

(MC). Grasshopper Sparrow: DOSC; 2 other reports, both from Broome County. Henslow's Sparrow May 3 Choconut Center (MS); BSC; TSC; no others. Vesper Sparrow Apr 8 Delhi (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: down to small summer population after May 12; 1 Apr 11 at feeder at West Davenport "with pure white head" (Mrs. H. R. More); 1 "Oregon" banded at Vestal Apr (GC). Tree Sparrow: 1 lingered at Choconut Center to May 11 (MS); BSC (Jim Briggs). Chipping Sparrow: 1 Apr 5 Delhi (MC); next reports Apr 14. Field Sparrow: regular from Apr 9. White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Apr 24 Delhi (MC), the first migrants; common from May 4 to 15; May 21 Owego (R. W. Bennett), the last. White-throated Sparrow: migrants in numbers from Apr 14 to May 11. Fox Sparrow: good numbers to Apr 25; BSC (David Ciganek), the only report after May 10. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 May 11 Sher (CB); 1 banded May 17 and another May 20 Vestal (EH). Swamp Sparrow: Apr 13, 2 in Oneonta area (MD, KW) and 2 or 3 singing at WP (MS).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

F. G. SCHEIDER

A surge of southerly winds in early April triggered a spectacular raptor migration (q.v.) and gave promise of relief from March's extended and extensive winter. Unfortunately rain and persistent north and northeast winds in mid-April and again in late April made for a slow month and May was little better. Cold, clear weather and north winds in the first third of May produced minimal migrant movement and what few migrants did show up were in scant numbers. The middle third of May was more cold weather, much rain (the second wettest May on record), and tremendous winds, none southerly, but despite this, produced a few impressive waves of later warblers. Even late May was cold—again with rain and persistent adverse winds, so cold that insect life was severely retarded and many arboreal species even then were noted groundfeeding and insect repellents were not required throughout May. As judged from both comments and counts, both cuckoo species, certain flycatchers, particularly Empidonax, most vireos, many local warblers, and Indigo Bunting did not arrive on territory until well into June.

Positives for the spring include 1) a good Canada Goose flight; 2) a good but late raptor migration; 3) good numbers of certain species of flycatchers (q.v.); 4) a tremendous but brief swallow migration; 5) advancing numbers of Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Mockingbird; 6) good counts of migrant kinglets; 7) a surge in certain local breeding birds—House Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Oriole, Chipping Sparrow, 8) good, and in some cases, impressive, numbers of later migrant warblers; 9) heavy but late flight of Icterids; and 10) increased numbers of Cardinal and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and veritable swarms of American Goldfinch.

Negatives include 1) a dismal dabbling and diving duck flight, especially poor in Aythya; 2) a minimal spring shorebird flight, both for the mid-April and the late May species 3) reduced counts on all local tern species; 4) few cuckoos and even fewer Ruby-throated Hummingbird; 5) reduced tallies for locally breeding swallows; 6) reduced numbers of certain, usually early, migrant warblers—Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird; and 7) marked reduction in virtually all sparrows, notably in Savannah, Vesper, White-throated, Fox, Lincoln's, and Swamp, and even in the normally ubiquitous Dark-eyed Junco.

Rarities for the season are Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Little Gull, Common Raven, Worm-eating, Prairie, and Kentucky Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviated localities—DH—Derby Hill near Texas; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; LSB—Little Sodus Bay at Fair Haven; NPT—northern Pompey Township; Onon L—Onondaga Lake; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores Park near Port Ontario; SRF—Seneca River flats north of the town of Montezuma; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinville.

Initialed observers—WB—W Brosseau; GC—G Church; DWC—DW Crumb; PAD—PA DeBenedictis; TR—T. Dittrich; JMP—JW Propst; TR—T Riley; FGS—FG Scheider; GAS—GA Smith; CW—C Wernick.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 30 May 5 LOL; present to the end of period. Red-throated Loon: 1 May 16 Delta L (Peebles) is most unusual as spring birds are usually found on Ontario, occasionally Oneida L. Red-necked Grebe: 1 only for the season—May 5 (late) Skaneateles L (TR). Horned Grebe: max 450 Apr 2 Onon L, a record spring tally; last noted Apr 30 two DH. Pied-billed Grebe: present as breeders only at Utica, Floyd, and Fox Ridge—very scarce.

Great Egret: max 4 May 19 Scott Swamp, Pond Hundred, and Fox Ridge (PAD, WB); total of 7 for the period—up slightly. *CATTLE EGRET*: 1 May 14 near Texas (DWC), only report. *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: an ad Apr 22 DH (HH Axtel, mob) and another ad, ? same bird) Utica Marsh Apr 25 (M Stocks, V Billings). Black-crowned Night Heron: total of 6 for the spring for all observers—Apr 21—May 30.

Canada Goose: max 18,000 Apr 17 Beaver L, Scott Swamp, and Stevens Pond (JWP); exodus 6000 Apr 21 over DH, rather early. Brant: 2 Onon L May 18 and 5 on ponds near Eaton (GC); none from LOL. Snow Goose: total of 4 individuals Apr 3 to Apr 26, very scarce.

Mallard and Black Duck: max 160 Mallard Apr 9 Oneida L and 85 Black LSB, SRF Apr 6, very poor. Gadwall: a spring disaster duck—max a mere 7 Apr 11 Scott Swamp. Pintail: max 130 Pennellville flats Apr 11—? where are the thousands of four or five years ago? Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal: like the larger dabblers, miserable numbers this spring with the max 20 Green-winged May 4 Scott Swamp and 24 Blue-winged Apr 4 DH, Scott Swamp. American Wigeon: max 50 Apr 6 LSB, SRF and 40 Beaver L Apr 8—very low. Wood Duck: max 15 May 5 SSSP, Scott Swamp—other counts 1-9/day and many observers had none!

Like dabblers, diving ducks were very scarce—spring max as follows: Redhead—20 Apr 9 Oneida L (GAS); Ring-necked Duck—45 Apr 6 LSB, SRF; Canvasback—240 Apr 2 Onon L (JWP); Greater Scaup—1200 Apr 2 Onon L; Lesser Scaup—40 Apr 6 LSB, SRF;—all incredibly low numbers. Bufflehead: max 125 Apr 2 with the many Horned Grebes on Onon L, the only bright spot in this spring's dismal duck flight. Oldsquaw: max only 12 Apr 8 Jamesville Res (DWC). White-winged Scoter: max 200 May 5 LOL; no late May flight noted. Ruddy Duck: total 10 Apr 2 to May 17—very scarce. Red-breasted Merganser: max only 280 Apr 7 LOL—should be in the thousands.

HAWKS—OWLS: The extensive cold and persistent north winds of March precluded significant raptor migration past DH thru that month. Consequently the Feb-Mar totals were very low (only) 1041 individuals for both months combined) and with the first surge of southerly winds Apr 3-4 a spectacular raptor flight developed. Of note is that eleven of the fourteen regular species had peak numbers

Species	Arrival Date	Maxima	90% Date Range	Departure Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	Mar 26, one	197, Apr 4	Apr 3-May 9	May 15, one	365
Goshawk	Feb 21 one	44, Apr 3 40, Apr 4	Mar 3-Apr 21	May 15, one	210
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar 23, eight	571, Apr 4	Apr 4-May 11	May 31, one	3492
Cooper's Hawk	Feb 28, one	47, Apr 4	Mar 23-Apr 28	May 21, one	240
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb 21, five	1184, Apr 4	Mar 6-May 11	May 29, four	3620
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 6, four	190, Apr 3	Mar 23-Apr 14	May 14, one	656
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 14, 57	3201, Apr 22	Apr 21-May 15	May 31, 129	11,617
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb 19, two	16, Apr 4	Mar 3-Apr 21	May 11, two	97
Golden Eagle	Apr 3, one	five, Apr 4 five, Apr 21	Apr 4-Apr 21	Apr 28, two	16
Bald Eagle	Mar 29, one	thru, Apr 4	Apr 1-May 11	May 14, one	11
Harrier	Feb 22, two	94, Apr 4	Mar 16-Apr 28	May 31, seven	423
Osprey	Apr 4, three	46, May 11	Apr 13-May 14	May 31, two	201
Merlin	Mar 23, one	three, Apr 21	Apr 3-Apr 22	Apr 22, one	8
American Kestrel	Feb 27, one	97, Apr 4	Mar 23-Apr 21	May 31, two	468
Unidentified Hawks					342

on those two days. Another heavy migration occurred Apr 21-22 but thereafter northeast winds, rain, and cold weather produced poor migration conditions and counts were accordingly reduced in late Apr and early May. See chart for summary.

Rare raptors for the spring include a *BLACK VULTURE* (first regional record) Apr 22 (HH Axtell, J Bart, S Thomas, GAS) and a *PEREGRINE FALCON* Apr 21 (WB, DWC), both at DH.

Ruffed Grouse: terrible – max only 6 May 18 Pompey-Fabius area; most counts only 1-3/day and very little drumming heard this spring. Ring-necked Pheasant: way, way down – spring max only 6 May 16 Syr (TD) with lower numbers from Eaton, Oswego, and peripheral sectors of Syr.

Virginia Rail and Sora: arr Apr 16 1 Eaton (GC) and Apr 17 1 Scott Swamp respectively, both early. American Coot: like the ducks, a disaster as a migrant – max only 22 Apr 6 SRF, LSB.

Killdeer: max 206 Apr 2 DH; widely reported thereafter with chicks out May 30 LOL. No Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, or Sanderling for entire spring; only 1 Ruddy Turnstone May 18 and 1 Dunlin May 18-20 near Lycoming – an incredibly poor spring migration. Tringa sandpipers except for Solitary were equally poor – max for Greater Yellow-legs 6 May 5 Pennellville and for Lesser Yellow-legs 12 May 20 Scott Swamp area with dep date for both species May 20. Pectoral Sandpiper: only 21 individuals for entire spring Apr 22 – May 16 from 18 observers. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: max 15 Least Syr May 19 and single Semipalmated (ridiculously low) May 17-18 SRF and May 30 Onon L.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: dep date Apr 6 (early) 2 and 1 respectively LSB. Ring-billed Gull: max 5000 May 5 Oswego Harbor – almost none at SP because of very high water. *LITTLE GULL*: an ad in breeding plumage May 18 Oswego Harbor, the only fancy gull of the spring (WB,PAD,FGS). All terns very scarce this spring – max Caspian 3 Apr 18 SSSP; Common 75 May 20 Oswego; Black 8 May 16 Texas.

Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos; total of 14 Black-billed and 16 Yellow-billed from 19 observers – very scarce after last year's cuckoo incursion.

Screech Owl: pair with 4 young out May 30 Eaton (GC) – early. Great Horned Owl: 1 at Nine Mile Pt Apr 7 is a new location. Singles only of Long-eared, Short-eared, and Saw-whet Owls for the spring – a poor owl season.

GOATSUCKER–STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: arr Apr 27 1 N Syr (K Slotnick). Chimney Swift: arr Apr 28 1 Syr (JWP); max 200 near Camden May 15 (Peebles, Van Scoy). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: frankly very scarce this season – max 5 May 14 and 15 DH; usually only 1-2/day in areas away from the LOL.

Common Flicker: max 259 Apr 21 DM (FGS); in good numbers thru period with 18-30/day for a full day's birding. Red-headed Woodpecker: rather scarce – max only 3 May 14 DH and May 18 west of Oswego (CW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max only 7 (low) Apr 12 Syr, S Onondaga (JWP); nesting noted in Fish Gulf May 21.

Eastern Kingbird: arr May 5 (late) 2 DH; scarce thru most of May with max 33 May 12 DH. Great Crested Flycatcher: best spring ever! – max 15 May 18 CV, TRGMA. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 10 (record high) May 30 SP dunes in fog-and-rain grounded landbird flight (P Paquette, FGS). Willow Flycatcher: arr May 17 2 each Fox Ridge and Verona (late); max 15 May 30 Oswego (G Maxwell). Alder Flycatcher: arr May 19 1 S Onondaga; very scarce thru rest of May and many of this species and the Willow Flycatcher apparently did not arrive on territory until early June and, in some cases, not until mid-June. Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr May 18 with dep date Jun 6 involving at least 13 birds, better than average.

Arrival dates for the swallows are Bank Apr 6 LSB, Rough-winged Apr 20 DH,

Barn Apr 6 LSB, Cliff Apr 12 DH, and Purple Martin Apr 11 DH. Maxima in the thousands, perhaps ten of thousands, for Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows with lesser numbers of Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin in an enormous stalled swallow migration DH to Oswego May 12 (FGS,GAS).

Blue Jay: first migrants at DH Apr 21 with 14 passing; max 2290 May 14 with 1065 May 15 there; still migrating up the SP dunes with 75 May 30. **COMMON RAVEN**: at the Big Moose dump May 11 (CG Spies, F LaFrance) is first record in seven years.

Tufted Titmouse: 5 singles at new locations Apr 26 to May 27. White-breasted Nuthatch: max only 14 Apr 21 DH (very low). Red-breasted Nuthatch: virtually non-existent – most observers saw none, max only 3 May 5 SSSP.

House Wren: max 35 May 18 Pompey-Fabius – extremely common and virtually everywhere this spring. Winter Wren: max 10 Apr 10 NPT (DWC); still on migration May 18 1 near Oswego (CW). Carolina Wren: singing singles at DeWitt, CV, and Nedrow – definitely increasing. Mockingbird: 1 Apr 9 Chittenango, 1 Apr 25 Syr, 1 May 18 Oswego, and 1 May 30 Onondaga L; like both Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse, locally expanding. Gray Catbird: arr Apr 28 1 New Woodstock (WB), a bit early; max 65 May 21 (late for such numbers) CV, S Onondaga; still migrating May 30 12 St dunes.

Wood Thrush: arr Apr 28 1 New Woodstock (WB); max 30 May 16 LOL. Hermit Thrush: scarce migrant this spring – arr Apr 10 1 Clay; max only 4 May 9 Syr. Swainson's Thrush: arr May 11 1 CV; max 17 May 17 Syr, Tully (JWP); still migrating May 30 2 SP dunes. Gray-cheeked Thrush: scarce with 1-3/day with date range May 14 to May 29. Veery: arr Apr 28 1 New Woodstock (WB); max 31 May 26 Tug Hill Plateau areas, almost certainly all breeding birds, not migrants. Eastern Bluebird: terrible – spring max only 9 Apr 4 DH; G Church, however, records 10 adults, 20 nestlings May 30 at Eaton.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Apr 25 1 DH; moderate numbers this year with 2-11/day but no vernal incursion along L Ontario as occurs in some springs. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 175 Apr 8 NPT (DWC); dep date May 15 2 Syr; apparently now breeding rather commonly in the spruce plantations of the southern highlands. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr date Apr 10 1 Eaton (GC), max a whopping 300 Apr 26 SSP (DWC); last noted May 18 with multiple sightings that date. Northern Shrike: dep date Apr 6 1 Pompey (Maurice Broun, DWC), quite late.

VIREOS–WARBLERS: the only Apr vireo record is 1 Solitary Vireo Apr 22 Syr (JWP); all seemed late in arrival but in fair numbers when they did show up. The summary for the majority of warblers is arranged in chart form – note the very low tallies of Black-and-White, Nashville, Northern Parula, Palm, Pine, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush contrasting with the very high counts of Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers. Rare warblers for the spring include a *WORM-EATING* May 15 DeWitt (RE Long) 2 Orange-crowned, a *PRAIRIE* May 27 Labrador Pond (DWC,PAD), a *KENTUCKY* May 22 Labrador Pond (DWC), and single *YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS* May 19 S Onondaga and May 26 CV (FGS).

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 5 (late) 1, with max 300 May 9 both DH; last migrants May 30 12 SP dunes. *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: 1 both singing and calling Apr 17 – May 23 NPT (DWC, mob). Red-winged Blackbird: thousands still migrating in May with 16,000 passing DH May 13 and birds still migrating in lesser numbers there May 28. *ORCHARD ORIOLE*: ad male May 13 CV (TR), only record this spring! Northern Oriole: arr Apr 22 (early) 1 Syr; max 88 May 14 DH; still migrating May 30 12 SP dunes. Rusty Blackbird: max 300 Apr 7 Scott Swamp; dep date May 18 1 TRGMA. Common Grackle:

Warbler Species	Arrival Date	Maxima	Departure Date
Black-and-white	May 1, 1, Pratts Falls	8, May 11, NPT	May 30, 1, SP
Golden-winged	May 5, 1, N Syr	10, May 18, CV, TRGMA	—
Blue-winged	May 10, 2, CV	4, May 19, CV,S Onon	—
Tennessee	May 13, 1, N Syr	125, May 22, Syr	Jun 10, 1, Syr, DeWitt
Nashville	May 4, 4, NPT	13, May 16, LOL	May 27, 2, LOL
Northern Parula	May 8, 1, DeWitt	2, May 10, LeWitt	May 21, 1, Syr
Yellow	Apr 21, 1, DH	75, May 17, CV, SRF	—
Magnolia	May 10, 1, Syr	25, May 18, CV, LOL	May 30, 11, SP
Cape May	May 8, 1, N Syr	19, May 20, CV, Skan	Jun 13, 1, Syr
Black-throated Blue	May 8, 1, N Syr	36, May 12, LOL	May 22, 2, Syr
Yellow-rumped	Apr 21, 6, DH	1000, May 9, DH	May 27, 1, CV
Black-throated Green	May 4, 1, S Onon	21, May 17, CV	May 30, 2, SP
Cerulean	May 14, 2, CV	14, May 17, CV, SRF	—
Blackburnian	May 10, 1, Syr	25, May 20 & 21, Syr	Jun 3, 1, DeWitt
Chestnut-sided	May 9, 2, DeWitt	15, May 20, Syr	Jun 1, 1, Syr
Bay-breasted	May 13, 1, N Syr	62, May 24, DeWitt	May 30, 3, Syr
Blackpoll	May 15, 1, CV	24, May 30, SP	Jun 11, 1, N Syr
Pine	Apr 12, 1, DH	2, May 5, SSSP	—
Palm	Apr 26, 6, DH	6, Apr 26, DH	May 18, 1, NPT
Ovenbird	May 1, 1, NPT	15, May 18, CV, TRGMA	—
Northern Waterthrush	Apr 29, 4, Minetto	4, May 12, LOL	—
Mourning	May 17, 1, CV	7, May 18, CV	Jun 7, 1, N Syr
Yellowthroat	May 3, 1, NPT	28, May 16, LOL	—
Hooded	May 14, 1, NPT, CV	6, May 30, LOL	—
Wilson's	May 11, 1, CV	25, May 30, SP	May 31, 1, Syr
Canada	May 14, 2, N Syr	15, May 18, CV, TRGMA	May 30, 14, SP
Redstart	May 8, 1, CV, N Syr	35, May 17, CV, Fox Ridge	Jun 2, 4, Syr

45,000 Apr 2 Onon L, an impressive tally away from LOL.

Scarlet Tanager: arr May 4 1 CV; max 25 CV, TRGMA and 25 Pompey-Fabius both May 18. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 1 CV (TR); max 44 May 17 CV, Fox Ridge (FGS). Indigo Bunting: arr May 15 1 DeWitt and 1 Eaton; very low numbers (1-12/day) thru May; numbers like last year did not arrive until early, or in some areas even, mid-June. Evening Grosbeak: max at DH 430 May 9 with dep date there May 21, 1. House Finch: expanding - 8 singing males around the University section of Syr (PAD) and 4 others noted near DeWitt (TD). Common Redpoll: dep date Apr 13 20 Clay (FGS). American Goldfinch: just swarms this spring - flocks of hundreds everywhere and spring max 1665 May 12 DH (GAS).

Savannah Sparrow: very poor spring flight - max 7 Apr 7 LOL. Vesper Sparrow: like Savannah, very low - max only 8 both Apr 7 LOL and Apr 13 Syr. Dark-eyed Junco: max 160 Apr 12 Syr: however, "hundreds" reported at Holland Patent Apr 12-27 (Van Dresar). Tree Sparrow: 1 May 14 Oswego (CW) is a record dep date. Chipping Sparrow: arr Apr 14 1 each N Syr and Cedarville: max 145 May 9 (late) DH, the one common Sparrow this spring. White-crowned Sparrow: very scarce - max a miserable 15 May 12 LOL; dep date May 22 1 E Syr (K Coyle). White-throated Sparrow: max 200 May 10 DeWitt; most observers had less than 50/day for what is normally our most common migrant sparrow. Fox Sparrow: max only 9 Apr 17 NPT; most observers had singles or none; dep date Apr 22 (early) 5 NPT. Lincoln's Sparrow: total only 5 from 19 observers. Swamp Sparrow: max 179 May 16 (late) LOL; numbers seem reduced in all local marshes. Song Sparrow: "hundreds" Apr 8-19 Hollard Patent (Van Dresar) but definitely much lower counts in Syr-Oswego area (20-75/day).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring of 1974 was cold and rainy which put migration dates back about a week later than normal. This was true of almost all species including the blackflies. Warm weather was slow in arriving and vegetation was also held back to some extent and provided a better look at many warblers.

Although the weather did not cooperate, the birds did and a very excellent array of field observations were made by the enthusiastic birder.

Excellent wading and waterfowl bird observations included Great Egret, Least Bittern and large numbers of geese and ducks. Birds of prey seemed to be on the increase, perhaps due to our high microtus populations on the Lake Plain.

The shorebird group was not as in evidence as one would expect what with wet fields and meadows. Other bird groups more than made up for this deficit.

Vireo and Warbler observations were more than spectacular and a regional first - the House Finch was an additional expected surprise.

Corrigenda: KINGBIRD XXIV No 1 January 1974 p. 34 Gadwall: Sept. 8 ED (NL); 456 WHWMA-HB;

Location Abbreviations: ED-Eldorado Shores; JB-Joseph Blake Jr. Sanctuary PRWMA-Perch River Wildlife Management Area; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SLR-St. Lawrence River; TP-Thompson Park Watertown; THP-Tug Hill Plateau; WHWMA-Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; WI-Wellesley Island.