

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The first two months of the season were cooler and wetter than normal, but May warmed up and was very dry. The average temperature for March was 31.6° F, 2.0° below normal, with 4.16" of precipitation, 1.14" above normal, and 19.9" of snow. The April statistics were 43.7° F, 1.6° below normal, with 4.43" of precipitation, 1.04" above normal, and 10.7" of snow in Syracuse but considerably more to the north. In May the temperature averaged 58.5° F, 1.4° above normal, with only 0.86" of precipitation, 2.53" below normal. Ice out on Oneida Lake occurred 7-8 April.

Snow Goose numbers continue to increase, and observers noted large numbers across the Region. There were big flights over Derby Hill and Hastings on the same day; flocks in the thousands at Fair Haven, Skaneateles, Schroepfel, and Sylvan Beach several days later; and subsequently large numbers flying over Boonville and Old Forge. In the early 1990s it was found that Brant and White-winged Scoter migrated along Oneida Lake in May. This year an early morning count was conducted from mid April through May finding, among others, Surf Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, Horned Grebes, a single Black Scoter, and two unusual species, Am. White Pelican and Glossy Ibis.

Dabblers noted in good numbers were Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, while relatively few Gadwall and Blue-winged Teal were reported. The *Aythya* reports were much as usual, with good numbers of four species and only a few Canvasback. Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and **Great Cormorant** were the uncommon finds for the season. Least Bittern was reported at only two sites. We had several Great Egrets and two Black-crowned Night-Herons but no unusual southern species.

The hawk season at Derby Hill was a disappointment, plagued by cool weather and north winds as the few days with south winds in March and April seemed to be accompanied by rain. After several attempts, Bald Eagles successfully hatched young in Onondaga County, and three Golden Eagles were reported away from Derby Hill. Peregrine Falcons again raised young in Syracuse and are thought to be nesting in Utica. Two Black Vultures and eight

Sandhill Cranes were seen at Derby Hill, on the low side for these species that are expanding their ranges.

Shorebird highlights included many Greater Yellowlegs along the Seneca River and a female Red-necked Phalarope photographed in Madison County, only the second spring record for the species. In addition to the waterfowl migrating along Oneida Lake, shorebirds in late May included Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling, and Whimbrel. After witnessing low gull numbers over most of the winter, a brief increase from about 16-22 March included a Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Laughing Gull was found at a landfill, and there were several Iceland and Glaucous Gulls into May. The three Little Gulls for the season equals the total spring records for the Region going back to 1953. There was also an excellent flight of Bonaparte's Gulls along Oneida Lake.

Owls for the season included a late Snowy Owl, several N. Saw-whet Owls on territory plus a juvenile, and only a few migrant Long-eared Owls. More frequent evening observation led to more Common Nighthawk reports. Red-headed Woodpecker seems to be making a slight recovery, too. Cuckoos were much in evidence although the forest tent caterpillar infestation may have lessened somewhat.

No large numbers of Chimney Swift or swallows were reported. Both Bank and Cliff Swallows were very scarce at breeding sites until 16 May. In most years there is a diurnal movement of Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch past the Derby Hill north lookout, but that did not occur this season.

A low pressure system dominated from 4-8 April and brought 10-30" of snow to much of Oswego County. Early April migrants such as Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, and Vesper, Fox and Song sparrows were forced out to plowed roadsides to feed, and many Wilson's Snipe were found in seeps where the snow did not accumulate. Eastern Phoebe were perched in roads and were rarely encountered more than a few feet above ground. A Nor'easter from 15-18 April kept north winds blowing on the Region and slowed the arrival of all but the first few Chipping Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Eastern Towhees.

The cold and snowy April took its toll on some early returners. John Rogers reported 26 dead Eastern Bluebirds in boxes this year; he usually averages four or five per year. The cold snap did not seem to affect Tree Swallows very much, as they probably left nesting sites for open water where food was more dependable. A Loggerhead Shrike seen briefly at Derby Hill was the first reported since 2001.

May was more favorable for migration, with several warm fronts bringing waves of neotropical migrants to the area. Most reports came from the Lake Ontario shoreline. Good days included 8 May with 27 species of warblers at Nine Mile Point and 15 May with another wave of warblers plus a good flight of Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and Indigo Buntings over Derby Hill. Swainson's Thrush, Northern Parula, and Tennessee Warbler were among the

host of birds present from 17-19 May. Sightings of Orange-crowned Warbler and Cape May Warbler were more numerous than in recent years, Prairie Warbler was on territory at several locations, and a new site for Prothonotary Warbler was found on private land on the south shore of Oneida Lake. A Worm-eating Warbler was seen with a warbler wave in Oneida County.

Whether due to few birds or lack of interest, the sparrow numbers after the April snows were generally low. Clay-colored Sparrow was not reported this season. The peak flight for Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds was on 26 March, when tens of thousands streamed by Derby Hill during the first four hours of daylight. Orchard Orioles were on territory at several locations including southern Herkimer County. Red Crossbills continued in northern Herkimer and southern Madison Counties along with smaller numbers of White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin in Herkimer. There was only a single report of Evening Grosbeak.

For the season 246 species, plus one introduced species, were reported. Highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Am. White Pelican, Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Whimbrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM -- Clay Marsh; DH -- Derby Hill; FH -- Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC -- Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA; LOL -- Lake Ontario Littoral; MW – Maumee Swamp and Weaver Lake, HERK; NMP – Nine Mile Point, Scriba and New Haven; OneiL -- Oneida Lake; OnonL -- Onondaga Lake; SCH – T Schroepel; SFNS -- Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP -- Selkirk Shores State

Park; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; TRWMA -- Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES
Snow Goose: max 25,200 DH & 18,500 Hastings 23 Mar; widespread 3000 to 8000 across Region 24-29 Mar; lingerers - 2 WM 18 May; Skan L 25 May; Utica 30 May.
Brant: arr OneiL 8 May; max 3314 OneiL 22 May.
Cackling Goose: FH 16 Mar; DH 23 Mar.
Mute Swan: max 3 FH 24 Mar.
Trumpeter Swan: DH 2 Apr, with neckband.
Tundra Swan: 18 Brewerton 3 Mar, wintered; max 45 OneiL 24 Mar.
Wood Duck: max 150 SCH 26 Mar.
Gadwall: max 5 OneiL 28 May.
EURASIAN WIGEON: HIWMA 19 Apr (BM).
Am. Wigeon: max 475 HIWMA 15 Apr; last 2 WM 21 May.
Am. Black Duck: max 32 SSSP 18 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: max 8 HIWMA 15 Apr; GSC and MW end of May.
N. Shoveler: arr 4 Skan L 23 Mar; max 12 CM 2 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 250 SCH 26 Mar; 17 WM 5 May, late for numbers.
Green-winged Teal: max 100 SCH 26 Mar.
Canvasback: max 3 FH 24 Mar; 2 other singles.
Redhead: max 122 OneiL 17 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 340 OneiL 3 Apr.
Greater Scaup: max 370 OneiL 24 Mar; 2 Skan L 30 May.
Lesser Scaup: 600/day OneiL 19-28 Apr.
Surf Scoter: 2 DH 14 Apr; max 34 OneiL 30 Apr, record spring count.
White-winged Scoter: max 123 OneiL 7 May.

Black Scoter: OneiL 7 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 115 OneiL 3 May.
Bufflehead: max 400 Constantia 29 Apr; Skan L 31 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 440 FH 24 Mar.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: OneiL 8 Apr (DM ph).
Hooded Merganser: max 27 SSSP 17 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 236 OnonL 7 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 117 OnonL 7 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: max 5 OneiL 2 May.
Red-throated Loon: OneiL 1 May, only report.
Com. Loon: max 73 OneiL 1 May.
Horned Grebe: max 31 OneiL 5 May; GSC 19 May; Skan L 31 May.
Red-necked Grebe: arr Phoenix 24 Mar; max 46 OnonL 12 Apr; 44 OneiL 5 May; last 3 OneiL 13 May.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: 2 OneiL 15 May (BP).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 232 OneiL 24 Apr.
GREAT CORMORANT: DH 27 Apr (JVD).
Am. Bittern: max 7 WM 19 May.
Least Bittern: SSSP 14 May; MW 27 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr CM 23 Mar.
Great Egret: Port Byron 15 Apr; Jordan 20 Apr; TRWMA 26 Apr; Albion 28 Apr; 5 CM 5 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: HIWMA 15 Apr; DH 25 Apr.
GLOSSY IBIS: OneiL (BP) & Canastota (BB) 19 May.
Black Vulture: DH 3&5 Apr.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	9 Mar	1014	28 Mar	8291
Osprey	26 Mar	54	29 Apr	365
Bald Eagle	11 Mar	19	11 May	244
No. Harrier	12 Mar	112	12 Apr	590

Sharp-sh. Hawk	13 Mar	318	27 Apr	2413
Cooper's Hawk	7 Mar	62	21 Mar	413
No. Goshawk	13 Mar	2	3 dates	16
Red-shld. Hawk	11 Mar	72	28 Mar	363
Broad-winged Hawk	19 Apr	2059	27 Apr	8349
Red-tailed Hawk	3 Mar	345	21 Apr	3366
Rough-egg. Hawk	12 Mar	30	28 Mar	254
Golden Eagle	21 Mar	10	23 Apr	47
Am. Kestrel	13 Mar	51	22 Apr	325
Merlin	22 Mar	8	19 Apr	39
Peregrine Falcon	1 Apr	3	29 Apr, 15 May	9
Total				25107

Bald Eagle: 5 Big Moose 15 Mar; 2 y TRWMA hatched about 24 Apr.
N. Goshawk: TRWMA 13 Mar; Palermo 17 Apr; Albion 17 May.
Golden Eagle: DeRuyter 10 Mar; Big Moose 16 Mar; Hastings 6 May.
Merlin: pair Beaver R 12 May.
Peregrine Falcon: Sauquoit Mar 15; 1-2 Utica thru; 3 fl Syracuse Apr.
Virginia Rail: max 6 CM 19 May.
Sora: 4 CM 19 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr TRWMA 14 Apr.
Am. Coot: max 11 FH 24 Mar.
Sandhill Crane: total of 8 DH 3 Apr-2 May; 2 HVWMA 1 May.
Black-bellied Plover: max 11 OneiL 26 May.
Semipalmated Plover: max 12 WM 15 May.
Killdeer: max 50+ DH 26 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 110 Seneca R floodlands 15 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 9 WM 4 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 7 WM 1 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 Sunset Bay 15 May.
Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Fulton 27 Apr; DH 27 Apr.
Whimbrel: max & only 11 OneiL 28 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 OneiL 23 May; max 13 OneiL 27 May.
Sanderling: max 30 OneiL 28 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 138 OneiL 28 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 74 Skan 13 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Sunset Bay 19 May; SPd 30 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Lenox 10 Apr; Clay 18 May; Verona 19 May.

Dunlin: arr Lenox 4 Apr; max 81 OneiL 28 May.
Wilson's Snipe: 600+ OSWE 7-9 Apr, grounded by snowstorm.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Lenox 15 May (JC ph), second spring record.
LAUGHING GULL: Madison County landfill 26 Apr (DH, BB).
Little Gull: DH 8 Apr (BP, DW); OneiL 23 Apr; OneiL 5 May (BP).
Bonaparte's Gull: 5 DH 6 Apr; max 447 OneiL 13 May; total 1007 for season.
Iceland Gull: 4 Mar reports; OnonL 9 Apr; DH 20 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad Phoenix 19-20 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: 5 Mar reports; Sunset Bay 19-21 May.
Caspian Tern: max 72 SPd 24 May.
Black Tern: arr SSSP 16 May; max 7 SSSP 19 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: over 30 reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr SFNS 9 May; about 20 total.
Snowy Owl: Brewerton 20 Apr, only report.
Long-eared Owl: NMP 28, 31 Mar, 1 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Constantia 4 May; VB 11 May; juv Morgan Hill SF 22 May; calling Eaton Res after 15 May.
Com. Nighthawk: 4 WM 19 May; 3 Phoenix 20 May; 2 DH 22 May; Syr 29 May; 2 Utica 31 May.
Whip-poor-will: Liverpool 9 May; max 8 Constantia 30 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Hamilton 22 Apr; Skan 8 May; 3 NMP after 14 May; DH 15 May; 2 SVB 19 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6/day LOL in Apr.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Quiver Pd 26 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Clinton 28 May, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 14 NMP 27 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 NMP 27 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Whiskey Hollow 11 May.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 WM 6 May.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 9 SVB 19 May.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: DH 27 Apr (TC, GS).

N. Shrike: Minetto 1 Mar; Erieville Mar 7; DH 3 Apr; Camillus 21 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Sunset Bay 17 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 57 HVWMA 22 May.

Fish Crow: 5 OnonL 12 Apr; Skan L 24 Apr.

Com. Raven: 2 DH 7 Mar; Salisbury 9 Mar; 8 North L 11 Mar; Rome 29 May.

Horned Lark: max 200 SCH 31 Mar.

Tree Swallow: max 1200 DH 26 Mar.

Brown Creeper: max 20/day LOL in Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr CM 1 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr DH 30 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 DH 28 Apr.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles NMP 23-28 May.

Swainson's Thrush: max 12 NMP 17 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 33 Mexico 6 Apr, grounded by snow.

Wood Thrush: max 26 CM 19 Apr.

Am. Robin: 700+ OSWE 5-6 Apr, forced to roadsides by snow.

Gray Catbird: max 62 CM 19 Apr.

N. Mockingbird: 4 migrants LOL after 16 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr DH 23 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr Bvllle 14 Mar; max 40 VB 3 May; 3 Beaver R 12 May, unusual site.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr NMP 8 May; Fulton & Scriba 15 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: NMP 7 May; WM 18 May.

Tennessee Warbler: max 20 WM 19 May; widespread 18-20 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: NMP 8 May; CM 14 May; 2 NMP 16 May; Amboy 18 May.

Nashville Warbler: max 7 NMP 15 May.

N. Parula: max 12 NMP 15-17 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 NMP 15 May.

Magnolia Warbler: max 12 NMP 17 May.

Cape May Warbler: max 6 NMP 8 May; about 16 total thru 19 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 NMP 16 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5 HIWMA 31 Mar, wintered locally?; max 90 LOL 7 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Tully 14 May, 3 singing males total; NMP 15 May; HVWMA after 17 May; Amboy 18 May.

Palm Warbler: 5/day NMP 9-15 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 NMP 15, 22 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 15 LOL 19-27 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 WM 6 May; max 7 WM 19 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 NMP 15-17 May.

Am. Redstart: max 40 NMP 17 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr 3 WM 12 May; on territory Shackelton Pt 28 May.

WORM-EATING WARBLER:

Durhamville 15 May (BB).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr T Onondaga 14 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: migrants max 2/day LOL after 12 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr NMP 8 May; max 9 NMP 15 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3-4/day late May.

Canada Warbler: max 5 NMP 19 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 25 DH 15 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 30 central OSWE 6 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr TRWMA 2 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: 40/day OSWE 6-8 Apr, grounded by snow.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Hastings 12 May; max 8 Hastings 30 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr TRWMA 14 Mar; max 33 TRWMA 30 Mar; last Skan 1 May.

Song Sparrow: max 280 Mexico 6 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2/day after 7 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 NMP 15 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 500+ central OSWE 6 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 2 VB 4 Mar; DeRuyter 10 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 50 VB 14 Mar; 9 DH 28 Mar, last 14 DH 3 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 NMP 15 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 60 DH 15 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: arr W Winfield 3 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 16 Mar; max 10 SCH 26 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: max 131 CM 2 Apr; last 5 Scriba 19 May.

Com. Grackle: 9500 SVB 25 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: DH 8-9 May; NMP 19 May; 2 VB 21 May; Camillus 22 May; German Flatts 30 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 300+ LOL 15 May.

Purple Finch: 30 North L 11 Mar; migrants arr DH 25 Mar.

Red Crossbill: max 40 North L 2 Apr; present thru Adks; 8 s. MADI 26 Apr, where present thru.

White-winged Crossbill: max 5 North L 2 Apr; Moose L 11 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 35 Moose L 11 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: McKeever 22 May.

Corrigenda: Kingbird V. 56, no. 3 September 2006

Turkey Vulture: in chart p. 260 total should be 11,365.

Osprey: in chart p. 260 total should be 503.

Com. Nighthawk: should be: max 2 DH 25 May, not Mar, p. 261