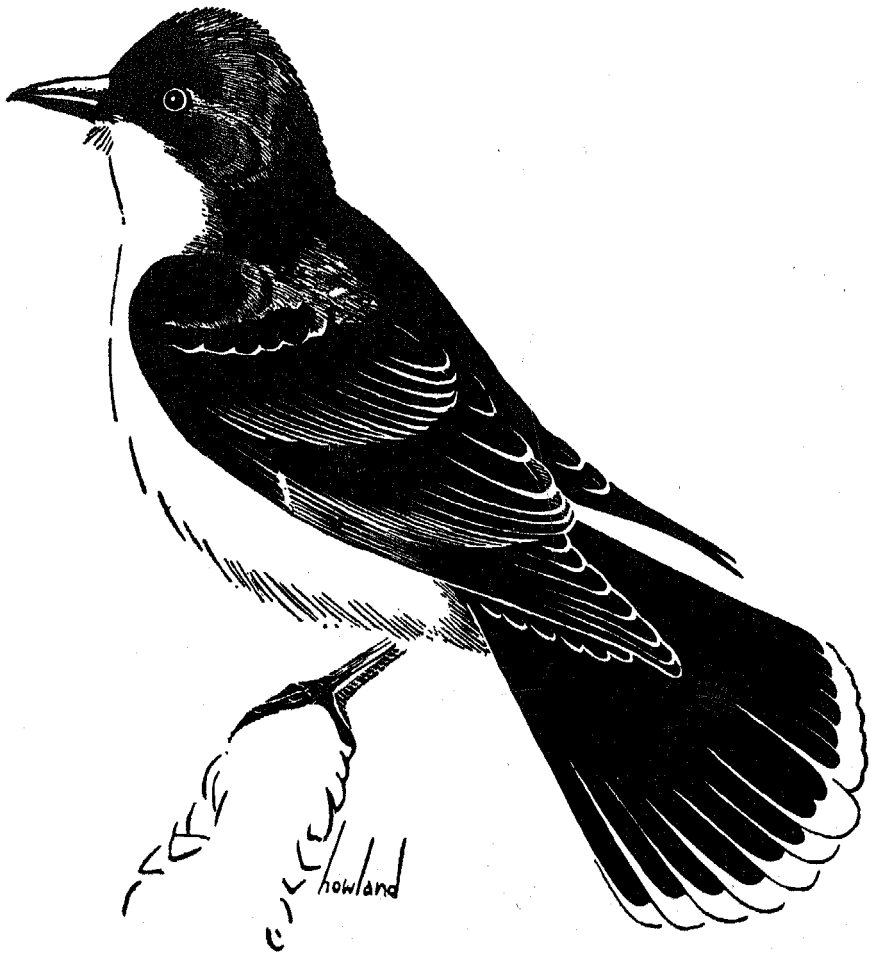


The
KINGBIRD



VOLUME 1, NO. 3

JUNE • JULY • 1951

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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Editor—ALLAN S. KLONICK

Associates—JOSEPH W. TAYLOR

EUGENE EISENMANN

Business Manager—H. EVEREST CLEMENTS

Cover Design—DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND

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MRS. JAMES M. DAVIS
203 COLLINGSWORTH DR.
ROCHESTER 10, N. Y.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

With this edition you will notice our new make-up in which we have endeavored to make our publication a more professional medium of expression. Your comments and suggestions are invited. It will be interesting to many that *The Kingbird* is being printed by the *Eddy Printing Co.* of Albion, New York, who were the original printers of the now famous *Oologist* of the last century. That publication was originated by Dr. Frank Lattin of Albion and continued later by his successor, R. M. Barnes.

The importance of Regional Reports can not be over-emphasized and it should become every reader's duty to contribute his own records to the Regional Editor in his area. In this connection the editors wish to thank the Regional Editors who have contributed much of their time and energy in order that an accurate migration picture can be given throughout the State.

As a reminder to all contributors, the deadline for the next issue will be September 30th. Records submitted should include all migrations for summer and early fall.

In the next issue of *The Kingbird* a complete list of all *Individual Members* of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will appear. Please check the envelope in which you received this copy, and if there is an error in either name or address please send the envelope to the publication office, marking any corrections thereon.

There are available a few copies of Vol. 1, No. 1 and Vol. 1, No. 2 of *The Kingbird*, which may also be obtained from the publication office at sixty cents a copy.

It is of prime importance that the Federation publication be circulated more freely in schools, libraries, universities and among the public. If you, the readers, can aid in obtaining additional subscriptions *The Kingbird* will be assured a continued life. Your personal attention will be greatly appreciated.

A. S. K.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS Organized 1947

Winston W. Brockner 63 Ardmore Place Buffalo 13, New York	President 1951
Eugene Eisenmann 11 Broadway New York 4, New York	Vice-President 1951
Reginald W. Hartwell 121 North Fitzhugh Street Rochester 14, New York	Corresponding Secretary 1951
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Mrs. William G. Irving Van Houten Fields West Nyack, New York	Treasurer 1951

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS — — —

Your *Kingbird* is truly on a wartime footing! You will note that our capable Editor is still at the helm. We sincerely hope to find him editing the next issue and many others to follow.

The Annual Meeting at Buffalo this year was a great success. Those who missed this important meeting, better make plans for next May, when the meeting will be held in Schenectady, where the Schenectady Bird Club will be hosts.

The complete report of the Buffalo Meeting will be sent out with the minutes.

At this meeting, Miss Hazel Ellis, Chairman of the Publications and Research Committee, recommended that as many people as possible obtain information concerning summering birds in the Adirondacks. This was adopted, and many observers who spend their vacations, or any other time, in this region of the state, should record this data for future use. This information will be of great value, especially when the state bird book is revised.

All birders and true conservationists throughout the state, should watch closely the handling of violations of game laws; both state and federal. In some cases, the federal violations bear the closest scrutiny. It is the Federal Laws, that are tied in with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In these cases, violations come before Federal Judges, and increasing anxiety is being caused by the laxness or utter lack of interest by these Judges in prosecuting and levying fines and stiff penalties. Fortunately, as far as we can determine, this is not true in the Empire State, but vigilance must never be relaxed!

It is advisable also, to keep a weather-eye cocked in the direction of the Adirondacks. Great things are being planned for this beautiful State Park in the next few years.

We are still in need of MANY MORE subscribers! Don't forget your local libraries, school libraries, and individuals who are not members of your local clubs.

Winston William Brockner

THE BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN NEW YORK

By KENNETH C. PARKES

In 1944, Edwin M. Hasbrouck published a paper (1) which attempted to summarize all known records of Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) in North America east of Duluth, Minnesota. Unfortunately, many inaccuracies found their way into his summaries, an almost unavoidable circumstance considering the scope of the paper. Ludlow Griscom has published a critique (2) of that portion of Hasbrouck's paper dealing with Massachusetts. He includes a thorough discussion of the question of field identification of this species, a discussion which is recommended to all bird students. It will suffice here to emphasize that little or no credence can be given to the vast majority of sight records of plumages other than the fully adult male in breeding plumage; the latter, however, may easily be recognized by the several diagnostic points mentioned by Griscom.

There are nineteen entries in Hasbrouck's list of New York records of Barrow's Goldeneye. These will be reviewed, certain other records mentioned, and the known status of the species in New York re-evaluated.

The first record cited by Hasbrouck is a composite of statements by Elliot (3) and Eaton (4). Elliot's statement reads, "I have found it at times quite numerous on the St. Lawrence near Ogdensburg, and have killed a goodly number there over decoys, and some specimens, procured there on these occasions, are now in the Museum of Natural History in New York." Eaton adds a definite date and number, as follows: ". . . Dr. D. G. Elliot found it fairly common in 1865, and took nearly 40 specimens." I have been unable to locate this information elsewhere in published form, and it is possible that Eaton obtained it directly from Elliot.

These figures are so much at variance with the numerical status of the species in New York that I asked Dr. John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History to verify the presence of the specimens mentioned by Elliot as being in that museum. Dr. Zimmer has written me as follows:

"We have, from the Elliot collection, five specimens of Barrow's Goldeneye, all at one time mounted but four now in the skin collection. Identification is correct.

"According to the catalogue of the pertinent numbers, all five are from Ogdensburg, N. Y., but one of the birds has a notation on the back of the label as follows: 'The five specimens obtained within the limits of the United States. Procured at Washington Market Jany. 10, 1882.'

'The five specimens' presumably refers to the five birds in the Elliot Collection. 'Procured at Washington Market' may refer only to the bird on whose label it is written. If it applies to all five birds, something is decidedly wrong. In any case, the catalogue entry of 'Ogdensburg' for that specimen is open to question . . .

"This is all the information available here. If Elliot shot nearly 40 specimens at Ogdensburg, it is unfortunate that he did not save more of them."

To Dr. Zimmer's remarks I can only add that there is a marked discrepancy between the year cited by Eaton (1865) and that on the only dated specimen in the Elliot Collection (1882). This makes it seem even less probable that this specimen is one of those mentioned by Elliot and Eaton. It is impossible to tell from Elliot's writings whether the reported abundance of Barrow's Goldeneye on the St. Lawrence was a phenomenon limited to a single season or a general abundance for a number of years.

The next four records cited by Hasbrouck are sight records from Orient, Long Island, by the veteran observer Roy Latham. These records are also summarized by Cruickshank (5). These are followed by a record of a specimen in the American Museum of Natural History which was collected at Brockport on March 28, 1888. This specimen was apparently unknown to Eaton, who knew of only one western New York record, the Sodus Bay specimen listed below.

The seventh and fourteenth records in Hasbrouck's list refer to the same specimen, which is in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society, and bears no data other than "Long Island" (see Cruickshank). The tenth record on the list also refers to this specimen, although here Hasbrouck quotes the record from Eaton, and gratuitously adds the date "Nov. 1904", which properly belongs to the Sodus Bay specimen.

The records for Green Island, Albany Co. (January 21, 1887) and Sodus Bay (November, 1904) are taken directly from Eaton, who also published a photograph of the latter specimen.

Next on Hasbrouck's list is a specimen in the U. S. National Museum taken on the St. Lawrence River "about 1898". Following this is a specimen from the Niagara River, taken February 22, 1899, and now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. This specimen was apparently known neither to Eaton nor to R. W. Sheppard, who omitted the species entirely from his list of water birds of the Niagara (6).

The next entry refers to a specimen from "Burkport", Nov. 23, 1911, and credited to Harold D. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell informs me that this specimen was taken by George Guelf at Sandy Creek, north of *Brockport*, New York. It was a young male, and is now in the collection of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

At the place cited by Hasbrouck for his fifteenth entry, Cruickshank states, "There are also sight records from Montauk, February 1, 1937 (Pangburn), and January 23, 1939 (Helmuth)." Hasbrouck transformed the "s" of "sight" into an "e", and listed *eight* records from Montauk, *between* the two dates cited.

The next two records, the sixteenth and seventeenth on the list, are from Raritan Bay, which is in New Jersey, not New York. Incidentally, one of these records is listed as Jan. 5, 1915; the proper date according to Cruickshank is Jan. 5, 1936.

Two sight records close Hasbrouck's list; one from Smithtown, Long Island, March 18-25, 1940, and one from Long Pond, Monroe Co., March 11, 1934.

Thus, of Hasbrouck's nineteen entries for Barrow's Goldeneye in New

York, we have remaining seven sight records (one of which actually represents two separate records) and eight records of birds collected, two of the latter having incomplete or inconclusive data.

Another error in the literature remains to be corrected. Reed and Wright (7) listed a specimen of this species as having been taken at Cayuga by L. A. Fuertes on December 20, 1906. Identification of this specimen has been questioned in recent years. At the 1947 meeting of the A. O. U. at Toronto, the late Dr. Max M. Peet demonstrated that it was possible to identify questionable Goldeneye specimens by means of X-ray photographs of the skull. I submitted the Cayuga specimen to Dr. Peet, who identified it conclusively as an adult female American Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula americana*). The deletion of this record does not remove this species from the list of birds of the Cayuga Lake Basin, however, as there are two sight records from the west shore of Cayuga Lake, one by Dr. A. A. Allen about 1925 or 1926 (exact date lost) and one by Mr. and Mrs. York on March 23, 1946.

The only other recent record of Barrow's Goldeneye in New York away from Long Island which has come to my attention is that published by Rosa and Turrentine (8). The birds were seen on February 18, 1951, but the locality is given merely as "Hudson River", presumably somewhere in the Albany-Troy region.

Cruickshank predicted in 1942 that "further investigation may well reveal that the species occurs annually at the extreme eastern end of Long Island." His expectations have been fulfilled and today the only portion of New York where the observer is justified in a reasonable hope of finding Barrow's Goldeneye is along the rocky fingers of Orient and Montauk Points which reach into the Atlantic. January through March seems to be the most favorable period to look for the species here. Elsewhere in the state it is purely accidental, and sight records must be accepted only after careful study. The most likely region for occasional occurrences of the species seems to be Lake Ontario and vicinity, from the Niagara River to the St. Lawrence River, but even in this area, observers must hope rather than expect to see the bird.

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DICKCISSEL NESTING IN CAYUGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

ERNEST G. TABOR AND ALLEN H. BENTON

The Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*, was formerly a breeding bird in New York, the most recent nest record, as reported by Eaton, (Birds of New York Vol. 2, p. 335, 1914) being from Junius, Seneca county, in 1875. Two birds of this species, possibly the same ones, returned to Junius the following year, and were collected by Mr. C. Hampton. The last known specimens from Cayuga county were taken by Frank Wright near Cayuga in May 1879. Both were males, and were reported by Frank Rathbun in the Ornithologist and Oologist IX, 3:132-133, 1882. There are numerous records of the occurrence of this species in New York since that time, mostly near New York City. Charles Spiker has reported one from Steuben county (Kingbird I, 1:6, 1950), and other records are summarized by Lillian Stoner (Kingbird I, 2:12, 1951). There is a nesting record from Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1904, (W. D. Miller, Auk XXI 487), but there have been no other nesting records in the northeast for three-quarters of a century, so far as we have been able to determine.

In May 1937 a nest of this species was taken by Tabor, one mile south of the village of Meridian, Cayuga county, New York. The nest was located in a clump of orchard grass, and was broken up by the owner of the land when he cut the grass with a scythe. Recognizing the bird as unusual, he called Tabor, who identified the nest as that of a Dickcissel. Later in the season two adult Dickcissels and four young were seen nearby by Tabor and Roy Bradley, indicating that the pair were successful in a second nesting.

In 1949, this nest was reported by Benton in his hypothetical list, (A. H. Benton, Breeding Birds of Cayuga County, Unpublished Essay, Cornell University, 1949) the nest having not yet been authenticated. Later the nest was sent, without mention of its suspected identity, to Mr. James Gillin, Ambler, Pennsylvania, a recognized authority on nests and eggs of American birds. Mr. Gillin writes as follows:

"This is undoubtedly the nest and eggs of the Dickcissel The nesting material, location of the nest and the rather pale blue eggs of the correct size leave no room for doubt."

The Dickcissel is therefore removed from the hypothetical list of breeding birds of Cayuga county. The nest and eggs on which the record is based are now in the possession of Tabor at Meridian.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The fourth annual council meeting of the Federation was held April 7, 1951 in the library of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Twenty-six delegates, representing fifteen clubs, answered the roll call. President Winston W. Brockner presided. He announced that the Northport Veterans Hospital Bird Club of Northport, L. I., had affiliated with the Federation. The council accepted the application of the Blue Heron Audubon Society of Stony Brook, L. I., with a membership of seventy-five active members. Applications for 149 individual memberships were also accepted.

Conservation chairman, Walter Elwood, submitted his report covering the major items of conservation interest in both State and National legislation. Mr. Elwood and his committee did a tremendous task in analyzing this legislation, writing letters and issuing bulletins. Samuel Madison of Delmar appeared at hearings in Albany in behalf of the Federation. Mr. Elwood's report provoked a discussion of the new State Law permitting the Conservation Department to authorize the destruction of birds and animals regarded as a nuisance. The council agreed that the effect of this law would depend on the judgment of the Department. In any event, the law cannot overrule the Federal Migratory Bird Laws.

In the report of the Research and Publications committee, chairman Hazel Ellis recommended three new projects. First is a suggestion from Dr. A. A. Allen that we start a census of the breeding warblers in the Adirondacks. The second recommendation calls for each affiliated club to prepare a map and information about birding areas in its section of the State. The third suggestion is for local groups and individuals to watch for indications of hawk migrations, extending the work of the Rochester and Buffalo Clubs.

As the work of publication has been turned over largely to Allan Klonick, editor of *The Kingbird*, Mr. Klonick submitted his own report. He stated that 2000 copies of the first issue of *The Kingbird* had been circulated free of charge in the affiliated clubs. Of the second issue, 1000 copies were printed and distributed to individual members, and the balance placed on sale at 60¢ a copy. Beginning with the third issue, the publication will be very close to the actual number of individual members whose \$2 annual dues include *Kingbird* subscription. Mr. Klonick urged clubs to promote individual memberships, stating that 500 would be needed to keep the *Kingbird* flying. He was highly commended by the council for the excellence of the publication.

Action concerning affiliating with the New York State Conservation Council was withheld pending further study. Local clubs were urged to consider the advisability of affiliating with local sportsmen's conservation councils.

President Brockner read his report, outlining the activities of the past year, and commending Allan Klonick for his work on *The Kingbird*, and Elwood, Madison and Eisenmann for their conservation work. He an-

nounced that Dr. Gordon Meade had been appointed chairman of a committee to explore the possibilities of revising the present state bird book.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates: President, Eugene Eisenmann, New York City; Vice-President, Harold D. Mitchell, Buffalo; Recording Secretary, Albert W. Fudge, Elmira; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Louise Helfer, Watkins Glen; Treasurer, Mrs. W. B. English, Amsterdam. These candidates were elected to take office January 1, 1952.

An invitation from the Schenectady Bird Club to hold the 1952 annual meeting in that city on the weekend of May 24 was accepted by President Brockner.

Albert Fudge,
Recording Secretary

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO AT LAKE PLACID

ALLEN H. BENTON

The birds of the Adirondack Mountains have been intensively studied for many years. Merriam¹, Roosevelt and Minot², Eaton³, Saunders⁴, and others have worked in the area and published notes or papers on their findings. None of them has reported the occurrence of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus americanus*, in the region.

On July 1, 1942, an adult male of this species flew into a plate-glass window at the Lake Placid Club and was killed. At the time, I was nature leader at the club, so the specimen fell into my hands. It was made up as a study skin, and now resides in the small study collection maintained by the Lake Placid Club.

The rarity of this record was called to my attention by Dr. Harold H. Axtell, now of the Buffalo Museum of Science. So far as I have been able to determine, it represents the only reported occurrence of this species from the Lake Placid region.

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CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

WALTER ELWOOD, *Chairman, Conservation Committee.*

There can be no peace of mind for those of us with conservation consciences — even though our State legislature wound up its business weeks ago. Too many threatening moves and trouble spots are still flourishing all along our national conservation front. The call for eternal vigilance on our part never lets up.

With Congress so preoccupied by interminable investigation and political maneuvering and, incidentally, by the National Defense program, we are left with no choice but to do our best in behalf of the conservation issues for which we are battling — and be as patient as possible. Of the 6,000 bills introduced into both houses up to April 30, including several hundred "private bills" which do not become public laws; only 25 had been enacted into law, an example of the current slow motion.

With all the hearings going on in Washington, it is nice to know that there will be one on the Lantaff bill appropriating \$100,000 to establish a refuge for the few surviving Key deer of Florida. The original hearing was postponed.

The bill for the protection of the Bald Eagle in Alaska (H.R. 5507) remains in a coma.

Secretary of the Interior Chapman approved the early construction of Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument. The Reclamation Engineers refuse to consider alternate locations outside of the Monument. This Dam will cost a mere \$165,400,000 — but it will be the third highest dam in the world. Think of that! Whether the money for this has yet been appropriated is an unknown factor. Eliminating the project offers a good opportunity to cut down on our much-criticized government spending.

This Monument is not the only one endangered by colossal and super-colossal dams. At this time all of these National Parks — Grand Canyon, Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, Glacier and Mammoth Cave — and the Grand Canyon National Monument are seriously threatened by the vast plans of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Army Engineers which discount all values outside of power, irrigation, flood control and navigation.

The small stand of sugar pines, the most remarkable stand of these trees in the world, in the South Calaveras Grove in Tuolumne County, California, still remains in the clutches of a lumber company despite the tireless efforts of the California War Memorial Park Association and of the thousands who supported the Association in its battle. The sacred cow of big business is sure sacred.

The need for control of water on the land where it falls, instead of simply building great levees and dams, and the effects of overgrazing and extensive logging on our watersheds, are, after long neglect at last fully recognized in the Report of the President's Water Resources Commission.

.. .. .

22,000 significant sources of water pollution in the United States almost equally divided between municipalities and industries, have been listed. Even with 9300 treatment plants cutting down this pollution, harmful waste still pouring into our streams equals the sewage from over 150,000,000 people.

.. .. .

The Johnson-Thompson bill was passed, increasing the price of duck stamps from \$1.00 to \$2.00. This bill also allows hunting on any newly-acquired refuges when waterfowl, in the judgment of the Fish and Wildlife Service, are not decreasing.

.. .. .

The American National Live Stock Association is straining every muscle to secure for its members more grazing privileges and special concessions, not only on western grazing lands but in the U. S. Forest Preserves as well. Its nation-wide program of action aims to counteract the groups now advocating conservation, charging them with being "mostly idealists and impractical, book-trained conservationists." The initiative in conservation, the Association says, must be taken over by practical groups, the Live Stock bunch, in particular. And, on all of their publicity and stationery, they propose to blazon the slogan "Conservation for Freedom!" or "Conservation for Defense!"

See the story of their plan in "Conservation News", Vol. 16, No. 1, Feb. 1, 1951, published by the National Wildlife Federation.

.. .. .

The United States has 282 wildlife refuges, 262 of which are in the States themselves. Of these 196 are primarily for waterfowl, with about 100 each having 5000 acres or more.

Last year 15½ million fishing licenses were bought by hopeful souls, a number growing larger every year, with no corresponding increase in trout streams.

.. .. .

Conservation is a big and far-reaching problem in the big country of which we have the good fortune to be citizens. The more we are awake to this problem, wherever it appears, in our home town or in our nation, the better citizens we are bound to be.



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REGIONAL REPORTS FOR SPRING MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

Generally speaking, the spring migration of 1951 was not quite up to expectations. Nevertheless, many interesting observations were afforded, with several species showing up to good advantage. Warbler waves occurred on May 16th and 18th, with "echo waves" on the 17th and 19th. Birding was therefore excellent on four consecutive days, but the rest of the entire period left much to be desired. The weather generally has been wet and rainy, with water levels standing at record heights throughout.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Horned Grebes were unusually common, especially on the Niagara. Holboell's Grebes were reported from several places. Two American Egrets are summering north of Akron, N. Y., while two others were seen during May near Lake Erie. Geese came in in satisfactory numbers—well over 10,000 Canadas, including one of a smaller subspecies, being reported for the Duck Census in early April. Snow Geese were reported but twice, but Blues were observed in many places. American Brant have been seen in two locations. Whistling Swans were more widespread than usual, no doubt due in part to the large total amount of water area available. All the regular ducks showed up in generally satisfactory numbers. One American Scoter remained in Dunkirk Harbor throughout March.

HAWKS — OWLS:

700 Broad-winged Hawks within 20 minutes, seen at Wanakah by Dr. Axtell on April 28th were very notable for this region. These were accompanied by 25 Sharp-shins and one Duck Hawk. An adult Goshawk near Wilson on May 20th was exceptionally late. White-winged Gulls remained late. The last Icelands were on April 18th while a Glaucous was found on May 15th. Three Short-eared Owls seem to be making Grand Island their summer home.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Notable here are those southern birds whose range extends north just to here. Carolina Wrens seem to have increased slightly this spring. Gnatcatchers seem more numerous than ever but the Titmouse has retreated from several former locations and has been seen only in Allegany State Park. An Acadian Flycatcher at Irving, found on May 30th, seemed to have territorial ambitions.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Philadelphia Vireos were present in rather unusual numbers from May 16th until near the end of the month. Blue-winged and Brewster Warblers are holding their recent gains and perhaps increasing somewhat. A female Prairie Warbler, quite rare here, spent three days in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, and afforded good views to many observers. Best of all is the re-establishment of the colony of breeding Prothonotary Warblers at Oak Orchard Swamp. These could not be found there for the past few years but

Ithaca, was somewhat late in arriving this year, not appearing until after May 2. They have been occupying a definite territory in the Park, although the nest has not yet been located.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Prothonotary Warbler — The Montezuma pair was found to be present again this year; the nesting site was located on May 27.

Tennessee Warbler — During the middle week of May, this was by far the most abundant warbler in our area. Few were left by the 26th.

Cape May Warbler — Disappointingly few in numbers after several notably good years.

Cerulean Warbler — Another austral species which is increasing in our area. They have never been more common as migrants than they were this May, and a nest has been found at Stewart Park, Ithaca, where they have not bred for some years.

Palm Warbler — Spring sight records of Yellow Palm Warblers in our area have largely been discredited in the past. Careful observation and collecting records this spring indicate that we have perhaps been a bit dogmatic in rejecting such sight records. This year, apparently, a small flight of Yellow Palm Warblers preceded the main flight of Western Palm Warblers; early reports tended to be of Yellows, later reports of Westerns. Both subspecies were collected from the same flock near West Dryden on May 2 (R. W. Dickerman). Sight records of these subspecies should be made with caution; intermediate specimens have been collected in this region.

Kentucky Warbler — This species has now been reliably reported for three successive years in the Cayuga Lake Basin. It had never previously been known from this area. It was seen at Montezuma on May 20 (A. G. Mehring et al).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

White-crowned Sparrow — This and other migrant sparrows through our area seemed to be present in smaller numbers than usual this spring, although all of the breeding species are apparently present in normal numbers.

Fox Sparrow — An individual seen at Ithaca on February 28 was about a week early for this species (P. Springer). It was not reported again until March 10.

Lincoln's Sparrow — Although this species is certainly not common here, few springs go by without at least a couple of records. None was reported this year.

Kenneth C. Parkes,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 2

The season in the southern tier has not been too abnormal, although there were long intervals at times between rains. The northward migration did not progress too steadily, the birds coming more in intermittent

waves. While all the warblers were observed, a number of us missed several of them. The period covered by this report ended with heavy rains, as much as five inches falling in three days over the week-end of June 9.

LOONS – DUCKS:

There were two small waves of migrating Horned Grebes, on April 12th and 14th. The last Horned Grebe was observed on Keuka Lake May 1. The Common Loon has been rather scarce this spring, compared with other years. The writer drives daily a distance of 14 miles along Keuka Lake to his work in Hammondsport; I observed no Loons in March, altho others did, not more than two on any day in April, and only two for the month of May. No Red-throated Loons reported.

Our duck migration was about normal, practically all species indigenous to and migrating thru the area being present, including a few occurrences of the more rare White-winged Scoters and Old Squaws. A pair of Red-heads are spending the summer on Penn Yan marsh. The Canada Goose migration began the last of February and continued till the middle of April.

HAWKS – OWLS:

The local hawk population continues to diminish from year to year. I know of not more than three or four pairs of Red-tails nesting this season in the Keuka Lake watershed, and two pairs of Marsh Hawks. Only occasionally is a Cooper's or a Sharp-shinned Hawk seen. Sparrow Hawks are the most in evidence – a drive of several miles in almost any direction will reveal one or two pairs. Screech Owls are not common, but the Great horned Owl appears to be holding his own; any area of timber of any size harboring a pair. No Long-eared Owls reported.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was located early in the summer a few miles west of Penn Yan – evidently nesting; a rare species for the region. The large colony of Cliff Swallows on the buildings of C. A. Sturdevant, near Prattsburg, continues to increase, and this season there are 152 nests in use. On June 17 Mr. Sturdevant was able to band 221 young swallows in about half the nests. He says the secret of the increase of Cliff Swallows lies in keeping the English sparrow population reduced to zero. Not a Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported this spring. A pair of Carolina Wrens appeared in the winter a few miles south of Geneva, and built a nest there this spring, while one has been singing for several weeks at Guyanoga, two miles north of Branchport. I heard this bird as recently as June 22. The unusual abundance of Cedar Waxwings all during the past winter has kept on into the summer, and Waxwings are everywhere.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

For several years there has been a positive dearth of Warbling Vireos, as if they had been at a low point in a cycle; there is a definite increase this year, however, over the past few years, and they are almost common again. Areas where Chats and Golden-winged Warblers could be depended upon for sight records for a number of years past have apparently grown up past the point that forms suitable habitat, for the birds are no longer there. There are Chats, however, here and there, but Golden-wings were not reported. The writer had a Hooded Warbler on June 1, near his home, and on June

18 a Mourning Warbler was singing at Hammondsport.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

For the past several years the Red-winged Blackbirds have been expanding their territory to include hay-meadows and upland fields in addition to marsh habitat. This year it seems that every farm has them in the fields and along the roads. I have only at the day of this writing been given a report that the Dickcissel is here again, at a point two miles west of where it was observed in 1950. Savannah Sparrows are much fewer this season, although a few pairs are found in certain numbers. The White-crowned Sparrow migration along Keuka Lake was slow and sparse, although back a few miles at higher altitudes they were numerous for a few days at the beginning of May. Other species of sparrows migrated in normal numbers.

Charles J. Spiker,
Branchport, N. Y.

ED. NOTE: The absence of reports from the Elmira and Watkins-Montour areas is evident. In order to have more complete coverage it is recommended that persons in these areas send Mr. Spiker their personal observations for inclusion in the Region 2 Report.—A.S.K.

REGION 3 – LAKE ONTARIO

By the first week in March there was considerable open water in the ponds along the lakeshore and several early species of ducks had arrived. On March 18th about three thousand Canada Geese were already at Oak Orchard. Most later ducks and many early song birds arrived in numbers between March 25th and 27th. The first sizable hawk migration took place on the 27th, and consisted mostly of Red-tails.

The northward movement was slow and uncertain during April, until the 22nd when southwest winds brought the early warblers and such species as Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Ruby crowned Kinglets and Sapsuckers in force, as well as the first large flights of Broad-winged Hawks.

The first good wave of warblers and their allies came between May 5th and May 7th, with Yellow Warblers and Myrtles by far the most common. After this date the new arrivals drifted in steadily, but not in marked waves or numbers. Most observers felt the peak was reached fairly early, perhaps around the 15th or 16th.

Migrants were still in evidence in early June, still drifting through in small groups. Shorebirds, notably Red-backed Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Knots and Semi-palmated Sandpipers were present up to June 10th in spite of very high water everywhere.

The season as a whole was fairly normal with almost none of the outstanding records of a year ago. A few species seemed unusually scarce, Blue-headed Vireos being the best example. The Blue-winged Warblers and White-eyed Vireos seen on the spring census on May 20 were perhaps the most unusual reports.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Common Loon at peak first week in May. Red-throated Loon, several reports – March 29 to May 5. Great blue Heron and Bittern in by March 27th. Whistling Swan – 169 at Oak Orchard and vicinity on March 31, along with 8,000 Canada and one Blue Goose. Diving ducks at peak about March 10th, early. Red-heads and Canvasbacks in fair numbers. European Wigeon on April 14 at Buck Pond. Gadwalls (4) on May 20th. Mergansers very common, 5000 Red-breasted on April 15th. Ruddy Ducks in by April 8th, last report May 20th. The bulk of the waterfowl left early this year. Stragglers after mid-May were relatively rare in contrast with last year, perhaps due to unusually high water conditions.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Hawk migration this year seemed less spectacular probably due to less frequent observation. No Goshawk reported thus far. March 27th – 175 Red Tails, 75 Red-shouldered, 22 Marsh, 4 Sharp-shinned, 4 Coopers, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Rough-legged, 1 Duck Hawk, 8 Sparrow Hawks. Other good dates – April 14th, May 20th. First good Broad-winged flight on April 22nd. Golden Eagle on May 20th. All these reports were from the East Manitou Road at Braddocks Bay. Bald Eagles nesting along Genesee River, Livingston County, again.

Yellowlegs and other early sandpipers not common; little beach or mud flats exposed. Fairly good spring flight of later species – Knots, Red-backs, Least, Semipalmated, Sanderling, etc., observed up to mid-June.

Large flock of gulls along Lakeshore in mid-March included many Black-backs, a few Iceland and Glaucous. One Iceland Gull at pier on May 20th; Glaucous at Shore Acres till May 5th. Caspian Tern reported several times – late April and early May. Few reports on Owls. One Long Eared on March 29th. Short Eared not reported. Barred and Long-Eared on May 20th (Montezuma) and Long-eared at Mendon Ponds Park same date. Screech common. No Snowy Owls after March 1st.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Whip-poor-will on April 28th – very common this spring – possibly nesting at Reed Rd. Sapsuckers uncommon again this year. Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on May 20th (only reports). Prairie Horned Lark nesting on April 14 (4 eggs). Cliff Swallow, May 5th and 20th. Red-breasted Nuthatch very scarce – few reports – seems to have decreased greatly; a migrant and winter resident in past ten years.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher first reported on April 29th, nesting at Reed Road, May 19th, also nest at Scottsville, May 20th. Pipit, first report also April 29th, common on May 16th at Shore Acres. Northern Shrike not reported this winter, Migrant common on April 7th.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Vireos late in arriving – not common till May 20th. Blue-headed unusually scarce. Yellow-throated Vireo, first report May 12, Warbling 13th, Red-eyed 19th, Philadelphia 20th. From previous years these appear to be late "first" dates.

First Wave of Warblers – Myrtle, April 21st; Western Palm, April 22nd,

two Yellow Palms on April 29th, also April 28th — first Black and White, Black-throated blue, Nashville, and Northern Waterthrush.

Second wave May 5th, Yellow and Myrtle, very common. First, Redstart, Black-throated, green, Ovenbird, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, scattered.

Third wave May 12 and 13th. First Golden-winged, Hooded, Mourning, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Northern Yellowthroat. Mostly early warblers still common, i.e., Myrtle, Palm.

Fourth wave May 19th and 20th — not in large numbers — Canada, Blackpoll, Wilson's. Also one or two reports on White-eyed Vireo (2 — Barry — at Hale's Woods), Blue-winged Warbler — (Meade et al, 1, at Burroughs-Audubon Sanctuary) (Beiber, Listman 1, Chili woods). Louisiana Waterthrush 2, (Meade et al), Connecticut Warbler 1 (Tanghe et al). Early warblers scarce at this date. Several species still reported present after June 1st, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, etc. (small numbers). On the whole these species were present in fair to good numbers. Few rare species — some common ones either very scarce or unusually late. Heavy foliage which hampered observation after middle of month may have been a factor.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Red-wings, a few Grackles and Cowbirds moving by March 5th. Common by March 10th. Flocks of Meadowlarks seen along lakeshore by March 11th. Rusty Blackbird — first report March 18th. Baltimore Oriole — first May 6th, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted grosbeak, May 7th. Indigo Bunting, May 15th. Siskins reported until May 25th. Red Crossbill, last, May 5th — White-winged May 16th (Miller, Durand Eastman Park). Towhee, first April 21st (late). Grasshopper Sparrow, April 28th, Henslow Sparrow, May 3. Junco — last report May 20th, Tree Sparrow — last report April 22nd. First White-throated Sparrows (migrants) about April 21st, White-crowned, May 5th. Both had practically disappeared by May 20th, neither seen in usual numbers this year. Savannah Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow April 7th, Field Sparrow, April 11th, Chip-ping Sparrow, March 29th (early first dates). Lincoln's Sparrow reported May 20th. No Snow Buntings after March 1st.

Richard T. O'Hara,
100 Fernwood Park,
Rochester, N. Y.

REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE.

The 1951 spring migration season progressed normally in this area. In general birds arrived on time or somewhat earlier than usual. Ice went out early and movement of ducks and other water birds was correspondingly early. May was warmer and dryer than normal and nesting activities got off to a good start.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Double-crested Cormorant — Returned to nest on Gull Island, despite being driven away a year ago. Brant — Three seen in St. Lawrence River

near Clayton, May 20 (J. A. Blake Jr.) Whistling Swan — Two seen along shore of Lake Ontario in southern Jefferson Co. about April 5 (J. E. Wilson).

HAWKS — OWLS:

Marsh Hawk — 1st reported March 19 (early).

Black-bellied Plover — One seen near Canton, June 9 (W. E. Curtis).

Wilson Snipe — Appeared to be more numerous than usual during the spring migration. A pair seen near Potsdam, June 7, appeared to have a nest nearby. Common Tern, Black Tern — both are becoming increasingly common as breeding birds in the Thousand Island region.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Loggerhead Shrike first seen March 27 (early).

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Warbler migrations rather light — none of the rarer varieties reported.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Bronzed Grackle and Cowbird appeared to be unusually numerous this spring.

John B. Belknap
92 Clinton St.
Gouverneur, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

April was about average in temperature (average maximum 47.6, average minimum 31.6). Around the 6th to the 8th the weather was warm for the season; snow almost all disappeared. There was an influx of early migrants noted at Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake and Plattsburg. By the 15th it had turned cold with snow and migration was slow until the warmer days of the 26th to 28th.

May was moderate with a real warm period from 14th to 22nd, reaching 83 at Saranac Lake on the 19th. There was a moderate wave of migrants on the 5th and a heavy influx between 15th and 18th.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loon — Each year it seems to be reclaiming more of its lost range in the Adirondacks. Blue Goose — A flight of about 75 on Lake Champlain near Ausable on April 27th (Lesperance). Golden-eye — An increase in numbers in Lake Champlain; other ducks in number about equal of past several years.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Broad-winged Hawk — April 29th, Tupper Lake. Osprey — April 28th, Tupper Lake (Amstutz). These two dates are of interest because of their synchronization with a tremendous hawk flight observed moving east along the south shore of Lake Ontario, north of Rochester, on April 28th and 29th

— 5,000 hawks of all species, including Bald and Golden Eagles, were seen in a four hour period on the 29th. Golden Eagle — A fine adult seen at close-hand on Jones Pond near Gabriels, N. Y., on May 5th, harassing black ducks. This is the third report of Golden Eagle in this central Adirondacks in two years (Chase). Virginia and Sora Rails — Reported in May by Kingsbury, at Tupper Lake; this is the only location for rails, known to me, in central Adirondacks.

Woodcock — Heavy flight in Champlain Valley (Lesperance). Mourning Dove — April 8th (Dr. Carl Merkel) at Saranac Lake. First really good record of this species in the area. Black-billed Cuckoo — Noted as quite common this year by Meade (Saranac Lake) and Provost (Plattsburg).

WARBLERS:

Good flights at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), Keeseville, (Lesperance) and Saranac Lake (Meade) on the 5th and between 16th and 18th. In Champlain Valley there was apparently a poor showing, Essex (Mason) and Plattsburg (Provost).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Scarlet Tanagers — Late in arriving at Saranac Lake, June 1st. Evening Grosbeak — Still present in small numbers at Saranac Lake on May 31st. Pine Siskins, Red- and White-winged Crossbills — Still present in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake area at end of May. Grasshopper Sparrow — A rare bird in central Adirondacks; reported May 25th at Tupper Lake by Kingsbury. White-crowned Sparrow — A very noticeable lack of this species this spring at Saranac Lake (Meade) and Keeseville-Ausable region (Lesperance).

Gordon M. Meade, M. D.
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY.

March was the warmest and wettest in several years, the average temperature of 36 degrees being 2.9 above normal and the 4.2 inches of precipitation, including 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches of snow, being 1.7 above normal; temperature range was from 18 to 63 degrees. April continued the above-normal temperatures but was drier than usual, with average temperature 48.1 degrees (2.5 high) and rainfall (with only a trace of snow) at 2.57 inches, or —3.4 from normal; temperatures ranged from 31 to 70 degrees. While much of May was cool and dry, the month's average of 59.4 was 0.6 degree above normal and the precipitation of 2.67 inches was 0.31 below normal; temperature range was 34 to 88 degrees.

Ducks and warblers were both in short supply; ducks in much smaller numbers than usual, and some reporters observed that the warbler migration was slimmer than they had seen in many years.

LOONS — DUCKS:

A Red-throated Loon was observed at Saratoga Lake on April 21, uncommon in this area. An immature Double-crested Cormorant seen both May 12 and May 30 at Niskayuna-Mohawk River. Two Mute Swans were observed May 30 at Karner's Sand Barrens (Bartlett). There was a very

great abundance of Canada Geese on April 8 both at Saratoga Lake and Scotia. Ring-necked Ducks stayed late, until mid-May.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Turkey Vultures reported on two occasions: One on April 25 and two on May 27. A high spot of an April 8th field trip to Watervliet Reservoir was a Golden Eagle in second year plumage, soaring for some time in full view (Hipple, Tucker).

Earliest local record of Virginia Rail, April 8 at Watervliet Reservoir (Stone); also early was a Spotted Sandpiper April 15. Great Black-backed Gulls were noted on several occasions between March 3rd and April 1st, with as many as five or six in a group. An Iceland Gull was observed at Scotia March 9th. Bonaparte's Gull, (2), Common Tern, and Black Tern were all reported on the Century Run, May 12.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

An adult male Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Indian Ladder, May 23. Cliff Swallows have become well-established at several barns in the Meadowdale area. No Gray-cheeked Thrushes have been reported.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Worm-eating Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler both reported May 12, the latter in company with Golden-wings. Further observations on this point to be made. A very early Pine Warbler was seen at close range April 3rd in a wet snow-storm at Loudonville (Mrs. French). The Prairie Warbler was more common than usual.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

The wintering female Baltimore Oriole previously reported at Ballston Lake stayed on thru April and into the migration period. Evening Grosbeaks were much slimmer than last year; however, a flock of 20 was reported April 4th. No Redpolls were reported during this period. Many reports of Red Crossbills have been received in March, April and May; flocks of up to 20 birds; reports from three locations on May 12. Three late White-throated Sparrows at Berne Swamp (Madison) May 30, and an early Fox Sparrow March 7 at Hilton's Crossing (Mrs. Grace).

Frazer R. Turrentine
110 Union St., Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 7 – NEW YORK (PART 1 – ROCKLAND COUNTY)

The Spring season was warm and dry, especially during the latter part of April and the first half of May. Many species normally arriving the first or second week of May were recorded several days ahead of schedule. Peak dates for many migrants were earlier than usual. Numbers of individuals were about as in other years. There was no marked deviation from the normal migration pattern other than the somewhat early arrivals.

LOONS – DUCKS:

No loons were recorded on local lakes this season, although Common Loons are usually regular migrants here. Ducks passed by on schedule without the many stragglers noted a year ago.

HAWKS – OWLS:

No large hawk flights were reported. A Pigeon Hawk, rare for this county, was seen May 13. (Steffens). Wilson's Snipe were seen April 4, and Upland Plover on April 6 (Fox et al); a Pectoral Sandpiper May 13, (Sickels).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

A Purple Martin was seen May 13, (Sickels). This former resident has not nested here in recent years and is now rare. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen May 26, but not again. This is a rare summer resident. A pair of Mockingbirds were in Nyack the end of April but have not remained. Until a year ago, only one record was known for this species within the county. Its range, which finds its northern limit here, may be moving northward.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

On the whole migrations were good but not unusual. There were several new early dates, and a fine early warbler wave was noted the first few days of May during a period of warm dry weather and southerly winds. An Orange-crowned Warbler, a new species for the county, was a daily visitor at a feeder in Nyack (Dr. Hopper) from March 17 to April 21, and came once more on May 2. A Cape May Warbler was seen May 3 (Brown).

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Bobolinks were seen the second week of May and Orchard Orioles the middle of the month. Both are uncommon. White-crowned Sparrows were reported from several places the second week of May.

Eugene Brown
6 E. Castle Hgts. Ave.
Upper Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 7 – NEW YORK

(PART 2 – WESTCHESTER-BRONX COUNTY)

April saw few migrating hawks through this region. At Jerome Reservoir all of April and part of May were 25 Ruddy Ducks. Land bird migration was poor until the 19th of April. In May there were birds going through but no spectacular waves. Best days were May 2, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15th.

LOONS – DUCKS:

A few Common Loons noted over Van Cortlandt Park, east ridge, during late April and early May. Two Pied-billed Grebes were seen on Van

Cortlandt lake in late April. Eight to ten Black-crowned Night Herons spent all of April and May in Van Cortlandt Park and it is believed a few may be nesting. On April 26th a Green Heron was observed at Bronx Park and Van Cortlandt Park. American Bittern at Van Cortlandt on May 1st. Least Bittern at same place, May 6th. Both are believed to be nesters (Komorowski).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron observed in Van Cortlandt Swamp on May 2nd by B. Norse. On May 5th at Baxter Creek a Mute Swan was observed (unusual for this area). Canada Geese were seen in small numbers throughout the area during April and May; one pair at Grassy Sprain on May 20th with three young. Some Wood Ducks also were seen in the above areas. Three Ruddy Ducks were at Jerome Reservoir until May 15th.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Turkey Vulture observed along Palisades-Interstate Park Alpine area on April 17th. A few Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered, Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Sparrow Hawks and Ospreys were seen migrating over Van Cortlandt Ridge during April. Virginia Rail nesting in Van Cortlandt Park. Sora Rail observed in same area, April 22nd.

The usual number of Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, at Van Cortlandt Park during May. Upland Plover observed May 10th and 12th by several observers in same area. Laughing Gulls were in good numbers, in May, in Bronx and Van Cortlandt areas and also at Central Park, May 8th. Mourning Doves were in good numbers this spring. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 13th at Van Cortlandt Park; Black-billed Cuckoo at Central Park, May 9th. Screech Owl at Bronx and Central Parks during April and part of May.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Whip-poor-will May 13th at Bronx Park, Nighthawk May 21st at Bronx Park. Red-headed Woodpecker on May 11th at Central Park by Phillips. May 26th at Central Park, Olive-sided Flycatcher. Komorowski noted Prairie-horned Lark had two young in nest on May 1st. Carolina Wren at Palisades-Englewood Cliffs on April 17th by Komorowski and Herbert. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher observed May 13th by Skelton and at Central Park May 15th by Messing.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

All Vireos were common and observed except the Philadelphia on the *Linnaean Society Field Trip* to Bronx and Van Cortlandt Park, May 13th. Warbler migration was fair. Worm-eating Warbler, April 15th at Bronx Park by Klein and Komorowski was earliest record in many years.

Cape May Warbler noted as being quite common this year. Brewster's Warbler May 12th at Central Park by Skelton. Yellow-throated Warbler April 28th at Pelham Bay Golf course, noted by Russak, Solmon, Weinstein. Mourning Warbler observed May 9th at Pelham, May 26th at Bronx Park and May 28th at Central Park.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Ryan saw an Orchard Oriole at Van Cortlandt Park May 13th and Skelton observed one at Central Park the same date. Summer Tanager observed

on May 15th by Harrison at Central Park. Cardinal seen on nest May 13th by Komorowski. Lincoln's Sparrow seen at Central Park May 7th, White crowned Sparrow seen May 9th and May 13th. A late Slate-colored Junco was noted by Gershon at Central Park on May 2nd.

George Komorowski
240 East 199th St.
Bronx 58, N. Y.

REGION 8 - LONG ISLAND

The spring migration brought no extremely large waves of birds, but around mid-May several counts totaling over 100 species were made by observers. One on May 15 listed 118 species with 18 of Warblers and 17 of shorebirds (W. Reid, Sr. and Jr.). On eastern Long Island the spring flight was reportedly poor.

A small flight, March 23, along shore on western Long Island brought Phoebe and Bluebird and on April 15 the Green Heron was seen. There was only one record of European Teal and the Blue-winged Teal was very scarce. The first Knot was reported May 17 and the first Hudsonian Curlew on May 20.

Among land birds, Black and White Warbler did not arrive until about April 28. There was a fair flight of Cape May Warblers reported in Prospect Park around mid-May and a few more records of Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers came in from western Long Island than there have been for several years. The spring movement showed a few records of Red-headed Woodpecker and Summer Tanager, a slight increase over the last two years. Resident Cardinal and House Finch show an increase and European Goldfinch appears to be diminishing in numbers on the South Shore, its only known breeding range in America.

LOONS - DUCKS: Flight of Loons on April 22 included a maximum of 40 Red-throated and 30 Common at Jones Beach. The Holboell's Grebe was rare, with one seen at Point Lookout, March 23. Spring Gannet flight maximum also on April 22, 30 at Jones Beach. A crippled Yellow-crowned Night Heron was found in Massapequa, March 23, and a maximum of six were reported in Woodmere, May 6-12. No reports of American Egret or Louisiana Heron came in; but three Snowy Egrets from late April to mid-May were reported at Jones Beach.

A large flight of several thousand Brant along the South Shore diminished to 150 at Mastic by May 13. On April 1, 13 Whistling Swans passed over Atlantic Beach and the largest number of Snow Geese was 36 at Idlewild, April 6 (J. Mayer). There was a maximum of 32 Gadwalls at Jones Beach, April 1, and 27 Shovellers on March 3.

The only report of European Teal was one, March 17, at Jones Beach (J. Elliott, G. Rose). The spring flight of both American and Hooded Mergansers was poor, and the Ring-necked Duck was rarely reported. A large, easily observed flock of Scoters at Jones Beach shifted species as follows: April 1, 300 American out of 400 present; April 8, less American, more White-winged; April 15, the flock had shifted to 550 Surf Scoters out of a maximum of 710 with the remainder 150 White-winged and 10 Amer-

ican. On April 22 there were over 5,000 birds broadcast over the area, and many of them a great distance off shore (W. Sedwitz).

HAWKS – OWLS: There were several reports of Turkey Vulture, two of Bald Eagle; a Pigeon Hawk at Gilgo, March 3 was unusual. There were few Duck Hawks reported. Rails: No Black or Yellow Rails noted; two Florida Gallinules at Wantagh, April 9; several Sora reports from western Long Island. Among the shorebirds, Black-bellied Plover appeared at Far Rockaway, with four on March 22; Golden Plover scarce, one on Jamaica Bay, May 13 (Sedwitz); first arrival, Dowitcher, two at Jones Beach, April 8. Upland Plover appeared on its nesting ground near Hicksville on April 28 (Queens County Bird Club) and maximum Red-backed Sandpiper totaled 350 at Jones Inlet, April 1. White-rumped Sandpiper was noted at Jones Beach on May 15 and at Idlewild, with a maximum of 40, on May 17, at which time the first Knot put in an appearance. The rare Curlew Sandpiper again made its spring visit to the Pennsylvania Flats on Jamaica Bay, with one on May 12 and two reported on May 13. The shorebird flight extended into June.

Rare reports come from The Narrows, with a Glaucous Gull on April 8 and a Black-headed and adult Little Gull both seen on March 31. On April 14 there were 1,500 Bonaparte's Gulls present. On May 12 a Caspian Tern was reported from Jones Beach (G. Carleton); on May 27, three Roseate and one Black Tern were seen on Jamaica Bay and 30 Black Skimmers were counted on May 15 at Jones Beach. A single report came in early June of Parasitic Jaeger at Rockaway.

At Mastic, on April 29, two young of the Great Horned Owl were reported out of the nest and ready to fly. Of the very few Snowy Owls present this winter, the latest report is one at Idlewild, March 4. There appear to be no reports of Saw-whet Owls for the period.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES: Swifts first appeared around May 3; Ruby-throated Hummingbird on May 9. Red-headed Woodpecker showed up in several locations around the middle of the month. The Olive-sided Flycatcher at Forest Park on May 12 was a little early. The Yellow-bellied and Acadia Flycatchers appeared at Far Rockaway, May 26. Of interest was a Magpie at Short Beach on May 13, 14 (J. Bull, E. Eisenmann). A Mockingbird was seen at Amagansett, May 3, and a Carolina Wren on March 18 and April 16 at Far Rockaway; also one daily at Shinnecock. Increase in Hermit Thrushes came about April 5, and Migrant Shrike was observed at Jones Beach on April 22.

VIREOS – WARBLERS: Three Yellow-throated Vireos were noted at Forest Park May 12 and a singing Philadelphia Vireo at Far Rockaway, May 27 (J. Bull).

Arrival date for the Black and White Warbler is listed as April 28; that of the Black-throated Green at Tackapausha Preserve (Seaford) as April 15 and Worm-eating Warbler, May 6, at Woodmere. Several Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers and one Orange-crowned Warbler were reported around mid-May on western Long Island (J. Mayer). Maximum Bay-breasted Warblers totaled 20 at Forest Park, May 17 (Mayer, Rose). A Yellow-breasted Chat first seen at Jones Beach in late February was last

noted April 14; first migrant, Idlewild, May 1. Hooded Warbler appeared eastward to Massapequa on May 5 and Mourning Warbler at Manhasset and Prospect Park, May 27. A Connecticut Warbler was seen and heard singing in Prospect Park also on the latter date (I. Alperin, W. Sedwitz).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Early Orchard Oriole, Prospect Park, April 29; Baldwin, May 8. Fair numbers of Cardinals were listed; House Finches are increasing in number of localities noted; European Goldfinch has gradually decreased in last several years. The terrific November 29 storm smothered the fall seed crop beneath the drifting sand or washed the vegetation into tidal drifts. As a consequence Sparrows passed north quickly, there being a very poor flight of Tree Sparrows and the Vesper Sparrow was practically unreported on the ocean strip. A mild flight of Ipswich Sparrows (four at Jones Beach) came through March 17, but otherwise their numbers were relatively low compared to other years as with the Tree and Vesper Sparrows. White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Idlewild on May 12, at Short Beach on May 13, 14 and at Bayside on May 15. Records of the Henslow's Sparrow are getting increasingly rare on Long Island; Lincoln's Sparrow reports were fewer than usual; the Snow Bunting left the barren dunes about mid-March for the northern breeding grounds, about half of them noted in black and white breeding plumage.

John J. Elliott,
3994 Park Avenue,
Seaford, Long Island, New York.

ED. NOTE: There was no report received from Region 9 — Central New York. It is hoped that all Regions will be included in the next issue.—A.S.K.

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NOTES ON A BREEDING BIRD CENSUS IN MONROE COUNTY

REGINALD W. HARTWELL

The Genesee Ornithological Society is conducting a breeding bird census this season in its recently acquired sanctuary property at Reed Road swamp, Monroe County. This is a club project that is giving such enjoyment to the many GOS members participating that we feel we must tell about it, even before the final results are in. Reed Road Swamp is a heavily wooded swamp dominated by red maple, American elm and red ash, with thick and, in places, nearly impenetrable undergrowth of spicebush and buckthorn. The story of the acquisition of the area by the GOS is told in the last issue of *The Kingbird* (Klonick, A. S. 1951. Acquisition of a Natural Habitat Area. *Kingbird* 1 [2]: 19-22).

An attempt to initiate the project last year was unsuccessful chiefly because the tremendous amount of work involved in preparing for the actual census-taking was not realized. Committees were appointed and there was much talk of censusing the whole 80-odd acres. That this was not feasible became apparent too late in the season for much of anything to be done about it.

This year the committee began laying its plans in January and before the snow was all gone the preliminary work of laying out and marking the study area was finished. This was accomplished by a series of weekend "bees" when members appeared on the scene with brush hooks, hatchets, paint pots and brushes and were immediately set to work using them. The area was laid out in 192 foot squares, six squares wide (east to west) and nine squares long (north to south). Underbrush was cut only where absolutely necessary to make blazes and markers visible. Even this gave rise to some criticism by those who felt the area should be left absolutely untouched. As the season advanced, however, such criticism soon died down. The undergrowth grew and the leaves came out so that it became a real feat of woodcraft to follow many of the lines and even now, after the lines have been walked many times, a compass is a very convenient instrument to have along.

Early coverages of the study area by the committee and a few others individually were adequate to catch the early nesters but with the onset of the breeding season it was evident that more coverage on a definite schedule would be necessary. At the May meeting, members were asked to sign up for a definite day of the week on which they would be responsible for seeing that as much of the study area as possible was covered. People were somewhat reluctant to sign up, what with the May migration coming on and all the other demands that beset the active birder at that season. Eventually five of the seven days of the week were signed up for by parties of two to five people. Mimeographed charts laid out in numbered and lettered squares corresponding to the study area were provided each observer. A "dry run" was held late in May and there it was found that the estimated time for walking all the lines was much too optimistic. Originally figured at about two hours, it proved to require nearer four or five hours to do the

whole area thoroughly. So observers were instructed not to try to skim over the whole area at one trip but to do only as much as possible in the time available and to cover the rest on the next trip. Thus, although a complete coverage of about five times a week had been scheduled, at least two complete coverages a week were made during June and these should prove adequate.

The surprising thing to everyone, however, was how utterly fascinating "walking the lines" proved to be. The positions of each song heard, each bird seen, each nest found were plotted on the charts with appropriate symbols and as one walked up one line and back along the next it was really thrilling to see how the various songs would fall into their proper places on the chart, presumably corresponding to the territory of a nesting pair of birds. This fascination was heightened on the second trip as the territories were further confirmed. At the June meeting of the Society many of the conversations overheard had to do with the Northern Waterthrush at E-6, the Winter Wren at C-3, the Yellow-billed Cuckoos at A-5 and so on. Some 30 species of birds have appeared on the work sheets of the observers, although the final results undoubtedly will show that not all these can be considered as nesting within the area.

"Walking the lines" is not an easy task. The underbrush is really thick in many places. There are fallen trees and brush piles and muddy holes to negotiate. And there are mosquitoes in such quantities that all bird songs are heard against the background hum of billions of them. That people can come out of such a place "bedabbled with dew and torn by briars" and bitten by bugs and still assert that they have had a thoroughly enjoyable time speaks highly for the sport of Breeding Bird Censusing. Later in the season, coverage of the area will be lessened, possibly only two or three trips in August to catch the late nesters and second broods. After the leaves have fallen a club hike will be held to search out as many as possible of the undiscovered nests whose locations have been determined approximately by plotting the songs.

A number of things have been learned from our experience so far in this our first club project census. Among these are: (1) Start early to make plans and to lay out the study area. (2) Sign up everybody possible to "walk the lines." Many things will prevent people from getting out when they hope to, such as bad weather, vacations, etc., and even if it looks as if the area might be over-censused, it will seldom work out that way. (3) It is not worth while to cover the area if it is raining or if there is a high wind. (4) People especially allergic to poison ivy should keep out of our swamp after the leaves come out. (5) Mosquito dope will soften the paint on wood pencils and make our records and fingers very messy. Use a plastic mechanical pencil of some sort. (6) The whole thing is much more fun than would seem possible until one has tried it.

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

A hearty welcome to the Federation's newest member club, The Blue Heron Audubon Club. This organization has a membership of 75 and its center of activities is the central Long Island area. Edward A. Lapham, Box 238, Stony Brook, L. I., is president. Other officers are: John H. Von Glain, R. F. D., Smithtown Branch, L. I., vice-president, and Philip A. Nixon, Arbutus Road, Greenlawn, L. I., secretary-treasurer.

The Rockland Audubon Society held its annual election of officers in May. Following is a list of the new officers and principal committee chairmen. President: Mrs. William Gary Irving, Van Houten Fields, West Nyack, N. Y. 1st Vice President and Corresponding Secretary: John M. Price, South Mountain Rd., New York City, N. Y.

2nd Vice-President and Recording Secretary: Frank Steffens, New York City, N. Y. Treasurer and Membership Chairman: Homer S. Kelsey, Sky View Acres, Pomona, N. Y. Field Trip Chairman: Dr. Marjorie Hopper, N. Midland Ave., Nyack, N. Y. Field Secretary: Eugene R. Brown, Castle Heights Ave., Nyack, N. Y. Study and Research Chairman: John C. Orth, Park Naturalist, Bear Mountain, N. Y. Conservation Chairman: Mrs. Mary Mowbray-Clarke, South Mountain Road, New City, N. Y.

Here is a corrected list of the officers of the Eaton Bird Club of Geneva. This was not received in time to be included in the latest mailing list distributed at the April Federation meeting in Buffalo.

President: Rosannah E. Wilson, 37 N. Main Street, Geneva, N. Y.
Vice-President: Dr. Frederick Z. Hartzell, 111 N. Main Street, Geneva, N. Y.

Treasurer: Jessie Gregory, Geneva General Hospital, Geneva, N. Y.
Secretary: Lucy F. Austin, Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.

In the next issue of *The Kingbird* it is planned to publish a complete directory of member clubs and their officers and also a list of the individual members. Member clubs that have held election of officers since April, 1951, are urged to send to the corresponding secretary a list of the names and addresses of the new officers, delegates to the Federation and principal committee chairmen as soon as possible.

Individual Federation members whose addresses have changed recently are likewise urged to notify the corresponding secretary. In order to be included in the next issue of *The Kingbird*, material should be received not later than Sept. 1, 1951.

Reginald W. Hartwell,
Corresponding Secretary,
121 North Fitzhugh Street,
Rochester 14, New York

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203 Collingsworth Drive
Rochester 10, New York

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129 Guy Park Avenue
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Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Elmira, New York
Eaton Bird Club, Geneva, New York
Genesee Ornithological Society, Rochester, New York
Keuka Park Conservation Club, Keuka Park, Penn Yan, N. Y.
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