

data does appear in the reports for Regions 1, 5, 7, and 8.

As usual, the rarities are saved until last. Once again, there are many exciting finds in nearly every region but, on close inspection, almost none are really unusual on a statewide scale. Virtually all rarities recorded this season are birds whose numbers of sightings have been increasing, birds which are short-range vagrants from established populations, or birds really long expected and awaited. As examples we have: Northern Gannet in Regions 1 and 5, American White Pelican in 1 and 10, Greater White-fronted Goose in 1, 5 and 9; Sandhill Crane in 4, 5 and 9; Stilt Sandpiper in 2, 5 and 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in 1 and 9; Laughing Gull in 5 and 9; Western Meadowlark in 2, 5 and 9; Yellow-headed Blackbird in 1 and 4; Dickcissel in 2, 3, 8 and 10; Painted Bunting in 3 and 10; and Summer Tanager in 2, 9 and 10, with an incredible 30+ sightings in Region 10, by far the most ever in the state for a given season or even year. You will find many other rarities recorded in single regions and generally listed near the beginning of each regional report. Three more of special note are the returning Brewer's Blackbirds in Region 2 (3rd year); two Mississippi Kites in Region 10, and the first report of Prothonotary Warbler northward into the heart of Region 7.

This season the B.O.T.S. Award, both a first and a second place, falls to Region 9. In second place is their Ross' Goose, more or less awaited after appearances in two consecutive fall seasons in neighboring New Jersey. (Start scanning those 30,000 Snow Geese, Region 3.) First place by a landslide goes to their Black-shouldered Kite on 26-27 April. Both of these species are *first* state records.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

This was a spring almost as mixed up as the new AOU Check-list of North American Birds. The unusually mild weather of the winter continued, bringing Silver Maples into bloom along the Allegheny River 7 March, the earliest in thirty-four years, and freeing most lakes and ponds of ice by the next day, nearly a month early and the earliest on record for the last thirty years in Cattaraugus County (Eaton). Taking advantage of the southerly winds and good weather, swans and geese were slightly early too, flooding through on 4 to 6 March, with 1,000 of the latter a common daily estimate. There was no mistaking these Canada Geese for other than true migrants, rather than some of the increasing numbers staying north all winter encouraged by rich gleanings of corn fields.

Although March temperatures, aided by the balmy beginning, averaged 3° F above normal, on the 21st they became more seasonal, plummeting to mantle some waterways with skim ice. Even part of Chautauqua Lake froze over! A storm at this time brought down a host of waterfowl, making the following weekend a bonanza for birders. However, since precipitation was about an inch below normal, there was little of the usual flooding of fields to encourage shore-bird fallout (Sundell).

The cool trend continued into April. Coltsfoot, Alder and Trembling Aspen were in bloom 1 April, and birds arrived about on time but in smaller numbers than usual. Although precipitation was near normal, temperatures averaged 2° F below normal. Between the 16th and 21st, a snowstorm grounded flickers, robins, juncos and Song Sparrows, sent Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows and Evening Grosbeaks to feeders, and even brought in crossbills. At least one Killdeer and one Eastern Bluebird nest were lost to the snow and cold.

On 2 May devastating tornados hit Chautauqua County and a twister felled some trees in Allegany County. The first week of May was great for migrants, but cool weather with few southerly winds the rest of the month discouraged them. In spite of rain or snow every weekend of the period, birders came up with a fine assortment of species, including shorebirds and warblers. However, at Farmersville Station where finches abounded, it was a poor migration of warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and kinglets (D. Clark). Since May temperatures averaged 4.4° F below normal with rainfall near normal, foliage developed slowly, making it easier to spot birds and nests.

Discussion still continues regarding the proposed plan to permit commercial logging in Allegany State Park and the effects such operations would have, not only on birds, but also on other wildlife and plants. In mid-April another birding hot spot of the Region was focus of concern when Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve was closed to the public until the contents of some drums discovered there could be analyzed. Fortunately the problem seems less serious than first feared and the Preserve should soon open again. However, for this to happen during spring migration was a low blow.

Spring positives include: 1) the Great Blue Heron doing O.K.; 2) a splendid swan and goose flight and several areas now reporting nesting Canadas; 3) a conscientious hawk watch; encouraging results from the Bald Eagle hacking program; and both Sharpies and Cooper's Hawks holding their own; 4) excellent numbers of Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys; 5) shorebirds well represented but slow in arriving; and more Black Terns; 6) good Black-billed Cuckoo numbers; several Short-eared Owls; many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; and Hairy Woodpecker numbers almost up to normal; 7) swallows apparently doing well, particularly the Cliff Swallow; 8) many Tufted Titmice, some lingering late; and a fair sprinkling of Red-breasted Nuthatches; 9) a few more Winter Wrens; kinglet numbers nearly back to normal, but Ruby-crowned arriving late; 10) Eastern Bluebirds holding steady tho' scarce in March; and more than usual Hermit Thrushes; one to seven per day; 11) an alert Cedar Waxwing bander; 12) good numbers of Yellow Warblers; one to 17 per day; and usual numbers of Northern but many Louisiana Waterthrushes; 13) another great Fox Sparrow flight with 19 birds, total, from 14 reports; and a fine junco flight: 229 banded at Farmersville Station in April (D. Clark); 14) a superb Rusty Blackbird showing; 15) an abundance of Purple Finches with 240 banded at Farmersville Station, mostly

in May (D. Clark), House Finches, and American Goldfinches with 213 banded at Farmersville Station in May (D. Clark).

Spring negatives are: 1) only fair numbers of grebes and no Red-necked; few reports of most long-legged waders and American Kestrels; 2) almost no Ring-necked Pheasants; and American Woodcock more scarce than common: only one to five per day; 3) very few Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Screech-Owls, and Common Nighthawks; and Red-headed Woodpeckers poorly reported; 4) fewer Least Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebe; Horned Larks still ailing with only one to three per day; Carolina Wren nearly absent; most thrushes down in number; and continued difficulty for shrikes; 5) low numbers of towhees locally; and continued concern for Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows; 6) a poor White-crowned Sparrow flight, with max eight; Eastern Meadowlarks at the steady low of one to seven per day; and few Evening Grosbeaks at feeders where hundreds flocked in previous years.

Rarities: Northern Gannet, American White Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Black Vulture, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Hudsonian Godwit, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, "Brewster's" Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole. Some worth special mention are in bold type below.

Abbreviations: AAC-10 April Bird Census or AMC-15 May Bird Census, for Allegany Co. Bird Club; BC-Bird Club; BH-Buffalo Harbor; BM-Beaver Meadow Audubon Center; CAC-10 April Bird Census or CMC-15 May Bird Census, for Cattaraugus Co. BC; Cem-Cemetery; DH-Dunkirk Harbor; GMA or WMA-Game or Wildlife Management Area; LEAC-10 April Bird Census or LEMC-15 May Bird Census, for Lake Erie BC; NC, NP or NS-Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; Res-Reservoir; Sanct-Sanctuary; SF or SP-State Forest or Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Six Com. Loons were seen in migration over Pinehurst on both 13 and 30 Apr, while max of grounded birds was four at Lipperts Gravel Pit pond near Allegany 21 Apr. It was an unimpressive grebe flight with Pied-billed Scarce, Horned Grebe max 25 at Cuba L. 26 Mar. and the Red-necked missing. Very exciting for the season was the NORTHERN GANNET discovered in the Town of Hamburg 16 Apr (RA), extremely rare here, as well as two AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS at Point Gratiot, Chautauqua Co., 22

May (AS, Clarks). Again Double-crested Cormorants were well reported with max eight at DH 4 May; and one at Amity L., Allegany Co., 4 Apr, unusual away from the Great Lakes. Three Am. Bitterns were found for AMC with other reports: singles at Iroquois NWR 27 and 30 Apr; and at Alma Pond, Allegany Co., 1 May, better than none. A Least Bittern, unfortunately dead, was discovered beside a pond at the Pinehurst Golf Course, Westfield, 23 Apr (AW, TW); identification was confirmed by MVJ who will save it for the collection at the State University of NY at Fredonia; another was seen at Tonawanda WMA 21 and 30 May (AM, WM, AS). Other notable long-legged waders include: Great Egret: at least three at the Iroquois-Tonawanda wildlife areas 16 Apr to 30 May; Cattle Egret: one at Tonawanda WMA 23 May (AS, Clarks); and Black-crowned Night Heron: max three at the Tonawanda WMA 21 May. A GLOSSY IBIS was studied at Iroquois NWR 1 and 26 May (Seekins, JM, OO). A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) came down at Tonawanda WMA 13 Mar (RA+) and possibly the same bird appeared at Iroquois NWR 24 Mar (JM, Chilton). The Snow Goose reports were: of white morph: one early at Tonawanda WMA 6 Mar (MVJ) plus three others at Iroquois NWR 8-30 Mar; and of blue morph: eight early at Iroquois NWR 6 Mar and one also early at Tonawanda WMA the same day (MVJ) with one to two more at the former location 13-30 Mar. A BARNACLE GOOSE (escape?) appeared at Iroquois NWR 13 Mar (RA+), where the max of the spring flight of 77,400 Canada Geese was tallied 1-24 Mar (OO+). Highest of the spring duck migration, with a few other notes of interest include: Wood Duck: 20 at Farmersville Sta. 28 Mar; Green-winged Teal: eight at both Dunkirk 5 Mar and at Cuba L. 27 Mar and 15 Apr; Am. Black Duck: one at LEAC, six on AAC and one on LEMC; three at Canaseraga 4 Mar; six near Salamanca 23 Mar; and two at Cuba L. 30 Mar—only reports; Mallard: 142 at Cuba L. 26 Mar; N. Pintail: 11 at Farmersville Sta. 23 Mar; Blue-winged Teal: 20 at Farmersville Sta. 28 Mar; N. Shoveler: four at Tonawanda WMA 30 Mar; Gadwall: 13 at Dunkirk 2 Mar; EURASIAN WIGEON: one at Tiff Farm NP 17 Apr (RA, RB), a lucky find. Am. Wigeon: 29 near Mayville 5 Apr; Canvasback: 27 at Cuba L. 23 Mar; Ring-necked Duck: 107 at Cuba L. 5 Apr, and one lingering late at Times Beach, Buffalo, 28 May (RA, RBr); Lesser Scaup: 52 at Cuba L. 25 Mar; Oldsquaw: 19 at Cuba L. 5 Apr; White-winged Scoter: two at DH 26 Apr; Com. Goldeneye: 21 at Cuba L. 26 Mar; Bufflehead: 31 Cassadaga L. 28 Apr, and single late females at Amity L. 1-11 May and near Red House, Cattaraugus Co., 22 May, the last one apparently injured; Hooded Merganser: 37 at Cuba L. 23 Mar, and a pair nesting in a Wood Duck box near Belmont in May; Com. Merganser: 27 at Red House L. 21 Mar; the pair nesting in Wellsville last year lost their site when the chimney was toppled during a wind storm this spring (EL); Red-breasted Merganser: 200± at Cuba L. 26 Mar; and Ruddy Duck: 10 at Cuba L. 26 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: For the raptors there follows first, news of the migration and then, special notes on various species. Max of the hawk migration, all over Pinehurst unless noted otherwise, were all better than a year ago: Turkey Vulture: 200 over Silver Creek 7 Apr; Osprey: ten over Buffalo 28 Apr; Bald Eagle: three imm over Hamburg 28 Apr (McNeil); N. Harrier: seven on 16 Apr; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 207 on 7 May; Cooper's Hawk: eight on 13 Apr; N. Goshawk: one on 2 Apr (RA+); Red-shouldered Hawk: 16 over Hamburg on 27 Apr; Broad-winged Hawk: 4,112 over Hamburg on 28 Apr; Red-tailed Hawk: 177 on 13 Apr; Rough-legged Hawk: four on 13 Apr; GOLDEN EAGLE: one over Orchard Park 17 Apr (AM, WM); and Am. Kestrel: 27 over Hamburg on 27 Apr. Further raptor news includes: Turkey Vulture: only 23 counted from 11 reports; Osprey: a total of 26 from 17 areas; Bald Eagle, doing well: one in the Town of Ripley 3 Mar (D. Taylor *vide* TMah); max at Iroquois NWR five imm and two adults on 13 to 27 Mar (TH) plus another imm with yellow marker 7 Mar (OO), as well as one imm at the Allegheny Res. on 18 Apr (SE); N. Harrier: four on LEAC, two on AAC, two on LEMC and six on AMC; and 14 totaled from 13 other reports; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 on LEAC, two on AAC, three on AMC and singles from 11 areas; Cooper's Hawk: six on LEAC, four on AAC, and nine on AMC and 18, total, from 15 locations, with at least two pairs nesting in Allegany Co.; N. Goshawk: one in the Town of Hamburg 12 May (PH); Red-shouldered Hawk: eight on LEAC, nine on AAC, 15 on AMC, and six birds in addition to at least seven pairs nesting regionwide; Rough-legged Hawk: four on LEAC and eight totaled from six areas; Am. Kestrel: one to four per day, but few reports; MERLIN: One, well-described, on Perkins Rd., Andover Twp., Allegany Co. on AMC (H. R.

Ward); and PEREGRINE FALCON: one at Point Gratiot on 11 May (TM, AS). Rails discovered were: Virginia Rail, six at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr (Keller); and one at East Aurora 22 Apr (MZ); and Sora: one on AMC, two at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr (Keller); one at East Aurora 22 Apr (MZ); one in the Town of Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., 21 May (AB, TM+); and two at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp). Three Com. Moorhens at Iroquois NWR 27 Apr and five at Oak Orchard 28 May were the only reports; and max for Am. Coot was four at Cuba L. 23 Mar. An interesting shorebird season included: Black-bellied Plover: one in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., 10 May (KP), an unusual area; Semipalmated Plover: max 300 at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); a high Regional count; AMERICAN AVOCET: one at Iroquois NWR 27 May (PH+); Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 at Cuba L. 25 Apr, hardly an outstanding spring number; Lesser Yellowlegs: max 19 near Fredonia 30 Apr (TM), high for the season; Upland Sandpiper, numbers still low: two on LEMC; two in the Town of Pomfret 30 Apr; up to three in the Town of Wheatfield 1 and 2 May; one in the Town of Amity, Allegany Co. 4 May; and two at Oak Orchard 28 May; Whimbrel: six at Iroquois NWR 20 May and two on the 26th (JM); HUDSONIAN GODWIT: one at Iroquois NWR 11 May (JM, WD); Ruddy Turnstone: one in the Town of Amherst 26 May (AM, WM); Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2,500+ at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); White-rumped Sandpiper: one at Oak Orchard 22 and 28 May (RSp); Pectoral Sandpiper: max three at Dunkirk 30 Apr; Least Sandpiper: max 150 at Iroquois NWR 19 May (AS); Dunlin: max 800± at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); Short-billed Dowitcher: one at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp); and WILSON'S PHALAROPE: very early: one at Iroquois NWR 11 May (JM, WD+); and four at Oak Orchard 25 May (RSp+). Noteworthy larids include: Iceland Gull: one at LaSalle Park, Buffalo, 11 Apr (PH), unusual but watched for; Bonaparte's Gull: max 50 at Cuba L. on 15 Apr, a good number away from the Great Lakes; Ring-billed Gull, max grounded in storms; 340+ along the Allegheny R. 21 Mar; LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: one identified at Iroquois NWR 3 Mar (PH); Glaucous Gull: one at Iroquois NWR on 1 Mar; Caspian Tern: two at Times Beach, Buffalo, 28 Apr, one at Iroquois NWR 29 Apr and 21 May, *nine* at DH 30 Apr (TM), an excellent number, and five in the Town of Hamburg 30 Apr; and Black Tern, better numbers: max 10 at Iroquois NWR 11 and 28 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Although the Black-billed Cuckoo is doing well, the only Yellow-billed were singles in three areas. As usual, E. Screech Owls were poorly reported: one on LEAC, two on LEMC, and one near Silver Creek in Apr and May. As exciting now as they were last season are several Short-eared Owls: five in the Town of Java 1-31 Mar (DJ), up to five in the Town of Sheldon irregularly 30 Mar to 16 Apr (Rosches. TH), and one at Oak Orchard 22 May (Griffith *vide* RSp). A N. Saw-whet Owl was found car-killed on Rt. 17 at 10-Mile Rd. near Allegany 30 Mar (SE). The only reported Com. Nighthawks were one in Amity Twp, Allegany Co., 10 May, and two at Point Gratiot 22 May. A Whip-poor-will was found in the Town of Wheatfield 1 May (WD, BP), not often noted anymore. The Red-headed Woodpecker is doing better than last spring: one on LEAC, two on AAC, 11 on LEMC, three on AMC plus 10 birds counted from nine areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Outstanding from flycatcher reports were: Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles w. of Salamanca 17 May and in the Town of Cold Spring 30 May; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one in Amity Twp. 17 May, seldom noted; ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: one s. of Fredonia 21 May (TM, AB, JG+); and three in the Town of Pomfret 31 May (FR); Willow Flycatcher: two on LEMC, plus only 11 other birds; and E. Kingbird: max of migration: 96 over Pinehurst 22 May. The max flight of Blue Jays was tallied at 3,616 also over Pinehurst 25 May. Max three Com. Ravens were seen over 10-Mile Rd., six miles w. of Allegany, irregularly from 2 to 13 Apr (R. Werlein *vide* SE), and two appeared near Alfred 29 May with one there the next day (EB). A Carolina Wren was found at Belmont 1 to 18 Apr (BS), the only report; and Winter Wrens, usually singles, appeared in seven areas; and two Marsh Wrens showed up at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp). Kinglet numbers are nearly back to normal: Golden-crowned: max 20 at Point Gratiot 16 Apr; and three, late, on old breeding grounds near Alfred 29 May (EB); and Ruby-crowned, max of many reports; *nine* in Amity Twp. 28 Apr. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher provided some interesting birding for six areas with a total seven birds. Although too few send in records on E. Bluebirds, the species

seems to be doing well with 36 birds totaled from 15 sites in addition to 31 nesting pairs from 10 areas. A beautiful albinistic Am. Robin fed on lawns with "normal" robins at Fairview Ave., Wellsville, Allegany Co., 16 and 17 Apr (VP, Stoll, Gridley). N. Mockingbirds were seen in six locations during Apr and May, and the Brown Thrasher wintering at Belmont stayed on thru May. An alert bander discovered a Cedar Waxwing of the Japanese race with bright orange tail tips in her net near Alfred Sta. 8 Apr (EB). (See *Kingbird* vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 44 and 70). Single N. Shrikes were found at Iroquois NWR 13 Mar and near Alfred 7 Apr, while a Loggerhead was seen on AAC, and singles were in the Town of Hamburg 26 Apr, and at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A **WHITE-EYED VIREO** appeared in Williamsville 7 May (Yoerg). Five areas reported a total eight Yellow-throated Vireos in May, and single Philadelphia Vireos appeared at four sites. Noteworthy warblers included: Golden-winged Warbler: one on LEMC, three on AMC, and five tallied from four locations; "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER**: one on LEMC, one at Youngstown 13 May (WD, BP), one banded at Farmersville Sta. 16 May (DC), one in Amity Twp. 17 May (VP), and one, paired with a Blue-wing, in the Town of Pomfret 17 May (TM); Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Point Gratiot 30 Apr, and one at Canadaway Creek NS 11 May; N. Parula: one at Forest Lawn Cem, Buffalo, 20 May, and one s. of Fredonia 21 May; Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 counted from six locations besides a pair nest-building at Salamanca 25 May (TB); Yellow-rumped Warbler: max of flight: 54 in Amity Twp. 5 May, and several pairs nesting near Alfred and in Amity Twp. again (EB, VP); Pine Warbler: one at AMC, and singles in Allegany SP 16 Apr, and in the Town of Hamburg 27 Apr; Prairie Warbler: continuing to expand territories in Allegany Co. near Alfred, as well as in Amity and Ward Twps. (EB, VP), the last a new location; Black-poll Warbler, singles at Silver Creek 19 May, near Fredonia 21 May, and at Salamanca 30 May; Cerulean Warbler: one at Iroquois NWR 12 May, one at Salamanca 17 to 26 May, one in the Town of Newstead 20 May, and two at Oak Orchard 28 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER**: one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 May (FR), a precious find; N. Waterthrush: many reports including a nest with five eggs near Salamanca 17 May (TB); Louisiana Waterthrush: eight birds counted from six sites; Hooded Warbler: one in Amity Twp. 12 and 24 May, one at Salamanca 17 to 26 May; and one banded near Alfred 20 May (EB); and Yellow-breasted Chat: three e. of Forestville 15 and 21 May; and one on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation 20 May (WM, AM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A Rose-breasted Grosbeak arrived early at an Amity L. feeder. Allegany Co., 29 Apr (VP). Hurray! The **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** returned to the Town of Pomfret 29 May (FR, AS, MVJ), the third record for Chautauqua Co.; there last summer, perhaps this year he will attract a female. Other noteworthy sparrows include: Grasshopper Sparrow: two on LEMC, two on AMC; plus three reports of single birds; Henslow's Sparrow: four on LEMC, one on AMC; and one to two from three locations, the only reports; Lincoln's Sparrow: max six at Youngstown 13 May plus singles on LEMC and from four others reports; White-throated Sparrow: max of flight, 200 Times Beach, Buffalo, 2 May (PH); and White-crowned Sparrow: one at Burton's feeder, Belmont, all winter staying on thru 28 May. A **HARRIS' SPARROW**, probably the same bird as seen during the winter, appeared at J. Goetz' feeder in Fredonia 5 Mar as well as 5 and 23 Apr. A **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was identified at Tonawanda WMA 15 Mar (JM), and another was studied at a Fillmore feeder, Allegany Co., 1 May (JP, JE, Yoerg), very rare here. Two **ORCHARD ORIOLES** were at Silver Creek 12 May (LN). Max House Finch report was 50 in Fredonia 1-31 Mar (JF). Notable as only reports were: Red Crossbill: two at Ashford Hollow 17 Apr (AM, WM); and seven in Salamanca 24 Apr and 1 May (TB); and Pine Siskin: one lone bird at Little Genesee, Allegany Co., 2 May (FD); and another in the Town of Wales 5 May (Rosche). Highest feeder count for spring of the Evening Grosbeak was 50 in the Town of Wales thru 16 May. The House Sparrow is still far from being ousted by anything here: 98 on LEAC, 581 on AAC, 86 on LEMC, 63 on CAC, and 738 on AMC. Thus endeth the reading of the new AOU order. —Not so impossible, was it?

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813