

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

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Relative to recent years, this was a strange, erratic spring. I thought that it resembled more springs of the early 1970s. The season's weather was about as uniform in pattern across the state as we can see. March began with a brief warm spell, followed by the Blizzard of '93 from 11 to 15 Mar, depending on location. The Blizzard brought heavy snows to all but Region 9, which experienced very heavy rains. This was followed by harsh cold which left most bodies of water frozen into April. April temperatures averaged normal to a bit below and precipitation totals were average in western Regions and very high in the southern and eastern Regions. May brought everyone generally warm, dry weather, with precipitation running a third to half the long-term averages. Superimposed on this general pattern were weather events, some very local, which brought bursts of migrants to some Regions in unusual numbers or at very early dates.

From the Arrival Date tables and the Regional reports, one can glean that migration patterns generally fit with these weather patterns as well as one might expect. Compared with either the baseline 25-year averages or the averages from the most recent six years of arrival date compilations, birds expected in March, particularly water birds, were late in arriving. One would expect also that many of the few birds which arrived in early in March or which had overwintered perished in the latter half of March. Much of April did not seem conducive to migration or to birding in many locales. Nonetheless, weather events brought a phenomenal burst of migrants to Long Island beaches on 10 and 11 Apr, a shot of early arrivals to Region 3 around 16 Apr, and a more widespread rash of very early arrivals between 20 and 24 Apr. Water bird arrivals for April generally were late, though less than half as late as in March, and land birds were on time in the first half of the month and early in the second half. May started warm, with many species arriving all at once. Several Regions reported a long period of clear, warm weather with most migrants simply passing overhead. In most Regions the migration petered out quickly and early. Relative to the date baselines, water bird arrivals averaged only very slightly late and land bird arrivals expected in the first half of the month were very early while those for the second half were about average. More of this date stuff later.

Waterbird Arrivals

1993

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

Bold Regional Record Early

Italics Also isolated earlier report(s).

Spring Arrivals 1993

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

Let's now look in more detail at the major groups of migrants. Loons and grebes in general were noted in only average to low numbers. Red-necked Grebe was more widely reported than in most years, with observations from all Regions. The herons and other large waders produced few records of special note, with **Wood Stork** in Region 7 and **White Ibis** in Region 10 the most exceptional and Little Blue Heron in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 9 and Glossy Ibis in Regions 3, 7, 8, and 9 the most widespread of the rarer visitors. Many of the regularly breeding herons received comments on their scarcity. Waterfowl generally arrived late, mainly due to late opening of bodies of water, moved on quickly, and were noted in relatively low peak numbers. Diving ducks generally fared better than did the puddle ducks, though Canvasback and Redhead numbers continued **very low**. A major waterfowl event of the season was the exceptional numbers of Snow Goose west of their normal track in late March and early April, presumably due to frozen ponds and or flooding at their normal assembly points. However, the peak at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3 finally reached a credible 7000. Reports of Trumpeter Swan from Region 3, Greater White-fronted Goose in Regions 1 and 2, Eurasian Wigeon in five Regions, 300 Common Eiders at Montauk; and Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 5, 7, 9 and 10 were other waterfowl highlights. The Region 1 report applies the eraser to many life lists, as a Garganey seen there appears to be an escape from a nearby exotic waterfowl collection.

Weather timing left the major hawk watches at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill with modest totals, just over 40,000 with Derby Hill's total slightly higher, reminiscent of a 1970s pattern. The Mount Pleasant watch near Ithaca and the Coot Hill watch in the Adirondacks enjoyed very good seasons. Raptor notes of interest included record high counts for Turkey Vulture, Osprey nesting increasing in several Regions, Bald Eagle counts up, especially in Region 2, Northern Goshawk up a bit at the watches; **Swainson's Hawk** in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9; Rough-legged Hawk totals low and departing early; many Golden Eagle in Region 3. This was the year for listers to see their once-in-a-lifetime **Gyr Falcon**, with at least two in Region 1, three in Region 2, two in Region 6, and two in Region 7.

Both shorebird species totals and individual counts were generally low as cold set back early arrivals, high water erased most of the lake and river margin habitat, and a dry May evaporated the field puddles early. You will find "low" and "scarce" applied to these birds in all the

Regional reports. There were highlights: a very early **Piping Plover** in Region 2, accompanied by an equally early Sanderling, usually found there in late May; Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 2 and 7; good counts for Semipalmated Plover; Willet in Region 2; Hudsonian Godwit in Region 10; Ruff in Region 2; and Wilson's Phalarope in Region 7. In addition, May ended with a very large fallout of Dunlin, Red Knot, and Ruddy Turnstone in Region 3. There are several previous, very high late May counts for these species Upstate. This was the best spring showing of Little Gull in years, with records in six Regions, but Common Black-headed Gull appeared only in Region 10. Ring-billed Gull nesting is increasing in Region 3. Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in seven Regions, Iceland Gull in five, but Glaucous Gull in only two. Caspian Tern arrived early, with fair counts in seven Regions. Common Tern reports generally went as expected in seven Regions; Forster's Tern was noted only Regions 2 and 3. Black Tern continues as a species in jeopardy, with even Region 6 reporting colony size reductions.

Passerine observations again had a preponderance of negatives, but most species received too little, or inconsistent, attention to deduce general trends. Many species received opposite assessments from neighboring Regions. Note particularly the comments in the Region 10 report on substantial differences between migration in the New York City area and on the eastern reaches of Long Island.

Among the flycatchers, arrival dates were typical to early, Eastern Wood-Pewee very scarce in Region 6, but Least Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird particularly high there. Yet Eastern Kingbird was flagged as low in Region 2. Purple Martin warranted serious concern in no less than seven Regions! The wren family usually receives little attention. There was little comment on Carolina Wren, at high levels last year, and Sedge Wren was a bit up with a total of four birds noted in Regions 3, 7, and 9. Thrushes elicited much concern, with Veery, Gray-cheeked, and Wood Thrush the scarcest, Swainson's Thrush mixed, and only Hermit Thrush more or less ok.

Vireos received little attention. Warblers received lots of attention and generated many negative comments. There were notes of local good migration mornings. Based on my own observations, I think that **local** should be strongly emphasized. Regions 4 and 9, particularly, noted the how continual sunny skies reduced avian fallout, yet Region 7 workers just to their north banded record numbers at the Crown Point banding station. The warbler species most generally called "low" were Nashville,

Northern Parula, Cape May and Palm Warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Pine and Prairie warblers were noted in good numbers and Connecticut Warbler appeared in Regions 2, 3, and 6. Interesting contrasts included Magnolia Warbler up in Region 2, down in Region 6; Black-throated Blue Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4 and 6; Bay-breasted Warbler up in Regions 2, 6, 7, and 8, down in Regions 4 and 9; Blackpoll Warbler up in Regions 2 and 4, down in Regions 5 and 6; American Redstart really up in Region 2, down in Region 4; Ovenbird up in Region 6, down in Region 2; Wilson's Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4, 5, 6, and 8; and Canada Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4 and 6. We have much to learn about local distribution patterns in migration. The Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler complex continued to show a pattern of swamping of the latter, and Brewster's type hybrids were noted in six Regions and the rarer Lawrence's type in four Regions.

Grassland sparrows continued their downward patterns of recent years. There was a large contrast in numbers between Regions 2 and 4 for Lincoln's Sparrow. Seven Regions expressed concern over the low counts for White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. Among the blackbirds, we find Western Meadowlark in Region 2; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 4 and *four* in Region 5; **Brewer's Blackbird** in Region 9, but none reported in Region 2 for one of the few times since 1980 and just following an apparent nesting attempt in 1992; and red flags for Northern Oriole in several Regions. Few winter finches were noted anywhere, but all species except Hoary Redpoll were sighted. Red Crossbill nested in Region 1 and Pine Grosbeak was seen in Regions 2, 3, and 4, with apparent courtship behavior in Region 3.

Recognizing that these major groups aren't the whole story, let's now wander back through the checklist for additional notes of interest. The water bird list include Sooty Shearwater and **Brown Pelican** in Region 10 and **American White Pelican** in Regions 4, 5, 9, and 10. The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continues all over the State, with Region 6 noting the high count exceeding 10,000 and nesting extending to the Perch River Wildlife Management Area. Pheasants remain in trouble in most Regions, due to habitat loss and weather effects; Wild Turkey populations grow; Ruffed Grouse appears to be at a cyclical low in many areas; and Northern Bobwhite (most escapes, as usual) popped up in at least four Regions. As usual, rail comments were few, though **King Rail** was noted in Regions 2 and 9. Sandhill Crane observations

continue to increase, with reports spanning the date range late March through the season from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6, and all these Regions reported multiple birds on at least one date. Cuckoo reports were generally low, particularly for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with the best counts for Black-billed Cuckoo in Regions 1 and 5. Owl aficionados will find good banding totals from Region 2, Northern Saw-whet Owl more widespread than usual, with reports from seven Regions; Snowy Owl departure dates from six Regions; and a **Northern Hawk Owl** tarrying to a record late date in Region 7. Both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will populations warrant continuing and increased monitoring. Chimney Swift should also move onto the level-of-concern gauge. Common Raven and Fish Crow continue to be found in their usual locales and to increase in numbers. We should keep watching Brown Thrasher carefully, but treat **Loggerhead Shrike** as a rare gem with only two noted this spring, in Regions 4 and 10.

As noted earlier, this was an erratic season, with burst of migrants at unusual times producing a sizable collection of record early dates and record high counts. The statewide record early dates include: Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 2; Barn Swallow in Region 10; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 4; and Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager, all in Region 10. There are many very early, near record dates and Regional early dates scattered through the Regional reports. Record high counts included: the Double-crested Cormorant (inland high) and Common Eider counts noted above; Sanderling (inland spring high) in Region 2; and Razorbill and Blue Grosbeak in Region 10.

As promised earlier, the arrival dates tables deserve a bit of commentary. Back at the beginning of the arrival date study and at intervals since, I have worried in these pages about biases in the original 25-year baseline data, caused by varied interpretation of editorial "mandates" which led to variable and inconsistent reporting. In my home Region 2, these concerns are well founded. The data gathered over the recent seven years differs significantly from the baseline numbers. However, looking at the averages over the ten Regions for the six years (1987-1992) species by species, overall for water birds, land birds, and all birds, there are only six of the 93 species

Arrival Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	90	0.0	-2.5
Region 2	93	1.1	-2.9
Region 3	90	1.9	0.8
Region 4	79	-0.7	1.7
Region 5	91	-0.7	-1.3
Region 6	88	-3.2	4.5
Region 7	92	-4.4	4.7
Region 8	80	0.4	2.3
Region 9	81	-0.3	-2.5
Region 10	82	-0.4	-4.8

Seasonality measures the average difference (in days) between this year's arrival dates and the long term average dates for the *same* Region. *Advance* measures the average difference between this year's arrivals dates in one Region and the arrival dates averaged over all ten Regions. Negative values mean early.

tracked for which the recent six-year baseline differs by more than 2 standard deviations (as derived from the six-year data) from the comparable number in the 25-year-baseline table. There remain all sorts of concerns and biases, such as missing data, species or whole Regions; varying Regional editors' decisions relative to deciding whether a bird had overwintered or just arrived; and whether obviously very late apparent "arrivals" are meaningful data. Apparently averaging over all ten Regions smooths out these difficulties. In addition to the general comments on early and late periods for arrival this year, there were a large number of species at dates at least 2 standard deviations different from the six-year averages, of which 15 were early and 6 were late. All six late arrivals were water birds. Two of the early arrivals were water birds, the rest were land birds, scattered across families. I encourage the reader to browse the date tables and note things like the tight arrival date period for many species, such as Eastern Wood-Pewee arriving in six Regions with on 8 May, five Regions each with the first Nashville Warbler on 1 May and Chestnut-sided Warbler on 3 May. In contrast, many species have wildly erratic dates across Regions and even between adjacent Regions. What do these data tell us? Are there bits of

useful information here, or is this all just a for-fun compilation? Even a cooperative project as simple as this one takes thought and care on the part of *all* contributors and participants.

After this attempt at a serious analysis, a review of the best of the rarities provides a fun conclusion. There are many this season. By region we have **Gyr Falcon**, **Least Tern**, and **Harris's Sparrow** in Region 1; **Ruff**, **Gyr Falcon**, **King Rail**, **Piping Plover**, and **Western Tanager** in Region 2; **Little Blue Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Swainson's Hawk**, and **Swainson's Warbler** in Region 3; **American White Pelican**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Region 4; **Black Vulture**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, **LeConte's Sparrow**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Region 5; **Gyr Falcon**, **Varied Thrush**, and **White-eyed Vireo** in Region 6; **Glossy Ibis**, **Wood Stork**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Little Gull**, **Northern Hawk Owl**, and **Worm-eating Warbler** in Region 7; **Glossy Ibis** and **American Swallow-tailed Kite** in Region 8; **American White Pelican**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **King Rail**, **Summer Tanager**, and **Brewer's Blackbird** in Region 9; and **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **White Ibis**, **American Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Wilson's Plover**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Townsend's Warbler**, and **Painted Bunting** in Region 10. As outstanding as many of these rarities are, the B.O.T.S Award could only go to the **White-tailed Eagle** observed by many over **Derby Hill** in Region 5.

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