

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The spring season was very warm and quite dry with little snow. In March the temperature averaged 40.5° F, 6.9° above normal, with 2.54" of precipitation, 0.48" below normal. The April averages were 51.8°, 6.5° above normal, with 0.84" of precipitation, 2.55" below normal. The average temperature in May was 61.1°, 4.0° above normal, with 2.87" of precipitation, 0.52" below normal. There was only a trace of snow for the season over most of the Region, and at most there was five inches in the Adirondacks on 9 May which melted during that day. Snow was gone in most areas by 13 March, and ice out on Oneida Lake occurred 21-22 March, while Big Moose Lake was the last of our Adirondack lakes to become ice free on 4 April. The dry spring left Stillwater Reservoir about three feet below normal and natural, undammed lakes in the Adirondacks down a foot or more. Leaf-out was generally thought to be 10 to 14 days ahead schedule. A big problem with early leaves, other than hiding warblers, is subsequent frost. There were two frost events in northern Herkimer County on 11 and 13 May, which killed the leaves on the beech trees as well as much of the fruit that was in blossom at that time.

Five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were reported by James Vrooman of Brewerton on the last day of the season and were subsequently seen and photographed that same day by several birders. The ducks departed in the evening and were again seen briefly several miles down the Oneida River before they flew on. There was no evidence of the birds having been escapes, so, if accepted by NYSARC, they would be a first state record of this expanding and very mobile species. Eurasian Wigeon and Cackling Goose were other less common waterfowl species this season.

The weather started to warm in the middle of February, and many wetlands had opened somewhat in the first week of March, allowing waterfowl to move into the Region. Passage was often quite swift, as March continued to be warm, further opening areas to our north. There was a big Snow Goose and Canada Goose flight past Derby Hill on 14 March, about ten days earlier than normal. Tundra Swans probably moved right through in early March as well, since there were only two reports, one a migrating flock. There were spring record counts for all three scoter species, for Long-tailed Ducks migrating on Oneida Lake, and for Red-necked Grebe on Lake Ontario.

Few Sandhill Cranes were reported this season, with only three at Derby Hill, one in Madison County, and two seen at Howland Island. Maybe a one-time anomaly? The hawk flight at Derby Hill was disappointing, with generally low numbers for most species. A leading theory is that the chilly 2009 summer in most of eastern Canada, which curtailed shorebird breeding, did the same for raptors.

The late May shorebird flight went right over us since the light winds and mild weather did nothing to force them to land. Two Whimbrel were seen this spring, and a Wilson's Phalarope put down briefly in a small wetland. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls lingered into early March, while Lesser Black-backed Gulls were being seen into late April. There was a spring record flight of Bonaparte's Gulls on Oneida and Skaneateles Lakes. Two Little Gulls and two **Parasitic Jaegers** were also seen migrating along Oneida Lake. The jaegers were only the second and third spring records for the species.

Common Nighthawk numbers didn't improve this spring, as the high count at Derby Hill was only eight with a scattered handful elsewhere. Migrant owls were scarce, with a single Long-eared Owl seen along Lake Ontario and no Short-eared or Northern Saw-whet Owls, although two of the latter species were encountered on territory on the Tug Hill. Red-headed Woodpecker returned in early May, and there was a slight increase in sightings over the past year.

No one reported Yellow-bellied Flycatcher this spring, and the other late migrants such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Gray-cheeked Thrush were barely noted. Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers came in with the south winds during the first three days of April, and a record early Cliff Swallow was photographed in the Tug Hill at that time.

The typical early push of Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers was delayed or simply missed, but warbler variety along Lake Ontario was good over the first half of May. The largest wave of migrants came on 14 May, with the most Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers reported then. Orange-crowned Warbler was missed, and there were few Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers, with several observers mentioning that the two species seemed especially scarce.

Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from most breeding sites, while the few Clay-colored Sparrows were transients. Besides the warblers, the 14 May wave also brought large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, late for a major influx of those species. Finch numbers were quite low this spring, with no Pine Grosbeaks or Common Redpolls and three or fewer reports for Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak. Except for the latter species, which is declining in the state, the other species were near the low points of their cyclical irruptions. Purple Finch was quite common in some areas but apparently scarce over much of the Region.

For the season, a total of 236 species was reported, about six species below the recent 10-year average. Highlights were **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Vulture, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, **Parasitic Jaeger**, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes State Park; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; NS – Noyes Sanctuary, New Haven; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; RPPB – Rome Pitch Pine Bog; SB – Sunset Bay Park, Scriba; SCH – T Schroeppel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPD – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	6 Mar	2338	2 Apr	11,655
Osprey	25 Mar	41	1 May	280
Bald Eagle	8 Mar	29	22 May	273
No. Harrier	8 Mar	35	1 Apr	273
Sharp-sh. Hawk	11 Mar	199	2 May	1772
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	28	2 Apr	179
No. Goshawk	6 Mar	2	4 dates	17
Red-sh. Hawk	10 Mar	42	2 Apr	321
Broad-wng. Hawk	13 Apr	2556	30 Apr	11,212
Red-tailed Hawk	2 Mar	712	2 Apr	3455
Rough-lgd. Hawk	9 Mar	24	1 Apr	112
Golden Eagle	9 Mar	8	2 Apr	34
Am. Kestrel	11 Mar	21	3 Apr	143
Merlin	19 Mar	2	1, 24 Apr	22
Peregrine Falcon	16 Mar	4	2 Apr	14
Total, inc. unid.				29,765

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 5 Brewerton 31 May (Jim Vrooman, BP, ph, NYSARC), first state record pending approval.
Snow Goose: max 77,500 DH 14 Mar; 2 Sauquoit 11 May.
Brant: arr OneiL 1 May; max 2035 OneiL 17 May; 7597 total for May.
Cackling Goose: T Onondaga 8 Mar, only report.
Canada Goose: max 55,000 DH 14 Mar.
Mute Swan: max 18 FH 28 Apr.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 FH 23 Mar; 4 TR 15 Apr; 2 Volney 18 May.

Tundra Swan: 2 Fulton 9 Mar; 6 DH 12 Mar.
Wood Duck: arr DH 10 Mar.
Gadwall: max 25 DH 10 Mar.
Eurasian Wigeon: OneiL 20-31 Mar (BP, mob).
Am. Wigeon: max 83 OneiL 31 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: max 250 DH 10 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr SCH 27 Mar; 3 UM 11 Apr; max 4 per day.
N. Shoveler: arr Elbridge 2 Mar; Young L 27 Apr, rare HERK.
N. Pintail: max 100 HI 10 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 85 OneiL 31 Mar.

Canvasback: max 16 OnonL 7 Mar; 2 OneiL 22 Mar.
Redhead: max 120 OnonL 7 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 430 OneiL 22 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 950 OneiL 22 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 2000 North Bay OneiL 13 Apr.
Surf Scoter: arr OneiL 4 Apr; max 40 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
White-winged Scoter: max 405 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
Black Scoter: arr 2 OneiL 7 Apr; max 14 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
Long-tailed Duck: max 569 OneiL 13 Apr, spring record.
Bufflehead: max 150 OneiL 13 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: 110 OnonL 7 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 175 DH 10 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 230 Fulton 21 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 230 OneiL 17 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: max 21 OnonL 11 Mar.
N. Bobwhite: 2 SL 11 May, released.
Red-throated Loon: arr DH 16 Apr; max 10 OneiL 17 Apr.
Com. Loon: max 177 OneiL 30 Apr; 5 pr Woodhull L 4 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 per day, breeding locations.
Horned Grebe: max 15 LOL 20 Mar; 14 OneiL 13 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 105 LOL T Sterling 21 Mar, spring record; 85 OneiL 30 Mar to 6 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 320 OneiL 17 May.
Am. Bittern: arr WM 8 Apr; 3 Verona 21 May.
Least Bittern: Volney 15 Apr, only report.
Great Egret: SPd 3 Apr; Oswego 11 May; Oneida 21 May; T Onondaga 22 May.
Green Heron: arr CM 22 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Skan 12 Apr, only report.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Black Vulture: singles DH 24 Mar, 2 and 8 Apr.
Osprey: arr Kirkville 24 Mar.
N. Goshawk: Oneida 24 May.
Golden Eagle: Erieville 16 Apr.
Merlin: 2 Camillus 1 May; Oneida 21 May.
Peregrine Falcon: SL 6 May; pr & 4 y Syr 12 Apr; OneiL 16 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr SCH 9 Apr.
Sora: arr SCH 18 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr Volney 25 Apr; max 22 Volney 4 May.
Am. Coot: OnonL 7 Mar; pair UM 4 Apr.

The Kingbird 2010 September; 60 (3)

Sandhill Crane: Woodman Pd 21 March; 2 HI 6 May; DH 16, 22 Apr, 5 May.
Black-bellied Plover: max 7 SPd 27 May.
Semipalmated Plover: max 9 Skan 27 May.
Killdeer: arr Brewerton 7 Mar.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Skan 23 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Skan 19 Apr; max 9 Skan 6 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr WM 4 Apr; max 8 OneiL 30 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr New Haven 24 Apr; max 14 SPd 6 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Fulton 21 Apr; max 4 Fulton 22 May.
Whimbrel: OneiL 6 May; SPd 22 May.
Sanderling: arr FH 15 May; max 4 SPd 30 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr New Haven 14 May; max 5 Verona 23 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr New Haven 2 May; max 30 Verona 23 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SL 8 Apr; max 11 SL 10 Apr.
Dunlin: arr Cicero 6 May; max 14 SPd after 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr SCH 20 Mar; max 25 SL 14 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr TR 8 Mar.
Wilson's Phalarope: SCH 4 May (AVN, ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr OneiL 4 Apr; max 1059 OneiL (BP); 454 Skan L 13 Apr (KB), spring high counts.
Little Gull: OneiL 13 Apr, 3 May.
Iceland Gull: max 4 Bville 3 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Bville 2 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar; SL to 24 Apr; Skan 18 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Bville thru 7 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 175 OnonL 13 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr LOL 7 Apr; max 165 SPd 31 May.
Black Tern: arr OneiL 6 May; 3 OnonL 12 May; WPd 20 May, unusual sites; max 8 LOL 25 May.
Com. Tern: arr OneiL 26 Apr; max 172 OneiL 6 May.
PARASITIC JAEGER: OneiL 6, 17 May (BP), 2nd & 3rd spring records.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 4 May; max 3 per day.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr DH 2 May; to 4 per day.
Long-eared Owl: Noyes 13 Mar, only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Parish 23 Apr; Constantia 15 May.
Com. Nighthawk: max 8 DH 22 May; 2 Nelson Swamp 21 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr DH 1 May; max 4 per day Constantia.
Chimney Swift: arr DH 30 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Hastings 2 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Skan 1 May; 2 Kirkland 6 May; 3 Noyes 16 May; Lysander after 24 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 20 NMP 11 Apr.
N. Flicker: max 41 DH 3 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cazenovia 21 May; Orwell 22 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr widespread 14 May; max 3 per day.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 15 May; Camillus 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Salisbury 10 May; max 3 per day.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Skan 5 May; max 7 SCH 22 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr widespread 1 May; max 9 SB 14 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Salisbury 18 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr widespread 1 May; max SB 8 May.
E. Kingbird: arr DH 30 Apr, max 14 LOL 14 May.
N. Shrike: 6 reports; last Salisbury 15 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr LOL 8 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr DeRuyter 10 Apr, early.
Warbling Vireo: arr StMC 30 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Camden 11 May; CM 24 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr DH 2 May.
Blue Jay: max 3860 DH 1 May.
Fish Crow: DH 5, 12, & 20 Apr; max 10 OnonL Apr-May.
Com. Raven: max 25 Big Moose 1 Mar.
Horned Lark: max 60 Elbridge 7 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr DH 21 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr DH 11 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Bville 9 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr SL 12 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 2 Apr Tug Hill (JhL, ph), record early.
Barn Swallow: arr Oneil 7 Apr.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 27 DH 3 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 30 NMP 11 Apr.
House Wren: arr SFNS 21 Apr.

Winter Wren: 17 Mar GLSP, likely wintered; arr Fulton 30 Mar.
Sedge Wren: 2 WM 15 May, did not persist.
Marsh Wren: arr SCH 2 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 StMC 11 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr widespread 5 Apr; max 15 StMC 11 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr NS 10 Apr.
Veery: arr NMP 2 May; max 24 SB 14 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Scriba 22 May, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: arr SB 7 May; max 5 SB 14 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Adks 4 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr GLSP 1 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Marcellus 25 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr CM 10 Apr; max 14 GLSP 10 May.
Am. Pipit: arr 8 DH 19 Mar; max 40 SL 8 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr widespread 1 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr LOL 1 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: TR 13 May, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Noyes Sanctuary 2 May; max 3 per day, low numbers.
Nashville Warbler: arr FH 30 Apr; 12 SB 14 May; max 21 RPPB 17 May, breeding location.
N. Parula: arr StMC 30 Apr; max 7 SB 14 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Phoenix 23 Apr; max 30 per day LOL.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SFNS 1 May; max 7 SB 14 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr StMC 1 May; max 18 SB 14 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr SB 5 May; max 8 SB 14 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr StMC 1 May; max 18 SB 9 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 40 per day LOL early May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 24 Apr; max 7 SB 10 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr WH 1 May; migrants to 4 per day LOL.
Pine Warbler: arr TR 3 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr Fulton 13 May; Orwell 17 May; 2 Pompey 30 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Marcellus 23 Apr; max 7 per day SB & NS.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SFNS 11 May; max 7 SB 15 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Fabius 7 May; max 7 SB 22 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Cato 5 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr FH 30 Apr; max 12 SB 14 May.
Am. Redstart: arr DH 1 May; max 30 SB 14 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr WM 10 May.
Ovenbird: arr TR 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr WM 22 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 18 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr WH 7 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr widespread 2 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr SFNS 7 May; max 6 SB 14 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr NS 14 May; max 2 per day, few reports.
Canada Warbler: arr TR 6 May; max 7 RPPB 17 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr TR 4 Apr; max 24 GLSP 10 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 29 Salisbury 16 Mar; last Salisbury 17 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: Camillus 13 Mar, likely wintered; arr SFNS 27 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Sunset Bay 14, 18 May; Marcellus 28 May.
Field Sparrow: arr SFNS 17 Mar, early.
Vesper Sparrow: arr VB 2 Apr; max 8 Scriba 9 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Tully 27 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Marcellus 25 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: wintered W Winfield; arr TR 23 Mar; max 8 TR 4 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DH 3 May; max 4 SB-NS 14 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 CM Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: max 120 SB-NS 14 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr widespread 1 May; max 170 SB-NS 14 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 66 Salisbury 30 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 100 W Winfield 1 Mar; last 2 Camden 10 Mar.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Camillus 1 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Camden 28 Apr; max 15 SB 8 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Hastings 2 May.
Bobolink: arr DH 30 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Skan 20 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 WM 25 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr DH 2 May; max 5 GLSP 25 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr N Syr 29 Apr; max 52 DH 5 May.
Purple Finch: max 21 Salisbury 26 Apr.
Red Crossbill: 2 Fabius 20 Mar (MY); 2 Orwell 17 May (RR).
White-winged Crossbill: Jerseyfield Road, Salisbury 12 May (LH).
Pine Siskin: 2 Skan 9 Apr; 2 Salisbury 15 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 4 Salisbury 26 Apr, only report.