

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The average temperature in March was 31.5°F, 2.4° below normal, with 3.53 inches of precipitation, 0.76 inches more than usual. There were 28.4 inches of snow. April had an average temperature of 46.5°, 0.8° above the average. The month was very dry with only 1.75 inches of precipitation, 1.58 inches below the norm. For the second year in a row there was no snowfall in April. The dry trend continued in May, with only 0.81 inches

of rain, 2.47 inches below average. The average temperature was 60.7°, 3.6° above normal.

The first two weeks of March were quite wintry with two snowstorms and daily high temperatures in the 20's. Waterfowl and blackbirds which had arrived at the Region's doorstep during the last few days of February stopped or even retreated until migration finally moved into low gear on 16 March. For the rest of March and all of April north winds predominated. Over the last 10 days of April a Canadian high pressure system produced daily north winds, effectively blocking southerly flow and migrants were scattered and few. The first warm south winds in nearly a month on 5 May brought a large wave of migrants. The flight continued, in diminishing numbers, through the 9th when another blocking high pressure system took over. While the mostly calm clear nights over the next week might have been great flight weather it did not concentrate birds anywhere in the Region and the north winds that picked up each morning served to further scatter diurnal migrants.

There was a good Common Loon flight over two days in April and an impressive arrival of Horned Grebes at Woodman Pond, but otherwise the waterfowl migration was ordinary at best. Frozen water and cold weather didn't allow for movement until mid March and then dabblers moved right through. Redhead was not reported for the season although that may be due in part to no reports during March from Fair Haven, where they normally occur. The May flight on Oneida Lake had good numbers of Brant and White-winged Scoters but few Common Loons. At Oswego Harbor three Harlequin Ducks, probably the remnants of the winter's invasion of at least five, were seen into April, and the two wintering Great Cormorants stayed on until late March.

The hawk flight as recorded at Derby Hill was the worst since daily observations began in 1979. Too many days of north winds failed to concentrate the flight along Lake Ontario. As an example of the missed flight, on 8 April, a day with strong northwest winds, Chamberlaine had migrant hawks moving over Boylston in the Tug Hill area. As always, rarities passed over Derby Hill including Black Vulture, Black-headed Gull and nine Sandhill Cranes.

Shorebirds had little adverse weather to contend with and many seasonal pools dried up early, so not much of a flight was noted. The exception was an **American Golden-Plover** with 2 Black-bellied Plovers in a plowed field in Cato, the first Spring sighting since 1975. The April shorebirds were found in small numbers and the May flight at Sandy Pond and the Oneida Lake islands saw few birds. Sanderling and Short-billed Dowitcher were missed entirely. The lingering winter did force gulls to

remain in Oswego Harbor well into March resulting in good counts of Iceland and Glaucous gulls as well as 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A migrant Barn Owl was chanced upon at Nine Mile Point in May, but no migrant Long-eared or N. Saw-whet owls were found moving along the lakeshore this season.

Swallows, thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows all passed through in generally unremarkable numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher and Sedge Wren were not found. Both Cesari and Perry reported passerine migration to be poor in Oneida County, with Perry noting that once again warblers seemed to skip straight to the breeding grounds. In Oswego County, Koenike noted that any large numbers (large for this year, at least) moved on quite quickly. Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were both very scarce, with few reports of either. Gary Lee had the first Magnolia Warbler in the Adirondacks on 1 May, four days before the first lowland migrant was noted. Several Kentucky Warblers were found this season, with one still lingering into June.

Sparrows moved in early April, with good counts of Song, Am. Tree, and Dark-eyed Junco on the third. Vesper, Savannah, Field and Chipping arrived within days although their numbers were low. By the middle of May, Henslow's Sparrows had returned to the only known colony in the Region, and 3-4 Clay-colored Sparrows along Lake Ontario was a new high. Finches were found in very small numbers in and near the Adirondacks. Several observers remarked on the Am. Goldfinch flight at Derby Hill in May, although no count was undertaken. The early March snows brought flocks of icterids to feeders, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at several stations in Baldwinsville over two days.

The total of 238 species reported for the season is quite good. Rare birds included **Great Cormorant**, **Black Vulture**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Sandhill Crane, **Am. Golden-Plover**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Barn Owl**, Kentucky Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and Orchard Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC - Beaver Lake Nature Center, Bvllle - Baldwinsville, CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, EIC - Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, HVWMA - Happy Valley WMA, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond, SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, StMC - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA, UM - Utica Marsh, WH - Whiskey Hollow, Van Buren, WPd - Woodman Pond, Eaton.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: singles Oswego 17 Mar and OnonL 11 Apr, only reports.

Com. Loon: max 55 DH 17 Apr with other high counts 17-18 Apr; nesting Gray L HERK 6 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 WPd 7 April; pair Scriba in courtship display 16 Apr; nesting UM 24 Apr.

Horned Grebe: arr and max 145 WPd 4 April (MP), very high count away from LOL; last DH 30 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr and max 4 UM 3 Apr; only 3 other singles reported.

GREAT CORMORANT: 2 Oswego to 28 Mar.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr OneiL 31 Mar; 330 nests OneiL 17 May.

Am. Bittern: max 4 Schroepel 28 Apr; 3 migrants UM 15 Apr where they don't nest.

Least Bittern: arr UM 15 May; only 2 reports.

Great Blue Heron: arr UM 24 March.

Great Egret: arr DH 10 Apr; max 2 UM 24 April; 4 other reports.

Green Heron: max 10 CM 15 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 CM 15 May; only report.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 DH 31 Mar (DN, BP, NYSARC).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 *flavirostris* Schroepel 18 Apr (BP), seems to be more of an Apr occurrence vs. Mar for *frontalis*.

Snow Goose: max 5000 Verona 28

March; other high counts were 4300

Bolivar 24 Mar and 2000 Schroepel 24 Mar; last 17 Schroepel 23 Apr.

Canada Goose: max 3970 Sterling 2 Apr; 5 young Forge Pd HERK, only second nesting there.

Brant: 1 Bvllle with Canada Geese 15 Apr, record early (JB); 3170 OneiL flight 10-15 May with max 880 12 May.

Mute Swan: 1 Oswego to 7 Mar; pair WPd thru; 2 SVB 13 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 7 Fulton 25 Mar; 2 WPd 18 Mar; 1 Schroepel 31 Mar to 3 Apr; 4 Cato 2 Apr, only other reports.

Trumpeter Swan: 1 ad with imm Mute Swan WPd 18 March, presumably from one of the stocking programs.

Wood Duck: max 40 Utica 24 March.

Gadwall: max 19 CM 11 Apr; last 2 SPd 23 May.

Am. Wigeon: arr Bolivar 24 Mar; max 20 SVB 28-31 March; last 2 UM 1 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 40 WPd 1 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: max 15 Schroepel 25 Apr.

N. Shoveler: max 24 OnonL 17 Apr; possible Shoveler X Blue-Winged Teal hybrid UM 10-18 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 320 Schroepel 26 Mar; last 2 UM 18 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 100 Bolivar 8 Apr.

Canvasback: 1 Oswego 20 Mar; 2 DL 29 Mar, only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: max 325 DL 8 April; last 6 WPd 26 April.

Greater Scaup: max 1200 Toad Harbor 20 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 200 SVB 5 Apr; last Oswego 15 May.

Harlequin Duck: 3 Oswego to 18 Apr.

Surf Scoter: 3 singles Oneil 24 Apr - 13 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 97 Oneil 13 May.

Oldsquaw: max 35 Hinckley L 21 April; last 4 LOL 15 May.

Bufflehead: max 91 FH 2 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: max 330 Brewerton 30 Mar; last 6 SVB 28 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: max 38 UM 24 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 85 Oswego 14 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 110 SVB 19 Apr; still present LOL 30 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr SVB 28 Mar; max 20 WPd 4 Apr; last OnonL 3 May; scarce this year.

Derby Hill Migration Totals

Species	Total	Peak Flight/Date	Date Range
Turkey Vulture	5,170	739 - 7 Apr	5 Mar - 31 May
Osprey	558	171 - 5 May	27 Mar - 31 May
Bald Eagle	92	11 - 16 May	5 Mar - 31 May
N. Harrier	457	37 - 6 Apr	16 Mar - 31 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,599	398 - 7 May	2 Mar - 31 May
Cooper's Hawk	302	31 - 3 Apr	16 Mar - 22 May
N. Goshawk	14	2 - 16 Mar	16 Mar - 24 Apr
Red-shouldered Hawk	593	128 - 3 Apr	16 Mar - 10 May
Broad-winged Hawk	9,803	1,954 - 25 Apr	15 Apr - 31 May
Red-tailed Hawk	4,603	765 - 6 Apr	2 Mar - 31 May
Rough-legged Hawk	209	27 - 7 Mar	2 Mar - 8 May
Golden Eagle	23	3 - 23 Mar	16 Mar - 9 May
Am. Kestrel	343	20 - 28 Mar	17 Mar - 18 May
Merlin	38	6 - 28 Apr	16 Mar - 18 May
Peregrine Falcon	14	4 - 5 May	24 Mar - 9 May
Total	25,823 (includes 5 unidentified)		

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: pair TRWMA waited for Great Horned Owls to fledge 14 May to reoccupy nest.

Bald Eagle: pair in courtship Fulton late Mar did not persist; 2 adults UM 19 Mar; 1 CM 31 Mar; 1 Altmar 28 Apr.

N. Harrier: pairs CM 25 Apr and Canastota 8 May.

Cooper's Hawk: pair in courtship flight West Monroe 12 May; pair DH thru.

N. Goshawk: pair Remsen nest site 30 Mar, female on nest 20 May; 2 TRWMA 8 May; 1 Altmar 28 Apr; 1 HVWMA 15 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: pair at Verona nest site 31 March; 3 Rome 25 Apr; 1 HVWMA 8 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: 19 Fairfield 26 March, good spring concentration.

Golden Eagle: 1 Colosse 23 Apr.

Merlin: singles Mexico 27 Apr and Van Buren 11 May; dead ad male found New Hartford 25 Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: scattered singles with max only 2 CM 7-15 May.

Ruffed Grouse: 2-3 per day in good habitat.

Wild Turkey: max 125 Fairfield 10 Mar; numerous reports of flocks of 10-35.

Virginia Rail: max 8 UM 11 May.

Sora: max 3 West Monroe 8 May.

Com. Moorhen: max 6 UM 1 May.

Am. Coot: max 25 FH 5 Apr; last two UM 11 May.

Sandhill Crane: 2 CM 24 Mar, second spring record away from LOL; DH sightings were 4 on 23 Mar, 1 on 20 Apr, 3 on 15 May, and 1 on 18 May.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 Cato 22 May; 1 SPd 23 May; 1 WPd 30 May, only reports.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: 1 Cato 22 May (GP), fourth Spring record and first since 1975.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 singles only, Schroepfel 14 May and SPd 23 May.

Killdeer: after Feb arr no reports until 17 Mar; y Constantia 8 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Schroepfel 18 Apr; last West Monroe 15 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 EIC 7 May; last

West Monroe 15 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 DH 1 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 LOL 8 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Schroepfel 21 Apr; singles DH 23 & 26 Apr; max 3 Holland Patent 13 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 20 Oneil islands 29 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 5 Oneil islands 31 May.

Least Sandpiper: max 20 West Monroe 15 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Fabius 21 Apr.

Dunlin: arr 17 May; max 50 Oneil islands 29 May.

Com. Snipe: max 40 Schroepfel 28 Mar.

Am. Woodcock: max 5 Nine Mile Pt 31 Mar; ad and 3 large y Hastings 30 May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 DH 17 May (GS!, mob), second spring record.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr LOL 5 Apr; max 100 SVB 19 Apr; 2 still SVB 27 May.

Ring-billed Gull: max 2260 Oswego 9 Mar.

Herring Gull: max 760 Oswego 7 Mar.

Iceland Gull: max 6 Oswego 7 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-2 Oswego to 15 Mar.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 Oswego 7 Mar; last SSSP 15 May, late.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 160 Oswego 7 Mar; 55 Oneil 2 May, high for there.

Caspian Tern: max 125 SPd 23 May.

Com. Tern: 16 Apr arr earliest since 1965; max 80 SVB 17 May.

Black Tern: max 6 SSSP 15 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 3 CM 15 May and Nine Mile Pt 17 May; about 12 other reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 New Hartford 30 May, 5 other singles after 16 May.

BARN OWL: 1 EIC 14 May (BP), first Regional sighting since 1981.

E. Screech-Owl: max 5 Kirkland 28 May, includes 3 ad, 1 fl, and 1 juv.

Great Horned Owl: nesting TRWMA,

Cicero, WH, DL, BLNC, Kirkland.
Barred Owl: reports from HVWMA, New Hartford, WH and West Monroe; 2 fledglings BLNC 28 May.
Long-eared Owl: 1 Fulton 15 May.
Short-eared Owl: 1 DH 27 Mar, only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Cold Brook 14 March; calling Third Lake Creek HERK several times Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: only 3 singles reported.
Whip-poor-will: 1 Schroepel 13 May; 1 Dewitt & 2 Constantia 15 May; 3 Cold Brook 16 May.
Chimney Swift: max 40 DH 14 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nest construction StMC 20 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering bird, last Van Buren 7 May; 2 LOL 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 Pompey 20 Apr.
N. Flicker: max only 35 DH 5 May, due in part to little observation at N Lookout during April's north winds.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 19 Kirkland 29 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 StMC 20 May; 1 UM 24 May; 1 Penn Mtn 28 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 6 May, early; 4 singing males WH 30 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 6 New Hartford 30 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 10 CM 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 13 LOL 8 May.
E. Phoebe: max 12 Pompey 21 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 DH 5 May.
E. Kingbird: max 28 DH 5 May.
N. Shrike: 5 reports 10-14 Mar; last UM 6 April.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 many areas.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 8 New Hartford 30 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: max 20 Sterling 17 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 New Hartford 16 May; 1 StMC 20 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 42 Brookfield 27 May, probably mostly breeding birds.
Fish Crow: 1 LOL 8 May; suspected breeding locations are Liverpool and Eastwood & University sections of Syracuse.
Com. Raven: 2 Hastings 9 Apr; 1 DH 14 Apr; 1 Hastings 15 May; 1 Sangerfield 17 May; only reports outside Adks.
Horned Lark: early migrants to about 15 Mar; last migrant push 15-20 Apr; max 100 Minoa Quarry 16 Apr.
Purple Martin: max 12 Constantia 15 May.
Tree Swallow: max 250 WPd 11 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 Nine Mile Pt 13 May.
Bank Swallow: max 20 Nine Mile Pt 13 May; higher counts at colonies.
Cliff Swallow: max 12 DH 14 May; more at colonies.
Barn Swallow: max 100 Nine Mile Pt 13 May. Boreal Chickadee: 1 Third Lake Creek HERK 13 Mar.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: handful of migrants noted early Apr to mid May; many had remained Adks & Tug Hill.
Brown Creeper: max 14 Nine Mile Pt 3 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 1 UM 10 Apr; 2 StMC and 1 Fayetteville thru; many of the winter birds dispersed by May.
House Wren: max 20 LOL 8 May.
Winter Wren: max 28 LOL 18 Apr; 1 StMC 20 May, late.
Marsh Wren: max 13 CM 15 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 100 Nine Mile Pt 16 Apr; last LOL 22 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 75 SPd 2 May; last 17 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 9 CM 15 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 CM 15 May, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: 1 WM 8 May; 1 LOL 8 May; last Kirkland 29 May; max 2 FH 15 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 10 New Hartford 27 Apr.
Gray Catbird: max 37 CM 15 May.
N. Mockingbird: 5-6 Oswego and Scriba,

a small increase.

Brown Thrasher: max 6 LOL 2 May.

Am. Pipit: arr DH 21 Mar; max 58

Hastings 8 May.

Cedar Waxwing: winter flocks lingered
MADI & ONEI, but few reports ONON
& OSWE until May breeders arrived.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr WPd 5 May;
max 4 New Hartford 23 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: max 6 DH 15
May.

Tennessee Warbler: max only 3 location?
8-14 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Scriba 2
May, only report.

Nashville Warbler: max 30 Rome 8 May.

N. Parula: max 6 EIC 6 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 82 CM 15 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 7 Kirkland
12 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Limekiln L 1 May,
early.

Cape May Warbler: 2 DH 5 May; 1 DH
15 May, only reports.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 EIC 24
Mar; max 60 EIC 4 May.

Pine Warbler: max 12 LOL 1 May.

Prairie Warbler: 4 singing males Dewitt
after 14 May; 1 LOL 15 May.

Palm Warbler: max 7 EIC 7-15 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 Verona 15
May; 2 LOL 15 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 28 EIC 22 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr WH 5 May; max
14 WH 30 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 11 Rome
8 May.

Am. Redstart: max 22 LOL 8 May.

N. Waterthrush: max 12 Verona 6 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 8
Apr; pair with fl Kirkland 29 May.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: 1 WH 15 May,
where 2 males were singing 30 May (JB);
1 DH 22 May (GP, mob).

Mourning Warbler: most reports from
breeding areas, but 2 still at EIC 31 May.

Hooded Warbler: max 14 WH 30 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 EIC 22 May;
last EIC 31 May.

Canada Warbler: few migrants before 15
May when many on territory.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Kirkland 15 May.

E. Towhee: max 7 Split Rock 12 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 150 Nine Mile
Pt 3 Apr; last LOL 1 May.

Chipping Sparrow: max 26 EIC 2 May.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 3-4 LOL
15-17 May (MSc, MAK), highest spring
numbers.

Field Sparrow: arr Hastings 5 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 Nine Mile Pt 6
Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: max 11 EIC 2 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 Pompey 20
Apr; now using landfill cap at Fulton.

Henslow's Sparrow: at Mexico site by 15
May.

Fox Sparrow: arr Hastings 21 Mar; max 6
New Hartford 7 Apr; last EIC 1 May.

Song Sparrow: max 450 Nine Mile Pt 3
Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DH 4 May; max 9
LOL 8 May; 1 West Monroe 8 May, only
report way from LOL.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 6 Apr; max 34 CM
20 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: arr LOL 17
Apr; max 45 LOL 8 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 70 EIC 7
May; max only 10 elsewhere; last DH 21
May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 170 Nine Mile Pt
3 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Cato thru 10 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Kirkland 17
Mar; last 4 Shackelton Pt 22 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 13
Kirkland 12 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 13 WH 31 May.

Bobolink: max 130 DH 5 May.

E. Meadowlark: max 12 Nine Mile Pt 3
Apr.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1
Bville 11-12 Mar (KM).

Rusty Blackbird: arr 21 Mar; max 500

Schroeppel 11 Apr; last 4 DH 9 May.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: pair Van Buren 12
May at 1998 breeding site; 2 migrants

LOL 7-9 May.

Baltimore Oriole: 1 Van Buren 29 Mar, probably wintered (JB); max 65 DH 5 May; 1 Old Forge 10 May, where unusual.

Purple Finch: arr Kirkland 20 Mar.

House Finch: low numbers and does not seem to be increasing.

Red Crossbill: present HERK thru in small numbers.

White-winged Crossbill: present HERK thru in small numbers.

Pine Siskin: present T's Webb & Remsen thru in small numbers.

Am. Goldfinch: large flight noted DH early May.

Evening Grosbeak: 25 Old Forge into Apr; 1 Penn Mtn 28 May, only reports; no return flight DH this year.

Corrigenda

Vol 48(4): Orchard Oriole location Van Buren, not Lysander.

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