

(LC). White-crowned Sparrow: May 3 Endwell (LB); May 27 Owego (D,ML), the only report after May 19. Fox Sparrow: 6 Apr reports — last date Apr 15. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 and 24 Vestal (EH), 1 banded each date; the only reports. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 25 Candor (DW).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Rain, rain, rain, rain, rain, — and if it didn't rain, it snowed in this second wettest spring of record. The first two weeks of April had virtually continuous rain and every local wetland flooded over. The last half of April had some clear spells but of such brief duration that hawk migration observations were literally a washout. Unseasonably warm but still wet weather in late April accelerated foliage markedly and early May birding was a squishy walk thru a leaf-rich, warbler-poor jungle. Cold weather and storms (eight inches of snow May 18 in southern Madison and Oneida Counties) in mid-May stalled the migration completely; this was followed by extensive rain to late May. May 29-31 saw the only true burst of spring warbler migration for the entire season — and then suddenly it was summer. The very high water levels of Lake Ontario precluded any concentration of gulls, terns, or shorebirds at low lying areas such as Sandy Pond, Salmon River, or Selkirk Shores State Park; however, gull concentrations on the breakwaters at Oswego and Fair Haven were quite impressive. The extensive flooding of many farm fields with the creation of abundant habitat may explain in part the diffuse reports and low tallies of migrant shorebirds.

Positives for the season include 1) very good numbers of Common Loon with many late birds; 2) a spurt of Cattle Egret; 3) good numbers of Canada Geese and a superb spring Brant flight; 4) good hawk flights, primarily in March and May with some record tallies (q.v.), except for a diffuse and protracted Broad-winged Hawk movement; 5) high counts and late dates for the larger gulls including "white-wingers"; 6) very good late May flight of flycatchers; 7) heavy Lake Ontario migration of swallows (q.v.); 8) excellent warbler counts for some species though virtually every species was late in arrival and in date of peak numbers; 9) a huge flight of Evening Grosbeak and Goldfinch with lesser numbers of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Red Cross-bill; and 10) a heavy movement of White-crowned Sparrow.

Negatives include 1) poor numbers of all grebes; 2) very poor duck flight, especially so in dabblers and Aythya with virtually no late May residua; 3) a miserable shorebird migration, both in numbers and in variety; 4) very poor counts of Bonaparte's Gulls and all terns; 5) poor May migration of cuckoos; 6) paucity of caprimulgids, Chimney Swift, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird until late May; 7) very low tallies of Winter and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird; 8) incredibly low counts on all local Warbling Vireos; 10) very low spring counts of Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Chipping, Fox, and Lincoln's Sparrows and all the "meadow" sparrows.

Rarities for the spring period were many and include some exciting modern regional firsts — Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Western Meadow-lark.

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Locality abbreviations — CV — Camillus Valley south of Camillus; DH — Derby Hill near Texas; FH and FHBSP — Fair Haven Beach State Park; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; LOL — Lake Ontario littoral, the shoreline or the littoral woodlots (between DH and Oswego) that serve as migrant landbird traps; LSB — Little Sodus Bay; Oak — Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; Onon L — Onondage Lake; PSS — Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; SRF — Seneca River flats near Montezuma; Syr — Syracuse; L — lake; R — river; mob — multiple observers.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: arr Apr 3 Oswego (Wernick); max 152 DH to Oswego (PAD); loons present in small numbers thru May with dep date May 29. Horned Grebe: very poor flight — max only 18 LOL Apr 28 (GAS); dep date May 20, 1, Oswego R (FGS). *GREAT CORMORANT*: adult in breeding plumage May 19-20 Oswego Harbor (MSR, mob), first modern regional record — the species is ordinarily unknown away from salt water. Double-crested Cormorant: max 9 (7 ad, 2 imm) May 22 Oswego Harbor (DWC, GAS); very high numbers for spring.

Great Egret: 3 singles Apr 12–May 5, LOL and Pennellville (mob). *CATTLE EGRET*: max 17 Apr 20 near Texas (W. F. Minor, GAS); 1–4 there to May 15 but none reported away from that sector. Least Bittern: 1 May 22 PSS is the only report — like the Black-crowned Night Heron and certain raptors, fast disappearing locally. *GLOSSY IBIS*: 1 only Apr 29 NMP Power Plant ponds (MSR, CGS).

Canada Goose: max 3350 SRF and HIGMA Apr 14; also 1615 Apr 28 Beaver Lake; exodus by May 5 with few cripples in last week of May at Onon L. Brant: max 700 May 19 LOL (GAS), best spring tally to date; singles to May 31. Snow and Blue Goose: very poor flight — only major numbers 25 Snows Apr 30 over Oswego (C. Wernick). Gadwall: very poor spring flight — max only 16 Fox Ridge Impoundments May 13 (MSR). American Green-winged Teal: the only dabbling in decent numbers this spring — max 116 Apr 14, combined tally FH and Clay Swamp; flocks of 20-80/day noted to third week of April, singles thereafter. *EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL*: drake Apr 13-14 Clay Marsh (FGS, mob), third record this spring. American Widgeon: terrible spring flight — max only 72 Apr 14 Clay Marsh, SRF and HIGMA; last May 13 Fox Ridge Imp. (MSR).

Redhead: max 60, Apr 1, combined tally Oneida and Beaver Lakes: Ring-necked Duck: very low numbers with max a mere 91 Apr 14; last, 4, May 6 (early dep) Pompey (DWC). Greater Scaup: dep date May 19, 3, Pompey (DWC, PAD). Lesser Scaup: dep date Apr 29, (early) 6, LSD. White-winged Scoter: heavy concentration at warm water effluent of NMP Power Plant the first half of May — max there 900 May 10; last noted May 24, 2, LSB. Common Merganser: max 57 Fox Ridge Imp., Apr 14, late for such numbers.

HAWKS-OWLS: Derby Hill raptor tallies are in chart form below — italicized numbers are record high tallies, impressively so in Goshawk and Golden Eagle. *SWAINSON'S HAWK*: adult light phase bird well seen by 11 observers Apr 22 — first modern regional record (see subsequent field note). Peregrine Falcon: total of three birds passed, all in Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: low numbers throughout — 1–9/day Common Gallinule: quite scarce — max only 5 May 5 LOL and PSS (PAD): most counts only 1–

2/day. The spring shorebird flight, both the mid-April and late May sections, was late in arrival, incredibly low in numbers, and miserable in variety. See following chart for arr, numbers, and dep dates.

	Arr date	Peak date	Seasonal total	Dep Date
Turkey Vulture	Mar 15,3	71 Apr 21	239	May 16,4
Goshawk	Mar 1,1	88 Mar 29	397	May 10,1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar 6,1	909 Apr 21	3913	May 29,1
Cooper's Hawk	Mar 6,4	40 Mar 29	257	May 10,1
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar 1,21	535 Mar 11	4080	May 29,9
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 3,1	113 Mar 25	542	May 10,1
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 16,24	1947 Apr 22(Ad) 3515 Mar 29 (imm)	10,767	into June
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 3,9	26 Mar 11	215	May 6,1
Golden Eagle	Mar 15,1	4 Apr 22	19	Apr 23,2
Bald Eagle	Mar 5,1	2 Mar 29	6	Apr 22,1
Marsh Hawk	Mar 3,5	50 Mar 29	436	May 28,1
Osprey	Apr 8,3	70 May 1	226	May 29,4
Merlin	Mar 25,1	2 Apr 21	7	May 2,1
American Kestrel	Mar 3,1	65 Apr 8	449	May 29,1

Note how extraordinarily scarce Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin and all species of "peep" sandpipers were this spring.

Upland Sandpiper: very scarce — max only 3 Apr 22 and May, 8, both DH; many former local breeding sites unoccupied this spring (cf. Red-headed Woodpecker). Rare shorebirds include a WILLET May 5, NMP Power Plant (DWC,-PAD), the third spring regional record, and a male WILSON'S PHALAROPE May 16 at the same place (MSR, CGS).

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: after a wretched winter showing, well above average spring numbers — max 7 Glaucous and 2 Iceland May 5 at NMP Power Plant (PAD); last Glaucous May 28, 1, Oswego Harbor (MSR,CGS). Great Black-backed Gull: spring max 32 Apr 28 Oswego Harbor; 4 to 11/day thru May at Oswego and/or the NMP Power Plant; high water prevented any accumulation of loitering gulls, terns, or shorebirds at Sandy Pond. *LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*: adult in breeding plumage at LSB Apr 12 (PAD,FGS). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: over 2000 Herring and 15,000 Ring-billed Gull LSB Apr. 12; both present in thousands thru early May (unusual for Herring); sharp drop-off in numbers in second week of May; residua of immatures on LOL but scarce away from there. Bonaparte's Gull: in contrast with the other gulls, very scarce — max only 4 Apr 14, HD; last one May 29 (late) LOL (GAS). All local tern species were late in arriving and very poor in numbers.

Both cuckoos extraordinarily scarce thru May — only 3 single Yellow-billed and 5 Black-billed reported for the entire month from 18 observers.

Great Horned Owl: new sites at Columbia Center (VB), east end of Clay Marsh (FGS), and Fair Haven Beach State Park (MSR). Barred Owl: new location near NMP May 26-27 (DWC, J. Linehan).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: arr May 3 Oswego (CW), scarce thru May with only 1-2/day at known stations. Common Nighthawk: arr May 16 (late) PSS (CGS); very scarce thru May with local max a mere 4 May 30; migrant max 90 (high) passing DH May 30 (GAS). Chimney Swift: arr Apr 21 1, Oswego (CW); local swifts in very low numbers (10 to 20/day); migrant max 190 May 28 at DH (GAS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr May 8 DH; max 16 (low) May 28 DH; away from LOL, very scarce with 1-2/day.

	Arr date	Maximum	Dep date
Semipalmated Plover	May 17,4, NMP	9, May 28, Onon L	May 30,4, Onon L
Ruddy Turnstone	May 19,2, LSB	4, May 28, Oswego	May 28,7, Oswego
Solitary Sandpiper	Apr 15,1, DH	32, May 8, DH	May 22, 1, Pompey
Greater Yellowlegs	Apr 4,1, SRF	13, Apr 29, Clay & PSS	May 19, 1, Pennellville
Lesser Yellowlegs	Apr 11,1, SRF	17, May 9 & 12 NMP	May 30,1, Onon L
Pectoral Sandpiper	Apr 15,15 Pennellville	43, Apr 29, SRF	Apr 29,43, SRF
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 28,1, Onon L		May 30,1, Onon L
Least Sandpiper	May 3,2, NMP	36, May 17, Onon L	May 30,1, Onon L
Dunlin		6, May 19, LOL	May 28,2, Onon L
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 17,25, Onon L	25, May 17, Onon L	May 18,2, Onon L
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 22,1, Onon L	62, May 28, Onon L	May 30,46, Onon L

Common Flicker: spring max 213 DH May 22 (FGS); still passing DH May 27 (late). Red-bellied Woodpecker: modest expansion—now regular in small numbers at FH, increasing numbers at South Onondaga, CV, and Oswego. Red-headed Woodpecker: max 9 May 10 NMP—many local stations in Syr and Oneida areas abandoned this spring (D. Ackley, FGS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very scarce as migrants—max only 3 Apr 19 Syr (TD) and also Apr 22 DH; last migrant noted May 12 at CV (PAD).

Eastern Kingbird: locally poor numbers; migration max 46 May 8 DH. Great Crested Flycatcher: numbers appear up—max 10 May 24 FH, SSSP. Eastern Phoebe: max 16 Apr 15 DH. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: date range May 26 to 31, total 12 individuals for season. Least Flycatcher: arr May 3, 1 Pompey (DWC); max 14 (low) May 22 and 26, S. Onondaga, CV. Eastern Wood Pewee: max only 7 (very low) May 29 DH, PSS (PAD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: date range May 26 to Jun 4, 7 individuals involved—above average.

Horned Lark: very scarce as breeding birds now—perhaps 14 breeding sites known locally.

Swallows in general are a disaster as breeders but flight birds past DH seemed in fair numbers—Tree 1650 Apr 19 DH; Bank 989 May 28 (very late) DH; Rough-winged 28 May 5 DH, PSS; Barn 843 May 1, 815 May 7 both DH; Cliff 313 (incredible!) May 28 (very late) DH; Purple Martin 100 (low) May 8 DH.

Blue Jay: moderate May flight with max 1100 May 10, other counts 535 May 19, 725 May 22, 589 May 29 all DH. Common Crow: total in excess of 30,000 birds at DH with 28,967 in March alone—no Apr flights of magnitude noted.

Boreal Chickadee: distinct lakeshore flight—date range Apr 19 to May 5 totaling 15 individuals. Tufted Titmouse: 1 May 22 NMP is the only report—where do the wintering Titmice disappear to each spring. Brown Creeper: poor spring flight with max only 10 Apr 17 Syr (TD). Winter Wren: very scarce as migrant—1–2/day with a max a mere 5 Apr 22 NMP—are they a winter wipe-out from the South's severe snows? Long-billed Marsh Wren: very scarce—max 7 May 28 PSS—the marshes remain but the wrens are gone. Mockingbird: singles May 19 DH and May 23 Cato; a pair thru May E Syracuse (N. Killoran). Brown Thrasher: max 15 May 7 Pompey; most counts only 1–4/day. Wood Thrush: max 38 May 13 HIGMA (CGS) and 35 May 15 LOL; most counts up. Hermit Thrush: very scarce—max 7 May 15 (late) LOL—most only 1–4/day another southern snowstorm wipe-out? Swainson's Thrush: arr May 10, 1 Syr; max 31 (along with 8 Gray-cheeked) May 29 Syr. Veery: arr May 7, 2, Oneida L; max only 20 May 27 LOL. Eastern Bluebird: a disaster species locally—only 8 breeding locations known for entire region—incredibly scarce.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 10 May 13 CV; 1–6/day other areas. Golden-crowned Kinglet: mediocre spring flight—counts 20–25/day thru Apr 21, dep date May 18 (late) 1 S Onondaga. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr date Apr 15 1 NMP; max only 22 Apr 22 LOL; dep date May 22 2 Mexico Pt. Water Pipit: very scarce—max 86 Apr 1 S Onondaga (JWP) and 51 May 8 DH; last date May 19; many observers had none.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 4 individuals Apr 7–19 Syr and PSS in incursion of Cedar Maxwings; the latter had max of 130 May 28 and 118 May 29 both DH; lesser numbers of Cedars in last half of May.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: definitely up—8 May 13 CV and May 26 CV and Syr. Solitary Vireo: scarce as migrant with 1–2 day only, Apr 20 Pompey to May 31, Syr the last a record dep date. Red-eyed Vireo: main numbers arrived late with max 30 May 27 DH, NMP. Philadelphia Vireo:

date range May 14–22, total 5 individuals—very scarce. Warbling Vireo: arr May 1 Mexico Pt (late); poor numbers thru May 9 (1-7/day) except 15 May 15 LOL (PAD).

Spring Warbler data is summerized in chart form. Note the very high numbers of Golden-winged, Tennessee, Yellow Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers, and Yellowthroat and the dismal numbers of Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush.

Total of 6 Brewster's and 2 Lawrence's Warblers reported for the spring.

Rare warblers for the spring include *WORM-EATING WARBLER*, a single bird, May 12 CV (T. Harland, U. Boggs) first spring record in six years; *PRAIRIE WARBLER*, an adult male May 10, Hickory Grove (FGS); and single *KENTUCKY WARBLERS* May 12 CV (DWC, mob and May 24 Pompey (DWC, MSR, RE long), the second and third records locally.

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 6 4 DH; max 150 May 15 DH. Eastern Meadowlark: max 346 Mar 25 DH with 119 still passing there May 28—very late for such numbers. *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: 1 NMP Power Plant May 16-28 (MSR,CGS). Northern Oriole: arr May 1 one DH; max 56 May 28 DH; daily counts 4-30/day thru last three weeks of May. Rusty Blackbird: max 325 Apr 6 multiple areas (CGS); dep date May 19 2 Pompey (DWC,PAD). Small numbers of all black Icterids except Rusty still passing DH in last week of May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr May 6 1 Ilion (R&JS); max 20 both May 29 DH and May 30 Syr (late). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 2 1 each DH and Oakwood; max 25 May 13 CV and again 25 May 15 LOL. Evening Grosbeak: present in numbers (20-45/day) thru Apr and early May; massive Ontario lakeshore flight 3425 passing DH May 8; dep date May 31 6 Oak. Purple Finch: late Apr—early May flight with max 500 DH May 8; sharp drop in numbers in next five days but many local areas with established pairs. House Finch: at least 3 pairs attempted nesting this spring in Syr area. Pine Siskin: heavy late Apr—early May flight (86 May 8 DH, 41 May 31 Oswego) with leftover birds into June; mostly in evergreen plantations but at times even in dooryard conifers—maybe a few will nest hereabouts. Red Crossbill: flocks of 7–26/day reported thru May (DWC,VB,MC) and flocks of variable number noted along LOL; present into Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 23 May 12 DH, NMP; most counts only 1-10/day, amazingly scarce for a formerly common bird. Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 singles May 6-31 are the only reports—virtually wiped out locally! Vesper Sparrow: incredibly scarce—max a low 8 May 20 S. Onondaga (TMR). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: scarce as a migrant with max only 45 Apr 14 FH and HIGMA; most tallies only 6-15/day; dep date May 22 1 Syr (MC). Chipping Sparrow: a miserable spring flight with max a very low 36 May 8 DH—? perhaps another species hard hit by the severe southern snowstorms of '72-'73? White-crowned Sparrow: arr May 2 two Oswego; seasonal max 165 May 10 NMP; dep date May 27 2 DH. Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow: very sparse flight of both—max Fox 4 Apr 14 Pompey and max Lincoln's 3 May 10 NMP; many active birders saw none of either this spring. Snow Bunting: 1 Apr 29 NMP Power Plant is a record dep date (WB,FGS).

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Warbler Species	Arr date	Peak Number & Date	Dep Date
Black-and-white	May 2,2, Oak	8, May 15, DH, NMP	May 22,2, NMP
Golden-winged	May 6,4, CV	15, May 12, CV	May 24,1, FHBSP
Blue-winged	May 9,1, S. Onon	5, May 26, near Mexico	—
Tennessee	May 12,3, N. Syr	30, May 30, Syr	Jun 1,4 Oak
Orange-crowned	May 10,1, Hickory Grove	multiple singles	May 22,1, Mexico Pt.
Nashville	May 2,1, Oak	16, May 13, Oak	Jun 1,1 Oak
Parula	May 4,1, Oak	4, May 14, Oak	Jun 1,1, Oak
Yellow	May 1,1, DH	148, May 13, HIGMA	—
Magnolia	May 2,2, Wampsville	10, May 27, NMP	May 31,1, Oak
Cape May	May 5,1, Mexico Pt	32, May 22, Mexico Pt	Jun 1,1, Oak
B-t Blue	May 4,2 Oak	8, May 15, DH,NMP	May 31,3, Oak
Yellow-rumped	Apr 19,4, DH	1757, May 8, DH	May 30,3, Oak
B-t Green	May 2,2, Oak	20, May 19, DH,LOL	May 31,2, Pompey
Cerulean	May 8,1, N Syr	12, May 13, CV	—
Blackburnian	May 3,1, Pompey	15, May 27, DH,LOL	May 31,2 Oak
Chestnut-sided	May 8, 1, N Syr	10, May 27, DH to Oswego	—
Bay-breasted	May 11,1, Oak	100, May 30, Oak	May 31,2, Oak
Blackpoll	May 15,1, Oak	40, May 30, Oak	Jun 1,9, Oak
Pine	Apr 22,15, DH,NMP	15, Apr 22, DH,NMP	—
Palm	Apr 22,4, DH,NMP	4, Apr 22, DH,NMP	May 12,2 DH
Ovenbird	May 5,1, Shore Oaks	15, May 15, NMP	May 22,1 Oak
N Waterthrush	Apr 18,1 Oak	6, May 19, SE Onon Co	—
Mourning	May 13,1, HIGMA	4, May 27, DH to Oswego	May 31,1, Oak
Yellowthroat	May 6,1 Pompey	23, May 13, Port Byron	May 30,1, Oak
Hooded	May 7,1, Fish Gulf	6, May 27, LOL	—
Wilson's	May 12,1, NMP	3, May 27, LOL	May 31,1 Oak
		3, May 29, Oak	
Canada	May 10,4, Whiskey Hollow	9, May 27, DH to Oswego	Jun 1,1, Oak
Redstart	May 3,1, Mexico Pt	35, May 15 DH, NMP	Jun 1,1, Oak