

May 16. Hooded: at least three singing males at Dryden (Kelsey) and one taped on Connecticut Hill May 23 (D. Sibley).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Evening Grosbeak: frequent widespread reports thru the entire period. Com. Redpoll: 30 SAD Mar. 9 (JMc). Pine Siskin: 30 were still at a feeder in Penn Yan May 31; many late reports from across the Region; two nesting attempts in Ithaca. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Ithaca Apr. 11 early; quite widely reported. Henslow's Sparrow: only reports were from Ithaca from Apr. 3 on. Vesper Sparrow: the number of reports of this greatly diminished species picked up a bit this spring. **LARK SPARROW:** one SAD May 28 well described (JMc*). Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: one Ithaca Apr. 9. Tree Sparrow: one Ithaca May 16 late. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Clifton Springs observed "courting" a Chipping Sparrow during the last week of May (P. Trail). **HARRIS' SPARROW:** one Ithaca May 11 (W. Dilger). White-crowned Sparrow: there were many in the Phelps area but most observers called them few and late. Fox Sparrow: scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: singles at Ithaca May 5 and MNWR May 19 were the only reports.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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March averaged on the warm side of normal although for a period in the middle of the month there were days when temperatures were below freezing at mid-day and some snow fell. In early April, temperatures were often in or near the seventies with the expected showers. The last three weeks of April were cooler, drier and often windy. Most of the April showers waited until the early part of May when cool wet weather was usual, although not constant. The last ten days of May were much warmer and drier.

Except for geese, our usual light waterfowl migration was even lighter than usual. The most shocking decline among these species, at least to this observer, has been that of Ring-necked Ducks. It has happened over several years, rather than being a sudden one or two year drop. In years past, a single flock on a flooding small stream would contain two, three or even more times as many birds as our total of eleven from all reports this year.

The small land bird migration seemed to be a little ahead of schedule in early April, but in late April and during the cool wet spell in the first half of May, it slowed to the point where some of the later species were behind schedule. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and both kinglets were below par. Kingbirds, Warbling Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers and meadowlarks appeared to be up.

The grassland sparrows continue to be a disaster—no Henslow's Sparrows at all—although Vesper Sparrows may have increased slightly. Until late May it appeared that even Savannah Sparrows were affected, but then more were found.

Observers: Roger Allen (RA); Bill Badgley (BBa); Bill Breidinger (BBr); Nancy Brundage; Sally Carey; Jane Chittenden; Mildred Clark (MC); Eileen & Bill Clayton; John Collins (JC); Carlton & Jeannette Davis; Ann & Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber (SD); Polly & Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall (CG); Bob Grant (BG); Shirley Hartman (SH); Jim & Kathy Hoteling; Margaret Layton; Leona McDowell; Janice Mangan; John

New (JN); Peter Petokas (PP); James Riley; Harriett Robison; Robert & Jean Saunders (R, JS); Joe Sedlacek; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Jared Shore (JS); Kathryn W. Smith (KS); Lois Stalter (LS); William Stupke; Bill Toner (BT); Jo Tuttle; Elizabeth Washburn; Connie Wilkins (CW); Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom & Beryl Wilson; Irene Wright (IW).

Abbreviations: CSC—Cortland Spring Count May 16; OSC—Oneonta Spring Count May 23.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one at Homer Apr. 26, the first of eight reports and at least 13 individuals to May 30—most of the reports from Oneonta-Portlandville area, but also from Upper Lisle in Broome Co. Horned Grebe: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 4, but no others. Red-necked Grebe: four in one flock Upper Lisle May 16 (A, MD). Pied-billed Grebe: one Upper Lisle Mar. 15, the first of four reports—the last Apr. 21. Great Blue Heron: fairly frequent reports from Mar. 18; 13 Oneonta May 23, max. Green Heron: Apr. 30 Oneonta, first; not many. Little Blue Heron: one CSC, no details. Black-crowned Night Heron: one CSC, no others. Am. Bittern: one Apalachin May 17, the only report. Glossy Ibis: three Little York, in Cortland Co., Apr. 2 (PP), a first for the Region—no details. Canada Goose: migrating flocks all during Mar. and Apr.; 1,000 at Apalachin Apr. 28 and 200 near Middlefield, Otsego Co., May 4; last report May 20 Upper Lisle. Snow Goose: 20 at Cannonsville Reservoir Mar. 28 (SD). Black Duck: 80 Cannonsville Res. Mar. 4, the best count. Pintail: approx. 20 at Upper Lisle Apr. 4 (A, MD), the only report. Green-winged Teal: three Homer Mar. 26, the first, and four May 4 Oneonta-Portlandville, the last; never common. Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 4 Upper Lisle, Apr. 26 max; also reported from Oneonta-Portlandville. Am. Wigeon: 30 or more Mar. 15 Upper Lisle; also at Upper Lisle Apr. 11 and 12, but no others. Wood Duck: at Homer and Cortlandville Mar. 21, first date. Red-head: four and five Whitney Point Mar. 15 and 22 respectively; also there Mar. 28, but no others reported. Ring-necked Duck: two Whitney Point Mar. 15; six Homer Mar. 29; two Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 4; one at Choconut Center, on a small man-made pond Apr. 19; no others. Greater Scaup: four Homer Mar. 29, scaup (sp?): Apr. 4 and 12 Whitney Point. Com. Goldeneye: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7, the last. Bufflehead: four Whitney Point Mar. 15, first; seven CSC max and last; also reported from Oneonta-Portlandville. Oldsquaw: three Homer Apr. 3, first; 14 Whitney Point Apr. 4, max; three at Crumhorn Lake, e. of Oneonta, May 2, last. Hooded Merganser: Mar. 9 Delhi, first date; 12 Upper Lisle Mar. 15, max; Apr. 8 last. Com. Merganser: two still at Cortland May 16. Red-breasted Merganser: ten Upper Lisle Apr. 4 (A, MD), first and max; the last of three more reports was five OSC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three at Cannonsville, one near Vestal and one Oneonta-Portlandville all Mar. 28; fairly frequent thereafter. Goshawk: one CBC; no others. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 17 reports. Cooper's Hawk: five reports, all of single birds and all from Oneonta-Portlandville. Red-tailed Hawk: 16 OSC, best count. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Vestal May 9 (CG); one Crumhorn May 14 (MD); one CSC; one OSC. Broad-winged Hawk: one Delhi Apr. 10; two more Apr. reports and routine in May. Rough-legged Hawk: four Homer Apr. 2 (BT), the last report; only two Mar. reports. Bald Eagle: one Cannonsville Mar. 4 (SD), two Hancock Mar. 22 (BBr); two Cannonsville Mar. 23 (SH); a mature bird Apr. 25 at Lisle (RA); one Upper Lisle May 29 (JS). Marsh Hawk: two females Mar. 28 Apalachin (JC); Apr. 30 Oneonta (JN); no other reports. Osprey: one Cannonsville Mar. 2 (SH) was very early; next report one at Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7 (MD, KW); 13 reports from Apr. 19 to May 23. Ruffed Grouse: 36 OSC the best count, but numbers up everywhere. Ring-necked Pheasant: only a half dozen reports. Turkey: a flock of 26 at Delhi Mar. 4 to Apr. 10 (MC); other scattered reports. Am. Coot: five CSC, the only ones. Killdeer: Mar. 4 Delhi; next area reporting Oneonta-Portlandville Mar. 21. Black-bellied Plover: one CSC, the first in the Region in several years. Am. Woodcock: Apr. 11 Choconut Center, probably there earlier; Apr. 27 Franklin, two adults with five young. Com. Snipe: three Upper Lisle Apr. 11—species still there May 9 and reported several times between. Spotted Sandpiper: two Upper Lisle Apr. 19 (MS); three Homer Apr. 20; next report May 2. Soli-

tary Sandpiper: Apr. 27 Oneonta (JN); Apr. 30 Delhi; five Portlandville May 4, max; May 23 last date. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle the first, and one OSC the last of seven reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: seven OSC, the only report. Least Sandpiper: one Portlandville May 19, and 15 OSC; that's all. Semipalmated Sandpiper: seven OSC; no others. Herring Gull: 25 Franklin Mar. 11, max; May 9 Upper Lisle, last. Ring-billed Gull: 30 Upper Lisle May 3, max. Bonaparte's Gull: seen at Upper Lisle Apr. 11 and May 2 and 9 (A, MD); no others. Com. Tern: seen at Upper Lisle May 2 and 20 (A, MD); no others.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 22 Oneonta; two Oneonta-Portlandville May 30, that's all. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 13 Vestal Center, first of 12 May reports; max five OSC. Screech Owl: one OSC the only report. Snowy Owl: one Apr. 8, 17 and 21 (BT)—sick or injured? Barred Owl: one OSC the only report. Long-eared Owl: May 12 Springfield Center, a nest with one imm. and one adult—four young present three days earlier (BBa, *fide* MD, KW, IW). Saw-whet Owl: Mar. 21 Hinman's Corners (R, JS). Whippoorwill: one OSC; no others. Com. Nighthawk: from mid-May in downtown Oneonta. Chimney Swift: first date Apr. 29, one over Oneonta. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 7 Oneonta, first; "about six pairs" early evening May 23 to 28 in a horse chestnut tree in Oneonta (BG). Com. Flicker: Mar. 21 Endwell; regular from Mar. 28. Pileated Woodpecker: 16 or more reports; six OSC max. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one CSC, no details. Red-headed Woodpecker: CSC but no others. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr. 4 Chenango Forks, to the end of May; 18 OSC, max.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: May 4 Oneonta-Portlandville and Middlefield; quite common; 62 OSC. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 6 Oneonta; 22 OSC. E. Phoebe: Mar. 29 Middlefield; 31 OSC. Willow Flycatcher: three OSC, first date; two Upper Lisle May 24. Alder Flycatcher: two OSC, the only ones. Least Flycatcher: two Oneonta-Portlandville May 2, first. E. Wood Pewee: May 14 Middlefield, first. Tree Swallow: Mar. 29 Chenango Forks and Delhi. Bank Swallow: very few reports and no representative first date, but 175 OSC. Rough-winged Swallow: one Upper Lisle Apr. 19, first; 100 or more May 2 Oneonta-Portlandville (MD, KW), unusual numbers for the species. Barn Swallow: Apr. 30 Delhi. Cliff Swallow: Apr. 27 and regularly Oneonta-Portlandville, max eight May 4; only one other report, May 16 Upper Lisle. Purple Martin: "many" May 5 at Little York; about 12 pairs nesting at Unadilla; also reported at Owego. Tufted Titmouse: regular at Chenango Forks; also reported from Binghamton, Chenango Bridge, Choconut Center, Endwell and Vestal Center. Red-breasted Nuthatch: remained common through Apr. and still at Oneonta May 23. Brown Creeper: four OSC. House Wren: Apr. 29 Walton, first. Winter Wren: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4, the only report all spring. Mockingbird: reported from at least a dozen places during the period. Gray Catbird: Apr. 30 Delhi, first. Brown Thrasher: Apr. 21 Cortland; only 13 on OSC, which seems representative. Am. Robin: regular from Mar. 14. Wood Thrush: one Apalachin Apr. 24; next date May 2. Hermit Thrush: seven reports of one to three birds each Apr. 16 to May 23, all from the Oneonta-Portlandville-Middlefield area; no others. Swainson's Thrush: three OSC, the only ones. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one OSC, the only report. Veery: May 7 Oneonta, first. E. Bluebird: 15 OSC, max; numerous reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Preble Apr. 27, earliest; five OSC, max; also reported from Endwell, Hinman's Corners and Upper Lisle. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only two Mar. and Apr. reports but two still present for OSC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle, earliest; one OSC the only report after May 9. Water Pipit: CSC—seems very late, but no details. Cedar Waxwing: numbers up again from about Mar. 21. No. Shrike: one Oneonta-Portlandville Mar. 24, the only report.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Delhi May 5, first; 12 OSC, max. Solitary Vireo: one Hamden, Delaware Co., Apr. 30, first. Red-eyed Vireo: May 9 Vestal, first. Philadelphia Vireo: May 16 CSC; one Oneonta-Portlandville May 19 (MD, KW); one OSC. Warbling Vireo: one Cortland Apr. 29 (CW), first; quite common. Black-and-white Warbler: one Delhi Apr. 30; common. Golden-winged Warbler: May 9 Choconut Center; of the ten reports received one OSC the only one not from Broome Co. Blue-winged Warbler:

May 9 Vestal, earliest; four OSC, max; 19 other reports, one each from Cortland, Middlefield-and Oneonta-Portlandville, the rest from Broome Co. "Brewster's" Warbler: one near Hamden Apr. 30 (Delhi Bird Club), rather early; May 10 Choconut Center one singing Golden-wing song and in the same spot May 16 one singing Blue-wing song; OSC, three different birds. Tennessee Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; fairly common May 17 around Binghamton; 37 OSC, max; last date May 24 Vestal. Nashville Warbler: May 6 Choconut Center, first; high count 39 OSC. Yellow Warbler: one Delhi Apr. 30, common from May 9. Magnolia Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; 26 OSC is a good high count for the Region, but only four other reports. Cape May Warbler: May 16 CSC, first; only five other reports, the last May 25; it seems significant the species was missed on the otherwise highly successful OSC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 10 Choconut Center; 16 OSC; six other reports; never really common in the Region, but not rare either. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 16, first; next report Apr. 25 Upper Lisle; 38 OSC and two Oneonta-Portlandville May 30 the only later report. Black-throated Green Warbler: Apr. 30 Oneonta; common from May 3. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; 43 OSC. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4; 97 OSC. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; next report May 16 and gone after May 22. Blackpoll Warbler: May 16 Cortland and May 17 Apalachin; only four OSC. Pine Warbler: one OSC; no others. Prairie Warbler: May 14 Vestal and four OSC, but that's all. Palm Warbler: one Hamden Apr. 30, no others. Ovenbird: one Delhi May 1; next date May 10 and common only after May 16. No. Waterthrush: one Cortland Apr. 28; 14 OSC. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 12 Berkshire, in Tioga Co., next report Apr. 24; 12 OSC. Mourning Warbler: one Delhi May 13 (MC); six OSC. Com. Yellowthroat: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4, a late first date; common after May 9. Wilson's Warbler: May 16 Cortland, May 17 Endwell and May 24 Vestal (two banded), but no others. Canada Warbler: one Milford May 8, earliest; six Oneonta-Portlandville May 16, the next date; 36 OSC, a surprisingly high count for the Region. Am. Redstart: May 9 first date at both Vestal and Oneonta-Portlandville; 62 OSC.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 7 Oneonta; common in upland fields; 103 OSC. E. Meadowlark: three Delhi Mar. 2, first since Jan.; next date Mar. 19 Oneonta; common after Apr. 4; 33 OSC; better numbers than in recent years. Orchard Oriole: one CSC May 16, no details. No. Oriole: Apr. 30 Hamden and Endwell; common from May 3. Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 31 Oneonta and May 16 Cortland, the first and last of five reports. Brown-headed Cowbird: clearly migrants Mar. 17, common after Apr. 2. Scarlet Tanager: three Delhi May 6; common from May 9. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Delhi and Choconut Center, common. Indigo Bunting: everywhere May 16, the first date; loose flocks noted in brushy fields May 17 Vestal Center. Evening Grosbeak: 150 Oneonta-Portlandville May 2, the last large count; regular to May 13 and six OSC the last. Purple Finch: noticeably increased numbers Apr. 1 to May 10; 20 OSC. House Finch: 33 CSC and 20 OSC; abundant in many Triple Cities urban and suburban areas, but still penetrating some more rural sites; two seen regularly at Delhi throughout the period, the first year of such regular reporting in the area. Pine Grosbeak: 13, five and six reported Mar. 17, 21 and 24 respectively Oneonta-Portlandville, the only ones reported within the period. Com. Redpoll: never in really large numbers, last seen Mar. 24 at Middlefield, Oneonta-Portlandville and Apalachin. Pine Siskin: decreasing slowly through Apr. and the first week of May, then tapering off more quickly to the last date of May 23. Rufous-sided Towhee: more common from about Apr. 18; 30 OSC. Savannah Sparrow: one Delhi Apr. 6, first; scarce through mid-May, but 19 OSC and seemed more common thereafter. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Endwell May 17; May 25 Oneonta; the only reports. Vesper Sparrow: first found Apr. 16 Oneonta; six reports of one or two birds each in May, including two OSC. Dark-eyed Junco: common until May 11, but never overwhelming; 31 OSC; eight Oneonta-Portlandville May 30. Tree Sparrow: very few after Mar. 31. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 4 Vestal Center (SD); five more reports before Apr. 26 and then common. Field Sparrow: Mar. 24 Oneonta; common after Apr. 1. White-crowned Sparrow: one Delhi May 1 to May 18 Vestal Center; five CSC; only six other reports. White-throated Sparrow: wintering birds obscured the start of the relatively

light migration, which had mostly passed by May 3; 22 OSC and four Oneonta-Portlandville May 30 are likely summer residents. Fox Sparrow: Delhi Mar. 19 and Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7, the first and last of five reports, all single birds. Lincoln's Sparrow: three banded May 24 Vestal, the only ones reported. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle, first report. Song Sparrow: common from Mar. 19.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The 1981 Spring migration demonstrated that one need not find large numbers of birds to uncover a multitude of species. Almost all observers commented on the general scarcity of migrants, and raptor totals from Derby Hill were down conspicuously from the previous two years even though coverage was comparable. The weather probably can be blamed for most of this. The entire Spring exhibited above average temperatures and below average precipitation, with only a half-inch of snow after March in Syracuse. The total precipitation deficit for the Spring was 3½ inches, and only May was close to normal. Strong southerly winds occurred only 30 March to 1 April, on ten other dates (mostly mid-month) in April, and 8-11 and 25-27 May. Mild temperatures encouraged buds to awaken about two weeks early and the emergence of foliage was only slightly retarded by a cold snap on 21 April.

Species which migrate in March and April, with the notable exception of Pectoral Sandpiper, were the ones most obviously depressed in numbers. Salmon sports fishing on Lake Ontario once again eliminated an inshore waterbird flight, and dry conditions coupled with an early thaw left few inland areas suitable for waterfowl and shorebirds, especially after early March. The continued scarcity of Horned and Pied-billed Grebe and of American Bittern was evident throughout the Region. Early Spring land birds, especially Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow, were notably scarce. Species that arrive in late April and early May tended to be slightly tardy, and only moderate numbers of migrants were found later in May. The small Broad-winged Hawk flight at Derby Hill, no doubt due to the absence of suitable winds during the peak of that species' migration period, largely accounts for the low seasonal total of raptors there.

After too long an absence, C. G. Spies renewed his bi-weekly surveys of dead birds from the Lake Ontario shoreline within this Region. With the assistance of Mike Corey, Diane Emord, Sue Montgomery, Marge Rusk, Granger Ward and Liz Williams, Spies covered the entire shoreline 11-12 April, 25-26 April, 9-10 May and 23-24 May. The number of carcasses recovered per survey varied from 146 to 208 and totaled 731 birds of 70 species. Waterfowl predominated on the early surveys and land birds, especially Common Flickers, on the later ones. Spies attempted to determine the cause of death whenever possible. Only two trends are evident. Most crows died as the result of gunshot. Mortality in gulls reveals