

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The rainfall in Apr. was slightly above average, but the low snowfall of the winter precluded flooding of many areas, and the hot spell in May (which was an exceptionally arid month) completed the drying-up, causing one of the poorest late shorebird flights on record.

Two reports of Cattle Egrets involving six individuals is the largest spring invasion so far recorded. Nine Glossy Ibis is the biggest group ever noted in the Region, of this southern species that first bred in the state in 1961.

The fine goose flight continued until late Apr; both Blue and Snow were recorded, also the first Regional White-fronted Geese. The lack of flooded areas was reflected in the low counts of dabbling ducks, but those that were reported included the first Regional record of the European Teal.

The best-ever flight of Broadwings, totaling over 14,000 individuals, is detailed in the field-note section of this issue.

A White-eyed Vireo seen in Camillus Valley was another Regional first for the period.

More than the usual number of Worm-eating, Blue-winged, and Brewster's Warblers were reported (see below). That there was an outstanding wave of warblers and other passerines beginning May 13, reaching a peak May 14, and gradually tapering off in the next few days, so that most of the earlier migrants had left by May 20 (date of the 'big run'), is documented by the dates of maxima and departure for the various species. Most of these counts were made in Oakwood Cemetery by Meredith Estoff and Jean Probst, who fortunately were able to spend the morning of May 14 there.

The following abbreviations are used below: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area, SP — Sandy Pond, SSSP — Sle Kirk Shores State Park, TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area, L — Lake, Nr — near, Pd — pond, Arr — arrived, Syr — Syracuse, St. Pk — State Park.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: good flight L Ontario Apr 22-26 with 300 Apr 26 and 275 Apr 22; last May 25 SP. Red-throated Loon: two dead SP Apr 15 (M. Mathis) is only record. Double-crested Cormorant: one SP May 25 (M. Estoff-ME & J. Probst-JP) is only report.

Common Egret: up to three seen irregularly at HIGMA during May (R. Bauer-RB). Little Blue Heron: adult nr Mohawk May 30 (G. Murphy & R. Woods-RW) is the 2nd spring record of recent years. Black-crowned Night Heron: only reports are singles, Cicero Swamp Apr 28 and HIGMA May 20. Cattle Egret: four nr Mexico Apr 28 (many observers) is the largest single party recorded in the Region to date; two nr Sterling May 2 (W. Foster fide B. Burt-BB). Arrival dates of other herons: Green Apr 28, Bittern Apr 27, and Least Bittern Apr 27 (early). Glossy Ibis: two HIGMA Apr 27 (F. Scheider-FS); nine nr Chittenango May 4 (D. Moyer) seen later the same day by BB, the largest group ever reported in the Region.

Canada Goose: max count HIGMA 10,000, high, (RB); max Beaver L 18,000 Apr 27 (FS), a record high count, down to 150 by May 6; numbers migrating over Rome increase annually (H. Aspinwell-HA) — several hundred were noted; six young reared at Stevens Pond nr Phoenix. White-fronted Goose: two adults (D. Gibson) Beaver L Apr 8 is a Regional 1st, altho there have been two recent records from Montezuma; present to Apr 13 (many observers). Blue Goose: two Beaver L Apr 8-9 (D. Peakall-DP). Snow Goose: one Beaver L Apr 20 (FS).

Counts of dabbling ducks were poor due to shortage of flooded lands. No counts of Mallard or Black over 100/day, but the former species had a good breeding season at HIGMA. Gadwell: unreported away from HIGMA; max there 25. Pintail: max 400 Chittenango Apr 8-15; last May 22. Green-winged Teal: max 60 Apr 8 Phoenix; pair present Stevens Pd to end of period. European Teal: a male HIGMA Apr 23 (FS) is a Regional 1st. Baldpate: max 100 HIGMA, low.

Bufflehead: max 101 Tully Apr 19. Oldsquaw: two interesting 'inland' records, 17 Tully Apr 19 (ME & JP) and 18 Hatch L on the very late date of May 7 (E. Reilly). White-winged Scoter: one probably crippled, nr Mohawk May 30 (RW).

Good flight of Red-breasted Merganser L Ontario: 2000-2500 noted on Apr 22, 25, and 26. Hooded Merganser: one TRGMA May 20; more information ist needed on the breeding of this species.

The details of the fine hawk flights in late Apr when over 15,000 hawks of 14 species were recorded are given in the field-note section. Goshawk: one Tully May 3 (JP). Rough-legged: two late records, one HIGMA May 15 (RB) and one Stevens Pd May 20 (W. Spofford-WS); this last date sets a new record. Broad-winged: last May 20 Camillus. 10 Ospreys in the 1st week of May nr Utica is a large number for that area (E. Curtis).

1st report of rails: Virginia May 4, Sora Apr 27, and Gallinule Apr 26 (late).

The early shorebird flight was moderate, but the early drying-up of many areas caused the late flight of shorebirds such as Ringed Plover, Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone to be poor. Ringed Plover: arr May 19, max five. Piping: not recorded. Black-bellied: four SP May 26 is only record. Turnstone: arr May 25, max four. Woodcock: total of 22 recorded in the Region on the 'big run' May 20. Snipe: arr Apr 2 Oneida. Upland Sandpiper: seven Derby Hill Apr 22 are 1st; courtship flight observed Cicero Apr 28; a pr at Ilion late May; five in 1 pasture nr Sherrill May 27. Spotted: arr Apr 24. Solitary: date range Apr 28-May 20, max three. Greater Yellowlegs: max 20 on Apr 24; last May 24. Lesser Yellowlegs: date range Apr 8-May 20; max five, low. Knot: not recorded. Pectoral: arr Apr 8; max 22 on May 5; last May 20. Least: 1st Apr 28, early; max 50 HIGMA May 19; last May 25. Dunlin: arr May 25; max 25 SP May 26. Semipalmated: arr May 25; max 15 SP May 26. Sanderling: one SP May 26 is only record.

John Belknap and Art Allen visited Long Island in Oneida L; they estimated the gull population there as 300 nests of Ring-billed and 11 of Herring Gull. Five years ago the counts, by the same observers, were 734 and five, respectively. Common Tern: arr Apr 23. Caspian Tern: few, late May SP. Black Tern: arr May 4.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 13, Black-billed May 17.

Barred Owl: recorded at the following sites — Cicero Swamp Apr 28, Pleasant L May 19, and HIGMA and n shore of Oneida L May 20. Saw-whet Owl: only record is one hand-caught and banded by BB in Syr Apr 7; in the last few years sufficient spring records of this species have been amassed to indicate, together with the absence of Jan and Feb reports, a Mar-May migration thru the Region.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: arr Apr 26 Green L St Pk; about 8 heard around Oneida L early on May 20. Nighthawk: arr May 16, normal, Syr. Chimney Swift: first date is Apr 30 at the Mansion House, Kenwood, where there is a large roost which often has the earliest arrivals. Hummingbird: arr May 14, late, Oneida. Kingfisher: max migrants nine Derby Hill Apr 25.

Flicker: max flight 1000 passed Derby Hill by 10 AM Apr 22 (FS). Pileated: reported at HIGMA, TRGMA, Camillus, Tully, and Sherrill during the period. Red-bellied: only record one Plainville, where they are regularly present, first half of May. Red-headed: one during spring Sherrill; one each May 3 Tully (ME & JP); May 13 SSSP (E. Evans-EE); May 22 Stokes (HA); also one Oakwood Syr May 20 excavating a hole, not seen subsequently (M. Rusk-MR). Sapsucker: arr Apr 8 Oakwood: one still present Camillus May 20.

Phoebe: 30 migrants Apr 22 Derby Hill is a good count. Flycatcher arr: Kingbird Apr 29 SSSP; Crested Apr 29 Camillus; Alder May 13 (early) SSSP; Least May HIGMA; Pewee May 16 (late) Oakwood. Only migrant Yellow-bellieds Sherrill (D. Ackley-DA) and Brookfield (R. & S. White-R&SW) both May 30, and Olive-sided Oakwood May 24 (ME & JP) and Brookfield May 30 (R & SW). Tree Swallows, which arrived at Shackleton Pt the early date of Mar 20, were there by 100s Apr 15. Other swallow arr: Barn Apr 15 Shackleton; 15 Bank, 35 Rough-winged, and two Cliff all Apr 22, Derby Hill; Martin Apr 10 Skaneateles. Cliff Swallows, quite scarce elsewhere, are regularly to be found around Sherrill, Rome, and north into the Tug Hill region.

Black-capped Chickadee: migration max 275 passing Derby Hill during the morning Apr 28, probably part of the return flight corresponding to last fall's southward invasion. Boreal Chickadees: though several had been present during winter 1961-2, none were noted in the spring migration period. Tufted Titmouse: continues

to spread — one Fischer's Bay, Oneida L Apr 3 (ME & JP) and 15; Burt's Apr feeder survey listed two Brewerton (Theisen), also one Baldwinsville, two Oneida Apr 21 (DA); and one HIGMA May 1 (S. Hoyt-SH) and six — all locations in or near which there have been previous records, but these reports are becoming more regular.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 migrating past Derby Hill Apr 22 and 28, indicating a fair flight. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only a moderate flight with max four per day Oakwood May 16; 1st migrant Apr 20 Oakwood. Brown Creeper: largest migrating concentration reported is 22 (low) Apr 26 SSSP. House Wren: arr Apr 27 at several places in the Region. Winter Wren: migrant singing in Oakwood Apr 16 and 19; max migrants 10 SSSP Apr 26; last migrant Oakwood May 3 — no late-lingering one found May 20. Carolina Wren: one HIGMA, a new location, Apr 27 (FS); and one Clark Reservation, where it is intermittently present, May 17 (DP); not found this spring at Camillus where it was vigorously singing a year ago. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 4 May 4 two at Clay Swamp. Short-billed Marsh Wren: two singing at night early on May 20 in a long-grass marsh at Toad Harbor, n. shore Oneida L, where the species has not been found for several years; one still there May 28.

Robin: maxima 60 Apr 15, the total of two migrating flocks near Pompey, and 1000 passing Derby Hill Apr 22, bear out the general impression of good numbers this spring. Hermit Thrush: arr Apr 25, late, two Oakwood; max only 10/day Apr 28 SSSP. Wood: arr May 1: HIGMA. Olive-backed: arr May 13, one Oneida; max 10 Oakwood May 16 is only moderate; last migrant May 28 Oakwood. Gray-cheeked: noted only May 19 Camillus (FS et al). Veery: arr Apr 30 Oakwood.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: first two HIGMA May 1 (SH); 1 Plainville May 4 (M. Bitz-MB) — this may prove to be another breeding station along with the Camillus and HIGMA ones; high of three migrants Oakwood May 15; present at three separate locations Camillus and one HIGMA May 19.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: moderate highs of 40 Apr 19 Oakwood and 40 Apr 28 SSSP. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Mar 31 (early) Oakwood (DP); peak 100 May 11 Oakwood; last 40 May 14 Oakwood — none present May 20.

Pipit: high of 80 nr Pompey Apr 15; 25 Phoenix Apr. 28; last 10 Camillus May 6 — only a moderate flight. Northern Shrike: last one, Apr 8, late, Central Sq. (ME & JP). Loggerhead Shrike: singles reported Oneida Apr 5 (DA), Central Sq Apr 8 (ME & JP), SP Apr 10 (ME & JP), and SP May 20 (B. Peterson-BP).

**Vireos — Warblers:** White-eyed Vireo: one heard singing, then seen, in hawthorne bushes on Nose Hill above Camillus Valley May 6 (MR) is a Regional 1st. Yellow-throated: arr Apr 28, early, Derby Hill. Solitary: arr Apr 27 Oakwood; last migrant May 11 Oakwood; two Brookfield May 30 (R & SW) are doubtless breeders. Red-eyed: arr May 6, early, HIGMA (N. Smith-NS). Philadelphia: only reports two SSSP May 21 (FS) and one Oakwood May 22 and 24 (MR).

Black-and-white Warbler: three Camillus Apr 29 (first), max eight Oakwood May 14. Prothonotary: one on May 13 (first), SSSP (EE) where they have never before been noted; 2nd half of May a singing male at each of two locations nr Muskrat Bay Oneida Lake where they are regular. Worm-eating: an unusual number of migrants of this rare species — one SSSP Apr 29 (R. Williams et al), one SSSP May 12 (EE), one Oakwood May 12 (H. Ives et al) and May 13 (DP) — all **before** the May 14 wave.

Golden-winged: five Camillus May 6 (first); one migrant SSSP May 13 (EE); one Plainville from May 11 on (MB); on the Tug Hill fringes Golden-winged song was heard at a new location, near Colosse, May 25, (NE & JP) as well as again this year at Centerville, May 26; it would be interesting to know whether the Colosse bird was on territory or en route to a location still farther north. Blue-winged: one Camillus May 12 (DP) and another south of Camillus Valley May 20 (WS); some springs they go entirely unnoticed. Brewster's: also more than the average number of reports — single migrants Thornden Pk Syr May 11 (R. Seaman-RS) and Oakwood May 15 (MR); one Camillus May 19 and 20 and one at another location there May 19 (FS et al); most interesting is one nr N. Victory May 31 (A & E Ulrich), as this is

near the edge of the known breeding range of the Golden-winged in that sector.

Tennessee: 1st two Oakwood May 14 (late); max 25, low, Oakwood May 15; May 31 Oakwood. Orange-crowned: only reports one Nose Hill Camillus May 6 (MR) and three there May 7 (ME & JP) — early. Nashville: arr Apr 30 Oakwood; max 60 May 14 Oakwood; last migrant May 19, Oakwood. Parula: arr May 6 HIGMA; max three, low, Oakwood May 11; last migrant Camillus May 19. Yellow: arr Apr 28 Morrisville (A. Carter-AC); 1st counts of this abundant species — 25 on Apr 29 Tully, 30 on Apr 29 Camillus, 20 on Apr 30 Oakwood, 50 on May 1 HIGMA.

Magnolia: arr Apr 28, early, Oakwood; max 20 Oakwood May 14; last migrant May 22 Oakwood. Cape May: arr May 11 (late) seven Oakwood; a notable max 25 there May 14; last May 25 Oakwood. Black-throated Blue: arr May 3 Kenwood; peak only eight Oakwood May 14. Myrtle: one Tully Apr 4 (JP) may have wintered, else a very early migrant; next noted, three Oakwood Apr 20; maxima of 80 Oakwood May 7 and SSSP May 14; last four migrants May 25 SP. Black-throated Green: arr Apr 29 Camillus; 20 in May 14 wave Oakwood is not high; last migrant May 26 SP. Cerulean: arr Apr 29 Camillus; 80 there May 13 (BP et al); by May 19 number was down to the usual breeding population of about 25. Blackburnian: arr May 8, late, Oakwood; max 15 there May 14; last migrant there May 25.

Chestnut-sided: arr May 5 Bolivar; max 25 Oakwood May 14; last migrants May 25 Oakwood and SP. Bay-breasted: 1st one came with wave Oakwood May 14 (late); max eight there May 15, quite low in comparison with other species in the wave; four SSSP May 26 (EE). Black-poll: not noted until May 18 Oakwood; max 30 there May 24; last Jun 11 SP (late). Pine: two arr at the regular breeding area, the white pine grove at SSSP, Apr 26; present since. Palm: only records one Derby Hill Apr 22 (FS), 1 HIGMA May 6 (NS), and one SSSP May 21 (EE). Ovenbird: arr Camillus May 6; max 22 Oakwood May 14. Northern Waterthrush: three arr Apr 28 Brookfield (R & SW); no migrating concentrations.

Mourning: arr May 14, four Oakwood; at breeding station Camillus May 19; one-two Oakwood thru May 24. Yellowthroat: arr Plainville May 4; Max 18 Oakwood May 14. Yellow-breasted Chat: Camillus birds not noted until May 19 when individuals were heard at three separate locations; migrants again reported May 17 Kenwood and May 20 Sherrill (both DA) — Where are these birds seen in May east of Oneida L going, or do they have an unknown breeding location nearby? Hooded: two on location May 19 Camillus and two heard SSSP May 20 where one regularly breeds; no other reports. Wilson's: arr Oakwood May 14; never more than one per day reported; last Kenwood May 30. Canada: 1st eight arr May 14 Oakwood; no higher migration counts. Redstart: 1st five arr May 5 Camillus; max 50 Camillus May 12, two days before the max for most warbler species.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: arr Apr 28 Cicero; common this spring, with nearly every suitable field containing one or more, in contrast with many years. Rusty Blackbird: date range Apr 1 Oneida to May 6 HIGMA; max 60/day Apr 22. Scarlet Tanager: arr May 6 Tully.

Cardinal: present in Morrisville, where it has been noted intermittently in the past, in late Apr (AC); still increasing around Rome (HA). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 6, late, Camillus. Evening Grosbeak: increased numbers at feeders and passing overhead Apr and 1st half of May, e.g. 30-SSSP May 12 (EE), as southward-wintering birds returned north; last migrants May 20 TRGMA (FS). Purple Finch: quite scarce this winter, but one finally arr Oakwood Apr 20; up to seven there first half of May, about normal.

Pine Grosbeak: despite their remarkable influx this winter, none were reported during the present period. Redpoll: flock of 30 Apr 3 Fischer's Bay, ME & JP) are the last. Pine Siskin: only report for the period is two SSSP Apr 26 (FS), in contrast with last year's big movement. Crossbills: no spring reports, also in contrast with a year ago.

Meadow sparrow arrivals: Savannah Apr 8 SSSP, (a migrating group of 22 near Pompey Apr 15 observed feeding in a plowed barnyard); Grasshopper Apr 22 Skaneateles, RS) quite early; Henslow's Apr 28 Cicero; Vesper Apr 3 Fischer's Bay. Grasshopper have been present at several locations; near Skaneateles, on Nose Hill Camil-

lus, Stevens Pond Phoenix, and TRGMA. Henslow's are common — one or more to be heard in nearly every suitable field around Cicero and Phoenix.

Tree Sparrow: Last reported May 1 Taberg (HA). Slate-colored Junco: a fair-sized migration with max 350 Apr 19 Tully; last migrant May 17 Oakwood; one SP May 25 might be a local breeder. Oregon Junco: a brightly colored individual, suggesting at first glance a miniature Towhee, present with Slate-colored Oakwood Apr 7-9 (MR et al).

White-crowned Sparrow: a small and brief flight — arr May 3 Oneida (M. Felle-MF); max 30 SSSP May 11 (EE); last two Oakwood May 17 (DP); none present May 20. White-throated: 1st migrants reported Apr 9 Rome (HA); max 200 Oakwood Apr 30 is a good number; last migrants TRGMA May 20; one heard singing Centerville May 26 (J. Peterson and MR) might be a breeding bird. Fox: arr Apr 1, two Kenwood (Paquettes); numbers low with max four Oneida Apr 2 (MF); noted singing Oakwood Apr 11, 16, 20 (MR); last Apr 26, one SSSP (FS). Lincoln's: unreported this spring. Swamp: not generally noted until Apr 19-21, (late). Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting: unreported during present period despite good numbers in Mar. — Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

April started with several inches of wet snow which soon melted. April 14-15 brought more snow. May was mild and very dry. May 14-20 was very hot. Foliage appeared early on the trees which made warblers hard to locate. There were no spectacular warbler waves noted this spring, but at least six species were seen May 13. A total of 159 species appeared on the May census list.

Abbreviations used are PRGMA for the Robertson Flats, dike and Anthony Farm section of the Perch Lake Game Management Area in Jefferson County and WHGMA for the Wilson Hill Game Management Area and vicinity, this is on the St. Lawrence River seven miles from Massena.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: Apr 15, Pillar Pt. Double-crested Cormorant: Apr 22 in Lake Ontario. Great Blue Heron: seems more numerous this spring, several at PRGMA. Cattle Egret: three in grassy field by a dairy barn near WHGMA 6 (Wolk). Black-crowned Night Heron: at WHGMA May 6 and at PRGMA late May. Canada Geese seemed more numerous than usual. Several flocks of 40-60 were seen flying over Apr 1-28. Mallard, Black Duck and Green-winged Teal: WHGMA May 6. Blue-winged Teal were numerous. Redhead: at least 12 at PRGMA in late May. Ringed-necked Duck: WHGMA May 6. A few Bufflehead were reported.

**Hawks — Owls:** Red-shouldered Hawk: A nest found Apr 27 near Felts Mills contained two young and an egg on June 9. Bald Eagle: an Immature at PRGMA May 8, an adult at El Dorado May 24 (Allen). Osprey: one at PRGMA Apr 26. Sparrow Hawk: numerous the middle of Apr. Semi-palmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs were at El Dorado May 24. Knot: two at El Dorado May 19. Least Sandpiper: many, El Dorado May 19. Dunlin: three El Dorado May 24. Black Tern: at PRGMA and WHGMA. They are less numerous at Beaver Meadows than a few years ago.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawks: first about May 18. Chimney Swifts: May 5 Watertown, May 6 WHGMA. Kingbird: May 5 Watertown. Phoebe: a nest found May 12 contained two Phoebe eggs and three Cowbird eggs (Gordon). Least Flycatcher: May 5. Tree Swallow: first Apr 9, they seemed numerous this year. Bank Swallow: first Apr 27, about as many nesting as last year. Cliff Swallow: May 6 WHGMA. Purple Martin: Apr 27, seem less numerous this year (Allen). Mockingbird: May 26 near Watertown (Gordon). At least two other persons have reported a Mockingbird in about the same place. Hermit Thrush: Apr 22 in Watertown is early. Bluebird: 12 seen in Watertown Apr 1 when the ground was covered with snow. A nest was found near Gouverneur and another near Carthage. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May 6 at WHGMA. Water Pipit: Apr 18 Pillard Pt., and later at WHGMA.