

Highlights of the Spring Season

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Another year with a relatively dismal spring migration overall! Let's try once more to discover why, or at least what, has led to such feelings. Weather certainly had its impact. This spring it was fairly uniform over the state, generally warm and dry, but with local variation in the timing of specific cooler and wetter periods. March with its seesaw temperatures produced bursts of birds and birder activity. There were many early arrival dates, particularly among water birds, and a flood of hawks late in the month. April began warm. People worried about early leafing and blooming. Silly people! The rest of the month was cool and damp with many arrivals delayed and the eagerly awaited surge of raptors snuffed out. In May we saw the annual race of foliage *versus* warblers unfold and as usual the leaves won; they probably nearly always do. In fact, I suspect that one will find that warblers usually delay their arrival in most seasons until the leaves are well out and their attending insects and larvae are present. We will nearly always find the bulk of the warbler waves well hidden in the foliage. The major warbler push started about May 8-9, a bit late, but for the next couple of weeks the land birds were at least a little better than last spring. However, there were no major groundings in May and no major weather systems to produce them. The migration just sort of fizzled out, with few individuals even trickling through after 31 May. Later in this report we can compare the arrival date tables relative to observers' perception of the season's timing. The absence of a report from Region 10, once again leaves a large gap in any attempt to obtain a statewide picture of the migration.

Reviewing the records of the species and families I have emphasized on past spring migrations, we find the beginning inauspicious. There are no loon counts of real significance. Reports of grebes are mixed, Pied-billed up a bit in several Regions and Horned confusing - low counts on the coast and Great Lakes, but very numerous on other inland lakes, e.g. a single raft of 212 on Cayuga Lake in Region 3. The inland explosion of Double-crested Cormorant continues, now accompanied by an explosion of articles discussing the rumored or feared impact on local fisheries. Most breeding species, except for the Great Blue Heron, appear to be in some to a great deal of trouble, and wanderers from the south were few in number. Cattle Egret appeared in only 3 Regions, fewer sightings than 15 years ago. The waterfowl picture again looks good on a chart at a distance; all of the expected species are present. However, on close look the numbers of most species are

not impressive. Just compare peak counts in the Region 3 report at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with those of a few years ago. Also notable this season are Tundra Swan numbers which seem back on course, best in the west; Greater White-fronted Goose, a rarity in New York, in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 9; only a single Brant in Region 5 away from their stronghold in Regions 8 and 9; Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal still low in most Regions; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1, 2 and 5; Canvasback up a bit in Regions 2, 5 and 8, down in Regions 4 and 9; Redhead just plain scarce; Ring-necked Duck in good numbers, especially Upstate; scaup so-so to low across the state; scoters low where noted at all; and merganser reports generally positive.

Raptor counts this spring can serve as good teaching tools. The overall counts at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, where we have a number of years of data and daily counts, were well off their peak totals. Looking for causes, we find that poor weather for concentrating hawks occurred through the last 3/4 of April and most of May, cutting Broad-winged Hawk totals to less than that of a single good day in a "good" year. Surely we didn't lose over half the population over just last winter. Thus, the timing of good flight weather is **critical** in assessing population trends. This year conditions were favorable in late March and you will find record daily counts for N. Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk, species whose peak passage is at this time. Several species typically peaking at that time also set seasonal record totals. If tables were prepared for each significant watch, you would also easily see that several of the daily highs for the year occurred either on the same date or on consecutive dates arranged as one would expect for the typical west to east flow of raptors along the south shores of the Great Lakes. In some cases the serious student would find the study of hourly data from some of the watches of interest. Turkey Vulture set record seasonal highs at Braddock Bay, Derby Hill and the newer watch at Ripley, with daily highs exceeding the annual totals of only a few years ago. Other positives were the numbers of Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Golden Eagle counted. Negatives included few Merlins and Peregrine Falcons, a lack of raptor rarities, and a very poor season for N. Goshawk despite the fine weather when their numbers are normally near peak. This season we have additional hawk watch data from Sapsucker Woods in Region 3, Coot Hill in Region 7, and Hawk Mt. and Mt. Peter in Region 9, but too little historical data to put these numbers in context. Away from the hawk watches, you will find interesting notes on Bald Eagle nesting in the reports from Regions 1 and 3.

Shorebirds, gulls and terns had in common a season with little exciting news to report. Of the nine Regions reporting, only Region 3 claimed good habitat for shorebirds in at least a few locations and backed this

Waterbird Arrivals 1988

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
American Bittern	22 Apr	14 Apr	29 Mar	30 Apr	21 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr	20 May	5 May		20 Apr
Green-backed Heron	30 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	9 Apr	27 Apr			13 May	2 May		26 Apr
Wood Duck	6 Mar	7 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	9 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar		16 Mar
Green-winged Teal	11 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar	27 Mar	5 Mar		12 Apr	22 Mar	19 Mar		18 Mar
Northern Pintail	26 Feb	21 Feb	11 Mar	8 Mar	12 Mar	20 Mar	5 May	11 Mar	19 Feb		11 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	13 Mar	12 Mar	26 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	31 Mar	5 Apr	28 Mar	23 Apr		27 Mar
Osprey	26 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar	6 Apr	26 Mar	14 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr		3 Apr
Virginia Rail	16 Apr	26 Mar	16 Apr		7 Apr	25 Apr	15 May	14 May	2 Apr		18 Apr
Sora	22 Apr	4 May	27 Apr	8 May	13 Apr	8 May	15 May	7 May	1 May		1 May
Common Moorhen	16 Apr	3 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	17 Apr	3 May		14 May	14 May		26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	21 May	27 Apr			24 May				4 May		11 May
Semipalmated Plover	8 May	7 May	15 May		15 May			21 May	1 May		11 May
Killdeer	20 Feb	20 Feb	3 Mar	6 Mar	2 Mar	14 Mar	22 Mar	7 Mar	7 Mar		4 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	24 Mar	24 Mar	6 Apr	23 Apr	27 Mar		5 May	17 May	12 Mar		9 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	30 Mar	25 Mar	16 Apr	2 May	28 Mar			21 May	12 Mar		10 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	27 Mar	17 Apr	18 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr		8 May	14 May	28 Apr		24 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	22 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	4 May	30 Apr	11 May	1 May	7 May	28 Apr		28 Apr
Sanderling		21 May	17 May								19 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper		7 May	17 Apr		24 May	14 May			27 Apr		5 May
Least Sandpiper	27 Apr	4 May	11 May	1 May	5 May		17 May	14 May	10 May		7 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	31 Mar	25 Mar	10 Apr	10 May	3 Apr				27 May		17 Apr
Common Snipe	16 Mar	7 Mar	20 Mar	22 Mar	19 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar	24 Mar	7 Mar		19 Mar
American Woodcock	7 Mar	7 Mar	28 Feb	12 Mar	13 Mar	23 Mar	24 Mar	12 Mar	3 Mar		11 Mar
Caspian Tern	16 Apr	3 Apr	20 Apr		10 Apr				21 May		20 Apr
Common Tern	21 Apr	14 Apr	22 Apr		21 Apr	6 May			2 May		24 Apr
Black Tern	6 May	4 May	18 May		2 May	3 May	15 May		21 May		9 May
Marsh Wren	28 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr		14 May	5 Jun	15 May	8 May	14 May		9 May

Bold Regional Record Early *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

with some good counts, e.g. 195 Spotted Sandpipers and 246 Pectoral Sandpipers, both very high spring numbers, from May's Pt. Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Among the gulls we find only a Thayer's Gull in Region 2 and a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Region 9 of special note. Comments about terns most often noted scarcity. Forster's Tern appeared only in Region 2. The most interesting report was a Least Tern at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in late May, the first there in over 20 years.

Common Barn-Owl was reported only from Region 2. Snowy Owl lingered into the season in three Regions and Short-eared Owl in six Regions, again staying to breed in Regions 1 and 2. Owl banding added to the Braddock Bay raptor banding project, with 101 N. Saw-whet Owls banded. This effort offers interesting possibilities for timing and route studies if Braddock Bay and Noyes Sanctuary data can appear side by side some year. Both species of "common" goatsuckers appear to be in serious decline across the state. We read elsewhere of concern for hummingbird population status, but don't find enough commentary in these reports to say anything here. Among the woodpeckers, there are only a couple of notes of sapsucker scarcity in Regions 5 and 9 and otherwise local comments.

Finally moving to the passerines, we find the comment so usual of recent years, "good variety, but poor numbers", again applicable, particularly for the thrushes, warblers. and many sparrows. There were too few flycatcher notes for assessment. Purple Martin and Cliff Swallow had some increases noted. The first Common Raven nest of this century was found in Region 1. Winter Wren received mixed reviews, House Wren arrived in the mountains before the lowlands, and Sedge Wren was unreported. Thrushes were generally late, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Hermit numbers a bit up over last year. Loggerhead Shrike was found only in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 7, with the one nesting attempt in Region 7 failing. White-eyed Vireo appeared in six Regions, but the other vireos were ignored except for arrival dates. Many species of warblers were noted as low in at least a few Regions, with possibly a good count in a region or two. Of special interest were the Blue-winged/Golden-winged interaction now occurring in Region 6; Orange-crowned Warbler in five Regions; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 1 and 4; Prothonotary Warbler in five Regions; and most of the other rarities typical of the spring season in short supply. Among the sparrows we have Am. Tree Sparrow lingering into May in Regions 1 and 2; the grassland sparrows with only a few positive notes; and White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco flagged as scarce to very scarce where noted at all. With blackbirds generally flying about in huge flocks or on nesting territories all over the countryside,

Spring Arrivals 1988

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Black-billed Cuckoo	10 May	13 May	13 May	12 May	12 May	24 May		14 May	2 May		12 May
Common Nighthawk	17 May	9 May	13 May	8 May	21 May	27 May	12 May	13 May	14 May		14 May
Chimney Swift	23 Apr	12 Apr	24 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	25 Apr	20 Apr		25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	9 May	9 May	9 May	9 May	5 May	14 May	8 May	8 May	5 May		8 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	30 Mar	6 Mar	30 Apr	2 May	7 Apr	3 May	7 Apr	6 Apr	17 Apr		11 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	13 May	16 May		14 May	18 May		22 May		7 May		15 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13 May	13 May	5 May	1 May	12 May	10 May	21 May	14 May	9 May		10 May
Alder Flycatcher	14 May	14 May	16 May	21 May	17 May	26 May	22 May	28 May	20 May		19 May
Willow Flycatcher	6 May	9 May	15 May	21 May	14 May	5 Jun	11 Jun	20 May	14 May		19 May
Least Flycatcher	16 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	6 May	6 May	10 May	6 May	14 May	29 Apr		3 May
Eastern Phoebe	7 May	23 Mar	25 Mar	17 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar	24 Mar	29 Mar	22 Mar		28 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	4 May	27 Apr	1 May	10 May	8 May	4 May	7 May	7 May	30 Apr		4 May
Eastern Kingbird	6 Apr	23 Apr	3 May	7 May	1 May	5 May	4 May	13 May	3 May		30 Apr
Purple Martin	24 Mar	23 Mar	7 Apr	15 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	5 May	11 May	30 Apr		16 Apr
Tree Swallow	9 Apr	23 Mar	25 Mar	18 Mar	24 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar	22 Mar	9 Mar		24 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	30 Apr	17 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr	7 Apr	9 May	30 Apr	7 Apr	21 Apr		19 Apr
Bank Swallow	15 May	17 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	10 May	8 May	12 May	12 Apr		30 Apr
Cliff Swallow	6 Apr	25 Mar	28 Apr	29 Apr	16 Apr	4 May	6 May	27 May	12 Apr		23 Apr
Barn Swallow	27 Apr	23 Mar	6 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	9 Mar		12 Apr
House Wren	8 Apr	1 May	24 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	5 May	5 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr		20 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16 Apr	4 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	3 May	7 Apr	8 Apr	5 Apr		10 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5 Mar	4 Apr	17 Apr	9 May	27 Apr	17 Apr	10 May	6 May	18 Apr		19 Apr
Eastern Bluebird	5 May	27 Feb	12 Mar	6 Mar	17 Mar	1 Apr	25 Mar		11 Mar		20 Mar
Veery	7 May	1 May	8 May	10 May	6 May	9 May	10 May	13 May	6 May		7 May
Swainson's Thrush	7 May	30 Apr	9 May	16 May	10 May	26 May	6 May	12 May	26 Apr		9 May
Hermit Thrush	31 Mar	30 Mar	12 Apr	13 Apr	1 Apr	11 May	7 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr		11 Apr
Wood Thrush	5 May	6 May	1 May	27 Apr	5 May	9 May	7 May	5 May	29 Apr		3 May
Gray Catbird	5 May	5 Apr	8 May	25 Mar	6 May	9 May	9 May	7 May	29 Apr		28 Apr
Brown Thrasher	3 Apr	23 Mar	15 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	6 May	23 Apr	30 Apr	13 Apr		18 Apr
Solitary Vireo	12 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	18 Apr		27 Apr		22 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	7 May	7 May	5 May	9 May	28 Apr		16 May	7 May	27 Apr		5 May
Warbling Vireo	6 May	6 May	2 May	25 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	9 May	14 May	29 Apr		4 May
Red-eyed Vireo	7 May	7 May	27 Apr	3 May	5 May	6 May	4 May	13 May	7 May		5 May

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Tennessee Warbler	8 May	8 May	9 May	7 May	8 May	17 May	14 May	14 May	7 May		10 May
Nashville Warbler	29 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	17 Apr	3 May	10 May	6 May	14 May	29 Apr		1 May
Northern Parula	8 May	8 May	6 May	12 May	8 May		11 May	14 May	30 Apr		8 May
Yellow Warbler	29 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	8 May	6 May	23 Apr	27 Apr		29 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9 May	8 May	6 May	4 May	5 May	11 May	9 May	9 May	4 May		7 May
Magnolia Warbler	5 May	4 May	9 May	8 May	8 May	10 May	9 May	7 May	4 May		7 May
Cape May Warbler	8 May	8 May	7 May	11 May	8 May	19 May	22 May	10 May	10 May		11 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	28 Apr	4 May	7 May	8 May	6 May	10 May	5 May	22 Apr	5 Apr		30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	27 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	10 May	4 May	9 May	27 Apr		30 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	8 May	8 May	1 May	8 May	8 May	10 May	8 May	9 May	5 May		7 May
Pine Warbler	13 Apr	16 Apr	6 Apr	16 Apr	7 Apr	23 Apr	12 May	21 May	5 Apr		19 Apr
Palm Warbler	30 Apr	7 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr		18 Apr	26 Apr	12 Apr		22 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 May	8 May	9 May	13 May	8 May	13 May	16 May	22 May	14 May		12 May
Blackpoll Warbler	14 May	14 May	14 May	11 May	16 May	17 May	26 May	9 May	14 May		15 May
Black-and-White Warbler	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	6 May	2 May	1 May	29 Apr		29 Apr
American Redstart	7 May	8 May	5 May	6 May	6 May	9 May	9 May	9 May	3 May		6 May
Ovenbird	6 May	5 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	5 May	5 May	9 May	7 May		5 May
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	9 May	6 May	21 May	29 Apr		2 May
Mourning Warbler	12 May	1 May	10 May	12 May	14 May		14 May	16 Apr	23 May		9 May
Common Yellowthroat	7 May	8 May	1 May	5 May	7 May	10 May	9 May	9 May	3 May		6 May
Wilson's Warbler	11 May	12 May	12 May	14 May	9 May	17 May	15 May	12 May	12 May		12 May
Canada Warbler	12 May	13 May	10 May	12 May	12 May	17 May	16 May	14 May	7 May		12 May
Scarlet Tanager	8 May	8 May	4 May	12 May	7 May	9 May	9 May	13 May	5 May		8 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5 May	4 May	4 May	26 Apr	5 May	9 May	7 May	4 May	3 May		4 May
Indigo Bunting	9 May	10 May	9 May	9 May	13 May		20 May	11 May	4 May		10 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	26 Mar	13 Apr	25 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	18 May	3 May	19 Apr		19 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	31 Mar	5 Apr	20 Apr	8 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	27 Mar	5 Apr	4 Apr		8 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	2 Apr	19 Mar	2 Apr	4 Apr	2 Apr	10 May	8 Apr	13 May	4 Apr		10 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	5 Apr	26 Mar	2 Apr	13 Apr	4 Mar	11 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr	4 Apr		4 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	8 May	30 Apr	4 May	9 May	8 May		11 May				6 May
White-crowned Sparrow	26 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	4 May	7 May	27 Apr	7 May	11 May	25 Mar		28 Apr
Bobolink	30 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	6 May	3 May	8 May	6 May	5 May	5 May		3 May
Northern Oriole	1 May	4 May	4 May	29 Apr	4 May	9 May	6 May	4 May	5 May		4 May

Bold Regional Record Early *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	91	0.6	-3.7
Region 2	93	-1.2	-7.6
Region 3	91	-0.4	-2.3
Region 4	84	-0.6	0.1
Region 5	92	-0.3	-1.7
Region 6	75	1.1	7.6
Region 7	82	-1.7	6.3
Region 8	82	5.9	6.8
Region 9	91	0.3	-2.8
Region 10	0		

most receive little attention in the spring. Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared in Regions 2 and 5; Brewer's Blackbird in Regions 1 and 2; and Orchard Oriole in Regions 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9; Western Meadowlark was unreported. The winter finches, which often pass in large flocks headed north, were very scarce this spring, with only Pine Siskin present in huge numbers, at least some staying to breed (see especially the Region 8 report with Bob Yunick's banding experiences); scattered reports of both crossbills and Common Redpoll; a single Pine Grosbeak in Region 9; and low numbers of Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak.

As usual, a few more tidbits and species notes didn't fit with the previous discussion. Among the early arrivals and late departures, none were state records, though Solitary Vireo in Region 1 and Pine Warbler in Region 5 arrived very early and Red-necked Grebe and Tundra Swan stayed very late in Region 2. A 9 May date for American Kestrel hatching in Region 3 appears to be record early for the state. High counts, in addition to the raptors noted earlier, included: 100+ Blue-winged Warbler in Region 9; 350 E. Meadowlark in Region 5; and counts of 4000 Pine Siskin on 4 May in Region 2 and of 2400 on 29 Apr and 1600 on 13 Apr in Region 5. Few of the questions about migration patterns that I have raised in previous Highlights have produced any relevant data or comments in Regional reports. This season even Mother Nature followed suit; last year's note of outside interest in of Sandhill Crane in New York has been followed by the worst spring for Sandhill Crane reports in the past ten years! Other notes of interest include: American Bittern, as scarce as it is, arrived in the Adirondacks before appearing in the lowland marshes of most other Regions; a new Ring-billed Gull nesting colony in Region 3 (is this really a positive?!); Fish Crow increasing inland, with reports from Regions 2, 4, 8 and 9 in

addition to the nesting birds in Region 3; a seasonal total of 29,182 Am. Crows past Derby Hill (hawk watchers do look at other birds); and several positives for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. From the Region 1 report, consider Don Clark's 38,000+ birds banded. In the Region 7 report, read the results of the Crown Pt. banding operation, third best in 13 years. Finally, noting all of the reports of Big Day results, is it perhaps time to resurrect the FNYSCB annual Big Day compilation?

Moving to more systematically assembled data, let us try to extract some quantitative information from the arrival date tables. Once again, I approach this with all of the reservations noted in *The Kingbird* 37:136-142 and 38:22-23. I have reworked the 25-year averages to extract Region 10, since there is no data from there in this year's table, and have removed other Regions as appropriate when a particular species is missing from this year's data in a particular region. I still have no measure(s) of variance in the data, so this analysis again employs variances derived from Region 2 data as detailed in vol. 37. Overall, seasonality values suggest this season was earlier than last year in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 9 and later in Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8, but the difference is statistically significant only in Regions 2, 7, 8 and 9. Only Regions 7 and 8 differ significantly from their 25-year averages. Region 7 was early, while Region 8 very late and hard to explain, given the data from surrounding Regions, in any terms other a significant change in level of birding activity or reporting. Relative to the 25-year averages, the overall averages of both water birds and land birds do not vary significantly (i.e., differ by more than 2 standard deviations) from the baseline mean this season. Of the individual species arrivals, only Semipalmated Sandpiper and Mourning Warbler were significantly early and Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Bank Swallow, Veery, Wood Thrush, and N. Oriole late. If we next consider just that species were early or late and apply a sign test to entire families, none were early as a group whereas thrushes, warblers, and sparrows were late. Looking similarly at groups arranged by expected arrival date, we find species expected before March 20 arrived early, those expected May 1-14 arrived predominately late, and the other dates were scattered randomly. This should provide you with some idea of what can be done with these tables. You could also look for arrival patterns across the state, East to West, South to North, coastal to inland. or whatever you may hypothesize. Is there anything you would particularly like to see done? Is this effort at quantitative assessment of any value at all?

The list of rarities of the season is neither long nor outstanding from most Regions this year. The best are: Region 1 - Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Kingbird, and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 2 - Thayer's Gull, Fish Crow, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped War-

bler, and Lark Sparrow; Region 3 - Cattle Egret and Least Tern; Region 4 - Glossy Ibis, Fish Crow, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler; Region 5 - Little Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, Fish Crow, Prothonotary Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 6 - White-eyed Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler; Region 7 - White-eyed Vireo; Region 8 - Kentucky Warbler; and Region 9 - Summer Tanager. The B.O.T.S. Award was a difficult choice this season, especially relative to the two boldfaced species above, but it goes to the **Northern Wheatear** in Region 9, one of a very few spring records for New York.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; arr - arrival or first of season; I - Island; imm - immature; *intro* - see introduction to report; j - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - Park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; Twn - township; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.