

Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 8, WP (HM, FL). Slate-colored Junco: migrants about gone after May 8, residents remaining in several localities at the end of May. Oregon Junco: 1 regularly to Apr 9 and once more Apr 21, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Tree Sparrow: to May 7, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Chipping Sparrow: 1, Apr 3, Binghamton (R. Short), then no more until Apr 13. Field Sparrow: Apr 4, Owego (RW); regular from Apr 9. White-crowned Sparrow: 2, Apr 24, Hancock (RD); all other reports between May 1 and 16. White-throated Sparrow: migrants from Apr 12 and mostly gone after May 13; residents present in several localities at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: "first migration" lasted until Apr 15; a second, lesser, migration from Apr 20 to 30; May 6, Endwell (E. & N. Washburn). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 9, Choconut Center (MS); the only report. Swamp Sparrow: first Apr 10, Apalachin (RW).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Spring migration consisted mainly of a lengthy catalogue of negatives. April, chilled by the heavy inheritance of March ice, was wet and cold with persistent northwest winds, minimal hawk flights, and a marked delay in arrival of almost all migrants. May was unusually variable with a few days of warm weather followed by cold and rain, then an extremely hot period, and finally the last few days of the month colder than the first week. Foliage held back until May 6, then seemed to burst out overnight. Migrant waves were few (May 4, 6, 8-9, and 14-15) and no major influx of migrants was noted after May 16; the usually large late May flight of Wood Pewees, Empidonax flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, and female warblers was completely missed this year.

Specifically the season's negatives included 1) very low waterfowl counts, especially teal, American Widgeon, and Pintail, 2) a poor hawk flight at Derby Hill, particularly poor in March not one day with 100+ recorded, 3) very poor shorebird migration, both early (April-Pectoral Sandpiper, both Yellowlegs) and late (May-Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated and Red-backed Sandpiper, Sanderling), and 4) a dismal landbird migration, most obvious in thrushes, vireos, and warblers but also detected in flycatchers and swallows.

Lest this read like an ornithological dirge, certain positives deserve mention—1) a flurry of Mockingbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher records; 2) a rash of long-legged waders—see Herons; 3) apparently increasing numbers of Cerulean, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers; 4) a distinct upswing locally in numbers of Phoebes and Hermit Thrushes; 5) a very heavy early April icterid-Robin migration along Lake Ontario (most likely birds delayed by the severe cold of March); and 6) a heavy—though brief—migration of Vesper and Savannah Sparrows in mid-April.

Seasonal rarities noted were Cattle and Snowy Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Sandhill Crane.

Localities and their abbreviations: HIGMA—Howlands Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; RSP—Rome Sand Plains near New London, Oneida County; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; SP—Sandy Pond; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; ad—adult; arr—arrival, arrived; imm—immature; max—maximum (a); L—lake; V—valley.

Observers: DWA—Dorothy W. Ackley; HHA—Hazel H. Aspinwall; BPB—B. P. Burt; VB—Virginia Billings; MEB—Maude E. Bitz; JRB—Jon R. Bart; DWB—David W. Beebe; GLC—Gerald and Margaret Church; MLE—Meredith L. Estoff; GG—George Gage; SH—Stuart Hosler, Jr.; P, SP—Paul and Sylvia Paquette; DBP—David B. Peakall; JWP—Jean W. Propst; MSR—Margaret S. Rusk; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; CGS—Christian G. Spies, Jr.; EMS—Elizabeth M. Starr; mob—many observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: peak count 85, Apr 15, Mexico Bay, probably secondary to the passage of a cold front that morning; last noted May 28 near Eaton (GLC); many single C. Loons noted in the middle two weeks of May. Red-necked Grebe: four in breeding plumage Apr 12, Brewerton is the only report. Horned Grebe: max 30, Apr 7, Brewerton (MSR); last noted May 16, Sylvan Beach (fide DWA). Great Blue Heron: 35 nests in the Cross L heronry Apr 24 (MEB); four active nests at Bridgeport Apr 8; approximately 20 active nests at Scott Swamp (MSR, JWP). Common Egret: one Apr 14, HIGMA with two there May 2 (GG); unreported elsewhere in the Region. Cattle Egret: two ad in breeding plumage feeding in a cow pasture near Phoenix May 16 (JRB, CGS), the same day that five Snowy Egrets were reported in a marsh near E. Syracuse (G. Weissberg fide BPB). Glossy Ibis: one noted May 1–11 near Wampsville (B. Peebles, mob).

Mute Swan: five imm noted on Onondaga L in early Apr, photographed by the local newspaper's camera man and reported as Whistling Swans; the caveat—Birders, beware!—is thus quickly and amply demonstrated. Whistling Swan: eight at Brewerton, three at Bridgeport, two at Otisco L, one at Oneida Creek in first ten days of Apr; all left when a sudden freeze-up closed the open water areas locally, not when a burst of triggering southerly winds had ensued as one might expect. Canada Goose: 11,000 at Cross L Apr 4; 7150 at Beaver, Cross, and Oneida Lakes Apr 11; 5400 at HIGMA Apr 14 and 2400 still there on May 2; exodus in first week of May, about 10 days late. Brant: one, May 16, near Eaton (GLC) is the only spring record. Snow Goose: just two reports—one, Apr 7, Cross L (JRB, CGS) and another (? same bird) Apr 14, Beaver L (SH); no Blue Geese reported.

Mallard and Black Duck: spring max 1100 and 2000 respectively Apr 4, Cross L; Mallard ducklings noted May 16. Pintail: max 85 (very low) Apr 17 in flooded onion fields near Bridgeport; no late May birds noted. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals: arr dates Apr 4 SSSP and Apr 6 Brewerton respectively; Apr tallies very low—max 44 Green-winged Apr 24 Scott Swamp area (MSR) and 21 Blue-winged, Apr 14, HIGMA (GG); many widely scattered reports of male Green-winged Teal in late May. American Widgeon: max 102 (very low) Apr 17, Scott Swamp (MSR). Shoveler: an influx this spring; widely reported, usually two-five birds each, from Scott Swamp, Clay Swamp, Boliver flats near Chittenango, Oneida, Oriskany, Otisco L, and even six in a small dump-rimmed marsh within the city limits of Syracuse (mob). Wood Duck: 50, Apr 10, Delta L (VB) is a large spring concentration, probably because of the lack of open water in that sector in early Apr; Wood Duck brood of 12 noted May 31 near Oneida (P, SP).

Redhead: max reported in Apr is 50, HIGMA (GG) and numbers elsewhere were extremely low, e.g., high of ten (very low) for Oneida L in Apr; max in May, 20 at

HIGMA (GG). Ring-necked Duck: 300 tallied Apr 8, SSSP, Brewerton, and Bridgeport; last was a female, May 14 near Pleasant L, southern Oswego County. Canvasback: 100-300/day at Brewerton and Bridgeport in early Apr; rapid exodus after ice break-up Apr 14; last noted May 6 near SSSP. Lesser Scaup: last noted May 17, a female near E. Syracuse. Barrow's Goldeneye: ad male Apr 4 Brewerton (DBP) continues the single annual spring record. Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: both last noted May 16 at Tully L and L Ontario respectively; the many late dates for departing waterfowl are in keeping with the retarded migration in Apr. Ruddy Duck: very scarce; singles only, at Brewerton Apr 8, 10, and 12; unreported elsewhere.

Hooded Merganser: max 80, Apr 8, SSSP and Oneida L; very few after Apr 14; a female May 16, Salmon River Reservoir, is probably a breeding bird. Common Merganser: 3000, Apr 4, Cross L is a high spring count; exodus Apr 13-14 concomitant with ice break-up; last noted May 11 near Eaton (GLC). Red-breasted Merganser: max 2700, Apr 15, at Derby Hill-SSSP; the greater share of these birds were smelt-catching at the mouth of the Salmon River; hundreds still present there May 6.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr Apr 4 near Fair Haven; max resident count 16, HIGMA, May 14 (GG). March hawk migration at Derby Hill near Texas was dismal with not one 100+ day noted. Adverse winds thru most of Apr precluded high tallies and the total of 10,607 is less than 40% of last year's total. Turkey Vulture: total 40 with majority Apr 7-15 but peak tally of 10 on Apr 29. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1409 total with peak 328 on Apr 21; individuals, all imm, still drifting thru in the last week of May. Cooper's Hawk: 70 total with most in Apr 1-15 period. Goshawk: spring total of 42 with majority between Mar 2-Apr 14; many of these birds were noted moving along on adverse, i.e. northwest or westerly, winds. Red-tailed Hawk: max single day count 133 on Apr 8; a progressive shift thru mid-Apr from mostly ad to entirely imm birds by Apr 29. Red-shouldered Hawk: total 309 with no one day above 100; these low numbers are almost certainly due to the wretched weather conditions that prevailed during the peak migration period of this species, but locally this species is waning rapidly and seems to be headed for local extirpation just as the Cooper's Hawk and Harrier have. Broad-winged Hawk: first arr Apr 8; peak tallies 1129, Apr 21; 2282, Apr 25; 1544, Apr 29; still noted passing May 16 (64 birds) and May 27 (59 birds—all imm). Rough-legged Hawk: total 122 with best tallies 26, Apr 7; 14, Apr 25; and 19, Apr 29; this number of returning birds is in keeping with the heavy movement noted at SP and Syracuse last fall.

Golden Eagle: singles noted Mar 18, Apr 11, Apr 21, and Apr 29 (mob). Bald Eagle: singles Apr 8, 20, and 25, May 5, 8, and 27 with two Apr 21; all but one (? two) were imm. Marsh Hawk: total 205 with date range Mar 16-May 27, majority Mar 28-Apr 25; all birds noted in latter half of May females or imm. Osprey: 104 recorded with max 21, May 3; date range Apr 7-May 27, majority Apr 20-May 5; the five noted May 27 were all in marked molt suggesting migrant adults rather than an influx of southern imm as might occur with the Bald Eagle. Peregrine Falcon: total of four with one each Apr 29 and May 3 and two Apr 25; now rarer than the Bald Eagle in the Region—and that is mighty rare! Pigeon Hawk: total of six with singles Apr 14 and 15, and two each Apr 20 and 25; no May records despite the generally retarded migration. Sparrow Hawk: total 191, a marked drop from last year's 507; peak dates Apr 7, 60; Apr 8, 22; and Apr 11, 36; majority Apr 1-26. All hawk data from Dr. T. Cade's compilation (Mar 1-May 27).

Sandhill Crane: see Field Notes. Common Gallinule: first noted Apr 16, Clay Swamp. Coot: amazingly scarce; peak spring count is seven, Apr 12, Otisco L; only one recorded in May; essentially no recorded migration of this species here this spring.

Semipalmated Plover: first arr May 15 (late) SP; max 22, May 27, Onondaga L.

Killdeer: young hatched May 20, Syracuse. Ruddy Turnstone: arr May 23 (late) SP; max 29, Jun 3, SP. Upland Plover: first arr three, Apr 17, Syracuse Airport, greeted by a two-inch snow-fall; very few noted along L Ontario at Derby Hill. Solitary Sandpiper: arr date Apr 23, Plainville (MEB); six May 13, Belle Isle and five, Steven's Pond near Phoenix, May 14. Shorebird migration was late and scant with no lingering birds; e.g. Red-backed Sandpiper—arr May 5; max 23, May 12; last noted May 31, Onondaga L; Semipalmated Sandpiper—arr May 20 (very late), Onondaga L; max 88, Fox Ridge Road near Port Byron and Onondaga L, May 31; last noted Jun 5, Onondaga L.

Iceland Gull: only spring record one, Apr 5, at the mouth of Oneida Creek (SP, DWA), rather far inland; this paucity of spring records is quite in contrast with their abundance this past winter. Ring-billed Gull: 4000, Apr 3, at Fair Haven State Park feeding in the muddy shallows of the pond there. Bonaparte's Gull: max 15, Apr 17, Duck L (MSR); singles noted May 16, Onondaga L and May 23, SP; a very poor flight this season. Common Tern: first arr Apr 7, Oneida L (early, especially in view of the extreme cold of early Apr); max of 90, May 15, SP. Caspian Tern: unreported in spring migration!

Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo: late in arriving—May 10 and May 8 respectively—and low in numbers—max four each; very little vocalization heard thru May and even into Jun. Snowy Owl: single birds noted thru Apr at Brewerton, Syracuse Airport, and Mexico; one, May 7, near SP (Mrs. MacKnight); one, May 15, near Eaton (Ada Carter); and one, May 30, near Deerfield (VB), a record late date. Long-eared Owl: present to mid-May near Liverpool (? possible breeding).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Nighthawk: unreported until May 15 and very scarce thereafter; many observers saw none in May and the highest May count is five at Utica. Similarly, Ruby-throated Hummingbird was somewhat late (May 7) and inordinately scarce with a spring max of two on any one day. Yellow-shafted Flicker: peak of 305, Apr 25, Derby Hill (JWP), the same day some 60 were seen near Fair Haven (MSR). Red-headed Woodpecker: first migrant Apr 18, Mexico Point; reported widely—Oneida, RSP, SSSP, SP, Liverpool X2, Euclid, Utica, Camillus, Fair Haven and southeastern Madison County (mob)—thru May; definitely increasing locally. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a pair at Long Branch, Onondaga L, May 1 (FGS) and another pair thru May at Camillus (DWB, mob); like the Red-headed Woodpecker, apparently increasing as this species prior to 1960 was only a rare winter visitant in the immediate Syracuse area.

Eastern Kingbird: first arr May 3 (late), SSSP; max 50, L Ontario and Phoenix, May 23. Phoebe: counts of 12–15/day, Apr 11–14, Derby Hill; once again a common bird about camps and bridges of the area, a distinct increase from the very low numbers of 1958–61. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only two (very low) reported for entire migration—May 16 and Jun 1 (JWP); five, May 30, Big Moose (DWA, MSR, Ada Carter) is a bit low for that area and season. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported from breeding grounds at Big Moose (DWA, P, SP) and Nobleboro (VB); only migrant of entire spring is one, May 9 (early) at Utica (VB). Swallow arr dates were uniformly tardy—Tree Apr 4, Barn and Purple Martin Apr 7, Bank Apr 11, Rough-winged Apr 15, and Cliff Apr 29 (very late); Apr Tree, Barn, and Bank Swallow counts in the 100–500/day range; the only 1000+ counts all spring were of 1000 Tree and 1500+ Barn Apr 24 at various ponds around Phoenix and Bridgeport, and 1000 Bank Swallows May 15; max Cliff Swallow 24 at Nobleboro in mid-May (VB).

Tufted Titmouse: one at Green Lakes State Park, a new locality, May 15–16 (D. Dawley). Brown Creeper: flight of 18, Fish Gulf near Otisco L (JWP) on Apr 24; lesser numbers (ten–12/day) noted from SSSP and Mexico Point until May 3. No Carolina Wrens reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first, May 4 (late), Scott Swamp.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: single birds noted May 10 near Cicero and May 13, Toad Harbor Road near West Monroe, otherwise unrecorded and no local breeding colonies known. Mockingbird: singles reported from Verona (VB) in May; one at Vernon Apr 18-19 (O'Shea fide DWA); a pair at Oak Orchard near Euclid thru May (FGS); a pair at Camden with nest and three young (Mrs. Mahon); two at Camillus May 8-12 (DWB); one near Rome Apr 11 to mid-May (fide HHA); one (? two) on the outskirts of N. Syracuse (fide BPB) in May; one near Liverpool May 27 (CGS); a remarkable rash of records of a bird normally reported once a year in the area heretofore. Catbird: max 50, May 15, SP dunes and 55, May 16, TRGMA and Camillus.

Robin: 2000, Apr 7, in an enormous Robin-Starling-icterid flight at Derby Hill (JWP) were evidently cumulative birds normally passing thru in Mar; the lateness of the season is exemplified by 3800 passing Derby Hill Apr 15 (FGS, P. Kaplan). Hermit Thrush: numbers apparently up in RSP and around Pulaski and SSSP; best migrant numbers in first week of May (late). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes: spring max of three May 8-15 and three May 9 respectively are astonishingly low; last noted May 28, Swainson's and May 18, Gray-cheeked; many observers saw none this spring and no large night flights were heard passing over.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one-two birds reported from SSSP, Fair Haven State Park, TRGMA, Pleasant L, HIGMA, Derby Hill, Toad Harbor on north shore of Oneida L, Tully Lakes, and Wampsville (mob) besides the regular birds at Camillus V and North Camillus; max five, Camillus V, May 9 and 13. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: high counts for season 80, Apr 24, Fish Gulf (JWP) and 60, May 3, Syracuse (MSR) respectively. Loggerhead Shrike: total of nine, the majority from Derby Hill and environs Apr 1-15 (mob). Starling: "millions" in Apr 7 landbird flight at Derby Hill (JWP); some 21,000 noted passing Derby Hill Apr 15; such numbers should dissolve the "permanent resident" status of this species locally.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: No Apr reports of vireos--arr date of May 3 for Solitary Vireo is late.

The warbler migration, normally a spring highlight, was poor this year. Species arr dates were invariably late and numbers with few exceptions were extraordinarily low. Even more disturbing were the low counts of normally very common local warblers (Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Redstart). Only five species were reported in Apr--Myrtle Apr 11, Pine Apr 21, Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 24, Northern Waterthrush Apr 29, and Palm Apr 30. Black-and-white May 1, Yellow May 2, Nashville May 3, Black-throated Green May 1, Black-throated Blue May 6, Blackburnian May 4, Cape May May 6, Magnolia May 4, Golden-winged May 6, and Blue-winged May 8 were all four to seven days late; a major wave brought many first migrants in May 4; a second wave May 8-9 brought the later group of migrants to the area--e.g. Bay-breasted May 8, Blackpoll May 9, Wilson's May 9--giving some idea of how compressed the arrival of spring warblers was this season. The very low numbers were even more discouraging; either there were no birds or circumstances of weather eliminated all local concentrations--the three exceptions of 48 Nashvilles May 4 at Syracuse, 500 Myrtles May 5-6 at SSSP, and 36 Black-throated Blues May 8 at Camillus (JWP, MLE) made the paucity of other warblers even more conspicuous. The following high counts and dates emphasize the sparseness and tardiness respectively of the warbler migration: Tennessee--six, May 16 and 20, Camillus V; Parula--three, May 8, Onondaga Park; Magnolia--20, May 10, Pleasant L; Cape May--eight, near Eaton, May 11 (GLC); Black-throated Green--nine (very low), May 8, Camillus V; Blackburnian--eight, May 8-9, Camillus V; Chestnut-sided--eight, May 15, South Onondaga area (20, May 22, RSP, probably represents mainly breeding birds); Bay-breasted--twelve, May 16, TRGMA, Blackpoll--25, May 23, SP; Palm--seven, May 5 and six, May 6, Derby Hill and SSSP; Wilson's--five May 20, Camillus V.

Golden-winged Warbler: max 16, May 22, Onondaga Indian Reservation, Marcellus, and Camillus (JWP); single birds noted near Wampsville (B. Peebles) May 6 and another near Parish May 29 (MSR) are extensions of range locally. An influx of Blue-winged Warblers—two, May 8, Onondaga Park (MEB); one, May 9, Onondaga Indian Reservation (JWP), and two, May 13, 16, and 20, Camillus V—may signal a repeat of the Golden-winged to Blue-winged Warbler conversion noted at Ithaca over the past decade. Brewster's Warbler: at least three different birds noted in Camillus V area May 8–29 (mob). Cerulean Warbler: max 20, May 16, HIGMA and Camillus V; widely reported from Oneida, Pleasant L, south shore of the western half of Oneida L, Tully, Otisco L, and the periphery of Cicero Swamp;—actual range expansion, more observers, or observers more aware of its distinctive song? Yellow-breasted Chat: up to three birds at Camillus V, May 12–31; also singles near HIGMA May 16 (MSR), at Pleasant L May 11 (FGS) and at Utica for a week (VB). Redstart: max of 20, May 15, SP and SSSP; majority of observers, however, noted only five–15/day; many woodlots had only one–two pairs present. Where are they?

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Cowbird: an enormous flight—"millions"—Apr 7, Derby Hill (JWP); 20,000 Redwings and 15,000 Grackles Apr 8 and 23,000 Redwings, 26,000 Grackles, 3200 Cowbirds Apr 15, all estimates at Derby Hill (FGS, P. Kaplan). Rusty Blackbird: 50, Apr 16, HIGMA; 140, Apr 15, Derby Hill and Scott Swamp; last date May 6, Fish Gulf (JWP). Evening Grosbeak: migrants noted Apr 14 and 15 passing over Derby Hill; also recorded Apr 6, four, near Eaton (GLC) and at Taberg 30–50/day with last date Apr 14 (Mrs. D. Lynes). Pine Siskin: 12, Apr 15, Derby Hill (FGS) are the only ones reported. Goldfinch: 1000, May 19, SSSP (JWP) is a record spring tally.

Vesper Sparrow: max 200 Apr 15, Sage Creek Drive near Texas with lesser numbers (30/day) on Apr 18, Derby Hill and on Apr 19, Otisco L area. Savannah Sparrow: 20, Apr 15, Derby Hill; 65, Apr 17, Pleasant L; and 45, Apr 18, Derby Hill. Tree Sparrow: the paucity of Mar birds was not made up by an early Apr flight; Apr max 50, Apr 11, near Liverpool and 45, Apr 15, Scott Swamp and SSSP; last noted May 5, Otisco L (EMS). White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows: peak counts 15, May 15, SP dunes and 300, May 8 (late for such a high number) Camillus V respectively; last date for White-crowned May 20, Verona Beach State Park (DWA) and for White-throated May 19, SSSP (JWP); this rapidity of movement—with only ten days or two weeks between peak and departure dates—was also noted in the review of the warbler data. Song Sparrow: a count of 550, Apr 15, Derby Hill, SSSP, and Scott Swamp emphasizes the retarded character of the Mar migration as such counts normally occur only in the last week of March. Lapland Longspur: last noted Apr 28, one, near Eaton (GLC), a very late date especially for the southern hill country.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The weather during April and May was cool most of the time. Many of the migrant birds arrived late. Some of them like the ducks seemed to move on rapidly which tended to keep their numbers low.

The adult Little Blue Heron seen May 9 near Watertown is the first record for this Region.