

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND C. G. SPIES

The main ornithological effect of the long snowy winter was a very late spring. Mrs. L. G. Barnum wrote from Dart Lake in the Adirondacks "We had no spring! We went from a record-breaking winter of 375 inches of snow into summer. Also a record for ice going out of Big Moose—May 13th." And in the "Lesser Wilderness", the Tug Hill, nearly a foot of rotting snow still lay on the Salmon River woods emitting a damp chill into the evening air of May 16th. This was the date of Region 5's "Big Run"; therefore, obviously some of the high counts for that date are artifacts of special thorough coverage, but the Derby Hill tallies by G. A. Smith reflect the good "wave" day that it truly was. May 16th also brought more rarities—Snowy Egret, a record Glossy Ibis count, Prairie Warbler—than a horde of birdwatchers could likely ever find without meteorological assistance.

The reader will note below far more citations of late than early arrivals, as well as several notably late but high maxima. Of related interest is the number of occasions when an arriving species was first noted in as many as four different places in the region on the same date, indicating massive immigration, e.g. Chimney Swift, House Wren, Wood Thrush. However, a few species arrived anomalously early, Yellow Warbler being an outstanding example. There were also many late departures. Since Derby Hill has been watched in June, it will be possible to document June departures for several passerines which definitely do not nest on that brush-covered bluff!

The best hawk and/or passerine migration days at Derby Hill were April 1, 3, 9, and 12, and May 1, 2, 15, 16, and 18. Inland, the best May passerine day was the 12th, when unfortunately Derby was not covered for comparison.

It has been an exceptionally fine season for viewing numbers of certain water birds—Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, white herons, Glossy Ibis, and Snow and Blue Goose. Of the last two, Snow Goose was outstandingly widespread but Blue far more numerous. Since waterfowl counts demonstrably fluctuate greatly from day to day (e.g. Oldsquaw) and sometimes even within a day, low maxima as of Common Merganser should be evaluated conservatively unless we achieve more thorough coverage of April waterfowl areas.

Fewer hawks, 14339, were recorded at Derby Hill this year (on 39 days of coverage) than in any year since 1965. The consensus of observers is that the chief reason for the 1971 low is neither a drop in hawk populations nor the lessened coverage (good hawk days tend to be selected for by Derby watchers!) but the prevailing northwest winds. When winds were south at Syracuse and even just a few miles inland from Derby Hill (at Atkinson Rd in Richland Twp where J. W. Propst observed some marked hawk flights) the famous "lake effect" still produced a "sea breeze" at Derby. This April the "lake effect" was due not only to cold Ontario water but often also to pack ice blown into Mexico Bay by any lakewide northwest wind.

Due to high water levels, it was a normal season for most of the tall grass- and mud-frequenting shorebirds, but a poor one for the beach plovers and sandpipers.

The greatest rarities of the season were Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, European Widgeon, Tufted Duck, Piping Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

Our thanks to Dorothy Crumb, Carolyn Davis, Ferdinand LaFrance, Jean Propst, Gerry Smith, and Dick Sutliff for sharing their time, chart-reading skill, and observations on the season at five arduous compiling sessions.

Abbreviations: BL—Beaver Lake Nature Center and vicinity in Lysander Twp; Gam—Ninemile Creek valley and vicinity near Camillus; DH—Derby Hill, Sage Creek, and immediate vicinity on L Ont near Texas; FH—Fair Haven Beach State Park,

Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; FR—Fox Ridge area of Montezuma Twp; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; NM—Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center near Lakeview, and vicinity; NP—Ninemile Point on L Ont near Lakeview, and vicinity; NPT—northwestern portion of Pompey Twp; Oak—Oakwood Cemetery and vicinity in Syr; Onon—Onondaga; Ont—Ontario; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp and vicinity near Phoenix; SCF—Sixmile Creek floodlands and vicinity, near Pennellville; SP—North Pond, South Pond, and the sand dunes on L Ont near Sandy Pond; SRF—Seneca R flats in Montezuma Twp; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park and vicinity near Port Ont; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; WBOC—W Branch Onon Creek and vicinity near S Onon.

Observers (initials appear after unusual observations): B. Barnum, V. Billings (VB), A. M. Carter, G. & M. Church, D. W. Crumb (DWC), P. A. DeBenedictis (PAD), E. M. Freeborn (EMF), F. J. LaFrance (FJL), G. R. Maxwell, B. & S. Peebles (B&SP), J. W. Propst (JWP), M. S. Rusk (MSR), F. G. Scheider (FGS), K. A. Slotnick, G. A. Smith (GAS), C. G. Spies (CGS), M. J. Thomas, J. & E. VanDresar, R. & C. Wernick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: arr Apr 2, 1 Onon L; max 37 May 9 DH and 35 May 8 FH are low and late. Red-throated Loon: the first spring reports since 1964 are 1 Apr 4 Brewerton (FGS), 1 Apr 10 Brewerton (FGS), 1 Apr 25 BL (M. J. Thomas), 1 May 8 DH (FJL), 2 May 9 DH (CGS). Red-necked Grebe: arr Apr 9, 1 Oswego; max 7 May 2 SP; dep May 9, 2 DH (CGS) record late; an unprecedented spring flight with at least 29 birds reported, but all within the L Ont drainage; in addition to L Ont and Oneida L, reports from Oneida R, 2 stream-flooded agricultural areas, and 1 from Dart L near Big Moose. Horned Grebe: good flight with max 140 Apr 10 Brewerton, Bridgeport; 45 Apr 12 NM to DH; 15 May 6 Woodman Pond near Hamilton; dep May 9, 1 Woodman Pond. Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 Apr 8 FH, Oswego; 9 Apr 4 Bridgeport. Double-crested Cormorant: arr Apr 24, 2 DH; max 5 May 13 DH, NP; only other reports 1 May 1 and 1 May 17 both DH—a record spring sight.

Great Blue Heron: max 21 Apr 2 DH; other concentrations were 12 WBOC and 11 Jamesville Reservoir both Apr 11. Green Heron: arr Apr 29, 1 PSS; max 13 May 16 DH to SP. *CATTLE EGRET*: only reports were 9 May 12 near FH (D. Sweeting fide B. P. Burt) and 1 May 27 Utica (M. Stooks, VB). Common Egret: only reports were 1 May 5–6 near Texas; 1 May 12 WBOC; 1 May 17 near Texas; 1 May 21 Oswego—slightly better than average. *SNOWY EGRET*: 1 report, 1 May 16 SCF (FGS), the 5th regional record. Black-crowned Night Heron: only reports were 1 May 6 Cicero Swamp; 1 May 22 near Onon Hill; 1 May 28 PSS—very low but slightly better than last few springs. Least Bittern: arr May 20, 1 SP; max 2 May 23 SP and 2 May 27 Utica—seems low. American Bittern: arr Apr 10, 1 NPT; max 6 DH to SP and 6 DH, PSS, both May 17, involving at least 11 birds. *GLOSSY IBIS*: an unprecedented flight, (the largest before being 11 in 1962)—1 Apr 24–25 SCF (FGS et al); 2 May 15 near Fabius (K. Cameron fide DWC); 13 near Texas (EMF et al) and 13 SCF (FGS) both May 16 probably 2 different flocks; 4 May 16 near Utica (J. & B. Barker), and 4 May 17 SP (GAS) possibly part of the flock from near Texas.

Whistling Swan: only reports were 1 Apr 22–23 SRF (FGS et al); 4 Apr 22 Oriskany (VB) the latter unusual because of the few reports this year from L Ont drainage. Canada Goose: extremely high numbers with max 28900 Apr 4 SRF (GAS); other noteworthy counts 10100 Apr 16 BL (GAS); 5484 Apr 11 Oneida L (MSR); the max at DH, 5400 May 1, seemed late by comparison and probably represents a major exodus from SRF and vicinity. Brant: only reports were 61 May 16 SCF, Onon L; and 46 May 28 Brewerton, SP—better than average. Snow Goose: max 200 Apr 4 SRF (GAS) record high count; numerous scattered reports from Seneca R areas; also 1 Apr 1 DH; 7 Apr 24 near Schuyler (VB); 2 May 2 DH; dep May 4, 1 Churchville near New London (B&SP). Blue Goose: max 600 Apr 4 SRF (GAS) record high

count; only report away from Seneca R areas was 1 Apr 1 DH; dep Apr 25, 1 near Cato.

Malard: max 296 Apr 4 N Onon Co, NW Madison Co. Black Duck: max 320 Apr 8 SRF; HIGMA. Gadwall: max 24 May 16 FR, very good count, but unreported E of L Ont drainage. Pintail: max 600 Apr 15 PSS and; eastward, 100 Apr 22 Oriskany. Green-winged Teal: max 200 Apr 15 PSS; 200 Apr 22 SRF, HIGMA, BL, SCF, and; eastward, 30 Apr 22 Oriskany. Blue-winged Teal: max 75 Apr 22 SRF, HIGMA, BL, SCF; 18 May 4 Churchville; and 12 Apr 23 Jacksonburg near Herkimer. EUROPEAN WIDGEON: 2 reports, 1 ad male Apr 17 Bolivar near Chittenango (CGS, MSR) and 1 ad male Apr 22-23 HIGMA (FGS et al) are different birds and the 4th and 5th regional records, including the 1st away from HIGMA. American Widgeon: max 40 Apr 24 DH and 36 Apr 11 Oneida L—very low. Shoveler: arr Apr 1, 1 Brewerton, late; max 12 Apr 26 SCF, a little low; unreported E of L Ont drainage. Wood Duck: max 15 Apr 13 DH, SSSP, low.

Redhead: max 52 Apr 3 FH and 20 Apr 4 Brewerton, better than any spring counts since 1968; unreported E of the L Ont drainage; dep May 16, 2 DH. Ring-necked Duck: max 100 Apr 23 Jacksonburg; 94 Apr 17 Bolivar, near Kirkville, SRF, low—better than last year but only about a third of usual spring count; dep May 6, 4 HIGMA. Canvasback: max 80 Apr 8 FH, Oswego DH, and 51 Apr 5 Onon L, Brewerton, low as in 1969 and 1970; dep 2 DH and 1 Cross L both Apr 25, seems early. Scaup: max 5500 Apr 9 DH to NP (GAS) and at least 3000 Apr 1-15 DH (GAS) are very high, the former apparently more than twice any previous spring count. Greater Scaup: max 5000 Apr 1 DH (FGS); unreported E of L Ont drainage; dep May 15, 1 DH. Lesser Scaup: max 308 Apr 16 BL, and; eastward, 8 May 2 Woodman Pond; dep May 16, 2 DH. TUFTED DUCK: 1 ad male Apr 8-9 NP (FGS et al) is the first regional report. Common Goldeneye: max 1200 Apr 1 DH and 577 Apr 11 Oneida L are good; none reported E of L Ont drainage; dep May 13, 8 Shore Oaks near Demster. Bufflehead: max 90 Apr 25 DH, SSSP, NM, and; eastward, 8 May 6 Woodman Pond. Oldsquaw: as in 1970 a spectacular 1-day flight at Oneida L of 530 Apr 10, up from 1 Apr 9 and down to 2 Apr 11; noteworthy were 4 May 6 Woodman Pond; dep 1 Onon L and 6 NM both May 16. White-winged Scoter: max 360 May 9 DH and 300 May 18 DH, good counts, the latter date for such high numbers; none reported E of L Ont drainage; dep May 28, 1 SP. Ruddy Duck: max and dep 6 May 16 Onon L; at least 10 birds reported, better than any spring since 1967, but none reported E of L Ont drainage. Hooded Merganser: max 61 Apr 25 SRF, high; and eastward, 4 Apr 23 Jacksonburg and 4 Apr 21 Dart L. Common Merganser: max 219 Apr 4 Cross L near Baldwinsville (210), Lakeport (9); and 70 Apr 11 Oneida L, low; max E of L Ont drainage only 8 Apr 23 Jacksonburg. Red-breasted Merganser: max 78 Apr 11 Oneida L; and eastward 2 Apr 4 Hinckley are very low.

HAWKS—OWLS: All non-L Ont hawks reports are summarized below. Turkey Vulture: singles only, from Camillus, NPT, near Lebanon, Eaton, Herkimer. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles only, at HIGMA, Oak, Brewerton, Dart L. Cooper's Hawk: singles only, Labrador Pond near Apulia Station, Oak, near Eaton. Red-tailed Hawk: max 17 Apr 16 N Clay Twp. Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 reports—singles at TRGMA and Cicero, 2 at New Hartford. Broad-winged Hawk: max 5 May 2 PSS, Peat Swamp near Clay and 5 May 24 Dart L. Rough-legged Hawk: max 14-15 Apr 5-16 N Clay Twp, NW Cicero Twp. Bald Eagle: only reports were 1 Apr 28 Syr and 1 May 17 Paler no, both ad. Marsh Hawk: max 4 Apr 27 near Lebanon. Osprey: arr Apr 4, 1 HIGMA; max 6 near Lebanon and widespread in 1s and 2s. Peregrine Falcon: only report 1 Apr 26 SCF (JWP). Pigeon Hawk: only reports were singles Apr 22 SCF (FGS); Apr 26 Holland Patent (J&EVanDresar); May 2 Peat Swamp (JWP); May 2 Sauquoit (VB); May 5 Deansboro (VB). Sparrow Hawk: max 14s Apr 23 and 25 both N Cayuga Co, N Onon Co, S Oswego Co.

See chart for DH summary.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION — SPRING 1971

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date range (no. of days species seen)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Date range of 90% of the birds</i>	<i>Peak day(s)</i>	<i>No. on peak day(s)</i>
Turkey Vulture	Apr 1–May 18 (13)	124	Apr 3–May 2	Apr 3	42
Goshawk	Feb 26–May 2 (16)	98	Feb 26–Apr 20	Apr 3	26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar 14–June 20 (22)	1460	Apr 9–May 2	Apr 9	410
Cooper's Hawk	Mar 12–May 16 (18)	165	Mar 15–May 1	Apr 3	55
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb 26–Jun 20 (30)	2121	Mar 14–May 1	Apr 3	558
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 12–May 18 (19)	560	Mar 15–Apr 9	Apr 3	277
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 24–Jun 20 (14)	8785	Apr 24–May 5	May 2	4517
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb 26–May 10 (22)	188	Mar 12–May 2	Apr 12	42
Golden Eagle	Apr 3–May 5 (4)	6	—	Apr 3 & May 1	2
Bald Eagle	Apr 12–May 1 (2)	5	—	May 1	4
Marsh Hawk	Feb 26–May 18 (24)	388	Mar 15–May 2	Apr 1 & Apr 9	92
Osprey	Apr 9–Jun 2 (12)	95	Apr 28–May 10	May 1	34
Peregrine Falcon	May 1 (1)	2	—	—	—
Pigeon Hawk	Apr 3–Apr 29 (5)	7	—	Apr 3	3
Sparrow Hawk	Mar 7–Jun 20 (26)	335	Mar 19–May 1	Apr 1	104
all hawks	Feb 26–Jun 20 (34)	14339	Apr 1–May 5	May 2	4752

Rufed Grouse: no count above 4 and mostly singles, seems low. Bobwhite: 2 reports, 1 dead reportedly part of a successfully overwintered covey near Pompey Center Apr 4; 1 May 16 near Lamson. Gray Partridge: unreported since Jun 1970 through repeatedly sought by FJL. Ring-necked Pheasant: max 9 Apr 25 N Cayuga Co, N Onon Co seems very low but the species still seems to be widespread. Turkey: 2 early Apr HIGMA (R. Loveless) the 1st record since Jan 1967 except for regular but unconfirmed reports from bowhunters there. Virginia Rail: arr May 1, 1 near Bolivar, late; max 4 May 27 Utica; 3 May 23 Peat Swamp. Sora: arr Apr 30, 1 Oswego; max 3 May 16 FR, Snake Swamp near Oswego; 3 May 27 Utica. Common Gallinule: arr Apr 18, early, 1 Bolivar; max 10 May 6 and 16 Holland Patent; 5 May 27 Utica. American Coot: max 53 Apr 3 SRF, FH is high.

Sernipalmated Plover: arr May 18, 1 NM, late; max 50 May 27 NM. *PIPING PLOVER*: 2 May 17 SP (GAS) the 1st spring record since 1961. Killdeer: max 107 Apr 1 DH; 100 Apr 12 Holland Patent, the latter noteworthy because of its location. Black-bellied Plover: more unprecedented reports were 1 Apr 9 New Hartford (VB) and 1 Apr 22 SCF (FGS); in contrast there were only 2 other reports in the period, 1 May 11 Syr Airport and 3 May 27 NM. Ruddy Turnstone: arr May 16, 2 FH, 1 NM, 1 SP; max 6 May 23 SP, low.

American Woodcock: max 14 May 16 S Oswego Co, N Onon Co; 9 Apr 27 near Vernon, good. Common Snipe: max 40 Apr 18 NM, SCF; 40 Apr 12 Holland Patent; 30 Apr 17 Bolivar; 27 Apr 23 Jacksonburg, all very good. Upland Plover: arr Apr 18, 2 near DH; max 5 May 1 near Fernwood; 5 May 2 DH; 3 May 16 Rome. Spotted Sandpiper: arr May 1, 1 N Syr, very late; max 24 May 27 SP, NM; 6 May 28 Utica. Solitary Sandpiper: arr May 2, 1 DH, late; max 14 May 15 Armstrong Rd in Camillus Twp. Greater Yellowlegs: mar 14 Apr 25 SRF; dep May 27, 1 NM (JWP) ties 1969 record late date. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Apr 15, 1 SCF, late; max 13 May 4 Churchville. Knot: only reports 1 NM and 24 SP both May 27. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Apr 13, 9 SCF; max 45 Apr 22 SRF to Bolivar; 43 Apr 15 PSS; 42 Apr 25 SCF; dep May 27, 1 imm NM (JWP) record late. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr May 21, 1 Onon L; max 3 May 27 NM, SP is high. Least Sandpiper: arr May 1, 2 NM; max 58 and 56 May 22 and 26 Onon L (PAD) are record high spring tallies. Dunlin: arr Apr 24, 5 SCF, early; max 85 May 27 SP, NM is good. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr May 20, 5 SP; max 30 May 27 NM, high, only reports. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr May 22, 1 NM; max 43 May 27 NM is low. Sanderling: arr May 17, 1 SP; max 4 May 27 SP; dep May 28, 4 SP, early. *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 1 May 6-7 Armstrong Rd (FGS et al) 3rd spring record.

Glaucous Gull: 3 reports of singles, Apr 8 FH, Apr 12 DH, Apr 25 DH. Great Black-backed Gull: max 9 May 17 SP. Herring Gull: max 300 Apr 22 SRF. Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Apr 8 FH. *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: 1 report, 1 ad May 27 SP (FGS) is continuing a trend, begun in Jun 1969, of increasing frequency of occurrence Bonaparte's Gull: arr Apr 4, 1 Bridgeport, late; max 40 May 13 Oswego (JWP) a record high spring count. *FORSTER'S TERNS* 1 breeding plumage May 18 SP (FGS, MSR) 2nd regional spring record. Common Tern: arr May 1, 5 Brewerton, late; max 400 May 13 Oswego; 330 May 16 DH to SP are good. Caspian Tern: arr & max Apr 22, 5 NM, early; dep May 17, 3 SP, also early. Black Tern: arr Apr 24, 1 HIGMA; max 50 May 23 FR, HIGMA.

Rock Dove: birds passing DH, apparently migrants, noted Apr 1-May 16 with max 4 Apr 9. Mourning Dove: max 35 Apr 1 DH; 22 Apr 4 HIGMA; 15 Apr 1 Holland Patent. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported only from Cam with arr May 11 and max 2 May 29. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 16, Fayetteville; max only 2s, but at 3 different locations; a total of 12 birds reported by 20 observers. Screech Owl: reported only from Oswego, TRGMA, PSS, and nest near Eaton. Great Horned Owl: reported at 22 sites, from virtually every part of the region, with definite nesting at 4 sites near Eaton and at single sites near Frankfort, near Bridgeport, near S Onon, and in a

Great Blue Heron rookery near Pompey. Snowy Owl: only report, dep Apr 5, 1 near Lakeport (B. Willey, fide E. M. Starr). Barred Owl: singles only, from Cam, near Lycoming (new); Toad Harbor Swamp near W Monroe (new); Dart L. Saw-whet Owl: only reports were 1 heard calling Apr 4-5 Cicero Swamp, and another bird found dead about 1 mile N of there Apr 5, 1st reports from that area since Mar 1968.

GOATSUCKER-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr and max May 16, 3 near Constantia and 2 N of Jewell; only other reports singles at Cicero Swamp and SSSP. Common Nighthawk: arr May 7, 1 DeWitt, early; max 15 May 28 S of NP seems good. Chimney Swift: arr May 2, 3 DH, 1 near Pompey Center; 1 Onon Hill, late; max 140 May 26 Syr, good. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr May 6, 2 New Hartford; max 6 May 16 DH, SSSP, low. Belted Kingfisher: max 10 May 2 DH. Yellow-shafted Flicker: arr Apr 9, 2 DH, very late for 1st migrant reports; max 352 Apr 13, 300 May 2, 233 May 6 all DH; and 60 May 16 HIGMA. Pileated Woodpecker: widely reported, but no more than 2 per day, from at least 24 sites from most parts of the region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 7 May 16 HIGMA, FR; reported from near Tully, above Peppermill Gulf near S Onon, WBOC, Onon Hill, Cam, Whiskey Hollow near Jacks Reef, 2 sites near Bridgeport, near Fruit Valley. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr May 13, 1 NP, late; max 9 May 18 DH and 5 May 19 Old Fly near Pompey, high. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Apr 2, 1 Watervale near Pompey Center, somewhat early; max and major influx Apr 13 with 19 SSSP; 10 Oak; 2 Bridgeport; 2 Pratts Falls near Pompey Center; dep May 21, 1 Oak. Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker: almost no migrants noted.

Eastern Kingbird: arr May 2, 5 DH and 1 Oswego; max 84 May 16 DH, SSSP (GAS), best spring count since 1959. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr May 8, 1 Oswego, late; max 16 May 16 Cam; PSS; TRGMA. Eastern Phoebe: max 23 Apr 13 DH, SSSP. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 3 reports 1 May 12 NPT; 1 May 24 TRGMA; 1 May 25-26 Oak. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** 1 May 23 TRGMA (FGS) is the 1st modern regional record. Trail's Flycatcher: arr May 16, 1 near SW Oswego (webeo song) and May 18, 1 Onon Hill (fitzbew song) a little late; fitzbew max 7 May 31 Onon Hill; webeo max 2 May 24 TRGMA and 2 May 29 Labrador Pond; 16 birds, not distinguished by song, May 29 TRGMA; Cam seems very good. Least Flycatcher: arr May 10, 1 Cam, very late; max 30 May 12 Oak; Whiskey Hollow. Eastern Wood Pewee: arr May 13, 1 NP; max 16 May 29 TRGMA; Cam. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only reports are May 29, 1 Labrador Pond and 1 NPT, late.

Horned Lark: max 400 Apr 8 near Pompey Center; 250 Apr 16 near Pompey; 250 Apr 18 near SCF, with a sharp decline after Apr 18; spring peak never before noted in Apr. Tree Swallow: max 7305 Apr 27 NM; 3500 Apr 22 SCF. Bank Swallow: arr Apr 18, 1 SSSP; max 600 May 18 SP, low. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Apr 12, 1 DH, early; max 20s Apr 25, May 8 both SSSP to NM, low. Barn Swallow: arr Apr 1, 1 DH early; max 1000 May 2 DH, very low. Cliff Swallow: arr Apr 29, 1 DH, ties record late; max 45 May 18 DH, very high. Purple Martin: arr Apr 7, 1 near E Syr; max 35 May 28 SP.

Blue Jay: 1st migrant noted DH Apr 29, 1; max 2325 May 18 DH. Common Crow: max 3000 Apr 3, 1200 Apr 1, both DH; and 1000 Apr 1 Oswego. Black-capped Chickadee: max 30 May 6 Cam—little noticeable migration. Tufted Titmouse: only reports 1 Apr 12 Cam, 1 May 6 at different site Cam; 1 May 25-26 Oswego. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10, 11, Apr 12, 13, both DH, low. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6s May 15 DH; May 16 Pratts Falls, Highland Park near Fabius. Brown Creeper: max 20 Apr 25 SSSP; 11 May 6 HIGMA; 9 Apr 17 Onon Hill; 8 May 1 New Hartford; only an average flight but widespread geographically. House Wren: arr May 2, 2 NPT; 2 Onon Hill; 1 Oak; 1 Syr, late but numerous on arrival; max 15 May 22 Stone Rd near Mexico, NM to SSSP, low. Winter Wren: arr Apr 4, 1 Onon Hill; max 11 Apr 11 NPT; Pratts Falls, good. Carolina Wren: only report 1 Apr 10-15 near Oneida (B&SP). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 11, 1 Cam, late; max 8

May 23 Peat Swamp. Short-billed Marsh Wren: only report 2 May 30 near Marcy (VB).

Mockingbird: only reports, 1 early Apr Skaneateles; 1 passing DH May 18; 1 May 20 SP. Catbird: arr May 10, 2 Oak, very late; max 40 May 16 near Lycoming to Pleasant Point near Demster, good. Brown Thrasher: arr Apr 18, 1 Dart L, an average date for the central part of the region but remarkable in Adirondacks, especially since the next date noted was Apr 26, 1 Oswego; 1 WBOC; max 10 Apr 27 Oak, good. Robin: max 1100 May 2 DH; 947 Apr 28 DH, extremely late for the max, which usually occurs by Apr 10; 500 Apr 10 Holland Patent, the max there, is typical. Wood Thrush: arr May 8, 4 Cam, Onon Hill; 2 Holland Patent; 1 NPT; 1 Shore Oaks, late; max 50 May 16 Pompey Twp; 41 May 23 SSSP, SP, very high. Hermit Thrush: arr Apr 13, 1 SSSP; max 18 May 5 Oak, NPT, good; dep May 16, 1 SP (GAS) seems late. Swainson's Thrush: arr May 12, 3 Oak; max 8 May 27 Stone Rd, NP, SSSP, low; dep May 29, 1 Pratts Falls. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr May 12, 11 NPT (DWC) early; max 3s May 20 Onon Hill; and May 27 Oak; dep May 28, 2 near Lycoming. Veery: arr May 9, 1 Oak, late; max 28 May 23 SSSP, SP; 23 May 13 NP. Eastern Bluebird: max 24 Apr 1 DH, better than any tallies of the past 6 years. 6 Apr 2 Holland Patent is also good.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Apr 21, 2 near Liverpool; max 5 May 15 Cam, low; 1 SSSP May 8 was N of any known Region 5 breeding areas; 1 May 26 is late for a migrant. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Apr 3, 9 Onon Hill, a little late; max 70 Apr 25 SSSP is good; dep May 10, 2 Oak. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Apr 11, 1 NP; max 75 May 6 NP to SSSP, good; dep May 28, 1 SP, very late. Water Pipit: max 275 Apr 29 near Pompey Center is high; dep May 16, 3 W of Pratts Falls; 3 NM; 61 DH. Cedar Waxwing: max 550 May 18 DH—another big year for them. Northern Shrike: dep Apr 6, 1 NPT. Loggerhead Shrike: max 4 Apr 18 near Fruit Valley, NM, near Demster. Starling: max 5287 Apr 1 DH and 793 Apr 4 N Onon Co, NW Madison Co seem very low—or perhaps they're just ignored.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: arr May 11, 3 Cam; 1 S Bay near Cicero Center, late; max 7 May 13 Cam, low. Solitary Vireo: arr Apr 29, 2 Rams Gulch near Jamesville; max 5 May 16 Cam, TRGMA, Onon Hill; dep May 28, 1 Oak, late. Red-eyed Vireo: arr May 12, 4 Oak, Cam, late; max 35 May 28 Oak, good. Philadelphia Vireo: arr May 12, 1 Syr, a little early; max 2 May 26 Oak; dep May 28, 2 Oak; total of 14 reported by 20 observers. Warbling Vireo: arr May 6, 2 Cam, record late; max 17 May 25 Cam.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr May 2, 1 Stone Rd, a little late; max 6 May 12 Cam, low. Golden-winged Warbler: arr May 8, 1 Cam; max 10 May 15 Cam. Blue-winged Warbler: arr May 12, 1 Cam, late; max 3s May 15 Cam; May 17 near Pompey Center; May 25 near Nedrow. Brewster's Warbler: only 2 reports, 1 May 27 Mexico Twp; 1 May 29 Fabius Twp. Tennessee Warbler: arr May 8, 1 SSSP and 1 Cam; max 60 May 28 Oak, high. Orange-crowned Warbler: only 2 reports, 1 May 14 Onon Hill and 1 May 19 Cam. Nashville Warbler: arr May 2, 1 Oak; max 20 May 16 N Onon Co, N Cayuga Co, S Oswego Co—best spring for them since 1965; dep May 24, 1 Oak. Parula Warbler: arr May 8, 1 PSS; max 20 May 24 Dart L and 9 May 16 DH are very good; dep May 29, 1 Labrador Pond (DWC, PAD) ties record late date. Yellow Warbler: arr Apr 20, 2 Oswego (G. R. Maxwell, C. Wernick) record early date, and Apr 25, 1 SCF; max 313 DH, SP and 58 HIGMA, FR both May 16. Magnolia Warbler: arr May 11, 1 S Bay, late; max 20s May 19 Cam and May 22 Stone Rd, NM to SSSP. Cape May Warbler: arr May 9, 3 Holland Patent; max 20 May 16 Onon Hill, TRGMA, good; dep May 28, 1 Oak (PAD) record late. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr May 6, 1 NP, late; max 15s May 12 Oak and May 16 TRGMA, Cam, Onon Hill. Myrtle Warbler: arr Apr 18, 2 FH; max 145 May 13 Onon Hill; dep May 28, 2 Oak, very late. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr May 1, 1 BL; max 33 May 14 Onon Hill, Cam.

Cerulean Warbler: arr May 12, 4 Cam; 1 S Bay; max 11 May 29 Cam, low. Blackburnian Warbler: arr May 9, 2 S Bay, late; max 20 May 24, Dart L. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr May 8, 1 DH, a little late; max 12 May 28 Oak, low. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr May 12, 1 Oak; max 20 May 19 Cam, low; dep May 29, 3 Cam. Blackpoll Warbler: arr May 16, 4 DH, SP and 1 Cam; max 53 May 27 SP, NM, near Lycoming (FGS) 2nd highest spring count ever. Pine Warbler: only 2 reports, 1 Apr 25 Shore Oaks and 2 May 1 SSSP, poor. **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: 1 female May 16 Pratts Falls (M. J. Thomas et al) 1st record since May 1968. Palm Warbler: arr Apr 29, 1 DH, late; max 5 May 6 Pleasant Point, a little low; dep May 18, 4 DH. Ovenbird: arr May 12, 4 Oak, Cam and 1 S Bay, record late arr; max 25 May 22 Stone Rd, NM to SSSP (PAD) ties record high. Northern Waterthrush: arr May 2, 1 Oak, a little late; max 10 May 22 Shore Oaks, good. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Apr 27, 2 Cheese Factory Gulf near Pompey Center, late; max 4 May 16, Cheese Factory Gulf, Pratts Falls; 2 May 6 New Hartford, good. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: 1 May 19 Cam (FGS, DWC, JWP) is the 1st regional record. Mourning Warbler: arr May 16, 2 Cam, TRGMA; 1 Labrador Pond; max 4s May 19 and 26 Cam. Yellowthroat: arr May 2, 1 near Hamilton; max 20s May 16 Pompey Twp; May 22 Stone Rd, NM to SSSP; May 27 SP, NM, near Lycoming. Yellow-breasted Chat: only reports 1 May 15 Onon Hill (EMF); 1 May 24 TRGMA (JWP)—1st May reports since 1968. Hooded Warbler: only reports 1–4 May 18–20 near Lycoming; 1 May 22 Shore Oaks—best spring in at least the past 6 years. Wilson's Warbler: arr May 14, 1 Onon Hill; max 8 May 28 SSSP, SP; dep May 29, 2 Cam; 2 Onon Hill. Canada Warbler: arr May 14, 1 Onon Hill, late; max 12 May 28 SSSP, SP, low. American Redstart: arr May 8, 3 SSSP, late; max 84 May 16 DH, SP, good.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 2, 1 DH; max 120 May 18 DH is low in comparison with most other years at DH. Eastern Meadowlark: max 900 May 2 DH (FGS) record high count, and more than 2 weeks later than past peaks. Redwinged Blackbird: max 97500 Apr 1 DH (CGS, GAS, FGS) appears to be a record high tally (Previously 80000 in Apr 1961); 1500 Apr 17 near S Onon is also good. **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: 2 reports of ad males, May 19 Morrisville (A. Carter) and May 22 near Kirkland (M. Stooks fide D. W. Ackley) are the only modern records E of Onon Co except for a nesting in Sherrill in 1963. Baltimore Oriole: arr May 3, 1 Oak, a little late; max 655 May 16 DH, SP (GAS) record high count, but the only other big day at DH was May 18 with 232. Rusty Blackbird: max 2800 May 2 DH (FGS) is nearly 3 times any previous spring counts (1000 in 1959 and 1960 at Peat Swamp); away from DH some good counts are 500 Apr 17 Toad Harbor Swamp and 500 May 2 Peat Swamp, PSS; dep May 18, 2 DH. Common Grackle: max 14627 Apr 1 DH and, away from L Ont, 4000 Apr 4 HIGMA, FR is good. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 5000 May 2 DH is low. Scarlet Tanager: arr May 11, 1 Oak, late; max 25 May 16 DH; 18 May 16 TRGMA, Cam; and 12 May 15 Cam are good.

Cardinal: max 24 Apr 12 S Onon vicinity. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 5, 1 Holland Patent; max 61 May 18 DH (FGS) is a record high count. Indigo Bunting: arr May 14, 1 Holland Patent, late; max 8 May 28 Cam. Evening Grosbeak: 1st passing DH Apr 28, 1; a very light flight with a small but widespread movement along L Ont May 6, with 3 Oswego, 17 NP, 5 DH; reported in Apr from Tully, NPT, Brewerton, Eaton, New Hartford, Holland Patent, Dart L. Purple Finch: 1st migrants Apr 4, 2 Holland Patent; max 48 May 2 DH, better than average. **HOUSE FINCH**: max 8 Apr 22 Oak; other reports from the Oak vicinity of Syr; also 1 Apr 26 NPT (DWC). American Goldfinch: 1st noticeable influx Apr 2, 100 New Hartford; B. P. Burt's feeder survey 1st week of Apr showed 690 per 100 feeders, 5 times the norm for Apr; max 3000 May 18 DH (FGS) a record high count. Red Crossbill: 2 May 16 Baldwinville (FGS) is the only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Apr 5 Morrisville, early; max 19 May 7 NPT.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Apr 1, 1 DH; max 40 Apr 18 Oswego Co. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr May 16, 1 near W Monroe, very late; only other report 1 May 22 near Volney—a poor spring. Henslow's Sparrow: arr May 1, 1 DH, late; max 12 May 16 near W Monroe, very good. Vesper Sparrow: arr Apr 9, 5 DH, late; max 33 SSSP to NP and 30 near Pulaski, both Apr 13. Slate-colored Junco: max 260 Apr 13 SSSP to NP; 200 Apr 14 Dart L; 100 Apr 10–15 Holland Patent are good; dep May 29, 1 NPT, late. Tree Sparrow: max 52 Apr 10 NPT, low; dep May 7, 3 NPT (DWC) ties record late; and May 6, 7 Dart L. Chipping Sparrow: arr Apr 13, 1 Oak and 1 Brewerton, early; max 55s May 12 NPT; May 15 and 18 DH. Field Sparrow: arr Apr 5, 1 Brewerton; max 16 May 8 Cam, Onon Hill is low. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Apr 11–12 Brewerton (MSR, CGS, FGS) may have wintered nearby; next report is 3 May 3 Oswego, average arrival date; max 42 May 16 NP to Pleasant Point; dep May 29, 1 NPT, late. White-throated Sparrow: arr Apr 12, 1 Cam and Apr 13; 1 Oak; max 100 May 13 Oak; dep May 17, 1 Oak, early. Fox Sparrow: max 19 Apr 23 Oak, best spring flight since 1959; dep May 8, 1 Cam ties record late of 1959. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr May 12, 1 Syr; max 7 May 16 FH, high; dep May 29, 1 NPT (DWC) record late; total of at least 14 seen by 20 observers, very good. Swamp Sparrow: arr Apr 13, 1 NPT; max 25 May 16 Peat Swamp, PSS, TRGMA. Song Sparrow: max 550 Apr 13 SSSP to NP (CAS), ties spring record set in 1965 but occurred about 2 weeks later than normal; 100 Apr 10 Holland Patent and 50 Apr 10–30 Dart L are also very good. Lapland Longspur: only reports 1 Apr 3 Syr Airport; 2 Apr 8 DH; 1–2 Apr 14–18 W of Pratts Falls; 1 May 2 DH (FGS) record late—a poor flight. Snow Bunting: max 1000 Apr 11 W Stockbridge Hill near Merrillville, a record late date for the max; dep Apr 18, 4 W of Pratts Falls.

242 W. Calthrop Ave., Syracuse 13205

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERAINE

Spring 1971 got off to a very late and much delayed start in this part of the State as a result of an unusually cold April. Temperatures of 8°F in the Adirondacks and 15–20° in the St. Lawrence Valley occurred as late as mid-April.

Precipitation was below normal for April with frequent rains in late April and a threat of flooding in the Black River Valley. Snow cover was still 20 to 30 inches deep as of April 30th in the western Adirondacks and Tug Hill Plateau. Snow depth at Highmarket in Lewis Co. was still over 20 inches as late as May 5th, and night temperatures were below normal for almost the entire month of May.

Abbreviations: ED—El Dorado; LVWMA—Lakeview Wildlife Management Area and natural beach; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; WHWMA—Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; MH—Michael Hughes; NL—Nick Leone; MW—Mark Wolfe.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon. 2 nesting May 30 Mud Lake (NL). Cattle Egret: 2 near Philadelphia Apr 30, not seen next day (FC). Brant: 23 May 25 flying west PRWMA (MW). Snow Goose: 1 May 5 in flock of Canada Geese PRWMA (MW). Cadwall: pair Apr 14 PRWMA. White-winged Scoter: thru end of period 40+ May 16 ED. Ruddy Duck: 1 pair Apr 30–May 1 PRWMA.