

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Birders in Region 5 had to be extremely patient to catch the spring migration given the vagaries of the weather this season. The spring weather could be described as cold and gray, with the wind from nearly every direction but south - the direction that brings migrants and the winds we dream of all winter long. March had an average temperature of 33.6° F - just a little below normal. The low of 7° F occurred on 9 March, and the high of 73° on 28 March gave optimism for the beginning of spring. Precipitation was above normal with 23.4 inches of snow (6 inches above normal) and 3.57 inches of rain just slightly above normal. April's average temperature of 44.2° F was nearly 1.5° F below normal. The low temperature of 15° F occurred on 9 April, and the high of 76° F came on 30 April giving rise to more optimism that May would indeed warm up. Precipitation was below normal for the month, with 1.78 inches of rain and 2.8 inches of snow. May did not warm up appreciably, with an average temperature of 52.2° F - 4.9 degrees below normal and the eighth coldest May on record. The high of 76° F on 1 May was followed by a low of 34° F on 8 May. Precipitation was just slightly below normal, with 2.43 inches of rain.

There were two passerine fallouts along Lake Ontario on 1 and 12 May, but generally the birding during May was disappointing until the last 12 days of the month when many migrants passed through. The fallouts on 1 and 12 May each brought some early arrivals which would remain scarce for another 7-10 days. Species such as Veery, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green warblers and Lincoln's Sparrow all arrived on the 1st and virtually disappeared afterwards while Willow and Alder flycatchers, Wilson's and Canada warblers, and Scarlet Tanager all gamely showed up 12-13 May, but few of their kind quickly followed.

Hawkwatcher Jim Tietz observed a **Tricolored Heron** flying over the South Lookout at Derby Hill on 25 May and was doubly fortunate to see the bird land in a marsh less than a mile away where it remained for the rest of the day, allowing many observers the privilege of viewing the second documented record for the species in the Region. Sandhill Cranes put in a good showing, with a total of 6 flying past Derby Hill for the season. Glossy Ibis was found in McGraw Swamp on 2 April by Glenn Wolford.

Other publications have recently noted the Snow Goose population explosion and large numbers used the Finger Lakes as a staging area in March. Snow Geese like other birds ignore Regional boundaries so many of Region 5's

geese were undoubtedly shared with Region 3. Ben Burtt estimated 100,000 on Skaneateles Lake on 13 March and several days before that Jim Anderson recorded the same number in fields overlapping Regions 3 and 5 south and west of Skaneateles. Thousands of Snow Geese were also seen flying over Pompey on 22 Mar and they probably became the 10,000+ recorded at Lakeport on Oneida Lake the following day. Interestingly, only a handful of these thousands were of the blue morph. These peaked the last week of March with daily maxima of 40-50. Ten years ago 500 Snow Geese reported in Region 5 would have been a great count. A **Ross' Goose** accompanying a large flock of Canadas was found by a lucky observer at Howland Island WMA on 9 March. The spring hawk count at Derby Hill had the third lowest total since daily counts began in 1979. There were too many days of north or west winds which scattered the flight inland away from Lake Ontario, even the daily high count for Broad-winged Hawk came on a day with northwest winds. Certain species, notably N. Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk, had not come south in large numbers the previous winter. One highlight of the spring hawk flight was the **Am. White Pelican** seen by many observers on 27 April as it soared over the hill with a small kettle of hawks.

Conditions are often unfavorable for shorebirds here in the spring and at two of the better sites, McGraw Road in Chittenango and Biddlecum Pond, the former flooded late and the latter never drained to reveal mudflats. A man-made wetland on the Hastings-Schroeppel town line provided many sightings this year but this site may become too overgrown in a few years for shorebird observation. Two reports of Wilson's Phalarope enlivened the birding when a female was found at the Pony Farm in Baldwinsville on 10 May and a male was found in Hastings on 15 May. Neither bird stayed around for more than a few hours.

Common Raven seems to be doing well, with six migrants past Derby Hill. They are now frequently encountered in the Tug Hill and seem to be establishing a presence on the Appalachian Plateau in southern Onondaga and Madison counties. Fish Crow seems to be consolidating its foothold in the Region with continued sightings at the Shop City site in Syracuse and with at least two birds in Liverpool along Onondaga Lake.

Sedge Wren, in its ever mysterious manner, was one bird that went against the trend of the season with an early migrant at Derby Hill on 8 May and two singing birds found at an old breeding site on 17 May. They are often not found until the end of May or even June in the years when they are found at all.

Birders who stopped birding after the usual mid-May warbler peak missed most of the late warbler flight, which was at its best from 19 to 26 May and continued through the end of the season. On the 24th, Thurber found 20 species of warblers, mostly migrants, in a brief stop at Toad Harbor and added four more species at Nine Mile Point. Although arrival dates for many of the

mid to late May migrants were consistent with other years. it was not until 25 May that they were actually around in any number.

A **LeConte's Sparrow** was found at the Nine Mile Point Energy Information Center on 12 May, which continues the pattern of this species being a rare migrant over the past five years. Purple Finch numbers remained good after their winter irruption and Pine Siskins increased slightly over the season, while crossbills and Evening Grosbeak stayed in the Adirondacks in small numbers.

For the season, a total of 238 species plus three forms were reported with Am. White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Ross' Goose and LeConte's Sparrow the best of the rarities. Other notable species included Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Sandhill Crane and Bicknell's Thrush.

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Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; Bvle - Baldwinsville; CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill; EIC - Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point; FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIWMA - Howland Island WMA; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral; NH - New Hartford; OneiL - Oneida Lake; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; StM - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr - Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh; and WM - West Monroe.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** six at five locations 20 Apr-14 May, good Spring flight. **Com. Loon:** arr DH 27 Mar; max 147 OneiL 13 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Schroepel 28 Mar; max six UM 10 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** arr OnonL 18 Mar; max 17 Minoa 17 Apr; two WP 30 May, late. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr one WP 8 Apr; total of nine reported, last 17 May. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one DH 27 Apr (mob). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr DH 4 Apr; daily maxima of 1200-1600 LOL and 200-300 OneiL. **Am. Bittern:** arr Kirkville 5 Apr; max three FH, Toad Harbor and UM in May. **Least Bittern:** one PSS 17 May; one Dewitt Marsh 23 May; two UM 25 May, only reports. **Great Blue Heron:** arr CM & DH 9 Mar. **TRICOLORED HERON:** one Derby Hill 26 May (JiT, mob, NYSARC), second Regional record. **Great Egret:** four singles 6 Apr-29 May. **Snowy Egret:** one WM 17 May (JB, PB). **Green Heron:** max six CM 21 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Snake Swamp 20 Apr; one WM and one Oswego 17 May, only other reports. **Glossy Ibis:** one McGraw Swamp Jordan 2 Apr (GW). **Tundra Swan:** max eight Pennellville 8-10 Mar; last Brewerton 23 Mar. **Mute Swan:** one WP 4 Apr thru 28 May.

Snow Goose: 100,000 Skaneateles L 20 Mar (Ben Burt): 10,000+ Oneil 23 Mar: singles Biddlecum and Sangerfield 17 May. **ROSS' GOOSE:** one HIWMA 9 Mar (SA!, NYSARC). **Brant:** max 490 Oneil 13 May. **Canada Goose:** max 8300 ONON 23 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 26 HIWMA 20 Apr. **Green-winged Teal:** max 25 UM 17 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** max 64 Sterling 20 Mar. **Mallard:** max 450 Verona 22 Mar. **N. Pintail:** max 82 CM 9 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 25 UM and 10 Chittenango 17 Apr. **N. Shoveler:** arr and max 25 PSS 30 Mar. **Gadwall:** max 14 UM 18 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one UM 25-27 Apr (MP). **Am. Wigeon:** arr two OnonL 13 Mar; max 30 UM 18 Apr. **Canvasback:** max 130 FH 20 Mar. **Redhead:** max 140 FH 20 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr four Brewerton 9 Mar; max 225 Salmon R 23 Mar; pair WP thru 31 May. **Greater Scaup:** "winter" max 2720 FH 20 Mar; "spring" max 2500 Toad Harbor 20 Apr. **Lesser Scaup:** max 600 Oneil 25 Apr; 2 m WP 28 May. **Oldsquaw:** max 30 Oswego 16 Mar; last Minoa 17 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** three Oneil 25 Apr; two Oneil 13 May; four WP 25 May, often missed in spring. **White-winged Scoter:** max 83 Oneil 13 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 1200 FH 1 Mar; last Oneil 10 May. **Bufflehead:** max 85 FH 20 Mar. **Hooded Merganser:** max 98 LOL 23 Mar. **Com. Merganser:** max 400 OnonL 18 Mar; one m Happy Valley WMA 17 May. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 257 Oswego 10 May. **Ruddy Duck:** arr Brewerton 30 Mar; max 20 Beaver L 14 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Derby Hill migration totals:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight</u>	<u>Range</u>
Turkey Vulture	6,680	991 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 30 May
Osprey	295	33 - 1 May	28 Mar - 30 May
Bald Eagle	55	7 - 13 May	2 Mar - 30 May
Northern Harrier	471	77 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 31 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,295	590 - 6 Apr	2 Mar - 30 May
Cooper's Hawk	446	93 - 28 Mar	1 Mar - 30 May
Northern Goshawk	34	4 - 27 Mar	1 Mar - 5 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	523	164 - 28 Mar	1 Mar - 29 Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	12,864	3,809 - 29 Apr	5 Apr - 30 May
Red-tailed Hawk	5,013	961 - 6 Apr	27 Feb - 30 May
Rough-legged Hawk	212	44 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 29 May
Golden Eagle	22	5 - 29 Apr	17 Mar - 4 May
American Kestrel	399	71 - 28 Mar	Mar - 24 May
Merlin	23	9 - 3 May	4 Apr - 5 May
Peregrine Falcon	6	max 1/day	27 Apr - 23 May

Bald Eagle: several Oswego R and OnonL in Mar; one Fourth L 28 Mar. **Cooper's Hawk:** four nests reported. **N. Goshawk:** three nests reported.

Golden Eagle: one Big Moose Lake 28 Mar. **Peregrine Falcon:** imm Syr 21 Mar. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** only three reported. **Wild Turkey:** max 90 DL 3 Mar; continues to increase. **Virginia Rail:** max six UM 18 May. **Sora:** max four UM 6 May; one DH 12 May, in a hedgerow. **Com. Moorhen:** max six UM 18 May; scarce in L Ontario marshes due to high water. **Am. Coot:** max five UM 6 May; two still present on 25 May. **Sandhill Crane:** six past DH on three dates, max three 26 Apr. **Black-bellied Plover:** four DH 19 May; one UM 26 May, only reports. **Semipalmated Plover:** max eight Hastings 25 May; three T Marshall 17 May, only other site. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max seven Schroepfel 30 Apr; last two Dead Creek 24 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 31 Chittenango 13 May; last Hastings 25 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max 10 Bvle 3 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** four SVB 25 Mar, record early (MP!); max 18 SVB 3 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr Phoenix 23 Apr; max five Holland Patent 27 Apr. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one Bvle 6 May, early; max six Hastings 25 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 16 Hastings 20 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max six Schroepfel 30 Apr. **Dunlin:** max nine Hastings 21 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr one Hastings 15 May; max 13 SPd 19 May. **Com. Snipe:** max 14 Hastings 4 May. **Am. Woodcock:** max six TRWMA 2 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope:** one f Bvle 10 May; one m Hastings 15 May, two reports are a good season. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 30 DL 12 May; last two SPd 25 May. **Herring Gull:** max 600 Oswego 4 May. **Iceland Gull:** one Bvle 6 Mar; one Oswego 10 May, only reports. **Glaucous Gull:** two Oswego 4 May, one a late adult. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 40 Oswego 4 May. **Caspian Tern:** max 205 FH 4 May. **Com. Tern:** max 70 Oneil 14 May. **Black Tern:** max four SPd 25 May; one Sangerfield Marsh 17 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 25 May, second latest; only four reported. **E. Screech-Owl:** reports from Beaver Lake, Bvle and StM only. **Great Horned Owl:** four nests with young reported. **Snowy Owl:** last imm f Brewerton 16 Mar. **Barred Owl:** reports from Beaver L, Morgan Hill, New Hartford, Parish and Whiskey Hollow. **Short-eared Owl:** singles DH 17 Mar, 5 May; Verona 22 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** reports from Noyes Sanctuary and Whiskey Hollow. **Com. Nighthawk:** singles Fayetteville and NH 25 May. **Whip-poor-will:** max three Constantia 17 May. **Chimney Swift:** one DH 5 Apr, record early; max 60 Oswego 10 May. **Belted Kingfisher:** max four CM 16 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr LOL 13 May; max two FH 16 May, reports from Holland Patent and Waterville. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** no reports of range extension birds. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max six LOL 6 Apr. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one Third Lake Creek 27 May, only report. **Pileated Woodpecker:** many reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** singles Hastings 27 May and Adks 30 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** max seven Whiskey Hollow 24 May; numbers low thru. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr StM 24 May; three other reports. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Whiskey Hollow 31 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** few reports, only one/day. **Willow Flycatcher:** max three/day after 24 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max seven NH 20 May. **E. Phoebe:** max nine DH 6 Apr. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max six StM 14 May. **E. Kingbird:** max 10 Kirkland 22 May. **Horned Lark:** max 100 Kirkland 1 Apr. **Purple Martin:** max 36 SW OneiL 26 May. **Tree Swallow:** max 2000 Oswego 29 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max six DH 27 Apr. **Bank Swallow:** max 60 Oswego 10 May. **Cliff Swallow:** max 30 Orwell 13 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 120 Nine Mile Pt 14 May. **Fish Crow:** two-three OnonL to 8 May; five Shop City Syr 29 May. **Com. Raven:** six migrants DH, max three 9 Mar; two reports S ONON; ten reports Tug Hill to Adk foothills. **Black-capped Chickadee:** max 24 Beaver L 25 Apr. **Tufted Titmouse:** doing well at edge of present range. **Brown Creeper:** max five Kirkland 14 Apr. **Carolina Wren:** one HIWMA 20 Apr, only report. **House Wren:** max 16 Camillus 13 May. **Winter Wren:** arr LOL 29 Mar; max five NH 6 Apr, low numbers. **Sedge Wren:** one DH 8 May; two Toad Harbor 17 May. **Marsh Wren:** max 11 CM 21 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 15 NH 16 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 30 DH 23 Apr; last DH 20 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one EIC 5 Apr, record early; max six CM 7 May. **Veery:** max 16 EIC 12 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max 3 DH 25 May. **Bicknell's Thrush:** one Labrador Pond 24 May (DC!), only report. **Swainson's Thrush:** max 12 LOL 25 May. **Hermit Thrush:** max 12 Sithe Independence Park 23 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** max 21 EIC 12 May. **Gray Catbird:** max 22 Camillus 13 May. **Brown Thrasher:** max six EIC 1 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr one Camillus 16 Mar; max 90 Mexico 1 May; last DH 19 May. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 86 Kirkland 15 Mar. **N. Shrike:** last Warren 19 Mar; one Stink Lake Outlet 2 Mar carrying a Red Crossbill; three other reports.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **Solitary Vireo:** max 15 StM 2 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max five Whiskey Hollow 24 May. **Warbling Vireo:** max eight UM 25 May; peak counts from last week of May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr NH 17 May; singles Kirkland and WM 28 May, only other reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** scarce until last week of May; low max 20 NH 28 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Pratt's Falls 13 May; max seven Pompey 14 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr LOL 17 May; max three Mexico 26 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** six reports. **Tennessee Warbler:** max 12 WM 25 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one Happy Valley WMA 17 May; one WM 24 May, only reports. **Nashville Warbler:** max 12 Rome 31 May. **N. Parula:** max 4 NH 12 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 50 UM 21 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 11 StM 17 May. **Cape May Warbler:** four DH 12-16 May; singles WM and

SPd 24 May, only reports. **Magnolia Warbler**: max eight UM 20 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 12 StM 21 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: a few wintering birds eating Poison Ivy berries ONEI Mar & Apr; max 220 DH 1 May; 130 Kirkland 7 May, a good count away from LOL. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight NH 13 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 10 UM 21 May; still moving along LOL 31 May. **Prairie Warbler**: two singing near Parish after 13 May; one NH 20-25 May. **Palm Warbler**: max 31 LOL 10 May; protracted migration with sightings still 24-25 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max four LOL 24 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max 59 LOL 25 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: three migrants SPd 19 May, unusual; max six Toad Harbor 25 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max six EIC 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 20 UM 21 May. **Ovenbird**: max 30 EIC 12 May. **N. Waterthrush**: max 14 WM 10 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Pompey and NH 18 Apr; max four NH 29 Apr. **Mourning Warbler**: max six Kirkland 24 May. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 30 NH 21 May. **Hooded Warbler**: max 12 LOL 25 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: max 10 NH 20 May. **Canada Warbler**: max nine LOL 25 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max 12 NH 26 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 12 Kirkland 14 May. **Indigo Bunting**: max six EIC 12 May. **E. Towhee**: max five Noyes Sanctuary 23 Apr. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 31 NH 31 Mar; last Paris 25 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: one Paris 3 Mar, wintered; max 118 LOL 10 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr DH 2 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: few migrants noted; at many breeding locations after 25 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 35 EIC 13 Apr & 1 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: single migrants LOL 9-12 May. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**: one EIC 12 May (BP, NYSARC). **Fox Sparrow**: arr NH 31 Mar; max 10 NH 15 Apr; last 24 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: max 165 EIC 29 Mar; arr Old Forge 26 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max 12 EIC 12 May; ten LOL 25 May, late for so many. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 42 CM 27 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr Adks 29 Apr; max 67 LOL 10 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 180 EIC 12 May; last Holland Patent 28 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 56 LOL 5 Apr; one m **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco**: Pompey 4-8 Apr. **Lapland Longspur**: max five DH 7-17 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 650 Kirkland 22 Mar; last Limekiln L 29 Mar. **Bobolink**: max 60 EIC 12 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: arr Adks 7 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr one Apulia 17 Mar; max 18 DH 28 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: two Camillus 16 Mar; max 230 HIWMA 20 Apr; last LOL 16 May. **Orchard Oriole**: one HIWMA 17 May; one UM after 20 May; one Kayuta L 24-25 May, unusual location. **Baltimore Oriole**: max 15 NH 17 May. **Purple Finch**: common throughout in small flocks at feeders. **Red Crossbill**: scattered Adk reports; max five Remsen 21 Mar including one with nesting material. **White-winged Crossbill**: one North L 9 May, only report. **Pine Siskin**: max 30

Remsen 3 Apr and pair completing nest there 28 Apr; found throughout Adks and Tug Hill. scattered at other high elevations. **Evening Grosbeak:** small numbers Adks.

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