

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The March average temperature was 37.5° F, 3.9° warmer than normal, with 2.03" of precipitation, 0.99" below normal. Snow cover quickly receded early in the month with a warm spell. The April averages were 46.1°, +0.8°, and 3.72", +0.33". In May, the temperature averaged 60.3°, 3.2° above normal, and there was 7.86" of precipitation, 4.47" above normal and the second highest May total since 1903. There was measurable rainfall on 24 days during the month. There was 24.8" of snow for the period, mostly in March.

Waterfowl numbers were generally low to average, but with a spectacular Snow Goose flight. After several days with flights of 15-20,000 Snow Geese past Derby Hill, 530,000 flew overhead in a one hour flight of skein after skein on the morning of 26 March. Tundra Swan reports were few; perhaps so many lingered into January no one bothered to check for spring migrants? Dabbling duck numbers were low and many diving duck maxima were winter holdovers. There was only a single Ruddy Duck reported. The Common Loon flight was not as good as in the past few years, and there were only scattered reports of grebes with no concentrations.

The shorebird season was the best in years, a result of observers in the field and the unsettled weather over the last two weeks of May. David Wheeler spent much of that time at Sandy Pond watching the cast of birds change each day. On one day a **Wilson's Plover** was a first report for the Region and a Western Sandpiper was only the fifth spring sighting. Large numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlin were recorded. Between Oneida Lake and Sandy Pond, there was a record spring Whimbrel flight. A pair of Red-necked Phalaropes at Sandy Pond provided the first spring record for the Region. A seasonal pond in Schroepfel had a Wilson's Phalarope with a good variety of other shorebirds.

Two Laughing Gulls and a Forster's Tern were found at Sandy Pond, a Franklin's Gull was seen in Schroepfel and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in Oswego. Black Tern numbers were very low. We may be close to losing this species as a breeder in the Region. All of the regular owl species were found, although there were only single sightings of Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet. An injured Great Gray Owl was taken by a rehabilitator and shown to Joe Brin. A very rare bird for our Region, it seems more improbable due to the lack of winter reports to our north.

The first big movement of passerine migrants occurred on 17 April with Yellow-rumped, Palm and Pine warblers all arriving in numbers. It was also a good day for sparrows, which had been delayed by chilly weather over the first half of the month. More warm weather from 29 April to 2 May brought in all of the early May migrants along with a Worm-eating Warbler. On 10 May there was a flight of tens of thousands of passerines at Derby Hill as birds pushed over Lake Ontario on strong south winds were forced down by storms. Through May, the warbler flight was steady along Lake Ontario, with birds on the move most days, but elsewhere

numbers were low. Reports from St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt were few and indicated only 10 May as a good day. Prothonotary Warblers returned to West Monroe and rarities included White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler and Yellow-headed Blackbird, the latter two seen on the same day at Derby Hill.

Over most of the Region there was little or no cone crop, but southern Madison County was the exception. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins could be found in the area along with large numbers of Common Redpolls and a few Hoary Redpolls. Matt Young found Red Crossbills in six Atlas blocks, White-winged Crossbills in one block and Pine Siskins in over 25 blocks, with confirmed breeding in four of them. Elsewhere, Common Redpolls were widespread and several Hoaries were reported. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were in the Tug Hill. Adirondack reports were few but indicated no finches.

For the season, 253 species were seen, the highest total in at least 25 years. Highlights were Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Wilson's Plover**, Western Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Laughing Gull, **Great Gray Owl**, White-eyed Vireo, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird and the winter finches. Species not reported this season included Surf Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Cape May Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; DeR – DeRuyter; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Pt area, Scriba and New Haven; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SCH – T Schroepfel; SE – Sithe Energy, Scriba; SPd – Sandy Pd; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 530,000 DH 26 Mar (KM, GP, JT).

Canada Goose: max 12,000 SVB 24 Mar.

Brant: max 2165 DH 20 May.

Mute Swan: max 6 FH 6 Mar.

Tundra Swan: max 5 DH 7 Mar.

Gadwall: max 14 FH 14 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: TRWMA 11 Apr (JB).

Am. Wigeon: max 120 TRWMA 3 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 75 Verona 5 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 14 Scriba 8 May.

N. Shoveler: max 8 WM 1 Apr; last SPD 23 May.

N. Pintail: max 60 TRWMA 3 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 115 CM 21 Apr.
Canvasback: max 6 FH 6 Mar.
Redhead: max 50 OnonL 13 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 230 FH 14 Mar.
TUFTED DUCK: FH thru 14 Mar, winter holdover.
Greater Scaup: max 2100 FH 14 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 140 FH 6 Mar; last 2 FH 15 May.
White-winged Scoter: max 60 Oswego 7 Mar; 39 OneiL 21 May.
Black Scoter: NMP 1 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: max 108 Oswego 28 Mar.
Bufflehead: max 114 Constantia 23 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 1800 FH 6 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 1800 OnonL 13 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: OneiL 30 Apr, only report.
Red-throated Loon: 1-2 Oswego to 20 Mar; Oswego 15 May.

Com. Loon: max 70 DH 17 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: migrants 1-4 per day; increasing as breeder on beaver ponds.
Horned Grebe: arr OnonL 21 Mar; max 6 per day.
Red-necked Grebe: Oswego 6 Mar, 7 Apr; NMP 1-9 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 14 Mar.
Am. Bittern: max 2-3 per day WM and SCH.
Least Bittern: max 3 SCH 15 May; CM 15 May; 2 UM 25 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr DH 20 Mar.
Great Egret: WM 23 Apr thru; SCH 24 May.
CATTLE EGRET: Camillus after 20 May (PR, mob).
Green Heron: max 14 CM 15 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SCH 23 May.
Black Vulture: DH 23 Apr, not part of DH count since it was flying west (GP).

HAWKS – ALCIDS Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	1025	29 Mar	6676
Osprey	29 Mar	54	10 May	343
Bald Eagle	5 Mar	27	14 May	228
N. Harrier	1 Mar	50	21 Apr	596
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7 Mar	344	19 Apr	2732
Cooper's Hawk	2 Mar	67	29 Mar	452
N. Goshawk	1 Mar	7	11 Mar	54
Red-shouldered Hawk	10 Mar	294	28 Mar	930
Broad-winged Hawk	16 Apr	6445	19 Apr	12661
Red-tailed Hawk	29 Feb	676	29 Mar	4770
Rough-legged Hawk	1 Mar	71	29 Mar	462
Golden Eagle	7 Mar	16	29 Mar	55
Am. Kestrel	5 Mar	68	18 Apr	354
Merlin	5 Mar	8	18 Apr	24
Peregrine Falcon	7 Mar	4	10 May	15
Total, including unidentified & rarities				30302

Bald Eagle: 6 Redfield on deer carcass 4 Mar; 2 TRWMA after 28 Mar, ad m & imm f should nest in 2005.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: DH 24 May.

Golden Eagle: subadult Geo 12-13 Mar, wintered locally?

Merlin: m on territory Stillwater Res 27 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: breeding confirmed Syr 26 May, ONON first.

Virginia Rail: max 4 CM 15 May.

Sora: max 4 CM 15 May.

Com. Moorhen: max 2-3 per day.

Am. Coot: 2 Syr 7 Mar overwintered; no spring migrants reported.

Sandhill Crane: Howland Is WMA 10 Apr, probable breeder from nearby WAYN; 4 DH 28 Mar; DH 16 Apr; DH 10 May; DH 26 May.

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 SCH 28 May.

WILSON'S PLOVER: SPd 21 May (DW, KM ph, NYSARC), first Reg report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 33 SCH 24 May.

Killdeer: max 53 DH 25 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 SCH 28 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 SCH 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 DH 10 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: 3-4 per day many sites in May.

Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Fulton 14 Apr.

Whimbrel: max 20 Oneil 19 May (JC); 8 SPd 22 May (BP); SPd 23 May (DW); record spring numbers.

Ruddy Turnstone: singles SPd 23-28 May; max 2 SPd 29 May.

Red Knot: SPd 29 May, only report.

Sanderling: 2 SPd 27 May, only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30-150 per day SPd after 21 May.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: SPd 21 May, 5th spring report (DW, NYSARC).

Least Sandpiper: max 12 SPd 22 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 WM 22 Apr.

Dunlin: max 320 SPd 23 May; 175 SCH 23 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 WM 15 May; SPd 21 May; only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: max 10 SCH 21 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: max 15 TRWMA 24 Apr; 11 CM 6 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: SCH 23 May (KM).

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 SPd 23 May (DW).

LAUGHING GULL: SPd 23 May (DW, ph); different bird SPd 27 May (DW).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: SCH 25 May (KM, JT, mob).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 DH 12 Apr; max 13 DH 14 Apr.

Iceland Gull: Cicero 13 Mar; 3 Oswego 7 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: singles Oswego 7 Apr (GP) & 15 May (AV, NV).

Glaucous Gull: last OnonL 6 Mar.

Caspian Tern: max 170 SPd 22 May.

Com. Tern: nesting SPd on Carl I 27 May.

Forster's Tern: SPd 29 May (DW).

Black Tern: max 4 SSSP after 14 May, discouraging numbers.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: widespread even by mid-May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Camillus 12 May; about 8 other reports.

Snowy Owl: singles Sterling 4 Mar & Cazenovia 9 Mar.

GREAT GRAY OWL: Clay, injured and picked up by rehabilitator Jean Soprano, 16 Apr, especially surprising in a non-invasion year (JB).

Long-eared Owl: 1-3 per day NMP 3-23 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: DH 16 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: NMP 23 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: max 4 DH 16 May.

Whip-poor-will: "arr" Constantia 15 May, likely present earlier.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr DH 30 Apr; SE 9 May, excavating nest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3-4 per day LOL, mostly 17-30 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: South L HERK 27 Mar, slightly south of expected range.
N. Flicker: max 219 DH 17 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Labrador Hollow 29 May, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 Pompey 26 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Syr 13 May; 3 other reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: 2-4 per day LOL after 20 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 11 CM 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 10 LOL 12 May.
E. Phoebe: max 24 DH 17 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: peak 15 May, "calling everywhere."
E. Kingbird: max 30 DH 14 May.
N. Shrike: 4 singles thru 12 Mar; last Happy Valley WMA 25 Mar.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: SSSP 12 May (DN, KM, mob).
Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 LOL 23 May; 3 other reports, all LOL.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 52 Pompey 26 Apr.
Blue Jay: max 11,780 DH 10 May.
Am. Crow: max 3285 DH 11 Mar.
Fish Crow: 2 OnonL 21 Mar; max 4 Syr 21 Mar.
Com. Raven: singles DH 5, 31 Mar, 5 May; Oswego 23 May, seemed out of place.
Horned Lark: max 50 New Woodstock 20 Mar; widespread but no large flocks.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 45 DH 18 Apr, small return flight.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants only 1-2 per day LOL in Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 10 DH 12 Apr.
Winter Wren: max 6 NMP 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: max 29 CM 15 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 26 Mar; max 20 S Onondaga 9 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 24 NMP 17 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 8 WM 6 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Schiller P 21 May; 2 Scriba 23 May; Pratts Falls 29 May; many nocturnal calls DH 23-24 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 5 Scriba 23 May; many nocturnal calls DH 23-24 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 18 NMP 17 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 53 CM 15 May.
Am. Robin: max 11,000 DH 25 Mar.
Gray Catbird: max 62 CM 15 May.
N. Mockingbird: Carleys Mill 5 May; Fernwood 9 May; pr Griffiss AFB after 26 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 DH 24 Mar; max 50 Van Buren 19 Apr.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 180 DH 14 Mar; 50-60 per day Tioghnioaga WMA thru 20 Mar.
Cedar Waxwing: max 470 DH 20 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Oswego 29 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 May; migrants only 1 per day.
"Brewster's" Warbler: about 7 reports.
Tennessee Warbler: max only 3 per day late May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: SE 1 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 20 DH 10 May.
N. Parula: max 7 LOL 9 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 50 DH 14 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 Oswego 23 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 22 Oswego 23 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3500 DH 10 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 DH 10 May.
Pine Warbler: max 10 Noyes 18 Apr; last LOL 26 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:

DH 23 Apr (GP ph, DW, NYSARC).

Prairie Warbler: arr 2 Geo 1 May; 2 reports LOL May.

Palm Warbler: max 50+ DH 5 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max only 1-2 per day.

Blackpoll Warbler: 10 CM 15 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Toad Harbor 6 May.

Am. Redstart: max 25 DH 10 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr Toad Harbor 14 May.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: NMP 29 Apr (KM, mob).

N. Waterthrush: max 8 Labrador Pd 18 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 18 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: max 4 WH 22 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 50 CM 15 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 22 Apr, early.

Wilson's Warbler: max 6 Oswego 23 May.

Canada Warbler: max 3 Labrador Pd 18 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 35 DH 10 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 52 Durhamville 17 Mar; last T Onondaga 27 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: CM 19 Apr (DN); DH 29 Apr (GP).

Field Sparrow: arr Clay 9 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: max 5 NMP 23 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: max 5 Western 8 Apr and NMP 17 Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 90 NMP 17 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DH 27 Apr, early; 1-3 per day LOL May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 55 NMP 17 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: last Geo 26 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 245 NMP 17 May.

Lapland Longspur: 2 New Woodstock 20 Mar; 2 DH 30 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 300 Lysander 6 Mar; 100 New Hartford 22 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 70 DH 10 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 DH 20 May.

Bobolink: max 2500 DH 10 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000+ DH 11 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: max 200 DH 26 Mar.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: DH 23 Apr (GP).

Rusty Blackbird: Geo 3 Mar; max 450 CM 16 Apr.

Com. Grackle: arr 1 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: Camillus 10 May; Tully 12 May; Cross L 16 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 1450 DH 10 May.

Purple Finch: 1-4 per day Geo-DeR in Mar; migrants noted 1 Apr; max 750 DH 10 May.

Red Crossbill: juv Geo 16 Mar; Western 27 Mar; found in 6 Atlas blocks MADI (MY).

White-winged Crossbill: Geo 1 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: max 2000 DH 30 Mar; 500 per day in southern highlands thru Mar; last 6 Deerfield 11 May.

Hoary Redpoll: DH 1 Mar; Geo 8 Mar; Sauquoit 16 Mar; Hastings 16 Mar; 2 Geo 18 Mar; 6 Geo-DeR 20 Mar; DH 21 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 100 Geo-DeR 8 Mar and 40-70 per day thru; breeding activity with several pairs copulating Geo 14 Apr.

Am. Goldfinch: max 5000 DH 10 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 60 Geo 5 Mar; 20 per day Boylston to early Apr.

