

least 10 totaled from five areas. The only reported Grasshopper Sparrows were four at Tonawanda WMA May 15 and one at Somerset May 29, being absent this year in the Alfred area where formerly common. The declining Henslow's Sparrow was noted as seven at Clarence May 4 and one near Alfred May 21. Tree Sparrows stayed late again at Belmont, with two there May 15 (DB, LB). Single CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS were identified at Eggertsville May 11 (AM, WM, Reeveses) and at Grand Island May 22-25 (Nutting, Burch). Maximum of a slim migration for White-crowned Sparrows was 35 at Forest Lawn May 9 and of White-throated Sparrows was 150 in the same area the same day. From the great Fox Sparrow flight, 41 were on the AC (18 last year) and a total of 28 birds were reported from 18 areas. More than usual Lincoln's Sparrows were found: 13 in all, from eight sites! Lapland Longspurs were reported as two in Carroll Twp. Mar. 5, five at Ransomville Mar. 7, and two in Yates Mar. 12. Maximum Snow Buntings for the Southern Tier was 250 at Caneadea Mar. 6 and for the northern plains was 500 at Ransomville Mar. 7.

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REGION TWO — GENESEE

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Weather again dominated the spring migration with a few brief periods of excitement interspersed among long, dull stretches either too cold, too hot, or with adverse winds. The long bottlenecks in the migration ended with brief surges when the onrush of "late" migrants swept with them numbers of species either vagrant or early for the dates. Spring was late. The first above-freezing day since January 25 occurred on March 9, low—4° F (-15° C) and high—41° F (5° C). Warming followed slowly. Ice held most of the smaller, shallower bodies of water in its grip well into April. A final snow fell on April 22 with depth ranging from one to three inches depending on location. A stretch of good weather with south winds March 14-19 culminated in a good push of waterfowl blowing in on strong westerlies on the 19th. Another surge March 30-April 1 brought an influx of passerines, waterfowl, and a few herons. Another unfavorable period followed, ending with a good flight April 11-13. Except for a continuous trickle of individuals, migration was then uniformly poor through about May 8, excepting also a few hours on April 29. During this period, cool temperatures and winds in the NW-NE quadrant prevailed. For most observers, spring migration occurred May 9-14 and 19-21. Ideal temperatures, winds, and frontal spacings swept in nearly all the bright, familiar migrants. A lack of development of foliage left them highly visible, in sharp contrast with last spring. Even many non-birders commented on sightings during this period. The activity died quickly. May ended with a final week, very calm, hot, dry and quiet.

Continuing on a theme pursued erratically the past several seasons, trends are very difficult to analyze seriously, particularly during a spring migration with their very complex dependence on weather and observer activity. As a regional comment, though probably little different from other regions, the records, particularly at this season, are predominantly those of bird finders—many very good field birders, rather than those of students of population dynamics. The records

are also predominantly from the Ontario lakeshore, since that is where the action is. With few exceptions (principal among these being a roost count and the hawk watch) there is little planned enumeration of migrants. Numerical data mainly are received as a result of some unusual movement that catches and holds the interest of an observer for some period. This information is not intended as a value judgment—we each have our good reasons for birding—but as an aid to the reader in evaluation of the following comments concerning trends. Most such commentary is based on the general levels of records received, coupled with discussions with the Region's experienced observers, as opposed to mathematical analysis of years of numerical data. Some specific complexities will be pointed out in the species accounts.

Apparent trends for the season include a continued drop in marsh birds—Black-crowned Night Heron, both bitterns, Virginia Rail and Sora. Last year the very low water was blamed; this year Lake Ontario levels are very high. Brant was unrecorded; wait until Fall for an assessment. Most raptors, excepting Red-shouldered Hawk, seemed up a bit. Ring-necked Pheasant continues low. Saw-whet Owl were in good numbers; apparently last year's drop was not real. Winter Wren, Mockingbird, and both kinglets are definitely way down. Loggerhead Shrike migration reports were up slightly, but again apparently none stayed to breed. In spite of the glowing reports for the peak of warbler migration, no real upward trend is obvious. It was all over very quickly. The House Finch is expanding its breeding foothold in the Rochester area. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows are still way down; after brief, high, very local concentrations in migration each dispersed to a scattered remnant. The passage of White-crowned, White-throated, and Lincoln's Sparrows was very good in number and extent compared with some years.

Rarities: White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, European Wigeon, King Eider, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, Baird's Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, Barn Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, and Hoary Redpoll.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay area, D—Durand Eastman Park, IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, K—Kendall, IB—Irondequoit Bay, PB—Point Breeze, WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: John Blaisdell, Kay Brugler, Mike Carlson, Steve Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Jack & Joyce Connor, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Jean & Neil Dilley, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Mike Ehlers, Joan Esley, June Feder, Arlieen & John Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Tom Hampson, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Betty Hedges, Norm Henderson, Bob Herndon, Bob Hill, Lois Jenkins, Oivind Jensen, Ian Johnson, Scott Kampmeier, Sheila Karlson, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Allan Klonick, John Koopmans, Ray Ladwig, Steve Lauer, Walter & Jim Listman, Gerry Leubner, David Levy, Warren Lloyd, H. Lulöf, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Paul Mango, Frank & Mary Mattei, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Joe & Thelma McNett, Gordon Meade, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, David Mozurkewich, Jane Morris, Leon Nawojchik, Eric Noji, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Brad Patterson, Betty Perrigo, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Allen Shea, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durwood & Lillian Skiff, Virginia Skuse, Robert & Susan Spahn, Anne Stear, Helen Steinhauer, Alison Stewart, Jim Street, Harriet Stride, William Sy-

monds, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Clat Taylor, Steve Taylor, Phillip Teitelbaum, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Bill Thomas, Stan & Helen Thomas, David Tremmel, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Christopher White, Kinsley Whitum, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Peter Zachmann, Dominic Zero.

LOONS-DUCKS: Loons staged a relatively poor show this Spring with no large, resting gatherings and most flights occurring far offshore over Lake Ontario. Com. Loon max was 160 WL Apr. 22. Red-throated Loon numbers were low. Similarly, Red-necked Grebe returned to normal with max 11 WL Apr. 23. **WHITE PELICAN:** three Wayne County May 19 (CP, CT-photo), was documented as the third regional record when the birds were followed on one of their morning pleasure flights from Montezuma to near Port Bay. An unusual Double-crested Cormorant record was 10 at Charlotte Mar. 19 (RS, KW). There were several interesting reports of wandering herons. Great Egret appeared in good numbers relatively early: seven Greece Apr. 14 and off and on thru to three BB May 21. Three **SNOWY EGRET** reports were: five K May 5 (FD, LM); one BB May 7 (mob); and one Hamlin May 14 (CP, mob), the latter two records probably lingerers from the first flock. The region's third **LOUISIANA HERON:** one K Apr. 1 (MAS, KW, HL), was found on the shore of one of the "borrow pits" along the Lake Ontario Parkway. Cattle Egrets were few: one Parma May 12, three Hamlin May 14. A lone **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** one imm. Hamlin May 26 (CP), was reported. Black-crowned Night Heron and both bitterns were scarce. The waterfowl picture was badly biased by the late ice cover. The forced concentration of the passing flocks made trend analysis virtually impossible. Arrival dates were late and the birds moved on quickly with relatively few stragglers by season's end. Interesting records included a larger than normal visitation by Whistling Swan: max 129 BB May 20; with singles remaining late: one BB to Parma May 1-24 (mob) and one K May 14-24 (mob). Snow Geese were more numerous than usual near Rochester and lingered late to the west; two K May 14-16 (CP). Interesting duck records included: the first **EUROPEAN WIGEON** in several years: one K May 18-21 (CT-photo, mob); Canvasback: 1000 Sodus Bay Mar. 27 (MT) and 800 BB Mar. 28; late Com. Goldeneye: one IB May 27 (WL, RS); **KING EIDER:** one imm. male Greece Mar. 1 (KG-photo, NH); scoters of all three species thru the season with White-winged Scoter: max 500+ PB May 13 a very good count; and the usual large Red-breasted Merganser flight well represented by: max 6000 IB Apr. 15 (MAS, WL, A&JW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The raptor story is best summarized by a table of the Braddock Bay hawk lookout records for the migration thru season's end:

Species	Peak count	Date	1978 Total to May 31	1977 Total to May 31
Turkey Vulture	155	4/12	1,059	846
Goshawk	7	3/28	39	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2914	5/9	6,267	1,921
Cooper's Hawk	22	4/1	74	59
Red-tailed Hawk	217	4/1	1,717	1,047
Red-shouldered Hawk	55	4/1	181	265
Broad-winged Hawk	3720	5/9	7,665	16,472
Rough-legged Hawk	91	3/28	442	174
Golden Eagle			12	4
Bald Eagle			14	2
Marsh Hawk	39	4/1	347	181
Osprey	12	5/9	82	37
Peregrine Falcon			6	1
Merlin			4	0
American Kestrel	237	4/1	679	109
Unidentified accipiter			15	48
Unidentified buteo			438	722

Unidentified falcon	7	2
Unidentified eagle	2	1
Unidentified	<u>17</u>	<u>77</u>
Total	19,067	21,901

While the figures are up sharply over 1977 (the only prior year with comparable, daily, coverage) one must again be wary of simplistic interpretation. The large jumps in Sharp-shinned Hawks and Am. Kestrels in large part reflect good coverage on the lakeshore itself this season versus almost no such coverage there last year. The Red-shouldered Hawk picture matches observers' concerns over the past several years. Broad-winged Hawk demonstrates clearly a weather effect as the peak migration period coincided with a long spell of NW-NE winds. The birds were observed moving on a very wide front, often far to the south of the hawk lookout. Missing was last year's big single day with nearly 10,000 on 4/21/77. The increase in records of the rarer raptors is encouraging. Well over half the eagles reported for each species were immatures. It is also worth noting that in addition to the lookout records there were: two Peregrine Falcons, eight Merlins, 13 Golden Eagles—including 4 ad. Sodus Bay Apr. 9 (RBA), and seven Bald Eagle reports elsewhere in the region. There were two reports of **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Hamlin May 21 (JCL, JSK, PR) and one BB May 22 (LM, mob), possibly the same bird, and both possibly the same as the birds reported Apr. 2 at Oak Orchard and May 19 at Montezuma. While shorebird habitat was (and is) very limited due to the very high Lake Ontario level and the dry fields, there were many interesting sightings: early American Golden Plover: three Parma Apr. 15-18 (GM, mob); early Black-bellied Plover: four Greece May 9; **WHIMBREL**: eight BB May 21 (WLi, ST, CP); **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one Sodus Bay May 21 (D, M, & TT, DS); **WILLET**: one Greece May 12 (MC); one BB May 20 (CP, mob); and one K May 21 (mob); a massive flight of Dunlin: 1200 BB May 21 (mob); 600 Sodus Bay May 21 (D, M & TT); 670 IB May 21 (AK); early Red Knot: five BB May 21; early Pectoral Sandpiper: one Honeoye Falls Mar. 16 (FJ); and one K Mar. 19 (RD); good numbers for spring of White-rumped Sandpiper: 10 BB May 10 (WLi, CP, ST); 14 Parma May 21 (JCL, JSK, PR, mob); 15 Perinton May 23 (M & TT); **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: two Perinton May 19 (RS, WLi), record submitted to NYSARC for evaluation; Western Sandpiper: eight Perinton May 21 (KG, SL, CT); and nine records of Wilson's Phalarope May 9-29, supporting changing their spring status: max four Bergen May 11 (RC, WS). Gull observations of note include: late Glaucous Gull: one BB May 7-11; one K May 16; and one Sodus Bay May 21; very late Iceland Gull: two K May 14-21 (CP, mob); **THAYER'S GULL**: should now be considered regularly occurring in the region under appropriate conditions (see *Little Gull*, Vol. IV, No. 6, pp. 52-53, June, 1978), one ad. Hamlin May 14 (C & BP, EV, RC); and one ad. K May 21 (eight observers, CT-photo); **LAUGHING GULL**: one ad. K May 21 (WLi, M & RM, MAS) and one ad. BB May 29 (J & JCo, IJ), possibly the same bird; and Bonaparte's Gull: max. 402 IB May 15. Tern records were relatively sparse; good were **FORSTER'S TERN**: one ad. Charlotte Apr. 16 (JCL, CT-photo); two ad. & one imm. K May 26 (CP); two ad. BB May 29 (JCL, CP, WS); and one ad. BB May 31 (RS); and Caspian Tern: max. 21 IB Apr. 15 (WLi, MAS, A & JW), a good spring count.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: During migration interest in this group centers on owls. The first regional record in two years for **BARN OWL** was: one IC Apr. 12 (KG-photo), a migrant. A late Snowy Owl: one BB Apr. 5 (CT-photo, mob), spent the day resting and posing. A single Barred Owl was reported: one East Barre May 16. The Saw-whet Owl migration was excellent with many records of three to five individuals found sitting on a given day in the BB area. Vying for bird of the season was a well observed **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**: one BB May 13 (J & WLi).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Relatively early was Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Perinton May 11 (DS). Rare but regular were: Acadian Flycatcher: one IC May 23; one BB May 28; and one Manitou May 29; and Olive-sided Flycatcher: two WL May 13 (CP, mob). Purple Martin: four BB Mar. 29, joined the parade of Tree Swallows. Very poorly document-

ed is the continuous flow of Blue Jays along the lakeshore thru April and May; two samples were: Blue Jay: 10,000+ BB May 12 (RD); and 9,000 WL May 13 (JSk, CP). Very rare was **COMMON RAVEN**: one Batavia Apr. 2 (CP). Short-billed Marsh Wren was recorded from several locations: one IC May 12; three Chili May 21 thru; one K May 28; and one PB May 29. Other records of interest in this group included: the last report of the winter's **VARIED THRUSH**: one fem. D Mar. 12 (J & ND); a good count of Am. Robin: 3000 WL Apr. 1; early Swainson's Thrush: one IC May 9; early Gray-cheeked Thrush: one IC May 12; early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; one IC May 13; and a good showing of March and April records of Loggerhead Shrike, though only one for May: one Hamlin May 9. The only Starling story is tied to a count of the Howard Rd., Gates roost directed by JSk, Mar. 28; totals were: Starling: 300,000; Red-winged Blackbird: 1,875,000; Com. Grackle: 100,000; and Brown-headed Cowbird: 175,000.

VIREOS-WARBLES: This grouping was cited generally for abundance and visibility this year, though the abundance was brief and quite local, being confined to near the lake-shore within a 10 day period in May, and visibility was mainly due to late foliage and the sharp contrast with last year's memories. Among the vireos the record of note was an early Philadelphia Vireo: one Maplewood Park, Rochester May 10. Warbler arrival dates were generally late. Interesting rarer warbler records include: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one IC May 13 (DS, mob); "Brewster's" Warbler: two Murray May 13 thru (mob); **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one Webster May 12 (WLi); one IC May 18 (FD); one IC May 24 (NH, RS); late Pine Warbler: one BB May 27 (DS); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: one BB May 12 (CP); one IC May 19 (NH); and one BB May 27 (MC, CP); lakeplain occurrence of Louisiana Waterthrush: one Maplewood Park, Rochester May 14; one IC May 14; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one Rochester May 14 (TH); and one Murray May 29 (F & RD); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one IC May 20 (F & RD); and one Hamlin May 26 (JE); and Yellow-breasted Chat: two Greece May 28 thru. On May 13 WLi and MAS observed warblers streaming through a yard near the NE intersection of the shorelines of IB and Lake Ontario with the following high counts over about 4 hours: Black-throated Blue: 23; Yellow-rumped: 188; Blackburnian: 59; Chestnut-sided: 15; and Bay-breasted: 25.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Again we have a rare report of an observer tallying the passage of several of the commoner species. On May 12 from 6 - 10 am at the west spit of BB RD recorded: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 500; Evening Grosbeak: 800; Purple Finch: 300; and Pine Siskin: 1000. It was observed that, as with the hawk flights, as the day warmed, with only moderate S-SW winds and no cloud cover, the migrants rose higher and higher until visible only with optical aids. Other notable records included: E. Meadowlark: 300 WL Apr. 1; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Hamlin Mar. 30 (RC, WS); and one Hamlin May 12-19 (MC, mob); **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: three Tryon Park, Rochester, Apr. 20 (AC, mob); **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: one Pittsford May 11 (AIS); and one to three PB May 19 thru (WLi, mob); Rusty Blackbird: 100 IC May 9, a late high count; **SUMMER TANAGER**: one fem. BB May 28 (WLi, mob); early Indigo Bunting: one Webster Apr. 26 (PZ, RS). From the winter finches, lingering reports of note were: Evening Grosbeak: 1000 BB May 13 (WLi); Pine Grosbeak: 40 D Mar. 16 (CT); and late, one BB Apr. 2; and one BB Apr. 11; **HOARY REDPOLL**: one Greece Apr. 1-11 (F & RD-photo); and Com. Redpoll: two Webster thru May 12; one Irondequoit May 3-4; and one IC May 12, all late records. Finally, once again the sparrow family made its bid for recognition with several good dates and numbers: high for the generally depressed, brushy-field type was Vesper Sparrow: 20 Hamlin May 16 (MC); the winter's Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco lingered: one Webster thru Apr. 15 (A & BK); late lakeplain Dark-eyed Juncos were: one IC May 27; and one Greece May 27; a very late Tree Sparrow was: one Greece May 22 (FD); a good count, Field Sparrow: 60 Letchworth State Park Apr. 28; White-crowned Sparrow: 300 WL May 13 (CP); late Fox Sparrow: one D May 9 (RO); and excellent Lincoln's Sparrow reports capped by: 35 Hamlin May 13 (RC, WS).

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