

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: pair Willsboro Point (CF). A late Snowy Owl was at Lake Placid March 16 (SF). Saw-whet Owls were absent after being so numerous last year. Perhaps they are erratic breeders like Red Crossbills. Whip-poor-will: one Hamilton May 20 (BDS); eight between Wilmington and Jay (M & R Mc). A Belted Kingfisher April 9 and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker April 7 at Paul Smiths and Rainbow Lake respectively were a big deal when you consider that on April 10 it was -1 degree F. only moving water was open, and snow lay deep. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: three Ferd's Bog May 6 (CS, FL). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one as preceding.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: good numbers. Horned Lark: one Tupper March 15 and then six March 17 were pioneers. Gray Jay: a few Paul Smiths. Blue Jay: as several people noted they were absent until spring weather came. Common Raven: 20 ravens fledged according to Paul Bishop who located the Paul Smiths nest. Tufted Titmouse: 1 Cadyville (Fran Howe). Gray-cheeked Thrush: R Mc reports none heard at or near mountain tops May 27-29. Eastern Bluebird: none Tupper and perhaps 10 Paul Smiths. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one May 13 Ausable Point (mob); two pair there May 27 (SS). Water Pipit: one Tupper May 21 (CD). Bohemian Waxwing: the Essex flock that stayed several months left April 20 and the last of the Beekmantown birds left April 22. Northern Shrike: one Tupper March (CD); one imm E'town late March (BB, JP); one Paul Smiths April 18.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: pair building a nest at Lake Alice. Eaton lists this species as a rare summer resident in Clinton County. Philadelphia Vireo: one singing and yellowish breast noted at Lyon Mountain May 20. This seems to be a first record for Clinton County (RP, HK). Tennessee Warbler: one Hamilton May 20 (BDS). Northern Parula: excellent numbers, just listen near any body of water with conifers along the shore. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Tupper and one Paul Smiths on April 26 were first warblers for the Region even beating the Champlain Valley by one day. They are especially appreciated when you are still looking at snow. Bay-breasted Warbler: three Tupper May 21 (CD). Palm Warbler: one Tupper May 13 (CD). Blackpoll Warbler: good numbers. Wilson's Warbler: one male Ausable Point May 21 (Sue Sullivan).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: numbers still good. Rusty Blackbird: a few in the bog ponds and beaver flows if there are plenty of trees near the water. Cardinal: 64 in region according to Fran Howe. Purple Finch: 42 Tupper May 6, many since (CD). House Finch: many at Platts but still no breeding record. Pine Grosbeak: more in early March than Evening Grosbeak in many areas. Hoary Redpoll: one Platts April 3 had pure white rump and almost no side streaking. It was chunkier than the 160 Common Redpolls with it (PW); one banded E'town April 13 with similar characteristics (JP, PT). Common Redpoll: literally thousands as they moved thru our region from further south. Pine Siskin: eight Tupper May 13 (CD). Vesper Sparrow: two Tupper April 14 (CD); five Ausable Point April 26 (SS); one April 29 Chazy (RP, SS, PW). Fox Sparrow: two at Tupper and two at Ausable Point. These are scarce in spring. Snow Bunting: one Tupper March 28.

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REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Century Run enthusiasts did a lot of worrying as the big day approached. March-like weather persisted through April and into May. Many folks began to

wonder if Spring would ever arrive. It did, of course, hesitantly, but eventually. A few early migrants were caught up in the indecision, however. Many swallows, for example, must have been mighty hungry as the cold, rainy weather kept the insects down. By mid-May, the weather caught up to the calendar, and a good Century Run was had by all. Actually, the bad weather retarded the departure of some species, compensating for the late date of the count, May 20, leading to a respectable total of 163 species for the day (combined HMBC-ADBC tally).

A favorable feature of the season is the comeback of the cuckoos. Both species are likely to sustain their good numbers thanks to the tent caterpillars and webworms. Also doing well are the "conifer warblers," i.e. Cape May and Bay-breasted, probably owing to the Spruce Budworm outbreak up North.

Contributors include: Arlene & Tom Brown, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Bruce Coyne, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Gretchen DeKalb, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Marion Ford, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, William Gorman, Elisabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Monte Gruett, Richard Guthrie, Betty Hicks, Paul Kerlinger, Bill Lee, Ron LaForce, Larry Meyers, Paul McDermott, Tom Palmer, Ed Reilly, Walt Sabin, Al Schroeder, Helen Storer, and Robert Yunick. Alan DeVoe Bird Club, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club records are also used. Remember Dial-A-Bird (518) 377-9600 to receive or report news of local bird happenings.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 14 Tom. Res. Apr. 23; reported by six Century Run groups, but only from a few locations. Horned Grebe: four at Four-Mile Point and one Castleton Apr. 23. Pied-billed Grebe: reported by only one group (ADBC) on CR; only other report—Franklinton Vly May 27 (KMCD). Double-crested Cormorant: scattered individuals along HR plus one group of eight mid-May. **CATTLE EGRET:** two Montgomery Co. May 14 (TP). Great Egret: one Rensselaer Co. May 20 (WG *et al.*). Black-crowned Night Heron: only one report Apr. 30. Least Bittern: May 20 (WG); two Rensselaer May 28 (PC). American Bittern: only two groups on CR; few other reports—Apr. 23 thru. **MUTE SWAN:** 1 Collins Pond, Scotia was featured in a front page photo in the *Schenectady Gazette*. Canada Goose: many reports, especially "thousands" HR at Stockport, fanning out during the day through the Coxsackie Flats corn fields—returning each evening to the river—a splendid sight indeed. Snow Goose: a flock of 42 flying over Apr. 2; scattered reports thru May 5 (JC). Ducks appeared in normal or higher numbers. Totals of Paul Connor's counts from the HR near Castleton on March 26 are: Mallard 285, Black Duck 140, Gadwall one, Pintail 45, Green-winged Teal 71, Blue-winged Teal 16, American Wigeon 38, Wood Duck 16, Ring-necked Duck 148 (high), Common Goldeneye 38, Bufflehead three, Hooded Merganser eight, Common Merganser 27, Red-breasted Merganser two. Additional duck reports of interest are as follows: Pintail: many flocks of eight to ten most of the morning of Apr. 23 Four-Mile Point. Surf Scoter: three Saratoga Lake HMBC Century Run.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 21 Southern Col. Co. Apr. 29. Goshawk: three reports of territorial pairs from Heldebergs & Rens. Plateau. Sharp-shinned Hawk: eight reports received mid-Apr. on. Cooper's Hawk: three May reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 29 individual reports—seems a bit sparse. Red-shouldered Hawk: eight reports incl. only one CR group. Broad-winged Hawk: numerous scattered reports. Rough-legged Hawk: a few lingered to mid-Apr. in Col. Co. Marsh Hawk: 14 reports thru May 20. Osprey: Apr. 22, incl. seven CR groups. Merlin: a very early **March 4th** individual Coxsackie Flats (RPG), poss. same individual same loc. one week later (PK); also one each Apr. 23 & 30 Vosburgh's Marsh (RPG & PF). Ruffed Grouse: maintaining population upswing. Bobwhite: one report Hudson-Mohawk CR. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues disappearing slowly six CR groups notwithstanding. Turkey: new addition to ADBC CR. Virginia Rail: Apr. 23 thru (JC); incl. five CR groups. Common Gallinule: Apr. 23 (PC). American Coot: only report early May Col. Co. (ER). American Woodcock: fewer reports than usual; Mar. 13 (BC) thru. Upland Sandpiper: Apr. 23 Cox. Flats (RPG). Spotted & Solitary Sandpipers: almost identical re-

ports received incl. six CR groups. Greater Yellowlegs: early May Col. Co. (ER). Lesser Yellowlegs: May 4 thru 26 Ooms Pond (JC). Pectoral Sandpiper: May 13 Col. Co. & CR one group. Least Sandpiper: May 18 Col. Co. Short-billed Dowitcher: Hudson-Mohawk CR one group. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: 1 Ooms Pond May 13 (KD & EG). **ICELAND GULL**: one Colonie Dump May 20—a new addition to the Hudson-Mohawk CR composite list bringing it to 237 species (RPG & WG *et al*). Great Black-backed Gull: ten HR north of Mechanicville Mar. 15; seven CR groups. Black Tern: May 13 Black Creek (KMcd); Saratoga Lake HMBC CR.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: definitely more numerous this year than in the recent past, about a dozen reports received from many locations; the infestation of tent caterpillars that we've just experienced should insure continued success of this and the next species. Black-billed Cuckoo: this species parallels the previous in having a banner year, only more so. Barn Owl: one report Chatham area mid-May (ER). Screech Owl: four reports received which is rather slim, considering the bird's more probable numbers. Great Horned Owl: again, few reports for a generally common bird. Barred Owl: more reports than usual incl. one road kill near Buskirk Mar. 15 (JD). Short-eared Owl: last reports for season Cox. Mar. 11. Saw-whet Owl: one Malta Saratoga Co. Mar. 7; one road kill Athens Mar. 11. Whip-poor-will: very few reported—CR two groups, only one other report received. Disturbing news for this species. Common Nighthawk: late arriving, four CR groups worked hard eeking out this species; only two other reports received. Chimney Swift: later arriving than the swallows, this species was not as adversely affected by the cold rains of early May. As the swallows return to Capistrano so have the swifts returned, on schedule, to Northville, much to the delight of the Chamber of Commerce and the local TV stations. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: conflicting reports, should be watched closely in the future. Belted Kingfisher: well reported. Common Flicker: likewise. Pileated Woodpecker: conspicuous mid to late Apr., then reclusive; only four CR groups found it. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 Nassau, Col. Co. ADBC Century Run May 20 (ER *et al*). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: fewer reports three CR groups. Hairy Woodpecker: seven CR groups. Downy Woodpecker: nine CR groups.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: some suggestions that there may be a dip in numbers despite its being recorded by 11 CR groups. Great Crested Flycatcher & Eastern Phoebe: no apparent change in status. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only report one Col. Co. May 15 (ER). Willow Flycatcher: CR four groups; 12 Rennselaer May 27 (PC). Alder Flycatcher: no reports. Least Flycatcher: favorable reports incl. nine CR groups. Eastern Wood Pewee: five CR groups. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Stuyvesant May 30 (JC). Horned Lark: very few reports only one CR group; also May 14 & 31 Col. Co. Tree Swallow: Apr. 16 thru; 11 CR groups. Bank Swallow: arrived late this year; not reported before May 14; six CR groups. Rough-winged Swallow: another latecomer mid-May; seven CR groups. Barn Swallow: first reports Apr. 13; 11 CR groups. Cliff Swallow: five CR groups; only one other report. Purple Martin: reports from Col. & Saratoga Co.; five CR groups. Blue Jay: very conspicuous this year apparently maintaining their population peak. **FISH CROW**: one HR at Four-Mile Point Apr. 30 (HS). Tufted Titmouse: eight CR groups. White-breasted Nuthatch: only six CR groups. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven CR groups; gone by May 31. Brown Creeper: scarce, only one CR group; few other scattered reports, mid-Apr. Winter Wren: Apr. 16 thru CR (two groups). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: five CR groups. Mockingbird: six CR groups. Gray Catbird: all 11 CR groups. Brown Thrasher: eight CR groups. Am. Robin: perhaps more common this year. Wood Thrush: likewise. Hermit Thrush: five CR groups seemed harder to find this year. Swainson's Thrush: seven CR groups; plentiful in migration, reflecting last year's successful breeding season; Bob Yunick had his highest number banded at Vischer Ferry in 11 years there. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one CR group; one VF May 13. Veery: also plentiful, all CR groups; also exceeds previous numbers banded at Vischer Ferry. Eastern Bluebird: only 4 CR groups; Bob Marx's survey over Dial-A-Bird located nine nests. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: continues general increase; six CR groups. Golden-crowned Kinglet: generally absent, only one CR group. Ruby-crowned

Kinglet: also scarce, only two CR groups. Cedar Waxwing: numbers remain high, ten CR groups; two banded Vischer Ferry (RPY). Northern Shrike: leftovers from winter last seen Mar. 11. Loggerhead Shrike: one Niverville Col. Co. Apr. 8 (KD).

VIREOS-WARBLED: WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 Chatham May 15 (ER). Yellow-throated Vireo: increasing and more widespread; seven CR groups. Solitary Vireo: only three groups, unusually scarce this spring. Philadelphia Vireo: two CR groups reported this rarity. Warbling Vireo: numerous and widespread, apparently becoming more so. The following warblers were reported: Black-and-white: slightly down in numbers; six CR groups. Golden-winged: definitely on the increase; nine CR groups; numerous other reports. Blue-winged: normal compared to recent years; seven CR groups. Tennessee: seven CR groups; perhaps not as numerous as last year. Nashville: seven CR groups. Northern Parula: still in a slump; only three CR groups; few reports elsewhere. Magnolia: numerous on CR (eight groups) and elsewhere. Cape May: also riding peak; ten CR groups. Black-throated Blue: nine CR groups; five banded Vischer Ferry. Yellow-rumped: although reported by ten CR groups, may be down compared to recent years; RPY banded only 30 vs. 100-200+ in previous years. **CERULEAN:** one Five Rivers Environmental Center May 28. Blackburnian: although not in substantial numbers, widely reported; nine CR groups. Bay-breasted: similar, but this represents a nice comeback for this species; nine CR groups. Pine: usual few scattered reports; two CR groups. Prairie: small local population increasing and spreading; five CR groups. Palm: one CR group (Col. Co.). Ovenbird: reported scarce by some, well-reported elsewhere; ten CR groups. No. Waterthrush: appears to be doing quite well, 15 banded Vischer Ferry; nine CR groups. Louisiana Waterthrush: also doing well but on a lesser scale; five CR groups. Mourning: three banded VF incl. an early May 13 individual. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Olana May 17 (A & TB); only report. Wilson's: four CR groups; apparently down in numbers. Canada: eight CR groups; three banded at Vischer Ferry (RPY).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: apparently continuing its long, slow decline; eight CR groups found it in traditional areas. Orchard Oriole: one CR group, only report. Scarlet Tanager: all CR groups. Cardinal: all CR groups. Indigo Bunting: arrived just in time to be included on seven CR lists. Evening Grosbeak: a few remained thru May 20 found by six CR groups. Purple Finch: also six CR groups. House Finch: Bob Marx's D-A-B survey located at least 2 dozen singing males or nesting pairs around Albany and Schenectady; reports from hilltop communities suggest that this species is not restricting itself to the Hudson-Mohawk lowlands. Pine Grosbeak: a few flocks of 10-20 were around thru March. Common Redpoll: remained the talk of the season. Bob Yunick banded a phenomenal 3,348, with a max. of 491 on the peak day of Apr. 2. He estimates that there must have been over 700 in his yard on that day alone. A "distinctly different" individual fitting well within the description of the otherwise poorly defined "Holboell's subspecies" was banded on Mar. 9. Pine Siskin: moved in as the redpolls moved out but only in modest numbers at that; remained thru CR; one straggler persisted 'til May 30. Red Crossbill: four Albany Pinebush May 30 (late). Savannah Sparrow: six CR groups. Grasshopper Sparrow: only three reports incl. one CR group. Henslow's Sparrow: returned to its small colony at Five-Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, where four CR groups listed it. Vesper Sparrow: very few reports; conspicuously absent from the Century Run where it has been reported in 30 of the 33 CR years. Tree Sparrow: very late departures; banded at VF May 5 & 6; an extremely late individual was found and carefully identified at Black-creek Marsh on the Century Run May 20 (BH, MF, GD). Field Sparrow: eight CR groups. White-crowned Sparrow: eight CR groups; other reports mid-May. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded Vischer Ferry; one CR group. Swamp Sparrow: ten CR groups; five banded VF; 20 Rensselaer May 14 (PC). Snow Bunting: E. Greenbush Mar. 26 last report.

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