

no others. Canada Warbler: 11 at four stops Portlandville-Milford May 12; also May 12 Cortland. American Redstart: Three Hillcrest May 4.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 6 Vestal; 36 along 10 miles in Plymouth area May 26. Eastern Meadowlark: Mar. 13 Owego. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one Endicott May 20 (RL), fairly close range in good light but observer without binoculars—bright yellow head, dark body and white wing patches seen well; not found May 30 when spot revisited. Red-winged Blackbird: migrants, in numbers, from Mar. 3. Northern Oriole: May 3 Port Dickinson; common from May 6. Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 23 Port Dickinson; May 12 Cortland; also from Owego in Apr. Common Grackle: Mar. 2 Owego; common from Mar. 8. Brown-headed Cowbird: 75 or more Delhi Mar. 6. Scarlet Tanager: May 8, Chenango Forks and 1 Oneonta-Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Vestal. Indigo Bunting: one Delhi May 6; next report May 12 Chenango Forks; common from May 15. Evening Grosbeak: last date May 15 Port Dickinson. Purple Finch: plentiful to about May 13, then dwindling to small but regular summer population. House Finch: eight Cortland Mar. 11; 15 singing at Norwich Apr. 29; also reported from Owego and regular and prominent in the Triple Cities area. Pine Grosbeak: six Portlandville-Milford Mar. 3, only ones. Pine Siskin: one Cortland Mar. 8; Apr. 5 Owego; Apr. 17 Port Dickinson; 2 Delhi Apr. 26; that's all. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 11 Choconut Center; no more until one Norwich Apr. 21 and Vestal Center Apr. 22. Savannah Sparrow: one Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 14. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 12 Cortland; May 20 Vestal Center; that's all. Henslow's Sparrow: May 20 Endwell; May 30 Endicott; the only ones. Vesper Sparrow: 2 Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 7; also at Plymouth Reservoir, Hillcrest and Delhi, but not many. Dark-eyed Junco: migrants mostly gone by the end of April; eight May 15 Portlandville-Oneonta May 15 and three Plymouth area May 26, plus a few others are probably summer residents. Tree Sparrow: Apr. 23 Delhi, last date. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 11 Owego; regular from Apr. 15; "lots" singing Apr. 24 Choconut Center and 30 singing in two-thirds of Norwich Apr. 29. Field Sparrow: regular from Apr. 5. White-crowned Sparrow: four Sherburne and one Norwich Apr. 21; 20 Sherburne May 5, max; reported from all reporting areas, mostly from May 3 to 14 with May 20 Port Crane the only later report. White-throated Sparrow: migrants mainly from Apr. 14 to May 12 but several later records, the last three in the Plymouth area May 26, probably representing summer residents. Fox Sparrow: Mar. 11 Vestal and Vestal Center to Apr. 19 Choconut Center and Vestal Center. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 10 Vestal Center, the only one. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 15 Whitney Point. Song Sparrow: migrants evident about Mar. 9.

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Spring is often characterized by extremes in central New York and such was the case this season.

The previous season's snow accumulation had largely melted by the middle of March except for scattered drifts and on higher elevations, but total snowfall for March was 14.9 inches, 3.8 inches over the previous March. April became the fourth snowiest on record, 10.2 inches, just short of the 12 inch record in April, 1975.

Temperature extremes for March varied from a low of 10 degrees Fahrenheit to a balmy 76 degrees Fahrenheit recorded at Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake on March 23rd. The same date also brought one of the finest spring hawk flights at Derby Hill in recent memory. Temperatures for the first half of April rose no higher than 54 degrees Fahrenheit, but a high of 79 degrees Fahrenheit on April 25th confirmed that spring was finally here.

A Bermuda High off the coast of Virginia brought temperatures soaring into the 80's and low 90's for the beginning of an early summer from May 8 thru 12. Winds from out of the south at forty to sixty mph on March 24th proved to be too strong for any spectacular hawk flights at Derby Hill as opposed to the previous day. Again on April 6th wind velocities from out of the west reached 63 mph, the highest in 25 years for Syracuse, but unfortunately it was too early in the season for it to bring any western birds to our area.

Positives for the season include: an increasing number of Great Black-backed Gulls, an excellent, but brief flight of Whistling Swans and Canada Geese; a good return flight of Northern Shrikes through March; *superb* hawk migration at Derby Hill due in part to the first daily coverage by Gerald Smith and favorable weather patterns; heavy movement of Evening Grosbeaks and the further expansion of the House Finch.

Negatives include low numbers of American and Least Bitterns, rails and gallinules; a very poor shorebird flight both early and late; Bonaparte's Gull and all terns showed very low numbers; intercontinental wintering birds are continuing to show below normal numbers, such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, all wrens, Brown Thrasher, kinglets and sparrows both as migrants and breeders.

Extreme rarities: Northern Fulmar, Gannet, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Great Gray Owl, Sandhill Crane, Worm-eating Warbler.

Rarities: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Mute Swan, Peregrine Falcon, Willet, Boreal Chickadee, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler.

Contributors: Gerald Church (GC); Kate and Steve Coyle (KC); Dorothy W. Crumb (DWC); Paul DeBenedictis (PDeB); Bruno and Dee DeSimone (DeS); Gene Huggins (GH); Kenneth Karwowski; Jay Lehman; Bob Long; David Muir; Belle and Sheila Peebles; Marge S. Rusk (MSR); Fritz Scheider (FGS); Gerald Smith (GS); Christian G. Spies (CGS); Mackenzie Stewart (MacS); Mandy Stooks (MS).

Abbreviations: Fair Haven—FH; Derby Hill—DH; Dewitt Marsh—DeWM; Howland's Island—Higma; Lake Ontario littoral—LOL; Little Sodus Bay—LSB; Nine Mile Pt.—NMPt.; Sandy Pond—SPd; Seneca River Flats—SRF; St. Mary's Cemetery—St.MC; Tug Hill Plateau—THP.

Observations for which no observer is listed should be credited to F. G. Scheider.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max. 15 L. Moraine Apr. 7 (J. Lehman); Red-necked Grebe: two LSB Apr. 1; Horned Grebe: max 92 LSB, LOL Apr. 8; Pied-billed Grebe: very low in numbers max seven s. Madison Co. Apr. 13 (GC); N. FULMAR: one dead male, found between Mar. 31-Apr. 8. L. Ont. (CGS); GANNET: one dead juvenile, found between Mar. 31-Apr. 8, L. Ont. (CGS); Double-crested Cormorant: max 17 noted at SPd. May 27; Great Blue Heron: max 35/day May 5; GREAT EGRET: seven at Utica Marsh Apr. 10 (DeS); SNOWY EGRET: three at Utica Marsh May 12 (Ken Karwowski); Black-crowned Night

Heron: max four NMPt. May 11 (D Muir); **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: first regional record, one at a pond in Solvay May 23 thru 30 (B. Ballard, DWC); Am. Bittern: a total of 18 in Regional marshes; Least Bittern: one in Clay Marsh May 11 none reported elsewhere; Mute Swan: one at DH, DeWM, Jamesville Res. Mar. 22 thru Apr. 22; Whistling Swan: a high of 69 SRF last at Otisco L Apr. 1; Canada Goose: max 16, 119 SRF, Higma Mar. 17; Brant: max 15 LOL May 21; Snow Goose: max 200 SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Gadwall: max 14 SRF, Higma Mar. 18 (MSR); Pintail: max 1,323 SRF, Higma Mar. 17; Green-winged Teal: max 40 Apr. 1; Blue-winged Teal: max 16 Oriskany Flats Apr. 14 (MS); Am. Wigeon: max 80 Apr. 1; N. Shoveler: very scarce, one to four/day; Wood Duck: max 36 Apr. 8; Red-head: max 316 Mar. 17; Ring-necked Duck: max 278 Mar. 17; Canvasback: max 370 Mar. 18; Gr. Scaup: max 385 Mar. 17; Common Goldeneye: max 330 Mar. 22; Bufflehead: max 70 Apr. 22; King Eider: first May record one at SPd inlet May 13; White-winged Scoter: max 18 LOL May 6; Surf Scoter: one to two/day LOL; Ruddy Duck: three SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Hooded Merganser: max 11 Apr. 13; Com. Merganser: max 306 Mar. 1; Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,000 Apr. 12.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Derby Hill observations:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arr. Date</u>	<u>Dep. Date</u>	<u>Max./date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 10	May 22	242/Apr. 15*	1,009
Goshawk	Mar. 3	May 19	14/Mar. 3	55
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar. 8	May 31	2,104/Apr. 26	9,367*
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 3	May 19	133/Mar. 23*	464*
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 23	May 31	1,074/Mar. 23	7,525*
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 6	May 20	347/Mar. 23	951
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 17	May 31	8,909/Apr. 28	33,055*
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 23	May 20	68/Apr. 26*	432*
Golden Eagle	Mar. 7	May 13	3/Mar. 23	18
Bald Eagle	Mar. 13	May 27	3/Apr. 30	14*
Marsh Hawk	Mar. 1	May 30	81/Apr. 13	667*
Osprey	Apr. 12	May 20	122/Apr. 26	692*
PEREGRINE FALCON	May 7	May 14	1/day	3
Merlin	Apr. 13	May 9	5/Apr. 25	14
American Kestrel	Mar. 9	May 20	94/Apr. 13	548

Record daily high and record yearly total* compiled by Gerald Smith and David Muir. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one light-phase adult near Derby Hill Apr. 26, FGS, DWC, second record for the Region; one Golden Eagle west of Stratford, Herkimer Co. May 12 (DeS); Ring-necked Pheasant: declining, a total 24; **SANDHILL CRANE**: one at DH May 8 (DWC, GS, Jan Muir, B. Miner); Virginia Rail: max four May 13, arr. Apr. 22; Sora Rail: max six DeWM Apr. 23 (KC); Com. Gallinule: max 16 Utica Marsh May 17; Am. Coot: very low, a max six SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Semipalmated Plover: max 14 SPd May 27, arr May 13; Killdeer: max 61 DH Mar. 24 (GS); Black-bellied Plover: two/day LOL Apr. 28 thru May 27; Ruddy Turnstone: two/day May 22 thru 31; Am. Woodcock: max eight Fulton May 5 (MSR); Com. Snipe: max 12 Six Mi. Creek May 6 (MSR); Upland Sandpiper: a total 17 in the Region, arr. Apr. 23; Spotted Sandpiper; arr. Apr. 28; **WILLET**: one at DH area Apr. 26 (mob); Solitary Sandpiper: max 12 DH May 3 (GS), arr. Apr. 21; Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 Six Mi. Creek May 6 (MSR), arr. Mar. 29; Lesser Yellowlegs: max 17 Higma May 5; Pectoral Sandpiper: one to seven/day Apr. 26 thru May 10; ~~White-rumped Sandpiper: max 11 DH area Apr. 28 (GS);~~ Least Sandpiper: max 27 LOL May 18, Dunlin: one to seven/day Apr. 22 thru May 27; Short-billed Dowitcher: max 55 SPd May 13; Semipalmated Sandpiper: two/day May 21 thru 27; Sanderling: five SPd May 13 thru 27; Glaucous Gull: one LOL Mar. 1 thru 13; Iceland Gull: one Oswego H. Mar. 1; Bonaparte's Gull: one to six/day, arr. Apr. 1; Com. Tern: max 75 LOL May 10, arr. Apr. 26; Caspian Tern: one to three/day, arr. Apr. 13; Black Tern: numbers continue to decline, a total of 23.

Renata

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one/day, arr. Chittanooga May 12 (MacS); Black-billed Cuckoo: one to three/day arr. StMC May 9; Snowy Owl: three lingering in the area till Mar. 13; Long-eared Owl: one at Noyes Sanctuary Apr. 22; Short-eared Owl: one at Noyes Sanctuary Mar. 5 thru May 5; **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one still in sw. Oswego Mar. 1, none reported afterwards; Saw-whet Owl: a total of six for the Region; Whip-poor-will: two NMPt Apr. 25 (D Muir); Chimney Swift: max 85 DH May 18; Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Apr. 29; Com. Flicker: max 157 DH Apr. 21; Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to four/day; Red-headed Woodpecker: max six Chittanooga May 30 (MacS); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 THP, May 28.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: max 43 May 20, arr. May 3; Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 May 28, arr. May 7; E. Phoebe: max 20 Mar. 31, arr. Mar. 31; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a total of three for the Region; Willow Flycatcher: one to eight/day, arr. May 14, DH (GS); Alder Flycatcher: one to seven/day, arr. May 19; Least Flycatcher: max 38 THP May 28; E. Wood Pewee: max 12 THP May 28; Olive-sided Flycatcher: two/day arr. May 15; Tree Swallow: max 1400 DH May 6, arr. Mar. 23; Bank Swallow: max 1200 DH May 6, arr. Apr. 21; Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 DH, May 6, arr. Apr. 21; Barn Swallow: max 1300 DH May 6, arr. Apr. 12; Purple Martin: one exceptional early date of Mar. 24, DH (mob); **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one at Shackleton Pt. Mar. 10 thru 18 (FGS, MSR); **COM. RAVEN:** two at DH Mar. 6 (GS); Tufted Titmouse: two/day; House Wren: max 34 May 12, arr. Apr. 22; Winter Wren: max eight Apr. 22, arr. Apr. 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren: max eight May 19, arr. May 13; Mockingbird: one to two/day with Waterville, New Haven and DH being new locations; Gray Catbird: max 28, arr. Apr. 27; Brown Thrasher: max seven, arr. Apr. 24; Wood Thrush: max 28 May 12, arr. May 1; Hermit Thrush: max 11 Apr. 29, arr. Apr. 22; Swainson's Thrush: max 11 May 30, arr. Apr. 22; E. Bluebird: max 19 Brookfield May 20 (GC), arr. Mar. 24; Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 45 LOL Apr. 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 45 LOL Apr. 22; N. Shrike: one to three/day lingering to Apr. 12; Loggerhead Shrike: one at DH area Mar. 1 thru Apr. 21.

WARBLERS-VIREOS: Yellow-throated Vireo: max eight May 19, arr. May 5; Solitary Vireo: max seven THP May 28, arr. Apr. 20; Philadelphia Vireo: one/day May 5 thru 28; **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one along Erie Canal, Chittanooga Apr. 28 (MacS, B. Peebles, KC); Black-and-white Warbler: one to seven/day, arr. Apr. 22; **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one in St.MC DeWitt May 9 thru 19 (PDeB); Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler: max seven/day, arr. May 8; "Brewster's" Warbler: one to two in scattered localities, Camillus, Chittanooga, NMPt, THP; Tennessee Warbler: max 65 St.MC May 17 (PDeB), arr. May 5; Nashville Warbler: max 26 May 10, arr. May 2; N. Parula: scarce one to four/day May 7 thru 22; Yellow Warbler: max 54 May 18, arr. Apr. 24; Magnolia Warbler: ten/day, arr. May 5; Cape May Warbler: ten/day, May 3 thru 20; Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 23 THP May 28; Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 1750 DH May 3 (GS); Black-throated Green Warbler: max 17 May 12, arr. May 3; Cerulean Warbler: seven/day, arr. May 8; Blackburnian Warbler: max 46 THP May 28; Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 61 THP May 28; Bay-breasted Warbler: max 46 StMC, Camillus May 12; Blackpoll Warbler: seven/day arr. May 12; Pine Warbler: a total of six for the Region, arr. at Selkirk, L. Ont.; **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** one at Toad Harbor May 7 (MSR); Palm Warbler: two/day arr. Apr. 24, dep. May 10; Ovenbird: max ten May 10, arr. May 3; No. Waterthrush: arr. Apr. 24, Clay Marsh; Louisiana Waterthrush: arr. Apr. 20, Chittanooga Gorge (MacS); Com. Yellowthroat: max 26 May 22, arr. May 3; **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one at StMC May 11 (B. Long); Mourning Warbler: max four FH May 31 (MSR); Hooded Warbler: max six THP May 28; Wilson's Warbler: max three May 27, arr. May 8, Clay M.; Canada Warbler: max five May 23, arr. May 8; Am. Redstart: max 44 Sterling Twp. May 22, arr. May 3.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: max 135 DH May 12 (GS); E. Meadowlark: max 42 LOL Apr. 12; No. Oriole: max 205 DH May 18 (GS); Orchard Oriole: one imm. DH May 20, two at Kirkville May 4, (KC); Rusty Blackbird: arr. Mar. 17, last day at Shore Oaks May 19,

(PDeB, FGS); Scarlet Tanager: max 34 DH May 18, arr. May 3; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: record early arr. Apr. 22; Indigo Bunting: numbers down max ten DH May 20; Evening Grosbeak: departed on May 19, NMpt, (D. Muir); House Finch: two migrating at DH Apr. 21, 30-32 singing males in DeWitt, (B. Long); Purple Finch: max 100 LOL Apr. 26; Pine Siskin: scattered wintering birds till May 20; Rufous-sided Towhee: very scarce, max 22 LOL Apr. 7; Savannah Sparrow: max 19 LOL Apr. 12, arr. Apr. 1, Chittanooga (MacS); Grasshopper Sparrow: two singles, one near Parish, one at Griffis A.F. Base; Henslow's Sparrow: a total of seven, four at Toad Harbor, three at Bolivar; Vesper Sparrow: max ten LOL Apr. 22, arr. Apr. 1; Tree Sparrow: very poor spring flight, max 37 Higma Apr. 1, last May 1; Chipping Sparrow: max 38 LOL May 18; Field Sparrow: max 12 DH May 3; White-crowned Sparrow: one to four/day extremely low in numbers; White-throated Sparrow: max 190 LOL May 3 arr. Apr. 4, DeWitt (B. Long); Fox Sparrow: very low max 3 StMC Apr. 22 (PDeB); Lincoln's Sparrow: two/day; Swamp Sparrow: very scarce, max 15 Scott Swamp, Fox Ridge May 5; Song Sparrow: max 95 Higma, FH Apr. 1; Snow Bunting: max 180 s. Madison Co. Mar. 12 (GC).

1000 Crawford Ave., Syracuse, New York 13224

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1979 presented some real challenges to the serious birder. Weather, and/or the birds, were not very cooperative at times, but persistence eventually paid off. March was generally wet with temperatures below normal. However, on March 23 a high of 72° F. (22° C.) and heavy winds the following day opened up Lake Ontario bays and harbors as well as the northeastern shore. April started out with a bang when the "Big Wind Storm" hit on April 6th with considerable lakeshore and St. Lawrence River damage. A severe snowstorm on April 9th only dusted our area but hit other parts of the state hard. Rain and cool weather continued through April and May except for a warm week in early May when high 80's were experienced and then back to cool and rainy through the period.

Concern for some species which continue to decline is increasing. These species include Pied-billed Grebe, Am. Bittern, Redhead, Canvasback, Common Tern, Black Tern and Vesper Sparrow. Newcomers to our "alert" list are Green Heron, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, E. Wood Pewee and White-throated Sparrow.

Improvements were noted in Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk and Loggerhead Shrike, E. Bluebird, and the Little Galloo Island Ring-billed Gull colony continues to expand.

Rarities for the period were many and included Common Eider, Bald Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Finch, and Grasshopper Sparrow. An exceptional flight of shorebirds was recorded by Tom Carrolan at El Dorado on May 30th—a miserable day, when he saw a total of 3225 shorebirds in a two