

in four flocks Louisville 18 Apr; Watertown 4 May; T Webb 27 May, breeders? Snow Bunting: max 300 Henderson 20 Mar. Purple Finch: max 60 Henderson 20 Mar, heavy movement to 13 Apr. Pine Siskin: max 28 Louisville 24 Mar, otherwise scarce. Com. Redpoll: two Louisville 8 Apr, only report. Evening Grosbeak: generally scarce, but large numbers at feeder in Lorraine in March with 68 on 20 Mar (JF).

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In sharp contrast to the autumn 1988 report, there was no lack of hawkwatchers, warbler-watchers, or other birders across the Region this spring. Despite a late spring, with snow on Dix and the Great Range on 10 May, new 14-year records were set at Coot Hill hawkwatch and the Crown Point bird-banding station. Around the Region, there were rare visitants, migrants, and nesters. High Peaks Audubon marked the start of its eighth year of management of the Four Brothers Islands with the acquisition of a 19-foot marine workboat, "Four Winds," named after the islands' old 18th century French name: *Les Iles des Quatres Vents*.

The season's start was inauspiciously marked by frozen wells and water lines; the total annual snowfall at Elizabethtown by 1 March was a bare 17.5 inches. The average is 175 inches! The month began bitterly cold. By 7 Mar, when the sun was again close to its 1 Oct position, noontime temperatures remained below 0°F across the Region. There had been no daytime temperatures this cold since the turn of the century. Some "maple sugaring weather" followed, but the weather was erratic. Newcomb dropped to -15°F on 13 Mar, with Plattsburgh climbing to 46°F the following day. Elizabethtown was a balmy 72°F by 28 March, and Piseco had 0.7 inches of rain the next day. The month closed with 0.5 inches of wet snow, for a total of just 2.6" monthly precipitation, with 58% possible sunshine.

April began with Wood Frogs and northern lights, with Lake Champlain at 96.75' and 35°F; lower elevations had received just under 40 inches of seasonal snowfall and just over 4 inches of yearly precipitation (normal would be about 7 inches). Much of the month was cool, with snow flurries that made hawkwatching less than perfect. In spite of 2 inches of snow at Ray Brook on 10 Apr, total precipitation was only about 73% of normal at midmonth. After weeks of cold weather, April finally ended with two sunny, warm days.

May began with more than an inch of badly needed rain. Temperatures on 4 May ranged from 30°F at Newcomb to 70°F at Plattsburgh. Thanks to spring rains and melting snow, Lake Champlain rose to 98.72' and 42°F by 5 May. Spring was slow in unfolding, but unfold it did. By 17 May, the hawthorn groves on Crown Point peninsula were leafing out; each day thereafter, the little green worms doubled in size and the avian waves arrived to gobble them. Both reservoirs and mistnets were full, and all was well in the North Country.

Hawkwatcher Elsbeth Johnson provided 30 days (168 hours) of dedicated and virtually unbroken coverage of Coot Hill between 8 Apr to 10 May, assisted at times by other members and friends of High Peaks Audubon. During her month-long vigil, she tallied a record 766 raptors of all 15 hoped-for species, including 50 unidentified raptors. The old record of 627 was set with 24 days of coverage, 13 Apr-14 May, 1988. She also managed to break the single-day record of 165 raptors that had been set back on 21 Apr 1979. That figure was tied, then broken, as a Turkey Vulture and Red-tailed Hawk passed shortly before 4 PM on 26 Apr, for a new single-day record of 166.

Especially notable among the raptors this spring were the eagles. Charlie Delehanty was watching two adult Bald Eagles through her scope at Tupper Lake on 2 Apr when one started chasing a Ring-billed Gull. There were many swoops and dives as the gull tried to elude the eagle, and it seemed to have escaped until the second eagle took over from the first bird. The chase continued, and the second eagle was able to force the gull down into the open water, but even though it tried several times, it couldn't get the gull out of the water. Suddenly a third, immature eagle appeared; it dove on the gull, was able to drag it out of the water and onto the ice shelf, where it proceeded to consume the gull. The adults did not contest the prey, but sat on the ice and did not approach the feeding immature. Migrant immature Bald Eagles passed Coot Hill on 14, 19, and 20 Apr; on the latter date, the immature eagle gave a superb noontime airshow, engaged for 30 minutes in aerial maneuvers with an Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Common Raven. There were continued sightings of immatures from neighboring Crown Point peninsula into mid May. On 10 May, Greg Furness watched two immature Bald Eagles displaying for over an hour. On 14 May, Gordon Howard, Gary Lee, and Mike Peterson saw an immature interacting with several other raptor species over the banding station. On 16 May, another immature with a different underwing pattern caught a fish in Bulwagga Bay. The same day John Parke saw a pair of mature Bald Eagles displaying near Whallon's Bay. There were other Bald Eagle reports from Ticonderoga Marsh in late March and Piercefield Flow in 1 ate May. The only reports of Golden Eagles were of distant birds that passed Coot Hill on 9 Apr and 9 May.

Banding operations commenced on Crown Point peninsula just two days after Coot Hill hawkwatch closed for the season, and the station was open from 12-22 May, with record totals of 603 individuals of 53 species banded. The previous record of 429 birds of 43 species was set in 1985. On 14 May, there was a foreign retrap of a second-year female Yellow-rumped Warbler banded elsewhere. There were also ten returns of birds previously banded at Crown Point: a Black-capped Chickadee from 1987 and three from 1988; a Brown Thrasher from 1984 (now 5 years, 11 months old) and one from 1987; a Field Sparrow and a Red-winged Blackbird from 1987; and a Brown-headed Cowbird from 1988. Especially noteworthy was a female Yellow Warbler (#1590-07496) banded 14 May 1983, recaptured the next day, and not seen again until 20 May 1989 when it was at least 6 years, 11 months old, or just two years shy of the North American longevity record for this species. A total of 77 species of birds have been banded

at Crown Point since 1976.

One of 29 Cedar Waxwings banded on Crown Point was a second-year male on 18 May whose tail tip was a *burnt orange* rather than the typical yellow. Mike and Susan Peterson saw a second, unbanded waxwing with a similar *burnt orange* tail tip on 22 May. Intergrades with a yellow-orange tail tip and yellow tail band tipped with red were also banded. Details and color slides will be forwarded to Kenneth C. Parkes at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who has solicited data on such waxwings from museum curators, bird banders, and birders. According to Dr. Parkes, orange tail tips are not only uncommon in cedar waxwings, but apparently represent a completely new phenomena. The possibility exists that this is a genuine new mutation spreading through the waxwing population.

Prior to the opening of the Crown Point station, an additional 155 birds of a dozen species were banded near Elizabethtown between 9 Apr-9 May. Most numerous at the Elizabethtown station were 70 American Goldfinch, 40 Pine Siskin, and 18 Dark-eyed Junco. Most numerous at Crown Point, by comparison, were 111 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 62 American Goldfinch, and 54 Red-winged Blackbird.

Mark Gretch encountered nine Canada Geese wearing orange or yellow neck collars in northern Clinton Co. between 26 Mar-12 Apr. They had been collared in Delaware (3), New Jersey (3), New York, South Carolina, and Virginia. Snow Geese also moved through the region in good numbers throughout the season. Greg Furness saw the first 500 south of the Crown Point Bridge on 22-23 Mar, Mark Gretch saw 150 in Clinton Co. on 26 Mar and 2,000 south of the Great Chazy River on 4 Apr. Elsbeth Johnson had 143 at Coot Hill on 12 Apr, 120 there on 17 Apr, and 12 "Blue" Goose on 18 Apr. The maximum was 5,000 Snow Geese in northern Clinton County on 5 May, by Gretch's estimate.

As in any exhilarating spring like this one, there were rarities and unexpected finds. Jeff Carleton found a **Tricolored Heron**, the second for the Region, Adirondack Park, and Essex County, at the Westport beach on 26 May. Greg Furness spotted a pair of **Barrow's Goldeneye** under the Crown Point Bridge on 23 Mar. In addition to several pairs of Regional nesting birds, Elsbeth Johnson noted three "Tundra" Peregrine Falcon pass Coot Hill 25-28 Apr. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** wintered at Shirley Martin's feeder on the Hoel Pond Road, Saranac Lake, to 30 Mar. An unusual location for a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was the Berrymill Pond area of Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, where Merry Baker found one on 17 May. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited the Elizabethtown feeder of Bart & Isabelle Bailey on 7 May. Among the rarities banded at Crown Point peninsula were an adult male **Orchard Oriole** on 14 May, followed by a second-year female on 19 May.

Finally, we've previously speculated on what might be landing on those hundreds and hundreds of Adirondack lakes and ponds in a given season, based upon limited coverage of just a few. Consider what Ted Mack found, in addition to the calling Common Loons, during a four-day sound recording trip to Low's Lake during late May. On 17 May, *nine* Whip-poor-will were calling at 11 p.m. On 19 May, he had 18 male White-winged Scoter in breeding plumage, plus 16

more that night after midnight, calling and low on the full moon. The finale came on 20 May when he recorded 24 Brant, plus two **Snowy Egret** perched in a dead tamarack where Ted was recording Lincoln's Sparrow. As wonderful as all these birds are, what else is out there?

Observers: John Askildsen, Bartlett & Isabelle Bailey, Merry Baker, Tom Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Bev Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Dean Cook, James Cunningham, Charlie Delehanty, William Frenette, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Jacqueline Jones, Gary Lee, Ted Mack, Shirley Martin, Frank Morrison, Keith Murphy, John Parke, John & Susan Peterson, William & Karen Peterson, Gary Randorf, David Rutkowski, Andrew Taylor, Shirley Titus, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White.

Abbreviations: CH - Coot Hill hawkwatch; CPt - Crown Point peninsula.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: six Raquette Pd 13 May (EM) unusual inland locale. Great Egret: arr L Alice 9 Apr; Bud Gravelle's CLIN 6 May. **Snowy Egret**: *intro*. **Tricolored Heron**: *intro*. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 100 Bud Gravelle's CLIN 20 Apr. N. Shoveler: one Gravelle's 20 Apr, only report. Gadwall: 4 Gravelle's 20 Apr only report. Am. Wigeon: max 26 Gravelle's 27 Apr. Oldsquaw: one Mountain View 31 Apr, only report. Ring-necked Duck: max 25 Tupper L 29 Mar. White-winged Scoter: *intro*. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: total 13 past CH. Osprey: total 64 past CH; *intro*. Bald Eagle: total three past CH; *intro*. N. Harrier: total 27 past CH; chasing Blue Jay at Tupper L feeder 18 Apr; male killed Rose-breasted Grosbeak in mist net CPt 20 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 98 past CH. Cooper's Hawk: total 34 past CH. N. Goshawk: total seven past CH. Red-shouldered Hawk: total 13 past CH. Broad-winged Hawk: total 286 past CH, max 107 on 27 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: total 133 past CH. Rough-legged Hawk: total one past CH. Golden Eagle: *intro*. American Kestrel: total 27 past CH. Merlin: total five past CH. Peregrine Falcon: total three past CH; *intro*. Spruce Grouse: several Boreal Heritage Preserve.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: N. Saw-whet Owl: Eighth L 8 Mar, Elizabethtown 11 Mar, Owl's Head 1 Apr. Whip-poor-will: *intro*. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: *intro*. Black-backed Woodpecker: Eighth L 9 Mar, Moose River R.A. 10 Mar, only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Gray Jay: only report Vermontville 21 Apr. Com. Raven: 9 Rattlesnake Mt 7 May undoubtedly included FL at new nest site (J&SP). Boreal Chickadee: reports from Dix Pd, Eighth L, High Peaks, Low's L, Madawaska, Onchiota, Paul Smiths, Rainbow L, and Sabattis Bog. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two banded CPt. Am. Robin: Indian Pass 3 Mar (GR), exceptional site so early. Gray Catbird: 44 banded CPt. N. Mockingbird: four banded CPt. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Blue- or Golden-winged Warbler: heard singing Paradox 18 May (MB). Orange-crowned Warbler: heard singing CPt 21 May (TB,JP). Yellow Warbler: *intro*, 44 banded CPt. Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*. **Prairie Warbler**: singing male on territory Miner Institute, Chazy, 15 May (TM). Bay-breasted Warbler: singing male, female on nest Elk L 28 May, three-four other males heard (JA, JJ, AT, ST). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: *intro*. Wilson's Warbler: seen CPt.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Black-headed Grosbeak**: *intro*. Field Sparrow: *intro*. Savannah Sparrow: 20 banded CPt. Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 9 Apr; apparent mate-feeding Mountain View 23 Apr (AH). Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*, five banded CPt. Dark-eyed Junco: *intro*. Snow Bunting: six Tupper L feeder 18 Mar, one to 19 Mar unusual. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Brown-headed Cowbird: *intro*. **Orchard Oriole**: *intro*. N. Oriole: 11 banded CPt. Pine Grosbeak: pair Mountain View 16 Mar only report. White-winged Crossbill: five Blue Ridge Rd 3 Mar (GR), Moose River R.A. 10 Mar (GL), only reports.

Com. Redpoll: one Tupper Lake 6 Mar (CD) only report. Pine Siskin: *intro*, apparently nesting by end of season. Am. Goldfinch: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: paired and even bringing young to feeder at Mountain View by end of season.

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REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

March continued the dry snowless winter. Reservoirs continued to drop as March came in dry and mild. Just as it seemed we could stand it no longer and as tapping the Hudson River for much needed water for our Big City to the south was seriously being considered, the rains came. The floods rose and the reservoirs filled. By the end of April they were well toward the full mark. May turned out to be the wettest in many years. According to the records at the Dutchess County Airport, beginning May first it was the wettest 45 day period in 25 years. This also brought the biggest crop of mosquitoes in many years.

Except for a few early arrivals migration was slow and uneventful. Pine Warblers were especially numerous in Dutchess Co. and both cuckoos were plentiful as were the tent caterpillars. Most warblers arrived in time for the annual Spring Census and, as the trees were not in full leaf, it was easier to see them. The seasonal puddle at the McEnroe farm in Amenia again produced some good shorebirds. Humpo Marsh was once again host to rails, Common Moorhen, herons and Wood Duck. Birding between the deluges was a rewarding challenge.

Unfortunately, there were no reports from either Putnam or Westchester Counties this season.

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Abbreviations: Basha - Bashakill Wetlands; HMMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MPHW - Mount Peter Hawk Watch; MMC - Mearns May Census 19 May; SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society; WMC - Waterman May Census, 13 May.

LOON-DUCKS: Com. Loon: widely reported in heavy migration late Apr and early May (JPT), 11 over West Point 29 Apr, 22 over Basha 6 May. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 DUTC Apr. Horned Grebe: two Kiamesha L 22 Mar, one 6 Apr (SCAS), one in bay Beacon 5 May (JB). Double-crested Cormorant: 17 Hudson R 20 Apr, eight WMC. Am. Bittern: very scarce, one Crugers I 5 Apr, one L Vista 7 Apr, a few SULL and ORAN. Least Bittern: very few ORAN and SULL, none DUTC. Great Blue Heron: 84 WMC; 13 active nests Tamarack, 16 in Great Swamp, Pawling and five new nests along Taconic Parkway all in DUTC. **Little Blue Heron**: one Cornwall Bay 4 May, one WMC at Beacon. Snowy Egret: one Rhinebeck 20 Apr (EP). Green-backed Heron: one Vassar Farm 28 Apr, one Dennings Pt 29, 30 Apr, ten WMC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one being chased by a Green-backed Heron Basha 20