

16 April Homer (WB) very early. Indigo Bunting: normal thru; first 12 May Chen Co (CC). Rufous-sided Towhee: normal thru; first 7 April Tioga Co (sev). Am. Tree Sparrow: last date 29 April Br Co (JS). Chipping Sparrow: common thru; first 7 April Br Co (JS). Field Sparrow: common thru; first 5 April Delhi (MC). Vesper Sparrow: nine reports scattered thru; first two 13 April Br Co (JS); seems to be slightly increasing. Savannah Sparrow: normal thru; first 21 April (sev). Grasshopper Sparrow: normal thru; first 5 May Br Co (JS). Fox Sparrow: five reports; three 30 March 3 locations Chen Co (JL); one 5 April Walton (HS); one April Tioga Co (RB). Low count. Song Sparrow: common thru. Lincoln's Sparrow: two 7 May, one 9 May, one 14 May, one 19 May all Newark Valley banded (JB). Swamp Sparrow: normal thru; first 8 April OPM (MD, KW). White-throated Sparrow: normal thru; first migrants 8 April Chen Co (CC). White-crowned Sparrow: normal thru; first 8 April Br Co (FL); last 18 May Delhi (DBC). Dark-eyed Junco: normal thru. Bobolink: normal thru; first 10 May Chen Co (CC), Delhi (MC). Red-winged Blackbird: normal thru. E. Meadowlark: normal thru; first 11 March OPM (MD, KW). Rusty Blackbird: six 27 March WPR (HM, RM); two April Cortland Co (WT); one 2 May Tioga Co (JB). Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: one 21 May Newark Valley; second year male, banded (JB). No. Oriole: normal thru; first April Tioga Co (LD). Purple Finch: normal thru. House Finch: normal thru. **RED CROSSBILL**: present all period in good numbers in Chen Co (CC, JL, DM, DW). Adequate proof of successful breeding; also present May Del Co (MC), March and May OPM (MD, KW). **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**: present all period in good numbers in Chen Co; successful breeding (JL, DM); fledgling 1 April, Pharsalia Game Management Area (DM); also present in Cortland Co 16 April (WB); 8 April OPM (MD, KW). **PINE SISKIN**: present in good numbers in Chen Co all period; definite nesting records (DM); also reports of a few thru rest of area, last date for these 18 May Delhi (DBC). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: did not come to feeders until late in season but regular in state forests; last date 26 April Norwich (JL). House Sparrow: common thru.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The Spring 1985 season perhaps was as memorable for its delightful weather as for the variety of birds. All three months averaged two to three degrees above normal, and each had at least short spells of very warm weather. Much of April felt like June. Vegetation was about two weeks ahead of normal. There was no snow at Syracuse during May. Precipitation was about an inch below normal in March and April, and May would have ended the same way except for a deluge on the last day of the month. The season also was rather windy. As the winds were mostly off Lake Ontario, they seldom concentrated migratory birds.

Most observers were disappointed by the migration because of the general lack of migrants, or perhaps better put, the continual presence of small numbers only. There were a few very good dates, notably 28 March, 18 and 22 April, and 5 May. Unfortunately the region picked a cold 18 May, probably the worst day of the entire month, for its "Big Run." Despite the warm weather, there were few very early records. The migration ended early with no late May fallout of thrushes, Tennessee or Blackpoll Warblers. This pattern of migration made it easy to miss species, yet the list compiled for the entire region was long and included several species that are quite unusual here.

There were virtually no irruptives either among raptors or land birds. Numbers of No. Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk were low, and almost no No. Saw-whet Owls were banded along Lake Ontario this season. Similarly, there was no suggestion of a chickadee or nuthatch flight, and almost all winter finch reports came from areas where the species had begun nesting during the late winter. An apparent exception, Purple Finch, produced a massive flight exactly one day in length.

The waterfowl flight generally was very poor, except for the ubiquitous Canada Goose. Snow Geese were found more widely than usual, and more Red-throated Loons were reported than usual. The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase and good numbers were found away from Lake Ontario. Grebes (especially), ducks, gulls and terns were scarce locally. It was an average season for southern herons. There was a good variety of shorebirds, but virtually everything was at Biddlecum in central Oswego Co.

The ornithological event of the season, however, was not the migration at all! Rather, continued monitoring of crossbills in northern Herkimer Co. and in the highlands in southern Madison and Onondaga Cos. yielded nesting records of both species, and also numerous Pine Siskin nestings. In Herkimer Co., Gary Lee found fledged young White-winged Crossbills in four Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks, and observed Red Crossbills nest building at several sites without being able to confirm successful nesting. Dorothy Crumb found fledged crossbills of both species in southern Madison and Onondaga Cos. Red Crossbills were last suspected to nest in this region in 1973, while White-winged Crossbill is a new nesting species for the region. In addition nests and families of Pine Siskins were found by both workers. It is expected that fuller details of this remarkable irruption will appear later in *The Kingbird*.

Observers felt a number of species were unusually scarce this season, with a general pattern that neotropical migrants were less affected than were migratory species which winter in the southeastern United States. Maxima for the migration period certainly support this feeling. The coming Breeding Bird Surveys should provide additional evidence. There were no surprising misses this season, although the absence of Brant, Red Knot and dowitchers come close. Only one each of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Henslow's Sparrow and Orchard Oriole were reported. The great rarities reported included Little Blue Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Swainson's Hawk, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruff, Lark Bunting and Yellow-headed Blackbird. More regular rarities reported included Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Thayer's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, and Kentucky Warbler. A total of 249 species plus three morphs and hybrids were reported this season.

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Abbreviations: arr-arrival; DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH-Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; last-last of season; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT-northern Pompey township; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon-Onondaga; ph-photographed; PSS-Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SP-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; StMC-Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.; Syr-Syracuse; twsp-township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: about nine reported LOL to 15 May. Com. Loon: max 50-55/day DH late April-early May, last LOL 20 May. Horned Grebe: max 12 LOL 7 April, none in May. Red-necked Grebe: three singles 23 April to 16 May. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 5 April DH, max 54 there 6 April and eight Otisco L 26 April are indicative of continued increase. Am. Bittern: arr DH 21 April. Least Bittern: only two reported. Great Blue Heron: arr DH 22 March. Great Egret: four singles DH 14-22 April; one PSS 2-4 May. Snowy Egret: one FH 29 April (P & HK). **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: adult DH 16 April (GAS, NYSARC) is tenth regional report, first since 1978. Cattle Egret: adult near DH 16 May (GAS) only report. Green-backed Heron: arr two sites 24 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 20 April Poolsbrook. Tundra Swan: one LOL 3 March, 24 Otisco L 27 March (RLP) only reports. Mute Swan: six Lyons Pond, Oneida Co., after 29 March of uncertain origin. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: adult *frontalis* near Port Byron 23 March (RK, PDeB) and adult *flavirostris* irregularly at Biddlecum 23 March-23 April (FGS, JH) are ninth and tenth regional records. Snow Goose: unusually widespread, including 80 Poland 5 April (SH) and noted Holland Patent 17 March (RLE); about 90% were white morph. Canada Goose: max 26,000 Onon Co. 24 March, last count above 100 on 4 May. Wood Duck: arr 11 March Clay, max only 14. Green-winged Teal: arr Scriba 3 March, max 28 Clay 7 April, last ca 5 May. Am. Black Duck: max 70 n Onon Co. 24 March. Mallard: max 185 n Onon Co. 24 Mar. No. Pintail: max 200 n Onon Co. 24 March, last Clay 23 April. Blue-winged Teal: arr 23 March Seneca River Flats, max 44 PSS 14 April. No. Shoveler: to ten/day 27 March to 21 April. Gadwall: max 26 FH 2 March, last PSS 5 May. Am. Wigeon: max 30 PSS 18 April, last Poolsbrook 5 May. Canvasback: max 210 FH 2 March, last there 24 March, early departure. Redhead: max 110 FH 2 March, last there 24 March, early departure. Ring-necked Duck: max 130 PSS 24 April, last Clay Marsh 23 April. Greater Scaup: max 400 FH 9 March, last PSS 27 April. Lesser Scaup: max 160 DH 23 March, last LOL 18 April. Oldsquaw: 30 Otisco L 13 April good count away from LOL; last DH 12 May. White-winged Scoter: late season push to 20/day LOL and Oneida L 22 April-16 May. Com. Goldeneye: max 230 LOL 2 March, last DH 23 April. Bufflehead: max 56 FH 24 March, last DH 4 May. Hooded Merganser: max 41 LOL 16 March, only locals after 28 March, early departure. Com. Merganser: last DH 2 May. Red-breasted Merganser: max 400 LOL 23 March, last DH 16 May. Ruddy Duck: singles Beaver L 4 April Biddlecum 22-27 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: see table for DH summary. Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk set record max, but overall total is about 60% of 1984 total. Bald Eagle: three others reported away from DH. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: singles DH 14 and 22 April (GAS, mob, NYSARC) are sixth and seventh regional reports. Golden Eagle: singles also noted Poland 5 April (SH) and Canastota 7 May (MS). Peregrine Falcon: singles DH 18 and 30 April. Ruffed Grouse: continues scarce. **SANDHILL CRANE**: adult DH 22 April (GAS, NYSARC) is eighth regional record. Virginia Rail: arr 13 April PSS. Sora: arr 20 April PSS. Com. Moorhen: arr DH 25 April. Am. Coot: last 21 April Poolsbrook. Black-bellied Plover: three singles Biddlecum 5-21 May. Semipalmated Plover: arr 16 May, max 24 on 21 May, last 27 May, most Biddlecum. Killdeer: arr 2 March, max 56 LOL 24 March. Willet: adult DH 12 May

(GAS). Greater Yellowlegs: arr Biddlecum 7 April, max 17 there 18 April, last there 27 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DH 6 April, last Biddlecum 27 May. Solitary Sandpiper: to four/day 6 April (record early) to 27 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 21 April. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 18 April. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 16 May, max 20 two dates. Least Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 5 May, max 45 there 19-20 May, last 29 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: single Biddlecum 21 May, three there 27 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Beaver L 4 April, max 41 Biddlecum 27 April, last 4 May. Dunlin: arr Biddlecum 20 April, max 95 there 21 May, last there 29 May. **STILT SANDPIPER**: three adults Biddlecum 16 May (FGS, MSR) third regional Spring report. **RUFF**: female Biddlecum 21 May (FGS, JH, DWC), fourth and latest regional spring record. **Com. Snipe**: arr 27 March DH. **Am. Woodcock**: arr Schroepel 16 March. **Wilson's Phalarope**: females Biddlecum 16-17 May and 23 May, male there 24-27 May (FGS, mob). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr DH 14 April, max 40 Oswego 18 May high. **Ring-billed Gull**: max only 3000 FH 14 March. **Herring Gull**: max only 300 FH 14 March. **THAYER'S GULL**: imm Oswego 21-23 March (FGS, PDeB, RK, NYSARC). **Iceland Gull**: last Salmon R mouth 15 March. **Glaucous Gull**: last FH 9 March. **Caspian Tern**: arr DH 11 April. **Com. Tern**: arr Constantia 5 May, late. **Black Tern**: arr DH 10 May, scarce.

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals – 1984

Species	Arrival	Max - Date	Last	90% Date Range*	Total
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar.	433 -	6 Apr. 30 May	27 Mar. - 9 May	1623
Osprey	4 Apr.	32 -	14 Apr. 31 May	14 Apr. - 17 May	268
Bald Eagle	7 Mar.	2 -	20 May		15
No. Harrier	24 Feb.	102 -	14 Apr. 30 May	10 Mar. - 5 May	592
Sharp-sh. Hawk	11 Mar.	1074 -	15 Apr. 31 May	5 Apr - 15 May	4587
Cooper's Hawk	1 Mar.	46 -	27 Mar. 30 May	11 Mar. - 24 Apr.	373
No. Goshawk	1 Mar.	4 -	1 Mar. 24 Apr.	1 Mar. - 24 Apr.	21
Red-shld. Hawk	1 Mar.	114 -	19 Mar. 9 May	10 Mar. - 15 Apr.	520
Broad-wngd. Hawk	11 Apr.	18493 -	22 Apr. 31 May	21 Apr. - 31 May	27924
Red-tailed Hawk	13 Feb.	610 -	14 Apr. 30 May	8 Mar. - 24 Apr.	4474
Rough-lggd. Hawk	21 Feb.	17 -	14 Apr. 29 Apr.	5 Mar. - 21 Apr.	149
Golden Eagle	11 Mar.	4	4 May		13
American Kestrel	7 Mar.	164 -	5 Apr. 30 May	16 Mar. - 18 Apr.	551
Merlin	5 Apr.	4 -	14 Apr. 10 May		15
Grand total (including unidentified, rarities):					41430

*Dates between which 90% of all birds passed Derby Hill.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 12 May Poolsbrook, scarce. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only report 21 May Toad Harbour. Long-eared Owl: seven banded Noyes Sanctuary 29 March-15 April. Short-eared Owl: one DH 6 April. No. Saw-whet Owl: five banded Noyes Sanctuary 28 March-14 April; road kill Poland 5 April; calling Old Forge area thru season. **Com. Nighthawk**: arr DH 12 May. **Chimney Swift**: arr Oswego 30 April. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: arr widespread 10 May. **Belted Kingfisher**: arr DH 23 March. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr DH 9 May, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr Cold Brook 5 April, last migrants StMC 5 May. **No. Flicker**: max 149 DH 15 April.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Old Forge 15 May. **E. Wood-Pewee**: arr DH 2 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr Quiver Pond 16 May. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr s Onon Co. 18 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: arr StMC 17 May. **Least Flycatcher**: arr DH 5 May. **E. Phoebe**: arr DH 28 March. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: arr Pumpkin Hollow 4 May. **E. Kingbird**: arr DH 23 April. **Purple Martin**: arr DH 18 April. **Tree Swallow**: arr 24 March PSS, max 900 DH 14 April. **No. Rough-winged Swallow**: arr Holland Patent 4 April. **Bank Swallow**: arr DH 18 April. **Cliff Swallow**: arr DH 21 April. **Barn Swallow**: arr DH 21 April. **Blue Jay**: first migrants DH 22 April. **Am. Crow**: DH total 32,465, 80% of 1984 total. **Brown Creeper**: max 13 LOL 7 April. **Carolina Wren**: single StMC after 15 April only report.

House Wren: arr widespread 23 April. Winter Wren: migrants very scarce 15 April to 5 May. Marsh Wren: arr DH 4 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 50 LOL 17 April, last StMC 2 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr StMC 6 April, max only 16 LOL 20 April, last FH 21 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr PSS 20 April. Veery: arr LOL 5 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr StMC 22 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr StMC 10 May. Hermit Thrush: migrants scarce 12 April to 9 May. Wood Thrush: arr StMC 1 May. Am. Robin: max 900 DH 28 March; a nest built on the ground in Jamesville was unsuccessful (Ben Burtt *vide* DWC). Gray Catbird: arr 1 May StMC. Brown Thrasher: arr StMC 16 April. Water Pipit: arr DH 14 March, max 110 LOL 13 April, last. No. Shrike: last FH 2 March. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: singles LOL 23 March, 11 April (FGS); one Chenango Forks 2 May (RLE).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one StMC 15 May (REL). Solitary Vireo: migrants 30 April-11 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Camillus 2 May. Warbling Vireo: arr Poland 22 April (SH). Philadelphia Vireo: migrants 3-23 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr DH 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr 5 May StMC. Golden-winged Warbler: record StMC 30 April; about six hybrids reported, including two black-throated birds. Tennessee Warbler: migrants 5-30 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Syr 16 May (PDeB). Nashville Warbler: record early StMC 26 April. No. Parula: migrants 2-21 May. Yellow Warbler: arr widespread 23 April. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr widespread 5 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr 3 May StMC. Cape May Warbler: migrants 5-20 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: migrants 30 April-21 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 5 April, max 1100 LOL 5 May, last there 23 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: migrants 30 April-29 May. Blackburnian Warbler: migrants 5-29 May. Pine Warbler: arr widespread 21 April. Palm Warbler: migrants 2-12 May, record max 45 LOL 5 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 5 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr StMC 11 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr two sites 5 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Camillus 2 May. Am. Redstart: arr Noyes Sanctuary 29 April. Ovenbird: arr widespread 5 May, present Old Forge 8 May. No. Waterthrush: arr Pumpkin Hollow 4 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early s Pompey twsp 16 April. Kentucky Warbler: three males central Onon Co 12-18 May. Mourning Warbler: arr 13 May StMC. Com. Yellowthroat: arr 2 May Camillus, present Limekiln L 8 May. Hooded Warbler: arr StMC 10 May. Wilson's Warbler: migrants 12-29 May. Canada Warbler: migrants 7-27 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one StMC 31 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr widespread 7 May, max 32 LOL 12 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Camillus 2 May. Indigo Bunting: arr StMC 10 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr NPT 24 March. Am. Tree Sparrow: scarce, red Biddulcum 20 April. Chipping Sparrow: record early 6 April StMC (REL). Field Sparrow: arr Bolivar 29 March. Vesper Sparrow: arr DH 7 April, scarce. **LARK BUNTING**: three males Earlville 3 May (Ed & Marion Covey *vide* CC, NYSARC), second regional report. Savannah Sparrow: arr Oswego Co. 7 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Warners 11 May. Henslow's Sparrow: one W. Monroe 23 May (MSR) only report. Fox Sparrow: migrants scarce 29 March to 14 April. Song Sparrow: reported regularly after 14 March. Lincoln's Sparrow: migrants 5-22 May, arr Old Forge 8 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr 24 March PSS. White-throated Sparrow: migrants 7 April to 21 May, no large counts reported. White-crowned Sparrow: max 55 LOL 5 May, last there 16 May. Lapland Longspur: three reported DH 28 March to 4 April. Snow Bunting: last DH 28 March. Bobolink: arr Oswego Co. 5 May. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: imm male Cicero 16-18 April (FGS, DWC, JH), female Mexico 5-9 May (ph Rosanne Russ *vide* GAS, NYSARC), are eighth and ninth regional records. Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 DH 28 March. E. Meadowlark: arr Seneca River Flats 14 March. Rusty Blackbird: arr Seneca River Flats 2 March. Com. Grackle: max 40,000 DH 28 March. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20,000 DH 28 March. Orchard Oriole: adult male n Camillus 18 May (PDeB, RK). No. Oriole: arr Camillus 2 May. Purple Finch: record (for state) max 8000 DH 28 March (DWC, FGS); Field Note submitted. Dark-eyed Junco: last Camillus 19 May. Com. Redpoll: three reports up to four, last 16 March. Evening Grosbeak: 200 Cold Brook 5 April (SH) only large number reported.

CORRIGENDA. Vol. 34: 192; Rusty Blackbird: arr should read S. Onon 27 March. Golden Eagle: max 11 (not 22). Vol. 34: 254; Acadian Flycatcher: correct locality is Maple Hill, Oswego Co. Vol. 35: 55-56; Lesser Golden-Plover: last 12 (not 10) Nov. Hudsonian Godwit: arr and max 16 SP 2 Sept., last there 6 Sept.; one Delta L 5 Sept. (omitted). Solitary Vireo: arr FH (not SH). Connecticut Warbler: one E. Syr 5 Oct. (JL) only report (also omitted).

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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This year's mild snow-free spring was marked by few surprises. For the three month period both temperatures and precipitation were normal. March began with little snow accumulation, except on Tug Hill. The only major snow for the period was several inches on 4-5 March followed by below zero temperatures. There were only five days with temperatures minimally above freezing, and 11 days had measurable precipitation. Ice was out of eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River by April first. April was mild and dry. Wet snow 1-2 April followed by the coldest weather of the month on the 9th and 10th brought numbers of winter residents and early arrivals to the feeders. A warm spell the 20th to 23rd was marked by temperatures in the 70's. Rain fell only three days during the second half of the month. May continued warm and dry with only a few frosts. In spite of the early snow melt and a warm April, cool damp weather in early May delayed spring arrivals. A southerly air flow 9-11 May produced an extraordinary influx of neotropical migrants. I recorded at least 20 arrivals with two weeks worth of everything from Common Yellowthroat to Bay-breasted Warbler compressed into one day.

A total of 180 species was reported including 23 Anatids and 26 warblers. There are increasing numbers of Turkey Vultures in southern St. Lawrence Co. and of House Finches in the Canton area. Otherwise little is new on range expansions—one report each for Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and No. Mockingbird. We had no reports for Red-throated Loon or Horned Grebe, but this probably reflects a dearth of observers. There were *no* reports for the following locally occurring species on the Blue List and/or State or Federal lists: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Spruce Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Com. Barn-Owl, E. Screech-Owl, Com. Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow. Down as well are Blue-winged Teal, Upland Sandpiper and Black Tern.

On the up side are Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, kinglets, E. Bluebird, Veery, and Brown Thrasher—not to mention Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, and especially Purple Finch. Noteworthy was several Grasshopper Sparrows in Jeff. Co. and continued successful nesting of Bald Eagles as well as Ospreys and No. Harriers. Our only rarity was another(!) Tricolored Heron.