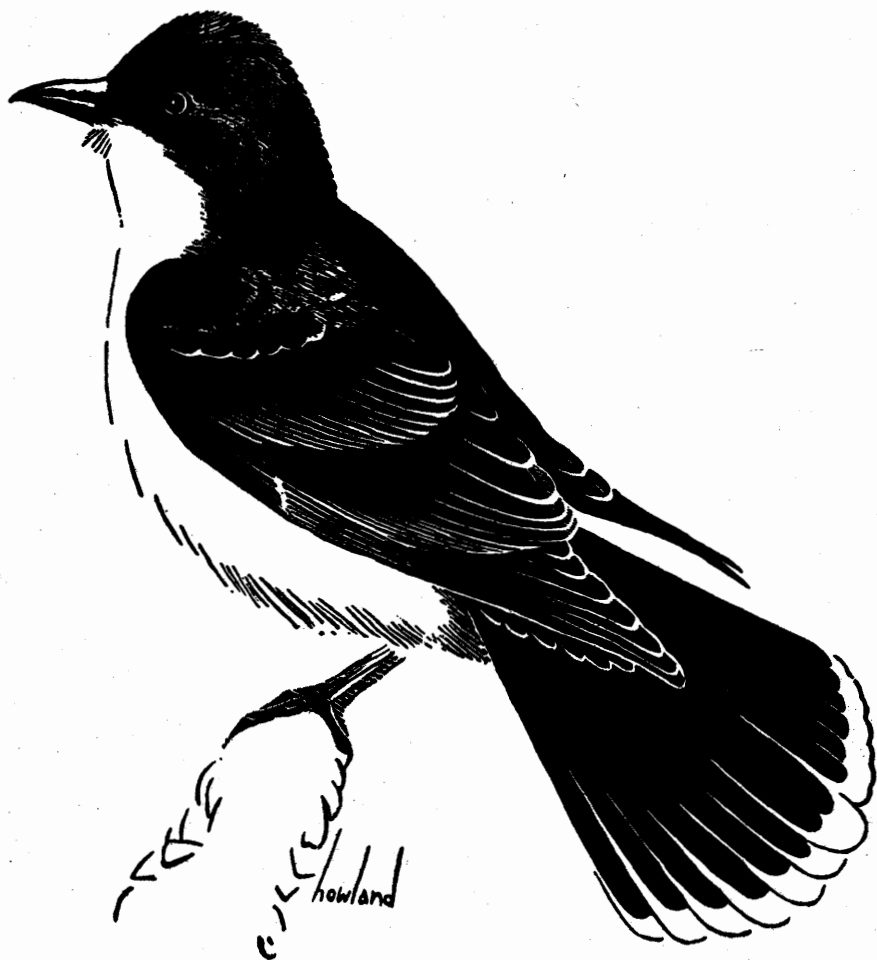


# The **KINGBIRD**



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**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**



# The KINGBIRD

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## LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES AND HIS CONNECTIONS WITH NEW YORK STATE

MARY FUERTES BOYNTON

Even the younger readers of *The Kingbird* have probably seen the odd name Louis Agassiz Fuertes: printed, as the title of a bird-preserve, a memorial room, a Boy Scout council; signed in the corner of illustrations of birds, in fat volumes of the *Birds of New York* or *Birds of Massachusetts* or *Birds of America*, in the Burgess bird or animal books, in old *National Geographic Magazines* (1914-1920) or *Bird-Lores*, and, if you are a serious student of ornithology, in one of many technical books, as for example Coues' *Key* (editions of 1903 and later.) I will suppose that you are curious about the name or that you have found in the pictures some 'speaking' likeness to the birds you yourself have seen. Perhaps you would like to know where you can find, for instance, the original, fresh—not printed—pictures. Well, if you are in New York City, go to the administration building of the Bronx Zoo; ask to see the large collection of life studies at the American Museum of Natural History. In Albany the State Museum displays the originals of the *Birds of New York* plates. Come to Ithaca and find the collection in the new Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods, and best of all, right now this summer, you may see a special exhibit of his studies, drawings and paintings gathered from many sources and displayed at the White Art Museum on the Cornell campus.

What were his qualifications to paint the birds of the state? Louis Fuertes was born in Ithaca in 1874 and lived here all his life. From the beginning he was close to the landscape. The herbarium specimens in his high school botany note-book (1892) are marked as from Six-mile Creek where students still go to collect wild flowers. His letters refer to boyhood tramping in the fields near Etna and among the Caroline hills after hawks' nests and chestnuts; he made later a detailed map of all the swimming holes in the many streams and gorges you could walk to from his house on the campus. He and his high school friends made skis to use on Buffalo Street for trips downtown and to Turkey Hill to the east. A paragraph in an 1894 sophomore English essay describes Indian summer above Cayuga Lake in terms that show his appreciation for this kind of New York State scenery. He is describing a drive taken by three students in a horse-drawn trap. As they passed "between the sombre brown fields and marsh lands, enlivened here and there by a vine of red bittersweet berries, or the crimson twigs of the swamp-alder, a soft blue-grey haze lay over the water, and the gently sloping points looked like long grey tongues." No birds got into this particular essay, but they were being looked at, listed, drawn and painted from his fourteenth year on.

The Hudson Valley at Scarborough was perhaps the second area of New York that Louis learned to know intimately. He picked hepaticas in the wet woods there in May of 1897 with the children of Abbott Thayer, with whom he later lived as a student of painting for several periods of many months each — some in the winter, when they had experiences with Redpolls and Crossbills, some in summer and fall, some in "May when the

wondrous warblers came" as Gerald Thayer wrote. They were keen after hawks and owls, and specialized in attracting owls by imitating their sounds.

In February 1901 Louis went alone into the Cornell Reserve in Franklin County in the Adirondacks to look at and collect the winter birds. Here his tramping was done on snow-shoes. His (unpublished) journal gives the feeling of the place:

Snow was very soft . . . and deep — with lots of buried spruce tops which invariably let you down and trip you . . . I heard a tapping that sounded three toey, and soon saw the author, a beauty black-back three toe, and after a short stalk he became mine . . . Had a fine snowshoe climb up rocky hill and got a good view from the top. Mt. Seward and Moose Mt. were splendid all day, and went out soft cold blue after having become from silvery white, towards evening, to first creamy, then bright golden orange, and finally soft rosy pink. Big cloud shadows kept the composition of the landscape continually changing by shifting the great blue and purple masses of dark.

Late in May of 1905 with William Maxon of the National Museum he combed Stockbridge West Hill south of Oneida for spring birds — saw eighty species, exclusive of water birds, and revelled in an unprecedented abundance of Cerulean Warblers. During this year he began painting for the State bird books. The shorebirds of the lakes and fresh-water marshes he learned from a canoe, a duck-blind, or a beach cottage on Cayuga Lake. He was the duck-hunting and studying companion during this time of E. H. Eaton of Geneva, author of *Birds of New York*, and the two ornithologists treasured the friendship of Foster Parker, a farmer who made his living near Cayuga on a cash crop of wild flag and wild ducks that he raised because he liked to see them around.

Louis' letters from a hunting visit with Senator Henry W. Sage at Long Point on Lake Erie show his enthusiasm for this kind of activity and place — which, though technically in Canada, is just over the line, and whose birds might very well be New Yorkers. In the early twenties he was a happy guest of Mr. Harry L. Ferguson each September for pheasant shooting and hawk-watching on Fishers Island beyond Montauk.

He always had some contacts with the city too. There were friends at the Bronx Zoo, and an exchange of services and kindnesses, and important business at the American Museum where Frank Chapman was curator of the department of birds. Louis went with him on many of his expeditions to collect materials for the habitat groups that form the Hall of North American birds and painted birds into the backgrounds of those exhibits. A.O.U. meetings were held in the city every few years; he never missed these if he could help it, and enjoyed besides special Museum occasions and Explorers' Club parties.

At one time or another he lectured or exhibited his paintings in most of the fair-to-large cities of the state, and had experience with the earth, the water, the wood, the air of many particular corners of it. About the birds that pass through on their way to breeding grounds or winter quarters, he

had this to say in an article on *Spring Birds* in the *Cornell Era* for April, 1912:

With the possible exception of the lower Hudson valley, there is not in the entire middle states a more advantageous station from which to study the spring migration than this Lake region, and Ithaca is the best point, being in an exceedingly diversified country and within easy reach of all possible conditions. Since the recession of the glaciers an additional feature has been added to the numerous attractions this region offers to birds, in the form of transverse ravines of varying depth. The fact that most of them are east and west in their course is of great importance, as their south banks never get the sun, and their north slopes are bathed in it and get all the shelter and radiation there is, with the result that they offer shelter and comfort to the early comers, while the cool, shaded south banks, where the ice hangs late, develop truly Canadian conditions, and attract the northern species, even inducing many to stay and breed well to the south of their normal nesting grounds. One needs only to stand on the foot-bridge over Fall Creek and compare the two sides of the ravine, noticing the preponderance of conifers and soft woods on the campus side and the oaks, ashes, chestnuts, elms and hickories on the north, to understand what havens these gorges are to the wandering birds of all classes. . . . Early in May begins the last and far most thrilling of the three waves [of migrating birds], when we may hope to see all the rare and unusual things. Now is the time to wake up. The bird to start things is the oriole. His loud, rich, 'plurp!' in the shade trees along South Avenue, a gay dash of orange and black; this is the sign to get out for a morning walk with a notebook, for Lord Baltimore is the official herald of the great pageant.

Any May you might have found Louis Fuertes looking into the gorge upon the backs of migrating warblers, hearing the 'plurp!' of the first oriole, crossing Thurston Avenue to put his glass on a scarlet tanager for one of the children to see. It was a lifetime of living in the Ithaca area — the center of central New York — that mainly qualified him as artist of its birds.  
205 Elmwood Avenue, Ithaca

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## LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

ARTHUR A. ALLEN

Nearly thirty years have passed since Louis Agassiz Fuertes painted his last picture. The last one, so far as known, was of two Abyssinian Turacos done for Miss Mary Young of Williamsport, Pa. on August 14, 1927. It now hangs in the Fuertes gallery of the new Research Center of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. On the opposite wall hangs one of a Passenger Pigeon which he painted from a fresh specimen in 1889 when he was a high school boy of 15.

Fuertes' first published pictures appeared in Florence Merriam Bailey's *Birding On A Bronco* in 1896 and for the next thirty years his brush was

rarely idle. Scarcely a bird book of note appeared without some of his pictures and those like *Birds of New York* and *Birds of Massachusetts* are as much monuments to Fuertes as to the authors. The generation of bird observers that grew up between 1896 and 1927 were so accustomed to having his pictures used in the various bird books that appeared that to find any other artist was considered a distinct criticism for the book. One often heard, for example, of Beebe's *Monograph of the Pheasants* (1922) or Phillips' *Monograph of the Waterfowl* (1926): "The plates are beautiful, but too bad Fuertes didn't do them all." The careful bird student had come to realize that there was something in Fuertes' pictures that one did not find in those of the less gifted.

There is little question but that Fuertes set a standard of accuracy as well as charm that could be imitated but never attained. Other artists recognized this and gladly accepted Fuertes as the leader of the school that combined scientific accuracy with artistic skill in composition and in use of pigments.

Prior to Fuertes, bird plates had been largely conventionalized diagrams or feather charts done as from taxidermists' models with little thought as to how the birds really appeared in life. Some were almost cartoons of the subjects, portrayed with the artist's interpretation of how he thought the bird ought to use its various structures in some dramatic pose. Audubon was past master of the latter school and skillfully produced birds in imaginative poses that still hypnotize ignorant or careless observers but which shock followers of the Fuertes' school.

In the historical preface to his great work on North American birds, Elliott Coues divides the history of American Ornithology into a series of "Periods" such as the Catesbian Period, the Wilsonian Period, the Audubonian Period, etc., according to the outstanding name of that particular time bracket. His history does not continue into the 20th century and so we are left free to make our own choice for the period in which we live. The number of outstanding ornithologists in the 20th century is far greater than in all the preceding years together but it is my firm belief that when time has mellowed the ornithological progress of the 20th century, the first twenty-five years will bear the name of Louis Fuertes, the outstanding bird artist of all time.

Louis Fuertes' greatest contribution to New York State ornithology is naturally his illustrations for Eaton's *Birds of New York* (1909-1914) although his inspiration to other bird artists like Sutton and Peterson and Dilger and to countless other students is difficult to measure. His only addition to the New York State list of birds, so far as I know, was a specimen of Leconte's Sparrow which he collected at Ithaca and painted October 11, 1897, but his collection of some 6000 beautifully prepared skins, many of them from New York State, formed most of the initial framework about which the modern 25,000 skin collection of Cornell University has been assembled.

*Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca*

## FOLK NAMES OF NEW YORK BIRDS: IV

W. L. McATEE

**Purple Martin.** Black martin, blue martin (the feathers are tipped with steel-blue, overlying black and sooty-gray; martin, martin swallow.

**Canada Jay.** Camp-robber (from its pilfering food about woodland camps); caribou bird (it consorts with members of the deer family for the sake of ticks and insects it can glean from them); grease bird (from its pilfering food of that description about woodland camps); Hudson Bay bird (as of northern affinities); meat bird, meat hawk (same note as for grease bird); moose bird (the moose permits these birds to alight on it to remove ticks. Charles C. Ward in Mayer, 1883. It is also believed that this jay directs hunters to the moose); venison hawk (same note as for meat hawk); whiskey jack (phonetic rendering of an Indian name *wisk-i-djak*, a spiritual being for which the moose bird speaks, directing the hunter to a moose. E. T. Adney in letter).

**Blue Jay.** Jay, jay bird (sound names).

**Common Raven.** Raven.

**Common Crow.** Bald Hill parrot (residents of Patchogue, Long Island, sarcastically couple the name of a nearby village with an epithet for the despised crow. Francis Harper, orally); Coram duck (similar note but a different village involved); crow; Jim crow (a familiar or "pet" name).

**Black-capped Chickadee.** Chickadee (sonic); snow bird (as being noticed in winter).

**White-breasted Nuthatch.** Devil-down-head (in clambering about trees, it seems as much at home head-downward as in any other position); runaround (from its clambering about tree trunks); sapsucker (misnomer, through confusion with woodpeckers, most of which, themselves, do not deserve this name); tree-peck (probably from confusion with woodpeckers); upside-down bird (see first note).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** It probably shares all of the names of the preceding species, but I have record only of tree-peck from New York.

**House Wren.** Jenny wren (a familiar or "pet" name); wren.

**Winter Wren.** Elephant bird (facetious for one of our smallest birds).

**Mockingbird** Mock bird, mocking bird (it imitates the notes of various birds and even other types of sounds); thrush (as a superlative songster).

**Catbird.** That universal name alludes to a cry of the bird that resembles the meow of a cat; mockingbird (as a mimic, though in that respect the catbird falls far short of the preceding species).

**Brown Thrasher.** Brown thrush (color cinnamon-rufous above; "thrush" as a notable songster); euchre bird (first term possibly sonic); ground mockingbird (a ground lover, this species is an occasional, though expert, imitator of the notes of other birds); ground thrasher (see note on thrasher); mavis (a British name for the European song thrush, traceable to Chaucer 1366 [mavys] OED); red thrush (the general color above is cinnamon-rufous; "thrush" as an expert songster); Saranac nightingale (first term from that locality in New York State; "nightingale" in allusion to the famed European bird melodist, is intended to compliment the thrasher's song); thrasher (thresher is an English name for the European song thrush, so the name of our bird may be a transfer. Suggestions are made that the term alludes to the bird's "rooting" among fallen leaves, or its beating insects preparatory to swallowing them, but the derivation through thrush, thrusher, thresher, seems preferable).

**American Robin.** Fieldfare (the European fieldfare is a close relative of our bird; the name meaning field-goer is in British use and is traced to 1100 A.D. by OED [feldeware]); robin, robin redbreast (these names for our most familiar bird are transfers from a similarly confiding but smaller European species of the same family, which is dusky above and reddish-orange below).

**Wood Thrush.** Chawweet (sonic); flute bird (from its whistling notes); ground robin (although of different coloration, it is rather closely related to the robin); little brown thrasher (superficially a miniature); swamp angel (as a "heavenly-

voiced" inhabitant of swamps); swamp robin (see note on ground robin); wood thrush.

**Hermit Thrush.** Partridge bird (a clucking note is similar to one of the partridge or ruffed grouse); swamp angel, swamp robin (see under the preceding species); swamp thrush; wood robin (see note on ground robin under the preceding species).

**Veery.** Nightingale (likening it to Europe's most noted bird songster is intended as a tribute to its singing ability; it resembles that bird also in singing at night); veery (sonic).

**Eastern Bluebird.** Bluebird (the male is blue above); blue robin (it is related to the robin and like that bird, has a cinnamon breast); peter bird (a common call note may be interpreted as "peter").

**Cedar Waxwing.** Cedar bird; cherry bird; English robin (a market name when the bird was sold for food); ringtail (the tip of the tail is yellow); sealing-wax bird (the shafts of the secondary wing-feathers look as if tipped with red sealing-wax); spider bird (from feeding on those creatures); topknot (both sexes are crested); wax bird; yellow-tail.

**Northern Shrike.** Butcher bird (because it hangs its prey on thorns or other sharp objects and in crotches, preparatory to rending it. This name is also in British vernacular use).

**Southern Shrike.** Butcher bird (first sentence of the preceding note applies); French mockingbird (as a distinctive kind of "mocker"; it has great similarity in general appearance to the true mockingbird; and also has some power of mimicry).

**Red-eyed Vireo.** Preacher ("So constant may his voice be heard, He's sometimes called the Preacher Bird." Craig 1939).

**Parula Warbler.** Brassback (there is a yellowish olive-green patch between the shoulders).

**Yellow Warbler.** Summer yellow bird; swamp bird; wild canary (from the largely yellow coloration of the male); yellow bird; yellow wren (a small bird of largely yellow coloration).

**Myrtle Warbler.** Myrtle bird (from feeding on the fruit of the wax-myrtle, *Myrica*).

**Black-poll Warbler.** Sailor (Pennant 1785).

**Oven-bird.** That name, in rather general use, refers to the arched-over nest; it is not, however, made of clay).

**Maryland Yellowthroat.** Yellowthroat.

**House Sparrow.** English sparrow (much of the original stock was imported from England); sparrow (as if it were the only one — a British name traced to about 725 A.D. [Spearua] OED. The bird is no sparrow at all, but a weaver-bird).

**Bobolink.** That name, in general use, is in imitation of some of its notes); ground blackbird (it is of the blackbird alliance and nests on or near the ground); meadow bird; seventy-six poll-tax (sonic); skunk blackbird (from the black and white coloration of the male).

**Eastern Meadowlark.** Field lark (as a denizen of grasslands; it is, however, no lark); marsh quail (the bird was formerly hunted in much the same way as are quail); meadowlark; meadow starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings").

**Red-winged Blackbird.** Corn thief (it is destructive to Indian corn); marsh blackbird; redwing, redwinged blackbird (there is a large red and buff patch on the bend of the wing of the male); red-wing starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings"); swamp blackbird.

**Orchard Oriole.** Orchard bird; small swinger (its nest is sometimes suspended).

**Baltimore Oriole.** Fire bird (about half of the plumage of the adult male varies from "cadmium yellow to intense orange or almost flame scarlet". Ridgway 1902); fire hangbird (the nest is suspended); golden oriole (in allusion to the yellow to orange coloration of about half of the plumage of the adult male); golden robin (as a familiar bird of the color just noted); goldfinch (from the coloration as here noted; however, the bird is not a finch nor does it resemble the birds of that family which are known as goldfinches); hangbird, hangnest, swinger (the nest is suspended); whistling swinger (in quality, its song is much like human whistling).

**Purple Grackle.** Crow blackbird (from its large size among blackbirds); jackdaw (by transfer from a European member of the crow family, with which our bird has



little in common, either in color, size, or habits); starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings").

**Common Cowbird.** Cowbird, cow bunting, cow blackbird, cow robin (from its associating with cattle; "bunting" if more often applied to a group of finches; "robin" has the significance of a familiar bird); flycatcher (from its catching flies about cattle).

**Scarlet Tanager.** Black-winged redbird (descriptive of the male); fire bird (the plumage of the adult male is chiefly scarlet); redbird, woods redbird.

**Cardinal.** Cardinal, cardinal redbird (from the vermilion-red coloration of the male; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal or member of the Pope's council, is red); redbird.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** Cut-throat sparrow (the breast and sometimes the throat of the male are rose-to poppy-red, as if from bleeding).

**Indigo Bunting.** Indigo bird (this name, in general use, refers to the cerulean-blue plumage of the male).

**Purple Finch.** English robin (as a familiar ruddy bird, distinct from the common robin); linnnet (this term usually indicates a good songster).

**Pine Grosbeak.** Bullfinch (as reminding observers of the European bull finch, Pyrrhula); pine finch (it lives among pines and feeds on their seeds).

**Common Redpoll.** Red-breasted snowbird (the fore underparts of the male are more or less suffused with pink); snow bird (as being seen in winter).

**Common Goldfinch.** Goldfinch (by transfer from a yellow, and otherwise brightly colored European finch; lettuce bird (as feeding on the seeds of that plant); shiner (from the bright coloration of the breeding male); thistle bird (it feeds on thistle seeds and lines its nest with thistle down); thistle yellowbird, wild canary (from the largely yellow coloration of the breeding male); yellow bird.

**Red Crossbill.** Crossbill (the mandibles are "falcate, deflected to opposite sides, their points crossed (unique among birds)". Coues 1903).

**Eastern Towhee.** Chawweet, chewink (sonic); fox bird (the sides and flanks are cinnamon-rufous); ground robin, marsh robin (its black and cinnamon coloration suggests that of the robin); seebing (sonic); swamp robin; towhee (sonic); wood thrush (a brushland bird, but not very thrush-like).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow.** Quail-head (the markings on the head deemed similar to those of the bobwhite quail).

**Vesper Sparrow.** Grass bird, grass finch, gray grass bird (as living among grasses); ground sparrow.

**Slate-colored Junco.** Black chipping bird (its general color is slaty; a characteristic call has been described as "smacking" or "snapping"); black snowbird ("black" as before; "snowbird" from being seen in winter); rain bird (as being especially active before rains); snowbird; white-tailed sparrow (two or three feathers on each side of the tail are white).

**Tree Sparrow.** Ground Sparrow; snowbird (from being seen in winter); winter chippy (a bird similar to the chipping sparrow that is seen in winter); wood sparrow.

**Chipping Sparrow.** Chip bird, chipper sparrow, chipping bird, chippy, chippy bird, chippy sparrow (its call is a "chip" and its song a succession of similar notes); hair bird, hairy (it uses animal hair to line its nest); house sparrow (from living about the habitations of man).

**Field Sparrow.** Bush sparrow; chippy's cousin (as a near relative of the chipping sparrow); sweet singer; wood sparrow.

**White-throated Sparrow.** Cherry bird (it sometimes attacks cherry blossoms); Peabody bird (a name spreading from New England where a popular rendering of the song is "Sow wheat, Peabody, Peabody, Peabody"); white-throat.

**Fox Sparrow.** Shepherd (Pennant 1785).

**Swamp Sparrow.** Red grass-bird (the species has considerable chestnut coloration, and is an inhabitant of low vegetation).

**Song Sparrow.** Brown canary (The general effect of the coloration is a streaky reddish-brown; it is a persistent singer); brown ground-bird; ground bird; song sparrow.

**Lapland Longspur.** Snow bird (from being seen in winter).

**Snow Bunting.** Ortolan (name of a European finch prized by epicures; the present species was formerly sent to northeastern markets in great numbers); snow bird (as being seen in winter); white bird, white snowbird (the plumage is largely white); winter bunting.

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3 *Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

# A SUMMARY OF THE 57TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN NEW YORK STATE

GEORGE E. L. LIPPERT

This paper summarizes the Christmas Bird Counts in New York State conducted from December 24, 1956 to January 2, 1957 (see 1957, Audubon Field Notes 11 (2): 88-99). The 55th and 56th Count was summarized in this magazine (6 (1): 13-15 and 6 (2): 46-48) and future summaries will be provided yearly. In the species tabulations two numbers are given: first, the number of counts on which it was reported; second, the total number of birds seen.

**Long Island** — Temperature on the 8 counts varied from 25° to 46°F. 134 individuals cooperated, varying from one to 55 observers per count group. 522.5 hours were spent in the field, 386 afoot, 131.5 in cars and 5 by boat. 1629 miles were travelled; 439 afoot, 1169 by car and 21 in boats. Total species: 156; total birds 195,891.

Common Loon 7, 103; Red-throated Loon 8, 67; Red-necked Grebe 2, 2; Horned Grebe 7, 1042; Pied-billed Grebe 7, 112; Gannet 6, 272; European Cormorant 4, 39; **Double-crested Cormorant** 1, 1 (Brooklyn); Great Blue Heron 8, 149; **American Egret** 1, 2 (Brooklyn); Black-crowned Night Heron 5, 150; Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1, 1 (S. Nassau Co.); American Bittern 5, 7; Mute Swan 6, 272; Canada Goose 7, 157; Brant 2, 13195; **Snow Goose** 1, 2 (Montauk); Mallard 8, 1817; Black Duck 7, 12087; Gadwall 3, 20; European Widgeon 2, 2; American Widgeon, 5, 2783; Pintail 6, 445; Green-winged Teal 6, 101; Shoveller 4, 62; **Wood Duck** 1, 2 (Smithtown); Redhead 5, 106; Ring-necked Duck 5, 182; Canvasback 4, 1502; Greater Scaup Duck 8, 14542; Lesser Scaup Duck, 5, 316; American Goldeneye 8, 1275; Bufflehead 8, 250; Old-squaw 7, 755; **Harlequin Duck** 1, 5 (Montauk); Common Eider 2, 2; **King Eider** 1, 1 (Brooklyn); White-winged Scoter 8, 4153; Surf Scoter 6, 816; American Scoter 7, 249; Ruddy Duck 5, 249; Hooded Merganser 6, 107; American Merganser 3, 91; Red-breasted Merganser 8, 844; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 3, 4; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1, 1; Rough-legged Hawk 3, 3; Bald Eagle 1, 1; Marsh Hawk 6, 31; Sparrow Hawk 7, 64; Ruffed Grouse 1, 1; Bob-white 3, 53; Ring-necked Pheasant 6, 74; Clapper Rail 6, 12; **Virginia Rail** 1, 1 (Cen. Suffolk Co.); Florida Gallinule 1, 1; American Coot 7, 856; Killdeer 4, 77; Black-bellied Plover 5, 13; **Ruddy Turnstone** 1, 9 (Montauk); Woodcock 1, 1; Wilson's Snipe 5, 20; **Red Knot** 2, 19 (Brooklyn and Quoque to Watermill); Purple Sandpiper 4, 135; Red-backed Sandpiper 4, 505; Western Sandpiper 1, 1 (N. Nassau Co.); Sanderling 6, 486; **Iceland Gull** 1, 2; Great Black-backed Gull 8, 2192; Herring Gull 8, 31632; Ring-billed Gull 8, 1726; Black-headed Gull 1, 1 (Brooklyn); Laughing Gull 4, 86; Bonaparte's Gull 5, 1320; Black-legged Kittiwake 3, 1653.

Mourning Dove 6, 247; Barn Owl 4, 5; Screech Owl 7, 14; Horned Owl 2, 2; Snowy Owl 1, 2; Long-eared Owl 3, 5; Short-eared Owl 1, 16; Belted Kingfisher 6, 28; Yellow-shafted Flicker 8, 100; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, 2; Hairy Woodpecker 6, 23; Downy Woodpecker 7, 170; **Western Kingbird** 2, 3 (Brooklyn, Montauk); Eastern Phoebe 1, 1; Horned Lark 7, 763; Blue Jay 7, 771; **American Magpie** 2, 2 (Cen. Suffolk Co.); American Crow 8, 1868; Fish Crow 3, 24; Black-capped Chickadee 8, 464; White-breasted Nuthatch 5, 88; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, 4; Brown Creeper 5, 18; Winter Wren 7, 18; Carolina Wren 6, 29; Long-billed Marsh Wren 3, 8; Short-billed Marsh Wren 1, 1 (Cen. Suffolk Co.); Mockingbird 2, 2; Catbird 5, 19; Brown Thrasher 1, 2; American Robin 8, 110; Hermit Thrush 4, 6; Eastern Bluebird 3, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, 55; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5, 10; American Pipit 2, 5; Cedar Waxwing 3, 19; Gray Shrike 2, 8; Loggerhead Shrike 4, 4; Common Starling 8, 46929; **Orange-crowned Warbler** 1, 2 (S. Nassau Co.); **Cape May Warbler** 1, 1 (S. Nassau Co.); Myrtle Warbler 8, 2635; Pine Warbler 1, 1; Palm Warbler 3, 4; Common Yellow-throat 2, 2; **Yellow-breasted Chat** 1, 4 (S. Nassau Co.); House Sparrow 8, 8909; Eastern Meadowlark 8, 196; Red-winged

Blackbird 5, 204; **Baltimore Oriole** 1, 1 (Quoque to Watermill); Rusty Blackbird 4, 16; Purple Grackle 3, 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 6, 1860; Western Tanager 1, 2 (S. Nassau Co.); Cardinal 4, 59; Purple Finch 4, 25; House Finch 1, 76; Pine Siskin 2, 7; American Goldfinch 8, 215; Eastern Towhee 4, 50; **Spotted Towhee** 1, 1 (S. Nassau Co.); Ipswich Sparrow 4, 6; Savannah Sparrow 6, 166; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4, 7; Seaside Sparrow 1, 1; Vesper Sparrow 1, 2; Slate-colored Junco 7, 1774; Tree Sparrow 8, 1420; Chipping Sparrow 1, 2; Field Sparrow 8, 169; White-crowned Sparrow 1, 1; White-throated Sparrow 8, 1718; Fox Sparrow 5, 36; **Lincoln's Sparrow** 1, 1 (Montauk); Swamp Sparrow 7, 50; Song Sparrow 8, 1057; Lapland Longspur 3, 29; Snow Bunting 7, 612. (Also during count period: Golden Plover, Willet, Dowitcher and **Cinnamon Teal**).

**Mainland New York** — Temperature on the 27 counts varied from -10° to 50°F. 442 individuals cooperated, varying from one to 53 observers per count group. 1192 hours were spent in the field, 625 on foot, 552 in cars and 19 in boats. 5845 miles were travelled: 801 by foot, 4969 by car and 75 in boats. Total species: 148; total birds 332,731.

Common Loon 5, 13; Red-throated Loon 2, 12; Red-necked Grebe 1, 1; Horned Grebe 13, 395; Pied-billed Grebe 13, 45; European Cormorant 1, 21; Double-crested Cormorant 2, 4; Great Blue Heron 6, 62; Black-crowned Night Heron 5, 56; American Bittern 1, 1; Mute Swan 2, 18; Whistling Swan 1, 4; Canada Goose 6, 211; Snow Goose 1, 1; **Blue Goose** 1, 7 (Staten Island); Mallard 15, 1594; Black Duck 21, 5614; Gadwall 3, 13; European Widgeon 1, 1; American Widgeon 2, 94; Pintail 4, 80; Green-winged Teal 3, 54; **Wood Duck** 2, 3 (Syracuse and Bronx-Westchester); Redhead 8, 388; Ring-necked Duck 6, 140; Canvasback 13, 4997; Greater Scaup Duck 14, 29597; Lesser Scaup Duck 5, 62; American Goldeneye 20, 3928; Bufflehead 8, 931; Old-squaw 6, 1131; **King Eider** 2, 3 (Bronx-Westchester Region, Buffalo); White-winged Scoter 6, 210; Surf Scoter 4, 10; American Scoter 4, 16; Ruddy Duck 7, 684; Hooded Merganser 9, 168; American Merganser 18, 5487; Red-breasted Merganser 7, 1601; Goshawk 1, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5, 6; Cooper's Hawk 5, 7; Red-tailed Hawk 19, 88; Red-shouldered Hawk 5, 11; Rough-legged Hawk 9, 24; Bald Eagle 1, 3; Marsh Hawk 11, 45; Peregrine Falcon 2, 2; Sparrow Hawk 18, 166; Ruffed Grouse 17, 74; Ring-necked Pheasant 22, 599; Wild Turkey 2, 37; Clapper Rail 2, 2; Virginia Rail 1, 2; American Coot 8, 410; Killdeer 6, 90; Woodcock 1, 1; Wilson's Snipe 2, 22; **Greater Yellowlegs** 1, 1 (Bronx Westchester); Purple Sandpiper 2, 164; Sanderling 1, 119; Glaucous Gull 4, 8; Iceland Gull 6, 17; Great Black-backed Gull 12, 1842; Herring Gull 22, 69843; Ring-billed Gull 15, 4820; **Black-headed Gull** 2, 3 (Manhattan, Staten Island); Laughing Gull 4, 266; Bonaparte's Gull 6, 6150; **Black-legged Kittiwake** 1, 3 (Bronx-Westchester); Mourning Dove 14, 425; Barn Owl 2, 4; Screech Owl 7, 37; Horned Owl 13, 37; Snowy Owl 1, 1; Barred Owl 3, 4; Long-eared Owl 3, 7; Short-eared Owl 3, 17; Saw-whet Owl 3, 3; Belted Kingfisher 16, 55; Yellow-shafted Flicker 14, 65; Pileated Woodpecker 14, 20; Red-headed Woodpecker 3, 4; Hairy Woodpecker 28, 241; Downy Woodpecker 28, 668; **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker** 4, 8 (Buffalo, Rochester (5), Schenectady, Syracuse); **American Three-toed Woodpecker** 1, 1 (Rochester); **Crested Flycatcher** 1, 1 (Staten Island); Eastern Phoebe 1, 1; Horned Lark 10, 308; Tree Swallow 2, 3; Blue Jay 27, 2234; American Crow 27, 8864; Fish Crow 2, 39; Black-capped Chickadee 27, 3017; Tufted Titmouse 7, 161; White-breasted Nuthatch 26, 443; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, 3; Brown Creeper 17, 130; **House Wren** 1, 1 (Bronx-Westchester); Winter Wren 7, 19; Carolina Wren 5, 13; Long-billed Marsh Wren 1, 1; Mockingbird 1, 1 (Rockland Co.); Catbird 5, 15; Brown Thrasher 1, 1; American Robin 17, 158; Hermit Thrush 2, 2; Eastern Bluebird 7, 66; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19, 214; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 11, 24; American Pipit 1, 2; Cedar Waxwing 14, 399; Gray Shrike 12, 35; Loggerhead Shrike 2, 2; Common Starling 28, 142, 364; Orange-crowned Warbler 1, 1 (Staten Island); Myrtle Warbler 9, 200; Palm Warbler 1, 1; Common Yellowthroat 1, 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1, 1; House Sparrow 28, 12227; Eastern Meadowlark 10, 239; Red-winged Blackbird 10, 493; Rusty Blackbird 4, 32; Purple Grackle 9, 75; Brown-headed Cowbird 11, 632; Cardinal 22, 509; Evening Grosbeak 3, 3; Purple Finch 4, 29; House Finch 1, 101; Common Redpoll 1, 50; Pine Siskin 3,

27; American Goldfinch 20, 932; White-winged Crossbill 1, 1; Eastern Towhee 5, 50; Savannah Sparrow 3, 81; Vesper Sparrow 2, 4; Slate-colored Junco 22, 4143; Tree Sparrow 26, 6922; Field Sparrow 6, 192; White-crowned Sparrow 3, 8; White-throated Sparrow 12, 1186; Fox Sparrow 4, 41; Swamp Sparrow 11, 64; Song Sparrow 21, 1080; Lapland Longspur 1, 2; Snow Bunting 7, 225. (Also during Count period: Brown-capped Chickadee, Florida Gallinule, Baltimore Oriole, **Kentucky Warbler** (Kingston-Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir.)

Totals for entire state: 176 species; 521,344 individuals. The Rockland Audubon Society's Christmas Count which is compiled by Mr. Robert F. Deed is included. This count is not reported to Audubon Field Notes, but was conducted under their rules. Any other such counts which may be conducted under those rules will be gladly accepted for future summaries.

RD No. 1, Brown Road, Albion

## EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING

Schenectady, May 25, 1957

President Albert W. Fudge called the tenth annual meeting to order, 26 delegates representing 16 clubs present.

Mr. Fudge announced the appointment of Mrs. Dayton Stoner as vice-president until Dec. 31, 1957, to fill the unexpired term of Robert Arbib. A motion commending Mr. Arbib for his work for the Federation was unanimously approved.

The Allen Devoe Bird Club of Chatam was presented for membership in the Federation and was accepted.

### *Financial*

The treasurer's report was given for 1956 by Allan S. Klonick:

Cash on hand (January 1, 1956) -----	\$ 756.92
Receipts -----	1,058.25
Expenditures -----	\$1,104.96

Cash on hand (January 1, 1957) -----	\$ 706.21
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In addition the permanent fund contained \$756.88. The auditing committee approved this report.

The budget was announced and approved. It called for: president, \$25.00; vice-president, \$10.00; corr. sec., \$40.00; record. sec., \$40.00; treas., \$80.00; conservation comm., \$80.00; membership comm., \$10.00; publications and research comm., \$930.00 (*Kingbird*, \$800.00; bibliography, \$35.00; state book, \$75.00; waterfowl census, \$10.00; publications and research, \$10.00); postage, \$75.00; misc., \$10.00. Total \$1300.00

### *Committees*

Winston Brockner reported for the conservation committee. The council recorded opposition to two amendments which would affect the forest preserve (the so-called detached parcel and highway realignment bills) because they might establish a dangerous precedent. The committee would work actively in support of the model hawk and owl law during 1957. The council recorded a vote of commendation for the work of Federation member H. Everest Clements in support of the hawk and owl legislation na-

tionally. A motion by Mrs. Stoner that the Federation support Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy in his court battle against use of sprays on Long Island was approved. Clubs were asked to have their delegates contact Mr. Brockner so that conservation bulletins could again be issued.

Harold Mitchell reported for the publications and research committee. He reiterated the fact that the state book, bibliography and waterfowl census committees are sub-committees of the publications and research committee. He announced the appointment of Dr. Minnie Scotland of Schenectady as editor of *The Kingbird*, her tenure to commence with the June issue, 1958. Allan Klonick as business manager and the present editorial board will continue.

Mr. Mitchell then reported for the state book committee. Projects which are still incomplete are: (1) the sample species write-ups, and (2) establishment of a final mailing list. Individuals interested in receiving questionnaires were asked to contact Mr. Mitchell. These questionnaires are filed in the Buffalo Museum of Science. Mr. Mitchell again asked for help for Dr. Webb on the ecology project and asked that all clubs establish breeding bird surveys. A proposal by Mrs. Stoner that the Federation hold state wide bird walks in mid-May was discussed and it was suggested that members contact their local clubs for opinions.

Dr. Allen Benton's bibliography report recounting further progress of this committee was accepted as were the waterfowl census and *Kingbird* reports by Gerald Rising.

The constitution and by-laws committee announced completion of the incorporation procedures. The committee having terminated its work was dissolved.

Audrey Wrede proposed the names of 23 persons for individual membership. They were accepted, making a total of 360 individual members. Miss Wrede also offered a plan for getting new members by presenting a form with space for five new members. Individual representatives were asked to take these back to their own clubs.

#### 1958 Officers

Alvin G. Whitney, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the proposed slate for 1958:

- President: Allan S. Klonick, Rochester
- Vice-president: Mrs. William G. Irving, West Nyack
- Recording Secretary: Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich, Buffalo
- Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth A. Feldhusen, Saranac Lake
- Treasurer: Gerald R. Rising, Rochester

These officers were elected.

Elected to the 1958 nominating committee were: Dr. Gerhard Leubner, Rochester, chairman; Nellie Van Vorst, Schenectady; and Robert Hammslag, Bedford. Elected to the 1958 auditing committee were: Guy Bartlett, Schenectady, chairman; and Dorothy Niles, Amsterdam.

The following invitations for future Federation meetings were accepted: 1958, Rochester; 1959, Watertown; 1960, Buffalo. Schenectady informally announced its invitation for 1962.

John Elliott proposed a vote of thanks be extended to the Schenectady Bird Club for its hospitality at the 1957 meeting. This was carried unanimously.

Alice E. Ulrich, Buffalo

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## NOTES

**Young Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) in Franklin County, New York, 1946** — Several notes have described the southward and eastern penetration of the Evening Grosbeak into eastern United States during the winter of 1945-46 (Monroe and Mengel, 1946, *Wilson Bull.*, 58: 116, Stevenson, 1946, *Auk* 63: 444; Middleauff, 1946, *Auk*, 63: 444; Lunk, 1946, *Auk*, 63; 45; Jones, 1947, *Auk*, 64: 142; Teale, 1947, *Auk*, 64: 142; Ross, 1947, *Auk*, 64: 318).

It is interesting to note that during the following summer of 1946 the first record of a young bird for the state of Maine was obtained. Palmer (1949, *Maine Birds*, 526) and C. E. Hope (1947, *Auk*, 64: 463-4) reported two nests of this species were found in Algonquin Park, Ontario.

In New York State, F. B. Barrick (1946, *Auk*, 63: 444-5) feels it is logical to assume that a pair observed in the Adirondacks at Cranberry Lake during late June, 1946, nested there.

During this same summer a group of biologists were doing extensive field work on birds in the Adirondacks in connection with the possible effects of DDT on birds. (See George and Mitchell, 1947, *Jour. of Econ. Entom.*, 40:782-789). In view of this general southward penetration of the bird, it is of interest that we observed a group of four Evening Grosbeaks feeding at Lake Clear Villa on the south shore of Lake Clear at Lake Clear Junction, Franklin County, N. Y. on July 20, 1946. This location is approximately 28 miles northwest of the Cranberry Lake record by Barrick cited above. Of these four birds two were adults, one male, the other female. Apparently this was a mated pair as the remaining two birds were immatures that were being fed by the adults. The immatures were fully grown. The birds had been heard calling for at least three days prior to actual observation and this group was observed daily during the remainder of July. The birds appeared to stay within a quarter mile radius of Lake Clear Villa during this time and were generally observed to be feeding on fruit, especially the fruit of *Amelanchier*. During this period they were at times joined by additional Evening Grosbeaks ranging in numbers from one to four. This group was regularly observed by R. T. Mitchell, D. L. Kemp and myself, and, on July 25, by A. L. Nelson.

On August 3, 1946 on the Rockefeller Estate five miles west of Paul Smiths, Franklin County, N. Y., a second pair of adult Evening Grosbeaks were observed in an *Amelanchier* tree with an immature begging to be fed. As at Lake Clear the immature was fully grown. They were under observation only a few minutes before they departed and were not observed actually to feed the young bird. This pair was approximately eight miles northwest of the pair at Lake Clear Junction. Field observations were discontinued in the Adirondacks on August 5.

In general, sporadic movements of this nature are exceptional and have seldom resulted in any permanent extension of a bird's breeding range. Therefore it is of interest that the Evening Grosbeak has apparently successfully nested in new areas during the summer of 1946 following a general southward and eastward penetration during the previous winter. Young Evening Grosbeaks were seen in this same general area, at Saranac Lake about five miles to the east, during the summers of 1947, 1948 and 1949 (Schaub, 1951, *Auk*, 68: 517-519). Both Algonquin Park and the Adirondacks were afflicted with an outbreak of the spruce budworm (*Archips fumiferana*) so an abundant insect food supply was assured in these areas for the duration of the outbreak. Interestingly enough, the first (and except for one 1937 record, the only) record of young Evening Grosbeaks in Eastern

United States was in 1926 (1926, *Auk*, 43:549), which was during the last spruce budworm outbreak prior to the outbreak following World War II. These budworm outbreaks are correlated with an overabundance of mature balsam fir (George and Mitchell, 1948, *Jour. of Forestry*, 46:454-455), which may influence the bird's distribution. If the bird can establish itself as a regular breeding species in these new areas it will prove an exception to the usual means of range extension — gradual centrifugal spread. This latter process seems to have been the mechanism in the eastern extension of the Evening Grosbeak's range during the last forty-five years (Chapman, 1932, *Handbook of Birds*, 510; Baillie, 1940, *Can. Field Nat.*, 54:15-25).

—John L. George, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

SPECIAL NOTICE  
TO ALL FEDERATION MEMBERS:

A directory of the individual members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will be published early in 1958 as part of or a supplement to *The Kingbird*. This listing will include all individual members as of January 1, 1958. In order to insure that this listing is truly representative of New York State ornithology, members are urged to encourage others to join the State organization. Local club officers may wish to circulate list for group membership applications. All applications should be forwarded to Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverley Road, Brooklyn 26, New York.



## REGIONAL REPORTS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING MIGRATION: APRIL-MAY, 1957

One of my first years of field birding, a year when outstanding Rochester birders pointed out dozens of "lifers" to me, was quite like 1956. The chagrin and frustration of the following year when a less spectacular migration failed to produce the expected numbers of rarities came close to terminating my ornithological interest. Although there are a few similar reactions this year, the scarcity of these complaints after the spectacular 1956 migration would seem to indicate that this year's migration was above average. Surely birding was more difficult in 1957 than in 1956: trees were well leafed out far in advance of peak waves, and the rain the State so badly needed seemed to come all at once at Census time. A possible result of observation difficulty was the scarcity of Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireo reports in some western regions.

This report period completes the cycle without any Winter Finches. We can only wait until the end of the year to see how long this phenomenon will last. A couple of Three-toed Woodpeckers remained in Region 2, as if to prolong as long as possible the notoriety that region gained from Christmas Census results. Schenectady in Region 8 found the spotlight, however, when it produced for the annual Federation meeting on May 25 a Cattle Egret. This is the third known state record, the first on mainland New York.

The "new" hawk flight station at the SE corner of Lake Ontario continues to provide interesting records, this year a Golden Eagle. This is another example of the result of more intensive field work. Syracuse birders are to be congratulated for this extension of our knowledge of New York bird flights.

Also of interest is a Black Rail in Region 5, turned up during field trials for dogs. A scattering of central New York Glossy Ibis reports (several also from Region 10) and a Region 9 Gannet are also of interest. —GRR

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### REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The first half of April was wintry. Mrs. McMurtry reported that on the eighth a ten-inch fall of snow, accompanied by a strong wind, brought many ducks down in the Wellsville area, Old-Squaw and White-winged Scoters in particular being unusually common for that inland area. The early April land bird migrants were exceptionally hard to find during this period. Starting with the 17th, however, an excessively warm spell oc-

curred, bringing not only waves of the tardy sparrows, phoebes, Tree Swallows, and Flickers, but, as the heat continued, all the late April and some of the May migrants as well. It is difficult to understand why certain birds came early and some did not; for example, why should our first Kingbirds be seen April 27 and Bobolinks May 5; why did a Cerulean Warbler arrive April 28 and the first Black-throated Blue May 11? May was rather disappointing, both because it brought few strong bird movements and because foliage, after a late start in early April, was so advanced\* by May 1 that it interfered seriously with the location and identification of birds thereafter.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loons and grebes were present in normal numbers on usual dates. First Green Heron arrived Apr 22 (2 at E. Eden, Bourne), first Least Bittern May 2 at Wellsville (McMurtry). The last Whistling Swan was seen at Grand Island Apr 28 by the Norths. The Brockners reported 16,000 Canada Geese at Oak Orchard Apr 28 and 5,000 plus still there May 5; it was surprising that the warm weather did not impel them to leave earlier. Mrs. McMurtry found the Snow Goose at Oak Orchard Apr 22; it was not seen later. Ruddy Ducks were reported in improved numbers.

**Hawks — Owls:** The only hawk flight of any consequence reported was on Apr 21 when Braunberns et al, counted 107 Broad-winged along the lake shore south of Buffalo. Mrs. McMurtry saw 14 Turkeys on both Apr 10 and Apr 11 at Wellsville. She also had the first Virginia Rail record (Apr 26, Wellsville). Sora was reported Apr 24 at Farmersville by Bourne, and Gallinule Apr 28 at Oak Orchard by the Brockners. A Black-bellied Plover was found at Oakfield May 19 (Buckland). Mrs. McMurtry reported good numbers of shore birds at Wellsville with first dates for Least (May 15), and Red-backed (May 12) Sandpipers, and Sanderling (5, May 13). Other first records reported were Upland Sandpiper Apr 21 (6, Angola, Brockners), Spotted Sandpiper Apr 25 (Buffalo, R. Axtell) and Semipalmated Sandpiper May 18 (3, Gainesville, Smith). A late record (well described) of Iceland Gull was reported from Mt. Vernon (just south of Buffalo) May 7 by Bourne. An early Caspian Tern was seen in Dunkirk harbor Apr 21 (Braunberns et al.); Black Terns were also in good season (2 at Frewsburg, May 5, Elderkin). Wolfing reports Barn Owls nesting (2 eggs May 13) at Alden.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** A Whip-poor-will was seen Apr 29 in Buffalo (Convery). First record of Nighthawk was from Kenmore May 13 (Beardslee). An extremely early Hummingbird was reported from Forest Lawn, Buffalo Apr 27 (Thorpe et al.) Last record of Arctic Woodpecker was from Armor Apr 10 (Bacon, Milligan). Two parties reported Kingbirds Apr 27, and Andrle had a Crested Flycatcher at Irving that day. Alder (May 19), Least (May 11), and Wood Pewee (May 18) were more normal, even a bit tardy. Four Northern Horned Larks at East Eden Apr 13 (Bacon, Rew) gave us a late record. Tree Swallows and Purple Martins were late in arriving due to the cold weather throughout the first half of April; the later swallows arrived near their normal dates. Two Ravens, an extreme rarity, were carefully observed and recorded by the Axtells at Olcott Apr 21. Red-breasted Nuthatches, notoriously erratic, had one of their poorest seasons. House Wren was early (Apr 24, Hamburg, Bourne). The Axtells reported a very interesting flood of thrushes in Forest Lawn, Buffalo, May 19, 20 and 21; a careful count showed 175 Olive-backed, 25 Veery, 5 Wood Thrushes (no Gray-cheeked). Bluebirds were pitifully scarce. An extremely late Gray Shrike seen Apr 14 at Wolcottsville by Andrle and Grampp was doubtless influenced to stay by the wintry weather.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Solitary Vireo was reported Apr 25 from Delaware Park by R. Axtell. Bourne found an early Warbling Vireo at Eden Valley Apr 28. Among the warblers, Black and White (Apr 26), Nashville (Apr 27), Yellow (Apr 23, 24) Cape May (May 1), Black-throated Green (Apr 26), Cerulean (Apr 28), Blackburnian (Apr 27), Bay-breasted (May 9), Northern Waterthrush (Apr 25), and Redstart (Apr 28) were noticeably early but all were well authenticated.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Knott reported the first Bobolinks (5, May 5, Jamestown). Andrle found a very early Baltimore Oriole in Forest Lawn, Buffalo, Apr 25, and an early Scarlet Tanager was seen at Wellsville Apr 30 by Mrs. McMurtry,

who reported a Rose-breasted Grosbeak there the following day. Indigo Buntings were not reported until May 12 (Onoville, Elderkin). Buckland reported two Grasshopper Sparrows from Batavia on the good date of Apr 21, and McMurry found a Henslow's Sparrow at Wellsville Apr 26. The Axtells found an exceptionally early (unprecedented) Lincoln's Sparrow in Forest Lawn Apr 25. It was carefully studied and written up. Other sparrows were rather late in arriving, particularly the Savanna, Vesper, Field, and Swamp, all of which preferred comfort to punctuality.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore

## REGION 2 GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first two weeks of the period were cold and rather wet. The weather changed abruptly at the end of this period and the next two weeks were dry and warm with S or SW winds prevailing most of the time. These produced good hawk flights but did not seem to start any very large movement of small land birds. The last few days of April and the first ten days of May were cool and very dry, so dry in fact that the woods were closed to public use. May 11-12 brought some rain and a good wave of small land birds. Heavy rains on May 19-29 drowned all fire hazards (and almost everything else including bird watchers on the spring census!) The weather the last ten days of the month was rather routine, possibly a little cooler than average. The spectacular waves of last season seemed to be absent, the birds moving through in rather steady but small numbers during prolonged periods of both favorable and unfavorable weather, except in the first two weeks of the period when birds whose peak abundance normally occurs at that time were unusually scarce.

**Loons — Ducks:** The loon flight reached its peak May 5 when 600 Common Loons and 350 Red-throated Loons were observed at Webster Park by Kemnitzer. Three Holboell's Grebes were recorded Apr 19 and a maximum count of 104 Horned Grebes was made Apr 18 by the same observer along the east lake shore. Only one Double-crested Cormorant was seen, May 26 (Listman). Three American Egrets were recorded at Montezuma May 19. The Green Heron seemed to arrive rather early and the Black-crowned Night Heron seemed rather late in appearing.

A flock of nine Brant appeared at Braddock Bay May 24 and some were still present at the end of the period. One Blue Goose was observed at Hamlin Beach Apr 13 by Listman. The European Widgeon appeared at Braddock Bay on May 24 (Listman). This was the first local record of this bird in two years. Three King Eiders were still present at Manitou Apr 27, and one bird was recorded at the same place May 12 (Listman). There was a heavy flight of White-winged Scoters on Lake Ontario this spring. One male Surf Scoter was observed Apr 18 off Rigney's Bluff (Allen) and two birds were seen May 12 at Manitou (Listman). 25 Ruddy Ducks were seen on Conesus Lake Apr 13.

**Hawks — Owls:** 24 Turkey Vultures were reported in a large hawk flight Apr 20 at Braddock by Listman and Bieber as well as 2000 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 200 Red-tailed Hawks, and one each Duck Hawk and Pigeon Hawk. Maximum numbers of Broad-winged Hawks reported were 5000 at Webster Park Apr 25 (Kemnitzer). 14 Rough-legged Hawks and nine Ospreys were seen Apr 20 at Port Bay by Kemnitzer. One Pigeon Hawk was also seen at Lima on Apr 13. Six Ruffed Grouse were found near Sodus Bay on Apr 13 by Jones. One Black-bellied Plover was at Montezuma May 19 and one was seen May 24 at Manitou (Listman). A flock of eleven Ruddy Turnstones were at Manitou May 30 (Brummer and Miller). Three Upland Plover were seen migrating at Braddock Apr 21. Solitary Sandpipers appeared rather early, being reported Apr 27 at Ling Road and Hamlin Beach. The White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Ling Road May 18 by Listman. 11

Red-backed Sandpipers at Ling Road May 25. Two Dowitchers were seen there May 19 and a flock of several dozen was at Montezuma the same day. The Sanderling was reported at Manitou May 24 and 30, both reports of single birds. The Glaucous Gull was reported May 4 and 19 at Braddock. An Iceland Gull was seen at Summerville Apr 27 and large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were present around Braddock Bay during early May. Two Little Gulls, an adult bird and an immature, were observed with this flock. A Forster's Tern was at Braddock May 19 in company with Common Terns (Taylor, Klonick). The Barred Owl was seen and heard at Montezuma Apr 16 (Schmanke). The only report of the Saw-whet Owl this spring was from Island Cottage woods Apr 27 (O'Hara, Miller).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Red-headed Woodpeckers seemed slightly more numerous around Rochester this spring while Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed very scarce. The last record of the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was Apr 27 when a female was observed in a swamp white oak in Long Pond woods (O'Hara, Miller). A female American Three-toed Woodpecker was observed south of Rochester May 11 (Brummer, Starling). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were well distributed in late May, six or more being seen in a morning. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near LeRoy May 25 (O'Hara, Miller).

All six swallows were seen on the wires at Long Pond May 11. The Carolina Wren was reported Apr 7 and 14 at Irondequoit Bay (Miller). The Short-billed Marsh Wren seems to be more common and more widely distributed this spring than for several years previous to last year. A Mockingbird was seen and heard in full song May 25 at LeRoy (O'Hara, Miller). Both Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes seemed somewhat scarcer than usual this spring. Gray-cheeked Thrush May 25 west of Manitou. 60 Pipits were seen at Webster Apr 20 (Kemnitzer). Migrant Shrikes seemed rather scarce around Rochester this spring.

**Vireos — Warblers:** For the first time in several years no reports of Philadelphia Vireos were received. The Blue-headed Vireo also seemed rather scarce. By Apr 27 stragglers of several species of the earlier warblers were present in addition, of course, to large numbers of Myrtles. A week of cold, clear weather resulted in less warblers being present on the weekend of May 4-5 than were present Apr 27-28. The best wave of the year seemed to occur the weekend of May 11-12 when all of the early and mid-season warblers were present in fairly good numbers in addition to the first arrivals of some of the later arriving warblers such as the Tennessee and Bay-breasted. Good numbers of warblers were present May 18 but May 19, an extremely inclement day saw few species and small numbers of those species that were present. A good number of the late arriving warblers were present May 25-26 and after this date the migration rapidly petered out.

The Orange-crowned Warbler was reported Apr 27, a very early date, on the east shore of Braddock Bay. A Pine Warbler was present in Durand-Eastman Park the weekend of May 4-5 and may have remained longer. A Prairie Warbler was reported south of Rochester May 11 (Brummer, Starling). A Connecticut Warbler was observed near Irondequoit Bay on May 26 by Miller. Several reports of Yellow-breasted Chats have been received this spring and four were observed May 18 near LeRoy by Listman.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The Western Meadowlark again appeared near Braddock Bay on Apr 19 and was seen and heard repeatedly to the end of the period. It would appear that this bird may have nested as it was seen in close association with another Meadowlark which gave the calls of the Western. No attempt was made to find a possible nest because of the desire not to disturb the birds. An adult male Orchard Oriole was observed at Conesus Lake May 19 (Taylor). The northern finches continued completely absent, not one accepted report of any of this group having been received for an entire year. Grasshopper Sparrows seemed more generally distributed than usual this spring. No reports of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow were received during the period. The Lincoln's Sparrow seemed rather scarce, the only reports received being of single birds May 14-16 at Webster (Kemnitzer) and at Tryon Park May 26 (Miller).

61 Richland Street, Rochester 9

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Each spring in the Finger Lakes Region seems to bring something unique in weather conditions. Like 1956, early April was cold and wet — up to 10 inches of wet snow fell on the 9th — and as the cool weather persisted, we anticipated conditions like last year: a slow steady migration, with foliage retarded, improving visibility. But no: a heat wave the third week in April rushed the migration along, bringing in a few species early, such as Baltimore Orioles by the 25th-28th. Then came a cold wave (in low 20's the first week in May) with drought, which dried things so much that the woods were closed by order of the governor the weekend of May 11th. As soon as the thermometer climbed, early in May, the leaves all came out, and the few birds that trickled through from then on were difficult to see.

Throughout the Region, correspondents report: "No warbler waves." "Poorest warbler season ever." "Never saw so few migrating birds — almost no warblers."

The rains finally came, and most of the clubs found they had picked the worst day of the month for their spring census: the 19th. It poured in torrents almost all day, and counts were the lowest in history: for example 116 at Ithaca, as opposed to a high of over 190.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loons were scarce on Cayuga, about as usual at Elmira, and Ward reports a good migration of this species during April and early May on Seneca. Horned Grebes were scarce at Elmira (Welles). By May, Smith reported the presence of 150 Great Blue Herons at Montezuma, and one American Egret appeared on May 5 (Walker). A number of observers had the opportunity to see an adult Little Blue Heron at 7 acre pond near Millport the week of Apr 27. Probably one of the most photographed and stared-at birds in recent years was the **Glossy Ibis** which spent the period from Apr 25 to May 4 close to the Thruway, north of the Main Pool dike at Montezuma. A week later, one spent four days at a pond just north of Sapsucker Woods at Ithaca.

Ward, at Geneva, reported a Whistling Swan on May 26 and again June 1. Canada Geese numbered 15,000 at Montezuma Refuge the first week in April, and 23,000 by mid-April. With them were five Snow Geese and 15 Blue Geese. Possibly some of these same Snow and Blue Geese spent time on Cayuga Lake, or these latter may have been different individuals. Brant reports increase each year. Two flocks, one of 80 birds, passed over Montezuma Refuge after the Canada Geese had left (Smith), a flock of 85 was seen by Eaton Bird Club on Seneca on May 19, on May 4 a small flock was seen at the south end of Cayuga (AAAllen) and a lone bird was there on May 22 (Kelsey). At Keuka more flocks of Canada Geese were seen than most years (Guthrie). Waterfowl concentrations were reported as below normal in some parts of the Finger Lakes, but normal or above in other parts. At Elmira where counts were high, it was suggested that heavy rains had produced more ponds, but in other wet springs there had not been an increase. At Hornell where ice remained late in the Basin, only Ringnecks and Buffleheads were present in any numbers. Black Ducks were scarce at Keuka this year. More Green-winged Teal were reported from Elmira than in any previous year of record keeping. Although not many ducks stopped off at Sapsucker Woods pond this spring, most species were represented, and on Apr 5, 11 Wood Ducks fed in view of the observatory windows. Some of them stayed to nest in the woods. More Ring-necks were seen than usual in most parts of the Region, fewer Scaup at Elmira. There seemed to be fewer Old-squaws on Cayuga. 16 White-winged Scoters were counted on Seneca by Ward.

The following were the peak numbers in April at Montezuma Refuge, as re-

ported by Manager Smith: Mallards 1000, Blacks 800, Gadwalls, 200, Baldpates 1000, Pintails 5000, Green-winged Teal 100, Blue-winged Teal 250, Shoveller 300, Ring-necks 200, Canvasbacks 50, Scaup 100, Buffleheads 100, American Mergansers 200, and 1 European Widgeon.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures appeared on schedule at Montezuma, and were also seen on Apr 22 and May 28 in the Elmira area (K. Fudge, Welles). Hawks, except for Red-tails, were scarce at Avoca (Carter), but elsewhere were in normal numbers, although fewer Red-shoulders are in the vicinity of Sapsucker Woods this year, and fewer Sparrow Hawks at Elmira.

One Pigeon Hawk was reported on the Eaton Bird Club census, at Geneva May 19 (Ward). Rough-legged Hawks lingered into May in the Region. A Bald Eagle was seen over Elmira on May 16 (M. Smith). The nest at Montezuma is not visible from anywhere on the storage pond dike, but the adults are seen overhead frequently. Ospreys reported from Elmira on Apr 12, near Tyrone on Apr 24 (A. Robinson), Avoca on Apr 29 (Carter), and at the Refuge the last of April. One caught goldfish for several days at Sapsucker Woods pond in early May.

Again there is some hope that Bob-whites may be getting established. One was reported from Erin on May 6, one south of Elmira on May 26, one near Waterloo on May 12, one just north of Geneva on May 18 (Walker). The birds released in late April near Sapsucker Woods may be heard calling regularly and a pair visits the Laboratory feeder daily. From the Elmira area come two reports of Wild Turkeys: 2 birds seen near Catlin on May 18 (Andrus) and two on Ridge Road early in May.

Smith reported Golden Plovers as 'abundant' at the Refuge in May. Two Ruddy Turnstones were seen on May 26 on a pond at East Corning (K. Fudge et al.), a first record for the Elmira area. In fact, all shore bird records from Elmira were increased by the presence of a new, shallow pond along the Rte. 17 construction west of the city which so far lacks growth of vegetation. White-rumped, Pectoral and Red-backed Sandpipers were seen there in mid-May. Lerch reported Upland Plover in Italy Hills (Keuka area) on May 19, and on the same day, P. Kelsey saw six near Dryden, at the usual station. At the Refuge the third week in May, there were 400 Least Sandpipers and 1000 Red-backed. A Western Sandpiper was photographed there by Walker on May 30, and two Baird's Sandpipers were found on the Eaton Bird Club census on May 19. There were 50 Dowitchers at Montezuma in May, and six were seen on the afore-mentioned East Corning pond on May 14 and 15 (Welles et al.).

Ring-billed Gulls occurred at Elmira in unprecedented numbers during migration and were still coming through on June 1. They were seen along roads, in puddles in fields, and even came down at midnight in a parking area of the shopping center at Horseheads. There were fewer Bonaparte's Gulls at Elmira; however, 54 of these were in the Hornell basin Apr 18. The first Common Tern at Ithaca was seen in the Inlet on Apr 16 (K. Thorp). Black Terns appeared over Dryden Lake on May 19; were more plentiful at Elmira.

Cuckoos are scarce, with almost no records of Yellow-billed throughout the Region. The Great Horned Owl nested again at the sanctuary at Stewart Park, Ithaca. A Short-eared Owl was seen by Paul Kelsey on Warren Road, Ithaca, in April, the only record of the season at Ithaca. Whip-poor-will at Brooktondale Apr 26 (Mrs. Albertson).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Chimney Swifts arrived earlier than usual at Avoca (Carter). Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen for the first time in 20 years at Avoca (Carter), the first time in N. Hornell in 5 years (Groesbeck). Elmira reports more of them this year than for some time, but around Ithaca they continue very scarce. A Montezuma nest was spotted the end of May, near the storage pool dike (McIlroy). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared at Sapsucker Woods on Apr 3 (Lane) but otherwise there have been fewer reported than usual. Kingbirds are scarce, Alder Flycatchers more common at Geneva than in past years (Walker). Few Least Flycatchers in the Watkins-Montour area (Bardeen). The young of a nest of Horned Larks under observation at Big Flats were killed by the ten inch wet snow on Apr 4.

Tree Swallows are occupying most of the boxes on the pond at Sapsucker Woods, and also boxes in the vicinity erected by J. Hartshorne to encourage Bluebirds. Purple Martins are reported nesting again in Arkport, and in Hornell for the first time in 2 years (Groesbeck). Red-breasted Nuthatch reports were almost non-existent this spring throughout the Region. The yearly increase in Carolina Wrens seems to have slowed down. There were three reports of Mockingbirds: one was present in Avoca from Apr 20 to May 27, singing much at night (Carter); one was seen on the Eaton Bird Club census May 19 at Geneva, and Hartshorne saw one at Bull Pasture Pond near Ithaca on Apr 30. The thrush migration was spotty: few reports of Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked, but Veeries are in good numbers around Ithaca. Bluebirds seem somewhat more numerous in the Ithaca area this year, but have been having poor nesting success (Hartshorn).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were not found at Elmira this year (Welles). Watkins Glen area had a good migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (Bardeen). Pipits were much in evidence with shore-birds at Montezuma early in May near the Thruway, and a good flock was seen at Elmira on Apr 6 (Welles). A late Northern Shrike visited the Hoyt banding station at Etna on Apr 9. It was trapped, found to be extremely emaciated, and died shortly. Starlings are down slightly in numbers at Ithaca.

**Vireos — Warblers:** It was the poorest vireo migration in years. Only Warbling and Red-eyed were heard at Avoca and at Watkins Glen. Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos were very scarce and there were no reports of Philadelphia's except at Elmira and one at Ithaca.

The Warbler migration started out very well in late April and then fizzled out. There were no waves, many species were missed entirely in certain areas. Prof. Guthrie, however, at Keuka said the species all appeared but in low numbers. Water-thrushes, usually abundant around Hornell seemed to be entirely absent (Groesbeck). All species scarce at Watkins Glen except Yellow-throats, Yellow, Redstarts and Black-throated Green. Redstarts are scarce at Ithaca.

A Blue-winged Warbler was reported near Branchport on May 11 by Spiker, and a Yellow Palm near Geneva by Lerch, Walker, et al. The Mourning Warbler, which is erratic at Avoca, was reported on May 30.

Mrs. York reported numbers of Warblers on her hill early in May, then a complete absence. The Worm-eating Warbler has not been found there this year, although Mrs. York thought once she heard it singing in the distance.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Redwings seemed unusually abundant at Watkins this year, and all Blackbirds except Rusties were in good numbers at Geneva. The first Rusty Blackbird appeared at the feeder at the Laboratory of Ornithology's Research Building in the heavy snow of Apr 4, and a rather late flock was seen near Millport May 18 (Welles). The late April hot spell brought Baltimore Orioles in rather early in several areas. An Orchard Oriole was seen on May 19 at Ithaca (M. Leighton). I have heard more complaints than ever about Grackles monopolizing feeders and killing young of other species, but the numbers of Grackles are somewhat down this year around Etna and Ithaca.

Walker reported a good wave of Indigo Buntings the week of May 26 around Geneva. A Dickcissel was heard singing close to the Spiker home in Branchport on Apr 4. There were no reports of Pine Siskins again this spring. Purple Finches seemed abundant around the Hornell area (Groesbeck); and Goldfinches were unusually abundant at Elmira (Welles). Vesper Sparrows were locally scarce as were Savannahs. A late Tree Sparrow was reported on May 18 at Park Station in Elmira Region, and one remained at the Laboratory of Ornithology feeder until May 10.

Both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were scarce at Elmira, White-throats more abundant than White-crowns in the Watkins-Montour region, but at Ithaca and Keuka, White-crowns were unusually abundant and greatly exceeded the White-throats in numbers. Fox Sparrows were scarce throughout the Region.

*Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca*

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather this spring has gone from one extreme to the other, each extreme lasting for about three weeks and then giving way to the other. The first three weeks of April were cold and wet. Both snow and rain fell frequently. The next three weeks brought pleasant warm weather with no rain at all. Just as the dryness started to become serious and Gov. Harriman's ban on going into the woods went into effect it started to rain again. The wet weather then continued a couple of weeks but the last week in May was again warm and dry. Judging by first dates alone one might think that the migration was quite normal, but if dates of peak numbers are used it becomes apparent that the migration was a week or in some cases two weeks late.

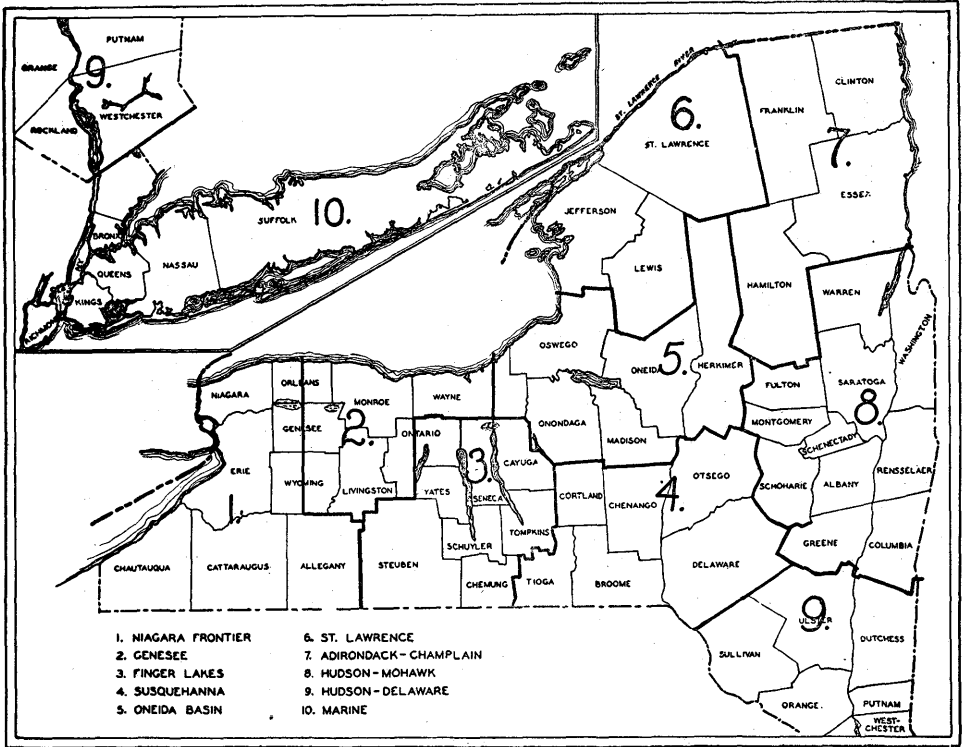
**Loons-Ducks:** A Common Loon was at Norwich from Apr 17 to Apr 19 (Whites) and another was seen flying over near Oxford May 5 (Stratton). The latest Horned Grebe record was from Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) but there were several earlier reports from Binghamton, Cortland and Deposit. Green Herons were at Scott in Cortland Co. (Gustafson) and at Unadilla (Wisner) on Apr 24. Two Black-crowned Night Herons at Binghamton Apr 17 (Saunders) were the earliest reported. 14 were at Willow Point May 7 so that there is some hope that they will continue nesting in that area in spite of the fact that their previous site has been appropriated for the new Harpur College campus which is now under construction. An early Bittern was at Deposit Apr 22 (Wilson) and another at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites). A Binghamton Press story reported an injured Least Bittern, identified by unknown Conservation Dept. people, was found in Binghamton May 21.

Canada Geese were reported as late as May 5 from Oxford (Stratton) and Sherburne (Whites). At Oxford over 1000 went over during the day and night of Apr 29. Ten Mallard ducklings were seen at Little York in Cortland Co. Apr 24 (Pratt). Seven Green-winged Teal at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton Apr 15 (H. Marsi) were our last. A Wood Duck had occupied one of Mr. Wilson's nesting boxes at Deposit Apr 3. Ring-necked Ducks were around until Apr 13 at Deposit (Wilson) and Canvas-backs were at Norwich until the same date (Whites). Three late American Goldeneyes were at Norwich Apr 8 (Whites). The high count of Buffleheads was 12 at Little York Apr 17 (Gustafson) and the latest were at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites). They were also reported from Norwich. Seven Oldsquaws at Deposit Apr 19 (Wilson) was the high count and three at Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) were the latest. A Hooded Merganser had twelve eggs in one of Mr. Wilson's nesting boxes at Deposit May 19. Two American Mergansers were still at Norwich, where they are transients, Apr 12 (Whites). At Deposit where they are breeders a pair was in the vicinity throughout the period (Wilson). There were three Red-breasted Merganser reports; two at St. John's Pond near Binghamton Apr 6 (Sheffields), six at Norwich Apr 8 (Whites) and two at Deposit Apr 20 (Wilson).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures were seen in ones and twos throughout the period in the Deposit area, but on May 13 ten were seen at one time (Wilson). Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be much more common than usual during April, but there was a decided decrease in May (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club), but Broad-winged Hawks were down in numbers. From Deposit where Broad-wings sometimes nest Mr. Wilson writes that he knows of no nesting pairs this year. Dr. Burt, of Syracuse, banded two young Red-tails in a nest 2 mi. south of Binghamton Apr 17 and found them much further advanced than would be usual for that date in the Syracuse area. Two Rough-legged Hawks were at Oxford Apr 14 (Stratton). Three Bald Eagles were at Cortland May 16 (B. A. Hall). Marsh Hawks were also more common during April than in previous years but they too decreased in May. Our earliest Osprey was at Unadilla Apr 12 (Wisner) and a late one was at Little York May 21 (Thurber). A Duck Hawk was



## REPORTING REGIONS



**For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2**

reported from Oxford Apr 1 (Stratton). The Broome Co. Board of Supervisors earlier this year appropriated \$1000 to be used by the Broome Co. Federation of Sportmen's Clubs in a conservation project. The money was used for the purchase of 500 Bob-white of a "northern breed" and these birds were released in a few carefully chosen areas this spring.

Florida Gallinules, a few years ago considered to be very common in appropriate habitats, have gone undetected so far this spring. Semi-palmated Plovers were seen by several observers in the Binghamton area May 19 (TCNC), but were recorded on no other day. There have been a number of reports of Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe from various parts of the region, the latter as late as May 26 at Sherburne (Whites). Two Upland Plover were at Homer May 1 (Gustafson). Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Norwich (Whites) and at Willow Point (Bemont, E. Washburn) Apr 29. Solitary Sandpipers in small numbers were reported from Deposit May 11 (Wilson) and from Binghamton May 19 and 26 (TCNC). Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers in the Binghamton area, also May 19, rounded out one of the best spring waves of shorebirds on record here (TCNC).

An especially late Herring Gull was at Endwell Apr 25 (Bemont), and two more

were at Norwich May 1 (Whites). Five Ring-billed Gulls were at Deposit Apr 17 (Wilson). On Apr 6, 15 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Whitney Point Dam (Whites), some in winter and some in summer plumage. Two more were at Deposit Apr 17 (Wilson). A Common Tern was at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson) and was the only one reported. A Black Tern at Little York May 12 (Thurber) was likewise the only one reported. Both Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos were found near Binghamton May 9 (H. Marsi). The latter has been decidedly more common and was reported from other parts of the region. The Barred Owl at Deposit was heard Apr 10 and a few times since (Wilson). One was at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawks appeared at Binghamton May 9 (Whitson). They have since been found at Cortland (Cecil), Hancock (Wilson), Norwich (Whites, Stratton) and Oneonta (Wisner). One Chimney Swift seen near Binghamton Apr 21 (Saunders, Sheffield) was the first. They arrived in force Apr 25. The first Hummingbird was at Unadilla May 15 (Wisner). Sapsuckers were around from Apr 2 at Binghamton (Ainslie) to May 6 at Berkshire in Tioga Co. (Bemont). They seemed common in the Binghamton and Deposit areas but were not reported elsewhere. A first Kingbird was at Little York Apr 24 (Pratt) but they were uncommon until about May 12. The first Crested Flycatcher was at Binghamton May 10 (TCNC). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Sherburne May 26 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center near Binghamton May 30 (Sheffield). An Alder Flycatcher in the Binghamton area May 19 (Bemont) was the first one. More are being found each year in the area. This year they were also found at Unadilla and at Chenango in Cortland Co., but not at Deposit. The earliest Wood Pewee was at Ely Park in Binghamton May 15 (Bemont, E. Washburn). Only two Olive-sided Flycatchers one at Deposit May 13 (Wilson) and one at McLean Bog in Cortland Co. May 23 (Gustafson).

Although a few Tree Swallows were reported in March no more were found until Apr 12 at Deposit and Apr 15 elsewhere. Bank Swallows were at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner) but did not appear in Binghamton until May 4. Another colony was found along Route 17 near Readburn Creek in Delaware Co. (Wilson). Rough-winged Swallows arrived at Deposit Apr 25 and Barn Swallows were at the same place Apr 22 (Wilson). Cliff Swallows were at Deposit Apr 23 (Wilson), but were not seen at Binghamton or Little York until May 19 or at Unadilla until May 20. The colony just west of Richford was visited several times during the period but it appeared to be abandoned. A single Purple Martin was at the colony on Upper Front St. north of Binghamton Apr 27 (Sheffield) but there were several more birds there by May 6. A colony at Little York was occupied May 10 (Gustafson). Only three Red-breasted Nuthatch reports; one from Unadilla Apr 27 (Wisner), one from Sherburne May 4 and one from Norwich May 25 (Whites). A late Brown Creeper was at Sherburne May 26 (Whites).

The first House Wren was at Deposit Apr 24 (Wilson). Only two Winter Wrens were reported during the period, both Apr 21; one at Deposit (Wilson) and one just north of Binghamton (Saunders, Sheffield). A Carolina Wren was at one of the old stations in Binghamton May 19 (Bemont). This is the first record since January of 1956. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were very late. The first was at Boland's Marsh May 19 (TCNC). Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens finally returned to Sherburne May 26 (Whites). Hermit Thrushes have been low in numbers around Binghamton (TCNC). Olive-backed Thrushes were first found at Binghamton and Cortland May 19. Bluebird numbers seem to be improving around Binghamton. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were very late but two finally appeared at Ely Park May 30 (M. Sheffield). Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed fairly common around Binghamton but numbers were down from the extreme high of last year (TCNC). Mr. Wilson reports finding them at Deposit Apr 4, the earliest date in 11 years. A Northern Shrike was at Georgetown in Chenango Co. Apr 7 and one was at Oxford Apr 13 (Whites). A Migrant Shrike was at Whitney Point Dam Apr 6 (Whites) and one was at Unadilla June 1 (Wisner).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Oxford Apr 25 (Stratton) and Blue-headed Vireos were at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson). The first Red-eyed Vireo was at Unadilla May 5 Wisner). A Philadelphia Vireo was found near Bing-

hamton May 19 (Saunders) and the first Warbling Vireo at Oxford Apr 25 (Stratton).

The first Black and White Warblers were found at Binghamton and Deposit Apr 25. Around May 10 this species reached an unusually high peak in the Binghamton area. A Worm-eating Warbler was found on South Mountain in Binghamton May 9 (H. Marsi) and another was found at Ely Park May 30 (M. Sheffield). Golden-winged Warblers arrived at Binghamton May 9 (M. Sheffield, E. Washburn). A Blue-winged Warbler was found at Deposit May 10, the first one seen there since 1950 (Wilson). Another was found near Binghamton May 11 (H. Marsi) where it later established a territory adjacent to at least one Golden-winged. A Blue-winged was also found at Chenango May 23 (Thurber). For the fifth year running a Brewster's Warbler was found in the Binghamton area, this time in a new location, on May 19 (H. Marsi). An early Tennessee Warbler was found Apr 29 at Endicott (Carter). From May 9 to May 23 they were common in the Binghamton area. They were also rather numerous at Cortland and Unadilla. An Orange-crowned Warbler was found near Castle Creek north of Binghamton May 5 (TCNC). Only three Parulas; one at Deposit May 10 (Wilson), one at Binghamton May 12 (TCNC) and another at Binghamton May 13 (Bemont). Only two Pine Warblers, both at Hartwick, Apr 14 and 15, one of which was banded (Chamberlaine). One Yellow Palm at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson), and two Palm records; one at Binghamton May 4 (M. Sheffield) and four just north of Binghamton May 5 (TCNC). Three Mourning Warblers; one at Cortland May 12 (Thurber), one near Peakville in Delaware Co. May 12 and again May 25, in the same spot as last year (Wilson) and at Norwich May 30 (Whites). Two Wilson's Warblers: one at Binghamton May 11 (M. Sheffield) and one at Little York May 21 (Thurber). Other Warblers: Nashville, Apr 29 (Wilson), fairly common after May 5; Yellow, Apr 27 (Wilson), very common after May 4; Magnolia, May 8 (Wilson), uncommon; Cape May, Apr 28 at Virgil (C. Wilcox), fairly common around May 12; Black-throated Blue, May 3 (Wilson), uncommon; Myrtle, Apr 21 (Wilson), very common after May 5; Black-throated Green, Apr 27 (Wisner, M. Sheffield), fairly common around May 10; Blackburnian Apr 26 (Wilson, Wisner), uncommon; Chesnut-sided, Apr 27 (Bemont), common; Bay-breasted, May 9 (H. Marsi), uncommon; Black-poll, May 13 (M. Sheffield), common around May 30; Oven-bird, Apr 27 (M. Sheffield), very common; Northern Water-thrush, May 11 (Bemont, Hevey), rare; Louisiana Water-thrush, Apr 20 (M. Sheffield, Wilson), rare; Yellow Throat, May 3 (Bemont, E. Washburn), very common; Chat, May 9 (M. Sheffield, E. Washburn), rare; Canada, May 8 (Wilson), rare; Redstart, Apr 29 (Wilson), common.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Our first Bobolink was at Unadilla May 8 (Wisner) and our first Baltimore Oriole at Endwell May 1 (LaSheir). A last Rusty Blackbird was at Willow Point Apr 30 (Bemont, E. Washburn). Scarlet Tanagers arrived at both Binghamton and Deposit May 8. A very early immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared in a back yard in Binghamton Apr 6 (Gillespies, fide H. Marsi). The first "normal" migrant was at Deposit May 1 (Wilson). Indigo Buntings were first seen at Binghamton May 9 (M. Sheffield). Mr. Wilson reports they are much more common at Deposit this year than last. The first Red-eyed Towhee was at Binghamton Apr 14 (Marsis) about two weeks earlier than last year. Most other parts of the region were almost as early. Savannah Sparrows arrived at Deposit Apr 9 (Wilson); Grasshopper Sparrows at Binghamton Apr 28 (M. Sheffield, Pucek); Henslow's Sparrows at Binghamton Apr 22 (Sheffields); and Vesper Sparrows at Chenango Bridge Apr 5 (Jennings). The last Tree Sparrow was near Binghamton Apr 16 (Marsi) and almost all the Juncos had left by Apr 28. White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Binghamton May 2 (Linaberry) and were last seen at Deposit May 2 (Wilson). White-throats arrived at Binghamton Apr 12 (H. Marsi) and one was still singing at Deposit May 29 (Wilson). No more Fox Sparrows were seen after Apr 15 near Vestal (H. Marsi). A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported near Binghamton Apr 21 (Gillespie).

710 University Ave., Endwell

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The first two weeks of April came, wet and cold, with frequent snow squalls; migrant landbirds with the exception of the Icterids were correspondingly scarce. The last two weeks of April brought an abundance of warm, dry weather and a number of days — Apr 23, 25, 27 — of strong southwest winds; these latter conditions produced a series of marvelous hawk flights at Derby Hill (between Texas and Selkirk Shores State Park) on Lake Ontario. However, there was too much of a good thing; a hot spell Apr 26-30 induced rapid leafing-out, and by mid-May, warbler-watching had become a green hell. The initial ten days of May continued warm and dry; few waves were noted and most small landbirds were on time or early. Moreover, the very dry woodlands became a growing fire hazard. May 13-25 had frequent showers, several frosty nights, and conspicuous waves of migrants (May 13, 17, 19, 25). The last week of May noted a sudden drop of landbird migrants, especially the late warblers and flycatchers, and an uninteresting shorebird flight along Sandy Pond.

Notable features of the spring flight include: (1) the number and variety of late-staying ducks and geese, (2) the poor numbers of swallows, (3) the many "on-time" and "earlier-than-ever" arrival and peak dates, and (4) the marked scarcity of certain normally common migrants, e.g. Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch. The variety of warblers, thrushes and sparrows was excellent and counts of these birds, though less than the remarkable spring of 1956, averaged better than usual.

A severe outbreak of tent caterpillars in mid-May seems to have been aborted by the several frosty nights that occurred later in the month.

Good spring records include Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Black Rail, and two Connecticut Warblers.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: arrival date is Apr 6 (late) with a peak of 100, May 8, Selkirk Shores St. Park. Red-necked Grebe: two Oneida Lake records, Apr 14 and 17; **none** from Lake Ontario. Pied-billed Grebe: seen unusually frequently this spring with a high of 20 on one lake at Tully, Apr 28. American Egret: first report is a single, May 5, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.; three records (Oneida Lake, Howland's Island GMA) since. Least Bittern: first noted, May 5, Clay Swamp, Onon. Co. Glossy Ibis: an adult seen May 14 near Sherrill (Mr. and Mrs. P. Paquette, R. Wayland-Smith) is the first regional report of this "southerner."

Whistling Swan: late April saw singles of this species at Widewaters and Clay Swamp near Syracuse; however, more startling is the presence of four immatures and one adult on a small farm pond near Skaneateles from May 26 to the end of the period. Canada Goose: high of 4000, Apr 17, Beaver Lake Refuge (formerly Mud Lake) west of Baldwinsville; surprising were the large numbers of these birds that stayed into the first week of May, as they usually leave en masse by Apr 26. Mallard & Black Duck: numerically the Mallard is rapidly overtaking the Black Duck both in migrating flocks and in breeding pairs; numbers of both reached 300 per day in early April. Brewer's Duck: an Audubon-perfect example of this Mallard X Gadwall hybrid was seen at Howland's Island GMA, Cayuga Co., Apr 14 and May 19; it is still indeterminate whether this particular bird is a reared or wild specimen. Pintail: three pairs, May 5, Clay Swamp are late, but surprisingly late is a female there on Jun 2. Green-winged Teal: late April numbers were high with as many as 30/small pond, Apr 25; last date, May 31

(late), a male, Sandy Pond. Wood Duck: low numbers of established breeding pairs throughout the Region, a condition noted by both Audubonites and local N.Y.S. Conservation Dept. officials. Redhead: the lowest April counts in past six years; high is a scant 25, Apr 27, Beaver Lake Refuge. Ring-necked Duck: very good flight to mid-Apr with a sudden drop in the next week; last date, May 19, a female, Three Rivers Game Management Area, Baldwinsville (very late). Oldsquaw & White-winged Scoter: more records this spring than in past six years with last dates Apr 28, six, Beaver Lake Refuge and May 19, four, Selkirk Shores State Pk. respectively (Evans). Hooded Merganser: last date is May 19, two females, on a farm pond near Euclid; ?? possible breeders. Red-breasted Merganser: the usual late April "1000s" (a high of 6000, May 8) were present on Lake Ontario.

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawk flights were noted on strong southwest winds on Apr 20 (900 birds), 23 (200), 25 (5000), and 26 (1000) at Derby Hill, a mile east of Texas along Lake Ontario. Goshawk: two migrant records; an adult, Apr 20; an immature, Apr 25. Sharp-shinned Hawk: high count was **1120**, Apr 20; Derby Hill. Red-tailed Hawk: interesting is the sharp drop in the numbers of these migrants in the fourth week of Apr, i.e., 120 birds, Apr 20, from a total of 900, versus ten birds, Apr 25, from a total of 5000. Broad-winged Hawk: 3820 high count, Derby Hill, Apr 25, with as many as 400 birds in sight at once. Rough-legged Hawk: small numbers, with more dark than light phase birds, were seen in all the larger hawk flights noted; last date is Apr 25, two, Derby Hill. Golden Eagle: an immature, about 150 feet up, seen Apr 23, Derby Hill (Estoff, Propst, Scheider). Osprey: remarkable is the high count of **30**, Apr 25, along Lake Ontario; last date is Jun 1, one, Sandy Pond (Listman). Merlin: two records of this uncommon migrant; three, Apr 25; one, Apr 26, all at Derby Hill.

**Black Rail:** a single individual, forced into the open repeatedly by field dog trials, seen May 4, Three Rivers GMA (Ernst, Weeks) is the first regional record. Ruffed Grouse: late May records indicate numerous nests and broods with all signs of a rapidly coming peak in another year.

Wilson's Snipe: a bird giving a "broken wing" act, May 26, Connors Road near Baldwinsville (Seaman) is the most positive "probable breeding" evidence in the current series of record collecting; the only previous evidence was late May — early June courtship or continued presence. Upland Sandpiper: first report is three, Apr 25 (late). Lesser Yellow-legs: two, May 19, Sandy Pond, are unusual for they are uncommon on the sand flats there even in the fall. Knot: scarce this spring; one, May 19, (Evans); two, Jun 7, both from Sandy Pond. White-rumped Sandpiper: one, May 19, Sandy Pond, is a rare spring find. Western Sandpiper: a burst of records from Sandy Pond this spring where it has probably (?) been overlooked in past springs: one, May 25; five, Jun 1 (both Listman); eight, Jun 7 (Scheider); two, Jun 16 (Rusk, Scheider).

Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: J. B. Belknap on May 17 counted 734 Ring-billed Gull and five Herring Gull nests, a considerable expansion of the former's numbers, on Long Island, Oneida Lake. Common Tern & Piping Plover: both nesting, May 26, Sandy Pond; it is to be hoped that the recent development of a second channel and the subsequent formation of a small island of dunes will provide these species the necessary isolation to breed.

Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo: numbers up considerably from the counts of 1956; arrival dates, May 13 and Apr 30, respectively. Barn Owl: one seen at a possible breeding site, Apr 24, near Baldwinsville (Farnham).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: the report of five singing birds each evening in late May (Weeks) about the periphery of Cicero Swamp, a black spruce-sphagnum bog between N. Syracuse and Bridgeport, seems to establish this species as a resident in the South Shore flat country; a supposed "blank" for them. Night-hawk: migrants noted moving east along Lake Ontario, June 2; very scarce this spring and several regular Syracuse locations are unoccupied. Kingfisher: peak count is eight, Apr 24, along Lake Ontario; has been scarce all spring and surprising is their complete absence along the Sandy Pond dunes in late May. Pileated Woodpecker: a nesting hole discovered Apr 27, Three Rivers GMA; young had

left the nest by May 19. Red-headed Woodpecker: reports of at least three pairs between Texas and Sandy Pond and a new station near Elbridge (Burt); increasingly, small clumps of large dying elms appear to be the habitat of choice.

Early flycatcher arrivals are: Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher on Apr 28, Least Flycatcher on Apr 27, Wood Pewee on May 13. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three reports, May 19 to 27, from Syracuse and Selkirk Shores St. Pk.

All swallows appear to be somewhat reduced in numbers this spring; a huge collection of swallows, mostly Bank, Barn, and Cliff, were forced to ground-feeding at Sandy Pond, May 19, by cold, wet weather; how severely the later frosts affected these birds is not known. Cliff Swallow: seen at nine different non-nesting localities on May 19, a time when normally it is limited to its fast-decreasing colonies.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: almost unrecorded this spring; just two reports; two, May 5; one, May 31 (very late), both at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans). Brown Creeper: singing birds present in a flooded dead elm swamp, May 19, Three Rivers GMA, suggest possible breeders. House Wren: both birders and non-birders noted a distinct increase in both migrants and residents over 1956 counts. Mockingbird: one seen, Apr 27, west of Camillus (Seaman) is our second record. Thrush arrival dates are: Wood Thrush on Apr 27, Veery on Apr 26, Olive-backed Thrush on Apr 26 (W. Minor), all early. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only reports are two, May 21; one, May 25, both at Syracuse.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: spring counts low; highest count is 25, Apr 13; departure date, May 12. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: peak day is 200, Apr 27; last date, May 19, four at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Pipit: arrival date is Apr 6 (late); very late is the departure date, May 26, Sandy Pond. Northern Shrike: last date, Apr 7, near Oswego. Loggerhead Shrike: first reported Apr 11 near Bridgeport; a smattering of records thru May with four stations located in the last week of May.

**Vireos-Warblers:** Warbling Vireo: first reported, Apr 26 (early). Philadelphia Vireo: three reports; May 17, 19 and 25 at Syracuse.

May warbler watching was severely hindered by the heavy foliation in late April; this was partially offset by an abundance of song, but most warbler viewing, especially of the later females and immatures, remained unsatisfactory. For many species, the date range and numbers proved interesting; with the following species, the order of data is: arrival date; peak date (peak number); last migrant and/or departure date. Black-and-white: Apr 27; May 12 (15); May 19. Tennessee: May 10; May 17 (100); May 27. Nashville: Apr 27; May 12 (35); May 26. Magnolia: May 9; May 17 (12); May 30. Cape May: May 8 (late); May 12 (25); May 25. Myrtle: Apr 14; May 12 (100); May 26. Black-throated Green: Apr 27; May 12 (21); May 27. Blackburnian: Apr 28; May 12 (20 - low); May 27. Bay-breasted: May 10; May 13 (15); May 27 (early). Black-poll: May 17; May 26 (25); June 2. Palm: Apr 18; May 19 (12); May 19. Northern Water-thrush: Apr 23; Apr 27 (15); May 17. Mourning: May 13; May 21 (3); May 31.

Prothonotary: a migrant male seen, May 18, Green Lakes St. Pk. (B. Peterson); three singing males at the Oneida Lake nesting area. Blue-winged: a male seen, May 4, near Sherrill (A. and P. Jones); none appeared at Camillus Valley this year. Brewster's: first seen, Apr 28 (very early), Camillus Valley; noteworthy is a count of four there, May 12. Orange-crowned: two reports of this rare spring migrant; one, May 15, Syracuse; one, May 19, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Pine: first report is Apr 20, one, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake. Connecticut: two well-verified reports, both of adult males; one, May 14, Thornden Park (Evans); one, May 17, Oakwood Cemetery (Estoff), both in Syracuse. Yellow-breasted Chat: three singing males found on the brush-covered south slope of Camillus Valley; first noted there May 11.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: first reported Apr 27; heavy flight (250-300/day) on May 12-13 over Syracuse. The late April hawk flights were accompanied by heavy Icterid movements, e.g. Apr 25, 7000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 8000 Grackles, 2000 Cowbirds. Baltimore Oriole: arrival date Apr 27; high count is 60, May 19.

Scarlet Tanager: excellent flight with up to 20/day, May 12-19. Cardinal:

apparently winter survival was very high; increased numbers of them in known locations and three new stations in the flat country (north of Syracuse and south of Oneida Lake). No winter finches noted; most conspicuous is the absence of a May Evening Grosbeak flight. Pine Siskin: only one report; eight May 4, Selkirk Shores St. Park (Evans). Goldfinch: flight of 600 migrated east along Lake Ontario, Apr 25. Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows: arrival dates of Apr 21 and Apr 27 respectively are the "earliest-ever" for both. Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco: departure dates are Apr 19 (early) and May 21 (very late) respectively. White-crowned Sparrow: good flight with a high of 45, May 18, Syracuse; date range, Apr 30 to May 21. White-throated Sparrow: a protracted flight (Apr 13 to May 27) with the peak, 400, Apr 27. Lincoln's Sparrow: two reports; one banded at Sherrill, May 9 (Nodecker); two seen, May 1, Green Lakes St. Pk. (B. Peterson).

151 *Seventh North Street, Syracuse*

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Birds started arriving about on time or a bit early, but in May the temperature was a little below normal and by that time migration was about normal or a little late.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loons were seen in St. Lawrence County Apr 17. Double-crested Cormorants have been seen near their usual nesting place in Jefferson County. Canada Geese stayed near Clayton at least as late as May 8. Wood Ducks have not been seen around Clayton as often as last year.

**Hawks — Owls:** A Turkey Vulture was seen near West Carthage Apr 13 (Gordon). J. Blake saw a Duck Hawk flying near Clayton May 8. He also reports that Ruffed Grouse are scarce in that section. An early record for Sora in St. Lawrence County is May 6 (Nichols). Ruddy Turnstones and Red-backed Sandpipers were found by Gordon at Perch River Marsh Apr 13. Mourning Doves spent the winter in this region in places where they found food. Black-billed Cuckoos have been seen more frequently than last year. Belknap saw a Bonaparte's Gull Apr 17.

**Swifts — Warblers:** A pair of Sapsuckers was seen near Watertown late in May and they appear to be nesting. A Brown Thrasher was seen in St. Lawrence County Apr 23 which is early. It is possible that there is a slight increase in the number of Bluebirds. A Warbling Vireo appeared in St. Lawrence County Apr 29 (Nichols). Myrtle Warblers appeared in droves starting May 6-7 (J. Blake). Among the warblers seen at the time of the spring census, May 4-19 were: Myrtle, Yellow, Black and White, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Redstart, Yellow-throat, Oven-bird, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Nashville, Black-poll, Canada, Wilson's, Parula and Yellow-breasted Chat. In general the ones reported most often are given first, but the order is by no means exact. Perhaps the Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warblers were noted more often than in other years. A Tennessee Warbler was found dead in Watertown May 18.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A Western Tanager was identified by Mrs. Frank Roda at Joe Indian Lake the week before Memorial Day. On May 6 Rev. Nichols saw six Evening Grosbeaks feeding high up in a newly-leaved elm tree in Madrid village. They are reported to be nesting in St. Lawrence County again this year. Many White-crowned Sparrows stayed around Watertown for several days. The peak was around May 18-19. They were seen near Madrid May 15, but not after May 20th. One was still at the feeder of Louise Blake near Potsdam on Jun 4.

173 *Haley St., Watertown*

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration in the middle Hudson and Mohawk Valley region was a far different one from 1956. There were few, if any, marked waves of migrants. April and May were both warmer than normal, April considerably so, and consequently most species were recorded earlier this year than last. The almost uniform above average temperatures undoubtedly accounted for the lack of flights such as we experienced last year. April was considerably drier than normal and what rain did fall was confined virtually entirely to the first third of the month. May was a bit wetter than usual, but there was no rainfall early in the month. Foliage development was considerably ahead of 1956. It was at first feared that the tent caterpillar infestation would be quite severe, but apparently one benefit of the late April and early May drought was to eliminate this hazard.

There is little question as to the ornithological highlight of the season. On May 25 Walt Kaskan located a Cattle Egret at a small pond about five miles from Schenectady. To my knowledge, this constitutes the first up-state New York record for this species. Another exceptionally good record is that of several Bohemian Waxwings in early April.

**Loons — Ducks:** The Cattle Egret discovered on May 25 was seen by scores of observers attending the tenth annual convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Colored photographs of the bird, both perched and in flight, were successfully taken by Dr. Clifford Tepper. In spite of the possible rumors to the contrary, the Cattle Egret was not manually transplanted to Schenectady for the Federation weekend occasion. The bird was not present at the pond on May 26, and a thorough search of the surrounding area by several parties proved of no avail.

The American Brant is a rare transient locally. However, there were two May reports. One was on the Mohawk near Niskayuna on May 18, and on May 26 a flock of almost 1700 was observed there (Schenectady Bird Club). Reports of Canada Geese were not too numerous. The duck migration was early and light, and consequently the April flight was not too noticeable. Of interest was a small group of Red-breasted Mergansers at Saratoga Lake on Apr 7 (Foote, Hallenbeck). Two male Hooded Mergansers were at Vischer Ponds on Apr 13 (SBC), and on the 25th a female was seen there (Hallenbeck). A pair of White-winged Scoters was at Mohawk View on May 26.

**Hawks — Owls:** The Turkey Vulture continues to become increasingly common. One was at East Chatham on Apr 1, and on Apr 17 three were there. The species was reported from that locality on three occasions during May (Radke). On May 26 two of these birds were seen soaring over Indian Ladder, a few miles south of Schenectady (SBC). A small hawk flight was noted at Delmar on Apr 27 (Madison). Included were some 20 Broad-wings, 13 Red-tails, and three or four Ospreys. No Bald Eagles were reported. Marsh Hawks seemed scarce. Ruffed Grouse, too, seemed to be not as common as might be expected, although one was heard drumming in Schenectady's Central Park on May 5 (SBC). The Florida Gallinule was first heard on Apr 28. Rails seemed particularly scarce this spring, with the Virginia being the only representative of its group to be recorded.

A good variety of shorebirds was recorded for this inland area, although none was present in numbers. Late in April the Woodcock was heard by many observers along River Road in Niskayuna. For the last few years this has been a sure spot at which to record this species. A Woodcock was seen and heard near Vischer's Ferry on Apr 28 (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and another was present at Burnt Hills on Apr 15 (Foote). The Wilson's Snipe first appeared at Ballston Lake on



Apr 12 (Hackett), and there were subsequent reports. Spotted Sandpipers arrived on Apr 28 (SBC). A Greater Yellow-legs was seen at Vischer Ponds on Apr 25 (Hallenbeck). The Ringed Plover and Sanderling were recorded near Schenectady on May 18. A pair of Upland Sandpipers seen near Hoffmans on May 17 constitutes the only period report of which I know (Brown, Hallenbeck). A group of about 40 Common Terns was seen over the Mohawk at Niskayuna on May 12 (Yunick). Both the Common Tern and the Black Tern were recorded in the same locality on May 18 (SBC).

Both species of cuckoos were recorded, but numbers were certainly far from plentiful. The Black-bill was especially scarce. At Nassau a Screech Owl nest was found, and young were successfully reared (Turner). A Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus on May 17 (Heitkamp).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The Whip-poor-will was first heard at Nassau on Apr 28 (Shineman, Turner) and at Delmar on Apr 29 (Madison). Chimney Swifts put in a rather early appearance on Apr 25. The species was recorded that day both at Cohoes (Scotland) and at Delmar (Madison). Pileated Woodpeckers continued to be reported in good numbers. A Red-headed Woodpecker was observed in Columbia County on May 25 (Carter).

At East Chatham the Least Flycatcher was first recorded on Apr 2 (Radke), and the first Crested Flycatcher report was from Delmar on Apr 27 (Madison). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Loudonville on May 23 (French), and the following day one was seen at East Chatham (Smilow). Olive-sided Flycatchers seemed extremely scarce. Purple Martins arrived at their Selkirk colony on Apr 18 (fide Baker).

There were several reports of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, a species almost completely absent during the past winter. One was present at East Chatham through Apr 19 (Smilow), and early in April a pair of these birds was present at a Niskayuna feeder (Sherman). The species was reported from Jenny Lake on and after Apr 20 (Bartlett). At least two Carolina Wrens were present throughout the period at Collins Lake, Scotia, but there was no definite evidence of nesting (Hallenbeck). A Winter Wren was seen and heard near Crescent Reservoir on Apr 13. The House Wren first appeared in the Glenville area on Apr 22, and an early Catbird was there on Apr 18 (Meritt). At Harlemville a Mockingbird was seen on May 13 (Curtis). The Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported at Loudonville on May 10 and again on May 13 (French). On May 26 a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, the second reported locally in six years, was seen at Meadowdale Marsh (SBC).

On Apr 6 four Bohemian Waxwings were seen in the Scotia-Glenville region by Benton Seguin. The birds were with a flock of some twenty Cedar Waxwings, and the size difference was immediately noticeable. Other identification marks, such as the white in the lower part of the wings, were clearly noted. The last local report for the species was in 1951. Although the Bohemian Waxwing is normally considered a rare winter visitor, it has been recorded at Schenectady on at least one occasion in May. There were no reports of shrikes.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Two very early Warbling Vireos were recorded in Niskayuna on Apr 17 (Arnold), and a late record is that of two Blue-headed Vireos at Loudonville on May 23 (French).

Thirty-one species of warblers, plus the hybrid Lawrence's were recorded during the period. The Black-and-White first appeared at East Chatham on Apr 27 (Smilow) and at Burnt Hills on Apr 29 (Foote). The Lawrence's Warbler, the first reported locally in several years, was seen at the Alcove Reservoir on May 18 (SBC). The season's only report of the Cerulean Warbler was from Slingerlands on or about May 11 (Sabin). A Pine Warbler was at Nassau on Apr 10 (Turner). The last report of the Yellow Palm Warbler was from Niskayuna on Apr 27 (Eddy).

The Yellow Warbler was first noted at Amsterdam on Apr 25 (Fitzgerald), and a Blackburnian Warbler was at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 28 (SBBC). A Black-capped Warbler was at East Chatham on May 16 (Radke), and at Loudonville an Orange-crowned Warbler was seen and heard on May 10 (French). Redstarts seemed late in arriving. The Worm-eating Warbler was again present in small numbers at Indian Ladder, and on May 14 a single individual of this species was at Amsterdam (Fitzgerald). A Connecticut Warbler was closely observed in Niskayuna

on May 31 (Brown, Hallenbeck). Mourning Warblers were completely unreported.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The first Bobolink report was from East Chatham on May 7 (Radke). A large flock of Rusty Blackbirds was observed at Burnt Hills on Apr 13 (Foote). Three Baltimore Orioles were in Niskayuna on Apr 28 (Arnold), and on May 18 on Orchard Oriole was reported in the same area (SBC).

Surprisingly enough, there were two reports of winter finches. A small group of Redpolls and Pine Siskins was observed in Scotia on Apr 6 (Seguin), and a flock of about 25 Redpolls was in Niskayuna on Apr 24 (Novak). Purple Finches were quite commonly reported. The Cardinal was reported throughout the period from Niskayuna (Eddy). Late in April the species was reported from Delmar (Madison, Safford). The Cardinal continues to become increasingly common locally.

A Grasshopper Sparrow was reported at Nassau on Apr 24 (Turner). There was a fairly conspicuous Junco flight in the vicinity of Schenectady in early April. On Apr 2 a count of about 1000 was made near the Karner pine barrens (VanVorst). White-crowned Sparrows were quite widely reported. At Nassau these birds were present between Apr 28 (Shineman) and May 28 (Turner). They were present at Loudonville between May 9 and 21 (French) and at Burnt Hills between May 6 and 20 (Foote).

On May 26 a White-throated Sparrow, apparently a breeder, was seen near Albany (SBC). This is a bit south of the bird's known normal nesting range. The Chipping Sparrow first appeared at Amsterdam on Apr 8, and on Apr 22 a late Fox Sparrow was there (Fitzgerald). A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported in Columbia County on May 4 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Another was present at Amsterdam from May 12 through May 18 (Fitzgerald).

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia*

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Except for the drought period of latter April and early May our spring weather was quite normal generally. This stable condition, in turn, permitted the migration flights to flow through rather uninterrupted and in some cases migrants were actually earlier than usual. Most noticeable was the abundance of many species arriving in latter April instead of their usual arrival time of early May. The dry weather affected the May flights but little, perhaps even enhancing the normality of things. As is often the case, irregardless of the weather stability and normal migration trends, some alert and watchful observer manages to spot the locally rare species that has wandered in or is drifting through with the rest of the migration. Heading the list for this period, are the Gannet, Red-backed Sandpiper and the Caspian Tern.

**Loons — Ducks:** On May 19 Frank and Ruth Steffens and Ed Treacy saw two **Gannets** near Congers in Rockland County, making a first record for our region. Coastwise in distribution, this large oceanic bird rarely ventures inland. On Apr 17 Dr. Marjorie Hopper discovered a Green Heron in Rockland, which is an early arrival date. Most observers commented on the numerous flights of Canada Geese through the Hudson Valley this spring. Martha Earl has discovered an increase in the number of nesting Mallards in her area around Farmingdale, Orange County. As an uncommon nesting duck in this region perhaps the increase may be due to crossing with the domestic Mallard. A very late Baldpate was still in Rockland on May 19 (Hopper, Steffens, Treacy). A small number of Redheads was seen on the Lyonsville Pond, Ulster Co. on Apr 13, (Henry Dunbar, Fred Hough). They are seldom found on small ponds in this area. Also in Ulster, about 20 Old-squaw were seen on the Ashokan Reservoir, Apr 4 (Al Feldman).

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawk movement and activity was normal. Five Ruddy Turnstones were seen along the shores of the Lake De Forest reservoir in Rockland (Steffens, Treacy). These were seen on May 19. Thomas Dow identified the Red-backed Sandpiper found near Piermont Pier on May 18, making Rockland's first record and probably the region's. Nearly 90 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen near Cornwall, Orange Co., Apr 7 by Ed Treacy. A Common Tern was seen at the Ashokan Res., Ulster, on May 1 by Henry and Ilse Dunbar. Of greater interest were the two Caspian Terns observed at the Ashokan Reservoir May 18 by Al Feldman. This is Ulster County's only known record, but the species is occasionally seen along the Hudson River. The Owl status seems unchanged.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found about the Winnesook area on Slide Mountain, Apr 27 & 28 (Fred Hough). Their peculiar drumming habit was especially enjoyed. Rockland County's first modern nesting record for the **Acadian Flycatcher** was made by Robert Deed and Eugene Brown during May. The site was near Lake De Forest and the nest was completed on May 24. A small number of Purple Martins appeared at Armonk, Westchester, May 13 (Thomas Parker). House Wren populations seem to have improved all through the Region. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found on May 12 (Henry & Ilse Dunbar) near John Burrough's "Slabsides" in Ulster. An early Brown Thrasher arrived at New City on Apr 17 (Maude Brown). Also early was an Olive-backed Thrush heard (call note only) on the summit of Slide Mountain, Apr 28 (Fred Hough).

**Vireos — Warblers:** An early Yellow-throated Vireo appeared at Kripplebush, Ulster, Apr 27 (Hough). In Ulster many Warblers were noted in latter April ahead of their normal arrival time. Martha Earl reports more Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers than usual in Orange County about her area. The Blue-winged appeared more common in Ulster (Dunbar, Hough, Pyle et al.). A Brewster's hybrid was seen near West Point, May 11 by E. Treacy and A. Dignan. The Pine Warbler usually slips through during the spring un-noticed but Bob Deed had one singing about his home in Nyack, Apr 22 and 23. Very early Ovenbird appeared in Rockland on Apr 10 (Frances Irving), equalling a previous early date.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** An Orchard Oriole was seen near New Paltz, Ulster, Apr 28 (Robert Pyle et al.), and was nearly two weeks early. The Orchard Oriole also returned to its nesting site in Stone Ridge, Ulster on May 14 for the fifth consecutive year (F. Hough). An oriole was seen on Apr 4 by Stan Grierson and students of the Armonk school in Westchester but the exact identity could not be made. The Henslow's Sparrow appeared at Kripplebush, Ulster on Apr 21, ahead of normal arrival date (Fred Hough). The White-crowned Sparrow came in earlier than usual, the first seen May 1 at Kripplebush, Ulster (Mrs. Fred Hough). During this normal season the Lincoln's Sparrow went back to his hiding ways. Only one report was received in contrast to several of last year. Ed Treacy saw one Lincoln's near Highland Falls, May 2.

Accord 1

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Several warm days in late April and early May brought foliage out markedly, making land bird observations considerably more difficult than during the unusually cold spring of last year. May 15 and 23 were fair flight days on major flyways on western Long Island and around New York City. There were rather poor flights of birds off the main flyways and were so described at Massapequa, Northport and Mastic.

Observers reported a noticeable scarcity of Red-eyed Vireos, Black-poll

Warblers and Redstarts, but recorded a good flight of Tennessee Warblers with nine counted at Northport, May 17 (E. Mudge). Several early records of land birds were broken: a Scarlet Tanager picked up on Apr 6 at Amityville died later. Five Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Hempstead in mid-April were the maximum sent in for this species.

Among shore birds, scattered reports came in of Hudsonian Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns. A Wilson's Phalarope and Reeve were seen in mid-spring and nine Golden Plovers were maximum for a spring flock hereabouts, and perhaps constitutes an all time high for this species.

**Loons — Ducks:** The Loon flight continued at least to Jun 1 with four Red-throated and 15 Common Loons from Mecox to Moriches Inlet on that date (N. Smith, Brooklyn Bird Club). From 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Jun 1, 500 Sooty Shearwaters were counted from Mecox to Moriches Inlet and two birds were picked up dead (Smith, Brooklyn Bird Club). The Cormorant flight progressed into late May from 20 at Shinnecock, Apr 6 (D. Puleston). Both American and Snowy Egrets were present at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary from early May; Grossy Ibis was noted at Northville (near Riverhead) Apr 14 (Puleston, Raynor, O. Stoutenburgh) and several were recorded from Bronx Park, May 11 (B. Gilbert). Snow Goose: maximum, Jamaica Bay, 172 in three flocks (Mayer), also a flock of 39 at Jones Beach, Mar 30 (Queens County Bird Club). An abundance of Brant were still present at Jamaica Bay with 1,000 on May 8 (A. Penberthy).

Other Ducks: late Pintail, May 18 at Mill Neck (Elliott); seven Wood Ducks same place, Apr 23 (Penberthy); European Widgeon, Hastings-on-Hudson, Mar 2 (W. Hastings) Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, May 8: two Blue-winged Teal, five Shovellers, 60 Scaup, 30 Buffle-head; June 1: two Shovellers, one Scaup, seven Ruddy Ducks.

**Hawks — Owls:** Several reports of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered; two Broad-winged present at Northport, Apr 22 (Mudge); Duck Hawk present at Jamaica Bay into May; Pigeon Hawk, Babylon, May 8 (Alperin). Bob-white were well distributed from Massapequa eastward; several records of King Rail, one to May 23 at Jamaica Bay (Mayer). No reports came in of Yellow or Black Rail, but a Sora was seen at Lawrence, May 5 (Penberthy, Levine). A good flight of shore birds along Jamaica Bay in May and early June: maximum Golden Plover, nine, Apr 26 (Mayer); also one at Spring Creek, Apr 20 (R. Grant). Other shore birds: Solitary Sandpiper, Northport, May 10 (Mudge); a Reeve at Spring Creek, May 19, and present for some time previous to this (numerous observers). Wilson's Phalarope, Jamaica Bay, May 19 (Dignan, Casey, Brooklyn Bird Club). Pomarine Jaeger, one at Rockaway, May 30 (P. Buckley, P. Post); four, Mecox to Moriches Inlet and two Parasitic Jaegers, Jun 1 (Brooklyn Bird Club); a Glaucous Gull was present at Jamaica Bay into May; an estimated 100 Bonaparte's Gulls, May 27 at Jamaica Bay and 13 on June 1 (Baldwin Bird Club). Forster's Tern at Jamaica Bay, May 23 and two Black Terns (Mayer); Gull-billed Tern, Rockaway, May 30 (G. Carleton). The cuckoo flight appeared light; few owls were recorded but Great Horned Owl with two young in nest on eastern Long Island (C. McKeever). Whip-poor-will at Far Rockaway, Apr 22 (J. Bull) and Nighthawk at Northport, May 15 (E. Mudge) and one over New Rochelle, Jun 4 (Elliott).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Fair numbers of Swifts seen away from the metropolitan region; reports of the rather rare Red-headed Woodpecker: New Rochelle, Dec 23 to mid-May (Hastings); Jones Beach, May 18 (J. and R. Allison); Northport, same date (Mudge); Babylon, Jun 2 (Alperin). Olive-sided Flycatcher came through in mid-May; Alder Flycatcher, picked up, freshly killed, Baldwin Harbor, May 24 (E. W. Teale). Two or three reports of migrating Cliff Swallows on western Long Island and a half-dozen of Rough-winged and Bank Swallow records came in. Early Purple Martin, Central Park, Mar 31 (Post). Practically no Red-breasted Nuthatch flight; fairly good report on distribution of Carolina Wren, but very few of Short-billed Marsh Wren. Brown Thrasher was singing at Garden City Apr 22;

Wood Thrush on Apr 28 and Veery, May 2 (J. T. Nichols). A fair migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was recorded and an April movement of Gnatcatchers was noted by numerous observers on Long Island as well as an early record at New Rochelle of Apr 13 for this species (Hastings).

**Vireos — Warblers:** There was a good flight of Blue-headed Vireos and locally of White-eyed; Red-eyed Vireos scarce compared to other years; a Philadelphia Vireo was recorded at Prospect Park, May 18 (N. Smith, Brooklyn Bird Club). Early Black-and-White Warbler, New Rochelle, Apr 13 (Hasting). Prothonotary Warbler was present in April in Hempstead and Woodmere (numerous observers); Cerulean Warbler observed at Woodmere, May 23 (Mayer); Central Park, same date (Mrs. P. Messing); Yellow-throated Warbler, Babylon, May 8 (Alperin). Orange-crowned Warbler: two reports from Dobbs Ferry, Feb 22 and Apr 28 (Hastings). Unusual was a singing Kentucky Warbler in a midtown New York City backyard during migration (R. Harrison). First report of Mourning Warbler: Central Park, May 23 (Mrs. Messing) and one at Forest Park, May 25 (Mayer, G. Rose) earliest record of Hooded Warbler: one at Woodmere, Apr 30 (Elliott).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks were present in late May in Massapequa; a young male Orchard Oriole, May 19 at Mill Neck, Baltimore Oriole arrived in late April; there were several records of Rusty Blackbird and one of Summer Tanager in Central Park. There was a fair flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on Long Island; fewer Indigo Buntings; one report of Henslow's Sparrow; an abundance of Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows: Field Sparrows were scarce and there were far fewer White-crowned Sparrows than turned up last year. Strangely, of a winter flock of some 25-30 Lapland Longspurs at Spring Creek, Jamaica Bay, six were present on May 8 (Mayer).

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