

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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A mild spring is fine for people, plants and birds but not always so good for birding. By consensus, this was one of those springs. March began quite cool and April ended with an unexpected cold snap. Otherwise temperatures were above average all three months, especially in March and April. Precipitation was quite variable. The last significant snowfall of the year came in early March, but only about a foot fell during the entire season, including late April's brief but unwelcome contribution. Precipitation was slightly below average in March and just above average in April and May, more so along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The early thaw and long warm spell early in the season left us very dry by mid-May, but rain at the season's end ended worry of a drought.

Waterbird numbers generally were poor. The early thaw permitted fleets of small craft on our larger bodies of water at the height of the waterfowl, grebe and loon migration, so no concentrations were observed and departures generally were early. April's warm weather dried most vernal pools, and emergent vegetation quickly made them unsuitable for shorebirds, so shorebird numbers were unexceptional as well. The most outstanding waterbird report of the season was a bird believed to be a dark morph **PARASITIC JAEGER** seen briefly by Jane Kidney from a boat off Pleasant Pt on 14 May. It is the first Regional spring record of a jaeger of any sort, and the observer's familiarity with fall migrant jaegers adds credence to this report. A new record high of 212 Double-crested Cormorant at Derby Hill on 10 May and 65 on Wontry I, Oneida L, on 24 May attest to the continued expansion of the Lake Ontario population of this species. About a half dozen reports of Great Egret, most from the Biddlecum area, between 6 Apr and 5 May were the only reports of "southern" herons. Other seldom found waterbirds reported this season included Glossy Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose and Sandhill Crane.

The landbird migration was similarly uneventful. Long stretches without strong weather systems produced few concentrations of migrant landbirds. The best period was in early May. The vegetation unfurled about two weeks ahead of normal, and easily beat the arrival of warblers, vireos and flycatchers despite numerous early arrival dates. Southern overshoot species were not well represented, with singles of Prothonotary and Worm-eating but no Kentucky Warbler this spring. The peak count of 2700 Yellow-rumped Warblers passing Derby Hill on 1 May was weakly echoed by 250 along Lake Ontario the next day, but these were the only reports of more than 100 individuals of any warbler species all season. Swallow maxima were distressingly low, both cuckoos and the grassland sparrows continued scarce and Brown Thrasher were again conspicuous by their scarcity.

Return flights of winter irruptives were mixed. Raptors, both diurnal and nocturnal, passed in unexceptional numbers. There was no flight of chickadees or nuthatches, but Bohemian Waxwings persisted until late March. Pine Grosbeaks disappeared in mid-March, while Purple Finch reappeared in mid-April.

Crossbills remained scarce. A fair return flight of redpolls and Pine Siskins (which showed no evidence of breeding in the Syracuse area, unlike many springs) was dwarfed by a massive May return flight of Evening Grosbeak, of which large numbers appeared at feeders.

Record early arrivals were set by Peregrine Falcon, Pectoral Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, N. Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler and Swamp Sparrow, and tied by Olive-sided Flycatcher and Chestnut-sided Warbler. These new records exceeded the previous by one to four days. Departures also tended to be early, though bird banding at the Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary and continued coverage of St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt turned up most of our late May migrants in late May. Gray-cheeked Thrush was a conspicuous miss this season, and late season Swainson's Thrush were quite scarce.

Gary Lee provided much information on landbird arrivals in the southwestern Adirondacks of Herkimer County. Amazingly, Broad-winged Hawk, Winter Wren and Red-eyed Vireo were found there before they were found at lower elevations along Lake Ontario or near Syracuse. Comparative arrival dates for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, E. Phoebe and Lincoln's Sparrow also appear in the species accounts below. Other arrivals seemed more in line with what might be expected, given the difference in altitude and climate.

Great rarities among landbirds reported this season include Fish Crow, Prothonotary and Connecticut Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow. A Com. Raven at Derby Hill on 26 Mar was only the ninth spring record there; it nests in the Adirondacks section of this Region. Other hard to find species reported this season include Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole. A total of 236 species were reported this season, which is about average.

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Abbreviations: BBFS—Ben Burtt feeder survey; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH—Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; Noyes—Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary, Nine Mile Point, Oswego Co.; NPT—northern Pompey township; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SPd—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SRF—Seneca River flats near Montezuma, Cayuga Co.; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co.; StMC—Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onondaga Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: singles DH 25 Apr and 4 May. Com. Loon: arr DH 23 Mar, max 36 Otisco L 9 Apr, last LOL 15 May; arr Limekiln L 14 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 Clay 6 Apr. Horned Grebe: about six reported, last 12 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: two Brewerton 17 Mar. Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 5 Apr. Am. Bittern: arr DH 3 Apr. Least Bittern: arr Poolsbrook 14 May. Great Blue Heron: arr PSS 12 Mar. Green-backed Heron: arr Clay 28 Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr DH 16 Apr. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one PSS 5 May (ph Alan Townsend *vide* DWC), last spring report 1978. Tundra Swan: three reported, last Pulaski 26 Apr. Mute Swan: two Brewerton 18 Mar. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: orange-billed ad Pond 100, FH, 12-13 Apr (FGS,

DWC), tenth spring record. Snow Goose: max 58 DH 2 Apr, low; last PSS 3 Apr; only one blue morph reported. Canada Goose: arr 6 Mar, last counts > 100 27 Apr. Wood Duck: arr DH 12 Mar, scarce. Green-winged Teal: arr DH 12 Mar, max 14 PSS 14 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 70 Clay 29 Mar. Mallard: max 250 Clay 29 Mar. N. Pintail: arr Onon L 8 Mar, max 180 Clay 29 Mar, last PSS 27 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: arr DH 16 Mar. N. Shoveler: arr Oswe 27 Mar, last 10 May. Gadwall: arr Onon L 16 Mar, last FH 17 May. Am. Wigeon: arr SRF 15 Mar, max 40 FH 22 Mar, last PSS 27 Apr. Canvasback: max 260 FH 22 Mar, last FH 10 Apr. Redhead: max 18 FH 22 Mar, last FH 27 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: arr Brewerton 12 Mar, max 62 Clay 6 Apr, last FH 27 Apr. Greater Scaup: last FH 12 Apr, straggler LOL 10 May. Lesser Scaup: last DH 13 Apr. Oldsquaw: last LOL 10 May. White-winged Scoter: 35 FH 1 Mar declined to one DH 12 Mar, then singles LOL 14 Apr and 4 May. Com. Goldeneye: last DH 4 May. Bufflehead: last FH 17 May. Hooded Merganser: arr Brewerton 6 Mar, max 50 FH 22 Mar, irregular after 3 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Utica Marsh 10 May; arr Fourth L 1 May. Red-breasted Merganser: max 2800 FH 29 Mar, last DH 25 May. Ruddy Duck: one FH 20-22 Mar only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals—1986

Species	Arrival	Max. — Date	Last ¹	90% Date Range ²	Total
Turkey Vulture	12 Mar	266—26 Mar	30 May	26 Mar — 14 May	2139
Osprey	31 Mar	36—16 May	30 May	15 Apr — 18 May	268
Bald Eagle	4 Mar	3— Mar	26 May	17 Mar — 17 May	24
Northern Harrier	10 Mar	55—21 Apr	30 May	18 Mar — 17 May	738
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17 Mar	1107— 1 May	29 May	1 Apr — 16 May	5685
Cooper's Hawk	4 Mar	102—25 Mar	17 May	18 Mar — 6 May	466
Northern Goshawk	3 Mar	10—18 Mar	16 May	4 Mar — 30 Apr	57
Red-shouldered Hawk	12 Mar	256—25 Mar	18 May	17 Mar — 19 Apr	836
Broad-winged Hawk	12 Apr	2434—18 May	30 May	15 Apr — 5 May	14845
Red-tailed Hawk	20 Feb	926—26 Mar	30 May	11 Mar — 25 Apr	6400
Rough-legged Hawk	20 Feb	66—18 Mar	25 Mar		263
Golden Eagle	18 Mar	3—19 Apr	5 May	10 Mar — 21 Apr	14
American Kestrel	10 Mar	37— 6 Apr	18 May		287
Merlin	15 Mar	2—20 Apr	16 May		11

TOTAL (includes 144 unidentified hawks and rarities)

32177

¹ Species listed as departing after 25 May may occur later.

² Dates between which 90% of the seasonal total appeared.

Turkey Vulture: arr Old Forge 2 May. Osprey: arr Fourth L 1 May. Bald Eagle: ad SSSP 2 Mar, Darts 28 Mar; DH total is record high. N. Harrier: arr SRF 15 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Darts 6 Apr (GL), early. Peregrine Falcon: single DH 23 Mar (record early) and 19 Apr, only reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: less than a dozen reported. Wild Turkey: one west side Little Sodus Bay 10 Apr (FGS), far from nesting populations. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one DH 27-28 May (ph G. Church *vide* GAS), seventh Regional record. Virginia Rail: arr PSS 19 Apr. Sora: arr Clay 28 Apr. Com. Moorhen: arr DH 19 Apr. Am. Coot: arr SRF 15 Mar. Black-bellied Plover: 11 SP 28 May, only report. Semipalmated Plover: arr Oswe 10 May. Killdeer: arr DH 14 Mar, max 26 on 27 Mar, low. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Oswe 27 Mar, last 17 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Pennellville 3 Apr, max 15 there 8 May, last 16 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Poolsbrook 26 Apr, max 26 Onon 8 May, last 15 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Holland Patent 12 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 21 Apr, scarce. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr SP 28 Apr, max 55 Six Mile Creek 31 May. Least Sandpiper: arr Clay 6 May, max 26 Onon 10 May, last 15 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: record early DH 19 Mar (DWC), max 90 Clay 10 Apr, last 4 May. Dunlin: arr

Onon 10 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: four Biddlecum 18 May. Com. Snipe: arr Holland Patent 25 Mar. Am. Woodcock: arr NPT 12 Mar, Old Forge 21 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: arr DH 13 Apr. Iceland Gull: last FH 20 Mar. Glaucous Gull: last Oswego R 1 Mar. Caspian Tern: arr DH 13 Apr. Com. Tern: arr DH 28 Apr. Black Tern: arr DH 8 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Oswe 10 May, about four reported. Long-eared Owl: Noyes 23 Mar. Short-eared Owl: one DH 6 Apr. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles Noyes 15 Mar; Thendara 20 May. Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 16 May. Whip-poor-will: arr Noyes 10 May, another migrant Mexico Pt 25 May. Chimney Swift: arr PSS 26 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Holland Patent 12 May. Belted Kingfisher: arr DH 19 Mar. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr DH 15 May, scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants 23 Mar to 8 May. N. Flicker: arr DH 26 Mar, max 70 DH 20 Apr; one with mixed red and yellow shafts banded Noyes 31 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Labrador Pd 9 May (BA) ties record early, Third L 12 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr two sites 13 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: record early StMC 8 May, arr Third L 17 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr NPT 13 May, Third L 17 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr Clay 14 May. Least Flycatcher: arr two sites 28 Apr. E. Phoebe: arr Howland's I 15 Mar, Fourth L 3 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr DH 29 Apr. E. Kingbird: arr DH 28 Apr. Horned Lark: max 200 DH 9 Mar. Purple Martin: arr DH 19 Apr. Tree Swallow: arr DH 17 Mar, max 700 LOL 10 Apr. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 20 Apr. Bank Swallow: arr DH 20 Apr. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 20 Apr. Barn Swallow: arr DH 20 Apr. Blue Jay: migrants LOL after 19 Apr, max 5500 DH 6 May. Am. Crow: total 45250 DH 19 Feb to 21 Apr, max 6195 20 Feb and 7290 15 Mar. **FISH CROW:** one DH 18 May (GAS, NYSARC), second Regional record. Black-capped Chickadee: no flight. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to three/day 13 Apr to 12 May. Brown Creeper: arr ca. 23 Mar, max 28 DH 13 Apr. Carolina Wren: one Brewerton 16 Mar, another Camillus 5-8 May, three Syr area in May. House Wren: arr DH 26 Apr. Winter Wren: arr Limekiln 5 Apr, last migrant 4 May. Marsh Wren: arr PSS 9 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL 3 Apr, max 90 LOL 13 Apr, last migrant 3 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FH 26 Apr, max 25 DH 27 Apr, last 12 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Poolsbrook 23 Apr. E. Bluebird: arr SRF 14 Mar, max 11 DH 1 Apr. Veery: arr two sites 6 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr Clay 6 May, max 11 StMC 16 May, last Noyes 31 May. Hermit Thrush: arr Old Forge 9 Apr, last migrant 25 May, late. Wood Thrush: arr Clay 3 May. Am. Robin: arr DH 12 Mar, max 500 DH 5 Apr. Gray Catbird: arr DH 4 May. Brown Thrasher: arr StMC 19 Apr, scarce. Water Pipit: arr DH 29 Mar, max 30 early Apr, last DH 15 May. Bohemian Waxwing: 60 Pompey Hollow Road, Onon, 10-14 Mar (mob), 18 DH 10 Mar and 28 on 25 Mar. N. Shrike: last SSSP 14 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: arr NPT 24 Apr, last Noyes 25 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr DH 4 May. Warbling Vireo: arr Clay 28 Apr. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Clay 5 May, last Noyes 17 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr Old Forge 2 May. Blue-winged Warbler: record early StMC 30 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Clay 5 May; three hybrids (two "Brewster's", one "Lawrence's") Camillus in May. Tennessee Warbler: arr StMC 4 May, last LOL 30 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles Clay 5 May, Camillus 8 May. Nashville Warbler: record early StMC 22 Apr; last Noyes 22 May. N. Parula: record early Clay 28 Apr. Yellow Warbler: arr Clay 28 Apr. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr DH 1 May, ties record early. Magnolia Warbler: arr DH 29 Apr, last Noyes 31 May. Cape May Warbler: arr Clay 6 May, last Noyes 22 May, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr StMC 30 Apr, last Noyes 29 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Clay 30 Mar, last Noyes 30 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Clay, DH 28 Apr, last StMC 25 May. Blackburnian Warbler: arr Clay 5 May, last StMC 25 May. Pine Warbler: arr DH 24 Apr. Prairie Warbler: singles Mexico Pt W (FGS) and Syr (MSR) 15 May. Palm Warbler: arr DH 26 Apr, max 16 LOL 4 May, last LOL 10 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 6 May, last there 29 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr FH 17 May, last Syr 6 Jun. Cerulean Warbler: arr

StMC 6 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Poolsbrook 29 Apr. Am. Redstart: arr Clay 30 Apr. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: singing male Toad Harbor 25 May (JT), across Oneida L from former nesting area and first spring record since 1968. Worm-eating Warbler: one heard only NPT 13 May (DWC). Ovenbird: arr StMC 1 May. N. Waterthrush: arr PSS 27 Apr. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early arr NPT 14 Apr (DWC); migrant Shore Oaks 10 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: singles StMC 14 May (REL, NYSARC) and Noyes 17 May (banded), about ninth spring record. Mourning Warbler: arr StMC 16 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Clay 5 May. Hooded Warbler: record early StMC 5 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr StMC 8 May, last Noyes 28 May. Canada Warbler: arr Camillus 8 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one StMC 16-27 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr StMC 7 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr StMC 5 May. Indigo Bunting: arr Otisco 8 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 21 Apr. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Holland Patent 27 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: arr NPT 13 Apr. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one Clay 9-10 May (FGS, mob), fifth spring record. Field Sparrow: arr Otisco 30 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: arr DH 5 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr SD 28 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Syr airport 7 May. Henslow's Sparrow: one Poolsbrook 24 May (MSR) only report. Fox Sparrow: arr DH 24 Mar, max 4 14 Apr, last 27 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Onon 9 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Clay 6 May, Limekiln L 17 May. Swamp Sparrow: record early Clay 29 Mar. White-throated Sparrow: arr DH 5 Mar last 25 May. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Otisco 29 Apr, max 85 LOL 10 May, last Noyes 17 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 265 LOL 13 Apr, last migrant LOL 25 May; male "Oregon" Junco NPT 22 Apr. Lapland Longspur: four FH 15 Mar, one DH 26 Apr. Snow Bunting: max 1000 NPT 10 Mar, last Toad Harbor 15 Mar. Bobolink: arr DH 29 Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: arr DH 4 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr Syr 11 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr DH 16 Mar, last Clay 9 May. Com. Grackle: arr DH 4 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Syr 12 Mar. Orchard Oriole: male Cato first week May (BBFS) and LOL 25 May, im male Holland Patent 26 May. N. Oriole: arr DH 26 Apr. Pine Grosbeak: last DH 18 Mar, Holland Patent 30 Mar, scarce. Purple Finch: 2 SRF 20 Mar, regular after 13 Apr. House Finch: 120+ over DH 4 Mar to 19 Apr. Red Crossbill: two Shackham Rd, Fabius, 25 May. Com. Redpoll: max 100 SRF 14 Mar, last NPT 8 Apr. Pine Siskin: arr DH 22 Apr, last Toad Harbor 21 May. Am. Goldfinch: regular after 15 Apr. Evening Grosbeak: strong return flight 20 Apr to 26 May, max 2550 DH 1 May.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March temperatures and precipitation were close to normal. Noteworthy meteorological events included strong winds on 1 Mar and heavy snow on 7 Mar followed by record lows, in the low teens, the next day. Then during the final week of the month temperatures reached record highs in the mid-70's. April was warm, 4-6 degrees above normal. Rainfall was 1-3 inches below normal. The