

dor and Apalachin. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 1 Vestal; next date Apr. 19; not particularly common. Savannah Sparrow: 13 May 18 Bing. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 17 Bing; only 4 reports. Henslow's Sparrow: May 15 CC; only 4 reports. Vesper Sparrow: Apr. 4 Afton; fairly common. Dark-eyed Junco: 405 May 3 Mil area but only stragglers left a day or 2 later throughout Region; May 25 and 26 still at Owego and CC, respectively. Tree Sparrow: May 2 Vestal last date. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 21 Candor (RP); all other reports May 3 to 19 and numerous. White-throated Sparrow: very common from Apr. 4 to May 12. Fox Sparrow: good numbers to Apr. 13, stragglers to Apr. 25. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 8 Vestal; 5 to May 18, 4 of them banded. Song Sparrow: 150 Apr. 5 Mil area; 42 actual count within a few minutes Apr. 6 CC.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April is, indeed, the cruelest month—a ten inch plus snowstorm April 4-5-6 followed by persistent cold for a week concentrated desperate birds at the cleared roadedges (everything from American Woodcock to Song Sparrows) and the consequent lack of insect food decimated the local Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow—and perhaps other swallows, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, and Savannah Sparrow populations. The best description of the roadside birding that snowstorm produced is Robert Frost's "Our Singing Strength" (q.v.). April persisted with cold—the coldest April in forty-three years—and almost continuous north and northwest winds. The hawk and diurnal landbird migrations along Lake Ontario were almost nil and the month proved that the hawks do not need the south winds for migration but the birders certainly do. Despite the weather and the lack of hawks, Derby Hill was rife with bird watchers this spring, a type of birding concentration almost certain to increase in future springs. I would to heaven other sectors of the region could achieve this intensity of observation.

Early May continued cold until the 12th. Then a great surge of hot, humid weather produced instant spring and the local woods advanced from stick-like nakedness to verdant jungle in eight days. The remainder of May proved clear and warm and migration, ten days to two weeks behind as of the 12th, was normal or even advanced by the 25th. No cooling frontal systems in late May developed to trigger migrational interruptions and local birding except for the Ontario lakeshore was rather uniform, even dull in that period. Shorebird habitat remained minimal throughout the spring and shorebirds were also.

Vernal positives include 1) a small influx of southern herons; 2) a superb Canada Goose flight; 3) increased numbers of Virginia Rails; 4) heavy Lake Ontario flights of Common Crows and Blue Jays; 5) increasing numbers of Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds—true enough, the South will rise again; 6) increased numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos; 7) above average numbers of some boreal forest warblers, especially Yellow-rumped Warblers (q.v.); 8) heavy Ontario lakeshore Icterid flights; and 9) large concentrations of Fox and Song Sparrows secondary to the Apr. snowstorm.

Vernal negatives are many—1) a miserable duck migration; 2) a wind-crossed, watery-eyed, bone-chilling, wretched hawk flight; 3) a mediocre shorebird flight, primarily from lack of habitat and, in late May, good conditions for sustained, i.e. flyover, migration; 4) very low cuckoo numbers; 5) a profound loss in numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers,

Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrushes, Eastern Bluebirds, and Savannah Sparrows secondary to the deep snow and sustained cold of early April; 6) low counts of most swallows; 7) low tallies of certain species of migrant vireos and warblers (q.v.); 8) no significant return of winter finches except for some passage of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches; and 9) a generally poor sparrow migration, notably poor in Vesper Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

Rare birds for the spring include Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, White-fronted Goose, Piping and Golden Plovers, breeding Loggerhead Shrike and Orchard Oriole, Prairie and Kentucky Warblers, Western Meadowlark, and Red Crossbill.

Initialed localities and observers—CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; HG—Hickory Grove near New Haven; L—lake; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; mob—multiple observers; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; DWC—D. W. Crumb; PAD—P. A. DeBenedictis; FGS—F. G. Scheider; mob—many observers.

Thanks to the numerous observers and compilers for materials for and assembly of the report.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: very low numbers now, even in migration—max only 11 Apr. 13 SSSP, SP. Great Egret: single Apr. 19 and two Apr. 26 both DH—only reports. **CATTLE EGRET:** three singles DH, Dempster Beach, and Beaver L Apr. 19—May 20; no flocks reported. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an ad Apr. 18-19 Rice Creek Biological Station (G. Maxwell, mob), part of the rich fallout from the Apr. 18-19 frontal system. Black-crowned Night Heron: apparently a slight increase—two—three/day at DeWitt Marsh, five at Fox Ridge, three at Oneida whereas previous recent springs had only one-two birds/season.

Canada Goose: superb spring flight with thousands to tens of thousands reported—max 12,000 Beaver L May 2 (late for such a large number); lesser counts from Howland's Island GMA, Fox Ridge, Cross Lake, Scott Swamp, and the east end of Oneida L. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** two, possibly three, at Beaver L with the many Canadas Apr. 17—May 3 (M. Mathis, mob)—second regional record in 21 years.

Spring duck migration was uniformly dismal—numbers were very poor as the following seasonal max will demonstrate and most observers had their waterfowl, particularly dabblers, in tiny collections; a flock of over a hundred ducks was an event—Mallard 360 Apr. 6; Black Duck 320 Apr. 6; Gadwall 20 Apr. 6; Pintail 450 Apr. 17; Green-winged Teal 80 Apr. 27; Blue-winged Teal 42 Apr. 27; American Wigeon 96 Apr. 6; Shoveler six Apr. 27 (incredibly low); Wood Duck 19 Apr. 27; Redhead nine Apr. 2; Ring-necked Duck 180 Apr. 6; Canvasback 70 Apr. 10; Greater Scaup 400 Apr. 6; Lesser Scaup 12 Apr. 20 (almost lower than mid-winter numbers); Common Goldeneye 116 Apr. 13; Bufflehead 95 Apr. 13; Oldsquaw 4 Apr. 10 (lowest spring tally ever!); White-winged Scoter 40 (very low) May 8; Ruddy Duck 4 Apr. 16; Hooded Merganser 37 Apr. 13; Common Merganser 46 Apr. 13; Red-breasted Merganser 710 Apr. 5 (should be in the thousands).

HAWKS—OWLS: The Red-shouldered Hawk tally is the lowest ever recorded since inception of the counts and the Bald Eagle score matches the lowest ever—a sad commentary on our raptors. (See Chart—next page).

HAWKS – OWLS: 1975 Derby Hill Raptor Tally

Species	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Season Totals	Peak Tally & Date
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 22	May 20	311	54 Apr. 11
Goshawk	Feb. 21	May 3	51	21 Mar. 18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar. 18	May 26	3,046	930 Apr. 18
Cooper's Hawk	Feb. 28	May 15	176	37 Mar. 18
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 21	May 20	2,660	504 Mar. 18
Red-shouldered Hawk	Feb. 28	May 18	304	77 Mar. 28
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 22	May 26	7,116	2,238 Apr. 29
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 21	May 5	222	48 Apr. 18
Golden Eagle	Mar. 18	Apr. 30	4	singles only
Bald Eagle	Apr. 9	Apr. 28	2	singles only
Harrier	Feb. 22	May 26	368	118 Apr. 18
Osprey	Apr. 15	May 20	186	62 Apr. 29
Peregrine	Apr. 11	Apr. 16	2	singles only
Merlin	Mar. 29	Apr. 18	4	3 Apr. 18
A. Kestrel	Mar. 12	May 26	397	159 Apr. 18
Unidentified Hawks			80	

Ring-necked Pheasant: in smashing decline—spring max only nine (very low) May 18 Pompey, especially considering the conspicuousness of this species in spring. Virginia Rail: a real upsurge locally—five-six/day at Scott Swamp, Clay Swamp, and DeWitt Marsh; in contrast Sora were incredibly scarce—only nine individuals heard or seen for entire spring. American Coot: very, very scarce—only five to eight/day thru Apr.

PIPING PLOVER: an ad May 22 SPI is the first local record in four years. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** one in winter plumage Apr. 17 (M. S. Rusk, FGS, *et al.*) is only the third spring record and this one, like the previous two, was at Six Mile Creek near Phoenix. Ruddy Turnstone: 250 June 1 SPI is a record tally. American Woodcock: max ten courting males May 22 Cicero Swamp, late for such numbers. Greater Yellowlegs: max 42 Apr. 22 and 38 May 1, both Pennellville—Scott Swamp area, otherwise very scarce. Lesser Yellowlegs: very scarce—only one-three/day Apr. 17 thru May 20. The mid-Apr. flight was very poor, particularly in Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpiper, and the push of “peep” sandpipers in late May never materialized.

Glaucous Gull: a second year bird May 18 Oswego Harbor is very late. Bonaparte's Gull: spring max 42 May 1 off DH—quite scarce otherwise with the Oneida L tallies especially low. Common Tern: arr Apr. 20 two Dempster Beach is early, particularly in view of the extreme cold and adverse winds of Apr.; max 85 (low) May 29 SPI; other tern species equally scarce—Caspian Tern only two Apr. 20 Oswego and Black Tern 23 May 15 SP, SSSP.

Cuckoos again almost non-existent—Yellow-billed only six and Black-billed five for 17 observers and this in the face of a strong outbreak of tent caterpillars.

Great Horned Owl: a pair in a deserted Great Blue Heron nest (who would contest it?) in the Three Rivers GMA heron colony was unusual for both site and degree of exposure. Saw-whet Owl: an ad May 13 St. Mary's Cemetery, Syr (R.E. Long) suggests possible local nesting.

CAPRIMULGIDS—SHRIKES: Chimney Swift: scarce—max only 30 May 16 HG; not seen in the usual numbers in the swallow migration passing DH.

Common Flicker: max 159 Apr. 23 DH (lower than in previous years). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: extremely scarce—max only four Apr. 15 Syr and most observers had singles only.

Eastern Phoebe: decimated by the early Apr. snowstorm and cold—max/day after that is only five May 1 and May 10. Alder and Willow Flycatchers: despite the hot siege in mid and late May still late as migrants with resident birds not appearing in many areas until Jun 10-12.

Swallows seemed scarce this spring and the numbers observed locally were undoubtedly much reduced by the early Apr. snow and cold further south—all max low with Tree Swallow 4000 May 1; Bank Swallow 100 May 15 (very low); Rough-winged Swallow 12 May 11 (still no recovery from 1972); Barn Swallow 1000 May 1; Cliff Swallow 27 May 15; and Purple Martin 30 May 8.

Carolina Wren: 30 singing males now present in the Region, a tremendous change from the scarcity of this species six years ago. Short-billed Marsh Wren: three individuals May 17-May 31 in Clay and Schroepel Townships—this species was missed locally last year.

Mockingbird: continuing to expand—three DH, one Euclid, one Oakwood Cemetery in Syr, one Oswego; seems to be expanding most rapidly on the Ontario Lake plain. Hermit Thrush: counts of three-four/day during the early Apr. snowstorm; scarce thereafter and local breeding numbers may have been severely affected by that particular storm. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: steadily expanding—max 13 CV May 10 and now many areas, especially the southern highland valleys, have multiple pairs rather than the usual single pair. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: everywhere this spring—max 60 May 8 LOL but many people reported small groups of Ruby-crowns like “flocks of migrant warblers.”

Water Pipit: unbelievably scarce this spring—max 20 May 5 Oswego with many observers having singles only. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: a pair with nest near Mexico (four eggs in nest Jun. 1), only recent breeding record.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: like the Carolina Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, apparently increasing with reports of seven-eight/day in the wooded valleys south of Syr. Solitary Vireo: terrible flight—one-three/day with some observers missing the species entirely. Warbling Vireo: building up from the low of three years ago—many counts now of six to eight/day with max 18 May 17 CV, S Onondaga.

The late Apr. warbler flight was much delayed and of poor numbers with only Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in above average tallies. The early May and mid-May flights were compressed in a brief hot surge May 12 to May 20, producing some good but not spectacular counts. The late May warblers had good counts, some very high, but they rapidly passed thru and few individuals were evident in the last week of the month. Particularly abundant were Tennessee 200 May 21 Syr; Cape May 50 May 15 DH, HG; Black-throated Blue 26 May 16 HG; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) 600 May 15 DH, HG; Bay-breasted 55 May 22 Syr; Blackpoll 60 May 21 Syr; Yellowthroat 28 May 17 CV, S Onondaga.

In fair numbers only were Nashville 19 May 16 HG; Yellow 36 May 15 DH; Magnolia 25 May 16 HG; Chestnut-sided 11 May 16 HG; Wilson's 11 May 22 SP; Redstart 36 May 16 HG, Shore Oaks. Poor numbers were especially evident in the following species—Northern Parula 6 May 16 HG; Black-throated Green 30 May 16 HG; Blackburnian 15 May 15 DH, HG; Palm 7 May 15 DH, HG; Mourning 1-2/day only; and Canada 6 May 16 HG.

The presence of seven Brewster's Warbler and one Lawrence's Warbler type hybrids gives some measure of the growing intermix of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in the region. Yellow-breasted Chat: expanding locally—four singing individuals CV, Tully and one May 20 SP dunes, a first for that locality (R. E. Long, FGS). Rare warblers for the period include a **PRAIRIE WARBLER** May 9 North Syr and a vigorously singing **KENTUCKY WARBLER** May 23-31 Pompey (DWC, mob).

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: poor counts this spring, even in the DH flights—max only 50 May 15 DH. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: One at Syr Airport May 17-30; now almost an annual occurrence in the region. Red-winged Blackbird: not decimated by southern control measures; max 200,000 Apr. 19 DH; still migrating by there May 20. **ORCHARD**

ORIOLE: pair breeding at Martisco May 16 to period end (D. Muir); also adult male May 18 DH (G. A. Smith, mob) is first migrant recorded there. Rusty Blackbird: max 5000 Apr. 15 DH, reported in hundreds elsewhere thru Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr May 11 three DH, a bit early; numbers again, like 1974, not in until early Jun. with max a mere ten May 23. Evening Grosbeak: late Apr. flight with max 750 May 1 DH; last noted May 23 eight Snake Swamp west of Oswego. Purple Finch: aside from the Evening Grosbeak, the only local winter finch in numbers—30-35/day to mid-May. **RED CROSSBILL:** only report for spring two Apr. 13 SSSP (PAD, FGS)—a rare bird this season.

Savannah Sparrow: quite scarce this spring—max only 20 Apr. 24 DH; even scarcer were Vesper Sparrow with the max for that species only three Apr. 19 LOL, where formerly a common migrant. Dark-eyed Junco: a poor Apr. flight with max only 200 Apr. 6 Cayuga and Onondaga Co. roadsides following the early Apr. snowstorm. Chipping Sparrow: heavy Ontario lakeshore flight—200 May 15 DH but much lower numbers (12–25/day) away from there. White-crowned Sparrow: seemed quite scarce this spring—field max only 20 May 20 LOL; however, DWC banded 25 individuals frequenting her feeder in Pompey. White-throated Sparrow: numbers markedly depressed with no counts above a hundred—the max is a ridiculously low 85 May 11 DH, HG, Scott Swamp. Fox Sparrow: max 20 Apr. 3 Pompey (J. Hamel fide DWC), a snowstorm induced concentration; singles present to May 1 LOL. Song Sparrow: massive flight stalled locally by the early Apr. snowstorm—max 1176 Apr. 6 on cleared roadsides of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties; similarly “hundreds” of sparrows and even Lapland Longspurs noted at the scraped roadsides in Oneida County that same day (P. Paquette).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1975 was a mixed bag of weather conditions—from snow to very hot summer conditions and back to cool rainy days.

On April 3rd considerable snow fell in the Region and snow depths on Tug Hill were five feet plus well into late April. May started out very hot and dry with wet and cool conditions for the last half.

Highlights of the spring season include some excellent waterbird and waterfowl observations; many good raptor sightings; two new regional records of gulls; warblers of great variety and good numbers and another regional first Orchard Oriole as well as some unusual sparrows to round out the report.

Rarities included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Least Bittern, Snow Goose, Spruce Grouse, Glaucous Gull, Black-headed Gull, Laughing Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Observers: JBB—John B. Belknap; TLC—Tom L. & Cathy Carrolan; LBC—Lee B. Chamberlaine; RCW—Robert C. & June Walker; JAV—Joannes (Joe) A. VanRiet; mob—many observers.