

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

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The spring of 1992 was a season of sharp contrast with last year. The season was generally cool, wet, and late, with the usual local variations in the details. Where last year's growing season seemed a couple of weeks advanced to many observers, this year's was about two weeks behind "normal" in most Regions. The warmth of the winter we were experiencing ended abruptly in the western two-thirds of the State with a heavy snow storm 11-12 Mar, after which water, open early, refroze. Cool to cold, wet weather persisted with few breaks through April. As noted in the Region 1 and 10 reports, overall averages were relatively benign, but the timing of events, especially the prevalence of particularly cold and wet weekends, resulted in much relatively poor birding. From the data provided, only Regions 7, 10, and possibly 9 seemed to fair a bit better than the rest. A final blow came in a very cold last week of May, with frost in many areas and a severe impact on insect eaters. Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow were especially hard hit. In spite of all this negative impact, many Regions noted good species variety and many very early migrant arrival dates. Once again, however, the general feeling was that numbers of long distance migrants were **down**.

Sharpening our focus a bit and assessing overall views of the season in more detail, we find many contrasts. Region 8 notes most local breeders arriving on time, many purely transients late and low in numbers. Region 4 notes many passerines so scarce that surely (or should that be hopefully?) they simply must have overflowed the Region. The overall averages of the arrival date tables show water birds early (mostly from the many February and early March arrivals), but land birds late. The combined average is essentially identical with that of the past five years over which we have specifically sought these data. In Region 10, the migration was over by Memorial Day, while Region 2 experienced the best showing of late migrants in recent years, with many birds moving well into June.

Waterfowl reports seemed a bit improved in many Regions, perhaps because birds were delayed and concentrated by the return to winter weather in mid March. The wet weather meant good shorebird habitat in most Regions, with good variety in several and quite a few good records for the spring noted, e.g., Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 2, 3, and 9;

Hudsonian Godwit in Region 1; Sanderling in Regions 1 and 5; and Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers and Ruff in Region 3. However, numbers of individuals reported again were less than outstanding.

Hawk flights showed great contrast. In Region 2, in spite of the generally poor winds, the total was above average, but mainly due to 17,000+ counts on both 20 and 22 Apr, with about 15,000 Broad-winged Hawk each day. At Derby Hill to the east, the count total was down considerably, with Broad-winged Hawk at a record low. The two large pulses at Braddock Bay simply didn't pass Derby Hill. Their Broad-wing peak was 3367 on 20 Apr. Contrarily, a **Swainson's Hawk** at Braddock Bay on 20 Apr probably was the same as the bird over Derby Hill on 21 Apr. Elsewhere, a record high count, in spite of brief coverage, was set at Coot Hill in Region 7; a new site at Mt. Pleasant east of Ithaca is described in the Region 3 report; and a very high (1000+) Red-tailed Hawk day appears in the Region 9 report.

Among the passerines, special concern was noted in several Regions for flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, warblers, and the grassland sparrows, but again there was much contrast between Regions over the status of particular species within a family. For example, Great Crested Flycatcher was called very scarce in Region 5 and particularly numerous in neighboring Region 6; House Wren was scarce in Region 2 and abundant in Region 6; and Regions 2 and 4 were on opposite poles for Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, and Wilson's Warblers, with the plus and minus sides flip flopping with species.

Focussing even closer, we can look for trends and interesting observations for individual species. From the top of the list, Red-throated Loon records were few, whereas Common Loon counts were good, with above normal numbers of Alternate plumaged birds seen in Region 10. Regions 1, 3, and 8 noted good Horned Grebe counts, Region 6 low counts. Red-necked Grebe were more widely reported than usual, with good counts in Regions 3 and 9. Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase inland, with an apparent first breeding attempt noted in Region 2. Perhaps similarly, Great Cormorant records increased in Regions 8, 9, and 10. Great Egret put in a rare showing in Region 7, while only one Region noted Cattle Egret; is it too common elsewhere or is it now scarce? This was a good year for wandering ibises, with Glossy in five Regions where it is unusual and a **White-faced Ibis** recorded in Region 10. Greater White-fronted Goose continued its move to regular status, with appearances in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 9. Snow Goose counts continue at elevated levels in the eastern two-

thirds of the State. Most of the other waterfowl maintained trends highlighted numerous times before. Special notes included a group of 200+ scoters headed from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence valley and some very good Common Goldeneye counts from Regions 1, 5, 6, and 7.

Turkey Vulture continued its trend of widespread early arrival dates and good counts, while **Black Vulture** put in token appearances in Regions 2 and 3 and increased their presence in Region 9. Osprey reports continue to improve, with new nesting sites noted from Regions 5 and 9. Osprey arrived at a record early date of 15 Mar in Region 2 and beat the old inland early arrival date in Regions 2, 4, and 5. Bald Eagle was reported by all Regions, with Region 8 noting two new pairs nest building, though no eggs were laid. Additional raptor notes include very serious concern over plummeting Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers; few Northern Goshawk reports except in Regions 3 and 5; record high Rough-legged Hawk totals; Golden Eagles in eight of ten Regions; and notes on the nesting "urban" Peregrine Falcon from Region 10. Wild Turkey continues its increase all over the state. **Sandhill Crane** reports were down a bit, to only four, in Region 2, but birds were also noted in Regions 1, 5, and 6. Shorebirds of note included a very early Solitary Sandpiper in Region 9, record early White-rumped Sandpiper in Region 6, and 17 presumed wandering, wintering Ruddy Turnstones on 1 Mar in Region 9. Inland appearances of Laughing Gull and scattered Little Gull records were noted in four Regions. Common Black-headed Gull was only reported from Regions 3 and 10. Bonaparte's Gull counts were high in Regions 1, 2, and 3, off a bit in most other Regions. Thayer's Gull was identified only in Regions 6 and 8. Lesser Black-backed Gull is certainly regular now, reported in six Regions this season. The "white-winged" gulls put on a good March showing and lingered into May in some Regions. Tern reports of interest included widespread, very early arrivals of Caspian Tern, with both an inland record high (away from the nesting colony on Little Galloo Island) in Region 5 and a possible first Regional occurrence in Region 4. There was continued concern over the failing status of Black Tern across the State. An oil spill off Long Island on 8 Mar brought surprising numbers of **Common Murre** and **Razorbill** among the birds picked up for attempted rehabilitation.

Owl records generally were typical few in number, but of note were Snowy Owl reports from eight of ten Regions, persisting into May in two of these; **Northern Hawk Owl** persisting into March in Regions 6 and 8 and **Great Gray Owl** into March in Region 1; and note of 291 Northern Saw-whet Owl banded in Region 2. Goatsuckers generally remained scarce. It is

Waterbird Arrivals

1992

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

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

Spring Arrivals 1992

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	14 May	13 May	13 May	13 May	1 May	15 May	15 May	16 May	10 May	14 May	12 May
Common Nighthawk	12 May	13 May	13 May	17 May	16 May	21 May	21 May	16 May	25 Apr	18 May	14 May
Chimney Swift	19 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	5 May	1 Apr	23 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	11 May	3 May	9 May	6 May	9 May	4 May	8 May	3 May	1 May	2 May	5 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11 Apr	9 Apr	12 Mar	9 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	14 Apr	10 Apr		12 Apr	9 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May	1 Jun	17 May		10 May		20 May	7 May	16 May	14 May	16 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 May	16 May	15 Apr	10 May	13 May	18 May	16 May	9 May	12 May	14 May	10 May
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	20 May	18 May	18 May	16 May	22 May	15 May	16 May	20 May		18 May
Willow Flycatcher	16 May	12 May	16 May	20 May	6 May	20 May	8 May	16 May	24 May	22 May	16 May
Least Flycatcher	2 May	1 May	29 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	8 May	2 May	2 May	1 May	2 May	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	28 Mar	13 Apr	22 Mar	13 Mar	2 Apr	4 Apr	7 Apr	14 Mar	8 Mar	15 Mar	25 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	27 Apr	28 Apr	8 May	8 May	1 May	8 May	9 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	3 May	2 May
Eastern Kingbird	25 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr		27 Apr	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	26 Apr
Purple Martin	9 Apr	31 Mar	24 Apr	17 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	3 May	29 Mar	13 Apr
Tree Swallow	25 Mar	10 Mar	10 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	5 Apr	4 Apr	6 Apr	20 Mar	15 Mar	22 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	12 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	29 Apr	17 Apr	7 May	23 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr	19 Apr
Bank Swallow	12 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	8 May	19 Apr	10 May	9 May	2 May	26 Apr		26 Apr
Cliff Swallow	2 May	17 Apr	14 Apr	8 May	17 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	2 May	23 Apr		26 Apr
Barn Swallow	7 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr	11 Apr	8 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	11 Apr	23 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr
House Wren	14 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	27 Apr	5 May	23 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	26 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6 Apr	8 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	8 Apr	21 Apr	8 Apr		10 Mar	8 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	22 Apr
Eastern Bluebird	17 Feb	6 Mar		3 Mar	5 Mar	16 Mar	7 Mar		1 Mar		3 Mar
Veery	2 May	6 May	12 May	4 May	25 Apr	13 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	15 May	2 May	4 May
Swainson's Thrush	12 May	12 May		15 May	2 May	6 May	15 May	20 May	14 May	15 May	12 May
Hermit Thrush	15 Mar	10 Apr	26 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr	3 May	16 Apr	14 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr
Wood Thrush	24 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	4 May	1 May	23 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	2 May	30 Apr	12 May	4 May	7 Apr	6 May	5 May	28 Apr		13 Apr	28 Apr
Brown Thrasher	19 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	1 May	23 Apr	1 Mar	19 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Vireo	18 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	21 Apr	8 May	21 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	9 May	5 May	1 May	10 May	3 May	6 May	9 May	9 May	9 May	15 May	7 May
Warbling Vireo	2 May	29 Apr	2 May	1 May	2 May	6 May	8 May	7 May	24 May	5 May	5 May
Red-eyed Vireo	8 May	9 May	9 May	29 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	2 May	9 May	12 May	12 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	10 May	9 May	9 May	16 May	9 May	12 May	3 May	16 May	14 May	18 May	11 May
Nashville Warbler	24 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	4 May	4 May	29 Apr
Northern Parula	9 May	10 May	16 May		1 May	20 May	8 May	10 May	2 May	2 May	8 May
Yellow Warbler	24 Apr	26 Apr	22 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2 May	3 May	2 May	6 May	2 May	12 May	10 May	2 May	9 May	3 May	5 May
Magnolia Warbler	4 May	4 May	3 May	6 May	2 May	11 May	8 May	15 May	10 May	3 May	6 May
Cape May Warbler	8 May	2 May	5 May	14 May	7 May	12 May	14 May	27 Apr	11 May	15 May	8 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	2 May	1 May	7 May	1 May	24 Apr	11 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	2 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	24 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	21 Apr	4 May	2 May	25 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	26 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	2 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	28 Apr	10 May	6 May	30 Apr	11 May	30 Apr	3 May
Pine Warbler	20 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	16 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	15 Apr	25 Mar	12 Apr	20 Apr
Palm Warbler	26 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	1 May	22 Apr	2 May		23 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr	21 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	12 May	12 May	16 May	16 May	12 May	10 May	15 May	30 Apr	15 May	7 May	11 May
Blackpoll Warbler	17 May	12 May	20 May	26 May	16 May	21 May	2 May	18 May	17 May	14 May	16 May
Black-and-White Warbler	28 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr		25 Apr	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	9 May	8 May	26 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	13 May	9 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	1 May
Ovenbird	2 May	28 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	1 May	6 May	7 May	2 May	20 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	24 Apr	26 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	24 Apr	4 May	8 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	12 May	15 May	19 May	18 May	7 May		13 May	27 May	18 May	17 May	16 May
Common Yellowthroat	3 May	26 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	3 May	10 May	9 May	30 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May
Wilson's Warbler	10 May	12 May	9 May	13 May	12 May	18 May	18 May	13 May	10 May	12 May	12 May
Canada Warbler	12 May	9 May	9 May	2 May	10 May	18 May	15 May	18 May	16 May	5 May	11 May
Scarlet Tanager	11 May	9 May	9 May	8 May	2 May	11 May	6 May	3 May	10 May	3 May	7 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3 May	1 May	3 May	30 Apr	2 May	4 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	2 May
Indigo Bunting	16 May	11 May	11 May	10 May	8 May	13 May	12 May	11 May	10 May	6 May	10 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	21 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	24 Apr		11 Apr	20 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	8 Apr	24 Mar	17 Apr	15 Apr	10 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	5 Apr	12 Apr	7 May	13 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	12 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	30 Apr	5 Apr	12 Apr	1 Apr		13 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	2 Apr	10 Apr	14 Mar	14 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	10 Apr	18 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	8 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	10 May	29 Apr	12 May		16 Apr	12 May	22 Apr	11 May		3 May	3 May
White-crowned Sparrow	30 Apr	3 Apr	9 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	26 May	26 Apr
Bobolink	28 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	1 May	2 May	2 May	9 May	29 Apr	5 May	13 May	3 May
Northern Oriole	28 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	6 May	10 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	1 May
		Bold	Regional Record	Early	<i>Italics</i>	Also isolated earlier report(s).					

a sad comment that 100+ Chimney Swifts at a roost in Region 4 is now exceptional for that species. Hummingbirds drew no notice aside from the entries in the arrival dates table, even though I personally heard a fair amount of lament over their absence. Among the woodpeckers, most noteworthy were the continued range expansion notes for Red-bellied Woodpecker, including a first for Clin in Region 7.

Many of the passerines already have been noted above, and generally individual species receive note from too few Regions to pick out trends. However, some observations of interest include continuing inland expansion of Fish Crow's range; Common Raven also expanding, with a first nesting record noted for Dutc in Region 9; Carolina Wren persisting in very high numbers; Sedge Wren in only Regions 3 and 8; very late Marsh Wren arrival dates for Regions 3, 4, and 8 — why?; a rare Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nesting record for Region 7; low Veery and **very low** Swainson's Thrush counts; a rare plus for Brown Thrasher from Region 6; Northern Shrike departure dates to March and early April in all Regions; good counts for Solitary Vireo in Regions 4, 5, and 6 and for Yellow-throated Vireo in Region 7; poor totals for Philadelphia Vireo everywhere noted; Cerulean Warbler up a bit in eastern Regions and Golden-winged, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers and Northern Parula all noted down significantly in several Regions each; record early inland arrival dates for Black-throated Blue Warbler and American Redstart and a statewide record early date for Ovenbird in Region 9 and, additionally, arrival dates for American Redstart which beat the old inland early date in Regions 3, 5, 8, and 9 and the coastal date in Region 10; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 3, 9, and 10; Prairie Warbler expanding, with reports from six Regions; Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting receiving comments of concern; Fox Sparrow counts good, most arrivals about 11 Mar and departures from late April to early May; Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows red flagged in a few Regions each; White-crowned Sparrow with mixed reviews; Orchard Oriole noted in seven of ten Regions; and transient finches generally a scattered few, with a Region 6 **Hoary Redpoll** the best, and potential breeding of Pine Siskin in Regions 2 and 7 and of Evening Grosbeak in Regions 7 and 9 of interest.

As usual, the introductory paragraphs of Regional reports contain a wealth of information for the interested reader. Among those, I would call to your attention to the Buffalo Ornithological Society's Spring Count summary in Region 1; the new hawk watch summary and a tagged eagle report from Region 3; the good sense of importance or perspective for

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	93	0.5	-2.3
Region 2	93	1.5	-3.2
Region 3	90	-1.0	-2.4
Region 4	78	0.1	1.8
Region 5	93	-2.2	-2.8
Region 6	86	-2.1	5.8
Region 7	88	-4.2	4.8
Region 8	87	0.2	1.8
Region 9	83	0.2	-2.2
Region 10	76	4.8	-0.7

records generally in Region 4; the Derby Hill Hawk Watch Table in Region 5; notes relating observers to covered areas, a newly recognized migrant staging area, and comments on the trade-offs for birds and birders in a heavy tent caterpillar infestation in Region 6; the Crown Point banding summary, special Four Brothers Islands records woven in, and a call for help in the 1993 Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush survey from Region 7; and information in the Region 10 report as to where to send reports of color-banded or dyed birds and recommendations of articles on how to properly document records, especially of rarities.

Looking at the arrival date tables, there are about 30 dates I would question, change, or discard, calling them overwintering dates, potential identification problems, or reflections of poor coverage. After adjusting for these, comparing this year's data with the averages of the past 5 years we find waterfowl early, land birds late, and the combination right on average. Only seven species, not much more than randomly expected from 93 tests at the 95% confidence level, tested statistically significantly early or late: Green-winged Teal, Osprey, and Spotted Sandpiper were early and Common Snipe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blackpoll Warbler, and Rufous-sided Towhee were late. Compared to their long term averages, as indicated by "Seasonality", we find Regions 5, 6, and 7 early, whereas Region 10 was late. For the relative arrivals this year, as indicated by "Advance", all excepting possibly Region 10 appear relatively normal. Not yet having a separate table dates for each Region (other than Region 2), I'll leave it to others to decide

why the Region 10 average is not the earliest. My cursory look suggests that a few anomalously late dates plus a large number of species that arrive early but go without included dates due to difficulty in separating overwintering birds from arrivals (a real challenge for downstate birders) tend to bias Region 10's arrival dates relative to the other Regions.

For most Regions, rarities were exciting this Spring, providing a good close to a somewhat confusing and discouraging summary. The best of the rarities not woven into earlier parts of this account are an Alternate plumaged **Pacific Loon** in Region 10; **Eared Grebe** in Region 3; Northern Gannet in Region 9; **American White Pelican** in Regions 1, 2, and 3 and **Brown Pelican** in Region 10; **Snowy Egret** in Region 5 and **Little Blue Heron** in Region 2; **Barnacle Goose** in Regions 5 and 6; **Eurasian Wigeon** in seven regions; **Tufted Duck** in Region 9; **Barrow's Goldeneye** in Regions 6 and 8; **Gyr Falcon** in Region 3; **King Rail** in Region 5; **Western Kingbird** in Region 3; **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Region 10; **Kentucky Warbler** in Regions 1, 2, and 3; **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Region 6; **Lark Sparrow** in Region 9; **LeConte's Sparrow** in Region 5; **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in Region 2; **Western Meadowlark** in Regions 1 and 2; **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Regions 7 and 8; **Brewer's Blackbird** in Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5. As good as many of these were, the B.O.T.S. Award goes easily to the **Anhinga** soaring over a birding group in Central Park on 28 April.

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Standard abbreviations: Species names in SMALL CAPS are Regional rarities; 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; CO — confirmed; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; 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.