

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Matt Perry

3787 Dawes Ave., Clinton, NY 13323
mperry63@roadrunner.com

David Wheeler

20 Waterbury Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212
tigger64@aol.com

The first two months of the Spring 2013 period were cooler than normal. The average temperature in Syracuse for March was 33.6° F, 0.6° below normal. Snow and ice totaled 20.2" for the month, and the greatest 24-hour snowfall event occurred on 22-23 March when 6.6" fell. In the Adirondacks, Gary Lee reported that 10" of snow fell in Old Forge on 18 March. He further noted that the ice was mostly out of Limekiln Lake and 4th Lake by 21 March, which was approximately the same time the ice left Skaneateles Lake, 100 miles to the southwest. The ice was gone on Oneida Lake on 1 April, and by all appearances the stage was set for a good waterfowl migration. In April the average temperature was 46.1°, which was 0.8° cooler than normal. The rain total in Syracuse for April was 3.59", which was 0.40" above average. A single snow storm brought 10.5" on 2 April in Syracuse. May broke the period's moderate cooling trend and was warmer than usual. The average temperature was 60.4°, a 2.8° departure from the norm. Total rain fall in May was 3.91", which was 0.69" more than normal. Blocking patterns affected the Region in mid to late March and again between roughly 2-17 May; discussion of this Omega block later. These weather systems hampered bird migration and often left birders with little to aim their binoculars at during what would normally be peak flight days.

Snow Goose migration peaked in the second week of March, and large numbers were tallied over much of the Region. A conservative estimate of

110,000 passed over Derby Hill on 12 March, but in areas east of Syracuse the flight was much more modest. Despite the immense Snow Goose flight (one of Derby's most impressive spectacles), there were few reports of Ross's Goose and none were seen away from Derby Hill. Amazingly, Steve Kolbe, Derby Hill's official Hawk Counter, picked out one Ross's Goose as it flew across the face of the moon! The bird of the season came on 18 March when David Wheeler found a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** in Pennellville with a small flock of Canada Geese. Wheeler was looking for the species, having just argued for its inevitability during a slow hawk flight, and said it was the first bird in that particular flock he put his binoculars on! This first-Regional and first-Upstate record was seen by many and successfully tracked as it moved from field to field with a small group of Canada Geese. Birders coordinated effectively in the field using the OneidaRBA text messaging system. Happily, the goose was relocated the next day, and even more birders got to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime find. Birding a week later with Wheeler, Jim Tarolli, and Joe Brin, Kolbe spotted a Pink-footed Goose at Knox-Marsellus Marsh in MNWR less than a mile from the Regional boundary. Same bird?

Diving ducks concentrated in open water at Brewerton, Oswego, Onondaga Lake, and Fair Haven, with good numbers present as the ice receded and flocks spread out. The female **Tufted Duck** at Oswego continued into March, while at Brewerton Bill Purcell found a Eurasian Wigeon on 12 March and Andrew Van Norstrand noted seven Cackling Geese on 13 March. Fair Haven's goldeneye flock contained a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** found by David Wheeler on 2 March but it was difficult to watch as it dove constantly with female Common Goldeneye. Wheeler noted that differences in bill color/pattern showed it was a different bird from that present on Oneida Lake during winter. Dabbling duck migration was very disappointing, and few species were seen anywhere in good numbers. Was the late-March blocking weather pattern to blame? Brant numbers were down this season, with relatively small flocks passing by the traditional concentration spots like Phillips Point on Oneida Lake and Derby Hill. Trumpeter Swans were found in several of the usual areas and once again appeared to be nesting at the County Route 6 wetland in Oswego County. Only several Great Egrets were found in the Region, none east of Oneida Lake, while at Onondaga Lake three overwintering Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen well into April. Jim D'Angelo counted 36 active Great Blue Heron nests at the rookery at Sterling Nature Center on 26 April. Dave Nash found the Region's only reported Least Bittern of the period at Clay Marsh.

2013 saw another decent hawk flight at Derby Hill, even in spite of significant blocking weather patterns that were keenly felt during peak migration periods. The first block came in the latter half of March and punished the site with persistent northwest winds that put a damper on raptor migration and often made for a bone-chilling vigil on the hilltop. Turkey Vultures set a new high, 15,894, but only slightly above the 2012 count which featured long periods of favorable weather. This seeming lack of weather-dependence may suggest that at this moment in time we have an accurate estimate of the total "supply" of the

species available to be counted on the Ontario lakeshore. Red-shouldered Hawks migrated in numbers close to their 10-year average, and American Kestrels at 675 enjoyed the best flight since 1995, easily surpassing both the 10-year (253) and historic (362) averages at the site, particularly encouraging news after last year's poor showing for these two species. A second blocking pattern set up through the first half of May and was responsible for providing sustained southeasterly winds. Counter-intuitively, these persistent winds from the "right" direction resulted in few concentrated flights coming over the hill. Despite these difficult periods, raptor totals were generally quite good, and average or above average numbers were achieved for most species. Record highs were also attained for Bald Eagle (638), and Merlin (102) as Hawk Counter Steve Kolbe logged a new record for count hours (739). A total of 60 Golden Eagles flew over Derby Hill, matching the 10-year average for the site. Kolbe noted a "disturbing" lack of juvenile Golden Eagles, which he speculated was due to "either a poor reproductive year or poor overwinter survival or both." Three Black Vultures were the only raptor rarity of the season, one of them "called ahead" by Kevin McGann as he watched it soar eastbound from Sunset Bay Park. A Greater White-fronted Goose was photographed flying by Derby Hill on 22 March.

As mentioned above, Merlins enjoyed a record flight at Derby Hill, but two pairs were also reported as probable breeders at new places in the Region. John Rogers found a pair nesting at Verona Beach State Park, while on 27 April Mickey Scilingo discovered a nest high in a White Pine across from his Constantia residence. Peregrine Falcon breeding was a failure in Syracuse and Utica. In Syracuse it is thought by some that the advancing age of the resident pair may be the reason for their apparent infertility. In Utica, due to the efforts of the Kirkland Bird Club, a new nest box was installed on the Adirondack Bank building in the downtown area, but the adult pair that had claimed the territory the previous fall didn't return to the vicinity to adopt the new box.

Sandhill Crane sightings were fairly widespread in the western half of the Region, with six flying over Derby Hill on 29 March and also on 22 May, showing the broad range of dates over which this gorgeous flyer may be encountered. Also at Derby, many early-morning hours rewarded Steve Kolbe with an excellent count of 41 Solitary Sandpipers on 15 May. Singles and small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported from usual places, with a maximum of three found in Verona on 28 April. Bill Purcell was fortunate to see a flock of 12 Whimbrel as they circled one of the small islands on Oneida Lake at Constantia before heading west. On the same day, Purcell also observed a flock of 26 breeding-plumaged Red Knots at Phillips Point, also on Oneida Lake. A very rare adult male **RUFF** in breeding plumage, presumably the same bird previously seen at Montezuma NWR, was rediscovered at Howland Island a few days later by visiting birder Darren Dowell and seen at close range by many between 12-15 May. Interestingly, Region 5 has a good history of Ruffs, with reports almost every year in the 1960s, including groups of 4-6 at Onondaga Lake in '64 & '65. Breeding males were found in spring of 1967 (black ruff, also at Howland Island) and 1978 (white ruff, Pennellville). Ruffs became scarce in

the 1970s and early '80s and very rare since. No dowitchers were reported this season, nor were any phalaropes, but a maximum of 24 Wilson's Snipe was found by Brenda Best in a Verona Wetland on 12 April. From mid-March through April American Woodcock flight displays were reported from many places around the Region. One female was found sitting on eggs at the base of a young Quaking Aspen tree in an early successional field at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland on 7 May.

The rarer gull species were missed this season, but a few Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls were encountered, mostly in the expected places. On 13 March, Gene Huggins found an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in a Tully field, a very unusual location. Lesser Black-backed Gull records in eBird outnumbered Iceland Gull by a 3-1 margin, supporting observed increases in the species overall. Average numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were counted this year, with a maximum of 272 tallied at Phillips Point on 16 April. Caspian Terns were widely reported and impressive numbers observed at Oswego Harbor. There were only a few reports of Black Terns. An infestation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars in some areas seemed to be setting the stage for a plentiful supply of cuckoos this season, but numbers of both species were disappointing at least through the end of May. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes ran night migration monitoring in Ithaca (Region 3) and was still finding substantial cuckoo movement in mid-June. Spring was disappointing for migrant owls, with only two Long-eared, no Snowy, and the only Short-eared Owl of the season spotted by Derek White after it was flushed by a Red-tailed Hawk at Green Lakes State Park on 25 March. A pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls reported at Beaver Lake Nature Center continued from the winter reporting period.

What may be the largest spring movement of Common Nighthawks ever recorded at Derby Hill took place in late May. On 22 May Steve Kolbe tallied 93 foraging on the wing and gradually moving east, and four days later Wayne Fidler counted an astounding 130 Nighthawks as they migrated along the shoreline. It is unclear whether observer effort, unusual weather conditions, breeding success in the previous season, or other factors were involved in this impressive flight. In spite of the count, the species remains generally scarce and absent from former breeding locations in the Region. A healthy maximum number of 44 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flew over Derby Hill on 19 May. Gary Lee reported that on 26 May, 32 hummingbirds were banded at the Stillwater Hotel in the town of Webb. Two of the captured birds had been banded at that same location the previous September. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at 10 different locations during this reporting period, with six flying by Derby Hill from 4-31 May.

In addition to his duties as Hawk Counter, Steve Kolbe observed non-raptor migration tirelessly from dawn until dusk on most days throughout the period. Starting early in the morning, typically about 6 a.m., Steve also photographed fly-by birds on the wing thus enhancing real-time positive ID and counting of otherwise inconspicuous night-migrants as they continued into the next day. Steve also entered all the data into eBird, realizing this should be mandatory for counters. His tireless effort and dedication has not been seen

recently at Derby Hill and resulted in some excellent and accurate tallies of migrating non-raptors. Hopefully this emphasis on observing the whole spectrum of “visible bird migration” will continue for many years. In addition to the expected migrants, several species that many birders would not think of as migratory were seen passing Derby Hill. A total of 3,600 Black-capped Chickadees was counted from mid-April to early May, migrating by day in unique style from tree-to-tree along the lakeshore. Kolbe made special effort to carefully count them, providing an accurate benchmark for future comparison. These versatile foragers, when faced with insufficient winter food reserves, may be just as prone to irruption as waxwings or winter finches. Red-bellied Woodpeckers passing may also have been migrants or range-expansion pioneers. Possibly-migrant Hairy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches were also noted. This movement of species thought of as sedentary or permanent residents was a highlight of the period for observers. An amazing flight of 293 Eastern Kingbirds was counted on 15 May, migrating as singles and in small groups. Late May movement of Eastern Bluebirds past Derby begs one to ask where they are coming from and where are they going.

Weather in the first half of May was dominated by a stationary “Omega-block” that prevented the normal west-to-east parade of systems. Day after day of similar weather and southeasterly winds not only affected raptors but prevented obvious waves of passerine migration as well, with warblers especially hard hit. Birders on the Ontario lakeshore often saw fewer birds than those surveying inland local patches. Thrushes and flycatchers, especially Least Flycatcher, were seen in lower numbers than usual. In the Mohawk Valley, Matt Perry reported encountering less than five during the entire month of May. Blue-headed Vireo and most species of warbler seemed scarce, with only 2-3 “good days” in May, including Birdathon on 18 May when the blocking pattern finally broke down. Especially depressed were numbers of the normally common species like Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler. Few migrant Hermit Thrushes could be found, and uncommon species like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were missed altogether by many birders. Thankfully, Acadian Flycatcher was found at its usual spot in Whiskey Hollow. Another in nearby Van Buren on 30 May was late enough to kindle hopes that this breeding anomaly may finally be expanding its Regional presence.

A “Lawrence’s” Warbler was found by Joe Brin at the Great Bear Recreation Area on 5 May. This attractive hybrid remained through the period and was observed by many appreciative birders. Drew and Justine Weber found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Three Rivers WMA on 28 April, but it did not remain. A female **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, a first Regional record, was found by Barb Reuter at Sunset Bay Park on 17 April. This bird continued through the day and was seen and photographed by other lucky birders, although it too turned out to be a “one-day wonder.” Chris Wood contributed a **Yellow-breasted Chat** singing in the Red Creek area of northern Cayuga County on 25 May. The Omega block finally broke down just before Birdathon, and some good counts of relatively early migrants were had at Sunset Bay Park. Bernie Carr reported nine Cape May Warblers, a respectable number

in any year; 321 Yellow-rumped Warblers; and an amazing 29 Palm Warblers, an unprecedented count for so late in May. Prothonotary Warbler was not reported this season, either as a migrant or at the traditional Toad Harbor location.

As was the case with some other classes of migrants discussed in this report, many birders weren't sure if the warblers were being held back by the Omega block or if they had overflowed our Region and passed directly to their breeding grounds. Hope that birds were merely late was realized in only a modest sense. Others suggested the block was so disruptive that a more westerly flight path may have taken the bulk of migration away from the eastern Great Lakes. As often happens with extended bad weather, passage along a broad front with little concentration is also likely given the extended period of southeasterly winds. Unusually high trans-Gulf mortality may have also played a role.

Clay-colored Sparrow occurred in several areas including at a new suspected breeding site in the Town of Kirkland in Oneida County. Lincoln's Sparrow was decidedly uncommon this spring, and many missed the species altogether. Initially seen in the company of a large flock of mostly Common Grackles, an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** visited a feeding station in the town of Clinton from 14-22 March. An impressive 1800 Rusty Blackbirds counted passing on 29 April and 1200 Bobolinks on 15 May were great counts for Derby Hill. Seven Orchard Orioles were also noted for the season. Bohemian Waxwings continued to be encountered throughout March and sometimes in good numbers. This was particularly true in Oneida County, where on 13 March a maximum of 200 Bohemians was found feeding primarily on the berries of European Buckthorn. The buckthorns were one of the only trees that produced a decent amount of fruit last summer and managed to retain any through early spring. On 25 March, a large flock of Bohemians at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland drew the attention of not only birders but of a Merlin that proceeded to chase the flock out of the vicinity.

Common Redpoll was the only winter finch that remained numerous throughout the Region during the first part of the season. Purple Finch numbers were low and there were few crossbill reports. There were about 10 reports of Hoary Redpoll, all but one of those coming from the Southern Highlands of Madison County. Pine Siskin sightings were relatively numerous and widespread, but most observers found low numbers and often single digits until May when flocks flew by Derby Hill. Evening Grosbeak numbers were low, with the high count of over 30 coming from the species' most reliable wintering grounds in the Southern Highlands. A few were seen and photographed at Derby Hill.

This season a total of 249 species was reported, which is five above the 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (first Regional record), White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Black Vulture, Whimbrel, **Red Knot**, **RUFF** (adult male in breeding plumage), Bohemian Waxwing, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**

WARBLER (first Regional record), **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Spring 2013 produced 67,792 eBird records in Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 244 people.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	26 Mar	1	X	3
Turkey Vulture	28 Feb	1998	7 Apr	15894
Osprey	29 Mar	63	3 May	713
Bald Eagle	26 Feb	46	22 May	638
No. Harrier	9 Mar	71	7 Apr	710
Sharp-sh. Hawk	10 Mar	666	15 Apr	4778
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	46	7 Apr	371
N. Goshawk	26 Feb	4	15,16,18 Apr	40
Red-sh. Hawk	28 Feb	173	31 Mar	527
Broad-wng. Hawk	13 Apr	2021	23 Apr	17118
Red-tailed Hawk	26 Feb	862	7 Apr	5096
Rough-lgd. Hawk	26 Feb	64	10 Mar	234
Golden Eagle	26 Feb	9	23 Apr	60
Am. Kestrel	9 Mar	137	18 Apr	675
Merlin	10 Mar	14	19 Apr	102
Peregrine Falcon	8 Mar	2	19,30 Apr, 2 May	17
Total, inc. unid.				47,094

CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Adams, Zachary Adams, Dennis Anderson, Betty Armbruster, Henrik Axelson, Faith Baker, Dave Baldrini, Alan Belford, Brenda Best (BB), Sue Boettcher, Brent Bomkamp (BBo), Joseph Brin (JB), Todd Brown, Ken & Rose Burdick (KRB), Andrea Burke, Lori Burritt, Joe Carey, Tom Carrolan, Bernie Carr (BC), Gerald Case (GC), David Cesari, Richard Cohen, Rosanne Costello, Jim D'Angelo, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Greg Dashnau (GD), Pete Davidson (PD), Rose DeNeve, Joe DeVito, Darren Dowell (DD), Bruce Dudek, Betsy Edinger, Wayne Fidler (WF), Matthew Furst, Anne Dillon Gray, Lewis Grove, Bill Gruenbaum, Steve Guy, Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Patricia Hetrick, Kirk Huffstater (KH), Gene Huggins, Stefan Karkuff (SKa), Carolyn Keefe, Ted Keyel (TK), Gary Kohlenberg, Steve Kolbe (SK), Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Josiah LaCelle (JhL), Robbie LaCelle (RL), Chris Lajewski, Sean Lanigan (SL), Gretchen Lasser, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Gary Lee (GL), Tim Lenz, Lewis Lolya, Mark Magistro, Maggie Mason, Anne Mayville (AM), Kevin McGann (KM), Jay McGowan (JM), Tom McKay, Steve Mooney, David Nash (DN), Michele Neligan, Mitch Nusbaum (MNu), Logan Osterhoudt, Kevin Pace, Matt Perry (MP), John Pipkin, Linda Potter, Bill Purcell (BP), Barb Reuter (BR), Jonathan Rice, Paul Richardson, John Rogers (JR), Ken Rosenberg, Margaret Rusk, Thomas Ryan, Linda Salter (LS), Livia Santana (LSa), Cheri Sassman, Kim Savides, Sean Scanlon, Mickey Scilingo (MS), Luke

Seitz, Shirley Shaw, Tony Shrimpton, Jessica Sielawa, Gerald Smith, Sheila Smith, Chris Spagnoli (CS), Robert Spahn, Maureen Staloff, James Swanson, Jim Tarolli (JT), Judy Thurber, Mindy Turner, John Van Dort, Fran Vanderveer, Andrew Van Norstrand (AVN), Matt Voelker (MV), Brad Walker, Drew Weber (DWe), Justine Weber (JWe), David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Derek White (DeW), Andrea Wiggins (AW), Robert G. Williams III (RW), Chris Wood (CW), Judy Wright, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Brew – Oneida L at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; BW – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; DL – Delta L; DR – DeRuyter Res area; ECT – Erie Canal Trail; FA – Fulton (Oswego Co) Airport; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; Fville – Fayetteville; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; HF – Highland Forest, Tully; HI – Howland I WMA, Port Byron; HR – Hinckley Res; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; IH – Syracuse Inner Harbor; LH – Labrador Hollow, Fabius; LOL – Lake Ontario Lakeshore; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; MPSP – Mexico Pt SP; Noyes – Noyes Sanctuary, Scriba; NS – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk, Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OSP – Oneida Shores P, Cicero; OswH – Oswego Harbor; PPt – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; PSS – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; Pville – Pennellville; SBP – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; Sithe – Sithe Energy trails, Scriba; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, Van Buren; Wpd – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Pville 18-19 Mar (DW!, mob, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.

Greater White-fronted Goose: DH 22 Mar (SK!, ph), only report.

Snow Goose: arr DH 7 Mar; max 110,000 DH 12 Mar.

Brant: arr Fville 1 May; max 770 PPt 17 May; last Const 28 May.

Cackling Goose: DH 9 & 17 Mar; max 7 Brew 13 Mar; last 19 Apr.

Canada Goose: max 7000 Pville 19 Mar; 5000 DH 10 & 23 Mar; rain in Apr destroys most nests at UM (MP).

Mute Swan: 5 OnonL 15 Mar; max 50 FH 6 Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Amboy 9-30 Apr; 2 CM 26 Apr-18 May (prob nesting); max 4 OnonL 25 Mar.

Tundra Swan: 43 DH 11 Mar, good num for DH; max 149 Brew 12 Mar; last 6 Apr.

Wood Duck: arr CM 3 Mar; max 55 UM 6 Apr.

Gadwall: max 25 Brew 12 & 16 Mar; 2 DH 29 May, late.

Eurasian Wigeon: male Brew 12-19 Mar (BP, mob, ph); PPt 20-21 Apr (BP).

Am. Wigeon: arr CM 3 Mar; 52 FH 11 Mar; max 100 Brew 12 Mar; last 26 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 53 OnonL 5 Mar.

Am. Black Duck X Mallard: DH 21 Mar, 12 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr SSSP & UM 6 Apr; max 7 TR 16 Apr; relatively few reports.

N. Shoveler: arr OLC 7 Mar; max 12 UM 13, 20 Apr; last OneiL 16 May.

N. Pintail: arr Brew 7 Mar; max 410 Pville 13 Apr; last TR 2 May.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 DH 10 Mar; max 400 Phoenix.

Canvasback: Brew 7 Mar; 9 Brew 17 Mar; max 10 FH 23 Mar; last 16 Apr.

Redhead: max 400 OnonL 13 Mar; last OLC 27 May.

Ring-necked Duck: arr Tully 11 Mar; max 700 Brew 16 Mar, good number; last 2 Amboy 19 May; less common east.

Redhead x Ring-necked Duck: OswH 2 Mar (JM, LSa, mob).

TUFTED DUCK: fem OswH thru 2, 3, 5, 17 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 350 OnonL 11 Apr; last Otisco 28 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 260 PPt 11 Apr; last OnonL 21 May.
Surf Scoter: 2 OswH 2 Mar; 2 PPt 14 Apr; max 4 PPt 26 Apr; last PPt 11 May.
White-winged Scoter: 100 OswH 5 Mar; max 150 FH 5 Mar; last PPt 26 May.
Black Scoter: arr & max 2 PPt 20 Apr; DH 8 May; last PPt 16 May; few reports.
Long-tailed Duck: max 228 PPt 14 Apr; last 2 DH 22 May; no huge flocks reported.
Bufflehead: max 114 Skan 14 Apr; last 2 Sterling 25 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 400 Brew 12 Mar; last 7 PPt 25 May; ad male Skan 1 May thru.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: fem or imm male FH 2-5 Mar (DW!, mob).
Hooded Merganser: 56 OnonL 25 Mar; max 65 PSS 22 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 500 OnonL 12 Mar; 500 Brew 13 Mar; max 1000 FH 5 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 131 OnonL 10 Apr (SKa); max 400 FH 11 Mar; last 5 DH 29 May.
Ruddy Duck: arr 3 FH 26 Mar; max 5 WP 14 Apr; last OneL 31 May; poor numbers
N. Bobwhite: 6 GSC 10 Apr; 1 Bville 22 May; all presumed released.
Ring-necked Pheasant: only 17 reports, singles & pairs.
Ruffed Grouse: singles & pairs thru; max 3 LH & Black Crk.
Red-throated Loon: max 2 OnonL 12 Apr; only 5 reports; unusually scarce.
Com. Loon: first migrant DH 28 Mar; 41 Skan 25 Apr (KRB); max 137 PPt 25 Apr; widespread reports late-May.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 Amboy; singles thru.
Horned Grebe: arr Brew 12 Mar, few wintered; max 50 OnonL 13 Apr; last OnonL 21 May.
Red-necked Grebe: OswH 20 Mar; max 50 OnonL 12 Apr; last PPt 17 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 Bville.
Am. Bittern: arr Waterville 20 Apr; singles & pairs mid-Apr thru; few reports.
Least Bittern: CM 29 May (DN); only report.
Great Blue Heron: first migr DH 11 Mar; max 56 Pville 15 Apr; 48 DH 15 Apr, excellent migrant count.
Great Egret: 2 GSC 9 Apr; DH 12 & 18 Apr; 2 Bville 2 Apr; Lysander 12 May; SBP 28 May; max 4 HI 16 May; no reports from eastern part of Reg.
Green Heron: arr DH 19 Apr; max 19 DH 30 May, good count.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 imm OLC continue from winter, last reported 28 Apr; Volney 1 May; Bville 3 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Black Vulture: DH 26 Mar (BP); SBP (KM) & DH 30 Apr (SK, DW), same bird; DH 5 May (SK); only reports.
Turkey Vulture: GLSP 2 Mar; **max 1998** DH 7 Apr; record season count at DH.
Osprey: arr Brew 17 Mar (AM); arr DH 29 Mar; max 63 DH 3 May.
N. Harrier: DH 2 Mar; max 71 DH 7 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 666 DH 15 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 46 DH 7 Apr.
N. Goshawk: 3 DH 10 Mar; max 4 DH 15, 16, 18 Apr; 7 reports away from DH.
Bald Eagle: 15 Cross Lake 8 Mar; max 46 DH 22 May; record season count at DH.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr DH 10 Mar; max 173 DH 31 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr DH 13 Apr; max 2021 DH 23 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 862 DH 7 Apr; leucistic DH 16 Apr (PD); 3 dark-morph birds DH 13 Apr, 21 Apr (SK).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 64 DH 10 Mar; no May reports.
Golden Eagle: arr 5 DH 10 Mar; Const 7 Apr (MS); Town of Western 7 Apr (SL, ph); last Camden 26 May (RL, JhL).
Virginia Rail: arr DeWitt 30 Mar (MS); max 5 Verona 22 Apr & West Monroe 18 May.
Sora: arr Verona 16 Apr; max 3 Verona 6 May.
Com. Gallinule: arr Volney 19 Apr; 5 BW 18 May; max 12 Volney 3 & 6 May.
Am. Coot: 45 OswH 29 Mar; max 50 Skan 2 Mar & OnonL 6 Mar.
Sandhill Crane: HI 19 Mar; Fulton 1 Apr; CM 3 Apr; 2 PPt 11 Apr; 3 BLNC 15 Apr; Central Sq 29 Apr; TR 26 Apr; max 6 DH 29 Mar & 22 May; 25 total pass DH from late Mar to late May.
Black-bellied Plover: DH 9 May; FH & OswH 18 May; only reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr & max 3 Central Square 18 May; last FH 25 May; few reported.
Killdeer: arr Lysander 2 Mar; 53 DH 10 Mar; max 91 DH 7 Apr, good count.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Bville 18 Apr; max 10 SBP 21 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr DH 19 Apr; max 41 DH 15 May (SK), excellent count; last OnonL 29 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr DB 6 Apr; 10 HI 13 May; max 12 FA 10 Apr; last HI 20 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 FA 8 Apr; max 30 HI 13 May; last HI 20 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr FA 16 Apr; 2 Manheim 2 May; max 3 Verona 28 Apr.
Whimbrel: 12 Const 24 May (BP), only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 FH 20 May; 6 Const 30 May; only reports.
Red Knot: 26 in breeding plumage PPt 24 May (BP), only report.
Sanderling: 4 FH 25 May; max 8 FH 26 May; only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 Cicero 13 May; 22 FH 25 May; max 36 Const 30 May; 15 Const 31 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Minoa 6 May; max 30 HI 18 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 FA 9 Apr; max 4 FA 10 Apr; last DH 15 May.
Dunlin: arr 5 FH 3 May; max 118 PPt 24 May; last 10 Const 30 May.
RUFF: ad male, black ruff, HI 12-14 May (DD, mob, ph, NYSARC), *intro*.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Pville 20 Mar; 20 FA 21 Apr; max 24 Verona 12 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr SFNS 9 Mar; max 6 TR 5 May; f on nest SFNS 7 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr DH 1 Apr; 107 Skan 14 Apr (KRB); 200 Biddlecum 16 Apr (KM); max 272 PPt 16 Apr; last Skan 28 May (KRB).
Ring-billed Gull: 2000 FH 5 Mar; 2000 OswH 5 Mar; max 10000 DH 21 Mar, going west, excellent count.
Herring Gull: 500 OnonL 3 Mar; max 700 MCL 23 Mar.
Iceland Gull: max 2 IH 3 Mar; last Amboy 6 Apr, unusual location.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Dolgeville 11 Mar & Tully 13 Mar, unusual locations; max 3 OnonL 13 Mar; last FH 26 May (BBo); reports outnumber Iceland Gull 3-to-1.
Glaucous Gull: few reports of single birds; last OswH 11 Apr.
Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid): OneiL at Schneible's 16 Mar (DW, ph).
Great Black-backed Gull: 50 OnonL 3 Mar; max 100 DH 21 Mar, good count.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 DH 2 Apr; 120 DH 12 May; max 200 OswH 18 May.
Com. Tern: arr OnonL 10 Apr; 30 OswH 18 May; max 200 Const 27 May.
Black Tern: arr 2 SSSP 9 May; max 4 SSSP 18 May; only 10 reports.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: 22 CM 18 May; 54 Camden 15 Apr; max 65 DH 15 Apr.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr DH 10 May; max 3 HI 27 May; few reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CM 18 May; max 2 HI; few reports.

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E. Screech-Owl: Clinton 12 Mar; Pompey 5 Apr; max 2 SBP 2 Mar; few reports.
Great Horned Owl: singles and pairs but few reports.
Barred Owl: 2 Liverpool 5 Mar; 3 imm WH 30 May; max 10 Town of Constantia 18 May; widespread reports.
Long-eared Owl: Noyes 14 Apr; Camden 6 May (JhL, JaL); only reports.
Short-eared Owl: GLSP 25 Mar (DeW), only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: BLNC 3-15 Mar; 2 BLNC 16-18 Mar; only reports.
Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 19 May; 47 Pulaski 20 May (KH); 8 Const 21 May; 93 DH 22 May (SK); max 130 DH 26 May (WF); record high counts at DH.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr TR 2 May; max 4 Camden 18 May & Salisbury 29 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 2 DH 18 Apr; 65 DH 15 May; max 90 Oswego River, Fulton 25 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr SBP 2 May; arr Adk 9 May; 32 banded Stillwater 26 May (GL); max 44 DH 19 May.
Belted Kingfisher: 6 DH 7 Apr; max 10 DH 7 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered singles; 6 past DH between 4-31 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 20 birds past DH late Apr/early May, presumed migrants or range expansion (SK).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Otisco Lake 4 Mar, likely overwintered; first migr GLSP 23 Mar; 6 OF 18 May; max 7 CM 7 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: max 8 Syr 6 Apr.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 11 DH 18 Apr (SK), presumably migrants.
N. Flicker: 35 DH 15 Apr; max 100 DH 16 Apr; 61 DH 19 Apr; 72 DH 22 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 8 DH 26 Apr, presumably migrants.
Am. Kestrel: 12 FA 19 Apr; max 137 DH 18 Apr; 117 DH 19 Apr.
Merlin: DH 18 Mar; 2 nest Verona 24 Apr (JR); 2 nest Const 27 Apr (MS); max 14 DH 19 Apr; 102 DH season, new record.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Syr 13 Mar; 3 imm Utica thru (MP); 17 DH season.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: New Woodstock 18 May; HF 18 May; only reports.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr SBP 6 May, max 6 HI 27 May & 6 HF 27 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FH 23 May; last DH 30 May; only 4 reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 22 May; Van Buren 30 May, unusual loc; only reports.

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Alder Flycatcher: arr Verona 16 May; max 8 Tully 31 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr TR 15 May; max 5 DH 31 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr OnonL 28 Apr; 6 WP 10 May; max 8 Vienna 26 May; seemingly fewer than normal migrants in some areas.

E. Phoebe: arr Little Falls 23 Mar; DH 31 Mar, 6 DH 15 Apr & 1 May; max 7 SNC 14 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Kirkland 28 Apr; max 7 HI 27 May.

E. Kingbird: arr DH 18 Apr; max 293 DH 15 May (SK), migrating groups, excellent number.

N. Shrike: SH 2 Mar; DH 2 & 6 Mar; Williamstown 19 Mar; New Haven 29 Mar; GLSP 16 & 30 Mar; none after 30 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Const 27 Apr; 4 SBP 18 May; 4 SVB 27 May; max 6 HI 26 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Clinton 20 Apr; 4 OF 18 May; max 5 HV 4 May & Otto Mills Rd 26 May; lower numbers.

Warbling Vireo: arr TR 28 Apr; 14 CM 18 May; max 23 OnonL 21 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SBP & Pville 22 May; FH 25 May; only reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr HI 6 May; max 25 HI 26 May.

Blue Jay: max 2550 DH 7 May; over 30,000 counted at DH last week in April thru end of May.

Am. Crow: max 5400 DH 10 Mar; over 13,000 counted migrating late Feb to Mid-Apr.

Fish Crow: max 14 OnonL 6 Mar (TK); scattered reports away from OnonL include NS, Bville, Little Falls, DH.

Com. Raven: max 7 Black Creek SF 18 Mar; 5 DH 20 Apr; 3 DH 19 May; 250 eBird records for season.

Horned Lark: max 140 DH 7 Mar; 97 DH 8 Apr & 78 DH 9 Apr, late; Bville 18 May.

Purple Martin: arr DH 13 Apr; 15 DH 10 May; max 30 Const 16 May.

Tree Swallow: arr DH 11 Mar; max 2000 DH 21 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 7 Apr; max 20 DH 5 dates mid May.

Bank Swallow: arr Marcellus 15 Apr; max 60 DH 19 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr DH 19 Apr; 30 DH 10 May; max 40 Williamstown 20 May, building nests on barn (KB).

Barn Swallow: arr DH 1 Apr; max 150 DH 25 May.

Black-capped Chickadee: 1516 DH 22-24 Apr; max 660 DH 1 May (SK, BP); 3600 migrate tree-to-tree past DH mid-Apr thru early May; careful counts; *intro*.

Tufted Titmouse: max 10 Elbridge 25 Mar.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 OF 18 May & SBP 22 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 DH 15 Apr, some migrants?

Brown Creeper: max 9 Camden 13 Mar; lower than normal numbers on LOL.

Carolina Wren: max 3 Oswego 9, 23 May; widespread reports.

House Wren: arr DH 23 Apr; max 8 TR 4 May.

Winter Wren: arr Fulton 11 Mar; max 5 TR 8 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr Fairfield 1 May; max 9 CM 18 May (DN); generally low numbers.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr DH 15 Apr; max 7 Oneida 30 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: first migr 24 Mar; 25 Syr 9 Apr; 33 Noyes 14 Apr; max 60 DL 14 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HI 19 Mar, most arr early Apr; max 21 CM 21 Apr; 10 SBP 18 May, large num for date.

E. Bluebird: 13 Hannibal 2 Mar; 23 DH 15 Apr; 47 DH 19 May; max 49 DH 22 May, unusual num for date.

Veery: arr Oswego 29 Apr; max 8 SBP 18, 21 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Sithe 22, 24 May, only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 3 SBP 11 May; max 8 SBP 18 May; 2 Big Moose 29 May; fairly uncommon.

Hermit Thrush: arr Camden 4 Apr; max 20 Noyes 15 Apr; generally low numbers of migrants.

Wood Thrush: arr TR 30 Apr; 12 Noyes 9 May; max 15 Kirkland 27 May, counted along 1 mile.

Am. Robin: 900 DH 11 Mar; 2440 DH 31 Mar; max 6500 DH 7 Apr; over 13000 migrate DH season (SK).

Gray Catbird: arr Cazenovia 23 Apr; max 35 Clay 18 May (DN).

N. Mockingbird: max 4 Syr 6, 28 Apr; DH 28 Apr, 3, 22, 28 May, fly-by, unusual at location.

Brown Thrasher: arr SBP & BLNC 17 Apr; max 10 GLSP 4 May.

Am. Pipit: 2 OLC 13 Mar; 24 DH 15 Apr; max 70 SP 16 May; last 2 DH 20 May.

Bohemian Waxwing: 75 DH 1 Mar; max 200 SFNS 13 Mar; last 39 Kirkville 20 Apr; flocks larger in east part of Reg.

Cedar Waxwing: 65 Camden 21 May; max 1650 DH 28 May; low numbers until late May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Dolgeville 7 Mar (LH); MCL 23 Mar (DW, JT); only reports.
Snow Bunting: max 85 DH 10 Mar; 30 Waterville 11 Apr; last Cicero 15 Apr.
Ovenbird: arr Mexico 26 Apr; max 28 GBRA 5 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Marcellus 17 Apr; max 3 BLNC 29 Apr, unusual loc; less than 15 reported.
N. Waterthrush: arr 2 TR 19 Apr; max 8 TR 7 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr GBRA 5 May; SBP 10 May; six reports most from OSWE.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr SFNS 30 Apr; max 6 GBRA 8 May & 6 SFNS 18 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: SFNS 7 May; GBRA 11 – 12 May; Verona 29 May; only reports.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: GBRA 5 – 13 May (JB!, mob, ph).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Amboy 24 Apr, early; max 12 SBP 18 May (BC).
Prothonotary Warbler: no reports, did they return to W Monroe?
Tennessee Warbler: arr 10 May, widespread; max 6 SBP 11 May & DH 22 May; last DH 30 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: SBP 14 May (KM); W Monroe 16 May (AVN, DWe); SBP 22 May (AVN, KM, BP); only reports.
Nashville Warbler: arr Mexico 24 Apr; max 9 Rome Pitch Pine Bog 5 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr GBRA 9 May; max 5 HF 27 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr DH 27 Apr; 39 CM 18 May (DN); max 44 TR 18 May (AW).
Hooded Warbler: arr SFNS & Noyes 4 May; max 12 Michigan Woods, CAYU 15 May (RS); 6 BLNC 27 May; low numbers in some areas.
Am. Redstart: arr WH 28 Apr; 50 Oswego 20 May; max 67 HI 26 May (JM, LSa); good numbers.
Cape May Warbler: arr DH 4 May; max 9 SBP 18 May (BC); relatively good numbers.
Cerulean Warbler: arr HI & CM 4 May; max 14 HI 26 May (JM, LSa); low numbers away from HI.
N. Parula: arr Noyes 29 Apr; max 5 PPt 16 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Fville 7 May; max 8 SBP 17 May; unusually scarce.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SBP 10 May; max 5 SBP (BC); low numbers.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr SFNS & WH 3 May; max 12 SH 18 May; unusually scarce on LOL.
Yellow Warbler: arr Oswego 22 Apr; max 85 HI 26 May (JM, LSa).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Syr 28 Apr; next 10 May; max 12 Verona 22 May (BB).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr DH 16 May; max 16 SBP 18 May (BC).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr MPSP 27 Apr; max 12 OF 18 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Fville 9 April, early; max 29 SBP 18 May (BC), unusually high count for date; last DH 22 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Const 10 Apr; max 12 DH 29 Apr (SK); good numbers.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: first migr DH 12 Apr; max 780 DH 29 Apr (SK); 321 est SBP 18 May (BC); good numbers.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: TR 28 Apr (DWe!, JWe, ph).
Prairie Warbler: arr DH 3 May; GBRA 5 May (GD); DH 11 & 15 May (SK); max 2 Tully 27 May (AVN); 9 reports.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: fem SBP 17 Apr (BR, mob, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Camden 27 Apr; max 9 OF 18 May; unusually low number of migrants.
Canada Warbler: arr Camden 14 May; max 5 SBP 18 May (BC); relatively low number of migrants.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr SFNS 7 May; max 2 SBP 22 May; last VB 29 May; few reports.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Victory 25 May (CW!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr SFNS & Verona 7 Apr; max 12 GLSP 27 Apr (GC); good numbers.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 41 Dolgeville 17 Mar; DH 29 Apr (SK, DW); last Noyes 4 May (TR).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Skan 7 Apr; max 30 Syr 1 May; 25 SBP 18 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr & max 2 GBRA 5 May (GD); SBP 14 May (BP); Oswego 18 May (BP); SFNS 28 May (MP), returns to probable breeding grounds.
Field Sparrow: arr Onondaga 1 Apr (BE), early; max 14 Skan Cons Area 30 Apr (KRB) & GLSP 4 May.
Vesper Sparrow: arr & max 4 DB 9 Apr (BB, MV); 3 Mexico 11 Apr; 1 NS 10 Apr, unusual loc; migrants scarce.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Dolgeville 3 Apr; max 10 Fville 30 Apr & 10 Tully 31 May; numbers down in Reg.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TR 22 Apr; 2 SBP 27 Apr (KM, WF, scarce on LOL); singles & pairs usual locations.

Fox Sparrow: arr Pompey 16 Mar; max 12 Camden 9 Apr; last GBRA 25 Apr.
Song Sparrow: 38 CM 18 May; 41 Dolgeville 4 May; max 42 TR 18 May; none of the maxima on LOL.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SBP 28 Apr; max 4 Noyes 17 May; scarcer than usual.

Swamp Sparrow: first migr Dolgeville 3 Apr; max 55 CM 18 May (DN).

White-throated Sparrow: 43 SNC 3 May; max 150 Mexico 4 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: SH 21 Mar & Bville 30 Mar, likely overwintered; first OF 2 May; max 15 Poland 14 May & SBP 18 May; last SH 29 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 300 Poland (BLH).

Scarlet Tanager: arr Skan 30 Apr; max 17 SBP 18 May (BC).

N. Cardinal: max 19 GLSP 26 Apr; 2 pairs breeding OF (GL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TR 27 Apr; max 58 DH 10 May (SK).

Indigo Bunting: arr GLSP 5 May; max 10 HI 26 May.

Bobolink: arr DH 26 Apr; max 1200 DH 15 May (SK), good number.

Red-winged Blackbird: arr widespread first days Mar & OF 10 Mar; 17820 DH 10 Mar; 20000 est CM 16 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr Pville 11 Mar; max 21 DH 31 Mar.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad male Clinton 14-22 May (MP!, ph, NYSARC).

Rusty Blackbird: arr BLNC 12 Mar; max 1800 DH 29 Apr (SK); last 3 DH 19 May.

Com. Grackle: arr widespread first days Mar; max 10000 est CM 16 Mar & 20 Mar, & 10000 DH 30 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2500 DH 15 Apr (SK).

Orchard Oriole: arr Verona 4 May; max 3 DH 10 May; good season numbers DH, but absent east of Oneil.

Baltimore Oriole: arr CM 27 Apr; max 385 DH 10 May.

Purple Finch: few wintered in Reg; max 105 DH 29 Apr; 15 SH 5 May; singles, small numbers away from DH.

House Finch: 25 SH 1 Mar; max 27 DH 10 Mar; relatively low numbers.

Red Crossbill: small flock heard DH 8 Mar (SK); 5 HF 30 Mar (CS); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Waterville 19 Mar (RW); TR 28 Apr (DWe, JWe); DH 21 May (SK); only 3 reports.

Com. Redpoll: 870 DH 31 Mar; max 990 DH 7 Apr (SK); widespread; one leucistic SH 11 Apr (LS); last SH 26 Apr (LS).

Hoary Redpoll: max 4 SH 16 Mar (LS, AM); BLNC 22 Mar (JB); less than 10 total, most from SH.

Pine Siskin: max 555 DH 15 May (SK); 44 Syr 14 May; mostly small numbers away from DH.

Am. Goldfinch: max 800 DH 15 May; mostly small flocks observed.

Evening Grosbeak: 30 SH 14 Mar (LS); max 35 SH 24 Apr (AM); 15 DH 29 Apr & 3 May; 9 DH 15 May; 2 continue SH thru (LS), breeding?