

3 different male Yellow-headed in Rhode Island came from West Warwick 18 Mar (R. Touhill), Westerly 13 Apr (L. Gosselin), and North Kingston 14 May (J. Magill).

On 13 Mar, a visitor to northernmost New Hampshire found finches virtually everywhere along the last roughly 80 km of road between Columbia and Pittsburg and the Canadian border. Purple Finches were the most abundant species; the day-total of 572 included 110 in Columbia, 100 in Clarksville, and 90 in Pittsburg. Pine Siskins numbered 510 on the day, and White-winged Crossbills totaled 135 (RSH). Many males of the latter two species were singing and displaying, and at least one siskin was seen collecting nesting material. The southernmost records of crossbills included 2 White-wingeds in Canton,

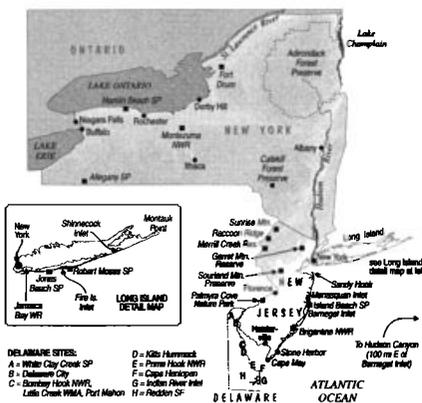
MA 26 May (E. Nielsen) and 6 Reds in Chatham, NH 19 Apr (B. Crowley). A European Goldfinch visited a feeder in Pepperell, MA 28 Mar–4 Apr (ph. J. Nevard).

Addendum: The presence of a **Brown Booby** on a beach in Hull, MA in “June or July of 2005” came to light when a non-birding beachgoer (ph. M. Quigley), requesting an identification, emailed photos of the bird (standing at his feet!) to Mass Audubon’s Wildlife Information Line. The photographer had taken the images with his cell phone! The small orange object on the sand nearby is a cheese cracker that a thoughtful passerby offered the bird. There are fewer than five previous records of Brown Booby in the Region; this was the first to be documented photographically.

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The Region’s weather was dominated by two major storms, on 16 March and 15–16 April. The storm in March brought record snowfalls to upstate New York and heavy rain and snow farther south. The second storm, though not tropical in origin, brought hurricane-force winds to the outer coast and dumped a foot of snow upstate, leaving thousands of residents without power. The April “hurricane” brought a diverse assortment of seabirds, including alcids and a Northern Fulmar to Cape May, and two Sooty Terns to Long Island, plus a host of early Neotropical migrants: showing up on Long Island 16–18 April during and immediately following the storm were Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hum-

mingbird, Eastern Kingbird, 50 or more Barn Swallows, a Yellow-throated Warbler, about 25 Indigo Buntings, 7 Blue Grosbeaks, a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. Interestingly, for some of these species like Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Eastern Kingbird, individuals appeared before the storm, suggesting that exceptionally early migration was apparently underway before the storm hit. The April storm clearly had some effect upon migrant passerines as far north as New England. The low-pressure systems that converged to form this “southeast-er” had their origins over Texas and the Gulf Coast. Some such storms in the past have been thought to transport trans-Gulf passerine migrants northwards earlier than normal, resulting in the sprinkling of Indigo Buntings and other birds along the northeastern coasts in April (see *North American Birds* 59: 409), although there is much variation in this theme, and storms that originate farther east, nearer Florida or the Bahamas, typically have far more Indigo Buntings and other eastern Gulf/Caribbean migrants.

Many southern-nesting species were recorded in relatively high numbers in 2007: there were 31 Summer Tanagers this year in the north coastal area (vs. 23 in 2005) and 17 Blue Grosbeaks (10 in 2005). Kentucky Warbler was an exception, just barely: 12 were recorded in 2007, vs. 13 in 2005 and 16 in



This female Curlew Sandpiper at Heislerville, New Jersey was a bonus for teams on the World Series of Birding (here 10 May 2007). Photograph by George L. Armistead.

2006). But most of the Summer Tanagers appeared either before the storm (one at Cape May 14 April) or well after it, while 7 of the 17 Blue Grosbeaks appeared during, or immediately after, the storm. So a substantial fraction of southern passerines occurring in our Region were not associated with storms and likely indicate population expansion, perhaps in response to climate change.

Abbreviations: Amherst S.P. (Erie, NY); Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Cape May, NJ); Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Forsyth N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Captree (Captree S.P., Suffolk, Long I., NY); Chazy (Chazy R. mouth, Clinton, NY); Derby Hill



This second-cycle Mew Gull, probably of the nominate subspecies (Common Gull), was found at Brooklyn, New York, New York on 8 April 2007. Photograph by Andy Guthrie.

(Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego, NY); Hamburg (Hamburg Hawkwatch, near Buffalo, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Iroquois (Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee/Orleans, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway N.P., New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., South Shore of Long I., NY); Little Creek (Little Creek W.M.A., Kent, DE); Mannington (Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Suffolk, Long I., NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, NY); Moriches (Moriches Bay and Inlet, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Palmyra Cove (Burlington, NJ); Pike's Beach (Moriches Bay, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Riis Park (Jacob Riis Park, Queens, New York City); Ripley (Ripley Hawkwatch, Chautauqua, NY); Robert Moses (Robert Moses S.P., Fire Island, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Sagaponack (Sagaponack Pond, Bridgehampton, Long I., NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); Shinnecock (Shinnecock Bay and Inlet, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Ted Harvey (Ted Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE); Tonawanda (Tonawanda W.M.A., Niagara/Genesee, NY).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

About 14 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen, including 5 at Iroquois 7 Apr (Mike Galas, Gail Seamans, JP), and one described as having a clearly pink bill was at Watermill, Long I. 24 Mar (HM). Snow Geese continue to increase; higher counts include 200,000

on the ground in Ontario, NY 21 Mar (MC, LJ), 25,200 flying by Derby Hill and 18,500 past Hastings, Oswego, NY, both 23 Mar (BPu). Five Ross's Geese were reported, about average for recent springs. A total of 25 Cackling Geese, mostly in w. New York, was near average for recent years. Five or more Black Brant wintered in the New York Harbor area; these included 3 seen together at the n. end of Staten I., NY 2 Mar (SW, Ray Mattarazzo). Fourteen hundred Tundra Swans were counted at Cayuga L. 18 Mar (TL), 600 at Hartland, Niagara, NY 22 Mar (Matthew Pestinger), and 130 at Brendan Byrne S.F., Burlington, NJ 16 Mar (LL). Fifteen Eurasian Wigeons were found Regionwide, as were 5 Eurasian Teal, 3 on Long I. 3-21 Mar (BBe, HM, PSc), one at Brigantine 18-25 Mar (J. Danzenbaker et al.), and the last at Cape May 23 Mar (PEL et al.). There were substantial counts of waterfowl

throughout the Region: 4000 Northern Pintails at Mannington and nearby Pedricktown 3 Mar (SK); 450 pintails at Cayuga Lake S.P. 25 Mar (TL); 9000 Canvasbacks on the Niagara R. 20 Mar (Jerry Lazarczyk); 8000 Canvasbacks at Cayuga L. 3 Mar (TL); 16,000 Redheads at Cayuga L. 3 Mar (TL); 1500 Ring-necked Ducks at Cayuga Lake S.P. 25 Mar (TL, TJ); and 375 Ring-neckeds at Whitesbog, Burlington, NJ 23 Mar (LL). A male Tufted Duck at Ausable Pt., Clinton, NY 23-25 Mar (BK, CM) was a rarity at that L. Champlain site. Numbers of scoters and other waterbirds were surveyed at Oneida L. by Bill Purcell: the peak of Surf Scoter migration was 34 on 30 Apr and of White-wingeds 123 on 7 May. Twelve hundred White-wingeds and 3000 Surfs were at Montauk 4 Mar (HM), relatively low totals for recent years. An ad. male King Eider was at Shinnecock Inlet 11-25 Mar (PJL, SSM, TWB), and 1800 Common Eiders were counted at Montauk 3 Mar (HM). A high Regional total of 13 Barrow's Goldeneyes included 7 in the Adirondacks and 2 at Sandy

Hook, male and female, of which the female remained until 20 Mar (m.ob.).

Single Pacific Loons were at Deal, Monmouth, NJ 10-14 Mar (Tom Smith, Hal Smith M. Bisagnano, Bruce McWhorter, SB et al.) and at Sheldrake Bluffs, Seneca, NY 18-24 Mar (CW, JG, TL). There were many reports of small groups of Red-necked Grebes distributed over the interior of the Region, though the total number seen was much lower than has occurred during freeze-ups such as in 1977, 1994, and 2003. Larger counts included 46 at Onondaga L., Onondaga, NY 12 Apr (BPu), 44 at Oneida L. 5 May (BPu), 614 on Cayuga L., Monroe & Orleans, NY 23 Mar (RSp, D. Danials). Smaller numbers were seen on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the Region. Single Eared Grebes were seen at Aurora Bay, Cayuga, NY 3-24 Mar (TL, TJ) and at Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE 4 Mar (BGP).

Two Greater Shearwaters were seen from the beach at Cape May were quite early 29 Apr-1 May (Johan Antus, R. Notin); a few Sooty and Manx Shearwaters were seen off e. Long I. in late May; and a Cory's Shearwater was seen from Democrat Pt., Suffolk, NY 31 May (JF). A Northern Fulmar was seen from Cape May Pt. 15 Apr during the storm (MF), and another was 51 km s. of Shinnecock 27 May (fide SSM). An American White Pelican at Oneida L. 15 May (BPu) was unique this spring, and 2 Brown Pelicans were seen at Island Beach 31 May (Roger Jennings), rather early. Inland Great Cormorants included 2 ads. at Braddock Bay 8 May (DT) and one at Derby Hill 27 Apr (JvD). Two Anhingas were well described soaring over Ramshorn-Livingston, Greene, NY 2 May (Larry Federman et al.). A female frigatebird, most likely a Magnificent, was seen over Cape May 31 May (Sandra Campbell, CH).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Herons unusually far n. included a Snowy Egret at Niagara Falls 20-21 May (BOS), a Tricolored Heron at Iroquois 28-30 May (Susan & Tom O'Donnell, m.ob.), 3 Plegadis ibis, one of which was certainly Glossy, in the Buffalo area 10-20 May (Paul Hess, JP et al.), and 2 other Glossies in the Oneida Lake Basin 19

SA A heron first reported as a Little Egret at Bombay Hook 6 Apr (APE et al.) was later thought to be a Snowy Egret × Little Egret hybrid. The egret had two elongate head plumes, like Little, but did not differ markedly from Snowy in either structure, plumage, or bare parts coloration. Similar birds have been seen in Massachusetts (2006, 2007) and elsewhere. Contrary to rumors, mixed breeding pairs of Snowy and Little Egrets have *not* been found at Barbados, the only place the two species are known to breed sympatrically. Indeed, the evidence from Barbados is that Snowies and Littles breed at the same locations *without* forming mixed pairs, so that they seem to be reproductively isolated at least there (Buckley, P. A. et al. 2007. *The Birds of Barbados*. B.O.U. Check-list. No. 24. London, British Ornithologists Union). The Delaware and Massachusetts birds may well be hybrids nonetheless; more attention to such birds may shed light on this interesting situation.



This Clay-colored Sparrow was mist-netted at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey on 20 May 2007. Photograph by Diane Bennett-Chase.

May (BPu, B. Best). There were two sightings of imm. White Ibis in Delaware, likely involving the same bird: one at Delaware Seashore S.P., Sussex 12 May (APE) and the other at Prime Hook 15 May (FR). Five or 6 White-faced Ibis were reported: one at Jones Beach 29 Apr (TWB, GB), 4 in New Jersey 29 Apr–20 May, and one at Prime Hook 5-15 May (BGP, FR), on the latter date with the White Ibis.

Black Vultures continue their expansion, at their own slow and dignified pace, through the Northeast. The more far-ranging ones this spring were at Ripley 8 May (Len DeFrancisco), Ellenburg, Clinton, NY 17 May (EDT) for a first county record, singles at Derby Hill 3 & 5 Apr, and one at Stargazer, Suffolk, Long I., NY 21 Mar (Joe Polashock). Peak counts of Turkey Vultures at Hamburg and Ripley were 2503 and 2453, respectively, on 26 Mar, representing a large movement of this increasing species. The first Mississippi Kite of the spring was at Cape May 30 Apr (WM, SM); thereafter singles included a subad. at Doo-

dletown Rd. near Bear Mt., Orange, NY 12 May (J. DiConstanzo, J. Dorman et al.) and one of unspecified age at Stafford Farm Trails, Camden, NJ 12 May (DM). The peak at Cape May was of 13 birds 19 May (LZ, PEL et al.), and 6 were still there 28 May.

The volume of hawk migration (see <www.hmana.org>) was about average this spring, following a rather poor season in 2006. Peak flights occurred 23 & 27-30 Apr and 8 & 15 May at the major New York hawkwatches and 30 Apr at Cape Henlopen, DE. An imm. dark-morph Swainson's Hawk flew over Braddock Bay 11 May (DT), the only one reported this spring. A dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk was seen at Hamburg 3 Apr (WD'A); *calurus* has probably been underreported in the past but is certainly rare. Thirty Rough-legged Hawks at Dayton, Cattaraugus, NY was an impressive total 31 Mar (BOS), as was 19 at BCF Pond Field, Tompkins, NY 3 Mar (StK). A gray-morph Gyrfalcon was observed feeding on a duck at Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY 8 Mar (BK).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Reports of both Yellow and Black Rails are increasing. A Yellow Rail was heard calling at Jakes Landing, Cape May, NJ 23 Apr (MO'B et al.), as was a Black Rail at Port Mahon Rd., Kent, DE 15 May (Forrest Rowland), a site where the species has not bred in years. A Clapper Rail at Shinnecock 21 Mar (KF) may have wintered there. Two ad. Purple Gallinules were found, one at Wreck Pond, Monmouth, NJ 20 Apr–12 May (M. & M. McMorrow, JC, Nick Taylor) and another at Cape May 5 May (CH). Sandhill Cranes continue to increase; 20 were in Youngstown, Niagara, NY 14 Mar (Lynne Landon), and 9 flew over Hamburg 25 Mar, as did 14 others 10 May (Fran Rew). Four flew over John Fitzpatrick's home in Tompkins, NY 31 Mar, and 7 others were scattered s. to Cape May through mid-May. A Whooping Crane from the recent reintroduction project returned to Lewis, NY for the 3rd consecutive year (JSB).

The largest aggregation of Black-bellied Plovers reported was of 380 at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE). Four American Golden-Plovers were reported: one at Batavia 25 Apr (Mike Zebehazy, Linda McElvany), one at Sagaponack 27 Apr (HM), one at Brigantine 29 Apr (PB), and one at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 21 May (John Donnelly, Dana Graham). A Wilson's Plover was at Brigantine 27 May (Steve Walter); this species has been reported with increasing frequency in recent spring seasons and may recolonize its former (nineteenth-century) breeding range in s. New Jersey. Northerly Black-necked Stilts included 2 in the Heislerville-Bivalve area, Cumberland, NJ 9-10 May (CJV et al.) and 2 at Colt's Neck, Monmouth, NJ 14-15 May (Andrew Spears, Sam Skinner). The largest count of Greater Yellowlegs was 500 at Raccoon Creek Marsh, Gloucester, NJ 19 Apr (SK). A Western Willet, uncommon in spring, was at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE). Two Willets were in St. Lawrence, NY 4-5 May (Ken Kogut et al.); all inland New York specimens are *inornata*. The highest counts of Whimbrels were 80 at Nummy's I., Cape May, NJ 15 Apr (RC) and 140 at Brigantine 29 Apr (PB). Single Marbled Godwits were at Mispillian, Sussex, DE 25 Apr, at Nummy's I. 9 May, at Reeds Beach, Cape May, NJ 13 May, and far inland at Tonawanda 5-7 May (WW, WD'A et al.), the last representing a 2nd record for that region. There seemed to be a fairly strong crop of Horseshoe Crab eggs this spring, and these were well attended by shorebirds. Six thousand Ruddy Turnstones were at Port Mahon Rd, Kent, DE 16 May (APE), 1930 (a record high count for New York) were at Shinnecock 19 May (PJJ, SSM), and 25 at Chazy was a high count for that L. Champlain locality

SA A Crested Caracara flew by the Sandy Hook hawkwatch 5 May (CB, SB, LM, Donna Juettner). Another or perhaps the same bird appeared at Martha's Vineyard, MA 15 May. Most extralimital records of caracaras in the past have been dismissed as probable escapees. Yet Crested Caracaras are expanding their range in Texas and have dispersed widely to the West Coast in recent years. In addition, there are three records of vagrants from Ontario and one from New Brunswick. ISIS (<www.isis.org>) lists a total of 14 captive Crested Caracaras in the United States, all in Florida and Texas except for one in Grand Rapids, MI. The evidence available thus favors birds in the Northeast being wild vagrants.

(BK, CM). High counts included 2700 Red Knots at Mispillian Light, Kent, DE 12 May (FR), 3300 Sanderlings at Shinnecock 19 May (PJJ, SSM), 665 Least Sandpipers at Sagaponack 11 May (HM), 15,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 29 May (VE), 2000 Semipalmateds at Port Mahon Rd., Kent, DE 16 May (APE), and 70+ White-rumped Sandpipers at Brigantine 27 May (PB). A Western Sandpiper at Pike's Beach, Moriches Bay 20 May was rare for the Region in spring (HM, BKA et al.), and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Belford, Monmouth, NJ 17 Apr (TBo) was early. It was a big spring for Curlew Sandpipers, perhaps the biggest since the 1950s: 3 were at Heislerville, Cumberland, NJ 30 Apr-17 May (CJV, Ed Deal, K. Rieker et al.), one at Brigantine 10 & 22 May (C. Cox et al.), and one at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 16 May (CJV). A Stilt Sandpiper at Jake's Landing, Cape May, NJ 20-21 Apr (Bill & Jane Welsh) was early; one at Iroquois 27-28 May (WD'A, BP) was unexpected there. The single Ruff of the spring was near Pedricktown, Gloucester, NJ, the traditional Ruff aggregation spot of the 1970s and 1980s, 14-22 Apr (DM, m.ob.). Some 120 Short-billed Dowitchers at Chazy 28 May (BK, CM) made a high count for the L. Champlain area. Storms this spring coincided with the northward migration of Common Snipe: 200+ were counted at Mannington 2 Apr (SB et al.), and 600+ were in Oswego, NY 7-9 Apr (BPu). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Oceanside, Long I. 2-4 May (Mike Farina) and at Prime Hook 21 Apr (FR); a pair, seen copulating once, was at Iroquois 20-28 May (PY, WD'A, WW, David Mark). Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Brigantine 27 May (Tom Bailey), at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 19 May (2; Alfred Ulmer), and at Pike's Beach 27 May (Seth Ausubel).

A scattering of Parasitic Jaegers was reported during May, with a maximum of 4 at Cape May 19 May (S. Galick, CJV). Nineteen Little Gulls were at the Lewiston Docks on the Niagara R. 20 Mar (BOS); about 25 others included one at Chazy 30 May (BK) for a 3rd county record. About 10 Black-headed Gulls were reported, all at the coast except one at L. Assunpink, Monmouth, NJ 10 Mar (PJ). An ad. Mew Gull at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 4 Mar (Michael Newlon) and again 1-2 Apr (*vide* SB) would be a first for New Jersey. Another Mew Gull, this one in second-cycle plumage, was at Marine Park, Brooklyn, NY 8-12 Apr (AW, m.ob.). A first-cycle Thayer's Gull was nicely photographed at Stevenson Rd., Tompkins, NY 10-12 Mar (TL, JG, TJ). About 15 Iceland and 7 Glaucous Gulls were reported Regionwide. Of about 50 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the only concentrations were of 12 at Cherry Island Landfill, Newcas-



This Bullock's Oriole at Phoenixia, Ulster County, New York 9 March 2007 was one of many found in late winter and early spring east and north of typical range. Photograph by Lloyd Spitalnik.

tle, DE 17 Mar (Mike Smith et al.) and 30 at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 10-14 Mar (FS). Coastal observers remarked on the frequency with which Gull-billed Terns were seen; 16 were at Brigantine 13 May (PB), and 5 were reported at Jones Beach on several dates in May. The count of 131 Caspian Terns at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 3 May is a typical count for an inland site, whereas 10 at Mecox 26 Apr (HM) was a substantial flock for the coast. A Sandwich Tern at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (Dave LaPuma) was far n. for that date and may have been influenced by the 15 Apr storm. An Arctic Tern at Cape May 8 May (S. Kacir, T. Croasdale) adds another to the increasing list of spring migrants seen there, while 3 Common Terns at Lancaster, Erie, NY 12 Apr (MM) were early. Four Forster's Terns at Myer's Pt., Tompkins, NY 27 Apr (TL) were noteworthy. Least Terns arrived early with the 15 Apr storm: singles were seen at Manasquan Inlet, Ocean, NJ 17 Apr (BR) and Staten I., NY 16 Apr (RRV). Two Sooty Terns appeared after the 15 Apr storm: one was picked up exhausted 16 Apr at Westhampton, Suffolk, Long I. (HM), and the other was found dead in the same area two weeks later (HM). This is unusually early for Sooty Tern, as almost all records n. of Virginia are from late summer and fall, usually but not always during or following tropical storms. Five other Sooty Terns were reported from New England as a result of this unusually strong Apr storm. Also during the storm, 5 large alcids and a Dovekie were seen at Cape May Pt. (MF).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Of annual occurrence in the Region now, single White-winged Doves were at Cape May 30 Mar-9 Apr (Barb Bassett, m.ob.) and at Bombay Hook 20 May (Gary Zylkuski, Adrienne Papazian). Single Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Sandy Hook 11 May (JC) and Cape May 23 May (MO'B). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (BR) was early. The latest of 7 Short-eared Owls reported was one at Jake's Landing, Cape May, NJ 14 Apr (CJV), and 3 Long-eared Owls were at Goldenhill S.P., Niagara, NY 13-18 Mar (BOS). A migrant Chuck-will's-widow was seen in Central Park 3 May (Andy Guthrie, m.ob.), and at least 2 others were on territory at now-traditional sites on e. Long I. in early May (HM). A count of 66 Whip-poor-wills at Lakehurst N.A.S., Monmouth, NJ (SB) is a significant number, especially given the recent substantial decreases in abundance of this species. Obvious migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at Cape May 5 & 12 May, and a migrant Hairy Woodpecker was there on the latter date (PEL). An American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at the traditional location near Ferd's Bog, Hamilton/Herkimer, NY 23 May (Gary Lee), and a total of 7 Black-backed Woodpeckers was tallied among several localities in the Adirondacks.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

One hundred and fifty Eastern Kingbirds at Sandy Hook 12 May (TBo) was a count indicative of the volume of the passerine migration there on that day. A Western Kingbird at Cape May 12 May (PDU, WCR, DF) is one of an increasing number of spring records of this species, more typically seen in fall. Loggerhead Shrikes, virtually extirpated as breeders in the Region and especially rare at the coast, were seen at Derby Hill 27 Apr (T. Carrolan, Cheri Sassman) and Cape May 11 May (Keith Dedrick, John Collins). Common Ravens at the border of their current range include 4 at Blairstown, Warren, NJ 11 Mar (Dana Beaton, Alan Boyd) and 2 at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 28-29 Apr. Two hundred Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Sandy Hook 23 Apr (PJ) made a high coastal count for spring. Five Bicknell's Thrushes were heard singing on Porter Mt., Essex, NY 19-20 May (Matthew D. Medler).

About 16 Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded throughout the Region, a near-average total for recent years. Three Brewster's and 4 Lawrence's Warblers were reported Regionwide. Six Yellow-throated Warblers were found (n. of s. New Jersey), the earliest 14 Apr in Belmar, Monmouth, NJ (NT); this count is far below the totals of the past two springs (16 and 10, respectively). A Yellow-

throated Warbler arrived at Allegheny S.P., *Cattaraugus*, NY 13 May (JP, RSp) at a site where they have bred for many years. A Blackpoll Warbler at North Cape May 29 Apr (J Guerard) was slightly early but typical of recent first arrival dates. Reports of Cerulean Warblers included 17 at Howland I., *Cayuga*, NY 19 May, 7 at West Monroe, *Oswego*, NY 19 May, and 5 at Cape May 12 May (CJV et al.). Twelve Prothonotary Warblers were found in the New York City/Long I. area, the earliest 18 Apr; this is about half the 2005 total. Twenty-one Worm-eating Warblers were found in the same area, the earliest on 23 Apr. A **Swainson's Warbler** was at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (SB, CB, LM et al.), the only one of the spring. Twelve Kentucky Warblers were reported in the New York City/Long I. area (vs. 13 in 2005), the earliest being 28 Apr; one at Tift N.P., *Erie*, NY 26 May (Doug Happ) was unusual for Buffalo. Hooded Warblers in the downstate area numbered 20, with the earliest found 18 Apr.

SPARROWS THROUGH DICKCISSEL

A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Island Beach S.P. 20 May (Mary Doscher); the species was reported as scarce in the upstate New York areas where they have bred in recent years. A presumed Clay-colored Sparrow × Field Sparrow hybrid was present at Round Valley, *Hunterdon*, NJ until 2 May (m.ob.). Three hundred Chipping Sparrows were at Sandy Hook 2 May (TBo). Vesper Sparrows were frequently reported this spring. A male **Lark Bunting** at Blaisdell, *Erie*, NY 19 May (Tina Schultz, Danielle Pecoraro) furnished one of the few Regional spring records. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** discovered in Feb at Abbott's Meadow W.M.A., *Salem* remained until at least 15 Mar (PJD), a rare instance of wintering in New Jersey. Five Henslow's Sparrows were noted on territory along Goodrich Rd., *Schoharie*, NY 31 May (WY). There was a big movement of Fox Sparrows this spring, some of which were forced out of the thickets by snowstorms: 50+ on Staten I., NY 18 Mar (RRV); 33 at Three Rivers W.M.A., *Onondaga*, NY 30 Mar (G. Dashnau); 31 in Porter and Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 7 Apr (WD'A); 27 at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A., *Salem*, NJ 18 Mar (T. Bailey); 23 at Jersey City, *Hudson*, NJ 14 Mar (Mark Benson); and 21 at Garret Mt., *Passaic*, NJ 23 Mar (Chris Takacs); and a high 165 in the Rochester area 12 Apr (BOS). On the major flight day of 2 May, 5000-10,000 White-throated Sparrows were estimated at Sandy Hook (TBo, CB), as were 45+ White-crowned Sparrows. A female Oregon Junco was photographed at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 6-9 Apr (WD'A). A Harris's Sparrow was pho-

tographed at Batavia 1 Mar-9 May (Gerhard Leubner et al.).

A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** was clearly photographed at Newfane, *Niagara*, NY 5-11 May (*vide* JP). Seventeen Blue Grosbeaks appeared, the earliest of these seen 18 Apr at Sandy Hook, followed by 5 at Jones Beach and Robert Moses 20-22 Apr. Twelve Indigo Buntings appeared 16 Apr at Robert Moses, and these included one possible Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting hybrid (SSM, PJJ); 4 other Indigos were at Sandy Hook 18 Apr (TBo). Three Dickcissels flew over Cape May 12 May; singles were at Reliance, *Sussex*, DE 16 May (Glen Lovelace) and Mannington 30 May (FL); and a pair was seen feeding young at Readington, *Hunterdon*, NJ 31 May (David Harrison et al.).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

On the major flight day of 12 May, 225 Bobolinks were counted passing over Sandy Hook (TBo). A **Western Meadowlark** sang at Ripley 22 Apr-12 May (Tim Baird, WD'A, JP, m.ob.). Since the eastward surge of this species in the 1960s and 1970s, Westerns have been scarce, and this furnished the first local record since 1992. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Taghhanic Park, *Columbia*, NY 19 Mar (Allan & Phyllis Wirth). Higher counts of the declining Rusty Blackbird include 400 at Fairfield, *Essex*, NJ 31 Mar-1 Apr (Glenn Mahler, Mark Benson) and 200 at Montezuma 27 Mar (JG, CW). Eight Brewer's Blackbirds were at Pennsville, *Salem*, NJ 2-7 Apr (SB, PJD). Three Orchard Orioles were banded quite far n. at Crown Pt., *Essex*, NY 12-18 May (EDT).

Purple Finches were scarce during winter in the coastal parts of the Region, so counts of 50+ at Blue Ridge, *Essex*, NY and Sabattis Bog, *Hamilton*, NY are of interest. Forty or more Red Crossbills were at Sabattis Bog, *Hamilton*, NY 1 Mar (LM), and 40 were at North Lake, *Essex*, NY 2 Apr (LM). Thirty-two Red Crossbills were at Colton, *St. Lawrence*, NY 11 Mar (LM), and a pair with 2 recently fledged young was seen at nearby Low's Ridge 12 May (JSB). Twenty White-winged Crossbills were at Sabattis Bog 1 Mar and 5 at North Lake 2 Apr (LM). Hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Newcomb, *Essex*, NY 12 Mar (Ellen Rathbone), proving that they are not yet quite gone from our Region!

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