

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

Most observers felt that the 1982 Spring migration was eventful, though few great rarities were found. The season exhibited wildly variable though generally favorable weather, low total precipitation, and few strong southerly winds. March saw winter apparently end with seasonal temperatures but little precipitation by the end of the month. April was another matter, when 13 inches of snow at Syracuse by 8 April made this the snowiest April ever; the total winter snowfall was the seventh largest ever at Syracuse. Several observers noted local avian mortality during this period, especially of phoebes, robins and blackbirds, but no major kills took place nor were any major effects evident later in the season. May continued a trend of uniformly mild to warm, dry weather. Consequently there were few really strong migration days but also few days without at least a few migrants after mid-April. May ended overcast and wet.

Two events of the season carried over from the winter. Dorothy Crumb continued to band redpolls at her Pompey home during March and April, ending with a total of 1190 Common and seven Hoary Redpolls. In addition she saw at least five more Hoary Redpolls and at least one of the Common Redpolls banded exhibited characteristics of the subspecies *rostrata* and several appeared intermediate between Common and Hoary Redpolls which are known to hybridize. Another Hoary Redpoll visited Kate Coyle's feeder in East Syracuse 6 to 16 March. A total of about 20 individuals, varying well-described, were found this winter. Redpolls persisted longer this spring than ever before, providing our first May records from at least three localities, the last three in Pompey Center on 11 May.

The spring following a major flight of irruptive landbirds often has return flights of these species, especially along the shore of Lake Ontario. With one exception, this was NOT the case this spring. No Boreal Chickadees were found, Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in average numbers, and Pine Grosbeaks and both crossbills were scarce. However, Pine Siskins made a sudden large scale appearance after the early April snowfall and persisted through May, with nesting proven again this spring in the Syracuse area.

The waterfowl migration was entirely unimpressive. No large numbers were found anywhere (but see Red-necked Grebe for a one day only exception). Once again observation points along Lake Ontario were much disrupted by the salmon sports fishery after the harbors thawed. Shorebirds were found in meager numbers typical of most springs. The best find was a Wilson's Phalarope, and of the species semi-regular in spring, only Red Knot was missed this spring.

Landbird migrants showed very typical arrival and departure dates. Maxima were low to average. In most cases, it appears that it reflects the prolonged, sustained character of the migration rather than population trends. Winter Wrens, both kinglets, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows remain distressingly scarce. I have promoted Loggerhead Shrike to boldface status as of this report. A banding operation was again conducted on the Onondaga Audubon Society Noyes Sanctuary, with most effort on weekends in May, and was most successful. Nearly 1200 passerines were caught, and these data again provide our best insight to the

late spring migration. We can expect that a more comprehensive effort, extended well into June, will reveal how much remains to be learned of the late spring migration in central New York.

Rarities were dominated by southern species. Several Great and Cattle Egrets were found, along with record numbers of Snowy Egret, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating and Prairie Warbler. Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole were found as well. A Thayer's Gull was found in the gull concentrations at Little Sodus Bay, but the rarity of the season was a singing male Connecticut Warbler (full details not yet available) in late May. A total of 234 species, one additional color morph, and one hybrid were reported this spring. In addition, a belated report of a Hawk-Owl from the town of Ohio, Oneida Co., in December 1981 was obtained by Dorothy Crumb; a photograph and documentation has been deposited with the New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter NYSARC).

Observers: Gerald Church, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Robert Long, George Maxwell, David Muir, Margaret S. Rusk, Gerald A. Smith, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego Co; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township, Onondaga Co; Onon—Onondaga; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix, Oswego Co; SRF—Seneca River Flats near Montezuma, Cayuga Co; Syr—Syracuse; StMC—St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onondaga Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr LSB 1 Apr, max 52 DH on 20 Apr, last there 30 May. Red-throated Loon: one DH on 26 Apr (GAS). Red-necked Grebe: arr and max 52 LSB on 11 Apr, new regional high count; seven Chittning Pond, Madison Co, 30 Apr (GH). Horned Grebe: max 16 LSB on 11 Apr, very low; last LOL on 24 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: max seven LSB on 8 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: arr LSB on 8 Apr, max 24 DH on 15 Apr. Great Blue Heron: arr 12 Mar Kirkville. Green Heron: arr 25 Apr Clay Marsh. Great Egret: one at Salmon River mouth on 6 May, one to three in Pennellville-PSS area 10-14 May. Snowy Egret: one to five in same area 6-13 May (FGS *et al.*) is a new regional high count. Cattle Egret: one near Pennellville on 18 Apr, two at PSS on 24 Apr. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 30 at Snake Swamp, Oswego Co, in mid-Apr, mostly second-year birds, is new regional high count; still no evidence of its breeding there. Whistling Swan: up to ten SRF 14-28 Mar, one DH on 24 Mar. Mute Swan: imm LSB 22-25 Apr. Canada Goose: max 21,000 SRF 13 Mar, max passing DH was 4,000 on 1 May. Snow Goose: about 50 reported 13 Mar-25 Apr, the two morphs about equal and closely comparable in dates. Black Duck: max 60 LSB on 30 Mar, very few after 1 May. Gadwall: max 24 SRF on 28 Mar. Pintail: arr 14 Mar SRF, max 400 there on 24 Mar, last 25 Apr at PSS. Green-winged Teal: arr 27 Mar Clay, max 35 PSS on 25 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: arr 28 Mar SRF, max 18 PSS on 25 Apr. Am. Wigeon: arr 13 Mar. SRF, max 40 there 28 Mar, last in n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. No. Shoveler: one to three per day 13 Mar (LSB) to 30 Mar (Pennellville). Wood Duck: arr SRF 13 Mar, max 18 DH on 10 Apr. Redhead: max 46 PSS on 18 Apr, last LSB on 11 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: arr 11 Mar Brewerton, max 110 PSS on 18 Apr, last Clay Marsh on 30 Apr. Canvas-back: arr DH 11 Mar, max 295 SRF 24 Mar, last LSB on 11 Apr. Greater Scaup: max 250 LSB 14 Mar, very low, last n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. Lesser Scaup: max 250 LSB on 11 Apr, last n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: max 400 Brewerton on 3 Mar, last LSB on 25 Apr. Bufflehead: max 40 LSB on 28 Mar, last DH on 6 May. Oldsquaw: one on an urban Syr holding pond 26 Mar was an unexpected sight (GH); last DH 17 Apr. White-winged Scoter: last two LSB on 18 Apr. Surf Scoter: last 32 LSB on 11 Apr. Ruddy Duck: arr LSB on 11 Apr, max and last six Beaver Lake on 24 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 28 DH on 10 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Onon Lake 29 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,000 LSB on 11 Apr, last DH on 6 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Derby Hill Raptor Count — Spring 1982

Species	arrival	max — date	last	*90% date range	total
Turkey Vulture	15 Mar	124 — 17 Apr	30 May	24 Mar - 7 May	1,169
Goshawk	18 Feb	15 — 24 Mar	30 May	6 Mar - 24 Apr	142
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18 Feb	1,670 — 17 Apr	1 Jun	6 Mar - 24 Apr	7,734
Cooper's Hawk	6 Mar	86 — 31 Mar	30 May	31 Mar - 15 May	624
Red-tailed Hawk	15 Feb	1,232 — 16 Apr	1 Jun	11 Mar - 6 May	8,132
Red-shouldered Hawk	6 Mar	227 — 18 Mar	11 May	15 Mar - 19 Apr	969
Broad-winged Hawk	12 Apr	6,159 — 7 May	1 Jun	17 Apr - 1 Jun	24,192
Rough-legged Hawk	18 Feb	79 — 16 Apr	30 May	15 Mar - 7 May	472
Golden Eagle	21 Mar	4 — 17 Apr	24 Apr		14
Bald Eagle	24 Mar	3 — 17 Apr	1 Jun		22
Marsh Hawk	1 Mar	146 — 13 Apr	1 Jun	20 Mar - 18 May	836
Osprey	3 Apr	35 — 7 May	1 Jun	15 Apr - 30 May	340
Peregrine Falcon	15 Apr	singles only	6 May		2
Merlin	13 Apr	4 — late Apr	14 May		17
American Kestrel	10 Mar	69 — 24 Mar	30 May	13 Mar - 2 May	540

Total (including 139 unidentified): 45,344

*dates between which 90 percent of the total birds passed

Turkey: one much out of place at DH on 23 Apr (GAS). Virginia Rail: arr Fox Ridge on 25 Apr. Sora: arr Howland's Island on 29 Apr. Com. Gallinule: arr 27 Mar DH. Am. Coot: arr 11 Mar DH, last 25 Apr PSS. Semipalmated Plover: arr SP 6 May, max eight Pennellville on 14 May, last SP on 29 May. Killdeer: max 52 Clay Marsh 17 Mar. Black-bellied Plover: three or four singles 6 May (SP) to 23 May (Syr airport). Ruddy Turnstone: one Pennellville on 22 May. Am. Woodcock: arr Holland Patent 11 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr Clay 17 Mar, max 20 Pennellville 24 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 10 Apr, generally scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: arr LSB 24 Apr. Solitary Sandpiper: arr LSB 24 Apr, max ten DH on 10 May, last there 16 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr LSB 11 Apr, max 20 there 22-24 Apr, last Pennellville 16 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Bolivar 18 Apr, max 35 LSB 22 Apr, last Schroepel 30 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 14 Apr, max 40 there 22 Apr, last there 7 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: two SP on 30 May. Least Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 20 Apr, max 20 there early May, last there 23 May. Dunlin: arr Pennellville 20 Apr, max ten there 21 May, last SP 30 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: about ten in Pennellville area 14-25 May, one SP 29 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr five at Minoa 7 May (KC), record early, max and last 20 SP 29 May. Sanderling: single SP 29 May. WILSON'S PHALAROPE: male Pennellville 21 May (DWC, JH, J. Propst). Glaucous Gull: last Oswego 16 May. Iceland Gull: last SP 6 May. THAYER'S GULL: imm LSB on 28 Mar (FGS, NYSARC). Ring-billed Gull: max 6,000 SP on 6 May, very low. Bonaparte's Gull: arr LSB 8 Apr, max 12 DH on 18 Apr, last Onon L on 14 May. Com. Tern: arr SP 2 May, max only 19 at Oswego on 16 May, very low. Caspian Tern: one to two per day LOL 2-14 May. Black Tern: arr Pennellville 9 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr StMC 8 May. Long-eared Owl: one LSB 1 Apr, four banded Noyes Sanctuary in Mar-Apr. Saw-whet Owl: one found injured Oswego 14 Apr, rehabilitated and released, about 14 banded Noyes Sanctuary in Mar and Apr. Whip-poor-will: arr Snake Swamp and Syr on 6 May. Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 11 May. Chimney Swift: arr DH 25 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 10 May DH, max 14 there 29 May (late). Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar DH. Com. Flicker: arr 28 Mar SRF, max 61 DH on 16 Apr is very low. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 5 Apr Holland Patent. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants one to three per day 8 Apr-9 May.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: arr Onon Co 29 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Clay 4 May. E. Phoebe: arr DH 21 Mar. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two or three StMC 24-29 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr NPT 16 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr NPT 18 May. Least Flycatcher: arr StMC 30 Apr. E. Wood Pewee: arr StMC 14 May. Horned Lark: max

71 DH 3 Mar, last migrant there 14 Apr. Tree Swallow: arr DH 24 Apr, max 400 LOL on 6 May. Bank Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr, max 200 DH early May. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr, max 17 LOL on 6 May. Barn Swallow: arr DH 15 Apr, max 300 there on 6 May. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr. Purple Martin: arr DH on 15 Apr. Blue Jay: 10,800 passed DH 25 Apr to 31 May. Com. Crow: 37,600 passed DH 18 Feb to 26 Apr. Tufted Titmouse: only two reports this spring, surprising after last season's numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 DH on 15 Apr. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one to five per day 2 Apr-14 May, surprisingly low. House Wren: arr Syr 25 Apr. Winter Wren: one to three per day 2 Apr-6 May, low. Carolina Wren: single report from DeWitt this spring. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr PSS 13 Apr. Gray Catbird: arr StMC 2 May. Brown Thrasher: arr DH, Syr 20 Apr. Am. Robin: first migrants 11 Mar DH, Syr; max 2,200 DH on 21 Mar. Wood Thrush: arr StMC 4 May. Hermit Thrush: one to three per day 4 Apr-7 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr 6 May LOL, last Syr 27 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two reported StMC 18 and 26 May. Veery: arr Syr 6 May. E. Bluebird: total of 71 passed DH 17 Mar-18 Apr, max 24 on 24 Mar. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 17 Apr DH. Golden-crowned Kinglet: to 24 per day 27 Mar-9 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: to 12 per day, very low, 17 Apr-14 May. Water Pipit: arr DH 15 Apr, max and last 30 LOL on 6 May. No. Shrike: last DH 29 Mar. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one in town of New Haven 14 Apr (JH), only report of a bird far more regular only ten years ago.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: singles StMC 12-13 May (FGS *et al.*) and Syr 13 May (MSR). Yellow-throated Vireo: arr StMC 4 May. Solitary Vireo: arr Syr 20 Apr. Red-eyed Vireo: arr StMC 7 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 13 May; about seven reported through 18 May. Warbling Vireo: arr 3 May Holland Patent. Black-and-white Warbler: arr StMC 2 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one StMC 14-16 May. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler: both arr Snake Swamp on 6 May, latter now very scarce south of Oneida Lake; two "Brewster's" Warblers reported in May. Tennessee Warbler: arr StMC 6 May, last there 29 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: four reported 17 Apr (Nine-mile Point) to 17 May (StMC), is a good local spring showing. Nashville Warbler: arr StMC 4 May, max 24 there 9 May, last there 29 May. No. Parula: arr StMC 7 May, last SP 14 May. Yellow Warbler: arr SP 2 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr StMC 7 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Cape May Warbler: arr LOL 6 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 6 May (two sites), last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr PSS 10 Apr, max 2,200 DH on 6 May, last Noyes Sanctuary on 29 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 6 May LOL, last Noyes Sanctuary on 30 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Camillus 9 May. Blackburnian Warbler: arr LOL 6 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr StMC 7 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 7 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr 18 May StMC. Pine Warbler: arr LOL 15 Apr. Prairie Warbler: female StMC 8-9 May, two or three males there 17-24 May. Palm Warbler: arr DH 1 May, max 12 LOL on 6 May, last DH on 16 May. Ovenbird: arr LOL 6 May. No. Waterthrush: arr Clay 29 Apr, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 19 Apr Pompey Center. Mourning Warbler: arr Mexico 21 May, max 16 Noyes Sanctuary 29 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: singing male heard by many, seen by J. Propst, JH at StMC on 25 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr Clay Marsh. Yellow-breasted Chat: one 8-10 May StMC, another NPT 19 May. Hooded Warbler: arr StMC 8 May, last Noyes Sanctuary on 29 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr StMC on 8 May, last 31 May Noyes Sanctuary. Canada Warbler: arr StMC 9 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 31 May. Am. Redstart: arr LOL on 6 May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr 6 May LOL. E. Meadowlark: arr SRF 14 Mar, max 50 per day DH in late Mar is low. Red-winged Blackbird: max 2,000,000 in three hours passing DH on 20 Mar (GAS). No. Oriole: arr 6 May LOL, max 365 DH on 12 May. Orchard Oriole: male Minoa in May (*vide* KC), female DH 16 May (GAS), unusually far north. Rusty Blackbird: arr 11 Mar Baldwinsville, max 300 LOL on 6 May, last LSB on 14 May. Com. Grackle: max 4,000 DH on 17 Apr, low. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1,000 DH 17 Apr. Scarlet Tanager: arr StMC 7 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Camillus 7 May. Indigo Bunting: arr 8 May Camillus. Evening Grosbeak: max 2,450 DH 6 May, last 30 May. Purple

Finch: arr DH 25 Mar. Pine Grosbeak: last four DH 16 Mar. Com. and **HOARY REDPOLL**: see introduction. Pine Siskin: arr about 10 Apr, then common but with much less display than in 1981 in Syr though nesting proven Syr and expected NPT; max 450 DH on 6 May. Red Crossbill: small flock Noyes Sanctuary on 30 Mar (DWC, PDeB), two near Georgetown, Madison Co, in mid-May (DWC). White-winged Crossbill: single DH 11 Mar, two at Coyle feeder in E. Syr 22-30 Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 17 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr DH 10 Apr, late. Grasshopper Sparrow: only report Syr airport 13 May. Henslow's Sparrow: only report Clay 30 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr LSB 11 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: max only 45 LOL on 17 Apr. Tree Sparrow: last NPT 4 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr 18 Apr NPT. Field Sparrow: arr DeWitt 2 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL on 6 Apr, last SP on 30 May. White-throated Sparrow: max 140 LOL on 6 May is low. Fox Sparrow: one to three per day 26 Mar-22 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: one to five per day 6-29 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr LSB on 11 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr LSB 14 Mar, max 140 n. Onon Co on 27 Mar. Lapland Longspur: two LSB on 11 Apr. Snow Bunting: last LSB on 13 Apr.

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

In its vagaries, it was a typical North Country spring. March came in like a lion with a low temperature of -11° F. on the 4th. However, with a sudden thaw just over a week later the mercury reached the monthly high of 52° F. on the 12th. Ice went out of local streams in mid-March. The heaviest precipitation (.63 in.) fell on the 25th, followed by strong winds and flurries. Total precipitation for the month was 2.46 in. April was certainly epitomized by the third stanza of Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time." The month began cold with a low of 6° F. on the 7th and flurries Easter, followed abruptly by a high of 74° F. on the 16th. The remainder of the month was cool but not particularly wet. The maximum rainfall was .49 in. on the 3rd, and total precipitation was only 1.40 in. There was a skim of ice on puddles the last day or two of April. Early May continued cool with morning frosts; readings of 31° F. occurred the 5th, 10th, 11th, and 18th. The remainder of the month was glorious with a high of 85° F. the 7th, followed by the heaviest rainfall of .78 in. on 8 May. There was only a trace of rain from the 10th to 28th and total rainfall for May was 1.32 in.

Winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes and superabundant Com. Redpolls and Snow Buntings lingered into March. The mid-month thaw ushered in the usual influx of early migrants—Am. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, and Song Sparrow, of which the Am. Kestrel and E. Phoebe were ahead of schedule. But what a premium there must be on early access to territories and mates to brave the spring tempests! Our Song Sparrow was singing in early April at 10° F. and somehow the E. Phoebe survived—but how? Robins and blackbirds were moving in late March and early April, in spite of the weather. Evening and a few Pine Grosbeaks reappeared in March; and Pine Siskins, virtually absent for the winter, were seen from mid-April to mid-May. Evening Grosbeaks and Dark-eyed Juncos moved through Canton in mid-April. Our Tree Swallows arrived right on schedule with the spring peepers