

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

April was cold in the first week or so, but by April 15 had achieved sufficient warmth and wind to suddenly release the ice-bound inland lakes (Oneida, Cross, Beaver). Late April saw much rain, so those "best" dates, usually spent in other years under a south wind and a blistering sun at Derby Hill, were rained out. Thus, some of the best counts there were in the closing days of the month and in early May, rather later than usual. The first four days of May saw a spectacular wave of migrants, especially warblers and vireos, and hot, humid weather which accelerated leaf growth immensely. Three days of cold weather with snow and frost, May 6-8, stalled the migration, but a new surge of birds hit the area May 12-14. The Big Run day May 16 was a meteorological disaster with drizzle, fog, howling south winds, and driving rain, but thirty dedicated masochists managed to turn up 171 species. Around 19 May steady south winds began, and the remainder of the month was a smooth, almost colorless, ahead-of-schedule exodus of migrants, with no major waves reported. The strong south winds did, however, provide conditions for some fine late May counts of diurnal migrants at Derby Hill (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Baltimore Oriole, q.v.). Perhaps the best summary of the season was F. LaFrance's laconic remark, "Early spring (i.e. April species) was late and late spring (i.e. May birds) was early."

Positive features include 1) a huge flight of Canada Geese and wonderful residue of the heavy March flight of Pintail; 2) a brief but impressive Oldsquaw flight; 3) record numbers of Goshawk, Marsh Hawk, and Osprey passing Derby Hill; 4) numbers of migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Derby Hill; 5) a heavy flight of Yellow-shafted Flicker; 6) spectacular flights of Blue Jay, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, and American Goldfinch; 7) early warbler arrival dates and numbers; 8) good counts on certain icterids—Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole; and 9) a heavy White-crowned Sparrow flight.

Negatives for the season comprise 1) markedly reduced numbers of almost all diving ducks, even of formerly common species like Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser; 2) very low numbers of American Coot; 3) a very poor shorebird flight, in both mid-April and late May; 4) extraordinarily low numbers of migrant Hermit, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes; 5) one of the poorest kinglet flights on record; 6) low counts on later migrant warblers—Blackpoll, Wilson's; 7) a generally poor flight of sparrows, distressingly so with both Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow, normally common migrants here.

Rarities this spring include Cattle Egret, Common Egret, Glossy Ibis, King Rail, White-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FHBSP—Fair Haven Beach State Park; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet waste impoundments near Port Byron; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; SPI—Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Syr—Syracuse.

Observers: JRB—J. R. Bart; DC—D. Crumb; FD—F. Dittrich; FLF—F. LaFrance; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; KS—K. Slotnick; GS—G. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies; RJS—R. J. Sutliff; CW—C. Wernick; mob—Multiple observers.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 66 Apr 23 DH; dep Jun 5, 1 SP. Red-necked Grebe: 1 only, Apr 19 Muskrat Bay on Oneida L (MSR et al). Horned Grebe: max 90 Apr 17 Oneida L (FGS): most other counts very low, 2–12 per day, with all counts above 15 concentrated about Apr 17. Double-crested Cormorant: singles only at Oneida L and Onon L but max 4 May 16 Oswego Harbor (MSR, CGS)—anything over 1 per day is notable!

Great Blue Heron: Scott Swamp (near Phoenix) heronry now abandoned, but the 1969-tornado-struck Cross L colony appears to be thriving, and a small colony near Bridgeport has expanded to over 40 nests this spring. *CATTLE EGRET*: singles Apr 30 passing DH (FGS, FD) and May 4 Pompey Twp (DC). *COMMON EGRET*: single present to Apr 12 Scott Swamp (FGS); also 1 Apr 8 DH (DC) and 1 May 4 Oswego (G. Maxwell)—3 reports, in contrast to none last year, of a species formerly considered a late summer and fall visitant in the Region. Least Bittern: arr May 2, 2 near Eaton (G. L. Church). *GLOSSY IBIS*: single May 14 at a small N Syr marsh (KS) is only record.

Mute Swan: 1 adult Apr 5–6 Jamesville Reservoir (DC, JWP) is 2nd record this spring. Whistling Swan: 1 persistently Apr 9–May 2 near Oswego (G. Maxwell et al). Canada Goose: heavy flight with 10,000 Seneca R flats and 3000 Beaver L both Apr 3 (JWP); major outflight Apr 26–27. Brant: 1 May 23 DH (MSR, CGS) is only report. Max Snow Goose Apr 26 DH (GS) and Blue 47 Apr 3 Seneca R flats (JWP).

Gadwall: max 7 May 12 HIGMA–FR (GS, FD); 2 Apr 19 Boliver (MSR) where scarce. Pintail: max an exciting collection of 5000 Apr 3 Seneca R flats (JWP); 200–600 per day in 1st 2 weeks of Apr at Scott Swamp. Green-winged Teal: max only 60 Apr 3 Seneca R flats (JWP), and other counts even in Clay and Scott Swamp mucklands all under 50 per day. American Widgeon: max only 75 Apr 3 Seneca R flats (JWP) and extraordinarily scarce in all other areas with 2nd max 40 Apr 1 Pennellville flats; most observers had less than 10 per day. Shoveler: 2–6 per day but widespread with several reported from Oneida L and Boliver. Wood Duck: max low, only 20 Apr 21 DH (GS).

Redhead: extraordinarily scarce—max 4 Apr 4 Oneida L (FGS); most observers saw none! Ring-necked Duck: also very scarce with max only 65 Apr 9 Salmon R (FGS) whereas 100–200 per day is normal; most observers had less than 20 per day and the species was detected only once in May—May 12 HIGMA (GS). Canvasback: like the above Aythya, very scarce with max 128 Apr 4 Oneida L (FGS). Greater Scaup: max 2000 Apr 17 Oneida L, but very scarce both before that date and thereafter. Bufflehead: huge flight of 200 Apr 17 in 4 miles of Oneida lakeshore; last noted May 16, 1 Beaver L (P. Merritt). Oldsquaw: virtually a single-day flight, but that a record spring max of over 800 Apr 17 Oneida L (FGS) encouraging in contrast with low winter numbers; unreported from L Ontario despite intensive lakeshore coverage at DH and SSSP. White-winged Scoter: max 75 in the great Apr 17 Oneida L waterfowl flight (FGS); scarce on L Ontario with max there 37–38 May 11–12 DH (GS). Ruddy Duck: max 6 May 16 E of Oswego Harbor (MSR, CGS); singles only elsewhere. Hooded Merganser: max 45 Apr 2 FHBSP (D. McIlroy, FGS). Red-breasted Merganser: max 350 per day Apr 23–26 DH (FGS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk flights at DH were watched with continued intensity and produced evidence of some movement much later than heretofore recorded, with some Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks passing even in mid-Jun. The 1st major Mar flight did not occur until the 26th, very late, and a repeat flight the 28th did not have he hoped-for numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks but did produce one of the greatest Marsh Hawk flights ever. No massive movements were noted thru Apr until the 21st, when over 1500 hawks passed. Subsequent 1000-plus days occurred Apr 23, 25, 27, 30, and May 1, the last notable for the numbers of Osprey. A very sharp drop thereafter indicated that the major Broad-winged Hawk peak had been accomplished in just 10 days, Apr 21–May 1.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION — SPRING 1970

Species	Date range	Total	Date range of 90% of the birds	Peak day(s)	No. on peak day(s)
Turkey Vulture	Mar 25–May 31	181	Mar 31–May 30	Apr 17	40
Goshawk	Feb 18–May 10	156	Mar 15–Apr 25	Mar 26	20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar 22–May 29	2,060	Apr 18–May 1	Apr 21	408
Cooper's Hawk	Mar 12–May 1	132	Mar 22–Apr 30	Mar 26, Mar 28	16
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb 22–Jun 15	1,768	Mar 12–May 16	Apr 6	241
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 15–May 1	455	Mar 24–Apr 9	Mar 28	193
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 14–Jun 15	12,532	Apr 21–May 1	Apr 25	2,735
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 1–Apr 30	142	Mar 17–Apr 26	Mar 26	26
Golden Eagle	Apr 26–Apr 30	3	—	Apr 30	2
Bald Eagle	Apr 24–May 30	9	—	Apr 26, May 1	2
Marsh Hawk	Mar 12–May 19	455	Mar 26–May 1	Mar 26	108
Osprey	Apr 9–Jun 15	233	Apr 8–May 16	May 1	81
Peregrine Falcon	Apr 17–May 1	4	—	—	—
Pigeon Hawk	Mar 25–May 16	16	Apr 21–Apr 30	Apr 23	4
Sparrow Hawk	Mar 7–May 31	446	Mar 25–Apr 30	Mar 26, Apr 23	97, 90
unidentified hawks		156			

There were record tallies (underlined> for Goshawk, Marsh Hawk, and Osprey, and the 4 Peregrines for the season tie the previous high.

Non-DH hawks—Turkey Vulture: 1 Apr 12 Pompey Twp (DC)—rare in S Onon Co. Red-tailed Hawk: 3 pr active at CV; also new pr with nest near Caughdenoy (CGS). Red-shouldered Hawk: prs in Vienna Twp and Black Creek Swamp near Lakeport (both MSR, CGS). Marsh Hawk: singles in hill-country valleys S of Syr (GS) and along L Ontario (MSR); no proven breeding pairs so far this spring.

Ruffed Grouse: scarce this spring with most observers having only 1 per day; max 3 Apr 22 and 28, both Pompey Twp (DC, FLF). *KING RAIL*: 1 May 16 to end of period FR (FGS, R. Long, W. Brosseau) 1st in 6 years. American Coot: extremely scarce thru entire spring with max thru Apr 2 per day at Bridgeport and Scott Swamp; most observers saw *none* all spring.

Spring shorebird flight was very poor, with numbers low and total records few despite fairly good habitat available at flooded mucklands and wet pastures; SP shorebirders competed with heavy human use of the beaches there in late May. Semipalmated Plover: arr May 11 (late) SP (GS); max 22 May 24 Pennellville flats (FGS). Black-bellied Plover: arr May 22, 2 Pennellville flats (JWP); this and 2 Jun 3 SPI (FGS) are the max; dep Jun 15, 1 Nine Mile Pt on L Ontario (GS). Ruddy Turnstone: arr May 16, 3 SPI (GS); numbers low with max 11 Jun 3 SPI (FGS); dep Jun 5 SPI. American Woodcock: 4 young hatching out May 3 CV (JRB, CGS). Common Snipe: max 20 Apr 26 Six Mile Creek near Phoenix (FGS); new sites located in Pompey Twp (FLF), S Onon (GS), and CV (JRB, CGS) the last definitely new, as CV is a heavily birded area. Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 May 6–9 Lakeland (MSR) and May 16 DH–SP (GS); dep May 20, 1 CV (GS).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 Apr 26 in company with 22 Lesser Yellowlegs at Pennellville flats (FGS); Greater dep May 22 (rather late) 1 DH (CGS) and Lesser dep May 30, 1 DH (CGS) and 1 Nine Mile Pt (GS). Knot: arr May 16, 1 Nine Mile Pt (JWP); only others were 2 there May 28 (GS). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 35 Apr 30 (late for so large a number) Six Mile Creek; last May 16, 1 Nine Mile Pt (JWP). White-rumped Sandpiper: single only, May 31 SPI (FLF). Least Sandpiper: max 42 May 16 L Ontario area (CGS, MSR); last Jun 3 SPI (FGS). Dunlin: record arr Apr 12, 1 Seneca R flats (FGS, W. Benning); max 45 May 23 FR (GS); still present to Jun 5 SPI. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr May 23, 2 FR (GS) and 7 SPI (CGS, MSR); max 15 May 24 Oneida L islands (JRB, GS); 1 still at Nine Mile Pt Jun 15 (GS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr May 14, 1 Onon L; max 170 Jun 3 Nine Mile Pt and SP (FGS); still present in small numbers Jun 14.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 20 May 23 SPI (CGS, MSR) late for so large a number. Herring Gull: still present thru mid-May at Onon L. Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 Apr 20 Oneida L and May 16 Oswego Harbor (CGS, MSR); still present at SPI thru Jun 14. Common Tern: max 500 (record spring high) May 16 Oswego Harbor on 30 mph S wind (CGS, MSR). Caspian Tern: *none* in period! Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos: both arr May 5 (early), 1 and 2 respectively, both CV (DC). Barred Owl: reported again at Big Moose May 16 (B. Barnum) and HIGMA May 7 (JRB, FGS).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: arr May 1, 1 Boliver (JRB, MSR, CGS); only 1 at Cicero Swamp and none again at Pleasant L near Phoenix; unusual are reports of single migrants heard in a Syr park and N Syr suburbs; max 8 May 17 on Ontario lakeshore at Oswego (W. Dawson, C. Jerred, CW). Common Nighthawk: arr May 11 Syr (B. Austin); max a mere 3 (very low) May 23 Syr. Chimney Swift: max migrants 75 Apr 29 DH (DC); still migrating by DH in late May, e.g. 52 May 31 (GS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 43 (a spring record) May 16 passing DH (GS); still passing there May 31; very scarce at Syr, however, throughout spring.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: DH high counts 618 Apr 17 (GS) and 542 Apr 26 (mob). Pileated Woodpecker: newly located at Pineville May 31 (MSR); 5 in CV area, probably benefiting from dying elms. Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles migrating by DH

May 1 (E. Farnham) and May 31 (CGS, GS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 in a day May 10 and 16 migrating by DH (GS); most common along Ontario lakeshore and about Oneida (D. W. Ackley, mob). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Apr 9 Syr (CGS); no push day noted with only 2 per day thru Apr.

Eastern Kingbird: arr Apr 30, 10 DH (DC) and 1 Pompey (FLF); maxima 26 May 25, 18 May 29, and 21 May 31, all DH (late for such large numbers). Eastern Phoebe: max 21 Apr 9 DH (GS); still passing in small numbers, 10 per day, Apr 30 (FGS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 individuals May 9-31; most observers saw none. Eastern Wood Pewee: arr May 14, 1 CV (JWP); max 5 (rather low) May 24 SP (RJS, FLF). Olive-sided Flycatcher: only 4 individuals May 16-29, only along L Ontario. Horned Lark: large numbers still passing thru in mid-Apr—210 Apr 5 Pompey (FLF) and 210 Apr 12 both Munnsville (B. & S. Peebles) and DH (FGS).

Swallow arr and max—Tree Swallow: arr Mar 26 and max 5000 Apr 23, both DH. Bank Swallow: arr Apr 21 Oneida L and max 1300 May 25 DH. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Apr 18 DH (FLF, RJS) and Navarino (GS); max 50 May 25 DH. Barn Swallow: arr Apr 9 (GS) and max 8000 Apr 23, both DH. Cliff Swallow: arr Apr 23 (last to appear) and max 18 Apr 30, both DH. Purple Martin: arr Apr 18 Bridgeport; max 37 Apr 20 DH—very scarce this spring both as a migrant and in local martin houses. On May 25 at DH a huge flock of swallows, over 10,000, collected in Mexico Bay—1600 Tree, 1300 Bank, 50 Rough-winged, 7000 Barn, 4 Cliff, and 3 Purple Martin (JWP)—very large numbers for so late.

Blue Jay: an enormous Ontario lakeshore flight—1st noted Apr 23, 400 Apr 30, 960 May 1, 500 May 8, 5000 May 10, 2100 May 11, 350 May 16, 3000 May 26, 590 May 29, 1260 May 30, 1300 May 31, all DH. Black-capped Chickadee: max 120 Apr 12 DH-SSSP. Boreal Chickadee: single present thru to May 29 in evergreen plantation at Syr (E. Freeborn); only 1 noted going by DH—April 17 (GS). Tufted Titmouse: 1 Apr 22-26 at Holland Patent (J. & E. Van Dresar) 1st report there. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 May 1 Oneida L; 1-3 per day thru to May 19; last noted May 26 and 29 DH (DC). Brown Creeper: max 10 Apr 18 SSSP (FLF, RJS). House Wren: max 24 May 14 CV (FGS); numbers seen increasing locally. Mockingbird: singles noted May 16 Utica (J. & B. Barker), May 19 Oswego (CW), and May 24 Clay Swamp (FGS). Catbird: arr Mar 27 (slightly early) 2 Pompey (FLF); 10-15 per day in 1st 2 weeks of May.

Robin: maxima 1340 Apr 6 (JWP) and 1600 Apr 21 (GS) both DH; also 15 migrating by DH May 26 (DC)—rather late for this famous harbinger. Hermit Thrush: very very scarce as migrant—1-2 per day only and some active observers missed them entirely. Swainson's Thrush: arr May 10 Syr (JWP); very scarce as migrant—max only 2 May 15-19 Syr and FHBSP (MSR). Gray-cheeked Thrush: even scarcer than Swainson's—singles only, May 10-25 (JWP); most observers saw none! Eastern Bluebird: max 15 Apr 5 and 23, both DH; last migrant May 29 (very late) DH (DC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: expanding locally—newly reported at Boliver, 2 May 1 (JRB, MSR, CGS); at Pompey May 26 (FLF); and S shore of Oneida L thru May (FGS). Kinglets were extraordinarily scarce throughout Apr and early May—max Golden-crowned 22 Apr 18 SSSP (FLF, RJS); only 2 other counts exceeded 10 per day; max Ruby-crowned 12 Apr 24 and again May 3, both Pompey (DC, GS); most tallies 1-3 per day; dep May 13 (late) for Golden-crowned and May 17 (early) for Ruby-crowned. Water Pipit: flocks of 15-30 thru early May; last noted May 16 Nine Mile Pt (JWP). Cedar Waxwing: heavy late May flight—225 May 25, 560 May 29, 298 May 30, 380 May 31, all DH. Loggerhead Shrike: max 6 Apr 12 DH, one of the few predatory species reported in good numbers.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 in CV May 11 (C. & E. Farnham) 3rd Regional record, all to date in CV. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler: 1 new colony of these species in S Onon Co; other smaller colonies in this sector defunct. Cerulean Warbler: newly present at S Bay on Oneida L May 10

Species	Arr date, No., Place	Peak count, Date, Place	Dep date, No., Place
Vireos			
Yellow-throated	May 2, 1, Clay Swamp	22, May 14, CV	—
Solitary	May 1, 1, Oneida L	2, May 1, Syr	May 20, 1, Pompey Twp
Red-eyed	May 3, 1, CV	18, May 14, CV	—
Philadelphia	May 14, 1, CV	3 singles, May 16, FHBSP, Syr, CV	May 19, 1, Syr
Warbling	Apr 20, 1, Onon Creek	12, May 14, CV	—
Warblers			
Black-and-white	May 1, 3, Oneida L	11, May 9, CV	May 29, 1, SP
Golden-winged	May 1, 1, SSSP	11, May 9, CV	—
Blue-winged	May 2, 2, CV	2, May 4, CV	—
Tennessee	May 3, 1, Pompey Twp	37, May 10, CV-Syr	May 29, 1, Syr
Orange-crowned	May 2, 2, Syr	2, May 5, Onon Hill area	May 11, 2, Syr
Nashville	May 1, 1, DH	8, May 9, CV	May 21, 1, Pompey Twp
Parula	May 2, 10, Syr	10, May 2, Syr	May 16, 1, Labrador Pond
Yellow	Apr 27, 1, Pompey Twp	105, May 16, HIGMA	—
Magnolia	May 1, 2, Wampsville, 2, Martisco	7, May 14, CV	May 31, 1, DH
Cape May	May 2, 2, Syr	8, May 10, Syr, May 12, Syr-CV	May 19, 1, Syr
Black-throated Blue	May 1, 4, Wampsville	6, May 9, Pompey	May 17, 2, Holland Patent
Myrtle	Apr 16, 1, DH	245, May 1, DH	May 24, 7, SP
Black-throated Green	Apr 25, 1, Pompey Twp	12, May 14, CV	May 26, 1, Syr
Cerulean	May 2, 1, CV	11, May 14, CV	—
Blackburnian	May 1, 1, Oneida L	10, May 9, May 14, CV	May 26, 1, Syr
Chestnut-sided	May 1, 2, Oneida L	30, May 14, CV	May 31, 4, DH
Bay-breasted	May 3, 1, Clark Reservation	45, May 14, CV	May 24, 1, Syr
Blackpoll	May 12, 1, Pompey Twp	17, May 23, Pompey Twp	Jun 17, 1, DH
Pine	Apr 16, 1, SSSP	2, Apr 26, SSSP	—
Palm	Apr 28, 6, DH	6, Apr. 28, DH	May 10, 1, DH
Ovenbird	Apr 30, 1, Utica	6, May 14, CV	May 24, 1, SP
Northern Waterthrush	Apr 30, 2, Tully	3, May 14, CV	—
Louisiana Waterthrush	Apr 18, 1, Pompey Twp	2, May 23, Pompey Twp	—
Mourning	May 9, 2, CV	5, May 16, HIGMA	—
Yellowthroat	May 1, 1, Wampsville	17, May 14, CV	—
Wilson's	May 10, 1, DH, 1, CV	singles only	Jun 5, 1, SP
Canada	May 7, 1, Pompey	6, May 13, Oneida L	May 30, 3, DH
American Redstart	Apr 30, 1, DH, 1, Tully	30, May 30, DH	May 31, 9, DH

(FGS) and at Utica (J. & B. Barker). Louisiana Waterthrush: new site at Morgan Hill Rd in Fabius Twp at 1600' elevation May 26 (JWP). See chart below for profiles of the migration of regular vireo and warbler species.

Note that 24 of the 28 warbler species sufficiently common to be charted were reported by May 3, very early; similarly, note that high tallies are nearly uniformly before May 15, with impressive numbers of Parula, Yellow, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted Warblers. Conversely, later warblers (Blackpoll, Wilson's) were very low in numbers with the exception of Tennessee Warbler, and departures prior to Jun 1 were the order of the day; in fact, only Blackpoll and Wilson's have Jun departure dates. The validity of departure dates of late migrants at DH and SP dunes is enhanced by 1) the lack of any suitable habitat to hold species that might be considered possible breeders in proximate adjacent areas (e.g. Black-throated Blue Warbler in the Tug Hill Plateau), and 2) the lack of cover, which permits observers to check out obscure warblers and those furtive greenish females which make late spring a prelude to confusing fall warblers.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr Apr 30 (late) 3 DH (FGS); max 220 May 16 DH (GS). Eastern Meadowlark: heavy flight in late Apr—182 Apr 17, 90 Apr 21, 60 Apr 23, 162 Apr 26, 60 Apr 30, all DH—late for such large numbers. Redwinged Blackbird: despite huge Mar tallies, still passing DH in 10,000s thru Apr—15,000 Apr 6, 14,000 Apr 9, and 45,000 Apr 21 (GS) and in 100s thru May with over 500 May 16 and 75 May 31. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** singing imm male May 16—Jun 13 CV (FGS, W. Brosseau, R. Long) 1st report since 1968. Baltimore Oriole: heavy spring flight—169 at DH May 10 (GS) and 60 CV May 14; still passing DH Jun 19 (GS). Rusty Blackbird: max 300 Apr 12 HIGMA (FGS); dep May 16, 1 Three Rivers Game Mgt Area (P. Merritt). Common Grackle: over 4000 Apr 9 HIGMA and a whopping 10,000 Apr 21 DH (GS). Brown-headed Cowbird: Apr max over 6000 Apr 21 DH (GS), the day of a huge and late icterid flight—? how do these late cowbirds do in establishing territories and successfully parasitizing small passerines?

Scarlet Tanager: arr May 1, 1 DH (S. Hosler); spring max 14 May 14 CV (FGS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 1, 1 near Oneida L in a great passerine wave; max 38 May 14 CV. Indigo Bunting: 2 very early individuals—Apr 23 Syr (M. L. Estoff) and Apr 25 N Syr (KS); these late Apr birds are undoubtedly parallels to the late Apr Nova Scotia overshoots, as other migrant and breeding area birds did not arrive until May 11–16.

Evening Grosbeak: huge flight in late Apr and May with several over-100 days; max 940 May 8 DH (GS); still passing May 31, 6 DH (GS). **HOUSE FINCH:** pair repeatedly present in Apr at Syr (D. Dawley, mob); also present in Oakwood Cemetery Syr Apr 11, a male (FGS), subsequently a pair (mob); Apr 18 a male N Syr (KS) not seen thereafter. Common Redpoll: heavy feeder use with 492 per 100 feeders reported on B. Burt's feeder survey the 1st week of Apr; also heavy Ontario lakeshore flight with 534 Apr 9, 85 Apr 21, 140 Apr 23, all DH (mob); dep May 16 (record late) 8 Nine Mile Pt (JWP). Pine Siskin: 390 May 8 DH (GS) and 200 May 14 CV (FGS); numerous lesser flocks last 3 weeks of May with dep May 31, 1 DH (DC, GS). American Goldfinch: heavy May flight, particularly along L Ontario, flocks of hundreds in various woods about Syr—"The world has changed to Goldfinches", and 2500 May 16 DH (GS). Red Crossbill: 1–4 per day to May 22, residue of the 1969–70 winter flight. White-winged Crossbill: only reports are Apr 1–8 near Oswego (CW) and 3 Apr 25 Pratts Falls in Pompey Twp (DC).

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr May 9 (late) 1 CV (CGS); max 5 late May Syr Airport (DC), Henslow's Sparrow: arr May 1 (very late) 1 Boliver; several new and older enlarged colonies noted in the Port Byron–Montezuma area, where the abandoned farmland is now in the 3rd year of rank grass and weed growth. Vesper Sparrow: unreported until Apr 9 (very late) 1 Pleasant L (FD); max 20 Apr 11 Pompey (DC).

Slate-colored Junco: poor spring flight, especially along L. Ontario—most counts 10–40 per day with only one over 100, i.e. 150 Apr 16 SSSP; dep May 3 (very early) Syr (RJS). Tree Sparrow: dep May 2, 2 Oswego (G. Maxwell) and 1 Pompey (DC). *CLAY-COLORED SPARROW*: 1 in vigorous song Oakwood Cemetery May 13 to end of period (R. Artus fide B. Burtt), 1st record since 1966. Field Sparrow: arr Apr 4, 1 Pompey (FLF); max 18–20 per day in 1st week of May, very late but reported by several observers.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Apr 29, 1 CV (JWP); max 120 May 9 Syr (JWP); numerous small flocks thru 1st 3 weeks of May with dep May 24, 1 SP dunes (FLF, RJS). White-throated Sparrow: poor spring flight—10–50 per day with the only 100 count May 3 CV and Syr (JWP); rapid decline after May 12 with dep May 20, 1 Pompey (FLF). Fox Sparrow: max 5 Apr 16 SSSP; dep Apr 25, 2 Pompey Twp (FLF). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 May 2 Lakeland (FGS) is early. Song Sparrow: no major influx in early Apr but daily counts heavy, 30–35 regularly. Snow Bunting: usually only scattered individuals in early Apr but flocks of over 300 in Pompey Twp with a huge flock of 1500 there Apr 5 (FLF, DC) and 300–500 the next day; dep Apr 23, 60 DH (FGS) late for so large a number.

417 South Main St., North Syracuse 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

April and May presented us with some unusual weather. The last part of April there were two days when temperatures were in the mid 80s and the following week in May snow fell in the Watertown area, although it was gone the following day. April was in general a wet and cool month with May running a close second in coolness and wetness.

The list of unusual birds includes Harris's Sparrow—a Regional first, Hooded Warbler and a Golden-winged Warbler nest near the 1969 location.

Abbreviations: ED—El Dorado; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; THWMA—Tug Hill Wildlife Mgt. Area.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; NCBC—North Country Bird Club; RJW—Robert & June Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 May 29 ED. Horned Grebe: April 9. Pied-billed Grebe: April 13. Shoveler: pair April 11 PRWMA. Wood Duck: April 15. Canvasback: pair April 3 Fishers Landing (DG). Common Merganser: May 16 ED. Red-breasted Merganser: May 16 ED.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 4 April 20 near Millsite Lake feeding on woodchuck (JB); 1 April 25 Rutland Hollow (DG). Broad-winged Hawk: small migration 35+ April 25 PRWMA (NCBC); 12 in migratory flight near Limerick April 25 (DG). Rough-legged Hawk: April 11 near Theresa. Osprey: May 2 Rutland Pond; 2 active nests in Redwood-Theresa Lake District (JB). Sparrow Hawk: April 11 everywhere (migration) (DG).

Common Gallinule: April 24. Semipalmated Plover: May 16 ED (DG). Killdeer: seem very prevalent for 2nd year in a row (JB). Woodcock: adult with three young seen on May 22 (JB). Common Snipe: April 15. Upland Plover: April 28. Spotted Sandpiper: April 26. Solitary Sandpiper: May 21. Greater Yellowlegs: April 16. Least Sandpiper: May 16 ED (DG). Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 29 ED. Common Tern: May 4. Black Tern: May 3 PRWMA. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 16 near Henderson Harbor (DG).