

Winter finches presented some impressive spring return flights with Common Redpolls dominating April (2,3,4,5,6,8,9) and Evening Grosbeak and Pine Siskin dominating May (2,3,4,5,6,7,9). Both crossbills were noted but only in small scattered groups with no defined pattern evident. Indigo Bunting counts seemed low (2,5,9) but they may be increasing in 3; this paucity, like that of the cuckoos and Common Nighthawk, may be an expression of the severely delayed migration. Both Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows are reported as reduced in 3 and 5 and possibly decreased in 8. However, both White-crowned (4,7,8,9) and Lincoln's Sparrows (2,3,4,5,7,8,9) were reported in excess of the usual numbers.

On a negative note, the Monk Parakeet is still present in Region 4 and one was seen in Region 5; the last thing we need is a Starlingesque outbreak of a fruit-eating pest like that. Nesting attempts by this species, after being photographically documented, should be promptly destroyed.

Rarities for the season were widespread and varied — Eared Grebe (2), Louisiana Heron (3), the second one in three years, Wood Ibis (2), Stilt Sandpiper (2,3), Ruff (2,3), Black-headed Gull (5), Little Gull (3), Black-backed Woodpecker (6), Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (7), Common Raven (6), White-eyed Vireo (2,3,8), Prothonotary Warbler (9), Yellow-throated Warbler (3), Connecticut Warbler (9), Blue Grosbeak (3), and Clay-colored Sparrow (5,6,7) plus many hibernal survivors — Harlequin Duck (2), Varied Thrush (5), Black-headed Grosbeak (5), Dickcissel (9), Hoary Redpoll (3,6,8), and Harris' Sparrow (5).

The interesting geographical extremes of the state — Regions 1 and 10 — were not available for summary. My compliments to the editors of Regions 2 thru 9 for their reports and their continuing emphasis on counts of common species and careful documentation of the rarer ones.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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As noted in the winter report, spring approached this region slowly and reluctantly this year, and it was almost mid-April before winter's grip seemed to really fall away. Not that there were no migrants in earlier, indeed the flight of waterfowl, delayed by ice in March, came on strong and lasted longer than usual, but many early migrants were not really common until considerably later than usual.

A particularly good flight occurred from the 16th to 23rd of April and again in the last few days of the month when a warm spell brought out lagging vegetation and produced a wave of new arrivals, some of which were unusually early.

May produced relatively little new until the 7th when one of the best birding days of the spring brought out both birders and rarities. None-the-less, cool nights continued to hamper leaf development and many insect eating species were slow to arrive. Myrtle Warblers were still the dominant species in mid-month and apparently reached a peak on the late date of May 23 as noted below. Some species of late migrants were still scarce at the end of the month, and it appeared that the northward flight would continue well into June. The total list of birds observed was very long and complete including almost all birds to be expected here as well as several rarities. Numbers of most species were quite good but with scattered exceptions which are hard to explain.

Thus in summary it seems accurate to describe the whole season as hesitant and fitful—not unusual for spring in this climate. In spite of this or perhaps because of it, birding was often good. Some of the rarities lingered to give many observers a chance to find them and many days produced good lists with both early and late migrants overlapping each other. Interesting and unpredictable are two words which help to describe the season. The spring as a whole was cool and north winds predominated to keep warm fronts from reaching this region repeatedly.

Precipitation was spotty but at the end of May was almost exactly normal for the year. Water levels were high along the lake and continued to rise to the point where it seems certain they will be even higher this summer than last, thus making shore birding prospects look dim for later on this year.

Positive tendencies for the season: (1) An improved showing of most ducks and geese. (2) Continued good population of Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks. (3) A fine shore bird flight with several unusual species included. (4) Some improvement of certain rather depleted species; i.e. Bluebird, Red-eyed Vireo, Bobolink. (5) Rather good warbler flight—evidence of continued improvement for most species. (6) Increasing numbers of most resident sparrows notably Savannah but also including: Chipping, Field, and Vesper.

Negative tendencies for the season: (1) Only fair numbers of most herons. (2) Rather poor numbers of Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. (3) Very few migrant Bald Eagles. (4) Scarcity of both Cuckoos, Nighthawks, and Indigo Buntings—perhaps only reflecting a delayed flight. (5) Poor numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Short-billed Marsh Wrens and Pipits. (6) Apparent drop in Yellow-throated Vireo after a very good year in 1971.

Rarities: Wood Ibis, European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Ruff, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddocks Bay; CL—Canadice Lake; DEP—Durand Eastman Park; HL—Hawk Lookout; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitou Beach; SA—Shore Acres; WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers Cited: HA—H. Atkinson; MC—Michael Carlson; RC—Robert Clarke; J & JC—Jack and Jean Connors; GD—Gertrude Davis; RD—Robert Dobson; KD—Kay Davis; D—PD—Darrow and Patty Dutcher; JE—Jean Esley; JF—John Foster; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; JM—J. Madden; m.ob.—many observers; J&TM—Joe and Thelma McNett; RO—Richard O'Hara; BO—Bernard Olin; NP—Neil Prosser; MS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; TT—Tom Tetlow; DW—Doris Wilton.

LOONS—DUCKS: The highest count of Common Loons, 75, was quite low, and they were again generally scarce as in other recent springs. Red-throated Loons were even more scarce with 3 being the best count reported. Red-necked Grebe was absent entirely in April, and only a few were noted in early May. An Eared Grebe was present at BB on May 2 (MC). Horned Grebes were common but a bit late in reaching maximum numbers this year.

The only Double-Crested Cormorant noted was at MB on May 29 (WCL). The Cattle Egret appeared on April 29 near BB and was subsequently seen off and on until May 13 (DW&KD). A Common Egret was at BB on April 30 (J&JC). Black-crowned Night Herons were scarce near Rochester again this spring.

The best record this year and a new species for the region was a *WOOD IBIS* seen by many observers after being found on May 7 by (DW&KD) at a small farm pond west of BB. This spectacular bird remained only for several hours and was last noted flying west about noon.

Two late Whistling Swan were present at SA from May 12-29 (JE et al). There were 2 Brant at the same place on May 12. A flock of 12 Snow and 6 Blue Geese was seen near Kendall on April 16 (WCL).

Most regular species of ducks seemed to occur in good numbers. Exceptions were the Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser which seemed less common than in most recent springs. On the other hand Black Ducks, Gadwall, Baldpate, Buffhead and Ruddy Ducks were more common this year, and in general, the trend of water fowl numbers still seems to be upward.

Among the better records in this group were: European Widgeon April 16-18, Hamlin (WCL et al); *HARLEQUIN DUCK* 1-3, MB, all of April and until May 15 (WCL et al); White-winged Scoter 500, May 7 WL (RD); Surf Scoter 2, May 14, Webster (J&TM); Ruddy Duck 16, BB, April 18 (NP et al).

HAWKS—OWLS: Our local hawk flight was good but not as spectacular or perhaps not as well observed as it sometimes has been. On several days in May, Broad-winged Hawks were noted passing over at great heights, and many no doubt escaped detection entirely. Some of the better records are as follows:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Turkey Vulture	April 18	26	HL	NP et al
Broad-winged Hawk	April 18	1,552		WL
Golden Eagle	April 18	1 imm.	Hamlin	RO et al
Golden Eagle	April 18	1 ad.	Webster	WL
Golden Eagle	May 3	1	Webster	WL
Peregrine Falcon	April 1	1	Webster	WL DM
Peregrine Falcon	April 18	1	Webster	WL
Pigeon Hawk	April 1	2	Webster	WL

All other regular species were noted but not in unusual numbers this year.

The local Bald Eagle nest was again active by mid-April, but the birds were noted only off and on, and no one seems certain whether or not eggs or young birds were present this year. Both Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks seem present in good numbers, but all other species are absent or very limited as breeding birds.

Ruffed Grouse was noted nesting in Kendall on the Lake Ontario plain (RC). This is a new breeding station for the region.

More than 20 species of shorebirds were reported, mostly from the flooded fields along the lakeshore west of BB. Most unusual of these was the Ruff (Reeve) present in Hamlin April 23 to May 2 (m.ob.). A single Knot was at Hogan Point Road near BB on May 25 (GP). Pectoral Sandpipers were common and a good count of 200 Least Sandpipers was made at Curtis Road, Parma, on May 14 (B&GP). An early Dowitcher was noted on April 22 at HL (TT), and the best count was 20 at SA May 14 (WCL). An unusual spring record of Stilt Sandpiper was one bird, April 18 in Parma (RO). Two Wilson Phalarope were present from May 6 to 21 on Chase Road, Parma (GP), and a single Northern Phalarope was seen at CL on May 30 (JF&TT).

Both Iceland and Glaucous Gull (2) were still at Summerville on May 7 (RO). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were present by the thousands on some days this spring, but the large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls usually noted briefly were missed and only small groups were reported this year.

Both Cuckoos were still scarce at the end of May, possibly denoting only the late season noted previously. All regular species of owls were seen except Barn and Barred but not in unusual numbers. A pair of Great Horned Owls had 3 young pretty well grown in late May at IC (m.ob.). Only a few Long-eared Owls and Saw-whet Owls were reported along the lakeshore this spring and Short-eared Owls continued scarce there also. The last Snowy Owl was at BB on April 23 (GOS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: A few Whip-poor-wills appeared as migrants in May as usual and several were heard calling in Bergen Swamp where it is a regular breeder. Nighthawks were still very scarce at month's end with some active observers having seen none at all. No large numbers of Chimney Swifts or Humming-birds were reported, but both were regular if a bit tardy.

Woodpeckers seem to be thriving recently, and all continued to be noted in good numbers except for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which was quite uncommon this year. Perhaps the persistent cold in much of April and early May caused a brief and hurried movement through this region.

An early Eastern Kingbird was seen near the lakeshore on April 30 (WL&MS). An early record of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was one on May 14 at HL (J&TM). This bird later appeared in unusually good numbers for a few days at month's end. Neither Olive-sided Flycatcher nor Acadian Flycatcher was noted this spring.

The swallow flight was not particularly impressive this year and was also delayed for most species. An exception was a rather early Bank Swallow noted at BB on April 15 (BO). Cliff Swallows were particularly scarce. Local nesting populations nevertheless appear to be at good levels for all resident species of swallow.

Blue Jays were still migrating in numbers at the end of May and seem to increase yearly. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, as it was all winter, remained remarkably scarce. There was virtually no sign of any return flight of this rather erratic species.

Winter Wrens were quite common on several days in late April and early May and singing birds were noted at breeding stations in May also. Only one record was received of Short-billed Marsh Wren, a single bird in Mendon on May 21 (B&GP). Long-billed Marsh Wrens still seem to be low in numbers, too, although cool weather may have inhibited song enough to exaggerate this impression.

Hermit Thrushes showed up better than for several recent years, but neither Swainson's nor Gray-cheeked Thrushes was well-reported. Two Wood Thrushes on April 23 were very early HL (J&JC et al). Robins made an excellent showing this spring and Bluebirds seemed to be slightly better also but far below what we considered normal 25 years ago.

Pipits were absent most of the time and no good numbers were seen all spring. An unusual total of 9 Loggerhead Shrikes from WL is noteworthy April 16 (TT).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Two records were received of White-eyed Vireo, the first on May 7 in DEP (D&PD) and the second on May 16 in Webster (J&TM). This bird seems to have become somewhat more regular if still rare, in recent years. Reports of Yellow-throated Vireos were infrequent, but the others seemed normal in numbers. This represents some improvement for Red-eyed Vireo which, while never uncommon, was certainly down in numbers in recent years.

Warbler reports were quite good if not outstanding this spring. The flight was slow in getting underway, although two early Cape May Warblers were at IC on April 30 (RD) and the uncommon Pine Warbler was seen the same date at HL (WL&MS). By May 7 all the early species were widespread including Black-and-white, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue, Palm, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush. Even though foliage development was re-

tarded, most species had arrived by the following weekend — May 13-14, and were feeding at low levels where they were easily observed. The third weekend found a very wide range of species present from Myrtles to Blackpolls, and perhaps the heaviest flight may have occurred on May 23 when one observer noted "thousands" of migrants at SA with Myrtle Warblers still predominant. At the end of May, there were indications that the flight would continue on into early June.

Some of the more noteworthy records include:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	21-27	1	Island Cottage	JT et al
Orange-crowned Warbler	13	1	Durand Park	HA et al
Orange-crowned Warbler	13	1	Manitou	WCL
Black-throated Blue Warbler	14	35	Lakeshore	B&GP
Myrtle Warbler	23		Shore Acres	JE
Yellow-breasted Chat	27	1	Clarkson	RC

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: In the blackbird group the Bobolink and Baltimore Oriole appear to be prospering. While some of the other species such as Grackle and Cowbird may have reached a saturation point, neither of these two attractive songsters appeared to partake of the improvement until very recently, at least in this region. Let's hope it continues. Rusty Blackbirds, on the other hand, made a rather poor showing locally.

A Western Meadowlark was heard singing in Parma on April 18 (RO) but apparently did not remain. A bird of this species did, however, remain in Webster at least from May 13 to 21 (WL et al). A pair of Orchard Oriole again appeared at Carlton, near Point Breeze, on May 21 and was still present at the end of the month. This is the same area where the birds nested last year (WCL). A single Orchard Oriole was also seen at BB on May 29 (GP). At the end of the month Indigo Bunting was still scarce, and this bird appears at a low ebb just now.

The excellent showing of winter finches spilled over into spring as expected. This did not include either the Pine Grosbeak or Red Crossbill, however. The last Redpolls reported were 3 birds in Greece on April 18 (NP). The last White-winged Crossbill was noted April 9 in Webster (J&TM). A count of 300 Evening Grosbeak on May 14 along the Ontario lakeshore indicates a large movement (B&GP), and 200 Purple Finches at Dansville on May 7 seems also to represent a peak movement of this rather erratic species (TT). Pine Siskins were still visiting at least one feeder in Penfield the last week of May (GD).

A single Oregon Junco was noted in Webster from May 19-21 (WL et al). Slate-colored Junco was very common at about this same time. Three Tree Sparrows in Livonia on May 12 were late (JM).

Resident sparrows in general seem well-distributed and normal in numbers. The Savannah Sparrow in particular is apparently prospering after some rather poor years recently. Fox Sparrows were not too common this spring, but this is another species, like the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which normally reaches a peak here during the period in April when weather conditions were unfavorable to good flights of nocturnal migrants this year. Lincoln's Sparrows were present in good numbers for a brief time in mid-May with a peak count of 6 on the 14th (B&GP).

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