

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

a second unfortunate aspect of the salmonid fishery on Lake Ontario—about a quarter of the gulls found dead were entangled in fishing gear.

David G. Muir described the increasing effort by members of the Onondaga Audubon Society to net migrant birds on the Noyes Sanctuary, located on the shore of Lake Ontario west of Derby Hill. Netting on 14 dates (with only one hour of activity on four of these dates) in May produced about 500 birds of 54 species, including an excellent variety of migrants. Totals from late May were especially interesting, as they provide insight to the end of the migration, which is less effectively revealed by standard birding techniques. Eleven species of warblers, most represented by multiple individuals, were netted at the end of the month. Best of all, this is a project whose continuation can be anticipated.

Observers reported 239 species, 3 hybrids and 1 or 2 color morphs from the Region during the Spring. Your attention is called in particular to the accounts of Pectoral Sandpiper and of Pine Siskin in the accounts that follow. While there were no southern herons, southern land birds were conspicuous. The best of these was a Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating and Prairie Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. Other notable rarities included: White-fronted Goose, King Eider, King Rail, Willet, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Common Raven.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DBS—Dead Bird Survey; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; LSB—Little Sodus Bay/Fair Haven, northern Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; max—Maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township; Onon—Onondaga; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr 29 Mar., max 59 there mid-Apr., last 26 May, all LOL. Red-necked Grebe: two LOL on 11 Apr., one Onon L on 25 Apr. plus two on DBS only reports. Horned Grebe: arr LOL 22 Mar., max only seven there 30 Mar., last 25 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Oneida R on 22 Mar., max seven on 19 Apr., last on 3 May, but no coverage of Howland's Island, our last toehold for this species. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 28 Mar. LSB, max 17 DH on 19 Apr.; one at Chittning Pond, Oneida Co., on 16 May (GH) is from a very unusual locality. Great Blue Heron: arr DH 21 Mar., but see Winter report. Green Heron: arr DH 2 Apr., max 30/day mid-Apr. LOL. Black-crowned Night Heron: two LSB on 18 Apr., one there 15 May, one DH on date, two recovered DBS; 12 birds in the Snake Swamp, Oswego Co., prompted GRM to undertake an unsuccessful search for nests; nesting is anticipated in the near future. Least Bittern: three Utica Marsh on 21 May; one Peat Swamp on 22 May. Am. Bittern: arr 26 Apr. Pennellville. Whistling Swan: 108 Seneca R Flats, Cayuga Co. on 1 Mar. soon departed as the water receded. Canada Goose: counts in 1000's through early May, about 20,000 for the season at DH. Brant: about 200 reported LOL 18-24 May. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: three Biddlecomb Marsh, Oswego Co., 3 Apr. only (DWC, Granger Ward, NYSARC), adult Pool's Brook Pond, Onon. Co., 10-18 Apr. (mob, NYSARC). A probable Snow x Canada Goose hybrid was at Beaver Lake, Onon. Co. 4 Apr. (MSR). "Blue"/Snow Goose: best numbers from Seneca R Flats (86/18), last "Blue" 27 Apr. DH, last Snow 18 Apr. LSB. Dabbling ducks: no exceptional maxima: Green-winged Teal: arr 24 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: arr 19 Mar., no large counts of either teal. No. Shoveler: arr 23 Mar., max 10 in mid-Apr., last 26 Apr., most PSS. Wood Duck: arr PSS 19 Mar., max only 20 in mid-Apr. Diving ducks: most departed by 16-19 Apr., exceptions—a Bufflehead on 28 Apr., five White-winged Scoters DH on 10 May. Two King Eiders, two Surf and one Black Scoter from DBS were the only scoters reported. Ruddy Duck: two Beaver Lake,

Onon. Co., on 19 Apr., one Onon. Lake on 25 Apr. were only reports. Com. Merganser: last 12 Onon. Lake 25 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: last LOL on 23 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: see Table for Derby Hill summary. Record highs for the season were set by Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Marsh Hawk, while the Goshawk total is perhaps a record low. In addition to the Derby Hill birds, an imm Bald Eagle was at PSS and an adult Peregrine at Biddlecomb, both on 3 May (FGS). Turkey: flock of at least six on Shackham Road, s. Onon. Co., on 23 May (DWC). **KING RAIL:** one Toad Harbour Road on n. shore Oneida Lake, 23 May only (FGS). Virginia Rail: arr PSS 11 Apr. Sora: arr PSS 10 Apr. Com. Gallinule: arr LOL 26 Mar. Am. Coot: arr Brewerton 19 Mar. Semipalmated Plover: arr Biddlecomb 9 May, max 15 there 30 May. Killdeer: arr 24 Apr., no large number. Black-bellied Plover: arr 17 May LSB; 41 at Biddlecomb on 31 May (MSR) is record high Spring count. Ruddy Turnstone: one SP 24 May only report. Am. Woodcock: arr Syr 18 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr LSB 19 Mar., max 30 Biddlecomb in mid-Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr 19 Apr. Syr airport. Spotted Sandpiper: arr 23 Apr. LOL, in numbers only at nesting areas. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 11 Apr., max 11 LOL on 10 May, last Utica Marsh 21 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr PSS 26 Mar., max 16 Biddlecomb on 6 Apr., last Clay Marsh 16 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Pennellville 2 Apr., max 30 Biddlecomb on 12 Apr., last LOL 23 May. **WILLET:** one at Biddlecomb on 14 May (FGS, JH, DWC) is our fourth spring record in the last decade. Pectoral Sandpiper: the first astounding reports of birds in the 100's were quickly followed by high counts of 400 and 550 (FGS) in the Biddlecomb-Pennellville area in mid-Apr., with record numbers also passing DH during this period. The extreme dates for the species were 2 Apr. to 10 May and at least 700 different birds were found this Spring. Our previous record high was 116! Least Sandpiper: arr LOL 12 Apr., max 50 LSB on 14 May. Dunlin: arr Biddlecomb 6 Apr. Short-billed Dowitcher: 17 reported 14-18 May, Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr seven LOL on 23 May, max 140 at Biddlecomb 31 May (MSR). Glaucous Gull: last LOL 18 Apr. Iceland Gull: five reported LOL, last 23 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: max only 6000 in mid-Apr. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** adult Oswego 18 May (FGS) is fourth Spring record in last decade. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Biddlecomb 6 Apr., max 36 LOL on 11 Apr., last 23 SP May. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** singles recovered on each of the April DBS's are our first "Spring" records; the condition of these birds was not indicated. Com. Tern: arr 9 May DH, max 45 LOL 17 May. Caspian Tern: arr DH 9 May (DWC); only other report Syr on 23 May (REL). Black Tern: arr 10 May LOL, to 6/day by end of period.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Clay Marsh 19 May, only definite report. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 12 May NPT. Snowy Owl: last Oneida Lake on 29 Mar. (FGS). Long-eared Owl: two DBS; and Short-eared Owl: one DBS, only reports. Saw-whet Owl: about eight reported, including one from DBS, more than normal. Whip-poor-will: arr 5 May, Noyes Sanctuary. Com. Nighthawk: arr 14 May Syr. Chimney Swift: arr 28 Apr. DH. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 9 May DH. Belted Kingfishers arr DH about 23 Mar. Com. Flicker: arr DH 4 Mar.; 116 recovered on DBS. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one near Old Forge early Mar. (Richard Knight *vide* MSR). Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread and conspicuous all Spring. Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering birds to 22 Mar., about a half-dozen migrants/nesters reported after 5 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr DH 8 Apr., max only 5/day, last DH 10 May.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: arr DH 4 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr DH 5 May. E. Phoebe: arr DH 29 Mar. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two to three after 20 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr Shackham Rd. 17 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr NPT 24 May. Least Flycatcher: arr LOL 1 May. E. Wood Pewee: arr Syr 13 May. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one LOL 23 May only report of a migrant. Tree Swallow: arr DH 26 May, max 3000 PSS 23 Apr. Bank Swallow: arr DH 9 Apr., highest counts from nesting areas. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 23 Apr. Barn Swallow: arr DH 8 Apr., max 1400 there 10 May. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 23 Apr., max 35 on 9 May. Purple Martin: arr DH 23 Apr., max 40 there 9 May, low. Blue Jay: total 15,000 past DH, with max 3000-3500 on 9 and 10 May. Com.

Crow: total past DH 42,000, max in last report. **COMMON RAVEN**: three probably at nest site near Old Forge 15 Mar. to 12 Apr. (mob), one DH on 10 May (GAS). Tufted Titmouse: one to three/day is excellent number for a species often absent after winter, and includes first NPT report in early Mar. (until zapped by cat-DWC). Boreal Chickadee: one DH 5 May (GAS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: moderate Spring flight only, but nesting proved DeWitt in May (GH). Brown Creeper: max 25 LOL 11 Apr. House Wren: arr DH 30 Apr. Winter Wren: perhaps a half-dozen migrants reported after 10 Apr. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr Pool's Brook Pond 8 May. Short-billed Marsh Wren: five Toad Harbour Road on 23 May (FGS). Gray Catbird: arr DH 5 May. Brown Thrasher: arr Syr 30 Apr. Am. Robin: max 350 mid-Apr. is unimpressive. Wood Thrush: arr Syr. 3 May. Hermit Thrush: migrants 16 Apr. to 18 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr Syr. 6 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: six reported after 15 May. Veery: arr Syr. 6 May. E. Bluebird: max 27 DH and total 37 there, last 2 June, best in several years. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 11 Apr. LOL, increasing numbers in the Snake Swamp (GRM) are evidence of expansion into Lake Ontario shoreline wood lots. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max about 25 during migration period 8 Mar. to 17 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: similar max during period 7 Apr. to 18 May. Water Pipit: arr 29 Mar., max 150 DH 16 Apr., last there 16 May. No. Shrike: three reported, last LSB on 28 Mar. (MSR). Loggerhead Shrike: none!

VIREOS-WARBLERS: No exceptional numbers of any vireo or warbler. Vireo arrival dates were: Yellow-throated: 7 May; Solitary: 25 Apr; Red-eyed: 5 May; Philadelphia: 14 May; Warbling: 13 May; White-eyed: St. Mary's Cemetery, Syr. on 18 May (REL, DWC). Warbler arrival dates were: Black-and-white: 2 May; Golden-winged, "Brewster's" and Blue-winged: 7 May; Tennessee: 5 May; Nashville: 30 Apr.; No. Parula: 6 May; Yellow: 30 Apr.; Magnolia: 5 May; Cape May: 7 May; Black-throated Blue: 5 May; Yellow-rumped: 30 Mar. DH, record early; Black-throated Green: 30 Apr.; Cerulean: 7 May; Blackburnian: 4 May; Chestnut-sided: 5 May; Bay-breasted: 9 May; Blackpoll: 15 May; Pine: 9 Apr.; Palm: 3 May; Ovenbird: 5 May; No. Waterthrush: 28 Apr.; Louisiana Waterthrush: 19 Apr.; Mourning: 14 May; Com. Yellowthroat: 2 May; Hooded: 15 May; Wilson's: 14 May; Canada: 13 May; and Am. Redstart: 6 May. The more unusual warblers reported were: "Lawrence's": Pompey 26 May on (FLaF); Worm-eating: singles from N. Syr. 2 May, Hickory Grove on 10 May (both FGS), NPT 15-16 May (DWC), and St. Mary's Cemetery 26-27 May (REL) are about eight times the average reported. Orange-crowned: one Camillus 16 May (FGS), another St. Mary's Cemetery the next day (REL). Prairie: one DH 10 May to 11 June (mob), another St. Mary's Cemetery 15 May (REL). Pine: one St. Mary's Cemetery 24 Apr., very rare away from LOL. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Camillus 16 May (RGS).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr DH 29 Apr. E. Meadowlark: arr DH 23 Mar., max 70 there on 28 Mar. No. Oriole: arr DH 4 May, generally common. Orchard Oriole: male Camillus after 15 May (JH, mob), another Holland Patent 26 May on (REL). Rusty Blackbird: arr LOL 8 Mar., max and last 300 DH on 10 May. Scarlet Tanager: arr Syr. 5 May. **SUMMER TANAGER**: female St. Mary's Cemetery 19 May (FGS, mob, NYSARC) is our second Regional record. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 5 May Syr. Indigo Bunting: arr 10 May DH. Evening Grosbeak: 2600 past DH 9-11 May, last there 1 June. Purple Finch: arr late Apr., max 300 past DH 9 May. Pine Grosbeak: last 18 Mar., widespread until then. Com. Redpoll: max 85 DH 30 Mar., last 10 Apr. Pine Siskin: for most of the season, this species was to be found anywhere there were spruces or hemlocks. Paired, displaying birds acting territorial were widespread. Typical of many, the bird which "owned" my yard vanished without a trace in mid-May. About 800 passed DH 10 May, when most local populations vanished, but scattered birds remained in Syr. to the end of the period. None of these birds definitely could be identified as juveniles. The only evidence of nesting was two family groups NPT in May. Similar behavior has been noted after other flights, and failure to demonstrate nesting has been equally frustrating in those years as well. Red Crossbill: four Tassel Hill State Forest 16 May (GH). White-winged Crossbill: two DH on 19 Mar. and again 16 Apr., 40 near Pennellville 22 Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 11 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr LOL 4 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Syr Airport 14 May. Henslow's Sparrow:

arr Pennellville 4 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr LOL 3 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 LOL 25 Apr., last migrant 10 May. Tree Sparrow: max 50 early Mar., last 9 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr NPT 14 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr NPT 30 Mar. White-crowned Sparrow: overwintering bird Syr. last seen 22 Mar., small numbers only 4-23 May. White-throated Sparrow: arr 9 Apr., max 200 LOL 9 May, last migrants 22 May. Fox Sparrow: very few 31 Mar. to 30 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 30 Apr. Song Sparrow: main arrival after 11 Mar., late. Snow Bunting: last DH 29 Mar.

DERBY HILL RAPTOR TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Last	90% Date Range	Total	
Turkey Vulture	22 Feb.	154	29 Mar.	2 Jun.	27 Mar.-10 May	1,294
Goshawk	16 Feb.	4	26 Mar.	9 May		4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13 Mar.	833	4 Apr.	30 May	1 Apr.-9 May	7,272
Cooper's Hawk	22 Feb.	158	1 Apr.	24 May	3 Mar.-9 May	674
Red-tailed Hawk	15 Feb.	595	4 Apr.	3 Jun.	4 Mar.-9 May	5,848
Red-shouldered Hawk	27 Feb.	136	28 Mar.	10 May	23 Mar.-13 Apr.	749
Broad-winged Hawk	4 Apr.	5007	27 Apr.	3 Jun.	19 Apr.-26 May	20,032
Rough-legged Hawk	15 Feb.	165	22 Feb.	2 Jun.	16 Feb.-4 Apr.	622
Golden Eagle	26 Mar.	5	5 May	10 May		15
Bald Eagle	26 Feb.	1		26 May		10
Marsh Hawk	15 Feb.	91	4 Apr.	2 Jun.	28 Feb.-10 May	719
Peregrine	1 Apr.	2	5 May	5 May		4
Merlin	1 Apr.	5	11 Apr.	5 May		15
American Kestrel	19 Feb.	183	1 Apr.	10 May	26 Mar.-1 May	561
TOTAL (includes unidentified hawks)						39,283

90% Date Range are dates between which 90% of tallied individuals passed.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1981 was late in coming or at least was confounding. The warm weather in February got things moving in migration overnight and many summer residents and winter visitors were on the move north.

On April 4th, Watertown set a new high temperature of 80° F. and on April 22nd the low was 15° F. Very heavy frosts occurred on May 18, 19 and 20, which caused heavy damage to vegetation which was very evident later on in the period.

Lake Ontario water levels continued to drop and rainfall for the period was behind about two inches. Indications are that we may be in for a dry summer.

Trends during the period were as follows: increase in sightings of accipiters; a drop in Marsh Hawks at nesting locations in Massena; some more expansion in St. Lawrence County Turkey release; Upland Sandpiper disappearance in Massena at former sites; Common Nighthawk still in trouble; phoebes in trouble; bluebirds improved and grassland sparrows having problems.