

Limestone during Mar. and Apr. (RV), 85 at Farmersville Sta. during the same two months (DC); and 16 near Alfred in Mar. (EB). Max flock of the well established House Finch was 14 at Eggertsville during March (McKales) and one was banded near Limestone Apr. 21 (RV). Other notable finches were: Pine Grosbeak, two on the AC, one in Allegany SP Mar. 3 (DF), and nine in Amity Twp. Mar. 10 (VP); Com. Redpoll, 16 on the AC; and Pine Siskin, eight on the AC with 12 noted from eight areas. Sparrow reports well worth mentioning include: Grasshopper Sparrow, four on the MC, max four near Alfred May 19 thru 31, and singles at Williamsville May 10 and at Clarence May 30; Henslow's Sparrow, one on the MC and max six at Clarence Apr. 29 and May 11; Chipping Sparrow, max three, early, at E. Amherst Mar. 23 and 31 (DF); Fox Sparrow, 43 on the AC (41 for the whole Region last year), and 30 birds counted from 16 widespread areas; a Lincoln's Sparrow at Clarence Center May 7; and Song Sparrow, 525 on the MC, lowest since 1965. Single Lapland Longspurs were identified for the AC and at Alabama Apr. 7 (MZ), and Snow Buntings were found (number?) south of Arcade Mar. 2 and 8 (DC).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Call this the "Spring of the Hawks." The count at the Braddock Bay hawk lookout exceeded the previous two years of daily counts by more than 50% at season's end. This was in spite of a preponderance of days with less than ideal winds and large numbers of hawks passing too far inland to be included in the official totals. Generally, while there were exciting periods, and species totals month-by-month and for the season were good, birding seemed very spotty. There were sizable blank stretches at peak season and counts of many species seemed a bit low. An added advantage of the daily staffing of the hawk lookout was that it served also as a clearing center for nearly all observers in the field on a given day, a point to visit, to pass or seek information, or to help count for a while.

As usual, weather was a major determinant of the migration pattern. March was cool and relatively dry. There were only two periods with the temperature reaching 60° F. (16° C.) or more, March 22-24 and 29-31. Snowfall was very light and only on four days. By the 24th, the ice had melted from all the larger bodies of water and most of the smaller ponds. Waterfowl counts were good, migrant early arrival dates very few. April began with a return to winter, building to a major storm with high winds and 9.1 in. (23 cm.) of snow recorded for April 9 and continuing showery and cool through the 16th. A warming trend through the 26th culminated in the major hawk flight of the season. The month ended cool and rainy. May continued April's pattern for the first week. Finally, May 7-11 saw a prolonged hot, sunny period with the winds from the SW. Migrants poured *through*. There were many records suggesting much overshooting by more southerly breeders. Most of the birds flooded past with only brief pauses. It was over all too quickly. In addition, at this point essentially all but

the breeding waterfowl exited completely. The rest of the month was cool, showery and generally with poor winds for migrant flights. Birding was spotty.

Among the seasonal trends, the most obvious is the continued lakeshore concentration of the Region's observers. A good index is that of 381 "noteworthy records" published by the two major bird clubs, only 75 were from areas significantly removed from the lakeshore and of these, 18 were from sites of annual pilgrimages for specific species. Such statistics are self-perpetuating. In fact, though, during the peak migration of May 7 thru 11, there were few birds at many normally excellent inland sites for those who did check. The shoreline concentration of migrants is usually dictated by the geography unless really bad weather forces them down or disperses them inland. Only a cold early May with northerly winds or, later, a prolonged, slow migration will provide the peaks and pockets of the lakeshore at inland sites.

Trends or observations of note among the avian flocks include: low counts of Red-throated Loon; continued lows for "southern" herons; few Black-crowned Night Herons; better counts for several of the diving ducks; a record hawk flight; continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasants; poor shorebirding, particularly along the lakeshore where water levels rose early; low numbers for gulls and terns, generally, though Black Tern is up a bit; Com. Nighthawk still very scarce in the vicinity of Rochester; Carolina Wren and Mockingbird still low due to winter effects of the past several years; Loggerhead Shrike, lakeplain Rufous-sided Towhee, and grassland sparrows (after dispersal from initial arrival) all low and difficult to explain in terms of any habitat change; and migrant finches generally low on an expected cycle. It is not at all obvious that observations of trends in migration have much validity. Long term numerical data are sparse and difficult to analyze, feelings are apt to be highly biased toward memorable extremes of the past, and the whole picture of any migration is overwhelmingly dominated by vagaries of weather patterns on a scale dwarfing the Region. Let the serious population trends be drawn from careful statistical analysis of well run breeding bird surveys.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Mute Swan, White-fronted Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Baird's Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Boreal Owl, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Blue Grosbeak.

Abbreviations: ad.—adult; imm.—immature; BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; D—Durand Eastman Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park area; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; PB—Pt. Breeze area; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Bill, Brad, & Steve Carlson, Mike Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Paul Conklin, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, Mike Ehlers, June Feder, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Bill Hartranft, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Bob & Charlotte Ladwig, Steve Lauer, Jim Lenhard, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Robert & Margaret McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Keith Murphy, Frank, Joyce,

& Lon Myers, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durward & Lillian Skiff, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhäuser, Harriet Stride, Dan & Allen Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Clay Taylor, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, David & Carl Tremmel, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 170 Pultneyville Apr. 22. Red-throated Loon was low with only: one H May 19; and one Webster May 20, of interest as late dates. Red-necked Grebes staged a moderate flight: max. 79 WL Apr. 20; and late: one Greece May 13. Horned Grebe passed in good numbers, while Pied-billed Grebe was again relatively scarce. Good counts of Double-crested Cormorant were: nine BB May 19; and 10 BB May 28. Wandering herons were again few, represented by: Great Egret: nine records; D Mar. 30 (KD, mob); and BB Mar. 31 (mob), both early; Snowy Egret: two BB May 9 thru 13 (mob); and one H May 15 (CP); **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one ad. H Apr. 22 (MME, mob); and Cattle Egret: Parma Apr. 22 thru 25; BB Apr. 24; and BB May 15 thru 17, all probably the same bird. Among the waterfowl, swans and geese produced very high counts: Whistling Swan: 264 Carlton Station Mar. 16 (CP); and 282 WL Mar. 18 (F & RD); Canada Goose: est. 100,000 WL Mar. 18 (mob); and Brant; 64 Chili May 28 (JSk), a good inland count. Unusual were: **MUTE SWAN:** one Sodus Bay Mar. 6 (WLL, BCo); Whistling Swan: one Carlton May 20, late; and **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 4 ad. PB Mar. 14 (RC, CP, BS, mob), dropping out of a snow squall with Canadas. Ducks were generally good this Spring, though out early. Good diving duck counts were: Canvasback: 1000 Sodus Bay Apr. 8; and Ring-necked Duck: 300 WL Mar. 31. This spring's scoter flight was poor. Mergansers were normal with Red-breasted Merganser: max 8000 WL Apr. 22, a typical peak.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Again this season (Feb. 27 to June ?) the Braddock Bay hawk lookout was staffed daily by compilers Laura & Neil Moon and helpers, too numerous to name here, of varying degrees of dedication or patience. A table of peaks and totals for the season best summarizes the picture:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Peak Count</u>		<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Totals to May 31</u>		
	<u>1979</u>			<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
Turkey Vulture	209		4/14	1,531	1,059	846
Goshawk	9		3/23	43	39	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,015		4/26	4,848	6,267	1,921
Cooper's Hawk	33		4/14	133	74	59
Red-tailed Hawk	483		4/14	2,659	1,717	1,047
Red-shouldered Hawk	195		3/25	436	181	265
Broad-winged Hawk	6,376		4/25	18,729	7,665	16,472
Rough-legged Hawk	49		4/26	418	442	174
Swainson's Hawk	1		5/20	1	0	0
Golden Eagle	5		4/21	16	12	4
Bald Eagle	4		4/14	22	14	2
Marsh Hawk	147		4/14	556	347	181
Osprey	22		4/26, 5/12	204	82	37
Peregrine Falcon	2		3/25	5	6	1
Merlin	3		4/25	8	4	0
Am. Kestrel	189		4/14	696	679	109
Unidentified <i>Accipiter</i>				46	15	48
Unidentified <i>Buteo</i>				821	438	722
Unidentified eagle				0	2	1
Unidentified falcon				3	7	2
Unidentified				43	17	77
Total				31,218	19,067	21,901

As noted in the introduction, one can certainly see yearly weather effects in the table. Also, some increases in some of the raptors may be inferred; temporary? cyclic?? Again, numbers of records of the rarer raptors were somewhat encouraging. Many of the eagles were immatures again this year. Of special note are two records of melanistic Red-tailed Hawk at BB; and **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one imm. BB May 11 (RC, BS); and one ad. BB May 20 (AK, BP, EV, RB), very carefully observed at very close range. Records of interest away from the hawk lookout include: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2000 H and Kendall Apr. 25 (CC, RS, AW); and Broad-winged Hawk: 4000 H Apr. 25 (CP), counted in one hour; and 10,000 Kendall Apr. 25 (CC, RS, AW), estimated in 20 min.; and additional records of rarer species: seven Golden Eagles; eight Bald Eagles; three Peregrine Falcons; and five Merlins. For those with special interest in the details of the hawk flight, the daily records are published monthly in *The Goshawk*, May, June, and July issues.

For most observers the gap between hawks and shorebirds suffers from a sort of benign neglect. A few records document the spread of Turkey and the appearance of Bobwhite, both probably from stocking operations. Two different reports of **SANDHILL CRANE** were received: BB Apr. 17 (L & NM, mob); and H to IC May 17 (BS, mob), bird with a damaged right eye, found feeding in a field, then followed along the Lake Ontario Parkway. Shorebirding was generally hampered by high water or no water and revolved around scattered wet spots and ponds. Interesting records include: Whimbrel: one BB May 28 (WLi); Greater Yellowlegs: 38 H Apr. 28; and 40 Murray May 1, good early counts; Lesser Yellowlegs: 46 H Apr. 28; 240 Murray May 2 (RC, BS, mob); and 300 Murray May 4 thru 6 (RC, BS, mob), the latter two exceptional spring counts; Solitary Sandpiper: 30 Murray May 4, 7 (RC, BS, mob); Red Knot: two BB May 26; Pectoral Sandpiper: seven H Mar. 24 (CP, BS), early; and four BB Mar. 24 (M & TT, WLi); **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one Murray May 1 (RC); Least Sandpiper: one H Apr. 28 (RO, RS), early; and Wilson's Phalarope: one Murray May 15 thru 17; one H May 18; and one BB May 23. Gulls and terns seemed a bit low this season, but there were a number of good records: Glaucous Gull: one BB May 5; and one Kendall May 11, late records; **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one ad. PB May 30 (ST); Little Gull: one ad. BB Apr. 16 (WLi); and one imm. BB May 18 (ST); Forster's Tern: three BB Apr. 15 (RC); then reported thru the season with counts of one to two.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Owls again provide the bulk of the noteworthy records: Snowy Owl: three Batavia Mar. 18; Long-eared Owl: max. 11 Manitou Mar. 24, a good count; and the Region's 5th **BOREAL OWL**: Northrup Creek Mar. 3 thru 6 (MC, mob), seen and photographed by many from all over the state. Com. Nighthawk still remains very low in the immediate Rochester vicinity. A good high count of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was: 75 WL Apr. 21 (WLi, MAS).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A very early record was Great Crested Flycatcher: one PB Apr. 26 (WLi). There were several reports of single, migrant Acadian Flycatcher: IC May 12; IC May 15; Bergen Swamp May 18; Manitou May 20; and Chili May 28, all singing birds. Willow Flycatcher: one Webster Park May 9 (RS), heard calling, was very early. E. Wood Pewee: one Penfield May 8, was also early, again certainly associated with the warm spell with good SW breezes. Olive-sided Flycatcher reports were the usual few: one H May 20 (mob); and one IC May 31. Early swallows were: Tree Swallow: one BB Mar. 22; Barn Swallow: one BB Mar. 24; and Purple Martin: one BB Mar. 24 (WLi, CP, mob). An excellent find was **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one BB May 29 (B & CL). Wren notes include: Winter Wren: one singing D Mar. 6; and Short-billed Marsh Wren: one-three Chili May 8 thru 31 (JSk, mob); and one-three Greece May 20 thru (RM, mob). Early thrush reports were: Wood Thrush: one Rochester Apr. 29; Swainson's Thrush: one Hemlock Lake Apr. 20 (CC), very early; and Gray-cheeked Thrush: one IC May 8. A good count of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was: 14 BB Apr. 26 (MC, CP). There were the usual scattered reports of migrant Loggerhead Shrike, but most interesting was: two H May 2 thru 18 (RS, mob), exhibiting

what appeared to be breeding behavior, but then simply disappearing. [Note: As has been suggested by many others for rarer breeders, this site was not generally disclosed or frequently or closely visited during the apparent nesting attempt.]

VIREOS—WARBLERS: There were many good finds in this grouping. Most normally early migrants were 1 to 4 days ahead of last year and on the early side of average. Many of the usual late May arrivals blew in with the May 7 thru 11 hot spell. The best of the records are: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one BB May 9 (CP, CT, mob); one IC May 15 (CP); and one Penfield May 27 (M & RM); **Red-eyed Vireo:** one several locations May 8, early; **Prothonotary Warbler:** one Greece May 10, and one BB May 13; **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Webster Park May 9 (RS); **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one IC May 9 (JK, FDo, mob); one BB May 13 (CP); and one IC May 15 (CP); **Cerulean Warbler:** one Webster Park May 9; **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one D May 8 (L & NM, J & JD, FDo); **Bay-breasted Warbler:** five IC May 7, early; **Blackpoll Warbler:** one IC May 8 (JK), early; **Prairie Warbler:** one BB May 20 (RC, ST, KD, mob); **N. Waterthrush:** one BB Apr. 22 (MC), early; **Louisiana Waterthrush:** one D Apr. 26, scarce on the lakeplain; an explosion of **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** D May 8 (MC, mob); Webster May 8 (WLi); BB May 9 (RM, mob), banded; BB May 13 (JSk, mob); IC May 15 (CP); Manitou May 19 (NM, mob); and BB May 20 (CP, ST, mob); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one PB May 27 (CP); **Mourning Warbler:** one IC May 12 (mob); **Yellow-breasted Chat:** four singing IC Rd. May 30 (ST); **Hooded Warbler:** one Irondequoit Apr. 27; and ten LP May 20 (RC, BS); **Wilson's Warbler:** one IC May 8; and **Canada Warbler:** one IC May 9.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: This year there was no record of careful counting of the streams of passerine migrants passing along the lakeshore, though there was casual noting of the fact of their presence, particularly for the May 7 thru 11 period. Notable records in this group include: **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one male singing PB Apr. 24 thru (WLi, mob); and one Parma May 20 (RO, mob); **Orchard Oriole:** one ad. male Pultneyville May 6 (FDo); one imm. male Kendall May 10 (B & CL); seven, three male, four female PB May 20 (S, B & BC), they have bred at this location for several years; one imm. male H May 20 (RS, mob), and one BB May 21 thru 24 (NM, mob); **NO. (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE:** one ad. male D May 7 thru 9 (AS, mob), apparently only the 4th state record; **BLUE GROSBEAK:** one female PB May 12 (MD, WLi, HM, mob), very rare here, carefully reported; a late Tree Sparrow: Manitou May 8 (RD); a very late Fox Sparrow: Brighton May 1 thru 29 (AW), frequenting a feeder; and an excellent count of Lincoln's Sparrow: 70 WL May 15 (CP).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. MCILROY

After February's deep freeze, the mild March was a welcome change. Temperature averaged four degrees above normal, with readings in the 50's and 60's the last ten days. Precipitation was slightly below normal, very little of it as snow. The first half of April was cool and there was a six to eight inch snowfall around the 9th. Unusually warm weather April 20 to 27 with temperatures from the mid 60's to mid 70's brought the month's average up to two degrees below nor-