

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season started with a cold, snowy March, and there was little migration evident for most of the month. The average temperature of 29.9°F was 4° below normal, and the 45" of snow was the second highest March total for Syracuse. The temperature moderated in April, with the average of 47.8° being 2.1° above normal. Many observers thought that migration not only caught up but also began to outpace expected arrival dates. The month was dry, with only 1.53" of precipitation, 1.8" below normal. There was a mere 0.2" of snow. The warm trend continued in May as the average temperature was 2.2° above normal at 59.3°. In addition, the dry weather persisted with only 2.25" of rain, 1.03" below normal.

Ice-out on Oneida Lake was 12-13 April, and dates at Beaver Lake, Delta Lake, Woodman Pond, Minoa Quarry and other lowland areas were similar at 11-14 April. Many Adirondack lakes had ice into the last week of April. As is usually the case with a late spring, many waterfowl numbers were low as birds pushed through quickly when things finally opened up. Wintering waterfowl staying into March included Trumpeter Swan, Tufted Duck, a flock of King Eiders and scoters, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Other highlights were a Greater White-fronted Goose, large numbers of Snow Geese across the Region, a **Barnacle Goose** returning, for the second year, and a male Harlequin Duck.

There was a small invasion of **Glossy Ibis**, with six seen at two sites and several unverified reports of even more. Bald Eagle has been nesting in the Region for several years, but a new nest with young at Fulton is the closest one to a populated area. The hawk season at Derby Hill got off to a very slow start in March but April and May saw a more normal flight. The Region's first **dark-morph Swainson's Hawk** was the best bird at Derby Hill, where there were also two Black Vultures, an unprecedented late May Bald Eagle, a near record one day Golden Eagle flight and the best one day Broad-winged Hawk flight since the late 1980s. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were low at Derby Hill, although the site has never been a big concentration point for these two falcons. A Gyrfalcon remained at Fair Haven into late March, probably aided by the concentration of waterfowl on Little Sodus Bay. Interesting non-raptors at Derby Hill included a Great Cormorant and six Sandhill Cranes. Another Sandhill Crane was found in Oneida County.

Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were quite good this spring, but the late May shorebird flight was mostly unrecorded or didn't occur. Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling were missed, and there was only one report of Short-billed Dowitcher. Bonaparte's Gulls were found in good numbers and there were single late Iceland and Glaucous gulls.

The warm early May brought in many of both cuckoo species. Gerard Phillips and Dave Cowell saw a **White-winged Dove** at the Energy Information Center after Phillips recognized the distinctive call. Within a week, Marge Rusk had our first

Eurasian Collared-Dove (a species still under review by NYSARC for acceptance to the state list) at Derby Hill. Northern Saw-whet Owls were better reported than in many years, although the species is thought to be a widespread breeder.

In the second half of the season, warm weather and south winds on 21-24 April, 1-4 May and 8-9 May brought many migrants. There were more good flights on 18 and 20 May, but the best day was 24 May at the EIC where Gerard Phillips found hundreds of migrants put down by the morning rain, low clouds and fog on Lake Ontario. Record numbers of Magnolia and Wilson's warblers and Lincoln's Sparrows were found, along with good counts of other species. Cape May Warbler was better reported than in the past two years. There was one Kentucky Warbler for the season.

There was a large sparrow fallout noted on the afternoon of 6 April after a rainstorm. Otherwise, April sparrow numbers were generally lower than in recent years along Lake Ontario. Two birders on their way to the EIC in late April discovered a Lark Sparrow, only the second Regional record. There were only two sightings of Clay-colored Sparrow this season and a single migrant Grasshopper Sparrow, but two very good flights of Lincoln's Sparrow in the latter half of May.

Large flocks of Purple Finches were still present in the Adirondacks well into March, and migrants began showing up throughout the Region late in the month. There were White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins everywhere in northern Herkimer County; many displaying pairs were seen. Only one pair of Red Crossbills was reported, and the few Common Redpolls that made it south departed in early March.

Other than shorebirds, misses for the season were few. They included: Sedge Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak. The season's total was 247 species, with the best birds being the **White-winged Dove**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove** and **Lark Sparrow**, along with the winter lingerers, **Tufted Duck** and **Gyr Falcon**. Other highlights were Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Swainson's Hawk, Kentucky Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bvll – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; EIC – Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Pt;

FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, northern MADI; HIWMA – Howland I WMA; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Pt; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Paris; SPd – Sandy Pd; StMC – St Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow Rd, Van Buren.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 4 OnonL 5 Apr; 1-2 per day LOL 21 Mar to 15 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr 25 Mar; 98 LOL Oswego to EIC 15 Apr; max 117 DH 24 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 2-3 per day.

Horned Grebe: max 16 OnonL 7 Apr; 1 alt plumage Schroepel to 19 May, late.

Red-necked Grebe: Woodman Pd 14 Apr; OnonL 14 Apr; 2 OneiL 15 Apr; Minoa 17 Apr; UM 22 Apr; OneiL 19 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 506 past EIC 12 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: DH 22 Apr (GP, GS).

Am. Bittern: max 6 W Monroe 12 May; Split Rock 1 May; Sangerfield 19 May; Ava 30 May, all uncommon sites.

Least Bittern: arr UM 28 Apr, early; others GSC, HIWMA, W Monroe.

Great Blue Heron: arr 5 DL 15 Mar.

Great Egret: Schroepel 16 Apr (BH); Bvile 26 May.

Green Heron: max 16 CM 19 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 OnonL 14 Apr, only location.

GLOSSY IBIS: 4 DH 13 Apr (GP, BP, MV); 2 GSC 21 Apr (MY).

BLACK VULTURE: singles DH 5, 23 Apr.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: T Lenox 15 Mar (BB).

Snow Goose: 3550 DH 24 Mar; 7000+ at 6 sites 25 Mar; max 17,000 DH 1 Apr.

Brant: arr DH 16 May; max 1200 DH 18 May.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Lysander 29 Apr-1 May (mob), same location as 2000,

origin uncertain.

Mute Swan: max 3 FH 20 May.

Tundra Swan: max 15 Sterling 11 Mar; last Pompey 7 May, late.

TRUMPETER SWAN: up to 4 FH thru 31 Mar, origin uncertain.

Wood Duck: max 15 Snake Swamp 12 May.

Gadwall: max 30 GSC 28 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: max 30 CM 8 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 74 Verona Marsh 20 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 20 GSC 28 Apr.

N. Shoveler: max 8 Schroepel 8 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 35 Schroepel 31 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 50 LOL 7 Apr.

Canvasback: max 200 OnonL outlet 20 Mar.

Redhead: max 20 FH 13 Mar and OnonL outlet 20 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 200 OnonL outlet 20 Mar and FH 27 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 800 FH 1 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 650 FH 20 Mar.

TUFTED DUCK: remained Oswego thru 12 Mar.

King Eider: 12 LOL 3 Mar.

Harlequin Duck: male EIC 6-8 Apr.

Surf Scoter: EIC thru 8 Apr; 2 OneiL 19 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: max 62 OneiL 17 May.

Black Scoter: 1-2 EIC to 8 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck: max 200 Oswego 2 Mar; 130 LOL 15 Apr, most in alt plumage.

Bufflehead: max 200 FH 20 Mar.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1400 FH 12 Mar.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: FH to 11 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 30 FH 1 Apr.
Com. Merganser: max 300 OnonL 24 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 60 FH 7

Apr.
Ruddy Duck: max 10 GSC 28 Apr; only 1 Beaver L where max often recorded.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals				
Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	8 Mar	2643	8 Apr	7784
Osprey	29 Mar	49	23 Apr	533
Bald Eagle	8 Mar	59	27 May	224
No. Harrier	13 Mar	156	8 Apr	512
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12 Mar	785	12 Apr	3364
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	62	8 Apr	381
No. Goshawk	13 Mar	4	8 Apr	21
Red-shouldered Hawk	13 Mar	86	20 Mar	753
Broad-winged Hawk	8 Apr	10,813	23 Apr	17,855
Red-tailed Hawk	8 Mar	1008	8 Apr	4786
Rough-legged Hawk	8 Mar	68	8 Apr	336
Golden Eagle	8 Mar	23	23 Apr	58
Am. Kestrel	13 Mar	102	12 Apr	356
Merlin	29 Mar	6	12 Apr	26
Peregrine Falcon	4 Apr	1	4, 23 Apr	2
Total (including unidentified and rarities)				37,003

Osprey: on territory Bville & CM by 28 Mar.
Bald Eagle: new nesting site near Fulton 10 May; 2 4th yr birds in courtship Orwell 4 Mar; 59 DH 27 May & season total of 225, both record highs.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Orwell 4 Mar, unusual to winter on Tug Hill.
N. Goshawk: Parish 7 Mar; Bville 8 Mar; SFWS 11 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 4 DH 8 Apr, early; first 100+ day DH 13 Apr, early; peak flight at DH on schedule.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: *dark morph* DH 8 Apr (Jan & David Muir, GP, mob, NYSARC), same day as dark morph recorded at Braddock Bay in Reg 2.
Golden Eagle: max 23 DH 23 Apr, only 2 less than record.
Merlin: 4 reports away from DH.
Peregrine Falcon: remained Syr into early Mar; several sightings FH in Mar

while Gyrfalcon also present; Fayetteville 21 Apr; Camillus 17 Mar.
GYRFALCON: Feb bird remained FH thru 26 Mar.
Ruffed Grouse: several nests in early May.
Wild Turkey: max 83 Fabius 17 Mar.
Virginia Rail: 2-3 per day in larger wetlands.
Sora: max 4 W Monroe 29 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: max 5 W Monroe 12 May.
Sandhill Crane: 2 DH 24 Mar, 23 Apr; DH 7 Apr, 24 May; Verona 23 Apr.
Semipalmated Plover: max 4 Schroepfel 10 May; 4 SPd 29 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 9 Schroepfel 15 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 Schroepfel 29 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 W Monroe; max 3 NMP 12 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 EIC 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 DH 12 Apr, very early; 3 Fulton airport in May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 SPd 29 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 16 Lysander 8 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 38 Schroepfel 19 Apr; several other double-digit reports; a good season.
Dunlin: arr Lysander 15 Apr; max 3 several sites 4-29 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 SPd 29 May, only report.
Com. Snipe: max 30 Schroepfel 7 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 5 Sterling 19 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr LOL 5 Apr; 25 DL 20 Apr, large "inland" number; max 500 LOL 22 Apr, feeding on fly-hatch; last OneIL 19 May.
Iceland Gull: Phoenix 14 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Brewerton 2-3 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 150 Oswego 5 May.
Forster's Tern: OnonL 14 Apr (MV).
Black Tern: max 8 Selkirk Shores SP 19 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: EIC 9 May (GP, Dave Cowell, NYSARC).
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: intro, DH 15 May (MR, NYSARC).
Black-billed Cuckoo: about 18 reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr HIWMA 6 May; 6 other reports.
E. Screech-Owl: Beaver Ri Station 4 May, unusual Adks.
Snowy Owl: OneIL 16 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: 2 Pompey to 5 Mar, not found after heavy snow; EIC 7 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: 2 DH 5 Apr; EIC 24 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Pompey to 11 Mar; Pompey 30 Mar; EIC 24 Apr, wintering or migrants; 2 Parish 10 May; Williamstown 5 May thru; Five Ponds 19 May, presumed breeders.

Com. Nighthawk: FH 18 May; W Monroe 19 May; EIC 30 May.
Whip-poor-will: max 6 Constantia 3 May; StMC 3 May.
Chimney Swift: max 20 Oswego 12 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Adks 5 May; max 15 DH 27 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Bville 3 May; EIC 4 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 7 EIC 7 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Limekiln Swamp 3 Mar; Independence Ri 8 Mar; Five Ponds 19 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Happy Valley WMA 19 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 EIC 24 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 EIC 18 May; Sterling 19 May; max 6 EIC 24 May; EIC 25 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 7 Fulton 27 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 6 EIC 18 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 30 EIC 24 May.
E. Kingbird: max 40 DH 11 May.
N. Shrike: max 4 OSWE 1 Apr; last 2 T Western 5 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 6 HIWMA 19 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: many in breeding areas before first LOL migrants where only 2-3 per day.
Warbling Vireo: max 10 EIC 12 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: EIC 5 May; Ava 30 May, only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: max only 10-12 per day.
Gray Jay: Limekiln Swamp 8 Mar; Five Ponds 19 May.
Fish Crow: at usual Syr area sites; DH 29 Apr.
Com. Raven: displaying at many Tug Hill sites in Mar.
Horned Lark: max 150 DH 15 Mar; others 14-24 Mar.

Purple Martin: max 15 Constantia 15 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 41 Oswego 12 May.
Bank Swallow: first nesting site report 14 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: few migrants noted, max 4 DH 8 May; many on territory OSWE end of May.
Boreal Chickadee: Independence Ri 13 Mar; Balsam L 26 Mar; Ava 30 Mar (MSc), presumed migrant.
Tufted Titmouse: Forestport 10 Mar, north of usual range.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: few migrants noted.
White-breasted Nuthatch: no return flight at DH.
Brown Creeper: max 12 NMP 20 Apr.
Carolina Wren: Toad Harbor 13 May; also at expected sites StMC, University and south side Syr.
House Wren: max 20 EIC 4 May.
Winter Wren: max 7 NMP 7 Apr.
Marsh Wren: max 27 CM 19 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 30 NMP 5 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 NMP 21 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 9 GSC 29 Apr.
E. Bluebird: max 49 DH 8 Apr.
Veery: max 20 W Monroe 12 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: EIC 18 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 20 EIC 24 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 14 NMP 22 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 33 CM 19 May.
Am. Robin: max 4400 DH 8 Apr.
Gray Catbird: max 12 EIC 8 May.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Pine Plains Cemetery, Clay, new location.
Brown Thrasher: max 9 EIC 24 Apr; 7 pairs Ava 30 May (MSc).
Am. Pipit: arr Bolivar 18 Mar; max 60 Bvle 8 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: 10-30 per day Mar; several hundred per day DH after 15

May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Camillus 27 Apr; max 8 Pompey 10 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIC 30 Apr; max 1-2 per day.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Minetto 18 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 4 NMP 12 May
Nashville Warbler: max 12 EIC 4 May.
N. Parula: max 6 EIC 24 May; otherwise 1-2 per day.
Yellow Warbler: max 60 NMP 12 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: migrants only 2-3 per day.
Magnolia Warbler: max 170 EIC 24 May, record count (GP).
Cape May Warbler: about 10 reported; max 3 singles 9 May at various sites.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 13 NMP 12 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 250 EIC 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 EIC 24 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 NMP 12 May.
Pine Warbler: same location Green Lakes SP 10, 17 May, not a known breeding area.
Prairie Warbler: LOL migrants 2, 6 May; 3-4 on territory Dewitt after 5 May.
Palm Warbler: max 30 EIC 30 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 NMP 12 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 per day many sites.
Cerulean Warbler: arr WH 3 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 10 EIC 24 May.
Am. Redstart: max 40 EIC 24 May.
Ovenbird: max 30 EIC 9 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 10 EIC 24 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr New Hartford 9 Apr, early; WH 26 Apr-3 May.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: WH 12 May (JB).

Mourning Warbler: max 6 EIC 24 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 30 EIC 24 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr WH 2 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 75 EIC 24 May, record count (GP).

Canada Warbler: max 50 EIC 24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 15 DH 16 May.

E. Towhee: max 12 EIC 24 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 65 SFWS 10 Mar; last 4 EIC 20 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: max 30 EIC 22 Apr.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: EIC 29 Apr; EIC 18 May.

Field Sparrow: arr 5 Apr; max 10 EIC 22 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 T Marshall 14 Apr; max 7 EIC 22 Apr.

LARK SPARROW: Scriba 14 May, second Regional record (K. McIntyre, J. Cashier, mob, NYSARC).

Savannah Sparrow: max 25 EIC 5 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr EIC 22 Apr; 2 Sterling 19 May; 12 Dewitt landfill 19 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr SFWS 29 Mar; max 8 EIC 5 Apr; last SFWS 25 May, very late.

Song Sparrow: max 600 NMP 5 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 12 EIC 18 May; max 20 EIC 24 May, record high.

Swamp Sparrow: max 36 CM 19 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 35 EIC 3 May; 2 EIC 28 May, late migrants.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 75 EIC 3

May; last 28 May, late.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 NMP 5 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Sterling 11-12 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 110 DH 15 Mar; 100 Bville 15 Mar; 30 Schroepel 6 Apr, late for a flock.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 HIWMA 6 May.

Indigo Bunting: max only 2-3 per day in May.

Bobolink: max 200 DH 16 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks not noted until mid-Mar.

E. Meadowlark: max 44 DH 8 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: max 400+ DH evening flight 7 Apr; last 3 DH 16 May.

Com. Grackle: numbers very low into mid-Mar.

Orchard Oriole: EIC 17 May; GSC 18 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 90 DH 16 May.

Purple Finch: max 53 Hinckley Res 3 Mar; many flocks Adks in early Mar with territorial males by end of month.

Red Crossbill: pair Boonville 18 Mar, only report.

White-winged Crossbill: pairs throughout northern HERK & ONEI in Mar; some still present thru May.

Com. Redpoll: the few that made it to Adks were last seen 3 Mar.

Pine Siskin: 8 DH 8 May; on territory Adks and Tug Hill.

Am. Goldfinch: max 1000 DH 8 May.

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