

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Derby Hill, Oswego County, New York: At about 9:15 EST on 3 May 1980, the author was bird banding in a field on Derby Hill, near the Lake Ontario shore. From a blind, I noted a flock of eight or ten icterids flying eastward, several hundred feet in front of the blind and approximately 30 feet above hilltop level. The flock consisted of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and several Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). One bird, however, was easily recognizable as an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). I stepped out of the blind and was clearly able to see the yellow head and breast and the white wing patches without the aid of binoculars, as the bird passed over the hill.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird has been recorded on at least two dozen occasions in New York State (Bull, *Birds of New York State*, 1974). A mid-summer record of this species at Lacona, Oswego Co., 6-13 July 1969, and a spring record at Tonawanda, Erie Co., 5-17 May 1967 were reported by Bull (1974). Other more recent spring sightings include: Centereach, Suffolk Co., 19 Feb.-25 April 1978; E. Walden, Orange Co., 16 Apr. 1978; Rochester, Monroe Co., 20 April 1978; Endicott, Broome Co., 20 May 1979; and W. Sayville, Suffolk Co., 17 March-15 April 1979. There is also a fall record of two individuals at Sandy Pond, Oswego Co., 4 September 1978 (see Regional Reports, *Kingbird*). In view of these records and the observation reported here, it seems that this species is a regular, although rare, spring migrant in New York State. To the author's knowledge, this sighting constitutes the third record of the species in Oswego County.

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