

Red Crossbill: Apr 13 Newark Valley (NC). White-winged Crossbill: Apr 13 Newark Valley (NC), still there May 6 (RW, MW). Rufous-sided Towhee: common after Apr 21.

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 15 Deposit (SW). Grasshopper: Apr 18 IH (CH); next one May 1. Henslow's: Apr 16 IH (CH). Vesper: Apr 16 Oneonta (JN). Slate-colored Junco: only very few after May 15. Tree: last normal bird May 14 Scott (JO); an injured bird at Sidney thru May 21 (F. Quick). Chipping: Apr 20 Owego (RW). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: May 9-13 Sidney (F. Quick), identified by cicada-like song, streaked crown and dark-outlined ear patch; first in Region. Field: common after Apr 20. White-crowned: May 5 Cortland (JG) and Chen Forks; quite numerous to May 15, almost all gone by May 21; last, May 28. White-throated: migrants Apr 16; common Apr 19 to May 14; especially common May 6-13; last, May 28. Fox: mostly gone after Apr 30; May 7 Oneonta (JN), May 15 Chen Bridge (SG). Lincoln's: one May 5 Deposit (SW), banded; five more to May 22. 710 University Ave., Endwell, 13763

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Spring was a birdwatching disaster. An extended cold spell with nearly continuous snows, rain, sleet, and chill NW winds beginning Mar 24 persisted to Apr 17; a brief warm spell Apr 17-21 gave hopes of some redemption from the earlier vernal remnant of the Ice Age. However, rather than improving, the weather of late Apr and early May became much worse. Frosts occurred every night May 1-10 in the Syracuse area and May 9 and 10 saw one to three inches of snow throughout. A devastating loss of the insectivores, particularly earlier flycatchers and swallows, undoubtedly ensued, as they were extraordinarily scarce when warm weather began around May 13-14; the loss of Purple Martins (q.v.) was especially severe. The first major warbler-vireo-thrush wave on May 15 was made miniscule by the wave of May 16, and the next ten days was an all-too-brief glory of warblers locally. Hot weather (over 80 degrees), warm south winds, and clear nights May 24-30 permitted passage without stoppage of the later migrants and the last quarter of May, usually rich with tardy migrants and female warblers, was almost as dull as the early one-third with its cold. A few migrant landbirds were present to June 8 but none were noted thereafter.

Careful surveillance of the Derby Hill migration site by J. R. Haugh and others produced a wealth of data on hawks and other diurnal migrants. The severe cold so retarded migration that, even with the increased watching, *not one species* was recorded there ahead of its average arrival date.

Positives for period include 1) an impressive collection of diving ducks on the western third of Oneida Lake, 2) a superb hawk migration Apr 21 at Derby Hill, 3) high tallies and late departure dates for the earlier shorebirds (e.g. Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper), 4) a wave of Red-breasted Nuthatches in mid-May, 5) above-average numbers of Magnolia, Cape May, and Mourning Warblers, 6) a tinkling flood of Bobolinks panregionally, and 7) rich residua of winter finches (q.v.) with heavy Apr flights of some, and several record departure dates.

Birding deficits aside from the general migrant tardiness are 1) a paucity of Black-crowned Night Heron and American Bittern, 2) the complete absence of Brant and low numbers of Gadwall, both teal, and Shoveler, 3) a miserable late May shorebird flight, probably because no weather disturbance forced passing shorebirds to land, 4) a dearth of Whip-poor-will, Winter Wren, Water Pipit, and Palm Warbler, 5) much reduced numbers of later migrant warblers, particularly Tennessee and Blackpoll, and 6) a sharp decrease in Henslow's Sparrow with lesser but notable reduction in numbers of Grasshopper Sparrow.

Outstanding *rara aves* are Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Common Scoter, Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Golden Plover, Black-backed Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Western Meadowlark, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill near Texas; CV—Camillus Valley; FHBSP—Fair Haven Beach State Park at Fair Haven; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; PL—Pleasant Lake, Oswego Co. near Phoenix; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; dep—departure, departed.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; J & BB—J. and B. Barker; JRB—J. R. Bart; GLC—G. L. Church; MLE—M. L. Estoff; MF—Mary Felle; GG—G. Gage; ASG—A. S. Goodfellow; KGH—K. G. Hanson; JRH—J. R. Haugh; SEH—S. E. Hosler; DBP—D. B. Peakall; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; CGS—C. G. Spies; WT—W. Thurber.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 56, Apr 28 L Ontario (JRH); dep May 28 Skaneateles L. Red-necked Grebe: max ten, Apr 6 Oneida L (MSR); present until Apr 12. Double-crested Cormorant: one only, May 26 SP. Common Egret: none. CATTLE EGRET: one May 6–10 HIGMA (CG) and one in breeding plumage May 8–10 Wampsville (fide MF, B & SP); these plus a GLOSSY IBIS at and near HIGMA May 7–15 (GG, DBP) were the only southern waders blown in this spring. Least Bittern: arr May 14 Scott Swamp; max nine (Scott Swamp near Phoenix, Clay Swamp, HIGMA) May 22 (ASG).

Canada Goose: max 3200 Apr 10 Beaver L and 3000 Apr 16 HIGMA; exodus Apr 17–May 5 (very protracted this season); first broods at HIGMA May 15; dep May 17, seven Onondaga L. Mallard and Black Duck: sharp fall in early Apr with only local pairs about by Apr 12; first Mallard broods May 7 HIGMA. Gadwall: max 12 (low) Apr 2 HIGMA (DBP). Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal: max 40 each Apr 16 and May 7 respectively, both HIGMA; tallies from marshes around Oneida L and Syr thru Apr four-ten/day (very low) for both species.

Diving ducks—A large concentration of divers, mainly Canvasback—1200 max—and Greater Scaup—1700 max, both Apr 6, with lesser numbers of Ring-necked Duck (400 Apr 6), Common Goldeneye (200 Apr 7), Oldsquaw (22 Apr 7) graced the Muskrat Bay-Polar Beach sector of Oneida L, a marked change from the virtual absence of these species there last fall; proximity to shore permitted enthralled viewers to see and hear all sorts of weird courtship antics and noises. COMMON SCOTER: only report, a male and two females May 16 Utica (J. Van Dresar). Ruddy Duck: two reports, one Apr 6–11 Oneida L (mob) and three May 5–7 Woodman's Pond near Hamilton (GLC); very scarce this spring and becoming habitually so. Dep dates for the divers include: Ring-necked Duck May 15 HIGMA (DBP), Canvasback Apr 21 Oneida L (DWA), Greater Scaup May 15 Scott Swamp (CGS), Lesser Scaup May 17 PL (FGS), Common Goldeneye May 15 FHBSP (MSR), Bufflehead May 15 Skaneateles L (R. Seaman), Oldsquaw May 5 DH (JRH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawks: Hawk migration at Derby Hill was under daily observation by J. R. Haugh assisted by J. R. Bart, Mr. and Mrs. C. Farnham, and JWP with a concomitant wealth of migration data. Total hawks 26,851 with a spectacular peak day Apr 21 with 13,500 plus birds. Summary, each species followed by date range, total number, date range of 90% of birds, and peak day(s) in that order—Turkey Vulture: Apr 6–May 18, 78 (record high); Apr 9–May 3; 22, Apr 21. Goshawk: Feb 24–May 5, 93 (record high); Mar 10–Apr 18; 15, Mar 17. Sharp-shinned: Mar 3–May 18, 5138 (record high); Apr 1–May 8; 2787, Apr 21. Cooper's: Mar 9–May 5, 127; Mar 17–Apr 29; 17, Apr 21. Red-tailed: Feb 24–May 26, 1307 (record high); Mar 10–Apr 29; 150 Mar 19 and 155 Apr 21. Red-shouldered: Mar 3–May 5, 662; Mar 15–Apr 16; 250 plus, Mar 18. Broad-winged:

Apr 17-May 26, 18,130; Apr 19-May 5; 10,287 Apr 21, 1738 Apr 29, 1598 May 1, 2106 May 5. Rough-legged: Mar 6-May 3, 144; Mar 13-Apr 30; 19 Apr 2, 13 Apr 21, seven May 1. GOLDEN EAGLE: Mar 18-May 5, 13 (a record tally!); Mar 26-May 1; two, Mar 18 and Apr 21. Bald Eagle: Mar 17-May 5, nine (low); Mar 26-Apr 23; four Apr 21. Marsh: Mar 11-May 26, 378 (record high); Mar 29-May 5; 67 Apr 21, 38 May 5, 35 Apr 20, 20 Apr 29. Osprey: Apr 17-May 18, 204; Apr 19-May 5; 62 Apr 21, 41 Apr 29, 25 Apr 20, 24 May 5. PEREGRINE: an adult Apr 20 is the *only* spring record! Pigeon Hawk: Mar 14-May 8, 22 (record high); Apr 3-May 6; four Apr 19, three Apr 29. Sparrow Hawk: Mar 13-May 18, 550 (record high); Mar 26-Apr 30; 100 Apr 19, 113 Apr 20, 56 Apr 21.

Shorebirds—GOLDEN PLOVER: first Regional spring record, one molting into breeding plumage Apr 17 Six Mile Creek near Phoenix (MLE, FGS, WT). Black-bellied Plover: only records, one May 22 Salt Rd near HIGMA (ASG, FGS) and one June 2 SP (MSR)—increasingly scarce as spring migrant although undiminished in fall. Ruddy Turnstone: max 23, June 2 SP (MSR). Spotted Sandpiper: max 50, May 15 HIGMA vicinity (DBP), a record spring high. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Apr 9, Seneca R flats; max 50 (record high) Apr 30 near HIGMA; last, May 23 (record dep date) Onondaga L (MSR). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Apr 10, Dead Creek near Baldwinsville (DBP); max four, Apr 16 HIGMA, quite scarce in contrast to Greater Yellowlegs; last, May 22 near HIGMA. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Apr 10 and max 30, Apr 30, both Phoenix; last, May 22 Salt Rd pond near HIGMA—record dep date. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 36 May 22 near HIGMA (ASG), a record spring count; last, one May 30 Onondaga L. Sanderling: very scarce; only one report, two June 2 SP (MSR). The increase in certain species and the decline in or absence of other species (e.g. Knot) suggests a marked shift in this spring's passage of shorebirds.

Bonaparte's Gull: very scarce—arr Apr 5 (late) Oneida L; max 12 (very low) May 8 Delta L (J & BB); last, two imm May 22 Onondaga L. Yellow-billed Cuckoo arr May 15 PL (CGS) and Black-billed May 20 Clay Swamp; very scarce thru entire spring—most observers saw less than ten individual cuckoos of both species for all of May. Screech Owl: only report, May 15 Clay Swamp (CGS); otherwise unreported by *all* observers; this owl may have vanished from the area in just four years. Horned Owl: repeatedly observed at Eaton (GLC), Syr (mob), CV, HIGMA (three pairs), PL, Scott Swamp (two pairs). Barred Owl: still at HIGMA Apr 17 (MLE, M. Pastel), PL May 22, Ilion May 28 (KGH). Saw-whet Owl: pair nesting in Wood Duck box at HIGMA produced three fledglings in late May.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr Apr 29 PL; next report May 22, just two heard at Cicero Swamp where normally six-eight may be heard at once; none heard even in late May at PL; was this species decimated by the severe cold of early May? Nighthawk: one May 4 near Oneida L (B & S Peebles) phenomenally early, probably died in the cold weather of early May; next report May 22 Syr, and very scarce thereafter (max two/day) thru May. Chimney Swift: one, Apr 17 Ramona Beach, L Ontario (FGS, MLE, WT), early; max 245 May 8 DH (JWP, MLE); local numbers very good in contrast to the scarce caprimulgids. Yellow-shafted Flicker: first migrants Mar 31; max at DH 774 Apr 30 with passage in numbers to mid-May, e.g. 88 May 15 DH; migrants still passing DH May 23 (JRH). Red-bellied Woodpecker: again at N Camillus (mob), and Scott Swamp Apr 19 (MLE, JWP); new locations—Peppermill Gorge, S Onondaga May 25 (JWP), west side of Otisco L (Bickal); has gradually but steadily expanded from its Seneca R distribution over the past five-six years. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scarce as migrants thru both Syr and DH; some 12–20/day at Ilion May 14–23 (KGH) though these may be, in part, breeding birds. BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: one, northern Herkimer Co May 29 (SEH), undoubtedly a breeding bird. NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: a male observed repeatedly Apr 29 to May 22 at Cedarville (KGH), the first modern record for Region outside of the Adirondacks!

Eastern Kingbird: arr Apr 26, one DH (JRB); virtually unrecorded in first half of May; 41 passed DH as late as May 24 (JRH). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total of seven (somewhat low) May 19–26 in Syr-CV area (mob). Least Flycatcher: max 30 on both May 19 Tully Valley and May 20 CV (JWP), indicating how concentrated the spring flight of this Empidonax was. Olive-sided Flycatcher: unreported as a migrant this season but regularly reported in Adirondack Mt. and Tug Hill Plateau sites.

Swallow migration grossly retarded, only Tree Swallows showing Apr tallies over 1000 (2074 Apr 20 and 1111 Apr 29). Early May tallies remained low (more cold-weather effect) and a count of 4300 Bank, 500 Rough-winged, 1050 Barn and 70 Cliff Swallows on May 16 DH (JRH) emphasizes lateness of their migration. Purple Martin: the severe cold spell of early May decimated the Martin population in certain areas; at Chittenango Station Dr. E. Kidd recorded some four alive from a colony of 300 (120 dead in or below the Martin houses); lesser numbers were found dead at Oneida L (R. C. Anderson) and Skaneateles (J. Smith) but the exact extent of loss can only be conjectured; probably it will take four-five years for the local population to build up again.

Blue Jay: first migrants at DH Apr 29; heavy flight did not begin until May 6 and best numbers were in latter half of May—575 May 18, 930 May 23, 712 May 24, 619 May 26 (JRH) and approximately 100/hour June 3 (MSR); will these late migrants all breed this summer? Black-capped Chickadee: heavy (2000 plus individuals), protracted migration at DH Apr 12–May 20, with five passing there as late as June 3 (MSR). BOREAL CHICKADEE: singles Apr 10 at Beaver L (FGS) and Skaneateles (R. Seaman) and Apr 17 at DH (mist net capture—JRB, JRH) are undoubtedly returning birds from the 1965–66 winter incursion; last, three at Westmoreland Apr 16 (J & BB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few reports in Apr; first migrant May 8 CV; heavy wave May 16 with 25 PL and 25 Oakwood Cemetery, Syr; lesser numbers present thru the next week; last, May 26 Fish Gulf, Otisco L (JWP). Brown Creeper: heavy late Apr flight; 35 Apr 24, combined tally HIGMA–FHBSP (MSR), and 35 Apr 27 Ilion (KGH). Winter Wren: scarce thru entire spring migration, never more than one/day; breeding-ground counts low (three-five/day)—a victim of the severe winter? Carolina Wren: one, Town of Norway, Herkimer Co May 15 (J & BB) and one Apr 4 Oneida (MF, B & SP). Long-billed Marsh Wren arr May 7 Woodman's Pond (GLC) and Short-billed May 12 CV; both very scarce thru May, max Long-billed five May 21, and singles only of Short-billed May 12 and 15.

Mockingbird: a small spate of reports— one at Syr Apr 19–May 10 (MSR); two singles passing DH, May 16 and 24 (JRH) suggest migration. Catbird: arr May 2 Oneida (DWA); above average counts with 30–40/day May 15–23 throughout Region; lower counts last ten days of May. Robin: Apr max 294 Apr 7 and 252 Apr 12 DH (JRH) are low, especially in view of the delayed earlier migration. Wood Thrush: arr May 3 Holland Patent (J. & E. Van Dresar), majority not present until latter half of May—30 May 28–29 Ilion (KGH). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush: flight late (arr May 12 Swainson's, Utica; May 15 Gray-cheeked, Fayetteville—D. Dawley) and *very poor*—max ten May 21 and two May 22 (JRH) respectively. Veery: heavy late May flight with 40 May 24 (KGH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a vernal invasion—arr May 3 HIGMA (S. H. Spofford); multiple records at FHBSP, CV, N Camillus, Otisco L, Fish Gulf, Scott Swamp, thru May with max eight, May 19 CV. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 54 Apr 19, 55 Apr 20 DH, and 65 Apr 18 Fish Gulf; smaller numbers into early May, dep May 13 (average). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 50 Apr 27 Ilion (KGH) and 40 each day May 7, 8, 10 at CV (JWP); dep May 19 (average). Water Pipit: very poor flight but protracted (Mar 29–May 22); max 30 Apr 30 Verona (DWA); most reports only one-three/day.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: arr dates indicate all vireos were tardy—Yellow-throated May 7 HIGMA, Solitary May 8 (very late) CV, Red-eyed May 15 HIGMA, Philadelphia May 16 Syr, Warbling May 3 HIGMA.

	<i>Arrival</i>	<i>Peak</i>	<i>Departure</i>
Black-and-white.....	May 1, 1, Eaton	20, May 17, 19 & 20, Ilion	May 27, 1, DH
Golden-winged.....	May 12, 3, CV	8, May 20, CV	-----
Blue-winged.....	May 19, 2, Onondaga Indian Res.	6, May 26, Otisco & Onondaga Townships	May 27, 1, DH
Tennessee.....	May 15, 2, HIGMA	5, May 22, CV	May 20, 2, DH
Nashville.....	May 5, 1, SSSP	13, May 19, CV	May 21, 1, Oneida
Parula.....	May 16, 7, PL	11, May 16, CV	-----
Yellow.....	Apr 30, 1, DH	170, May 15 HIGMA-FHBSP	May 26, 1, Syr
Magnolia.....	May 7, 1, Utica	35, May 17, Clay Swamp	May 21, 1, Syr
Cape May.....	May 14, 1, CV	20, May 16, Syr	May 22, 2, CV
Bl.-thr. Blue.....	May 6, 1, PL	22, May 17, Clay Swamp	May 26, 1, SSSP
Myrtle.....	Apr 21, 2, PL	150, May 15, HIGMA-FHBSP	May 26, 1, SSSP
Bl.-thr. Green.....	May 1, 1, Pratts Falls	35, May 16 & 19, CV	-----
Cerulean.....	May 7, 2, Wampsville	20, May 19, CV	May 26, 1, SSSP
Blackburnian.....	May 7, 1, Utica	55, May 19, CV	-----
Chestnut-sided.....	May 13, 1, CV	18, May 19, CV	May 24, 2 PL
Bay-breasted.....	May 16, 4, Syr	14, May 19, CV	Jun 8, 1, Tully Farms
Blackpoll.....	May 18, 1, Oneida & Holland Patent	10, May 22, CV	May 19, 1, Eaton
Palm.....	Apr 30, 1, Utica	2, May 15, CV-FHBSP	-----
Ovenbird.....	May 6, 2, PL	15, May 21, DH	May 19, 1, Syracuse
N. Waterthrush.....	Apr 22, 1, PL	8, May 8, CV-Tully	-----
La. Waterthrush.....	Apr 22, 1, Fish Gulf	3, May 19, Fish Gulf	-----
Mourning.....	May 16, 1, Syr	7, May 22, CV	-----
Yellowthroat.....	May 5, 1, Eaton	20, May 19, CV-Tully	-----
Wilson's.....	May 15, 1, PL	12, May 16, Syr-CV	May 25, 1, Syr
Canada.....	May 15, 2, CV	24, May 19, CV	May 22, 1, Clay Swamp
Redstart.....	May 6, 1, PL	40, May 16 & 19, CV	-----

The late arrival of all species, the concentration of peak numbers May 15–22 and the abrupt dep dates May 22–26 stand out sharply in the above table. The paucity of the later migrants, particularly Tennessee and Blackpoll, also contrasts sharply with the abundant Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Mourning Warblers.

Prothonotary: only report, a singing male May 27 Short Pt Bay, Oneida L (mob). Blue-winged: five new sites; this species is rapidly expanding its range locally and may be displacing the Golden-winged; in addition, four Brewster's reported. Orange-crowned: four May 19–22 Syr and CV, about par for spring. Hooded: extremely scarce; no previously known local site occupied by late May.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: first migrants Apr 30, max 409 May 6 (JWP, MLE), both DH; increased numbers at Tully, PL, and Lacona-Sandy Creek section. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: one heard and seen repeatedly Apr 16 to May 5 Willowdale Rd, west shore Otisco L (MSR, mob)—first local record since 1961. Baltimore Oriole: arr May 1 Wampsville (B & SP); few in first half of May but 558 May 16 DH (JRH) is a record tally. Rusty Blackbird: peak 65, Apr 6 Fish Gulf; numerous flock counts 20–40/day thru Apr 23; last, six May 19 (record dep date) White L, DeWitt. Red-winged Blackbird and Grackle: enormous flight Apr 12 DH, 10,000 and 12,200 respectively; a continual but lessening flow thru Apr; both still passing in hundreds to May 6–7. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first, May 7 (late) HIGMA and Littlejohn GMA; not in numbers (ten–15/day) until May 15, indicating the migration of the majority was as delayed as the few first arrivals. Indigo Bunting: arr May 16 (late) Fayetteville; similar to but later than Rose-breasted Grosbeak with few counts above five/day until the last five days of May.

Winter Finches—the common spring “winter finches” were Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Redpoll, and Purple Finch. The large wintering population of these species as expected produced some amazing departure dates—Evening Grosbeak May 30, two Wampsville (B & SP); Pine Siskin still present as of May 31 Fayetteville and Syr and may breed; Purple Finch May 24 DH; Redpoll May 3 DH; also Red Crossbill Jun 4, three Tully (MSR) and White-winged Crossbill May 17, two PL. Some enormous flights of winter finches were tabulated at DH, max—Pine Siskin 680, May 16; Redpoll 1435, Apr 20; Evening Grosbeak 80, May 6 (also 83 May 4 Eaton, GLC); 509 Amer. Goldfinch May 16. This extensive diurnal landbird migration and the late dates for such numbers were entirely unknown prior to J. R. Haugh's work there.

Rufous-sided Towhee: first migrant Apr 16 (late) N Syr; not generally present until Apr 22–23; May numbers (12–14/day) much improved. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow: arr Apr 22 Boliver and Apr 30 TRGMA respectively—about average; numbers very low (one–three/day) thru May, with many former Henslow's colonies abandoned and very few Grasshopper reported. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: one, May 15, HIGMA (DBP)—first spring record since 1959. Vesper Sparrow: 30 plus Apr 16, 20 Apr 20, DH—much reduced from spring '65 counts. Slate-colored Junco: extended spring flight (Mar 23–May 19) but daily counts low (20–50/day). Tree Sparrow: dep date Apr 23 DH, early. Chipping Sparrow: max 88 May 6 DH, some 30 May 16 Syr; still migrating thru May 22, HIGMA and CV. White-crowned Sparrow: arr May 3 DH; max 89, May 15 (obviously a flight date) combined Regional tally. White-throated Sparrow: like Junco, a protracted flight with average 14–35/day; max 136 (the only count above 100 for the entire spring) May 15, late; last, May 22 CV. Lincoln's Sparrow: date range May 15–19 (very short); max three, May 16. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting: unreported, even at DH; apparently the brief spell of warm weather Mar 17–23 triggered a total exodus from the area.

Please mail summer reports (1 June–15 August) in by 20 August.
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