including: American Robin (66%), Mourning Dove (65%), Common Grackle (63%), House Sparrow (50%), House Finch (47%) and Blue Jay (33%). (Fig. 2). American Crow (74%), Blue Jay (45%), House Finch (36%), and House Sparrow (22%) were the species whose deaths were most influenced by WN virus infection (Fig. 3).

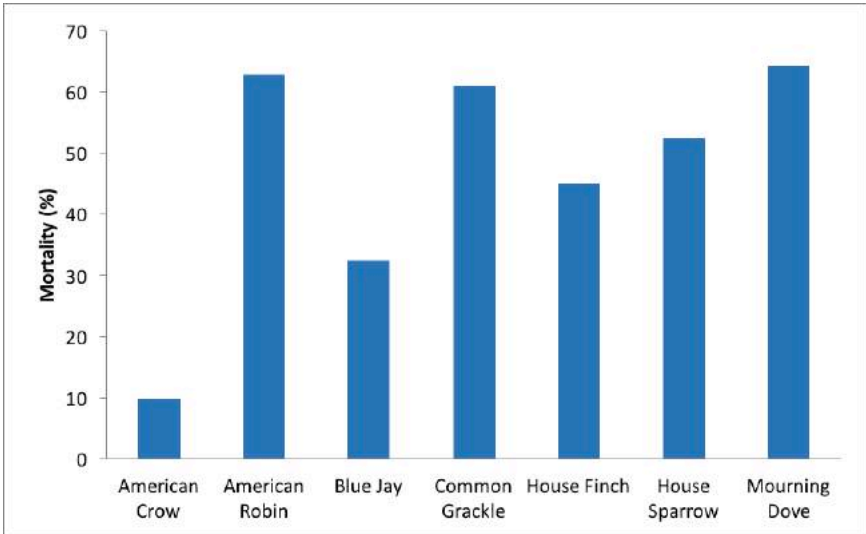


Figure 2. Percent cause of death for each species due to blunt impact trauma.

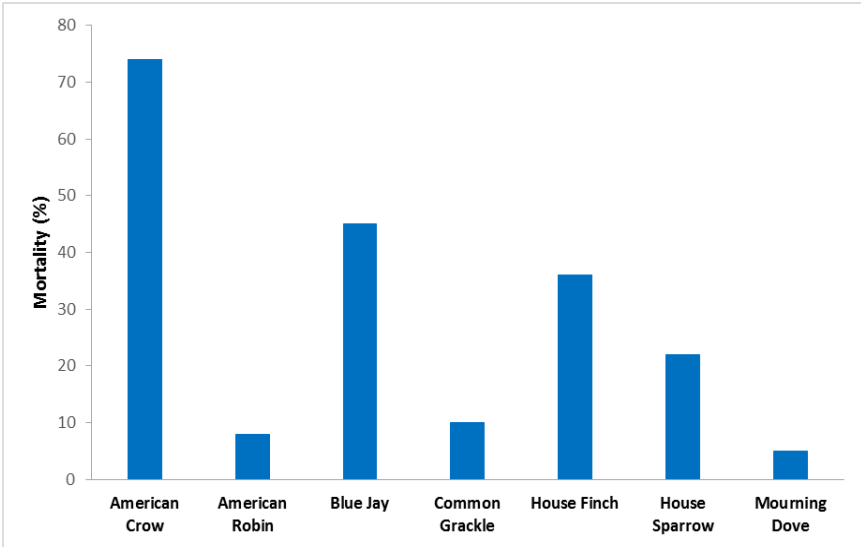


Figure 3. Percent cause of death for each species due to WN virus.

Common chemicals for poisoning found in dead birds include: organochlorine, diazinon, chlordane and lead. Poisoning only contributed to 5.3% of the deaths of the birds that were collected. Additionally, infections not including WN virus and pneumonia accounted for only 3.8% of deaths. Common reasons for infection in deceased birds include: aspergillosis (27%), trichomoniasis (23%), avian pox (9.9%), parasites (6.6%), ceolomitis (6.6%), salmonellosis (3.3%), pericarditis (1.1%), and septicemia (1.1%).

The average percentage of dead birds infected with WN virus, regardless of cause of death determination, was calculated for the following species: Blue Jay, American Crow, House Finch, and House Sparrow. American Crow (74%) and Blue Jay (42%) specimens had the highest infection rate, followed by House Finch (33%) and House Sparrow (18%) (Fig. 4). Additionally, the correlation between bird deaths attributed to WN and number of human cases for each year of data was analyzed. House Sparrows had the highest correlation with human cases ($R^2 = 0.73$), followed by Mourning Doves, American Robins, and House Finches ($R^2 = 0.38, 0.29$ and 0.28 , respectively; Table 1).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Molaei et al. (2006) demonstrated that *Culex pipiens* and *Cx. restuans* most commonly fed on American Robins in Connecticut, and that this species was a competent reservoir there, when considering results of blood meal analysis, seroprevalence of WN virus, and species abundance.

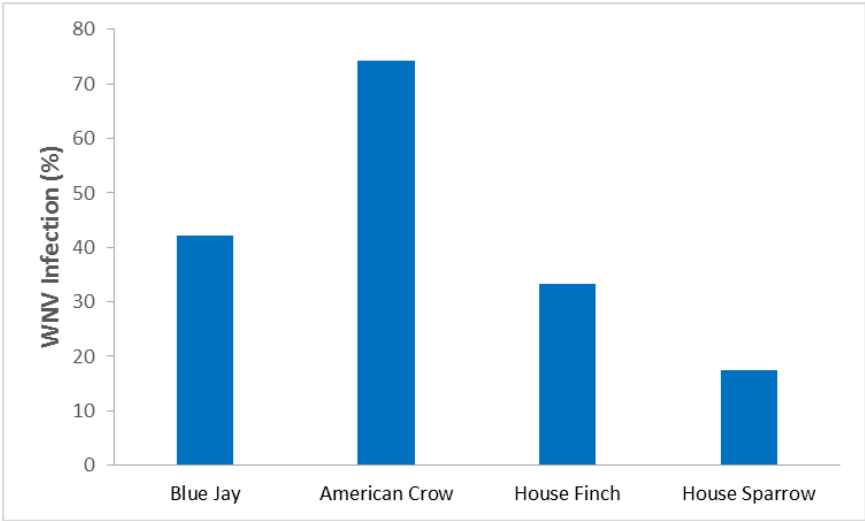


Figure 4. Average percentage of birds testing positive for WN virus through PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) testing.

Species	R ^{2*}
House Sparrow	0.73
Mourning Dove	0.38
American Robin	0.29
House Finch	0.28
Common Grackle	0.13
Blue Jay	0.023
American Crow	0.016

Table 1. R² values for the relationship between the annual totals of bird deaths attributed to WN virus and human cases, 2001-2007.

While infections other than WN virus and poisons had a very small impact on overall bird mortality in our sample, we were also able to identify key chemicals and other diseases that played a role in bird deaths within New York City. More importantly, we determined that the main cause of death for all bird species collected was blunt impact trauma even while the percentage of death due to WN virus infection was relatively high in NYC. Death due to WN virus infection was most frequent among American Crow, Blue Jay, House Finch, and House Sparrow. Because American Crows and Blue Jays have such a high susceptibility and mortality rate due to WN virus infection, they are not an optimal reservoir for WN virus transmission in New York City. In contrast, House Sparrows experienced relatively lower levels of mortality due to WN

virus (22% vs. 74% in American Crows), even though other studies have identified House Sparrow as the most WN virus infected bird species in NYC (Komar et al. 2001b, Nasci et al. 2002). Together, these observations suggest that this species could be an important reservoir for WN virus. This inference is consistent with Komar et al.'s (2001a) conclusions from a serological study of WN virus in birds in New York. Finally, our observation that House Sparrow deaths due to WN virus showed a high correlation ($R^2 = 0.73$) with human cases from 2001-2007 provides further evidence that this species is an important reservoir for WN virus in New York City.

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THE STONE BRIDGE NIGHTHAWK WATCH 2017 SEASON

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In late August of 2017 the Four Harbors Audubon Society, a Long Island-based chapter of the National Audubon Society, established the “Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch” in Frank Melville Park in Setauket, Suffolk County, New York. The overall purpose of the nighthawk watch, which will become an annual event, is to document the number of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) observed during their south-bound migration. It is hoped that by providing supplemental data to other information on the species, such as that collected by the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, the annual nationwide Breeding Bird Survey, and other local nighthawk watches, a clearer and more complete picture regarding the status and trends of nighthawk populations can be obtained.

The Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch was conducted in the early evening, running to dusk each night, and encompassed 40 days of observation, beginning 27 August 2017 and ending 6 October 2017. It was staffed primarily by Patrice Domeischel and the author, but nearly a dozen other individuals regularly participated. Data tallied at the Watch each day included the number of nighthawks seen, the number of minutes of observation, and general notes on the weather. Results for the season were as follows:

2,046 nighthawks seen
3,984 minutes of observation
0.511 birds per minute

The highest daily total was on 8 September 2017 when 573 nighthawks were observed, including a single “kettle” of birds containing 144 birds. The second highest total was 307 the day before. When broken down into 5-day blocks it is clear that the prime time for nighthawk movement at the Watch was during the first half of September:

August 27-September 1	64 birds
September 2-6	341 birds
September 7-11	954 birds
September 12-16	389 birds
September 17-21	118 birds
September 22-26	145 birds
September 27-October 1	17 birds
October 2-6	16 birds

Specifically, during the 15 days from 1-15 September, 1,672 nighthawks were observed, 81.7% of the observed total over just 37.5% of the 40-day survey. Thus, slightly more than four-fifths of the observed birds were seen during a block of days that represented slightly more than one-third of the watch days.

The idea of establishing the Common Nighthawk Watch was born out of an experience the autumn before when several local birders, including Carl Safina, the noted author and conservationist, noticed numerous nighthawks feeding on the prolific insect hatch that had occurred over the north pond in the park. Carl informed me of their presence and I hurriedly went down to observe the birds, thoroughly enjoying their distinctive flight behavior as they fed on the wing. I went back the next five nights to watch nighthawks, observing a total of 60 birds on 6 October 2016, which I made a mental note of. During one of these visits I was welcomed by a nighthawk which, after feeding over the pond moments before, decided to land and rest on the top of the stone bridge a mere 12 feet away; it stayed for several minutes until a couple walking by with a dog scared it off. This enlightening experience led to the realization that we could take advantage of the productivity of the site to establish a more formal seasonal census of the species.

Why the Setauket site, situated at the southern end of Conscience Bay, is a productive site to observe and count nighthawks is based on three factors. The first is the open setting around the site. The presence of the two ponds with the stone bridge in between ensures panoramic views of the area. These ponds are linear and with the southern edge of Conscience Bay directly to the north provide an unobstructed view for nearly half a mile in a north-south direction. Second, the ponds themselves attract nighthawks, drawn to the productive hatch of aquatic insects, such as midges, emerging from the ponds. Lastly, based on eBird reports and many years of personal observation, nighthawks, after crossing over Long Island Sound, appear to migrate westward on Long Island predominantly across the Island's northern portion, rather than traversing the Island and proceeding west along the south shore. The Stone Bridge site is strategically positioned to intercept these westward moving birds. The late Jim Clinton, Sr. used a similar strategy to monitor migrating Common Nighthawks at Wading River, and efforts are underway to find his data for comparison with the Stone Bridge surveys (S. Mitra, pers. comm.).

Common Nighthawk populations are in trouble, declining at a considerable rate, a trend made clear by comparing block occupancy in the last two New York State Breeding Bird Atlases (Sibley 1988, Medler 2008):

Status	1980-85	2000-2005
Possible	262	89
Probable	170	41
Confirmed	45	8
Total Blocks	477	138

In the 1985 Atlas, there were 477 blocks that contained possible, probable, or confirmed breeding Common Nighthawks; this declined to 138 blocks in 2005, a 71% decline. Perhaps more alarmingly, breeding was confirmed in only eight of the 138 blocks in the state.

Although it is not known with certainty what factors are contributing to the species' rapid decline, both as a breeder in New York State and nationwide, one factor has been strongly implicated: a decrease in the abundance of aerial insects due to widespread pesticide use. Loss of aerial insects from extensive pesticide use has been identified as a major contributing factor for the decline in a number of bird species, such as swallows, swifts, and flycatchers, which are dependent upon aerial insects and likely plays a factor in the decline of nighthawk populations which depend upon the same food source (Brigham et al. 2011). A likely additional contributing factor is a reduction in the amount and quality of suitable breeding habitat which includes, for urban nighthawk populations, a conversion of the gravel roofs they prefer to utilize for nesting to other unsuitable roofing substrates (Brigham et al. 2011).

We made another interesting observation during the 40 days of counting nighthawks. A number of mature oak trees grow on the hillside on the west side of the north pond, a fact well-known to the resident Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) population. Every day of the watch we observed Blue Jays flying west to east with acorns in their bills. They would often land in a tree on the east side of the north or south pond and appear to be scouting for competitors before flying off to cache the acorn. Moments later they could be seen, with empty bills, flying back to the oaks flanking the western hillside to secure more acorns. This experience illustrated the well documented finding that Blue Jays play an important role in forest regeneration. Indeed, their acorn caching habit, often involving placing acorns miles away from the source tree, is thought to be the main driver behind the northward re-establishment of the eastern deciduous forest following the most recent glacial advance, about 20,000 years before present.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2018

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All Regions for which we received reports noted March colder than February, and most averaged cooler than normal. April was generally cooler than average, delaying migration and leafout, but then May featured a big reversal, with warmer than normal temperatures and a number of new record-highs.

One of the most spectacular bird occurrences I can recall in New York State occurred in Region 1 during mid-April, when the breakwaters and ice pack at Buffalo Harbor hosted an unprecedented concentration of 44 Snowy Owls! Interesting patterns observed this spring included further indications of two ongoing range expansions, albeit in opposite directions. Pileated Woodpeckers were confirmed nesting in the Staten Island Greenbelt, Richmond Co, an event described as the first such in New York City in almost two centuries. Chuck-will's-widows also continued to push their distributional limits, with a record on 19 May from the northern part of the Hudson River Valley Region, at West Mountain, Warren County, where the species has been heard for at least the last two years. Another occurrence that might (we hope!) be part of a trend involved the state's fourth **Kirtland's Warbler**, at Manhattan's Central Park, 11-13 May. This stunning bird was seen by many, many birders who had been unable to chase the inaccessible individual at Fort Drum and the one-day wonder at Hamlin Beach, both from June 2014.

Rarities were numerous and well distributed statewide this spring. An excellent candidate for **Dark-bellied Brant** (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) was closely studied and photographed at Coney Island Creek, Brooklyn, on 12 April. This Palearctic race has been recorded only a few times in North America, including New York State (23 Nov 1999). Its status in North America and its identification in relation to potential intergrades between Atlantic Brant (*hrota*) and Pacific Black Brant (*orientalis*)—as well as the enigmatic Gray-bellied Brant (*nigricans*)—are topics that remain works in progress, but which have important roots in the New York/New Jersey area and in this writer's own work (Buckley and Mitra 2002, *North American Birds* 56: 502-507; Buckley et al. 2004, *North American Birds* 58: 180-185).

A Swallow-tailed Kite at Derby Hill on 12 May was just the fourth record for Region 5; all of the prior ones were also from that perennially productive migration monitoring site. There were several notable inland occurrences of rare gulls this spring: a **Mew Gull** at Region 8's Collins Lake Park, Schenectady County on 15 April, a Little Gull at Hillcrest Pits, Broome County on 26 April (for the second year in a row), and several reports of Little Gull around Seneca

and Cayuga Lakes, possibly involving the same individual. A **Cave Swallow** 15-16 April at Salt Point, Tompkins County joined the very small set of spring records for northeastern North America. The possibility of a Caribbean origin should be considered here. Very rare in spring, a Connecticut Warbler at a Pulaski home on 19 May was very notable. Once fairly regular in Region 2, **Western Meadowlark** had not been recorded since 2008 until a male was found near Armitage Road, Seneca County on 14 April. Singing conspicuously, he remained there for many to see and hear through the end of the season.

Several of the foregoing are strong candidates for Bird of the Season. The BOTS award is based on multiple criteria, such as overall rarity, years elapsed since the last record, and the degree of opportunity for birders to enjoy the bird. Both the Kirtland’s Warbler and the Western Meadowlark scored well in these respects, and indeed, both were described to me in conversation as long anticipated and deeply valued state birds by many people. Even so, the BOTS award must go to the **Wood Sandpiper** at Region 10’s Timber Point Golf Course 16-17 April. Just the third record for the state and the first in spring, this bird stirred unusually intense emotions in a great many people—those involved in its discovery, those who were able to see it during its brief visit from late one evening to early the next morning, and, regrettably, in the many who narrowly missed it. It was a bird that will be remembered.

SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2018

Region	Species Reported ¹	Seasonality ² vs. 1987-15	Advance ³ (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	92	-1.32	-1.52	2
2	93	-0.77	-1.69	3
3	92	-2.00	-2.71	5
4	90	-6.29	-1.55	10
5	92	-1.81	-0.45	3
6	91	-3.26	4.84	4
7	90	-1.97	7.93	1
8	91	-4.02	-0.62	3
9	-	-	-	-
10	72	-1.19	-4.23	5

¹Maximum number of species = 93.

²Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s 32-year average.

³Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

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

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Spring Arrival Dates 2018 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	6 Apr	4 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	29 Apr	13 Apr		30 Mar	9 Apr	13 Apr
Green Heron	15 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	4 Apr		10 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr
Wood Duck	1 Feb	18 Feb	17 Feb	17 Feb	22 Feb	27 Feb	1 Mar	17 Feb			18 Feb	11 Mar
Green-winged Teal	21 Feb	16 Feb	21 Feb	10 Feb	23 Feb	21 Feb	29 Mar	21 Feb			23 Feb	13 Mar
Northern Pintail	1 Feb	15 Feb	17 Feb		18 Feb	21 Feb	1 Mar	20 Feb			17 Feb	6 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	27 Mar	31 Mar	18 Mar	31 Mar	25 Mar	21 Mar	3 May	31 Mar		24 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar
Osprey	23 Mar	31 Mar	20 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	1 Apr	30 Mar	27 Mar		3 Mar	24 Mar	27 Mar
Virginia Rail	2 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	1 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	13 Apr		10 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr
Sora	12 Apr	2 Apr	20 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	8 May	14 Apr		4 May	19 Apr	27 Apr
Common Moorhen	18 Apr	20 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	12 May	23 Apr			19 Apr	25 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	5 May	3 May	3 May	16 May	22 May	23 May		13 May			12 May	14 May
Semipalmated Plover	5 May	3 May	6 May	4 May	12 Apr	11 May		11 May		8 Apr	30 Apr	9 May
Killdeer	20 Feb	20 Feb	20 Feb	21 Feb	21 Feb	28 Feb	28 Mar	27 Feb			26 Feb	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	30 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar	4 Apr	1 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	12 Apr		6 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	22 Apr		29 Mar	15 Apr	16 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	20 Apr	14 Apr	12 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	5 May	22 Apr		6 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	13 Apr	16 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	3 Apr		17 Apr	15 Apr	22 Apr
Sanderling	6 May	5 Jun	23 May		19 May						21 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	19 May	20 May	6 May	20 May	8 May	11 May	21 May	15 May		2 May	13 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	27 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	2 May	4 May	10 May	12 May	22 Apr		25 Apr	1 May	3 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	8 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr		8 May	21 Apr		30 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	20 Mar	20 Mar	29 Mar	20 Mar	28 Mar	30 Mar	2 Apr	30 Mar			26 Mar	24 Mar
American Woodcock	25 Feb	23 Feb	24 Feb	28 Feb	27 Feb	28 Feb	28 Mar	27 Feb			1 Mar	12 Mar
Caspian Tern	4 Apr	2 Apr	30 Mar	15 Apr	31 Mar	11 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr		14 Apr	7 Apr	15 Apr
Common Tern	13 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	28-Apr	16 Apr		4 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr
Black Tern	27 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr		27 Apr	5 May	12-May	15 May		24 May	4 May	7 May
Marsh Wren	25 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr	13 Apr	5 May	27 Apr	9 May	13 Apr		7 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr
Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

Spring Arrival Dates 2018 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	9 May	3 May	5 May	11 May	6 May	14 May	30 May	6 May		29 Apr	9 May	12 May
Common Nighthawk	12 May	6 May	9 May	16 May	5 May	14 May	18 May	7 May		27 Apr	9 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	21 Apr	1 May	15 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	2 May	3 May	24 Apr		13 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	2 May	2 May	2 May	1 May	3 May	4 May	4 May	28 Apr		21 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31 Mar	2 Apr	17 Mar	27 Mar	15 Mar	3 Apr	27 Mar	31 Mar			26 Mar	2 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15 May	9 May	10 May	20 May	18 May	12 May	25 May	18 May		5 May	14 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7 May	9 May	3 May	9 May	12 May	13 May	9 May	28 Apr		30 Apr	6 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	14 May	16 May	12 May	15 May	12 May	15 May	16 May	5 May		13 May	13 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	10 May	8 May	12 May	8 May	10 May	13 May	19 May	10 May		9 May	11 May	14 May
Least Flycatcher	2 May	24 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	3 May	4 May	27 Apr		30 Apr	29 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	30 Mar	24 Mar	23 Mar	10 Mar	27 Mar	1 Apr	1 Apr	30 Mar		2 Mar	23 Mar	22 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	1 May	3 May	2 May		11 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	1 May	27 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	24 Apr		19 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr
Purple Martin	12 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	27 Apr	17 May	7 Apr		7 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr
Tree Swallow	18 Mar	28 Feb	21 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	26 Mar	31 Mar	27 Mar		3 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	5 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	8 Apr		30 Mar	12 Apr	13 Apr
Bank Swallow	15 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	24 Apr	9 May	21 Apr		15 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr
Cliff Swallow	26 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	5 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	12 May	23 Apr		21 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr
Barn Swallow	6 Apr	31 Mar	3 Apr	1 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr		31 Mar	8 Apr	9 Apr
House Wren	18 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr		8 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8 Apr	29 Mar	11 Apr	26 Mar	14 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	1 Apr			8 Apr	7 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr	4 May	2 May	24 Apr		2 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		2 Apr				30 Mar	1 Mar				21 Mar	10 Mar
Veery	4 May	4 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	6 May	2 May	1 May		19 Apr	1 May	1 May
Weinstein's Thrush	2 May	2 May	8 May	3 May	4 May	18 May	16 May	4 May		18 Apr	5 May	8 May
Hermit Thrush	6 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr	20 Mar	8 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr			7 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	1 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	2 May	3 May	28 Apr		12 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Gray Catbird	15 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	29 Apr			24 Apr	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	12 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	12 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	13 Apr		5 Mar	7 Apr	14 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	21 Apr	24 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	15 Apr		7 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 May	4 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	3 May	23 May	2 May		21 Apr	3 May	3 May
Warbling Vireo	29 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	21 Apr	2 May		17 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	3 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	5 May	3 May	3 May	5 May		16 Apr	1 May	3 May

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2018 Landbirds (continued)													
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	R9	Reg 10	Average	32-Yr. Ave	
Tennessee Warbler	2 May	7 May	4 May	9 May	6 May	9 May	9 May	7 May		1 May	6 May	8 May	
Nashville Warbler	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	3 May	3 May	22 Apr		28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	
Northern Parula	1 May	3 May	28 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	3 May	4 May	2 May		13 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	
Yellow Warbler	20 Apr	1 May	14 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	27 Apr		14 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3 May	24 Apr	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	3 May	9 May	2 May		1 May	1 May	2 May	
Magnolia Warbler	2 May	5 May	18 Apr	2 May	3 May	7 May	6 May	3 May		27 Apr	1 May	4 May	
Cape May Warbler	1 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	3 May	5 May	9 May	9 May		1 May	4 May	6 May	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	3 May	27 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	2 May		27 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	
Black-thr Green Warbler	29 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	1 May	2 May	1 May	28 Apr		23 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	
Blackburnian Warbler	1 May	1 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	29 Apr		28 Apr	1 May	2 May	
Pine Warbler	8 Apr	6 Apr	31 Mar	28 Mar	8 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	16 Mar			5 Apr	9 Apr	
Palm Warbler	18 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr	2 Apr			15 Apr	17 Apr	
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	6 May	9 May	5 May	8 May	9 May	10 May	9 May		2 May	7 May	10 May	
Blackpoll Warbler	2 May	8 May	10 May	11 May	10 May	12 May	21 May	9 May		1 May	9 May	12 May	
Black-and-White Warbler	29 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	24 Apr		7 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	
American Redstart	3 May	3 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	3 May	3 May	2 May		27 Apr	2 May	2 May	
Ovenbird	1 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	3 May	2 May	28 Apr		12 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr		8 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	
Mourning Warbler	9 May	9 May	11 May	4 May	8 May	14 May	17 May	13 May		6 May	10 May	13 May	
Common Yellowthroat	25 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	1 May		14 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	
Wilson's Warbler	8 May	3 May	8 May	12 May	5 May	16-May	17 May	3 May		3 May	8 May	11 May	
Canada Warbler	8 May	10 May	1 May	11 May	10 May	10 May	12 May	8 May		2 May	8 May	10 May	
Scarlet Tanager	4 May	3 May	1 May	3 May	5 May	5 May	9 May	2 May		14 Apr	1 May	4 May	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	23 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	3 May	24 Apr		17 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	
Indigo Bunting	3 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	6 May	8 May	3 May		16 Apr	2 May	3 May	
Eastern Towhee	12 Mar	16 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar	21 Mar	2 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr			24 Mar	7 Apr	
Chipping Sparrow	31 Mar	8 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	2 Apr			4 Apr	4 Apr	
Vesper Sparrow	2 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	1 Apr		7 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	
Savannah Sparrow	2 Apr	4 Apr	31 Mar	19 Mar	31 Mar	23 Apr	4 Apr	12 Apr			4 Apr	6 Apr	
Lincoln's Sparrow	2 May	5 May	3 May	4 May	9 May	16 May	7 May	13 May		20 Apr	5 May	4 May	
White-crowned Sparrow	25 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	9 Mar	3 May	28 Apr	14 Apr			19 Apr	24 Apr	
Bobolink	1 May	1 May	28 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	3 May	3 May	28 Apr		22 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	
Baltimore Oriole	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	2 May	3-May	3 May	27 Apr			30 Apr	29 Apr	
Overall Average	18 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr		15 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	
Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.													

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March was colder than February for the second year in a row and just the twelfth time in recorded history. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 31.4°F, 2.6° below normal, with 2.93" of precipitation, 0.02" above average. There was 22.2" of snowfall, 13.9" above average and mostly from a nor'easter storm on the first two days, but the Region mostly missed several nor'easters that followed. April was unseasonably cool with frequent precipitation. The first three weeks were especially cold and resulted in delayed arrivals for many migrants. The mean temperature was 39.2°, 6.7° below average. Precipitation was 3.99", 0.98" above average, with 6.9" of snowfall, 4.2" above normal. Spring finally broke loose in May, with the warmest May on record following the third coldest March-April period on record. The average temperature was 65.0°, 8.1° above normal. Rainfall was 2.72", 0.74" below normal.

Waterfowl and some of the earlier migrants arrived during a warmup in late February, but then the prolonged cold spell through March and well into April had migrants backed up. A cold stretch in mid-April resulted in many Common Loons and Horned Grebes seeking shelter in whatever open water they could find and in impressive numbers at some locations. The warm May brought the migrants back to their regular phenology.

Greater White-fronted Geese made a good showing including a group of eight on the rather late date of 20 April. A **Brant** was found by Sue Barth at Winter's Pond in North Collins on 31 March, which is unusual for both the location and date. Cackling Geese continue to be seen with regularity, with up to 14 in one group observed. A few **Eurasian Wigeons** were found, as usual, with two at one time at Tonawanda WMA. A **King Eider** was found off Fort Niagara SP in early March for the only report. There were several reports of **Surf Scoters** on inland waterbodies in mid-April. Up to four **Harlequin Ducks** continued off Niagara Falls SP, with some staying into May.

The most unusual shorebird report this spring was a **Red-necked Phalarope** photographed by Jesse Tharp on the Niagara River off Beaver Island SP on the remarkably early date of 17 April; this was 27 days ahead of the next earliest spring record. Another Red-necked Phalarope was seen off Niagara Falls SP at the more regular spring timing of late May. There were two reports of **Wilson's Phalarope** in May. A **Willet** in Somerset was a good find by Joel Strong. There were a few more reports of **Ruddy Turnstones** than usual and two **Sanderlings** were notable for their early arrival on 6 May at Dunkirk.

There were fewer reports and lower counts of gulls, including Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous, and with no rare species for the

season. There were four reports of **Forster's Tern**, all in April, with two from unusual inland locations in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties.

An **American White Pelican** was seen briefly on 29 April; marking eight of the last nine spring seasons it has been recorded. **Sandhill Cranes** continued their increased presence with reports from 12 locations. It was a good spring season for both bittern species, with **American Bittern** reported from 12 locations and **Least Bittern** reported from six. No rare herons or egrets were sighted this spring. **Black Vultures** continued in their regular location of Lewiston and with a few reports from elsewhere.

The spring raptor migration was delayed a little due to the cold weather in early spring and did not produce any rarities. **Snowy Owls** were well reported in March, and then an unprecedented concentration of up to **44(!)** occurred on the breakwalls and ice cover around Buffalo Harbor in mid-April. As you can imagine this brought out the birders and photographers in good numbers as well; also notable is the rather late timing of this occurrence. There was only one **Long-eared Owl** report. **Short-eared Owls** were found at seven locations, and there were no Northern Saw-whet Owl reports.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find at Tiff NP on 7 May. A new maximum count of **Fish Crows** occurred with 10 in Buffalo in early April; there were also sightings from South Buffalo and along Lake Ontario in Wilson. Willie D'Anna found a **Bohemian Waxwing** among Cedar Waxwings in Wilson on 22 March.

Pine Siskins were a regular occurrence in April, with some still passing into late May. A lone **Common Redpoll** at a feeder in Orchard Park in mid-April was the only other notable finch sighting.

Some of the regular sparrows arrived a little late with the cool weather. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from five locations and **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported from 11 locations, which is more than usual in spring. Ken Reichman had a **Harris's Sparrow** at his feeder in Whitesville, Allegany County on 3 May. Joel Strong added a handsome male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** to his Somerset backyard list on 10 April; this species has been nearly annual over the last few spring seasons.

Teenage birder Chris Bertola came up with two good finds close to his Orchard Park home, with a **Summer Tanager** at Birdsong Parklands on 6 May and a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Chestnut Ridge County Park on 10 May. There were three **Golden-winged Warbler** sightings plus one Brewster's and one **Lawrence's Warbler** report. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported from Iroquois NWR and nowhere else.

The 83rd BOS April Count was held on 8 April on a day 20 degrees below the normal temperature for the day. The cool weather was a factor in the lowest species count (141) since 2003, and 115,470 birds were recorded. High counts were tallied for Trumpeter Swan (6), Ring-necked Duck (2,154), Bald Eagle (63), Great Horned Owl (34), Snowy Owl (2), and Common Raven (32). There were a number of record low counts, many likely attributable to the cold weather

and delayed migration, Ring-necked Pheasant (5), Killdeer (197), Wilson's Snipe (23), Red-shouldered Hawk (5), Belted Kingfisher (34), Field Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (4), Eastern Meadowlark (40), Red-winged Blackbird (4,048), and Brown-headed Cowbird (576). Common Tern and Virginia Rail were not recorded.

The BOS May Count was held on 20 May. For the second year in a row 204 species were tallied and 65,708 birds (below average) were recorded. High counts over the last 50 years included White-winged Scoter (2641), Harlequin Duck (3), Osprey (50), Merlin (4), Peregrine Falcon (26), Sandhill Crane (5), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Red-bellied Woodpecker (347), Pileated Woodpecker (48), Acadian Flycatcher (12), and American Redstart (420). Lowest counts in the last 50 years included Bank Swallow (83), Yellow-rumped Warbler (49), and Common Grackle (1,981). American Black Duck and Vesper Sparrow were not recorded.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 8 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 20 May; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** -- Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 Attica WYOM 1 Mar (RS); 4, 2 N Collins ERIE 4, 5 Mar (SB, JF, AH); 6, 4 INWR 11, 25 Mar (WD); 5 Hartland NIAG 17 Mar (JS); 6, 3 Somerset NIAG 18, 26 Mar (WD, BP, DS); max, last 8 Lewiston NIAG 20 Apr (BS); good showing.

Snow Goose: 80 Lewiston NIAG 1 Mar; max 150 Middleport NIAG; 120 BufH 20 Mar; last INWR 27 Apr.

Brant: arr N Collins ERIE 31 Mar, 8, 9 Apr (SB, JF), early; only report, less than annual in spring.

Cackling Goose: 2 N Collins ERIE 5 Mar; 10 Wilson NIAG 7 Mar; 4 Hartland NIAG 11 Mar; 10, last 5 Somerset NIAG 18 Mar, 21 Apr; max 14 Yates ORLE 23 Mar; 3 Lewiston NIAG 19 Apr.

Mute Swan: DH thru; Cassadaga CHAU 11 Apr; max 7 GHSP 14 May; Amherst ERIE 16 May; Barcelona CHAU 18 May; 6 Wilson NIAG 28 May; 24 BOSAC; 19 BOSMC.

Trumpeter Swan: 2, 1 INWR thru Apr, thru May; 2 Celeron Chaul. 27 Mar (KV); 6 BOSAC; only reports.

Tundra Swan: 270 Attica WYOM, 400 Wilson NIAG, 400 N Collins ERIE 1 Mar; 99 Cuba L ALLE 4 Mar; max 535 TWMA 11 Mar (WD); 246 Long Point SP CHAU 19 Mar; last INWR 7 May.

Wood Duck: max 40 JAS 21 Mar.

Gadwall: max 76, 50 Alexander GENE 16, 19 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1-2 TWMA 3-13 Mar (CM, BH, WD); Batavia GENE 1 Apr (DB); TWMA BOSAC; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: 200 TWMA 4 Mar; max 250 OOWMA 11 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: 11 Hartland NIAG 18 Mar; 95 BOSAC; not reported on BOSMC; continue low.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 N Collins ERIE 27 Mar; 86 BOSAC; 5 BOSMC.

N. Shoveler: max 49 BWWTP 6 Apr.

Pintail: 125 TWMA 4 Mar; max 160 Hartland NIAG 18 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 70 Alexander GENE 12 Apr.

Canvasback: max 500 BufH 2 Mar; last 3 NF & BuSP 4 May.

Redhead: max 100, 100 BufH 4 Mar, 18 Apr; 64 BWWTP 8 Mar; 50 Findley L CHAU; 8 INWR 8 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 109 BWWTP 1 Mar; max 650, 200 INWR 11, 26 Mar; 108 Clarence ERIE 30 Mar; 109 N Collins ERIE 21 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 750, 350 BufH 1 Mar, 18 Apr; 200 BuSP 3 Mar; last 10 BufH 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: 35 INWR 26 Mar; 35 Findley L CHAU 12 Apr; max 37 BWWTP 28 Apr.

King Eider: FNSP 9 Mar (MB), only report.

Harlequin Duck: 3, 4 NFSP 2 Apr, 12 May; regular this loc recent winter & spring seasons.

Surf Scoter: 4 FNSP 9 Mar; Machias CATT 11, 13 Apr (D&DR, SB); 3 Wilson NIAG 21 Apr; 2 Alma Pond ALLE 22 Apr (KR, DC); max 14 BuSP 2 May (AH); last FNSP 5 May.

White-winged Scoter: 32 BufH 1 Mar; TWMA 5 Mar; max 435 FNSP 17 Mar; 2 AISP 30 Apr (KB); last 5 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Black Scoter: 2 FNSP 7 Mar; BufH 26 Mar; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: max 175 BufH 1 Mar; 170 Wilson NIAG 22 Apr; 42 Cuba L ALLE 7 Apr (DC); last 2 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Bufflehead: 34 INWR 5 Mar; max 110 Cuba L ALLE 20 Apr; last 2 Ellery Chaul 31 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 100 BufH 1 Mar; last 2 Wilson NIAG 7 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 92 Lakewood Chaul 21 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 800 BufH, 450 Buffalo NR 17 Apr; 520 Wilson NIAG 4 May.

Ruddy Duck: 7 Buffalo ERIE 30 Mar; max 101 BWWTP 28 Apr; 40 INWR 19 Apr, 11 May; 2 BufH 24 May.

Red-throated Loon: FNSP 10 Mar; max 9 Somerset NIAG 31 Mar; max 9 Wilson NIAG 21 Apr; Findley L CHAU 9 May; last 2 Wilson NIAG 27 May.

Com. Loon: arr Hamburg ERIE, Somerset NIAG, & FMCSP 31 Mar; max 83 BufH 18 Apr; 80 SUNY Buffalo ERIE; 74 Cassadaga CHAU 20 Apr; max total from mid Apr 'grounding'.

Pied-billed Grebe: 22 Findley L CHAU 12 Apr, good number for loc.

Horned Grebe: max 108 N Collins ERIE 1 Apr (SB); 40 Cuba L ALLE 16 Apr; 40 Tiff NP 18 Apr; many around on small ponds in mid Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 5, 20 Somerset NIAG 7, 31 Mar; max 53 Wilson NIAG 28 Mar; 52 FMCSP 31 Mar; 25 GHSP 11 Apr; BuSP 12, 20 Apr; last N Harmony Chaul 4 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 DH 16 Apr; 559 GHSP 1 May; 700 NF 25 May.

Am. White Pelican: BuFH 29 Apr (PY); has become annual in spring.

Am. Bittern: arr Tift NP 6 Apr; 11 other loc; much more than usual.

Least Bittern: arr INWR 11 May; max 2, 4 Tift NP 17, 21 May; TBNP 22, 29 May; 2 TWMA 25 May; Wilson NIAG 28 May.

Great Egret: arr 2 Tonawanda NR 22 Mar; max 41 Tonawanda NR 5 May.

Green Heron: arr Cuba ALLE 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Grand I ERIE 18 Mar; max 65 NFSP 14 May.

Black Vulture: 2 Lewiston NIAG 30 Mar, 3, 18 Apr, 13 May; regular loc where resident all year; 2 FMCS 31 Mar; N Tonawanda NIAG 5 Apr; 4 BOSAC; Basom GENE 21 Apr; Bond L NIAG 3 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 3 Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; max 2117 Hamburg HW 31 Mar.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr 2 Randolph CHAU 23 Mar; max 20 Hamburg HW 13 Apr.

Bald Eagle: max 13, 14 Hamburg HW 31 Mar, 23 Apr; widespread.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 90 Hamburg HW 13 Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2 Hamburg HW 18 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 3 Houghton ALLE, 1 Orchard Park ERIE, & 1 Hamburg HW 13 Apr; max 839 Hamburg HW 23 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; last Lewiston NIAG 4 May.

Golden Eagle: Olean CATT 4 Mar (KN); 1 Hamburg HW 21, 30 Apr, 5 May (JL); only reports.

Virginia Rail: arr TRWMA 2 Apr; max 5, 8 Tift NP 23, 27 Apr; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 2, 29 May; N Harmony CHAU 19 May; 2 Ellicottville CATT 21 May.

Sora: arr Pomfret CHAU 12 Apr; max JAS 5 May; N Harmony CHAU 5, 19 May; FMCS 5 May; WFWMA 23 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr Pomfret CHAU 18 Apr.

Am. Coot: max 40 INWR 11 Mar.

Sandhill Crane: rep 12 loc; max 6 WFWMA 22 Apr (JB); 4 OOWMA 7 May.

Black-bellied Plover: arr Wilson NIAG 5 May; max 11 Somerset NIAG 22 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Wilson NIAG 5 May; max 46 Somerset NIAG 22 May (JS).

Spotted Sandpiper: arr DH 13 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Arkwright CHAU 20 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Sheridan CHAU & Brant ERIE 30 Mar; max 15 Batavia GENE 24 Apr; last LBSP 28 May (CM).

Willet: arr Somerset NIAG 11, 17 May (JS), only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 BOSAC; max 11 INWR 30 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr TRWMA 12 May, regular loc, only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 DH 7, 18 May (AS, JG); Wilson NIAG 21 May; Somerset NIAG 22 May; 2 BuFH 24 May; Olcott NIAG 26 May.

Sanderling: arr 2 DH 6, 7 May (GV), early; 3 BuFH 25 May; only reports.

Dunlin: arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 14 Apr; max 44 Somerset NIAG 22 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr INWR 27 Apr; max 32 INWR 7 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Somerset NIAG 22 May, only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 Hanover CHAU 8 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 19 May; max 42 TWMA 25 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 11 May; 10 Somerset NIAG 22 May; 9 Concord ERIE 15 May; 8 TWMA 19 May; BuFH 22 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Jamestown CHAU 20 Mar; max 22 Cuba ALLE 16 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: max 19 INWR 7 May (CM, PH).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Wilson NIAG 5, 7 May (WD); Somerset NIAG 15 May (JS).

Red-necked Phalarope: BeSP 17 Apr (JT, ph!), record early; NFSP 25 May (JM).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 10 Hamburg ERIE 8 Mar; max 850 Buffalo NR 17 Apr; 800 Lewiston NR 18 Apr.

Little Gull: arr Lewiston NR 25 Mar; max 5 Lewiston NR 18 Apr; last FNPS 5 May; fewer reports.

Iceland Gull: few reported; max only 2; much lower than past years.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 NFSP 17 Mar; Tift NP 2 May, unusual loc, much lower than past years.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 DH 12 Mar; last BuFH 4 May; few reports.

Caspian Tern: arr DH 4 Apr; 177 PB 6 May; max 200 BuFH 18 May.

Black Tern: arr INWR 27 Apr; max 20 INWR 25 May; NF 10 May.

Com. Tern: arr DH & Buffalo NR 13 Apr; max 600 BufH 23 May.

Forster's Tern: arr Dayton CATT 4 Apr (VM); DH 16 Apr; Cuba L ALLE 16 Apr; Lewiston NR 17 Apr.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Ellington CHAU 11 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Tiftt NP 9 May.

Snowy Owl: 3 Yates ORLE 5 Mar; 3 Cambria NIAG 19, 24 Mar; well reported elsewhere in Mar; 2 BOSAC; *max 22, 44* BufH 17, 20 Apr (PY, mob), exceptional concentration on breakwalls and ice; Dunkirk CHAU 3 May; Somerset NIAG 4 May; last BufH 9 May.

Long-eared Owl: GHSP 11 Apr; only report.

Short-eared Owl: Yates ORLE 5 Mar; Gowanda ERIE 8 Mar; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 11 Mar; max 3 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; Ischua CATT 22, 23 Mar; 5 BOSAC; BufH 21 Apr; last INWR 27 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 12 May; max 9 Jamestown CHAU 26 May.

Chimney Swift: arr FLC 21 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Ripley CHAU 2 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: RWNP thru Apr; arr 2 EvSP, FNSP 27 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr FLC 31 Mar.

Merlin: too many sightings to report.

Peregrine Falcon: reports Mar-May mostly near known breeding sites; 13 BOSAC; 26 BOSMC.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr N Harmony CHAU & AmSP 15 May; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 16 May; Ellery CHAU 19 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Jamestown CHAU 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr five loc 22 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 INWR, N Harmony CHAU, & Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 14 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Cherry Creek CHAU 14 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr BuSP 10 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr AmSP & Tiftt NP 2 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Orchard Park ERIE 30 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 2 RWNP 30 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr PG 1 May.

N. Shrike: last Java WYOM 11 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: Tiftt NP 7 May (KR), fewer spring reports in recent years.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Tiftt NP 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 3 Willing ALLE 21 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr 2 Alexander GENE, Batavia GENE 29 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr four loc 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Orchard Park ERIE 3 May.

Fish Crow: 10, 5 Buffalo ERIE 7, 10 Apr (PY), record count; S Park L ERIE 17 Apr; Wilson NIAG 3 May (WD); still rare but increasing.

Com. Raven: continued increase rep n ERIE & NIAG.

Horned Lark: max 150 Java WYOM 10 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr 3 Tiftt NP 12 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Gerry CHAU 18 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr FLC 5 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 3 Tiftt NP 15 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 BufH 26 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Tiftt NP 6 Apr.

House Wren: arr FLC 18 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr AISP 31 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr Tiftt NP 25 Apr.

Carolina Wren: only 18 BOSAC & 21 BOSMC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 3 JAS 20 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Tiftt NP 15 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BOSAC; last Tiftt NP 23 May.

E. Bluebird: max 45 Wilson NIAG (MM, WD) 27 May, flyover flocks, late date.

Veery: arr 2 TBNP, Tiftt NP, & N Harmony CHAU 4 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr FLC 14 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr four loc 2 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr Tiftt NP 6 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE & Buffalo ERIE 1 May.

Gray Catbird: Tiftt NP 19 Mar, 15 Apr; difficult to tell if same from winter or spring arrival.

Brown Thrasher: arr BuSP 12 Apr.

Am. Pipit: last 2 Wilson NIAG 23 May.

Bohemian Waxwing: Wilson NIAG 22 Mar (WD), rare in spring.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 1, 1, last 1 Shelby ORLE 12, 16 Mar, 4 May; Arcade WYOM 22 Mar; max 5 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; Wilson NIAG 22 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 25 Shelby ORLE 12 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr Busti CHAU 1 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 10 May (CB), rare.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr N Harmony CHAU 24 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr TBNP, Chautauqua CHAU 27 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr WTSP & Tift NP 6 May; BeSP 15 May; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 LESP & PG 2 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: FLC 4 May, only report.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: OOWMA 10 May (CM), previous location; rare.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 29 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1, max 3 INWR 5, 25 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr EvSP 2 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Alexnader GENE 29 Apr.
Nashville Warbler: arr FLC 28 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr 3 N Harmony CHAU & Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 9 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr RWNP 25 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr Arkwright CHAU 1 May.
Am. Redstart: arr PG 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr AmSP 1 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 3 INWR 4 May; 4 Newstead ERIE 23 May.
N. Parula: arr Harmony CHAU 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr AmSP & Caneadea ALLE 2 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 Grand Island ERIE 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr FLC 1 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Cuba ALLE 20 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Caneadea ALLE 3 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 2 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr JAS & Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 3 May.
“Western” Palm Warbler: arr N Harmony CHAU 18 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr 3 BOSAC.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8, 3 BuSP 12, 28 Mar; only reports before Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr TBNP 5 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr RWNP 29 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr 3 loc 8 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr FLC 8 May.

E. Towhee: Rushford ALLE 12-18 Mar; Lockport NIAG 14 Mar; uncertain if arrivals or wintering.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 101 INWR 3 Mar; last WoBSP 5 May.
Chipping Sparrow: Portland CHAU 5 Mar, overwintered; arr Clarence ERIE 31 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG & Olcott NIAG 3 May; Newfane NIAG 4, 16 May; Forestville CHAU 5 May; 2 Carlton ORLE 8, 23 May; 3 BOSMC; max 4 Olcott NIAG 28 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Bond L CP 31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Sheridan CHAU 2 Apr; max 4 BufH 16 Apr; more rpts than usual, especially of migr in Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Sheridan CHAU 2 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr BuSP 1 May; reported from 11 other loc.
Fox Sparrow: 4 rep Mar; max 14 FLC 17 Apr; 11 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 21 Apr; last Tift NP2 May.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr three loc 2 May; last Wilson NIAG 24 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr N Harmony CHAU 19 Mar.
White-throated Sparrow: max 93 Tift NP 28 Apr.
HARRIS’S SPARROW: Whitesville ALLE 3 May (KRe ph!), rare.
White-crowned Sparrow: 4 loc Mar; arr late Apr; last 2 FNPS 24 May.
SUMMER TANAGER: Orchard Park ERIE 6 May (CB); nearly annual in spring now.
Scarlet Tanager: arr RWNP 4 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Ripley CHAU 23 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr three loc 3 May.
Bobolink: arr Somerset NIAG 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 1 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Somerset NIAG 10 Apr (JS); rare but regular in spring in recent years.
Rusty Blackbird: max 140 BuSP 30 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr TBNP 1 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 2 Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr.
Purple Finch: max 14 Westfield CHAU 4 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: Orchard Park ERIE 16-20 Apr (MZ), only report.
Pine Siskin: 46 Portville ALLE 2 Mar; 49, 57 Bolivar ALLE 6 Mar, 6 Apr; max 187 Orangeville WYOM 19 Apr; reported in lower numbers thru.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

REGION 2—GENESEE

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Spring 2018 brought a season of sharp contrasts and at times sighs of relief. March was another cold month, with temperatures averaging 32.2°F, 2.1° below normal. It was the tenth time and second in a row for the March average to be below February's. A persistent storm track to our south and east left us cold until the 26th, after which we finally made the 40s for a few days but with light rain each day. Precipitation totaled 3.02", 0.52" above normal. Light snow fell on 15 days, plus a few heavy snow days added up to 29.4", 13.1" above normal. And, we were only on the fringes of four major nor'easters passing south of us and up the East Coast.

April continued the cold, with the first 10 days the coldest on record for that period and through the fourth week still the second coldest. But a few warm days at the end dropped us to the tenth coldest April. Temperatures averaged 40.8°, 5.5° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.50", 0.77" above normal, but with 1.34" of that falling on the 16th. Nearly all the snowfall was in the first half of the month and totaled only 5.2". Again, we were lucky, as a windstorm on 3-4 April produced most of its damage to our west and a potential severe ice storm on 14-15 April caused little damage locally. Lake Ontario levels were high and concerning but well below last year's major flood levels. At month's end, leaf out and spring migrants were both well behind normal.

May jumped right to warm; 80° on the 1st! All but three days, 10-12 May, averaged above normal, and May ended the warmest on record averaging 64.4°, 7.6° above normal. Still there were only two records set, a tie of the record high on the 2nd and a new record high low on the 31st. Precipitation totaled 1.70", 1.17" below normal and mostly in the 2nd half of the month and at night and with 0.52" of the total on the 22nd. So a great month to be outdoors birding!

March was really not conducive to migration or to birders venturing out. Yet eBird lines of "records" were typical and species found were near the 10-year average. Moving into April, the major problem was a heavy band of storms across the country to our south and west blocking a major source of our migrants. April's cold left species counts well behind those of the last few years. The quick change to warmth in May caught us up to regular arrival dates and by month's end pushed species totals above average for the month and year to date. The eBird records downloaded for the months were about: 24,200, 47,930, and 89,512, with April and May totals boosted by special birding events.

Turning now to specific families and species, we start with the waterfowl and find nearly all expected species found each month, though a common complaint was poor numbers. Snow Goose numbers remained high in the Region and even much higher in neighboring Region 3 through March. Good

numbers of the scarcer Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and Cackling Goose were also found, with individuals lingering into April. An early Brant was found on 15 April in the Ontario Beach area by Brian Morse. Eurasian Wigeon continued from early arrivals in February, though March records were only from the NMWMA in this Region. Single males were found in that area and in Hamlin in April. Among the puddle ducks, a peak count of 4000 Northern Pintail in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA in March and a surprise 28 Northern Shovelers on the Shore Acres Ponds in Hamlin on 7 May were the only standouts. For the diving ducks, 8000 Redheads on Conesus Lake in March, 894 Greater Scaup, and 1340 Long-tailed Ducks in April, 1000 Long-tailed Ducks and 760 Red-breasted Mergansers in May, and King Eiders on 17 and 18 March and 1 April, and a Harlequin Duck on 11 May were highlights. A good variety of waterfowl lingered into May, but Tundra Swan, Canvasback, and Black Scoter were missed in that month.

Red-throated Loon numbers remained low, with the maximum only 27 on 1 April. Common Loon and Horned Grebe were a bit better, with peaks of 577 on 28 April and 458 on 1 April, respectively. Given the generally low loon numbers, an event at Webster Park on 28 April was interesting. I arrived at the lakeshore parking area for a short look at the lake and found a wall of fog parked a quarter mile or so offshore. Inside that line, there were Common Loons on the water everywhere as far as I could see east and west and out to the fog. Most were alternate plumage adults, and they were ignoring the many fishing boats passing back and forth among them. I counted 577 in this area of visibility. Later I moved west to the porch of the Kanatota Lodge and counted what I could see out front, trying to start west of the limit from the lakefront lot and as far west as I could see. The numbers dropped off quickly, though visibility was somewhat better offshore, and the total was only 114. Red-necked Grebe peaked at a low 41 on 2 April. 1000 Double-crested Cormorants were back into Irondequoit Bay by 13 April. American Bitterns were on the early side on 4 and 6 April, on the latter date, a bird walking through the backyard of Martha Zettel and Bill O'Neill in the Town of Rush. Even earlier were Great Egrets in two locations on 27 March and a Green Heron on 30 March. A Cattle Egret was found in the Sodus area by Jim Wood on 5 May and seen by at least nine others on that day. The species is now rare in spring. Black Vulture was reported from the hawkwatch on 9 April and then two each from HANA and from West Walworth on 8 May.

This year the official Braddock Bay hawk counter was Greg Lawrence, with regular help and company from Mike Tetlow and numerous other hawk aficionados. The season was plagued by bad weather from the snow and cold of March to cold in April and then persistent NE breezes in May. The bad weather in March led to the month's total not matching that of the first two days of the watch at the end of February until 19 March. The last two days of the month brought over half the total hawks for the month. The 2340 Turkey Vultures were 79% of all raptors for the month. Only Red-shouldered Hawk at 183 and Red-

tailed Hawk at 275 also made triple digits. No Northern Goshawk was sighted at the hawkwatch, but there were two elsewhere. Two Ospreys arrived right at month's end. There were six Golden Eagle reports from 11-31 March, with four of those away from Braddock Bay. April started very slowly, but Turkey Vultures continued flooding past. Single Northern Goshawks were seen at both Braddock Bay and in Wayne County. A single Broad-winged Hawk was spotted in Henrietta on 19 April followed by the first 110 at the hawkwatch on 21 April, with a peak day of 5675 passing on 24 April. While the month seemed slow, there were eight days with > 1000 birds. May produced hawkwatch highlights of a Mississippi Kite seen from the Frisbee Hill site on 14 May, a rare, immature dark morph Broad-winged Hawk circling overhead on 21 May and seen later that day passing the Derby Hill watch, an immature light morph Swainson's Hawk on 23 May, and a record high single-day count of 115 Bald Eagles on 31 May. There were only two 1000+ bird days in May.

Among the marsh birds, rails were poorly reported as usual, but Common Gallinule was a bit more widely reported and in good numbers in the NMWMA at Van Dyne Spoor with a maximum count of 50 on 29 May. American Coot also was also most numerous in the Van Dyne Spoor area, with a peak count of 80 on 7 April. Sandhill Crane was well reported each month both passing the hawkwatch, > 65 total, and at many other locations, totaling another 52+ individuals.

With the snow and cold, among the shorebirds only a Wilson's Snipe mid month and a Greater Yellowlegs on 30 March were added to a few more sightings each of the early arrivals of February, Killdeer and American Woodcock. Continuing cold in April saw shorebirds slow in arriving, but 11 species were reported with some notable, including a Ruff and Reeve at Carncross Road in the NMWMA found by Wade and Melissa Rowley on 14 April, the Region's 16th record and certainly the same birds as found just outside our Region near Port Byron on 10-12 April. The Reeve was located again in the Van Dyne Spoor area on 15 April, with other sightings on 16 and 20 April back near Port Byron and finally the Ruff in nearly complete alternate plumage at Benning Marsh on 6 May. There were many excellent photos taken of these birds. Habitat was again limited and most shorebird reports were passing birds along the Lake Ontario shore or birds pausing on piers or narrow beaches. Still, 24 species were reported in May. Rarer species included: American Avocet in the NMWMA on 31 May; American Golden-Plover on 27 May; the Region's fifth spring Piping Plover at the East Spit of Braddock Bay found by Brian and Brooke Morse on 1 May and seen by many; a record high count of 27 Willets on logs and stumps in Salmon Creek behind Docksiders on 7 May; Long-billed Dowitcher on 15 May; and Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope, formerly regular and now sometimes missed in spring. Counts were generally not great by historical standards, but the best were: 64 Lesser Yellowlegs, 115 Dunlin, 70 Least Sandpiper, and 183 Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Moving along to the gulls and terns, a Bonaparte's Gull was reported on 1 March but no others until 27 March. A major gull event for the season was triggered by a large fish die-off, mainly gizzard shad, in Irondequoit Bay drawing at times over 10,000 large gulls to the feast. Sample numbers for several dates will be included in the species section of this report, but maxima included: 3000 Ring-billed on 3 April; 7500 Herring, 15 Iceland, 27 Lesser Black-backed, and 8 Glaucous on 8 April; 100 Great Black-backed on 4 March; and a report and photos of a **Yellow-legged/Lesser Blacked Gull** by Andy Guthrie and Tim Lenz on 8 April. In addition, there were high numbers of all the normal winter gull species across the Region in March and April and lingering on into May in small numbers. Other notable gulls were adult Little Gulls off Brown Road on 18 April and near Chimney Bluffs on 5 May, both in Wayne County, and an adult Laughing Gull at the newly constructed barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay on 25-26 May, found by Brad Carlson and Andy Guthrie and seen and photographed by several others. All the regular terns were well reported, all arriving in April at late-normal dates relative to recent history. The peak count of 38 Black Terns was in the Van Dyne Spoor area, as usual in recent years.

As usual, the non-passerine landbirds grouping provided few real highlights, though there are interesting notes. We can start with no Eurasian Collared-Dove reports this season. Their presence in the Region has been somewhat anomalous relative to increasing numbers in most areas they have invaded. We seem to only retain a few individuals around the Greenwell farm in the Town of Hamlin seen only sporadically by birders. Cuckoo numbers were good, though not unusually high. This winter's Snowy Owl invasion lingered on, with at least 13 individuals at 10 locations in March. One individual near the hawkwatch all day on 2 April was a treat for many observers. One near Retsof in Livingston County on 19 April was thought to be the last until another was reported from just south of Route 104 in the Town of Gaines, Genesee County, on 12 May. The DEC's Short-eared Owl/raptor surveys out of the Avon office found good numbers in March, tapering off in the 10 and 24 April dates. Others birding the Nations Road IBA found good numbers, with a maximum of 27 on 7 March. The usual owl roost surveys in the "Owl Woods" area along Manitou Beach Road were carried out by volunteers through Braddock Bay Raptor Research, with a summary report prepared by Jim Adams. It was a below average year for Long-eared Owl, with 20 reported between a late 28 March arrival and 1 May. Northern Saw-whet Owl numbers were even farther below average, with only two each added in March and April to the three in late February for a very low total of seven. The season was salvaged a bit by the surprise appearance of a Boreal Owl, the 18th Regional record, on 25 April, staying for the day to be observed by over 24 observers and well photographed. Common Nighthawk numbers were poor, with the maximum only 42 on 17 May. E. Whip-poor-will arrived on 28 April, and a few were heard off and on through mid-May. As usual, interesting woodpecker notes are few: nearly all the

Red-headed Woodpecker reports were from Hamlin Beach SP; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports dropped to very few in March before migrants returned in April; and there were good numbers of Northern Flicker migrants reported along the Lake Ontario shore on 24 April—62 at Hamlin Beach SP, 118 passing the BB hawkwatch, and 100 at the West Spit of Braddock Bay, plus 50 off Broadway Road in Wayne County the previous day. Wrapping up this grouping, the regular falcons were all reported in typical numbers at the hawkwatch and elsewhere for the season, with summary numbers in the species section.

Overall, the passerines continued the trend of the past several years, with essentially all expected species for the season reported and “misses” either rarities or related to timing in the various months. March started slowly, with only about six newly arriving species and some of those judgment calls vs. overwintering: Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Numbers of half-hardy species continuing were down in this “Starvation Moon”. A surprise was a male Scarlet Tanager in a private location in Wayne County on 17 March (*vide* Dave Spier). April banding was off to a weak start, with only 897 new bands and 654 of those kinglets. Interestingly, the numbers of kinglets banded crossed over from more Golden-crowned to more Ruby-crowned from 23 to 24 April, the same dates Jim Adams noted for the apparent crossover in numbers in Oatka Creek Park. It is also fun to picture handling the 164 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded on 27 April. Normally these comparisons are missed, as Golden-crowned Kinglets typically have mostly passed by the time the official banding season starts in mid-April; this season was delayed by weather. Another pair of interesting notes is Black-capped Chickadee at zero banded in April and only six for the season vs. 441 and 593, respectively, in 2017 and Winter Wren continuing its seesaw only opposite to the chickadees and with smaller numbers involved. Many passerines arrived at near to normal dates in April, but only 11 species of warblers were reported, where often the number is over 20, and only five individuals of three species were banded! Species often tallied in large numbers passing along the Lake Ontario shore, e.g. Blue Jay, American Crow, and American Robin, were noted in only relatively low peak numbers in both April and May. A **Western Meadowlark**, the first in the Region since 2008, was found in the NMWMA along Armitage by Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman on 14 April and seen by over 108 others by the end of that month and over 60 more in May. The bird stayed to the end of the season and well beyond and often “strayed” south across the road into Seneca County and Region 3 to the delight of the County and Regional listers. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird found by visiting birds Tony DeSantis and Angela Lambert on 4 May in the cattails and often on the lawn with other blackbirds behind restaurants at the NW corner of Irondequoit Bay stayed until 7 May and was enjoyed at close range by over 50 other observers reporting. A second male Yellow-headed Blackbird was found on Church Road in the Town of Hamlin on 19 May by Andy Guthrie.

Moving into May, we jumped right into warmer weather and the arrivals quickly caught up, with most biased toward the first quartile of their arrival date distributions, a trend since we first asked observers to note especially first observation dates for a set of 93 species beginning in 1987. Numbers generally remained low, with many observers noting “too quiet” periods scattered through time and across our geographic Region. Scarcer/rare species reported included: Worm-eating Warbler, “Lawrence’s” Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. For the season, BBBO banding was the lowest in the past seven years, but only slightly below two years ago, and most species totals were within one standard deviation (STD) of their averages of the past six years. Only five species varied by > 2 STD—House Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet up in totals and Least Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler down. Sparrows, which were uniformly down last year, were back up closer to average this season. For the whole season, the winter finches were missing other than small numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin.

Most of the records summarized here are from monthly downloads of eBird data totaling about 161,642 lines of records this season. The geneseebirds or western New York listserv adds on the order of about 5% to the total, and reports from banding and other studies and personal communications add additional information. With events like the Global Big Day in May, the numbers of observers contributing lists to eBird are now typically over 200 most months and exceeded 400 this May. All records add to the picture we can assemble for what occurred in the season. Interested readers can seek more details in summaries online at the hawkcount, BBBO, and RBA websites.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	9 Apr	1	9 Apr	2
Turkey Vulture	4 Mar	2492	2 Apr	21893
Mississippi Kite	14 May	1	14 May	1
Osprey	31 Mar	17	1 May	99
Bald Eagle	6 Mar	115	31 May	801
N. Harrier	5 Mar	39	21 Apr	268
Sharp-sh. Hawk	15 Mar	355	5 May	1941
Cooper’s Hawk	1 Mar	14	31 Mar	110
N. Goshawk	9 Apr	1	9 Apr	1
Red-shld Hawk	22 Mar	107	31 Mar	250
Swainson’s Hawk	23 May	1	23 May	13
Broad-wngd Hawk	21 Apr	6237	1 May	21518
Red-tailed Hawk	4 Mar	122	31 Mar	1084
Rough-legd Hawk	1 Mar	6	31 Mar	47
GoldenEagle	19 Mar	7	24 Apr	17

Am. Kestrel	18 Mar	25	24 Apr	200
Merlin	25 Mar	6	23 Apr	26
Peregrine Falcon	22 Mar	6	14 May	16

Total including unidentified raptors: 48,276

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicate banded this season, usually at BBBO’s Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East Spit at mouth of Braddock including newly constructed barrier beach island just off spit; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay Hawkwatch; **BB-WS** – West Spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; **CIWMA** – Conesus Inlet WMA, LIVI; **ConL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton; MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-W** – Hamlin Beach SP, West end trails; **HB-YC** – Hamlin Beach SP, Yanty Creek trails at east end; **ICW** - Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south, LaSalle Landing P and nearby; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou Beach area, MONR; **MP** - Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NHamRd** – N. Hamlin Road, T Hamlin, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T of Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd.; **NMWMA (CR)** – along Carncross Road east of Savannah-Spring Lake Rd.; **NMWMA (MT)** – Marten Tract off Savannah Spring L Rd; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd. marshes near DEC field office; **NMWMA (VDS)** – area along Van Dyne Spoor, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit, T Savannah, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach P, Charlotte MONR; **OCP** – Oatka Creek P, MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, Orleans County at border with Region 1; **SalCrk** – Salmon Creek, T Greece, MONR; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; **W** – T of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 5 Jagger Rd, T Palmyra 12 Mar (MG); TCEA 23 Mar (BCar); SalCrk 31 Mar (CW); last 6 Silver L – S WYOM 2 Apr (RSt).

Snow Goose: max 35000 T Piffard LIV1 20 Mar (DBe); 10000 Broadway & Brown Rds WAYN 25-26 Mar (W&MR); 6000 sev loc 5, 26 Mar (sev); last NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 31 May (DDo, W&MR).

Ross's Goose: 3 & max 4 Church Rd, Hamlin 4 Mar (AGu & BCar); 3 Poplar Hill Rd, Lima 25 Mar (BCar); 12 rep, 13 ind 6 loc 4-29 Mar.

Brant: arr OB 15 Apr, early; max 15 Beechwood SP WAYH 22 May.

Cackling Goose: max 26 TCEA 23 Mar (BCar); 39 rep 80 ind 21 loc all Mar; last 3 NHamRd 18 Apr (AGu).

Canada Goose: max 6000 Church Rd, Hamlin 4 Mar (TL, NC).

Mute Swan: max 80 SalCrk 27 Mar; 65 Buck Pnd G 28 Apr; 72 Buck Pnd G 12 May.

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 NMWMA 27 Apr; not as visible as some years.

Tundra Swan: max 218 T Caledonia LIV1 1 Mar (MW); 200 NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar (SB, JMcGo); last G 23 Apr.

Gadwall: max 150 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr, low max.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1m NMWMA (CR) 1 Mar (LL, W&MR, DWh); 1m NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Mar (GD); 1m NMWMA (MT) 4 Apr (W&MR); 1m N HamRd 18 Apr (AGu, NP).

Am. Wigeon: max 225 NMWMA (Deep Muck) 13 Mar; last NMWMA (MT) 22 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 35 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr, very low max.

Mallard: max 200 NMWMA (CR) 1 Mar, low max.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 1-5 BB area 31 Mar, late.

N. Shoveler: 28 Shore Acres Pds, H 7 May (R&SSp), high number for loc & date.

N. Pintail: max 4000 NMWMA (CR) 8 Mar (JWo), good count; last BB – ES 31 May (BCar).

Green-winged Teal: max 145 Geneseo Airfield 14 Apr, low max; NMWMA (MMRdM) 18 May.

Canvasback: last Silver L – S WYOM 28 Apr.

Redhead: max 8100 ConL 15 Mar (MW), good count.

Ring-necked Duck: max 350 NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Mar; last BB 17 May.

Greater Scaup: max 894 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr; last BB 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 275 ConL 7 Apr (BriM).

Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup: BB-HE 15 Mar (GL, *et al.*).

King Eider: imm m off G 17 & 18 Mar (MBA, JiM); last 1 1st win m off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, CW).

Harlequin Duck: last 1 m Chimney Bluffs WAYN 11 May (MG). **Surf Scoter:** last HB 20 May.

White-winged Scoter: last HB 12 May, early dep.

Black Scoter: last off Webster 14 Apr, early dep.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1340 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ); 1000 BB-ES 17 May (AGu, BCar).

Bufflehead: max 245 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ, CW).

Com. Goldeneye: max 202 ConL 6 Mar; Chimney Bluffs WAYN 11 May (MG).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 760 HB 13 May, low max and late for max.

Ruddy Duck: 25 Silver L – S WYOM 2 May.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 11 Nations Rd survey 13 May (MW), good count for recent years.

Red-throated Loon: max 27 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr, low max; last off Edgemere Dr, G 30 May (JeB), late.

Com. Loon: 146 Cranberry Pd, G 21 Apr; max 577 WP lake parking area 28 Apr (RSp), *intro*; 114 WP Kanatota Lodge and W 28 Apr (RSp), *intro*.

Horned Grebe: max 458 off Edgemere Dr, G 1 Apr (JeB, AJ, CW); last SpT 14 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 1 Mar (I&WH), early; max 41 HB 2 Apr, low max; last HB 11 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr BB-HW 24 Mar; max 1000 IB 13 Apr (ST); 600 HB 30 May (RSp, KW).

Am. Bittern: arr BB-HW 4 Apr (RBU); T Rush MONR 6 Apr (MZ, BO), walking thru backyard, *intro*.

Least Bittern: arr Broadway Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 4 May.

Great Egret: arr SalCrk, T Parma & Cornwall Pres WAYN 30 Mar (R&SSp, JWi).

Green Heron: arr ConL 30 Mar KC); early.

CATTLE EGRET (R2): Middle Rd, T Sodus and nearby 5 May (JWo, 9 oth obs, ph), now rare in spring.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Webster 12 Apr (R&SSp), on Rt 104 borrow pit.

Black Vulture: first BB-HW 9 Mar; 2 HANA 8 May (MT); 2 W Walworth WAYN 8 May (MG).
Turkey Vulture: total 2390 BB-HW Mar, 79% of total birds for Mar; max 2492 BB-HW 2 Apr; 1800 Broadway Rd T Wolcott WAYN 11 Apr (W&MR).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr 1-3 HB-HW & nearby 31 Mar.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 BB-Frisbee Hill 14 May (GL, *et al.*).
Bald Eagle: total 30 BB Mar; 181 BB + approx 160+ other many loc Apr; 74 BB-H 28 Apr, month max; 586 BB + approx 188 other many loc May; max 115 BB-H 31 May, record high 1-day count.
N. Goshawk: Hogan Pt, G 4 Mar (JiM, LM); 1 imm T Rush 18 Mar (MZ); Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (W&MR); Fields Hill Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 5 May (SB, *et al.*).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 T Henrietta 19 Apr (RMac); 110 BB-HW 21 Apr, 1st at hawkwatch; 5675 BB-HW 24 Apr; max 6237 BB-HW 11 May; 1 imm dark morph BB-HW 21 May (GL, *et al.*), soared overhead for good looks by all.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm light morph BB-HW 23 May (GL, BW).
Rough-legged Hawk: last BB-H 20 May.
Golden Eagle: arr NMWMA (VDS) 11 Mar (W&MR); 6 ind 5 loc 19-31 Mar; total 12 BB-HW Mar; 8 ind 8 oth loc 11-30 Apr; BB-HW 1, 5, 19 May; Beechwood SP WAYN 9, 22 May (MG, JWo).
Virginia Rail: arr HANA 15 Apr.
Sora: HB-YC 2 Apr (RSp), Reg early.
Com. Gallinule: arr 6 NMWMA (VDS) 20 Apr; max 50 NMWMA (VDS) 29 May.
Am. Coot: max 80 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: total 23 BB-HW 15-31 Mar; total 19+ at 5 oth loc Mar; total 26 BB-HW 1-28 Apr; 23+ ind 19+ other loc Apr; total 16 BB-HW 1-24 May; 10 ind sev oth migr loc 2-24 May; total 7 at 2 possible breeding loc May.
AM. AVOCET (R2): NMWMA (MRdM) 31 May (RP).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB-ES 3 May; last 3-4 BB-ES 27 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr BB-ES 27 May (BCar, 7 oth obs), rare in spring.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Moscow Rd, H 3 May; max 33 NMWMA (MRdM) 26 May (JMGo)
PIPING PLOVER: BB-ES 1 May (B&BM, 19 oth obs, ph), 5th Reg spring record.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (CR) 16 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Geneseo Airfield 14 Apr (JK); last T Victor MONR 23 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr NMWMA (South Butler Loc) 30 Mar (W&MR).
Willet: arr to 27 SalCrk, G 7 May (RSp, DHo, ph, 15+ oth obs); last BB-ES 23 May (BriM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr NMWMA (CR) 10 Apr; max 64 T Riga MONR 3 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr BB-HW 9 May (GL, *et al.*), only rep.
Whimbrel: arr OB 22 May (BCar); last BB-ES 26 May (BCar). **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr BB-ES 12 May (AGU, BriM).
Ruff: arr 1 m & 1 f NMWMA (CR) 14 Apr (W&MR, 13+ oth obs, ph), same birds as near Port Byron 10-12 Apr and seen later, *intro*; 1 f NMWMA (VDS) 15 Apr (SuD, BMC, AnM), *intro*.
Dunlin: arr NMWMA (CR) 8 Apr (BW, DDo); max 115 BB-ES 25 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Hogan Pt 2 May; max 70 NMWMA (MRdM) 15 May, low max.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1-2 2 loc H & 1 Spt 22 May; 3 oth rep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (CR) & 11 Wyoming Flats 14 Apr; last Spt 23 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 9 H & 5 Spt 20 May; max 183 BB-ES 28 May (AGU, MG).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (CR) 22 Apr; last 5 MWMA (MRdM) 15 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 15 May (W&MR), rare in spring.
Wilson's Snipe: 48 NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 15 Apr; max 49 Nations Rd 17 May. arr Nations Rd 20 Mar (DBe).
Wilson's Phalarope: NMWMA (MT) 20 May (DO), only rep.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 Cranberry Pd, G 1 Mar; max 82 SalCrk, G 5 Apr, low max.
Little Gull: arr 1 ad Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (W&MR); 1 ad Chimney Bluffs WAYN 5 May (ShB, *et al.*).
LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad BB-ES 25-26 May (BCar, AGU, ph, 10+ oth obs).
Ring-billed Gull: 1400 IB-S 11 Mar; max 3000 IB – Bay Front 3 Apr (JWo); 1500 IBO 9 Apr (RN); 1400 NHamRd 14 Apr (AGU);
Herring Gull: 2800 IB-S 11 Mar; 5000 IB-S 25 Mar (BriM); max 7500 IB – Bay Front 8 Apr (TL); 6500 IB – LaSalle Landing 8 Apr; 1000 HANA 1 May (DSh).
Iceland Gull: 9 IB-S 31 Mar; total 55+ ind 16 loc Mar; max 15 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGU, TL); 118 lines in eBird many loc Apr; 6 T Riga MONR 2 May (AGU); last IB_S 6 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 10 T Riga MONR 28 Mar; 44+ ind 14 loc Mar; 27 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL); 31 - max 33 T Riga MONR 11-12 Apr (BriM); 104 lines in eBird many loc Apr; 11 ind 8 loc 1-26 May.

YELLOW-LEGGED/LESSERBLACK-BACKED GULL: IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL, ph), interesting gull.

Glaucous Gull: total 29 ind 13 loc Mar; 4 ind 4 loc Mar; 5 ind 5 loc 16-20 Apr; 8 IB – Bay Front 8 May (AGu, TL); last off Edgemere Dr, G 4 May.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: IB Newport Marina 18 Mar (TL).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 IB-S 18 Mar (BH).

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: OB 15 Apr (BriM).

Caspian Tern: arr Bear Creek Harbor, T Williamson WAYN 2 Apr (W&MR); max 186 BB-ES 1 May; 170 SPT 5 May.

Black Tern: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 20 Apr (W&MR), early; BB-HW 3 May; max 38 NMWMA (VDS) 20 May, good count

Com. Tern: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 15 Apr; max 96 PtB ORLE 5 May (AVK).

Forster's Tern: arr SPT 19 Apr; 11 Apr (MG, TM), early; 1-3 ind 4 loc 5-27 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: no reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr White Bridge Rd, T Sparta LIVI & NMWMA (AR) 14 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Church Trail, G 3 May.

Snowy Owl: total 13+ ind 10 loc Mar; BB-HW 2 Apr (mob, ph), sitting in field next to hawkwatch all day; Retsof LIVI 19 Apr; last south of Rt 104, T Gaines GNE 12 May (MM-C).

Long-eared Owl: total 3 M – Owl Woods 28, 30, 31 Mar; WP 22 Apr; max 4 M – Owl Woods 22 Apr; total 16 M – Owl woods Apr; M – Owl Woods 1 May; roost count low at only 16 for the season, *intro*.

Short-eared Owl: max 27 Nations Rd 7 Mar (J&TG); total 42+ ind 8 loc Mar; DEC SEOW Survey data summarized by C. Hoh, *intro*; last BB area & Nations Rd 30 Apr.

BOREAL OWL: M – Owl Woods 25 Apr (NP, ph, 24+ oth obs), 18th Reg record.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 2 M – Owl Woods 28, 29 Mar; Porter Rd, T Naples, ONTA 6 Apr; total 2 M – Owl Woods 24, 27 Apr; very low total of only 7 for the season in the Owl

Woods roost area, *intro*; pr Ossian State Forest LIVI 13 May.

Com. Nighthawk: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 6 May; max 42 G 17 May (KG), low max.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr M – BBBO 28 Apr (RK), typical arrival; max 5 M – Owl Woods 2 May (GL); last M – Owl Woods 17 May.

Chimney Swift: arr BB-HW 1 May; max 75 Cobbs Hill 12 May (TL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr BB & Irondequoit 2 May; total b 27 M 4-31 May (BBBO).

Red-headed Woodpecker: nearly all rep from HB Mar & Apr; added 14 oth loc in May, all small numbers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles 2 loc Mar; migr and typical numbers after 2 Apr.

N. Flicker: 50 Broadway Rd WAYN 23 Apr; big movement on 24 Apr – max 118 BB-HW, 100 BB-WS, & 62 HB.

Am. Kestrel: total 70+ ind 38+ loc Mar.

Merlin: total 25 at 21 loc Mar; 21 ind 16 loc Mar; total 13 BB-HW 1-27 Apr; total 22 at 18 oth loc Apr; total 11 BB-HW 2-18 May; 13 ind 11 other loc 2-19 May.

Peregrine Falcon: 13 ind 10 loc 3-26 Mar; 1-27 Mar; total 2 BB-HW 27, 30 Apr; 13 ind 12 oth loc Apr; total 10 BB-HW 1-25 May; 9 ind 8 oth loc 1-31 May; nesting in downtown Rochester, typical, see posts rfalconcam website.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Casey P T Ontario WAYN 9 May (JWi); Rush Oak Openings 20 May (MBe, BCar, JiM, +); Holy Sepulchre Cemetery 25 May (DDa, CG, MG, AGu, BriM); WP 25 May (CK).

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo 9 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Bear Creek, T Williamson WAYN & Grandview Heights, G 15 May; total b 44 M 16-31 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 13 May.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: arr 1b M 17 May; max b 45 M 28 May; total b 131 M 17 May thru, good number.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Harter Rd LIVI 16 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Geneseo & South Conesus LIVI 8 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr HB-YC 24 Apr (RSp), early; total b 30 6-19 May.

E. Phoebe: arr 2 Lakeville LIVI 24 Mar (TB).

N. Shrike: 14+ ind 13 loc Mar; last BB & NMWMA (CR) 21 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Indian Fort Pres, Geneseo & Old Duck Inn, T Galen WAYN 4 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr H 24 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TCEA 7 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Cumming Nature Center ONTA 2 May; total b 38 M 14–31 May.

Blue Jay: max 300 BB 5 May, very low max; total b 40 M 2-27 May, back to normal b.

Am. Crow: no large counts again this spring.

Fish Crow: more reports of birds away from the T Charlotte & G area, still mainly not far from the lakeshore, but sev reports well inland.

Purple Martin: arr NMWMA (MRdM) 10 Apr (GDa, MG).

Tree Swallow: max 500 ConL 19 Apr, low max.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 BB-HW & 1 Webster 13 Apr; max 55 CIWMA 11 May.

Bank Swallow: arr North Ponds P, Webster 13 May; max 1500 IB-S 12 May (TL).

Cliff Swallow: arr SPt 16 Apr; max 15 Hemlock L P 18 May.

Barn Swallow: arr off Edgemere Dr, G 31 Mar, early; max 300 ConL 19 Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 6 M (BBBO) 1-30 May, contrasted with 593 in 2017, *intro*.

Brown Creeper: total b 38 M (BBBO) 19-30 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr BB-WS & Harter Rd, T Sparta LIVI 31 Mar; total b 16 M (BBB) 19 Apr-7 May, an “up” year, *intro*.

Marsh Wren: arr 2 CIWMA 23 Apr; max 28 NMWMA (MRdM) 12 May (AnM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 40 Beechwood SP WAYN 16 Apr; max b 49 M (BBBO) 23 Apr; total b 236 M (BBBO) 19 Apr–7 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NMWMA (VDS) 29 Mar; max b 164 M (BBBO) 27 Apr; 65 Church Trail, G 28 Apr; total b 740 M (BBBO) 18 Apr-28 May, record high spring b; last 1b M (BBBO) 28 May.

Veery: arr Cobbs Hill & HANA 4 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Church Trail, G 14 May; total b 13 M (BBBO) 18-28 May, low; max 4 ICW 22 May, low..

Swainson’s Thrush: arr BB-WS 2 May; max 19 HB-W 22 May (AGu); max b 26 M (BBBO) 25 May; total b 88 M (BBBO) 6-31 May.

Hermit Thrush: total b 37 M (BBBO) 23 Apr – 8 May.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 DEP 28 Apr.

Am. Robin: 400 BB-HW 31Mar, low max; only 3 oth rep Mar & 7 oth rep Apr over 100.

Gray Catbird: arr BB-WS 23 Apr; max 36 HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); max b 24 M (BBBO) 24 May; total b 200 M (BBBO) 5-31 May.

Am. Pipit: arr 7 BB-HW & 1 Beatty Pt, G & 1 Burger P, G 31 Mar; max 66 H 5 May; last 8 Edgemere Dr, G 26 May.

Cedar Waxwing: max 300 BB-WS 26 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 22 NHamRd 11 Mar; last H 22 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 85T Caledonia LIVI 14 Mar; last 2 BB-HW 31 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr HANA 27 Apr (BCad).T Bristol ONTA 27 Apr (KK), early.

Worm-eating Warbler: Chimney Bluffs WAYN 3 May (MG); Beechwood SP WAYN 4, 13 May (DDa, JWi, LC-B); rare.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Nations Rd, Jaycox Crk, Geneseo 22 May SDa).

N. Waterthrush: arr BB-WS 23 Apr; max b 6 M (BBBO) 16 May; total b 43 M (BBBO) 28 Apr-28 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield MONR 5 May (EK); T Nunda LIVI 6 May (J&SG); Tunley Rd, T Sodus WAYN 6 May (JMcGo); Beechwood SP WAYN 8, 14 May (KGa, 6 oth obs);M – Owl Woods 14, 15 May (BCar, JiM); BB-WS 15 May (MG); 1b M (BBBO) 25 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 sev loc 3 May.

Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler: CIWMA 19 May (KC).

“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr SPt 6 May (JMcGo); Norway Rd GENE 14 May (AGu); MP 15, 16 May (STa, BCar); BB-WS 15 May (MG); .

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER: MP 11, 15-24 May (BCar, 8 oth obs); HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); rare.

Black-and-white Warbler: total b 25 1-28 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): arr NMWMA (AR) 5-31 May (85+ obs, ph), nesting, using nest boxes, also south of road in SENE, Reg 3; CIWMA 8 May (MW).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BB-WS 2 May (AK); max 20 Cobbs Hill P 21 May (DHo); total b 22 M (BBBO) 10-29 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M (BBBO) 2 May (RK, AK); total 19 ind 15 loc 2-21 May; total b 5 M (BBBO) 9-31 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Webster Big Field 27 Apr (AGa), early.

Mourning Warbler: total b 25 M (BBBO) 9-31 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Norway Rd GENE 14 May (RSp, DBe); Brick Schoolhouse Rd, T Sodus WAYN 20 May (R&SSp); BB-WS 21 May (MG); rare.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr CIWMA 16 Apr (KC), early; max 24 Amy's Pd WAYN 13 May (RBA field trip); max b 20 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 139 M (BBBO) 5-31 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr CIWMA 3 May; max 60+ LSP 30 May (RSp, KW), good count.

Am. Redstart: arr 1-3 ind 6 loc 3 May; max 26 HB-W 12, 22 May (AGu, BriM); max b 51 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 184 M (BBBO) 7-31 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr BB area 2 May; max 27 TCEA 12 May (AS), good count; last Church Trail, G 26 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr NMWMA (VDS) 2 May (W&MR), early.

N. Parula: arr 4 loc 3 May; last BB-WS 29 May (AdM), late.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1-2 M – Owl Woods 5 May; max 40 Church Trail, G 17 May; max b 38 M (BBBO) 26 May, low max; total b 237 M (BBBO) 8-31 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 1-2 ind 4 loc 1 May; max 44 HB-W 12 May (AGu, BriM); max b 13 M (BBBO) 6 May, low max; total b 66 M (BBBO) 1-28 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr North Avon 24 Apr; max b 5 M (BBBO) 22 May; total b 38 M (BBBO) 3-28 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr T Gates MONR 8 May; total b 9 M (BBBO) 15-30 May, low.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2b M (BBBO) 24 Apr; total b 68 M (BBBO) 24 Apr - 31 May.

Palm Warbler: arr North Ponds P, Webster 19 Apr (JWi); max 35 Church Trail, G 1 May (NK); max b 24 M (BBBO) 7 May; total b 52 M (BBBO) 1-14 May; last Grandview Heights, G 27 May (KGr).

Pine Warbler: arr North Rush MONR 6 Apr (NK), early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 Church Trail, G 31 Mar (AGa); max 86 HB - W 7 May (RSp); max b 15 M (BBBO) 6 May, low; total b 35 M (BBBO) 27 Apr-25 May, low.

Prairie Warbler: arr M (BBBO) 6 May (8 obs); Beechwood SP WAYN 8. 9 May (KGa, MG); 2 Bonner Rd LIVI 13 May (AS); Nations Rd, Geneseo 13 May (KT); East Rd, LSP 16

May(JG); 1b M (BBBO) 16 May; good number for relatively rare bird in Reg.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Camp Eastman, Rochester 29 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr Church Trail, G 10 May; total b 47 M (BBBO) 15-31 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 TCEA 3 May (MW), early; max b 13 B (BBBO) 25 May; total b 95 M (BBBO) 9-30 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1b M (BBBO) 14 May, only report, now locally rare.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Rochester 2 Mar (KM), overwin; arr T Canadice ONTA 8 Apr (BH).

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 150 TECA 4 Apr (MW); last BB area 6 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr NMWMA (CR) 8 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr North Avon LIVI 24 Apr (MW), Reg record early; Indian Fort Pres Geneseo 4 May (JK); 1-2 Cook Rd, H 6-26 May (AGu, 16+ oth obs); Nations Rd, Geneseo 7 May (TB, KC); CIWMA 11 May (TB, KC); Lakeshore Rd, T Kendall MONR 14 May (AGu).

Field Sparrow: 3 rep singles 3 loc 2-22 Mar, likely overwinter; Lakeville LIVI & TCEA 2 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr North Avon LIVI 24 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 12 Mar, overwintering; last ICW 30 Apr; no high counts reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield 4 May; total b 30 M (BBBO) 9-30 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 33 CIWMA 23 May (MW), survey.

White-throated Sparrow: max 28 Isaac Gordon Pres, T Pittsford 6 May (NK); total b 102 M (BBBO) 23 Apr-29 May, low.

White-crowned Sparrow: last BB-WS 26 May, often found into June.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 75 Cobbs Hill P 12 Apr & Mt Hope Cemetery, Rochester 13 Apr.

Scarlet Tanager: 1 m private loc WAYN a7 Mar (fide DSp), very early or very rare overwin ind; arr Irondequoit 3 Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 NMWMA (SCU) 28 Mar (KGa).

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 H 1 Mar (AGu), early; max 10 Lakeville LIVI 17 Mar.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: NMWMA (AR) 14 Apr thru (JBr, RK, mob, ph), first in Reg since 2008, over 168 rep, *intro*.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1m IB
– NW 4-7 May (TD, AL, 50+ oth obs, ph),
intro; 1m Church Rd, H 19 May (AGu).
Rusty Blackbird: max 300 NMWMA (CR) 21
Apr (AWie, GDu); 165 BB-HW 24 Apr; May
max 37 BB-WS 2 May (AGu); last Church
Trail 17 May (JaG).
Com. Grackle: max 5000 NMWMA (CR) 19
Apr (TL).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Church
Trail, G 12 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr 3 loc 2 May.
Com. Redpoll: max 11 BB-HW 29 Mar; last T
Williamson WAYN 2 Apr.
Pine Siskin: monthly max: 40 WP 18 Mar
(TL); 29 M – Owl Woods 23 Apr (BCar); 41
HB 1 May (AGu).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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After an unusually warm February, March and April were unusually cold. In Ithaca, the average low temperature in March was 21°F, 2.1° below normal. The average high temperature was 36.3°, 5.7° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.24", 0.6" more than normal. Snowfall totaled 20.9", 9.2" more than normal. Snow depth peaked at 10" on 15 March. At least trace amounts of snow were on the ground from 2 to 23 March. In April, the average low temperature was 28.7°, 5.2° below normal and the average high was 47.9°, 7.7° below normal. The 2.11" of precipitation was 1.18" less than normal. Total snowfall was 3.6", 0.2" more than normal. May warmed up, with an average low temperature of 47.7°, 4.2° above normal and average high temperature of 72.8°, 5.4° above normal. Precipitation was 3.86", 0.67" more than normal.

An incredibly large flock of Snow Geese spent time loafing on Cayuga Lake in mid-March. Dave Kennedy put good effort into estimating the number and came up with 2.5 million. One Ross's Goose managed to extricate itself from the hoards of Snow Geese and accommodatingly lingered close to the Wildlife Drive at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge through 28 May. Tim Lenz's trip to Seneca Lake State Park on 5 March turned up a flock of 37 Cackling Geese, a Barnacle Goose X Cackling Goose hybrid, and a Snow Goose X Canada Goose hybrid. It is possible that the Cackling Goose and Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrid were the same as those seen in the same location in November. Another Snow Goose X Canada Goose hybrid appeared at Montezuma NWR. Seventeen Trumpeter Swans in the Savannah Mucklands and 1350 Tundra Swans on Cayuga Lake were both high spring counts.

Observers recorded high counts for several duck species: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Surf Scoter, and Bufflehead. White-winged Scoters frequented Myers Point on Cayuga Lake through most of the season. After a two-week absence, nine more appeared there on 27 May for a late record of the species.

Observers also recorded high counts for Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, and Horned Grebe. A Red-necked Grebe on 21 May on Seneca Lake and a Red-throated Loon on 30 May on Canandaigua Lake were both late occurrences for their species. Rare Eared Grebes were reported from Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. American White Pelicans were at Montezuma NWR from the beginning of April through mid-May.

High numbers were recorded for the more common waders: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Julia Lewis photographed an early Least Bittern in Steuben County in April. Rare waders, all at Montezuma NWR, included a Cattle Egret in mid-May, a Snowy Egret that was present through most of the latter half of May, and Glossy Ibis that was observed twice eight days apart in mid-May.

Osprey numbers continued to increase in the Region. Meena Haribal had a high count of 20 on a trip around the Cayuga Lake Basin, and Samuel Payne counted 19 in Montezuma NWR (considered a part of the Cayuga Lake Basin) alone. The only surprise among the diurnal raptors (including falcons) was a Mississippi Kite that Paul Rodewald observed flying back forth overhead while Paul walked to his mailbox.

Donna Carter photographed a Common Gallinule at Montezuma NWR on the early date of 6 April. She also had the high count of 45 Whimbrels and 11 Sanderlings at Montezuma NWR. Other shorebird high counts were Dave Nutter's four American Golden-Plovers and Jay McGowan's and Livia Santana's 610 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Montezuma NWR and Janet Akin's 29 Ruddy Turnstones at City Pier on Canandaigua Lake. Several shorebird species, rare in the Region in spring, made appearances in Montezuma NWR. An American Avocet, a Red Knot, a Ruff, and up to eight Stilt Sandpipers lingered long enough for many observers to see them. Additionally, Dave Nutter and Reuben Soltzfus found a Red-necked Phalarope at Montezuma NWR in late May. Alyssa Johnson found 16 Willets on the shore of Seneca Lake at Geneva in early May.

Little Gull was observed on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes in April. Jay McGowan had a high count of seven Iceland Gulls at Stewart Park in early March and later in the month at the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in Tompkins County. Also at the compost piles was a high count of 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A Glaucous Gull lingered late at Seneca Lake State Park, where Tim Lenz found it on 11 May. The count by Dave Nutter of 80 Common Terns on Cayuga Lake was a high count.

Luke Seitz conducted counts of nocturnal migrants from his Ithaca home and produced high counts for Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. Dave

and Laurie Nutter heard a Barn Owl while they were camping at Taughannock Falls State Park. Jay McGowan heard a high count of five Barred Owls in the Roy H Park Preserve. Jasdev Imani, Taylor Long, and Matthew Stimas-Mackey found an Eastern Whip-Poor-Will in the Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca.

The Red-headed Woodpecker that overwintered in Palmer Woods, Ithaca, continued there through 19 March. Observers in the Region found high counts of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flickers. J Gary Kohlenberg found a slightly early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 12 May in Tompkins County. Mike Powers found and recorded a White-eyed Vireo at Mark Twain State Park, and other observers were able to photograph the bird over the next three days.

Migrating swallows gathered in the Myers Point-Salt Point area in Tompkins County. These included high counts of Northern Rough-winged Swallows by Scott Haber and Brad Walker and Barn Swallows by Jay McGowan and Livia Santana. Also among the swallows was a first Regional spring record of **Cave Swallow**.

David Nicosia had a high count of 24 Marsh Wrens at Montezuma NWR. Luke Seitz had a high count of 84 nocturnal migrating Veeries in Ithaca. Andrew Schmalfuss found an early Brown Thrasher at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve on 5 April.

Early arriving warblers were a Prothonotary Warbler at Montezuma NWR on 5 May, Wyatt Westerkamp's Hooded Warbler at Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Ann Mitchell's Prairie Warbler at Roy H Park Preserve on 24 April, and Ann Marie Johnson's Canada Warbler at Shindagin Hollow State Forest on 1 May. Wyatt Westerkamp also had a high count of 8 Louisiana Waterthrushes at Shindagin Hollow. Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski patiently counted 524 passing Yellow-rumped Warblers at a site in Tompkins County. Other high counts were 15 Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve counted by Andrew Schmalfuss and 18 Canada Warblers at Palmer Woods. Rarities were a Golden-winged Warbler that Steve Kelling photographed in Tompkins County and a well-described Yellow-throated Warbler in Seneca County.

Bluegrass Lane Natural Area yielded high counts for both Vesper Sparrow (19) and Savannah Sparrow (41) found by Larry Chen, Ethan Lai, and Kai Victor. Other high counts were the 45 Swamp Sparrows counted by Jay McGowan and Livia Santana at Dryden Lake and Mike Wasilco's 18 Eastern Towhees at Erwin Wildlife Management Area.

Judy Burrill found an early Eastern Meadowlark in Tompkins County on 3 May. Many observers enjoyed seeing and hearing a Western Meadowlark near Montezuma NWR in April and May.

Winter finches were in short supply except for Pine Siskins. Chris Wood heard an Evening Grosbeak at Roy H Park Preserve and Micah Walker saw one in Steuben County. Ann Mitchell had a Common Redpoll at her feeder in Tompkins County and Stuart Krasnoff heard one along the South Hill Recreation Way, also in Tompkins County. Kevin McGowan found a Red

Crossbill in Tompkins County on 8 April and Jay McGowan found one at Roy H Park Preserve the following day. John Confer had high counts of 80 Pine Siskins and 135 American Goldfinches on his Tompkins County property. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana had one more high count, 40 House Sparrows in Cayuga County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CP** – City Pier, ONTA; **CPA** – Candlewyck P Apartments, TOMP; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **DryL** – Dryden L, TOMP; **ESP** – East Shore P, TOMP; **HO** – Hawthorn Orchard; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LRB**-Lake Rd Bluff, CAYU; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLRA** – Seneca Lakefront Recreation Area, ONTA; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFSP** – Taughannock Falls SP; **Tith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TSen** – T Seneca, ONTA; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **WCMP** – Warren W Clute Memorial P. SCHU.



Cave Swallow, Salt Point Nature Preserve, *Tompkins*, 15 Apr 2018, © Jay McGowan.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2,500,000 CygL, T Seneca Falls SENE 12 Mar (DK!, ph), State record high.

Ross's Goose: last MNWR 25 May (JR!), late.

Brant: arr T Sen 14 Apr; max 140 T Lan 22 May; last WCMP 28 May.

Cackling Goose: max 37 SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph), high; last 2 Jim Schlug Trail TOMP 31 Mar.

BARNACLE X CACKLING GOOSE: SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph).

SNOW X CANADA GOOSE: SLSP 5 Mar (TLe, ph); MNWR 19 Mar (MMi, ph).

Mute Swan: max 4 Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 5 May; last MNWR 19 May (BwF), late.

Trumpeter Swan: max 17 Savannah Mucklands SENE (MG), high.

Tundra Swan: max 1350 CygL, Mud Lock CAYU 3 Mar (JBa, CW), high; last MNWR 22 Apr thru (mob), late.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1-2 MNWR 1 Mar thru; Frontenac P CAYU 18 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: max 1442 MNWR 21 Mar (MH), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 17 Apr (MwBr), high.

N. Shoveler: max 500 MNWR 7 Apr (YL, JMc), high.

Surf Scoter: arr 7 SenL, TOv 2 Apr; max and last 8 Park Station P CHEM 12 May (BOs, JOs), high.

White-winged Scoter: max 28 LRB 29 Mar; last 9 MyPt 27 May (JBa, CW), late.

Black Scoter: arr 2 TFSP 14 Apr; 2 DryL 14 Apr; last ESP 1 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 40 StP 15 Apr; last 2 Lodi Pt SENE 22 May.

Bufflehead: max 500 ESP 15 Apr (JGe), high; last 2 T Middlesex YATE 17 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 250 Sheldrake SENE 10 Mar; last 2 MyPt 25 May.

Ruddy Duck: max 75 MNWR 22 Apr; last 2 MNWR 17 May.

Red-throated Loon: max 10 DryL 3 Apr; last 2 Holiday Harbour ONTA 30 May (CJ), late.

Com. Loon: max 150 Aurora Boathouse CAYU 22 Apr (TA, TS), high.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 MNWR 22 Apr (KBu), high.

Horned Grebe: max 215 CygL, T Lan 1 Apr (JMc, LSa), high; 180 MyPt 1 Apr; last SLSP 21 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 7 TFSP 1 May; last SLSP 21 May (TLe, ph), late.

EARED GREBE (R3): LRB 18 Mar (JMc!); SenL TOv 15 Apr (Tess!).

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R3): 1-2 MNWR 1 Apr-17 May (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: arr T W Union STEU 22 Apr (JuL, ph), early.

Great Blue Heron: max 125 MNWR 26 May (SB, JMc, BW), high.

Great Egret: arr Liddel Lab Pds TOMP 30 Mar; max 27 MNWR 6 May (DDa), high.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 17-29 May (mob, ph).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): MNWR 12 May (BwF, ph).

Green Heron: max 13Tith 14 May (LSe), nocturnal high.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 MyPt 16 Apr; max 23 MNWR 5 May (mob), high.

GLOSSY IBIS (R3): MNWR 15 May (DDo, ph!); MNWR 23 May (MaPo, ph).

Black Vulture: arr City of Ithaca 31 Mar; BLNA 31 Mar.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr 2 Long Pt SP 20 Mar; max 20 CygL Basin 21 Apr (MH), high; 19 MNWR 7Apr (SPa).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: T Enfield TOMP 30 May (PRo!).

Bald Eagle: max 32 MNWR 8 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 6 TCar 14 Apr; TDry 14 Apr; max 28 MNWR 28 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last MNWR 30 Apr.

Golden Eagle: last BLNA 11 May.

Virginia Rail: arr MNWR 12 Apr; max 4 MNWR 15 May; 4 Hillview Rd Wetland TOMP 20 May.

Sora: arr MNWR 20 Apr.

Com. Gallinule: arr MNWR 6 Apr (DCa, ph), early; max 20 MNWR 6 May.

Sandhill Crane: max 12 Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 5 May.

AM. AVOCET (R3): MNWR 17-19 May (mob, ph).

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: (R3): arr 2 MNWR 19 May (JMc!); max 4 MNWR 22 May (DNu!), high; last MNWR 23 May (DDo!).

WILLET (R3): 16 SenL, City of Geneva 3 May (AlJ!).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 140 MNWR 6 May; last MNWR May 23.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Lott Farm SENE 23 Apr; max 3 Lott Farm SENE 26 Apr.

**PHOTO GALLERY
SPRING 2018**



Kirtland's Warbler, Central Park, *New York*. Top: 11 May 2018, © Kevin Topping.
Bottom: 12 May 2018, © Matthieu Benoit.



Western Meadowlark, No. Montezuma WMA, *Wayne*, 22 May 2018, © Doug Daniels.



Cave Swallow, Salt Point Nature Preserve, *Tompkins*, 16 Apr 2018, © Jay McGowan.



Mew Gull, Collins Lake Park, *Schenectady*, 15 Apr 2018, © Ted Keyel.



Dark-bellied Brant, Coney Island Creek, *Kings*, 12 Apr 2018, © Doug Gochfeld.



Boreal Owl, Braddock Bay WMA, *Monroe*, 25 Apr 2018, © Dominic Sherony.



Wood Sandpiper, Timber Point Golf Course, *Suffolk*, 16 Apr 2018, © Shaibal S. Mitra.

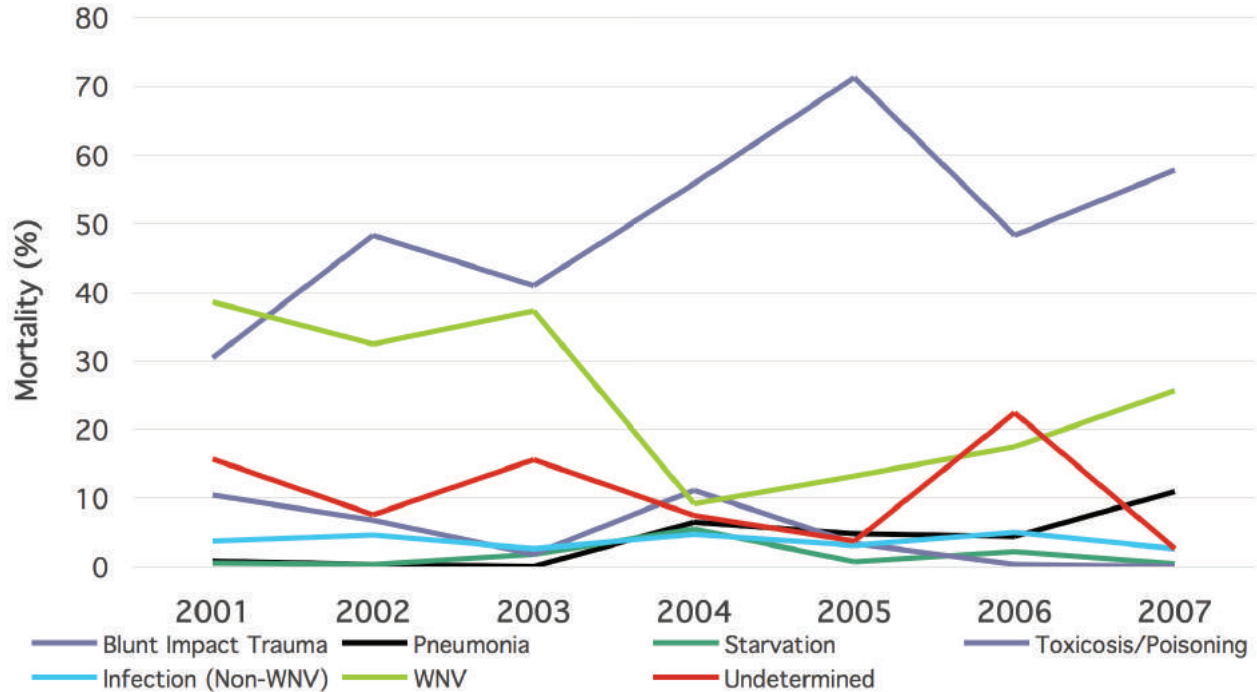


Figure 1. Cause of death trends among birds collected in New York City between 2001 and 2007. See article, pp. 174-178.

Whimbrel: arr 25 CP 19 May (mob, ph); max 45 MNWR 23 May (DCa, ph), high; last 3 MNWR 26 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr SLRA 5 May; max 29 CP (JA!), high.

RED KNOT (R3): MNWR 29-30 May (mob, ph!).

RUFF: MNWR 6 May (mob, ph!).

STILT SANDPIPER (R3): MNWR 19 May (mob!); 8 MNWR 20 May (Michael Tetlow!).

Sanderling: 11 MNWR 23 May (DCa, ph!), high; 2 CP 26 May.

Dunlin: arr MNWR 13 Apr; max 300 MNWR 23 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 12 May; max 12 MNWR 26 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 10 MNWR 9 May; last 2 MNWR 25 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 610 MNWR 29 May (JMc, LSa), high.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 6 MNWR 12 May; last 6 MNWR 21 May (CJ), late.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R3): MNWR 22-29 May (DNu!, RSt).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 StP 30 Mar; DryL 30 Mar; max 560 LRB 22 Apr; last 2 MyPt 27 May.

Little Gull: SLRA 5 Apr; SLSP 7 Apr; CygL, T Varick TOMP 8 Apr; MyPt 17 Apr.

Iceland Gull: max 7 StP 9-10 Mar (TLe, JMc, LSa); 7 SRCP 25 Mar (JMc), high; last MyPt 11 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 21 SRCP 25 Mar (JMc), high.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 2 & 13 Mar (JBa, JMc, CW!).

Glaucous Gull: SLSP 2 Mar; StP 9 & 17 Mar; SLSP 11 May (TLe!), late.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: StP 7 Mar (TLe, ph).

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: SRCP 3 Mar (JMc, LSa).

Caspian Tern: arr SLRA 30 Mar (JaLu!), early; max 68 MNWR 18 Apr.

Black Tern: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 37 MNWR 6 May.

Com. Tern: max 80 Frontenac Harbor CAYU 22 May (DNu), high.

Forster's Tern: arr MyPt 2 May; max 2 MyPt 3 May; last Frontenac Harbor CAYU 20 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr PW 1 May; max 7 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 46 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

BARN OWL (R3): TFSP 3 May (DNu!, LNu).

Snowy Owl: max 3 T Fayette SENE 24 Mar; last Finger Lakes Regional Airport 19 Apr.

Barred Owl: max 5 RHPP 27 Apr (JMc), high.

Short-eared Owl: max 5 T Phelps ONTA 17 Mar; last 2 T Lodi SENE 26 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: TDry 19 Mar; TDry 29 Mar; T Italy YATE 29 Mar; T Erin CHEM 26 Apr; T Enfield TOMP 14 May; T Canandaigua ONTA 27 May.

Com. Nighthawk: max 8 MR 23 May; last 4 T Canandaigua ONTA 26 May; T Hector SCHU 26 May; TDry 26 May.

E. WHIP-POOR-WILL (R3): HO 3 May (JL, TLo, MSM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: PW 1-19 Mar; arr T Hector SCHU 11 May; MNWR 14-18 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Fall Creek Valley North Natural Area TOMP (CW), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 SW 13 Apr (GDU, AW), high.

N. Flicker: max 20 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 14 Apr (BW), high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last RHPP 28 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr TCar 12 May (JGK), early; max 2 MNWR 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr SW 16 May; max 3 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 28 May.

N. Shrike: last T Hopewell ONTA 7 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R3): Mark Twain SP 12-15 May (MiPo!, recorded, mob, ph).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 11 May; last Tlth 26 May.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 15 Apr (SHa, BW), high.

Barn Swallow: max 900 MyPt 29 Apr (JMc, LSa), high.

CAVE SWALLOW: Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 15-16 Apr (mob!, ph).

Marsh Wren: max 24 MNWR 29 May (DNi), high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last SLSP 21 May; SW 21 May.

Veery: max 84 CPA 14 May (LSe!), high, nocturnal migrants.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 3 CPA 14 May nocturnal migrants; MR 14 May nocturnal migrant; max 9 NEI 22 May, nocturnal

migrants; last 6 NEI 28 May, nocturnal migrants.

Hermit Thrush: T Caton STEU 3 Mar; SLSP 19 Mar; TDry 20 Mar; arr E Ithaca 2 Apr.

Gray Catbird: Ludovico Trail SENE 2 Apr; SW 13 Apr; arr 2 Tlth 25 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr LPBP 5 Apr (ASc), early.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 MyPt 3 Mar; max 70 TTyr 27 Apr; YMCA Camp YATE 19 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: T Gorham ONTA 3 Mar; 15 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 21 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 200 T Genoa CAYU 18 Mar; last 40 T Aurelius CAYU 25 Mar.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr and max 3 LPBP 9 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr MR 13 Apr; max 8 SHSF 5 May (WW), high.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): TCar 11 May (SKe, ph).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 SHSF 28 Apr; max 8 Danby State Forest TOMP 10 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: MR 12 May (JBa, LSe!).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: MR 12 May (JBa, LSe!); Freeville 21 May (HF!).

Prothonotary Warbler: arr MNWR 5 May (mob, ph), early.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Willard Town P SENE 5 May; max & last 2 TCar 16 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr SHSF 28 Apr (WW), early; max 5 SHSF 28 May; 5 T Prattsburg STEU 28 May.

Cap May Warbler: max 18 MNWR 12 May; last Cornell University 22 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 2 May; BLNA 2 May; max 4 TTyr 21 May.

N. Parula: max 7 CPA 14 May nocturnal migrants; last T Prattsburg STEU 28 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr SW 18 Apr (EIE!); max 10 LPBP 12 May; 10 HO 15 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 NEI 17 May; 6 SLSP 21 May; last StP 24 May; 3 PW 24 May.

Palm Warbler: max 12 SW 8 May; last HO 20 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 524 TDan 2 May (ID, SD), high.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): TOv 12 May (Tess!).

Prairie Warbler: arr RHPP 24 Apr (AM), early; max 15 LPBP 4 May (ASc), high.

Canada Warbler: arr SHSF 1 May (AMJ), early; max 18 PW 14 May (mob), high.

Wilson’s Warbler: max 3 MNWR 16 May; HO 17 May; last MNWR 26 May.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 18 Erwin WMA STEU 9 May (MWas), high.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 70 TDry 3 Mar (JMc, LSa), high; last BLNA 26 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: TSen 3 Mar (JA!); max 17 TDan 2 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 16-26 May (mob!, ph); Cass P TOMP 24 May (DNu!).

Field Sparrow: arr City of Ithaca 1 Apr; max 11 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 24 Apr; 11 TDan 4 May; 11 Erwin WMA STEU 9 May.

Vesper Sparrow: max 19 BLNA 13 Apr (LC, EL, KV), high.

Savannah Sparrow: T Lan 4 Mar; T Covert TOMP 4 Mar; TCar 10 Mar; BLNA 18-24 Mar; max 41 BLNA 20 Apr (LC, EL), high.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TOv 5 May; T Lodi SENE 5 May; max 3 TOv 9 May.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: last T Montour SCHU 28 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 45 DryL 15 Apr (JMc, LSa), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 TCar 4-8 May; 8 TSen 5-11 May; 8 T Erwin STEU 8 May; last T Corning STEU 21 May.

W. MEADOWLARK: TTyr 15 Apr-26 May (mob, ph).

E. Meadowlark: arr T Covert SENE 3 Mar (JSn!); T Newfield TOMP 3 Mar (JBU), early.

Orchard Oriole: arr 3 MyPt 3 May; Salt Pt TOMP 3 May; max 5 MyPt 26 May.

RED CROSSBILL (R3): TDry 8 Apr (KMc!); RHPP 9 Apr (JMc, recorded).

COM. REDPOLL (R3): Tlth 26 Mar & 17 Apr (AM!), BM); South Hill Recreation Way TOMP 31 Mar (SKr).

Pine Siskin: max 80 TCar 20 Apr (JoCo), high.

Am. Goldfinch: max 135 TCar 6 Apr (JoCo), high.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): RHPP 6 Apr (CW!); T Campbell STEU 19 May (MWall!).

House Sparrow: max 40 T Montezuma CAYU 4 Mar (JMc, LSa), high.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Following a mild February, March came in like the proverbial lion and ready or not, the Region was plunged back into the depths of winter. In Syracuse the average temperature for March was 30.8°F, 3.4° lower than normal. A significant storm on 2 March deposited almost 17" of snow in Syracuse. An additional several inches fell in areas east. Snow continued to pile up and drifting was an issue through the balance of the month. In March the total snowfall in Syracuse was 43.6", which is 25.6" higher than average. The spring season's below average conditions continued in April, and, according to the National Weather Service, was the fourth coldest on record for Syracuse. The average temperature was 39.5°, which is 6.2° lower than normal. However, the total rainfall and snowfall were close to the average for Syracuse for the month. With the onset of May came a dramatic turnaround. In Syracuse the average temperature for May was 62.8°, which is 5.2° higher than normal.

March featured many days with strong northwest winds. At the Derby Hill Hawk Watch, tenacious winds from the wrong direction served to suppress the early flight of raptors. The cold and blustery conditions were difficult to endure for the hawk watchers. On some of the Region's lakes, ice cover persisted through March. On Oneida Lake, ice finally began breaking up during the first week of April. Persistent snow cover in March kept newly arrived blackbirds and other seed-eating songbirds at feeding stations for a prolonged stay. Frugivores and insectivores were forced into being more resourceful, and many were observed feeding on roadsides and along open streams. The cold temperatures in April kept trees from leafing out too early (as they have done too frequently in recent years). This later leaf-out schedule was favorable to warblers and the other neo-tropical insectivores whose traditional arrival dates are timed to the emergence of leaf-eating insect larvae. Early nesting raptors

experienced a challenging season. At Sterling Nature Center, cold temperatures in April were blamed for the nest failures of the resident Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls. Reportedly, this was the first time the center's Bald Eagles failed to successfully reproduce since they began nesting at the location. A particularly potent wind storm on 4 April brought down two active eagle nests in Oneida County—one in Verona and one in the town of Marcy. The latter nest was thought to contain at least two unhatched eggs. Many other raptor nests were likely destroyed by the same storm.

The movement of Snow Geese over the Region peaked during the last few days of March. Derby Hill hawk counter Anna Stunkel tallied 23,250 Snow Geese passing on 29 March, an otherwise slow day for raptors. There were only three reports of Ross's Goose and one Greater White-fronted Goose for this period. The Brant flight was short in duration, five days, and was concentrated on the northwestern shore of Oneida Lake. On 22 May, Bill Purcell counted 5,180 Brant from his watch site at Phillip's Point in West Monroe. Reports of Trumpeter Swans were more numerous than usual, but primarily came from expected areas where some may be breeding. With few exceptions, migrant waterfowl numbers were unimpressive this season and few rarities were reported. On 4 March, Jim Tarolli observed and photographed a male **Eurasian Wigeon** south of Fulton. The bird lingered only a day, but on 7 April a male was discovered by Kayla Fisk at Peter Scott Swamp in nearby Phoenix. Near the western edge of the Region, David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne found another **Eurasian Wigeon** in an often-flooded field just north of Port Byron on 1 April. While at its wettest, the spot was magnetic for gulls, geese, ducks, and early shorebirds. Shovelers were particularly well represented, with 34 birds on 14 April. 7,400 Northern Pintail counted in the eastern portion of the MNWR complex on 10 March was notable, as were 400 Green-winged Teal observed in Phoenix on 2 April. Also worthy of mention were 1,000 Redheads counted at Onondaga Lake on 6 March. A distant raft of *Aythya* ducks estimated at 1,500 was seen there on 10 March. All three scoter species were found this period, but numbers were unremarkable.

A notable 250 Common Loons passed by Derby Hill on 17 April and 155 were observed at Onondaga Lake on 13 April, where gulls and other waterfowl continued far into the season and long after they had left other spots. Steven Moore saw two **American White Pelicans** fly overhead while walking a nature trail near Skaneateles Lake on 4 May, and Bill Purcell reported a single pelican on Oneida Lake at Constantia on 5 May. Least Bitterns were reported from five different locations, which is a better than average showing for that elusive species. A lone **Snowy Egret** was found at Howland Island on 22 April. Deborah Dohne found two **Snowy Egrets** on Onondaga Lake on 6 May. One remained at the site until at least 23 May. A traveler noticed a **Cattle Egret** at the Syracuse airport on 15 May. It was not seen again. Multiple reports of a single Black-crowned Night-Heron came from Onondaga Lake between 13 April and 8 May.

The final tallies of migrant raptors over Derby Hill reflected the bad March and April flight conditions, with poor counts of most of the early-migrating species. Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Merlin were all below the ten-year averages for the site. For the fourth consecutive year, the number of Northern Goshawks passing over Derby was lower than ten individuals. At the same time, record-high counts were achieved for Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. The final tally of Bald Eagles was 971, 58 higher than the previous record set in 2017. An amazing 93 birds passed on 30 May, a new single-day record for the species. The season's total of 27 Peregrine Falcons was also a record high count for Derby Hill. Four **Black Vultures** were counted at the site between 23 April and 17 May. The season's total of 24,446 Turkey Vultures is just off the record high number set in 2017. A leucistic Turkey Vulture flew over Derby on 23 April. Regarding the vulture, Anna Stunkel wrote "This piebald bird had white flight feathers and what appeared to be an entirely white upperside."

On 12 May while leading a bird walk, Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman saw an extremely rare **Swallow-tailed Kite** from the boardwalk area of Derby's trail system. Brin phoned up to the North Lookout where the bird was poorly seen winging south. This comprises the fourth Regional record for this incredible raptor, all from Derby Hill. Broad-winged Hawks made a strong showing with a total of 25,820, higher than the 10-year average. An epic day came on 1 May with 9,008 birds, mostly flying low over the South Lookout. Several long-time observers thought it one of the site's most impressive days ever for the species. A striking dark-morph Broad-wing flew over Derby Hill's South Lookout on 21 May. This ultra-rare version of the species occurs in western North America and is Derby Hill's third record. The hawk watch at Braddock Bay saw what was likely the same bird several hours earlier. A season total of 75 Golden Eagles was also higher than average for the site. 13 Golden Eagles flew over on 31 March. While birding the heron colony at Sterling Nature Center just before sunset on 24 March, Wheeler and Dohne spotted a distant Golden Eagle. The species is seldom seen in the Region away from Derby Hill and Wheeler noted the bird was an immature and soaring on a somewhat more deep dihedral than usual. The next day and upon mentioning this distinctive characteristic to Derby Hill hawk counter Anna Stunkel, she immediately noted having seen the bird during the 10-11AM hour that day, 25 March. American Kestrel numbers were close to average, but Merlin numbers were down. The species is often seen passing just prior to sunset and thus after the conclusion of the count day. Consequently, some may be missed. Merlin has become more common as a winterer and this may be a factor also.

Coot numbers were notably down again this season, which continues the discouraging trend for that species. Reports of Sandhill Crane came from nine locations. A season total of 30 cranes passed over Derby Hill. Spring shorebird tallies are rarely remarkable in our Region, but counts for a few species did

stand out. On 23 May, Mickey Scilingo observed 53 Black-bellied Plovers on Oneida Lake at Constantia. 62 Whimbrel also circled the offshore islands before flying west. Matt Voelker found two birds at Sylvan Beach. Whimbrel flights are expected in May along Oneida Lake's north shore. On 22 May Anna Stunkel reported a single flock of 52 passing over Derby Hill, very unusual for the site. David Wheeler found two on the rocky spit at the Onondaga Lake marina. Excellent views were had by many as the birds lingered all day, eventually joined for several hours by a Snowy Egret. While looking at two Whimbrel found previously at Fair Haven on 22 May, Wheeler, Dohne, and John Germain spotted 21 breeding-plumaged Red Knots flying together. The birds wheeled about the breakwall area for several minutes without landing and were seen later in the day by Mike Gullo after having been thought to be gone. A male **Ruff** in transitional plumage was found in the flooded Port Byron wetland on 10 April by Gregg Dashnau. The rarity remained for at least 10 days and was seen and photographed by many birders. On 12 April a female joined the male but was seen only one day. As noted in our report for spring 2013, Ruff were found in the Region throughout the 1960s, but became increasingly rare in subsequent decades. A breeding-plumage female Red-necked Phalarope was a nice find for Kevin McGann at the wetlands in Volney.

This spring gull numbers and species diversity were best at Phoenix and Onondaga Lake. Deborah Dohne observed and photographed a **Little Gull** at Fair Haven on 17 May. It has occurred in the Region in spring at least 11 times prior. David Wheeler kept track of an influx of Lesser Black-backed Gulls starting in mid-April and found a maximum of 14 at Onondaga Lake on 25 April. Wheeler thought there may have been as many as 20 birds, including two first-cycle birds. Unlike other gull species where first-year birds are common; the plumage is rarely seen anywhere in upstate NY (especially in winter). Wheeler surmises the Onondaga Lake birds to be northbound from their wintering grounds, likely settling in for the summer wherever immature large gulls are gathering and wintering farther north as they age. A mixture of adults and immatures was represented during the Onondaga Lake influx and by mid-May many had departed. According to Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano, on 5 May a Lesser Black-backed Gull expired after becoming entangled in fishing line in Mattydale. Unfortunately, fishing tackle, especially treble-hook lures resembling natural food, often entangle gulls that believe they have found a tasty minnow. Birders are encouraged to carry wire cutters to snip the barb off hooks if they can reach the bird and to pick up fishing line, hooks, and lures anywhere they may find them. Cutting the barb off is the best way to make them safe. An early Black Tern was seen at the Utica Marsh on 27 April.

Cuckoo sightings seemed to be up this spring. A maximum of seven Black-billed Cuckoos was reported at Green Lakes State Park on 16 May. In previous reports, we've mentioned Utica's resident Peregrine Falcon's penchant for hunting cuckoos of both species. Before the end of May, the male falcon had brought at least 10 cuckoos, mostly Black-billed, back to his nest. The nest site

is well covered by cameras and efforts to record the Peregrines' prey species have produced a fascinating wealth of data and insight into their daily activities during nesting season. Difficult to observe phenomenon, such as night-hunting, has been recorded. Reports of Eastern Screech Owls came from less than ten locations. Snowy Owls were reported from six locations, the last being the State Fair Grounds in Syracuse on 20 April. Two Short-eared Owls were observed in Durhamville between 7 and 9 April. The last one was seen on 22 April near Onondaga Lake, an unusual location. This period there were single reports of Long-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Both were in March and likely involved migrants. The movement of Common Nighthawks through the Region seemed poor compared with previous years. A maximum count of 44 Common Nighthawks passed over Derby Hill on 20 May. Reduced coverage at dusk may be responsible at least in part.

Reports of Red-headed Woodpecker emanated only from the species' strongholds along the Lake Ontario Shoreline and Oneida Lake, and in those areas they were spotted consistently. The numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, specifically in areas east of Oneida Lake, seemed to have rebounded nicely following the previous year's unexplained decline. Merlins have again chosen to nest in a stand of White Pines adjacent to Mickey Scilingo's Constantia property. Scilingo located the nest tree on 3 May. It is unknown if Syracuse's resident pair of Peregrine Falcons tried to breed this season. In 2017, following the relocation of their nest box to another site on the same host building, the pair adopted an unprepared site on another building. Last year they failed to breed successfully. Regarding this season, no one could confirm if the pair even made a nesting attempt. The adult birds have been observed near the previous year's nest, but no young were seen. Utica's resident pair ran into some difficulty in the early part of the breeding season. The female falcon laid her first egg on 1 April and had completed a full clutch of four eggs approximately one week later. The early days of incubation were plagued with interruptions of 20, 30, and even 40 minutes in duration. The adults were repeatedly being drawn off the nest by intruders, presumably young adult Peregrines that recently arrived from the south and were seeking a territory. Given that temperatures in early April were often hovering around the freezing point, nest monitors in Utica thought it likely that the first three eggs laid, which were inconsistently incubated, would be unlikely to hatch. Much to everyone's surprise, a total of three eggs ultimately hatched. Possibly the ambient heat from the host building, largely of brick and stone construction, and the nest's southern alignment are factors that kept the eggs viable. The first two falcon eggs hatched on 9 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher arrived in the Region on 20 May, but only two reports of the species were received. On 17 May, an Acadian Flycatcher arrived at its traditional breeding grounds at Whisky Hollow; six days later a pair was confirmed at the site. There were a handful of Northern Shrike sightings in March. The last shrike of the season occurred at the South Lookout at Derby Hill on 20 April. Reports of Philadelphia Vireos came from ten locations. Blue

Jay migration was a small fraction of what it had been the previous year. The highest tallies came from the Lake Ontario shoreline and primarily from Derby Hill. A maximum count of 512 Blue Jays passed over Derby Hill on 10 May. Although the number of individuals encountered was low, reports of Fish Crow were more widespread than usual. Reports of Marsh Wren also seemed to be more widespread and there were some respectable high counts. It seemed kinglet migration was less noticeable than usual at least in some parts of the Region. Interestingly, a few observers reported seeing both species (particularly Golden-crowned Kinglets) foraging on the ground due to the unseasonably cold temps. April's low temperatures also caused a huge concentration of Tree Swallows to form at the Oswego River dam in Phoenix. Gregg Dashnau estimated 1750 on 14 April while 1200 were estimated the next day by Bill Purcell at Phillips Point on Oneida Lake. The numbers of migrant woodland thrushes were relatively low. There were only four reports of single Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

One Lapland Longspur was spotted in Fabius on 11 March. The last 40 Snow Buntings departed the Region on 23 March. Warbler migration was underwhelming with a few notable exceptions. There were three reports of single Golden-winged Warblers. Prothonotary Warblers were observed near Howland Island and in West Monroe. Are they still nesting at Toad Harbor? Continuing a recent trend, very good numbers of Tennessee Warblers were reported across the Region. A maximum number of 20 was tallied at Sunset Bay Park on 20 May. 18 Tennessee Warblers were found at Great Bear Recreation Area on 21 May. On 10 May, six Cerulean Warblers were counted at Howland Island, which continues to be the Region's stronghold for the species. Ceruleans also continue in the Toad Harbor/Three-Mile Bay area of Oneida Lake but are generally scarce throughout the Region. Maximum numbers for Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers were quite low this period. If a large flight of Yellow-rumps passed Derby Hill this year it was missed. Matt Brown found an extremely rare, passage-migrant **Connecticut Warbler** at his home north of Pulaski on 19 May. Kevin McGann found an overshoot **Kentucky Warbler** at Fair Haven amidst a nice warbler concentration on 23 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow arrived at Sunset Bay Park on 3 May. Three were singing on their traditional breeding grounds at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on 25 May. Vesper Sparrow seemed to experience a slight resurgence this spring and was reported from 16 areas. Fox Sparrows seemed to shorten their stay in the Region, with a good tally of 12 at Three Rivers WMA on 17 April. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrows were lacking this spring and in many areas were missed completely. A maximum number of 22 Eastern Meadowlarks over Derby Hill on 3 April is worthy of note, as was 230 Rusty Blackbirds counted in Pennellville the same day. Deborah Dohne found a possible breeding pair of Orchard Orioles in excellent habitat near Derby Hill. The species is rarely encountered in the northern part of the Region. Did they nest successfully, and will they be back next year? A report of eight Orchard Orioles at Ditch Bank Road on 26 May was notable. Along with Green Lakes State Park, Ditch Bank Rd. continues to be a

stronghold for the species in the Region. Several observers reported that recently arrived Baltimore Orioles were resorting to suet feeders and, at least in one case, a conventional seed feeder. This most likely points to a lack of the orioles' preferred foods being available in the wild in the first weeks of May. Winter finches were uncommon this period. On 11 April a single Common Redpoll was reported at a bird feeder in Camillus. Red Crossbills were found in northern Oneida and Herkimer County areas of the lower Adirondacks and its foothills, with a single report of three White-winged Crossbills on 31 March. One or both species are likely breeding in the area, but its expansiveness and remoteness in the Region means it is not birded on a regular basis.

This season a total of 248 species was reported, which is two above the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also three hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Am. White Pelican, Snowy Egret Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, **Red Knot, RUFF, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Gull, Snowy Owl, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.**

Spring 2018 produced 84,130 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 4.02. Reports were contributed by 449 people.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	23 Apr	1	X	4
Turkey Vulture	27 Feb	3582	2 Apr	24,446
Osprey	31 Mar	63	1 May	367
Swallow-tailed Kite	12 May	1	12 May	1
Bald Eagle	19 Feb	93	30 May	971
No. Harrier	7 Mar	46	22 Apr	393
Sharp-shinned Hawk	21 Feb	197	1 May	2047
Cooper's Hawk	28 Feb	24	27 Mar	177
No. Goshawk	31 Mar	1	X	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	28 Feb	69	31 Mar	335
Broad-winged Hawk	18 Apr	9008	1 May	25,820
Red-tailed Hawk	19 Feb	246	21 Apr	2193
Rough-legged Hawk	19 Feb	10	27 Mar	73
Golden Eagle	28 Feb	13	31 Mar	75
Am. Kestrel	28 Feb	97	23 Apr	343
Merlin	27 Feb	4	22 Apr	36
Peregrine Falcon	20 Mar	3	25 Mar, 27 Apr	27
Total, inc. unid.				57,343

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline, **MNWR** east – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - HERONS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Tully 10, 24 Mar (GH), only report.

Snow Goose: max 23250 DH 29 Mar (AS); 17320 DH 30 Mar (BP); counts relatively low away from DH.

Ross's Goose: DH 29 Mar (DW, ph); Dolge 2 Apr (BLH); HI 19 May; only reports.

Brant: arr 91 SBP 8 May; max 5180 PPt 22 May (BP); last PPt 23 May; few reports.

Cackling Goose: arr 5 Port Byron 22 Mar (DD, ph); max 9 Port Byron 28 Feb (DD, ph); DH 29 Mar; TR 9 Apr; only reports.

Canada Goose: 1500 DH 31 Mar; max 1600 Cato 7 Apr.

Mute Swan: max 56 FH 17 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 Brew 29 Apr; max 7 Port Byron 22 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 4 FH 18 Mar; 2 DH 20 Mar; last 2 SP 23 Mar; two other reports.

Trumpeter/Tundra Swan: 2 TR 22 Apr.
Wood Duck: max 36 Port Byron 4 Mar; 26 Earlville 5 Apr; 22 HI 13 May.
Gadwall: 12 Brew 1 Mar; max 30 Syr; 13 TR 13 Apr.
EURASIAN WIGEON (R5): Fulton 4 – 5 Mar (JT, mob, ph); Port Byron 1 Apr (DW, DD, ph); Phoenix 7 – 8 Apr (KF); Const 5 May (DD).
Am. Wigeon: 41 FH 5 Mar; max 70 MNWR east 10 Mar; last Volney 9 May.
Am. Black Duck: max 34 MNWR east 10 Mar.
Mallard: max 550 Fulton 5 Mar.
Am. Black Duck X Mallard: max 3 MNWR east 10 Mar; 3 additional reports of singles.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 WP 25 Mar; 13 SP 15 Apr; 13 CM 18 Apr; max 15 UM 21 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 34 Port Byron 14 Apr, good number; 16 Phoenix 21 Apr; last MNWR east 13 May.
N. Pintail: max 7400 MNWR east 10 Mar (CW, JBa), good number; 500 Phoenix 2 Apr; last MNWR east 2 May.
Green-winged Teal: max 400 Phoenix 2 Apr, good number; 118 DB 14 Apr; last Volney 21 May.
Canvasback: max 40 Brew 5 Mar; last 14 HI 21 Apr; few reports.
Redhead: 200 Brew 5 Mar; max 1000 OnonL 6 Mar; last 7 MNWR east 28 May.
Ring-necked Duck: 260 Brew 1 Mar; max 270 FH 5 Mar; last 4 WP 8 May.
Greater Scaup: 260 FH 5 Mar; max 360 Brew 20 Mar; last 4 PPt 19 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 500 OnonL 8 Apr & 500 PPt 13 Apr; last WP 29 May, late.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: 1600 OnonL 10 Mar; max 2200 PPt 10 Apr.
Surf Scoter: max 22 PPt 2 May (BP); 7 OnonL 22 May; last OnonL 24 May.
White-winged Scoter: 43 OswH 5 Mar; max 85 Const 24 May; last OnonL & Const 24 May.
Black Scoter: max 3 PPt 9 May, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: 303 PPt 19 Apr; max 800 Sterling 28 Apr; last FH 22 May.
Bufflehead: max 87 SNC 10 Apr; 80 SSSP 29 Apr; last 2 DH 18 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 260 Brew 1 Mar; 184 FH 5 Mar; last PPt 15 May.
Hooded Merganser: 26 Fulton 5 Mar; max 33 Brew 20 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 1000 OnonL 1 – 29 Mar; 600 Brew 5 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 125 DH 20 Apr; 96 SNC 3 May; last SNC 28 May.
Ruddy Duck: 5 SVB 31 Mar; 8 MNWR east 5 May; last 3 OnonL 22 May; low counts.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Oriskany 23 Apr; few reports; 2 SP 2 – 5 May.
Ruffed Grouse: max 4 SH 14 May; most reports from SH.
Wild Turkey: max 56 Pompey 9 Mar; 31 Sterling 11 Mar; 30 Remsen 26 Mar.
Red-throated Loon: 2 OnonL 13 Apr; 2 DH 18 Apr; last Hamilton 15 May; singles at five other locs.
Com. Loon: 155 OnonL 13 Apr (DW), good number; max 250 DH 17 Apr (AS), great number; 66 PPt 18 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 WP 19 Apr; 6 MNWR east 24 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 20 OnonL 14 Apr; max 6 Brew 12 Apr; last 2 TR 8 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 7 OnonL 28 Mar; 5 PPt 21 Apr; last WP & PPt 8 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: 500 OnonL 13 Apr; max 660 PPt 5 May.
AM. WHITE PELICAN (R5): Const 5 May (BP, mob, ph); 2 Skan 4 May, (SM); 12th Reg spring rec.
Am. Bittern: arr Brew Phoenix 10 Apr; max 3 CM 21 Apr & 3 Phoenix 6 May & 3 DH 19 May.
Least Bittern: arr DeWitt 9 May; Manheim 14 May; West Monroe 18 – 21 May; UM 27 May; TR 28 May; only reports.
Great Blue Heron: 36 DH 31 Mar; max 54 Port Byron 29 Mar (KB), rookery; 35 GSC 16 May, rookery; 50 SNC 25 May, rookery.
Great Egret: arr DH 30 Mar; max 10 UM 13 Apr, good number for spring & 10 MNWR east 28 May.
SNOWY EGRET (R5): HI 22 Apr (mob); max 2 OnonL 5 – 6 May (DD, AK, mob, ph), single remains thru 23 May; 19th Reg spring rec.
CATTLE EGRET (5): Syr Airport 15 May (AVN).
Green Heron: arr SFNS 16 Apr, early; max 6 DH 18 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OnonL 13 Apr – 8 May, only report.

VULTURES - LARIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R5): max 2 Manlius 3 – 13 Mar, wintered; Jamesville 20 Apr; DH 23 Apr; DH 27 Apr; DH 1 May; last DH 17 May.
Turkey Vulture: max 3582 DH 2 Apr; 2275 DH 11 Apr; DH 23 Apr (DW, AS, ph), leucistic individual, *intro*.
Osprey: arr OnonL 28 Mar; 34 DH 27 Apr; max 63 DH 1 May.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: DH 12 May (JB!), mob, 4th Reg rec, *intro*.

N. Harrier: 39 DH 21 Apr; max 46 DH 22 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 186 DH 22 Apr; max 197 DH 1 May.
Cooper's Hawk: 23 DH 26 Mar; max 24 DH 27 Mar.
N. Goshawk: 7 singles over DH 31 Mar – 2 May; reports from three other locs.
Bald Eagle: 57 DH 28 May; max 93 DH 30 May, site record.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 45 DH 26 Mar; max 69 DH 31 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 7 DH 18 Apr; max 9008 DH 1 May; 3085 DH 2 May; dark-morph 21 May (AS).
Red-tailed Hawk: 189 DH 31 Mar; max 246 DH 21 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: 9 DH 26 Mar; max 10 DH 27 Mar; last DH 9 May.
Golden Eagle: max 13 DH 31 Mar; 11 DH 23 Apr; last DH 20 May; good numbers over DH; SNC 24 Mar (DW, DD), seldom seen away from DH, *intro*.
Virginia Rail: arr DeWitt 14 Apr; max 9 Warren 7 May.
Sora: arr SP 15 Apr; max 3 DeWitt 6 May & 3 Verona 9 May.
Com. Gallinule: arr 2 TR 22 Apr; max 10 MNWR east 5 May; 8 Volney 8 May.
Am. Coot: max 30 Skan 25 Mar – 8 Apr; 7 MNWR east 5 May; few reports.
Sandhill Crane: max 4 DH 31 Mar & 4 DH 21 Apr; 3 DH 10 Apr; 2 MNWR east 28 May; reports from 7 other locs.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 11 Ppt 22 May; max 53 Const 23 May (MS), good number; last 18 Const 26 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Port Byron 12 Apr; max 6 Volney 19 May; last Volney 28 May.
Killdeer: first Elbridge 3 Mar; max 17 Kirkville 12 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr West Eaton 15 Apr; max 12 OnonL 5 – 7 May; 8 DB 8 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Fairfield 25 Apr; max 5 DH 9 May; 4 Tully 13 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Port Byron 1 Apr; 28 Port Byron 10 Apr; 26 Fulton 27 Apr; last Fulton 27 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 13 Port Byron 21 Apr; max 20 MNWR east 5 May; last 4 Richfield Springs 18 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr SNC 21 Apr; Fulton 27 Apr – 21 May; Poland 18 May; Verona 29 May; only reports.
Whimbrel: arr 2 OnonL 20 May (DW, mob, ph); 52 DH 22 May (AS); max 62 Const 23

May (MS); last 3 Const 24 May, great numbers.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 4 Const 24 May (KM, mob), only report.
Red Knot: arr & max 21 FH 22 May (DW, DD, JG, ph); 15 FH 22 May (MG), good number; last Const 23 May (DW).
RUFF: Port Byron 10 – 20 Apr (GD, mob, ph); max 2 Port Byron 12 Apr, *intro*.
Sanderling: 2 FH 19 May (DW, DD), only report.
Dunlin: arr Port Byron 7 Apr; max 52 OnonL 22 May; 38 Const 23 May; last 3 Const 26 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Dolge 4 May; 21 OnonL 14 May; max 26 Fulton 21 May; last Fulton 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 Bridgeport 20 Apr; last 3 Cedarville 16 May; reports from 2 other locs.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr & max 15 DB 8 May; 12 FH 23 May; last 3 Const 26 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: OnonL 5 May (AK), only report.
Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: FH 21 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr TR 28 Mar; max 22 Port Byron 22 Apr; 19 DB 24 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 9 TR 2 Apr; 6 Fayetteville 27 Apr.
Red-necked Phalarope: f Volney 21 May (KM, mob, ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 7 DH 31 Mar; 56 OneilL 26 Apr; max 165 Ppt 20 Apr.
LITTLE GULL (R5): FH 17 May (DD, ph), 12th Reg spring rec.
Ring-billed Gull: 710 Phoenix 5 Apr; max 800 OnonL 9 Apr.
Herring Gull: 250 SBP 13 Apr; max 700 OnonL 25 Apr.
Iceland Gull: max 2 OnonL 9 Apr – 6 May; last SBP 12 May; singles at 2 other locs.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Jamesville 15 Apr; max 14 OnonL 25 Apr (DW), great number; Mattydale 5 May (JS), expired after becoming tangled in fishing line; last OnonL 14 May.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 81 OnonL 5 Mar; 50 Const 5 May.
Caspian Tern: arr OswH 31 Mar; max 175 OnonL 20 Apr; 107 FH 22 May.
Black Tern: arr UM 27 Apr (MP), early; max 3 FH 21 May & 3 Const 24 May.
Com. Tern: arr 2 OnonL 13 Apr; 32 FH 19 May; max 100 Const 23 – 24 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 80 OswH 9 Apr.
Mourning Dove: max 88 Dolge 8 Mar.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr OnonL 10 May; max 3 HI 23 May; 2 Fayetteville 28 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr DeWitt 6 May; max 7 GLSP 16 May; 5 SFNS 21 May.
E. Screech-Owl: 4 Bville 7 Apr (JS), tree fell, nestlings killed; Phoenix 1 May (JS), killed, vehicle collision; singles only 7 locs.
Great Horned Owl: SNC 24 Mar (JD), nest in heron rookery fails; 2 SNC 10 Apr – 25 May; max 3 Canastota 5 May; 2 Hamilton 16 May; Syr 27 May (JS), killed, wire entanglement.
Snowy Owl: max 2 Syr 5 Mar – 12 Apr; last Syr 19 Apr; rep 5 other locs.
Barred Owl: 2 SNC 24 Mar; 2 HI 21 Apr; max 3 TR 22 Apr; many reports.
Long-eared Owl: TR 30 Mar, only report.
Short-eared Owl: max 2 Durhamville 7 – 9 Apr; DeWitt 20 Apr; last OnonL 22 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Wilmurt 3 Mar, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Jamesville 5 May; max 44 Mexico 20 May (AS); 7 Cazenovia 23 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Salisbury 9 May & 2 Const 9 May; 2 Verona 19 May; few reports.
Chimney Swift: arr 3 Syr 15 Apr; max 124 Poland 22 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Syr 3 May; max 5 DH 17 May & 5 SP 25 May; 42 banded at Stillwater Reservoir, ADK 27 May (GL).
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 various loc.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 DH 9 May & 3FH 24 May; most reports from OneiL and LOS.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Fayetteville 21 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Elbridge 15 Mar; 9 Syr 13 Apr; max 10 SBP 14 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: max 10 SFNS 2 May.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Pompey 10 Mar & 4 SFNS 2 May & 4 Dolge 29 May.
N. Flicker: max 200 DH 23 Apr (JT); 174 DH 24 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Syr 26 Mar & 3 SNC 24 Apr & 3 GLSP 6 May & 3 TR 12 May.
Am. Kestrel: max 97 DH 23 Apr; 42 DH 1 May.
Merlin: 3 DH 26, 27, Mar, 12, 20 Apr; max 4 DH 22 Apr; 2 Const 3 May (MS), nesting.
Peregrine Falcon: 3 DH 25 Mar & 3 DH 27 Apr; max 4 Utica 6 Apr, resident pr & 2 intruders; three eggs hatch in Utica nest in May; *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Kirkville 18 May; DB 21 May; SFNS 27 May; Syr 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Waterville, OnonL, West Monroe 12 May; max 5 SBP 17 May & 5 Syr 19 May & 5 SFNS 23 – 24 May & 5 WH 26 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 2 SBP 20 May; Syr 25 May; only reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 17 May; Minetto 22 May; max 2 WH 23 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Otisco Lake 12 May; max 6 GLSP 24 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Volney 10 May; max 10 DeWitt 15 May; 7 Tully 27 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr TR 1 May; max 8 OnonL 5 May; 6 Tully 13 May.
E. Phoebe: arr SFNS 27 Mar; max 30 WP 20 Apr; 12 SP 21 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Fayetteville, TR, BLNC, Const, SBP 3 May; max 8 MNWR east 13 May; 7 CM 19 May.
E. Kingbird: arr DH 23 Apr; max 6 WP 11 May; 5 DB 23 May.
N. Shrike: SNC 1 Mar; Manlius 1 Mar; Fabius 11 Mar; TR 19 Mar – 14 Apr; DB 25 Mar; last DH 20 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Memphis 3 May; 4 Skan 13 May; max 8 SBP 16 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Syr 23 Apr; max 8 Williamstown 3 May; 4 Lake Julia 13 May; 4 SH 1-21 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr Cicero 30 Apr; max 20 OnonL 5 May; 12 WP 9 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr DB 9 May; max 2 FH 16 May; singles at 8 other locs.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Jamesville, SH 5 May; 9 SH 21 May; max 15 OF 31 May.
Blue Jay: 450 DH 9 May; max 512 DH 10 May; 251 DH 23 May.
Am. Crow: max 1206 DH 26 Mar.
Fish Crow: max 5 OnonL 25 Mar; 2 Bville 9 Mar – 11 Apr; 2 BLNC 2 Apr; 3 Phoenix 8 Apr; 4 Cicero 12 Apr; 2 TR 4 May.
Com. Raven: max 6 DH 23 Apr; 5 Madison 12 May.
Horned Lark: max 175 Otisco Lake 17 Mar; 60 DH 29 Mar; last 2 Waterville 20 May.
Purple Martin: arr 3 Const 13 Apr; max 25 MNWR east 5 May; 20 FH 21 May; 20 Const 24 – 26 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Mexico 27 Mar; max 1750 Phoenix 14 Apr; 1200 PPT 15 Apr; high nums weather related, *intro*.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 14 Apr; max 75 SSSP 29 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Phoenix 14 Apr; max 30 Fulton 13 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr Syr 15 Apr; 10 Oswego 19 May; 6 West Monroe 17 May; max 15 Cicero 19 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Phoenix 12 Apr; 55 Phoenix 14 Apr; max 60 UM 26 Apr.
Black-capped Chickadee: 25 Rome 6 Mar; max 28 Eagle Bay, ADK 18 Apr; 25 SFNS 2 May; 25 GLSP 6 May.
Tufted Titmouse: max 15 SFNS 2 May; 10 GLSP 6 May.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 Noyes Sanctuary 25 Mar & 5 BLNC 9 May.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 Dolge 24 Apr; 10 SFNS 2 May.
Brown Creeper: 6 Williamstown 3 May; max 10 VBSP 6 May.
Carolina Wren: max 4 Syr 27 May; most reports from greater Syr.
House Wren: arr Marcellus & DH 24 Apr; 8 SBP 13 May; max 10 Fayetteville 15 May.
Winter Wren: 3 Baltimore Woods Nature Center 18 Apr; max 4 SFNS 22 – 23 Apr; 3 TR 5 May.
Marsh Wren: arr DeWitt 5 May; 3 Warren 7 – 17 May; 7 CM 19 May; 3 TR 25 May; max 8 MNWR east 28 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr TR 22 Apr; max 12 MNWR east 13 May; 6 OnonL 12 May; 6 CM 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 27 SH 21 Apr; max 30 Clark Reservation SP 22 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Poolville, WP, SFNS, Waterville, Manlius, 2 Jamesville 14 Apr; max 18 SH 21 Apr & 18 SP 27 Apr; 16 SNC 27 Apr.
E. Bluebird: 10 Marcellus 24 Mar; max 65 DH 22 May; 43 DH 27 May.
Veery: arr SP 2 May; 6 SBP 9 – 15 May; 6 MNWR east 13 May; max 7 Const 18 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr SBP 15 May; Syr 17 May; Mexico 19 – 20 May; Syr 26 May; only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TR 4 May; 3 SFNS 21 May; max 10 Const 25 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr SNC 8 Apr; max 10 SBP 23 Apr; 7 SFNS 23 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr DB 2 May; max 10 GLSP 7 – 17 May & Erieville 13 May & 10 Hamilton 25 May & 10 Canastota 30 May.
Am. Robin: 275 DH 26 Mar; max 330 DH 29 Mar; 130 SBP 14 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr Poolville 22 Apr; max 22 DB 16 May & 22 CM 19 May; 21 GLSP 16 May.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Jamesville 2 Apr; 2 Onon L 27 Apr; most rep greater Syr.
Brown Thrasher: arr Port Byron 12 Apr; 4 SP 12 May; max 7 GLSP 16 May.
European Starling: max 1800 DH 17 Mar.
Am. Pipit: arr DH 26 Mar; max 40 DB 15 Apr; last DH 23 May; few reports.
Cedar Waxwing: 197 DH 26 Mar; max 313 DH 3 Apr; 179 DH 28 May; 150 DH 31 May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Fabius 11 Mar, only report.
Snow Bunting: max 80 Cazenovia 15 Mar & 80 Deansboro 18 Mar; last 40 SP 23 Mar.
Ovenbird: 12 Williamstown 3 May; max 18 SH 5 May & 18 MNWR east 13 May; 15 Cicero 9 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pratt Falls 14 Apr; max 2 Skan 23 Apr & 2 Pompey 25 Apr & 2 SF 17 May & 2 Orwell 26 May; singles 9 oth locs.
N. Waterthrush: arr HI 27 Apr; max 11 TR 5 May; 6 Cicero 9 May; 5 Nelson 24 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr DH 2 May; Skan 8 May; Cicero 18 May; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr New Haven 3 May; max 6 GLSP 16 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Oswego 16 May; FH 19 May; only reports.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 2 SFNS 1 May; max 4 SFNS 3 May & 4 FH 22 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr West Monroe 17 May; max 2 Port Byron 25 May; only reports.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Fabius 6 May; max 20 SBP 20 May; 18 GB 21 May; 15 SFNS 21 May; good numbers.
Orange-crowned Warbler: FH 24 May (DD!), only report.
Nashville Warbler: arr Brew 2 May; max 6 TR 8 May & 6 Skan 11 May.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Pulaski 19 May (MB).
Mourning Warbler: arr HI 8 May; 4 SH 21 May; max 6 WH 26 May.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: FH 23 May (KM).
Com. Yellowthroat: arr WP & Skan 3 May; 17 MNWR east 13 May; 15 GLSP 17 May; max 25 CM 19 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr WH 6 May; 5 SH 9 May; max 7 WH 26 May.
Am. Redstart: arr Syr, Skan & Const 3 May; max 17 SBP 15 May & 17 Oswego 18 May & 17 SNC 19 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr TR 3 May; max 5 Mexico 8 May & 5 Kirkville 11 May & 5

Waterville 16 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr GLSP 6 May; 2 West Monroe 6 – 17 May; max 6 HI 10 May; 2 TR 8 – 23 May; rep 4 oth locs.

N. Parula: arr SBP 3 May; max 8 FH 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Syr 3 May; max 9 FH 10 May; 7 SBP 20 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Dolge & Williamstown 8 May; max 3 Oswego 14 May & 3 SBP 16 May & 3 FH 22 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr BLNC 3 May; 7 SH 20 – 21 May; max 8 OF 30 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr DeWitt 27 Apr; 23 DH 12 May; 23 Fabius 15 May; max 32 GLSP 16 May; 23 CM 19 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SP 28 Apr; 6 GLSP 16 May; 6 SBP 16 May; max 11 SH 21 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Bville 10 May; max 15 FH 21 – 24 May; 10 TR 23 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SFNS, SNC 2 May; max 6 SH 14 May; 4 FH 16 May; 4 OF 30 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Tully, SFNS, WP 14 Apr; max 15 DH 5 May; 10 SBP 5 – 8 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Cazenovia 8 Apr; max 4 SVB 6 May; 3 Lake Julia 13 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Chittenango 6 Apr; max 35 Mexico; 33 Kirkville 6 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Mexico 5 May (DW, DD); max 2 GLSP 24 – 25 May; Georgetown 9 – 13 May; only locs.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr DH 1 May; 5 Williamstown 3 May; max 7 SH 14 May; 5 SFNS 11 – 23 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Syr 10 May; 2 SH 13 May; max Camden 28 May; 2 OF 30 May; low numbers.

Wilson's Warbler: arr CM 5 May; 2 DH 15 May; 2 FH 16 May; max 3 SBP 20 May; relatively few reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr CM 21 Mar; max 16 GLSP 16 May; 8 Skan 11 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Const 6 Mar; 31 Dolge 12 Mar; last 2 SB 28 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Williamstown 4 Apr; max 100 SBP 23 Apr; 15 Phoenix 12 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr SBP 3 May (BP, KM); FH 16 May (GD); SBP 8 May (TS); GLSP 25 May (SP, KM, BP); max 3 SFNS 25 May (MP).

Field Sparrow: arr CM, GB 24 Mar; 12 TR 5 May; max 21 GLSP 16 May, good num.

Vesper Sparrow: arr SP 3 Apr; max 4 DB 19 Apr; 3 Pennellville 20 Apr; 3 Richfield Springs 22 Apr; reports from 11 other areas.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Jamesville 31 Mar; 8 SBP 14 Apr; max 16 DH 23 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr DeWitt 4 May; max 3 Rome 28 May; rep4 othr locs.

Fox Sparrow: arr Clinton 5 Mar; max 12 TR 17 Apr; 6 SBP 23 Apr.

Song Sparrow: 31 Fabius 7 Apr; max 33 MNWR east 14 Apr; 30 SFNS 2 May; 26 CM 19 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Mexico, SBP 9 May; max 3 SBP 10 – 13 May & 3 Mexico 16 May, relatively few reports.

Swamp Sparrow: 20 Phoenix 14 Apr; 10 Tully 6 May; 10 Warren 7 May; max 24 CM 19 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 30 SFNS 2 May & 30 SBP 3 May; 23 Utica 5 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: Manlius 9 Mar; max 12 DH 3 May; 10 SBP 8 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 170 Scriba 14 Apr; max 400 SBP 23 Apr.

Scarlet Tanager: arr 4 GLSP 5 May; 4 Williamstown 15 May; max 6 SFNS 21 May; 4 TR 25 May.

N. Cardinal: 15 Fayetteville 18 Mar & 15 Fabius 6 – 11 May; max 25 CM 19 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Clinton 25 Apr; max 6 TR 4 May & 6 Elbridge 6 May & 6 SP 27 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr Manheim 3 May; max 5 DB 16 May & 6 Richland 27 May.

Bobolink: arr Fulton 27 Apr; 12 DH 3 May; max 29 TR 14 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5200 DH 26 Mar; 2500 DH 27 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 3 Mar; max 22 DH 3 Apr; 11 DH 12 Apr; 9 DeWitt 20 Apr; 7 Fulton 27 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: max 230 Pennellville 3 Apr (BP); 50 DeWitt 18 Apr; 85 TR 22 Apr.

Com. Grackle: max 3570 TR 31 Mar; 2700 DH 30 – 31 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Elbridge 3 Mar; max 75 DH 23 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr Nine Mile Pt 3 May (KM, ph); 2 GLSP 16 May; max 8 DH 26 May; 2 Mexico 16, 30 May (DD, DW), poss nesting, new loc.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Brew, SBP, DH 2 May; 28 DH 8 May; max 65 DH 9 May (AS); 18 MNWR east 13 May.

blackbird species: max 1000 OnonL 15 Mar.

Purple Finch: max 18 Dolge 20 Apr; 10 Barneveld 5 May.

House Finch: 12 DH 29 Mar; max 15 Cicero 18 May; 10 DH 31 May.
Com. Redpoll: Camillus 11 Apr, only report.
Red Crossbill: max 31 Big Moose Lake, ADK 31 Mar; most reports from ADK, several reports from SH.
White-winged Crossbill: max 3 Big Moose

Lake, ADK 31 Mar; only loc.
Pine Siskin: 45 Erieville 2 Mar; max 65 DH 23 Apr.
Am. Goldfinch: 47 SP 11 Mar; max 71 Dolge 15 May.
House Sparrow: max 40 SFNS 2 May & 40 OnonL 17 – 26 May.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Temperatures throughout most of Region 6 were about average during March but ranged from 3-5 degrees below average for April everywhere except the Adirondacks, which was even colder. May was much warmer, averaging 3-5 degrees above normal in most of the Region, with parts of the Tug Hill as much as 7 degrees warmer than average. Precipitation patterns varied throughout the Region, but generally March and April were modestly wetter and May slightly drier than normal. For the season, the Tug Hill had 1-3 inches of precipitation below normal, and the St. Lawrence Valley had about one more inch of rain than normal.

Much like in 2017, the spring season was preceded by an unseasonably warm spell, with late February temperatures reaching well into the 60s, followed by a seasonably cool March. Frequent checks of locations where American Woodcock were heard peenting during and shortly after February's warm weather did not turn up any woodcock after 6 March until the main arrival period for this species at the end of the month. Although it is entirely possible that these early arrivals were not peenting because of cold weather and were simply missed, one wonders how many of these birds survived several weeks of sustained late winter weather. A cold April led to sluggish migration, and many species that typically arrive between late March and mid-April were later than usual, including Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, and Pine Warbler. By late April weather patterns were more conducive to migration, and most long-distance migrants appeared at or before mean arrival dates.

Overall, for the suite of species for which arrival dates are monitored annually, 31 species were documented within two days of historic averages, 43 species were more than two days early, and 17 species were more than two days late. Some of the species that arrived earlier than their long-term average arrival

dates actually were much closer to means from the last decade. One example is Osprey, with a long-term arrival date of 7 April, making this season's arrival of 1 April seem early, but in no year since 2005 has the first Osprey arrived as late as 7 April, and 1 April is almost exactly the mean arrival date for the past 10 years. Another example is Killdeer, which arrived in February for the fourth year out of the last eight, something that had only been documented once before 2010. Average arrival for all tracked species combined was 24 April, four days earlier than the long-term mean, and about average for the past decade.

Among the waterfowl highlights were three species of geese not frequently seen in Region 6, including a group of seven **Ross's Geese** that two Canadian birders watched fly across the St. Lawrence River to Galop Island on the New York side of the river on 11 March. Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Perch River WMA on 23 March and Wilson Hill WMA on 16 May, and Brian Miller photographed the season's only **Cackling Geese** in Watertown on 16 March. **Eurasian Wigeon** are now virtually annual in Region 6 and seem to be increasing, so singles at Wilson Hill 20-21 April and Perch River 27 April weren't that surprising. King Eider are reported much more frequently in fall and early winter than during spring, so the eider Dick Brouse saw at Montario Point on 31 March was a nice surprise. As is often the case, Nick Leone had the season's only Barrow's Goldeneye, this one on Point Peninsula 5 March.

Other than waterfowl few rarities were found. A **Snowy Egret** Brian Miller photographed at Perch River on 17 May was observed by a couple of other lucky birders who happened to be in the area that day. But typical for this species in Region 6, it quickly disappeared and was not found again. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** spent nearly a week apparently defending a territory on Fort Drum in mid-May but moved on after 18 May. Territorial chats were documented on Fort Drum at least four years in the 1990s, but this is the first one found there at any season since 2001. Five **Little Gulls** on Point Peninsula on 27 April was the highest Region 6 count in many years. They were seen among more than 2600 Bonaparte's Gulls. Amazingly, despite the presence of thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls, only two observers reported this species to eBird for the entire season!

The songbird migration was more active than the past few springs, with warblers moving in good numbers. Tennessee Warblers were especially abundant and seemed to be everywhere for much of May. Also present in seemingly higher than usual numbers were Nashville, Cape May, and Blackpoll Warblers, the latter being especially welcome after their very meager passage through Region 6 last fall. Orange-crowned Warblers are not detected every spring in Region 6, so singles on Fort Drum 4 and 16 May were noteworthy. Hooded Warblers at Fort Drum on 18 May and Wellesley Island on 27 May were north of their traditional nesting range in extreme southern Jefferson County.

Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins nested in the Adirondacks in good numbers and were more spottily distributed elsewhere, including Fort Drum, the

Tug Hill, and other areas mostly peripheral to the Adirondacks. Matt Young, Timothy Spahr, and Nathan Pieplow recorded vocalizations of numerous Red Crossbills in southeastern St. Lawrence County, documenting at least six call types, with as many as five types at a single location and numerous instances of birds of different types interacting. Call types 7 and/or 10, which are especially difficult to distinguish, was the most common in their sample, but types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were also present.

The season's species tally of 231 species was one higher than was documented in 2017 but a few species lower than the previous two years, which is somewhat surprising given that the overall volume of birds observed this spring was higher than in the past few years. The relatively active migration, especially during May, was the true highlight of the season for most birders, as just one or a small handful of observers saw any one of the season's rarities.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LPSP** – Long Point SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WI** – Wellesley I.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: last northbound flock WHWMA 8 Apr; last stragglers 3 Cranberry L 25 May.
Ross's Goose: 7 Ogden Is 11 Mar (MG, MM).
Greater White-fronted Goose: PRWMA 23 Mar (JB, photos!); WHWMA 16 May (TS, photos!).
Brant: heard over FD during nocturnal bird survey 25 May; 33 T LaFargeville 26 May; only reports.
Cackling Goose: 3 T Watertown 16 Mar (BM, photos!), only report.
Mute Swan: max 14 LWMA 13 May.
Trumpeter Swan: multiple reports LWMA, PRWMA, ULLWMA, & WHWMA; 2 Black L 24 Apr another possible nesting location; at least 2 moving around FD 30 Mar thru; increasing.
Tundra Swan: max 15 CCSP 16 Mar; last 4 ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Wood Duck: max 49 ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Gadwall: max 45 PRWMA 27 Apr.
Eurasian Wigeon: WHWMA 20-21 Apr (BD, JB, ph!); PRMWA 27 Apr (ID, SD, MSM, AS).
Am. Wigeon: max 280 PRWMA 27 Apr.
Am. Black Duck: max 56 ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr PRWMA 21 Mar; max 4 PRWMA 18-23 May.
N. Shoveler: arr PRWMA 22 Mar; max 16 PRWMA 27 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 240 WHWMA 21 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 152 ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Redhead: max 550 TP 7 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 240 PRWMA 23-27 Apr.
Greater Scaup: max 850 JCSP 17 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 180 PRWMA 27 Apr.
King Eider: MP 31 Mar (RB), only report.
White-winged Scoter: max 7 Cranberry L 25 May (DC).
Black Scoter: 4 JCSP 6 May (JB), only report.
Long-tailed Duck: max 495 LPSP 27 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 186 JCSP 29 Apr; scarce after 5 May except 76 JCSP 6 May at site that routinely holds winter divers late; lingering ad m ULLWMA thru.
Com. Goldeneye: max 191 JCSP 29 Apr; no reports after 6 May when 44 at JCSP.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 2 PtPen 5 Mar (NL).
Hooded Merganser: max 22 T Lyme 21 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 120 WHWMA 8 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 172 PtPen 27 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 5 Perch L 23 Apr; max 14 PRWMA 27 Apr; only reports.
Com. Loon: arr SLR T Waddington 8 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr PRWMA 22 Mar.
Horned Grebe: arr CCSP 1 Apr; max & last 4 JCSP 6 May.
Red-necked Grebe: arr PtPen 10 Apr; max & last 11 JCSP 6 May
Double-crested Cormorant: arr JCSP 25 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr WHWMA 13 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr ULLWMA 12 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr T Brownville 23 Mar.
Great Egret: arr T Canton 8 Apr.
SNOWY EGRET (R6): PRWMA 17 May (BM, AW, GD, photos!).
Green Heron: arr T Lowville 28 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Murphy Is 21 Apr.
Turkey Vulture: few reports before 20 Mar.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr PRWMA 1 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 29 reports Ebird.
Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports Ebird.
N. Goshawk: FD 7 May & Bog River Falls 31 May only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr T Watertown 21 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr RRT 22 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last FD 4 May.
Golden Eagle: 7 reports 8 ind 10 Mar to 7 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr FD 25 Apr.
Sora: arr PRWMA 27 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: arr PRWMA 13 Apr.
Am. Coot: 2 PRWMA 19-27 Apr, only location.
Sandhill Crane: apparent nesting pairs at Lisbon Marsh & ULLWMA; 2 LWMA 25 Apr where nested in past but not believed to nest currently; migr T Watertown 23 Mar; 2 FD 3 Apr; T Alexandria 28 Apr; T Oswegatchie 29 Apr.
Black-bellied Plover: FL 23 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr WHWMA 11 May; max and last 3 MP 24 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: T Clayton 24 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Hounsfield 27 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Carthage & WHWMA 21 Apr; last MP 24 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Dekalb 26 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr FD 1 May.
Dunlin: arr WHWMA 11 May; max 19 PRWMA 25 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 10 May; max 30 PRWMA 18 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr WHWMA 11 May; max 21 PRWMA 26 May.
Am. Woodcock: peenting m different locations T Canton 1 & 6 Mar; no more reports until widespread arr 27-30 Mar.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 T Leray 30 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 2640 PtPen 27 Apr (JB); 1 LWMA 26 May only other report, *intro*.
Little Gull: 5 PtPen 27 Apr (JB), only report.
Iceland Gull: LWMA 10-11 Mar, only report.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BI 27 Mar, only report.
Caspian Tern: arr PRWMA 11 Apr.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 5 May.
Com. Tern: arr WHWMA 20 Apr.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 14 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 14 May; max 8 FD 17 May.
E. Screech-Owl: T Watertown 26 Apr, only report.
Snowy Owl: departure generally late Mar & early Apr; 3 still present T Lyme end of May.
Short-eared Owl: Ogdensburg airport 17 Apr (BD); FD 18 May thru (JB, GD, AW).
N. Saw-whet Owl: New Bremen 1 Apr (CL); T Russell 27 May (BB); 2 FD 30 May (JB); only reports.
Com. Nighthawk: arr T Henderson 12 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr T Antwerp 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr FD 2 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T Parishville 4 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr FD 28 Mar; scarce before 20 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: FD arr date obscured by presence of multiple wintering ind; no reports away from FD.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr T Canton 3 Apr; scarce before 13 Apr.
N. Flicker: numbers picking up by 30 Mar.
Am. Kestrel: widespread arr 21-25 Mar.
Merlin: 19 reports from all portions of Region.
Peregrine Falcon: T Ellisburg 10-11 Mar; 2 FD 4 May; ULLWMA 19 May; only reports, and none from known breeding sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr StPt 12 May (MAK); max 3 MM 20 May (BB).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr T Canton 13 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FD 23 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr FD & RRt 15 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr T Adams 13 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr FD & T Edwards 3 May.
E. Phoebe: arr T Watertown 1 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ICNC 1 May.
E. Kingbird: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
N. Shrike: last FD 20 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr T Edwards 3 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr FD 25 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr FD 4 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: FD 16 May; FD 18 May, where m occupied terr 2017; only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr T Parishville 3 May.
Horned Lark: PRWMA 17 May, only report after Mar.
Purple Martin: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr FD 26 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr LPSP 27 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr T Brownville 24 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr BI 21 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr BI 21 Apr.
House Wren: arr PtPen 27 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr MM 7 Apr; few before May.
Sedge Wren: arr FD 16 May.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 27 Apr.
Carolina Wren: StPt & T Hammond 11-20 May, only reports.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FD 4 May; only 4 other rep at 3 loc.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1st obvious migr FD 19 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 23 Apr.
E. Bluebird: 1st likely migr T Croghan 30 Mar.
Veery: arr ICNC 6 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: none.
Swainson's Thrush: CB 18 May & 6 FD 23 May, only reports.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Croghan 19 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr FD 2 May.
Gray Catbird: arr KC 25 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr FD 23 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: arr PtPen 10 May.
Am. Pipit: arr FD 2 May; only 2 other reports.
Bohemian Waxwing: none.
Cedar Waxwing: scarce before late Apr.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last CV 17 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 1200 CV 17 Mar (NL); last T Philadelphia 17 Apr.
Ovenbird: widespread arr 3 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr T Adams 6 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr FD 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr ICNC 5 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 4 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr FD 2 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 9 May; max 32 FD 23 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 4 & 16 May (JB).

Nashville Warbler: arr FD & Thompson Park T Watertown 3 May; max 33 FD 9 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr FD 14 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr FD 4 May.

Hooded Warbler: FD 18 May & WI 27 May north of traditional nesting areas in S JEFF.

Am. Redstart: arr FD 3 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Thompson Park T Watertown 5 May; max 8 StPt 12 May; 19 reports, more than usual.

Cerulean Warbler: arr T Dekalb 5 May.

N. Parula: arr FD & T Edwards 3 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr FD 7 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 9 May; max 5 StPt 20 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr T Croghan 4 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr RRt 28 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr FD 3 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr RRt 12 May; max 24 RMSP 27 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FD 3 May.

“Western” Palm Warbler: arr PtPen 27 Apr.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler: arr unreported, but numerous MM by 28 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr CCSP 21 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr CCSP 23 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr FD 4 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr FD & T Canton 2 May.

Canada Warbler: arr FD 10 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr FD & T Clayton 16 May; max 6 FD 24 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R6): FD 14-18 May (JB!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr T Canton 2 Apr; scarce before 20 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last ICNC 1 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr FD 10 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 3 May; max 21 FD 25 May.

Field Sparrow: arr KC 15 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 19 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr CCSP & FD 23 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 2 May.

Henslow’s Sparrow: arr FD 3 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr T Leyden 7 Apr.

Song Sparrow: arr 26 Mar.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr FD 16 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr FD 19 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: arr FD 23 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Thompson Park T Watertown 3 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Otter Creek Preserve 5 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr KC 25 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Thompson Park T Watertown & ULLWMA 6 May.

Bobolink: arr FD 3 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Potsdam 2 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr PRWMA 2 Apr.

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr FD 30 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: StPt 20 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr FD & T Watertown 3 May.

Com. Redpoll: 4 T Colton 10 Mar, only report.

Red Crossbill: abundant SE STLA, where type 7/10 most numerous but types 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 also present, *intro*; more local FD and elsewhere SW JEFF & LEWI.

Pine Siskin: abundant SE STLA; less numerous but widespread elsewhere thru.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Eight named winter storms hit the northeast between 1 March and 14 April, an average of one every six days. Fortunately Quinn, Toby, Uma, and Violet either just brushed Region 7 or missed it entirely. On 2 March, Riley underwent bombogenesis and became a genuine nor'easter, battering the coast and leaving 8 inches of snow in the Lake Champlain Valley and more in the Adirondacks. Skyler, also a nor'easter, struck the area and brought blizzard conditions in mid March. Snow fall totals were 23" in Ellenberg, 17" in Chateaugay, and 12" in Plattsburgh. Wilber, which opened April, was mostly a rain event in Region 7. Xanto dropped 2-3" of rain in Plattsburgh on 13-14 April and more in the Adirondacks.

Precipitation totals (water equivalent) in March were three inches or more for almost the entire Region. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal and were cold enough that there was little to no melting of the snow pack. The level of Lake Champlain reached its low of the season on 30 March at just less than 96.5 . Precipitation in April averaged around 5" except in the high peaks area, where more than 6" fell. The rainfall from Xanto alone accounted for roughly half of that and increased the lake level by nearly 0.8 . April was also a cold month. In the western portion of the Region temperatures averaged more than 7°F below normal. In the rest of the Region temperatures were more than 5° below normal. Nationwide, May 2018 was the warmest on record. It didn't set records in Region 7, but still it was 3-5° above average. Precipitation for the month was from 1-2" in eastern portions of the Region, but near 3" in the remainder.

Once again, Lake Champlain did not freeze solid this year. What used to be the exception has become the rule for the past decade or more. Though it is impossible to know, this may account for the arrival of the massive flocks of Snow Geese up to ten days earlier than average. By 5 April the whole of Lake Champlain was free of ice. This and the lack of a retreating ice edge allowed the waterfowl to be dispersed and may have contributed to notable misses of Ross's Goose, Surf Scoter, and Canvasback. But for a single report, Cackling Goose would have been missed as well.

After the end of March and into April, Lake Champlain rose in a series of steps that coincided with warm periods and the heavy rains of Wilber and Xanto. A peak of a little over 100 , flood stage, was reached early in the second week of May. It declined almost in a straight line from there to 97.8 . on 31 May. At this level the mud flats at Laurin's Pool were still under water and at Noblewood Park, the Region's other important shorebird site, suitable area was limited.

There is no doubt these levels were responsible for the limited number of reports of shorebirds this season and the notable misses of Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers.

The Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) opened for its 43rd consecutive season on 4 May and closed on 19 May. This year 485 individuals of 54 species and types were banded, down from 601 and 59 the previous year. The CPBS report suggests this drop off may have been due to a continuous band of stormy weather to the south that blocked migrants' progress. The report also notes that "This was a cool banding season with only a few hot days." This was my personal impression of May's weather that, in spite of the Northeast Regional Climate Center report cited above, May's temperatures were above average.

This season observers counted 216 species of which 201 are listed here. Present in large numbers this winter, **Pine Siskins**, **Red Crossbills**, and **White-winged Crossbills** remained in the area throughout the season. Probable breeding evidence was reported for all three. Always an important find, **Tufted Duck** has become nearly a regular occurrence in the Champlain Valley in recent years. There was a single report of **Golden Eagle** on 24 March from the Intervale Lowlands. At the end of March **Sandhill Crane** returned to Tupper Lake, where it has bred successfully each of the past two years. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** made an unusually strong showing this season, with multiple sightings and, in one case, a maximum of four birds. **Snowy Owl** was reported three times from 2 March to 22 April. The last was of an individual tagged with a radio collar at Island Beach, NJ in the fall of 2017 in a study called Project Snowstorm. A complete map of the bird's progress back to Canada can be found at ([http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island beach](http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island%20beach)), which indicates that it lingered on Cumberland Head for several days. **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a species reported to be in decline throughout the State in the second atlas, was seen in Owls Head, an area where it was found in both atlas periods. Finally "**Lawrence's**" **Warbler** was found and photographed at the Webb Royce Swamp Shrublands at the end of May.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ak – Akwasasne; **AC** – Ausable Chasm; **AF** – Ausable Forks; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BC** – Bellmont Center; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BkP** – Black Pd; **BML** – Blue Mountain L; **BWB** – Bulwagga Bay; **CF** – Carpenter’s Flats; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd. Wetlands; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **Es** – Essex; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **FtC** – Fort Covington; **FP** – Furnace Pt; **HH** – Heath Hill Rd; **HS** – Hoghback Swamp; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **ILk** – Indian L; **Ing** – Ingraham; **IP** – Ingraham Pd Rd; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LAg** – Lake Algonquin; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LC** – Lake Colby; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LTL** – Little Tupper L; **LL** – Long L; **Mal** – Malone; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRd** – Middle Road; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MVH** – Mount van Hovenberg; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood Pk; **OM** – Oak Mountain; **OH** – Owl’s Head; **PL** – Paradox L; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche State Park; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PC** – Putts Creek; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SH** – Saint Home; **StR** – St Regis Canoe area; **SB** – Sabattis Bog; **Sir** – Sabattis Circle; **StH** – St. Huberts; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SL** – Saranac L; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **SC** – Scotion Creek; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper L; **VV** – Vermontville; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WLS** – Willis L Swamp; **WB** – Willsboro Bay; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 5 PH 18 Mar (S&MR).
Snow Goose: 500 PL 2 Mar (EB).
Brant: 7 WD 24 May (SR).
Cackling Goose: Mal 5 Apr (JT).
Wood Duck: 3 AP 1 Mar (SR); 7 CB 29 Apr (SR).

Gadwall: 3 CR 3 May (BK).
Am. Wigeon: 12 PH 29 Mar (SR); 2 AP 18 Apr (DR).
Am. Black Duck: 9 PH 29 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: CR 3 May (BK); 2 AP 30 May (SR).
N. Shoveler: 5 CR 3 May (BK).

N. Pintail: 2 PH 29 Mar (SR); 12 FtC 12 Apr (HW).
Green-winged Teal: 15 CR 2 Apr (BK).
Redhead: 13 AP 1 Mar (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 37 AP 1 Mar (SR).
TUFTED DUCK: CP 18 Mar (AB), *intro*.
Greater Scaup: 320 PB 12 Mar (GC).
Lesser Scaup: 6 CP 6 Mar (SR).
scaup sp: 500 KB 3 May (BK).
White-winged Scoter: 4 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 50 CR 24 May (SR).
Long-tailed Duck: 80 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).
Bufflehead: 17 PK 1 Mar (SR); 64 NP 30 Apr (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 360 PK 1 Mar (SR); 1ad, 8y AP 29 May (SR), confirmed FL.
Barrow's Goldeneye: PK 1 Mar (SR); 2 RP 10 Mar (GC).
Hooded Merganser: 6 PH 29 Mar (SR).
Com. Merganser: 108 CP 6 Mar (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: CB 19 Apr (SR).
Ruddy Duck: 2 AP 13 May (NG).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WRS 1 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Wild Turkey: 30 LL 18 Mar (JC); 20 WRS 27 Mar (GL).
Red-throated Loon: CB 19 Apr (SR).
Com. Loon: 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).
Pied-billed Grebe: AP 1 Apr (BK).
Horned Grebe: 21 PK 1 Mar (SR); CH 12 Apr (BK).
Red-necked Grebe: AP 12 Mar (GC); 22 WP 29 Apr (SR).
Double-crested Cormorant: EF 5 Mar (CM); 150 BWB 29 Apr (ID).
Am. Bittern: 2 BB 4 May (JP).
Least Bittern: AP 30 May (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 20 BRR 31 Mar (MC).
Great Egret: FtC 28 Apr (ID); CR 3 May (BK).
Green Heron: IL 3 May (MMo); CR 3 May (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SC 22 May (NO).
Black Vulture: 3 MM 1 Apr (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: CR 1 Apr (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): LL 15 Mar (JC); IL 24 Mar (MY), *intro*.
Bald Eagle: PK 1 Mar (SR).
N. Harrier: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: NP 9 May (J&PT).
Cooper's Hawk: MR 18 Mar (BK).

N. Goshawk: PB 29 Mar (MB); PS 31 Mar (SR, GC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: MB 24 Apr (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: HH 10 May (EW).
Red-tailed Hawk: EAW 27 Mar (GL).
Rough-legged Hawk: StH 31 Mar (J&PT).
Virginia Rail: CR 17 May (BK).
Sora: AP 19 May (GC).
Com. Gallinule: LA 13 May (BK).
Am. Coot: 4 AP 18 Apr (DR).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): TL 30 Mar (MCR), *intro*.
Spotted Sandpiper: CH 4 May (SJ).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 StR 8 May (SMC).
Greater Yellowlegs: 9 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 18 CR 3 May (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 20 FtC 4 May (HW); 15 CR 3 May (BK).
Dunlin: 10 CR 26 May (MM).
Least Sandpiper: CH 7 May (BK).
White-rumped Sandpiper: CR 24 May (SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 CR 21 May (BK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: CH 8 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 CR 26 May (MM).
Wilson's Snipe: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Am. Woodcock: 2 MRd 2 Apr (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: 16 WP 23 Apr (SR).
Iceland Gull: CP 18 Mar (AB); BWB 13 Apr (SR).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BWB 13 Apr (SR); CR 14 Apr (BK); 4 PH 24 May (SR), *intro*.
Great Black-backed Gull: 4 PK 1 Mar (SR).
Caspian Tern: BWB 13 Apr (SR); 69 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).
Black Tern: 3 AP 24 May (SR).
Com. Tern: 2 AP 13 May (NG); 19 PH 24 May (SR).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 20 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: IP 30 May (JT).
E. Screech Owl: OM 26 May (TVD).
Great Horned Owl: IL 1 Mar (MMo).
Snowy Owl: CH 2 Mar (BK); CP 6 Mar (SR); PtR 22 Apr (BMcN), *intro*.
Barred Owl: AC 11 Mar (RN).
Short-eared Owl: MRd 2 Apr (SR).
N. Saw-whet Owl: PL 19 Mar (EG).
Com. Nighthawk: CP 18 May (SR).
E. Whip-poor-will: WB 9 May (LS).
Chimney Swift: 3 SL 3 May (AB).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 WLS 9 May (KC).
Belted Kingfisher: NP 30 Apr (SR).

Red-headed Woodpecker: OH 24 May (JT),
intro.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: AP 11 Mar (BK).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StR 7 May (SMc).
Black-backed Woodpecker: SB 8 Apr (SP).
N. Flicker: 6 LA 17 May (BK).
Pileated Woodpecker: StR 11 May (SMc).
Am. Kestrel: StH 31 Mar (J&PT).
Merlin: StR 8 May (SMc).
Peregrine Falcon: SRM 18 Mar (TF).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: HS 28 May (SR).
E. Wood-Pewee: CP 18 May (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 SLB 18 May
(LM).
Alder Flycatcher: WRS 18 May (SR).
Willow Flycatcher: BC 19 May (NR).
Least Flycatcher: LA 6 May (BK).
E. Phoebe: LA 1 Apr (MMo).
Great Crested Flycatcher: 3 CF 3 May (BK).
E. Kingbird: HH 9 May (EW).
N. Shrike: SL 24 Mar (GC).
Yellow-throated Vireo: PC 23 May (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: PC 2 May (SR).
Warbling Vireo: 3 KB 4 May (BK).
Philadelphia Vireo: BkP 14 May (BMc).
Red-eyed Vireo: PS 16 May (BMc).
Gray Jay: 7 LL 23 Mar (JC); 2 StR 11 May
(SMc).
Fish Crow: 4 SL 24 Mar (GC); 2 CH 24 Apr
(AB).
Com. Raven: CP 30 Apr (SR).
Horned Lark: 18 MR 18 Mar (BK); 6 LC 1
Apr (AB).
Purple Martin: 3 Ing 21 May (BK).
Tree Swallow: 60 CR 1 Apr (BK).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: CH 6 May (NO);
AP 13 May (NG).
Bank Swallow: 8 AP 19 May (GC).
Cliff Swallow: 7 HB 12 May (SMc).
Barn Swallow: 2 LC 9 May (AB).
Boreal Chickadee: 17 MVH 6 Mar (CM).
Tufted Titmouse: NP 30 Apr (SR).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: LC 10 May (AB).
Brown Creeper: AF 4 Mar (GC).
House Wren: HH 9 May (EW).
Winter Wren: PS 6 May (BMc); LC 10 May
(AB).
Carolina Wren: CH 1 Mar (NO); FP 17 May
(RB).
Marsh Wren: 5 KB 17 May (BK).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PC 2 May (SR); 3 TI
10 May (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: LAg 28 Apr (JdWM).

Veery: LA 6 May (BK).
Bicknell's Thrush: 3 SL 22 May (BMc).
Swainson's Thrush: 1 PS 16 May (BMc).
Hermit Thrush: 2 LC 6 May (AB).
Wood Thrush: HH 10 May (EW).
Gray Catbird: 3 HH 9 May (EW).
Brown Thrasher: IL 2 May (MMo).
N. Mockingbird: PB 12 Mar (GC).
Am. Pipit: 2 LC 30 Mar (AB).
Cedar Waxwing: 6 WP 23 Apr (SR).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 200 RP 15 Mar (JE).
Ovenbird: PL 3 May (EG).
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 TI 10 May (SR).
N. Waterthrush: Ak 1 May (HW).
Golden-winged Warbler: FtC 14 May (EW);
WRS 29 May (SR).
Blue-winged Warbler: WRS 27 May (NR).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: WRS 29 May (SR),
ph.
Black-and-white Warbler: PL 3 May (EG).
Tennessee Warbler: HH 9 May (EW).
Nashville Warbler: PS 6 May (Mc).
Mourning Warbler: BC 17 May (NR).
Com. Yellowthroat: CH 6 May (SJ).
Am. Redstart: PtF 3 May (BK).
Cape May Warbler: 3 StR 11 May (SMc).
N. Parula: 2 PS 6 May (BMc).
Magnolia Warbler: LCI 10 May (SMc).
Bay-breasted Warbler: HH 10 May (EW); 4
PS 16 May (BMc).
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 StR 11 May (SMc).
Yellow Warbler: LA 5 May (BK).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 5 HH (May (EW).
Blackpoll Warbler: 27 AP 27 May (KMc).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: PS 6 May
(BMc).
Palm Warbler: CH 6 May (BK).
Pine Warbler: BW 29 Apr (ID).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 36 CR 3 May (SR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: PL 3 May
(EG); 3 PS 6 May (BMc).
Canada Warbler: LPI 12 May (JdWM).
Wilson's Warbler: FP 17 May (RB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: BML 17 Apr (R&EB).
Am. Tree Sparrow: LC 14 Apr (BMc).
Chipping Sparrow: 2 IL 14 Apr (M&WMo).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 12 May.
Field Sparrow: PtR 26 Apr (JH).
Vesper Sparrow: 16 Ilk 14 Apr (M&WMo); 4
PtR 24 Apr (AB).
Savannah Sparrow: IL 13 Apr (MMo).
Fox Sparrow: MM 14 Mar (SR).

Lincoln's Sparrow: PS 16 May (BMc).
Swamp Sparrow: 4 LA 6 May (BK).
White-throated Sparrow: 5 MM 124 Mar (SR).
White-crowned Sparrow: PK 3 May (DR).
Scarlet Tanager: PS 16 May (BMc).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 CF 8 May (BK).
Indigo Bunting: 2 New 17 May (SMc); CRW 25 May (J&PT).
Bobolink: CR 3 May (BK).
E. Meadowlark: VV 14 Apr (BM).

Rusty Blackbird: IL 13 Apr (MMo); 16 NP 30 Apr (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 TI 5 Mar (SR).
Pine Grosbeak: StH 4 Mar (JC).
Baltimore Oriole: IL 3 May (MMo).
Purple Finch: SLB 4 Mar (GC).
Red Crossbill: 10 PS 1 Mar (CV); LTL 21 Mar (JC), *intro*.
White-winged Crossbill: 6 PS 1 Mar (CV); 10 Sir 18 Mar (JC); 4 SB 8 Apr (SP), *intro*.
Pine Siskin: 36 SLB 4 Mar (GC), *intro*.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 WB 20 May (RB).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather in March 2018 was dominated by three heavy snowfalls on the 2nd, 7th-8th, and 13th of the month. Albany received about a foot of snow from each event. Not surprisingly, there was still snow on the ground in valley areas through 25 March. The average temperature and precipitation were very close to normal by month's end. April was much colder, 6.7°F below normal, and wetter, 1.00" above normal. Temperatures returned closer to seasonable by the last week of the month, just in time for the arrival of early long-distance migrants. Leaf-out was far behind typical levels. The pendulum swung in the opposite direction as May commenced, with warm and dry conditions throughout the month and very favorable weather for migrants heading to their breeding grounds. The temperature was 6.0° above average at Albany, and precipitation was almost two inches below normal.

A pair of **Greater White-fronted Geese** continued along the Hudson River in Fort Miller, Washington County throughout March. An additional bird was found among Canada Geese on the Mohawk River in Fultonville, Montgomery County on 25 March. Brant made a large northward movement over the area on the evening of 21 May, with many observers reporting more than one thousand birds. Most dabbling and diving ducks were seen in good numbers, with scoters being scarce in spring as usual. Canvasback and Redhead continued to be elusive in the Region, with just two reports received in April. A high count of 58 Long-tailed Ducks at Alcove Reservoir on 7 April was notable, as was a report of 70 Green-winged Teal at Vosburgh Swamp WMA, Greene County on the same date. Ron Harrower did a full circuit around Saratoga Lake

on 17 April and recorded 38 Common Loons for the morning. 29 Red-necked Grebe were observed on the north end of Lake George at Hague, Warren County on 21 April. During the Alan DeVoe Bird Club Birdathon Day on 12 May, a Snowy Egret was discovered resting in the Stony Kill near Chatham, Columbia County.

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was detected by three observers on 19 May near West Mtn., Warren County. This is the same location where one or more has been observed for at least the past two years. Area birders will monitor the location this summer and in future seasons. A most interesting species in our Region! Eastern Whip-poor-will continues to be found in traditional strongholds, especially the Luther Forest area in Saratoga County. A promising positive trend continues at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, where formal nightjar surveys located at least four vocalizing individuals in three separate units of the fragmented habitat. The whip-poor-wills were heard into late June and might well be expected to attempt to repopulate the recently restored habitat where they formerly bred.

There were two reports of **Red-necked Phalarope** during the spring migration. One sighting was from the Schoharie Reservoir on 17 April, a single bird. The other observation was two birds at the Alcove Reservoir, Albany County on 9 May. Wrights Loop in Saratoga County produced some excellent shorebird sightings, as the rains of April flooded the farm fields there, and the water gradually subsided leaving shallow foraging habitat. Black-bellied Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher were noted there.

Bonaparte's Gull was observed in very high numbers at widespread locations during April. Two cool, wet weather events put down large flocks onto area waters, once on 15 April and again for a few days at the end of the month. The 15 April occurrence was remarkable for the high counts at so many locations: 210 at Saratoga Lake, 120 at East Canada Lake, 105 on the Mohawk River in Colonie, 100 at Schoharie Crossing, and 83 at Collins Lake. Gary Chapin picked out a **Little Gull** in a flock of Bonaparte's at Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park, Washington County on 29 April. Unquestionably the highlight of the spring gull season, however, was the **Mew Gull** found and photographed by Ted Keyel at Collins Lake, Schenectady County during the 15 April event. This represents a rare inland sighting away from the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes. On 15 April a group of 31 Caspian Terns was observed flying north up the Hudson River from Schodack Island SP.

Short-eared Owls were scarce in March, with a high count of four at the Ft. Edward Grasslands. John Kent found five at a new location along the Hudson River in Selkirk in an area of abandoned farm fields. Snowy Owls continued in the Ft. Edward area through late March, the Montgomery County farmlands into early April, Albany International Airport through 5 April, and a very late owl at Schenectady County Airport on 16 April.

Lindsey Duval had high counts of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Vischer Ferry NHP on 20 April, with 96 of the former and 56 of the

latter. Schodack Island SP is renowned for the density of birdsong emanating from the thick understory of its floodplain habitat, and some careful trailside surveys came up with the following high counts in May: 16 Veery, 16 Wood Thrush, 38 Gray Catbird, 53 Ovenbird(!), and 62 American Redstart(!). Impressive numbers to be sure.

Selected species of interest included three reports of **Clay-colored Sparrow**, one of which was seen by Tristan Lowery on 7 May in the busy urban environment of Washington Park in the city of Albany. Rusty Blackbird numbers seemed to be holding steady, with one report of 115 from Bog Meadow Brook in Saratoga County on 3 May. Worm-eating Warbler may be continuing to make inroads into southern reaches of the area, with observations from three locations in the hill and ravine region of southeastern Albany County. Bill Cook also made note of some species possibly expanding the northern extent of their breeding range, in an excerpt from his monthly summary for the Alan DeVoe Bird Club (Columbia County): “Hooded Warbler bred in Columbia County from 2001 to 2004 on the Alander Mountain trail in Copake. Since then it has shown up as a migrant in 2009, 2015, and this year. Worm-eating Warbler, which also breeds on the Alander Mountain trail in the rhododendron understory is being found at many sites in southeastern Columbia County and is apparently a common breeder in this, until recently, under-birded area. Another unusual southern species, the **Acadian Flycatcher**, made an appearance at Will Yandik’s (Livingston) house this month.”

241 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Ted Keyel, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - HERONS

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Ft. Miller WASH 1 Mar.
Snow Goose: max 150 Fultonville MONT 17 Mar.
Brant: max 1900 BCM 21 May.
Gadwall: max 12 Copake L COLU 22 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: max 42 Rexford SARA 24 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: max 24 VFNHP 15 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 13 Rexford SARA 22 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 120 Wrights loop SARA 25 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 70 Vosburgh Swamp WMA ALBA 7 Apr.
Canvasback: max 3 Middleburgh SCHO 19 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: max 430 Saratoga L SARA 8 Apr.
Greater Scaup: max 164 Saratoga L SARA 14 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 250 Saratoga L SARA 14 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 9 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park WASH 29 Apr.
Black Scoter: Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr; AR 9 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 58 AR 7 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 80 BCR 19 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 120 Ft. Miller WASH 2 Mar.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Saratoga L SARA 11 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: max 50 Westerlo ALBA 17 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 3 May.

Ruddy Duck: max 70 BCR 19 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: max 4 Ft. Miller WASH 5 Apr.
Com. Loon: max 38! Saratoga L SARA 17 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: 4 Collins L SCHE 12 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 8 Saratoga L SARA 8 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 29 L George WARR 21 Apr.
Great Cormorant: arr Germantown COLU 3 Mar.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr TR 26 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr BCM 13 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr BMB 5 May.
Great Egret: max 3 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 27 Apr; Wrights Loop SARA 19 May.
Snowy Egret: Chatham COLU 12 May.
Green Heron: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 4 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 Crescent Park Trail SARA 23 Apr.

VULTURES – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 25 Guilderland ALBA 3 Apr.
Osprey: arr Glenville SCHE 27 Mar.
N. Harrier: max 4 FtEG 2 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Saratoga Springs ALBA & Bethlehem ALBA 1 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Fultonville MONT 8 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Fultonville MONT 21 Mar.
Virginia Rail: arr BCM & Drowned Lands SCA COLU 13 Apr.

Sora: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 14 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: arr Carter's Pond WMA WASH 23 Apr.
Am. Coot: max 3 Barber's Farm SCHO 21 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: max 2 Bear Swamp SCHO 19 Apr
Black-bellied Plover: 2 Wrights Loop SARA 13 May.
Semipalmated Plover: max 19 Lock 2 Mechanicville SARA 23 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Fultonville MONT 3 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 Wrights Loop SARA 1 May (DD), high count.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 18 Wrights Loop SARA 7 May.
Upland Sandpiper: max 3 W. Ames MONT 31 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: Galway L SARA 26 May.
Dunlin: max 28 Lock 2 Mechanicville SARA 23 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 21 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher: Wrights Loop SARA 26 Apr, 13 May.
Wilson's Snipe: max 18 Wrights Loop SARA 19 Apr.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R8): Schoharie Res SCHO 17 Apr (DH, JoR); 2 AR 9 May (TW), *intro*.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 210 Saratoga L SARA 15 Apr (LD), high count.
Little Gull: Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park WASH 29 Apr.
MEW GULL: Collins Lake SCHE 15 Apr (TK), *intro*.
Iceland Gull: last Saratoga L SARA 9 Apr.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: last Schoharie Crossing SHS 2 May.
Glaucous Gull: last South Bay WASH 26 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 31 Schodack Isl SP 15 Apr.
Black Tern: Saratoga L SARA 15-17 May.
Com. Tern: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 14 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 15 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Clifton Park SARA 6 May.
Snowy Owl: last Schenectady Co Airport 16 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: last FtEG 25 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Greenfield SARA 21 Apr; CRM 4 May.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Livingston COLU 7 May.
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: West Mt Ski Area WARR 19 May DH, EP, JoR), *intro*.
E. Whip-poor-will: max 7 Luther Forest SARA 14 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Hillsdale COLU 28 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Oppenheim FULT 23 May, only report.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Horicon WARR 18 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Olana SHS 28 Apr, early.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr APBP 17 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Livingston COLU 12 May, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: arr BMB 5 May, early.
Willow Flycatcher: arr FR 10 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr BMB 27 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr FR 2 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Chatham COLU 24 Apr.
N. Shrike: last Sprakers MONT 29 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU; RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 15 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr multiple loc 2 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA; Johnstown FULT 23 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr multiple loc 5 May.
Purple Martin: arr Saratoga L SARA 7 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Babcock L RENS; VFNHP 8 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr multiple loc 27 Mar, late arrival date.
Bank Swallow: arr The Crossings ALBA 21 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Ashland GREE 23 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr The Crossings ALBA 12 Apr.
House Wren: arr Berne ALBA 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 13 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 24 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Schodack Isl SP RENS 1 Apr.
Veery: arr Hillsdale COLU 1 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: Hunter Mt GREE 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Hunter GREE 4 May.
Wood Thrush: arr Ghent COLU 28 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr Henry Hudson Pk ALBA 29 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr Albany ALBA & Kinderhook COLU 13 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr Staats Isl Rd RENS 1 Apr.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last 10 Palatine MONT 19 Mar.

Snow Bunting: last 10 Palatine MONT 3 Apr.
Ovenbird: arr Pachaquack Pres COLU 28 Apr.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU & 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 4 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr FR 10 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr BMB; Mohawk Riverside Landing Pk ALBA 26 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: nr Putnam Sta WASH 12-18 May; FR 20 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr FR 24 Apr, early.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: nr Putnam Sta WASH 12 May, only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Woodlawn Pres SCHE 24 Apr.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Papscanee Isl NP RENS 7 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Central Pk SCHE 22 Apr, early.

Mourning Warbler: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE & Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail ALBA 13 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU; FR 1 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 12 May.

Am. Redstart: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU & Papscanee Isl NP RENS 2 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 1 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 3 May.

N. Parula: arr FR 2 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr BMB 3 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Ft Ann WASH 9 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr WMP 29 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: arr Elka Pk GREE & Corning Riverfront Pres ALBA 27 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Drowned Lands SCA COLU 2 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr BMB & Washington Pk ALBA 9 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr multiple loc 2 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Westerlo ALBA 2 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr Ghent COLU 16 Mar, early.

Prairie Warbler: arr multiple loc 2 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Olana SHS COLU 28 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 8 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr VFNHP 3 May.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr E Greenbush RENS 7 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Moreau SARA 3 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr multiple loc 2 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Washington Pk ALBA 7 May.

Field Sparrow: arr Henry Hudson Pk ALBA 2 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Coxsackie GREE 1 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: max 14 The Crossings ALBA 21 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Ft Edward WASH 3 May.

Fox Sparrow: max 6 FR 29 Mar.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr Mawignack Pres GREE 13 May.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 Mud Creek ELC COLU 23 Mar.

HARRIS’S SPARROW: last Altamont ALBA thru 1 Mar (LA, SF).

White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 FR 3 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Papscanee Isl NP RENS 2 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr New Lebanon COLU 24 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Poestenkill RENS 3 May.

Bobolink: arr FtEG & FR 28 Apr.

E. Meadowlark: arr Livingston COLU 3 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: max 115 BMB 3 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr Queensbury WARR 1 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr BMB 27 Apr.

Purple Finch: max 23 Providence SARA 6 Apr.

Red Crossbill: max 16 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 24 May.

Pine Siskin: max 37 Bolton Landing WARR 4 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: max 7 Bolton Landing WARR 4 Mar.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

No report was received.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

Seth Ausubel

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While March and April were colder than normal, May was warmer than normal. The average temperature at Central Park in March was 40.1°F, 2.4° below normal, and in April 49.4°, 3.6° below normal. The average temperature in May was 66.9°, 4.5° above normal. The temperature in Central Park on 3 May hit 92°, after a low of 48° on 1 May. Precipitation was generally very close to normal throughout the season. The exception was Islip, which reported 7.67" of precipitation in March, 3.23" above normal. March also featured several harsh snow storms. Despite an abundance of cloudy and drizzly weather in May, Central Park received only 3.53" of rainfall, 0.66" below normal.

From the perspective of seeing lots of migrant songbirds, it was a very good season. In the first half of May several weak frontal systems produced lots of clouds and modest rainfall, apparently inducing birds to stop and linger in our area without the weather being poor enough to hamper the birding. A couple of warm days on 13-14 April, followed by a significant storm on 15-16 April, produced good birds for several days, including numerous reports of Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Land bird diversity peaked on 4 May, with at least 26 species of warblers reported in Central Park, and again on 13 May, with at least 23 species reported.

A good incursion of Yellow-throated Warblers occurred this season, especially 12-17 April, when at least a dozen birds were reported in the Region. At least two singing males stayed at Bayard-Cutting Arboretum, Great River, Suffolk County, through the season.

An effort by Steve Walter to conduct a spring hawk watch at Alley Pond Environmental Center in Bayside, Queens County produced some interesting results. These included 186 Turkey Vultures on 31 March, and six Bald Eagles during the week of 9 April. These numbers are previously unheard of on Long Island. He also had a Broad-winged Hawk on 11 April, a rarity on Long Island.

A kettle of 40 Broad-winged Hawks was reported from Central Park on 23 April.

In the mega-rarity department, the **Kirtland's Warbler** found in Central Park by Kevin Topping may top the list. The bird fed actively, at times singing, from 11-13 May in nearly-bare trees on the west side of the reservoir. It was enjoyed by many hundreds of birders. This is New York's third record, with the first two in 2014, and hopefully a harbinger of more, as conservation efforts in its breeding habitat in Michigan and Wisconsin continue. Also memorable was that the Kirtland's Warbler shared the park with truly impressive numbers of warblers and other migrant songbirds, a migration that seemed reminiscent of the "good old days". While it may seem difficult to top this mega-rarity, this season saw the third state record of **Wood Sandpiper**. Found in a puddle on the Timber Point Golf Course, Great River, Suffolk County by Pat Lindsay on the tail end of the storm late on 16 April, it was seen by a handful of birders until it disappeared the next day.

Also notable was New York City's first record of nesting Pileated Woodpecker since sometime in the 19th Century, in Staten Island's Greenbelt.

299 species were reported in the Region this spring.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Souirgi, Taylor Sturm, John Turner, Richard Veit, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney.

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPT** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **CB** – Cedar B, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **Ed** – Sod fields on Edwards Av north of Route 25, Riverhead, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **FWP** – Ft. Washington P, NEWY; **GBP** – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MLUA** – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; **MNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Rt 105** – Sod fields south of Sound Av between Route 105 and Doctor’s Path, Riverhead, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VSh** – Venetian Shores P, Lindenhurst, SUFF; **VSSP** – Valley Stream SP, NASS; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

CVP 16 May (AxW).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Montauk, SUFF thru 11 Mar (mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: HLSP thru 18 Mar (RBA); Tung-Ting Pd, Northport, SUFF thru 24 Mar (RBA).

ROSS’S GOOSE (R10): Riverhead SUFF thru Mar 4 (RA).

Brant: “Dark Bellied” *Branta bernicla bernicla* 12 Apr CIC (DG, et al.), ph.

Eurasian Wigeon: Marine Park, KING thru 30 Mar (RBA); Mill Cr, RICH thru 5 Mar (RBA); 2 Brooklyn Army Terminal, KING 31 Mar (AB), m&f.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): Willowbrook Pd, RICH 24 Mar (EJ).

Redhead: 2 APP thru 11 Apr (SW), m&f, unusual loc.

Harlequin Duck: 3 Pt Lookout, NASS thru 5 Apr (RBA); drake Orient Pt, SUFF thru 3 May (RBA).

N. Bobwhite: 2 Orient Pt., SUFF 3 May (JSe).

PACIFIC LOON: Amagansett, SUFF 28 Apr (AnW); Nickerson B, NASS 28 May (KF, SF, DF).

Com. Loon: max 277 Tiana B, SUFF 16 Apr (DR).

Red-necked Grebe: APP thru 11 Apr (SW); Pt Lookout 6-11 Mar (SW, mob); PP 4 mar (RBA); Marne Park 6 Mar (RBA); 2 Sebonac Inlet, SUFF 17 Mar (P. Maldonado); Lido B 24 Mar (KRo); 2 Gravesend Bay, KING 30 Mar (AB); 2 Gravesend Bay 12 Apr (DG, *et al.*).

Sooty Shearwater: 19 RMSF 18 May SSM; 240 pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Manx Shearwater: pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 193 pelagic coordinates 40.712, -72.485 28 May (JL).

Brown Pelican: Orient Pt 8 May (JSe).

Am. Bittern: CP 30-31 Mar (RBA, DA), early migr; CHP 11 Apr (SIW), unusual loc.

Great Egret: 2 Midland B, RICH 3 May (RBA).

Glossy Ibis: arr 30 Mar.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 2 MNSA 19 Apr (MF); Cow Meadow P, Freeport, NASS 20 Apr (BF).

Black Vulture: 3 Riverhead 6 Mar (RA); 8 IHP 3 Mar (NS, *et al.*); Sea Cliff, NASS 15 Mar (*vide* ABi); 3 Riverhead 26 Mar (RA).

Turkey Vulture: 55 Riverhead 18 Mar (RA); 24 Riverhead 26 Mar (RA); 85 Miller Field, RICH 30 Mar (SIW); max 186 APEC 31 Mar (SW); 7 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 12 Apr (SP); large numbers for L.I.

HAWKS - LARIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: HLSP 9 May (RK, mob); East Hampton, SUFF 26 May (AC); HLSP 28 May (TH).

Bald Eagle: 6 migr APEC 9-16 Apr (SW)

Red-shouldered Hawk: pr nested N. Great River, SUFF (*vide* PJJ), rare on L.I.

Broad-winged Hawk: APEC 11 Apr (SW), rare on L.I.; 40 CP 23 Apr (Sharon Kramer Loew), migr in kettle.

Rough-legged Hawk: Riverhead 18 Mar (RA); 2 EPCAL thru 26 Mar (mob)

Sora: CP 4 May (mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank, SUFF 7-9 Apr (KF, SF, mob).

Am. Golden-Plover: Lido Preserve, Lido B, NASS 20 May (J. Landesberg, PA).

WOOD SANDPIPER: Timber Pt Golf Club, Great River, SUFF 16-17 Apr (PJJ, mob), 3rd NY State record.

Whimbrel: BPt 14 Apr (RBA); “White-rumped” BPt 15 Apr (CCo), ph, likely “European” Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*; HSP 18 Apr (RBA); 32 GKP 23 May (EJ), large num.

Red Knot: max 440 Little Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 14 May (M. Fiurst).

Stilt Sandpiper: Timber Pt 6 May (SSM, PJJ), rare in spring.

RUFF: HSP 22-23 May (PJJ, mob).

Am. Woodcock: several displaying BRY, early Mar – 9 Apr (AD), unusual loc; 3 Southold, SUFF 2 Apr (L. Normandia), ad w 2 fledglings.

Red-necked Phalarope: 6 pelagic coordinates 40.571, -71.631 25 May (JL); BPt 26 May (JRG).

Bonaparte's Gull: 940 CVP 16 Apr (SS), large num.

Black-headed Gull: imm Gravesend Bay 3-29 Mar (AB, SB, SS); imm Marine Park 5-20 Mar (RBA); ad CIC 7 Mar (RBA) ad CIC 29 Mar (SB); WPP 31 Mar (JRG, SIW, ACi).

Little Gull: WPP 31 Mar (SIW); 2 WPP 6 Apr (ACi); 3 ad WPP 11 Apr (SIW, JRG); Gravesend Bay 16 Apr (IG).

MEW GULL: ad Gravesend Bay 2 Mar (SB); ad FBF 16-17 Mar (SS), *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*; ad Brooklyn Army Terminal 18 Mar (AB), ph.

Iceland Gull: Bush Terminal Piers P, KING 6 Mar (RBA); Lemon Cr, RICH 10 Mar (RV); American Veterans Memorial Pier, KING 22 Mar (RBA); Gravesend Bay 29 Mar (SB, SS); CIC 29-30 Mar (SB, AB); WPP 10 Apr (ACi); GKP 14 Apr (RBA); Miller Field 25 Apr (HF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: MP 3 Mar (RBA); RMSF 5 Mar (RBA); ad SPCP 17 Mar (MLL); 2 CVP 30 Mar (AB); CIC30 Mar – 4 Apr (AB, SS); ad Coney I, KING 4 Apr (SS); 5 WPP 10 Apr (ACi); 10 Miller Field 16 Apr (IG); 2 CIC 16 Apr (AB); 9 FBF 16 Apr (SS); CP 26 Apr (PP); max 38 RMSF 19 May (KF, SF).

Glaucous Gull: East Marion, SUFF 3 Mar (RBA).

Gull-billed Tern: 3 Nickerson B 22 May, 1-2 rep there thru late May.

Caspian Tern: 3 GKP 14 Apr (RBA); 2 Southaven CP, SUFF 27-29 Apr (JGI).

Black Tern: Rockaway B, QUEE 26 May (CF); CCP 26 May (PMo, TS).

Roseate Tern: PB 19 May (PPI), unusual loc; 3000 Great Gull I, SUFF 27 May (L. Beausoleil).

ARCTIC TERN: PB 19 May (PPI); ad Nickerson B 23 May (SSM).

Pomarine Jaeger: Pt Lookout 16 Apr (BA), ph, found in parking lot.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: Great Gull I, SUFF 25 Apr (*fide* JDi), found dead on beach.

Razorbill: imm SPCP 17 Mar (MLL); 31 RMSP 28 Mar (KF, SF).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: New Inlet, Fire I, SUFF 7 Apr, found dead on beach (MLL), ph.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: CCP 30 May (S. Sullivan, E. Zawatski).

Barn Owl: CP ca. 19 Apr (DA, *et al.*), unusual loc.

Snowy Owl: 3 Bpt 11 Mar (CF); 3 Shin 29 Mar (AnW); Kenny's B, Southold, SUFF 31 Mar (P. Normandia), unusual loc; Pt Lookout thru 5 Apr (RBA); Great Gull I 28-29 Apr (RBA).

Barred Owl: Fisher's I, SUFF 10 Mar (BBo, BF, PMo, TS).

Short-eared Owl: Orient B SP, SUFF 31 Mar (JSe).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Makamah pres, Huntington, SUFF 7 Apr (TS).

Chuck-will's-widow: CP 4 May (AC, mob); 3 Quogue, SUFF 28 May (KF, SF), calling from different locs.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 ad JBWE 2 May (SW); CP 3-6 May (mob); FP 7 May (KM); Cunningham P, QUEE 7-11 May (SW); Bayport, SUFF 20 May (L. Stocker).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 26 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP), large num; 2 JBWE 2 May (SW), 14 RMSP 2 May (SSM), migr to west, rare on barrier island.

Hairy Woodpecker: 7 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP), large num.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): pr nested, Greenbelt, RICH (*fide* SIW, T. Dulski), **first known nest in NYC since early 1800s;** Caumsett SP, SUFF 25 May (KF).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 13 May (DA, *et al.*); CP 15 May (DA, *et al.*); Ridgewood Reservoir, QUEE 20 May (CF); CP 21 May (DA, *et al.*).

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 22 May (DA, *et al.*).

COMMON RAVEN (R10): pr nested Arthur Ashe Stadium, FMCP (*fide* CF); pr nested Otsego Town P, Dix Hills, SUFF (*fide* PJJ); pr nested Brookhaven National Laboratory, SUFF (*fide* PJJ); Oakland L, QUEE 12 Mar (IR); Riverhead 4 Apr (RA); 2 FMCP 1 May (SA, MN); Greentree Estate 5 May (SP, *et al.*).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 29 Greentree Estate 1 Apr (SP); 63 Greentree Estate 12 Apr (SP); large #s.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: CP 16 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 20 May (CF); CLP 21 May (HF); singing.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 39 Greentree Estate 13 May (SP), large #.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 30 Mar; FP 3 May (SA, mob); APP 4 May (CCo); late.

Prothonotary Warbler: Frank Melville P, Setauket, SUFF 28 Apr (J. Eggers); HLSP 30 Apr – 5 May (mob); CP 4-6 May (mob); Allison Pd P, RICH 2 May (DE); CLP 3 May (EJ); CP 7 May (DA, *et al.*); CP 13 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 29 May (SW), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: APP 4 Apr (*fide* PR); Crocheron P, QUEE 19-20 Apr (RBA); NYBG 22 Apr (GW, *et al.*).

Mourning Warbler: CP 15 May (*fide* DA); Madison Square P, NEWY 16 May (E. Goodman, mob), unusual loc; BRY 17-19 May (mob); CP 25 May (DA, *et al.*); FP 26 May (SW).

Kentucky Warbler: PP 28 Apr (RJ); CP 6 may (mob); FP 10 May (SW); CP 11 may (DA, *et al.*); Madison Square P 17 May (TP), unusual loc.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: CP 11-13 May (Kevin Topping, mob), 3rd NY State record.

Cerulean Warbler: HLSP 5-6 May (mob); CP 14 May (APe).

Pine Warbler: 2 APP 6 Mar (SW); 31 Greentree Estate 19 Apr (SP), large #.

Yellow-throated Warbler: PBP 7 Apr (GW, *et al.*), early; Willowbrook P 12-13 Apr (RV); CP 13 Apr (*fide* DBa); Owl's Head P, KING 13 Apr (GK); 2 PBP 13 Apr (PH, J. Ward); JBWE 14 Apr PP; PP 14 Apr (DHR); CP 14-15 Apr (RBA); 2 PP 16-17 Apr (RBA); 2 Bayard-Cutting Arboretum, Great River, SUFF 17 Apr – thru (KF, JGI, mob), males singing on territory; High Rock P, RICH 19 Apr (RV); HLSP 27 Apr – 3 may (mob); Crocheron P 29 Apr (EM, *et al.*); Fuchs Pd Pres, Northport, Ft.

Salonga, SUFF 1 May (RBA); Willowbrook P 2 May (RV).

Yellow-breasted Chat: JBWR 5 May (BBo); South Shore Nature Center, Islip, SUFF 11 May (JGI); Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Quogue, SUFF 15 May (MH).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: RMSP 3 May (RBA); CP 5 May (mob); KP 9 May (CCo, KM).

Vesper Sparrow: CP 7-8 Apr (mob).

Lark Sparrow: Shore Rd P, KING 18-20 May (mob).

Grasshopper Sparrow: APP 29 Apr (SP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: about 12 reps incl CP 4 May (MN, SA); CP 5 May (PJ); BRY 19 May (DF).

Summer Tanager: Stony Brook, SUFF 17 Apr (M. Furst), ph; HLSP 17-18 Apr (RP, PR); VCP 17-18 Apr (*fide* DH); GwC 18-20 Apr (RB); CP 22 Apr (KFu); CP 26 Apr (DA, *et al.*); CP 2 May (T. Winston); Oceanside, NASS 4 May (SyS); 2 CP 5 May (PP); FP 6-7 May (MN, *et al.*); CLP 6-7 May (HF); CP 7

may (DA, *et al.*); FP 7 May (mob); BPT 20 May (DG); FP 26 May (SW).

WESTERN TANAGER: PP 16 April (RBA); Brookhaven, SUFF 2 May (RBA).

Blue Grosbeak: Ridge, SUFF 17 Apr (JH); GwC 18-20 Apr (RB); RMSP 22 Apr (PA); Crocheron P 22 Apr (PR); Southaven CP 23-25 Apr (GQ, MH); fem Southaven CP 3 May (MH); fem FP 5-9 May (CF, CCo, SW, mob); MLUA 6 May (RV); CP 7-10 May (DA, *et al.*).

Dickcissel: m Lutheran Cemetery, Middle Village, QUEE 3 May (D. Cavallero, *fide* KM), ph HSP 23 May (RBA).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 216 JBWR 24 Mar (TP), large #; fem CP 25 Mar – 4 Apr (*fide* DA, RBA), unusual loc).

Orchard Oriole: 9 RMSP 2 May (SSM), large num.

Pine Siskin: Humes Estate, Mill Neck, NASS 2-7 May (SM).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: 6 Governor's Island, NEWY thru 16 Mar (BC).



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

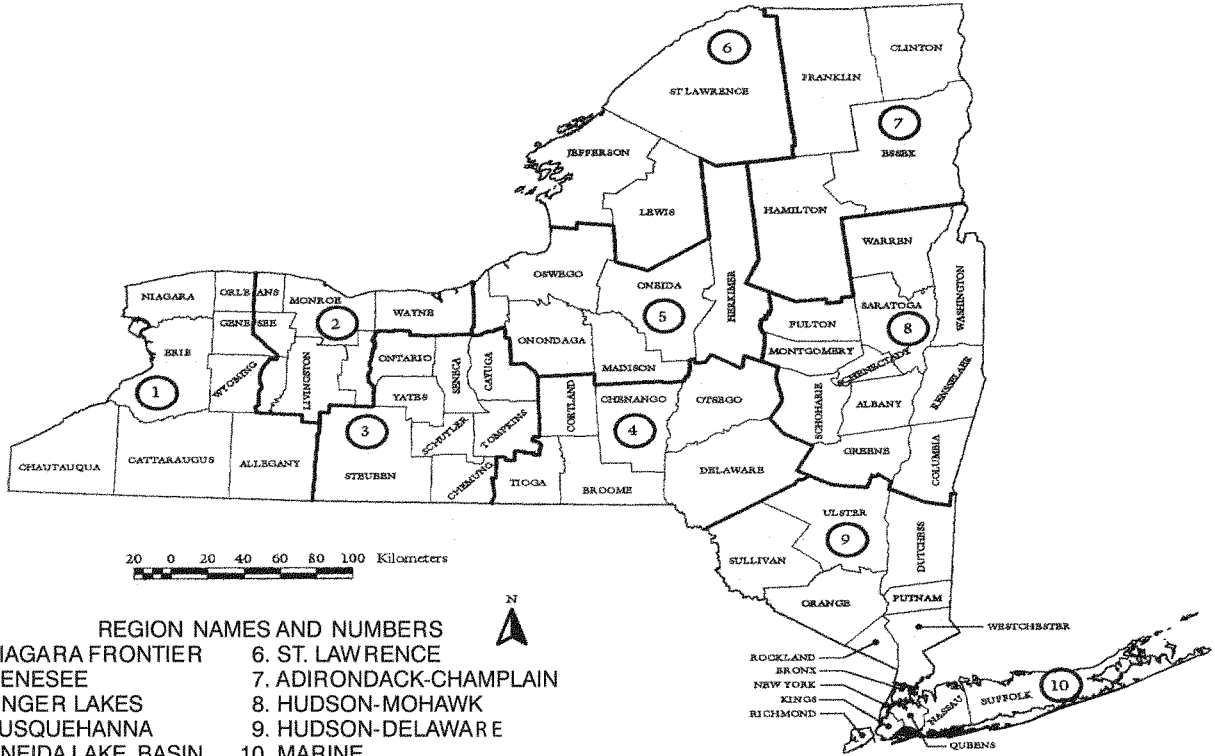
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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