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# The KINGBIRD

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## THE STATUS OF THE HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE IN NEW YORK\*

JOHN E. WILSON, *District Game Manager*  
N. Y. S. Conservation Department

The Hungarian or European Gray Partridge, an important game bird throughout central southeastern Europe and the British Isles, is one of the many exotics introduced into the United States to supplement supplies of native game birds whose numbers have been materially affected by wholesale environmental change. Introduction of the Hungarian partridge in the United States was first recorded in 1870 and occurred annually from 1900 to the present, and probably importations reached a peak about 1914 when 36,760 were imported. It is paradoxical that much of this interest in the Hungarian partridge was due in part to previous unsatisfactory results from attempts to stock other exotic game birds, a success of bad seasons for Ruffed Grouse and Bobwhites, and restrictions by many southern states on exports of Bobwhites to stock northern ranges. These introductions have, in a few instances, been successful — notably in the north central states and Canadian prairies, but in numerous regions complete failure has resulted. It is unfortunate that no specific information is available concerning the fate of thousands of planting, totaling more than 260,000 Hungarian Partridge in the United States and Canada. Presumably the establishment and spread of these birds was dependent upon the satisfactory combination of various factors, such as food, climate, weather cover, soil drainage, competition and diseases. In studies, to determine the characteristics that are common to all areas on which birds have been successful, several broad generalities are apparent. The Hungarian partridge does best in temperate grain growing regions; preferring crop residue in lieu of natural vegetative covers and seemingly nominal precipitation in the reproductive period.

The restrictive range of the "Hun" in New York and its relative unimportance as a game bird has resulted in the lack of any concerted biological study of these species since its introduction in the mid-twenties. The present Hungarian partridge populations in New York stem from imports from Czechoslovakia released by the Conservation Department during the period from 1927 to 1932. Earlier releases between 1916-1921, apparently failed or resulted in small residual populations in several western New York counties. Although there is little specific information on the initial liberations in New York, it appears they were widespread with little consideration given to environment requirements of the birds.

Presently, the Hungarian partridge populations are well established along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence valley, including the counties of Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin and Clinton. Elsewhere in the State, there are recent records of residual in portions of Cortland, Onondaga, Allegany and Wyoming Counties. These residual colonies have persisted in small numbers but have failed to extend their range.

\* Paper presented at meeting of Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., in Watertown, July 6, 1959.

The establishment of the Hungarian partridge in Ontario - St. Lawrence complex poses the question as to what specific physical or environmental factors account for its success in this limited area. In attempting to analyze and correlate the information relative to climate, land use, soils and other associated factors, no apparent reasons are found which explain fully the success of the Hungarian partridge in the present range as contrasted to other areas of the State, where these factors are apparently comparable. Until more critical biological work can be done, it is only possible to assume that certain conditions may be of prime importance to the success of the Hun within the limits of its existing range. Those conditions that best satisfy this hypotheses are the dry weather that normally prevails during the hatching and brood season. There may be a very definite relationship between "June precipitation and fall population." This has been well substantiated in European partridge management, the comparatively large acreage in grain crop and permanent pasture, the existence of ample cover for nesting and shelter and lack of competition from pheasant populations.

In order to have a clearer understanding of the population dynamics of the Hun population, a localized field study was undertaken during the winter of 1952. A seventy-five square mile area was randomly selected as a census unit, located in the east central portion of Jefferson County. During the months of December through to the end of February, when covey breakup and pairing occurs, roadside counts are made weekly when conditions, such as snow cover, visibility, wind and temperature facilitated maximum opportunity for census. With continuity of personnel, it is felt that over 95% of the covey groups are contacted. The general limited range of the birds throughout this period made it apparent that winter attrition could be calculated by this census method. Further refinements of this census technique and continuity of data has given us some insight into the winter behavior pattern of the Hungarian. It should be pointed out that the reliability of such a census method is open to serious error if marked shifts in populations periodically resulting from adverse weather conditions are not recognized.

To discuss in a general way some of the findings of the present study, it is possible to summarize as follows:

*Range:*

The Hungarian partridge range in New York, in the St. Lawrence River Valley and Eastern Lake Ontario basin, is restricted in large to the Vergennes clay and Ontario silt loam soil derived mostly from limestone origins. This area extends from southern Jefferson County northward, in a strip approximately 20 miles wide north to Chateaugay in Clinton County; a distance of approximately 150 miles. The total range of the Hungarian in New York then approximates 3,000 square miles. The land use pattern is predominantly dairy agriculture with large acreages devoted to pasture and hay. Tillable cropland is primarily small grain; predominantly oats and mixed grains. It is interesting to note here that similar agricultural practices and soil types predominate in the Hungarian range north of the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Ontario.

### *Population Density:*

There is a great disparity in population densities throughout the prime Hungarian partridge of the region. Current wintering populations in central Jefferson County average approximately one bird per 50 acres and reaches one bird per 5 acres in periods of peak production. Elsewhere in the Hungarian range, the density may be as low as one bird per 100 acres; however, covey concentrations of 100 birds per mile of road are not unusual during periods of winter concentration. Adverse weather conditions related to temperature and precipitation have a definite effect on winter densities. High winds concentrate birds on lee slopes and in hedgerows; heavy snows and crusting invariably draw birds to roadside turfs exposed by plowing.

### *Food Habits:*

Since no concerted food habit study has been carried out we can only reflect information based on random seasonal collections of crop content. It would appear that the juvenile birds depend on insects for a major portion of their food source in the early stages of development. Insect material is also eaten readily by adults in season. During the fall and early winter, weed seeds and small grains (wheat, oats) are items of food preference. During the winter months, green plant material is the dominant food items utilized. Ground feeding on seedings by actual tunneling into snow cover is commonly observed. Much of this green plant food as well as grit, however, is obtained in wind-blown pastures and on roadsides, as the result of frequent plowing of road shoulders.

### *Mortality:*

Little information, unfortunately, is now available to us with regard to mortality during the reproductive period, from covey breakup in late winter until fall. This reproductive period, in all probability, is the time when potential population levels are most limited. The need for information on the reproductive phase of the Hungarian partridge life cycle is greatly needed to better understand biology of this species. Information, however, relative to winter mortality is more complete.

Winter mortality, which has averaged about 12% on our census area over a 5-year period, appears generally not to limit Hungarian partridge populations. Approximately 60% of this winter attrition can be attributed to roadside kills by automobiles when birds concentrate on roadsides for the purpose of feeding. Winged and ground predators do not appear to result in significant losses during this period. Sleet and the resulting crusting of snow cover does have a most damaging effect. European workers report reductions up to 70 - 80% of wintering populations as a result of these conditions, as recent as 1940 - 1941. Hence, the trapping and holding of birds throughout the winter used to be practiced commonly in Central Europe as a management technique.

It is fortunate that such storms of long duration are infrequent in this region and have not been evident over the past five years. The winter of 1942-1943 resulted in local widespread losses in the St. Lawrence Valley as a result of a severe ice storm during December 1942. This was followed by

a gradual buildup in numbers until the winter of 1946 - 1947 when large scale losses were again apparent. Accurate loss figures were not obtained during these periods but it is safe to assume that populations were reduced by 50%. Gradual recovery has occurred and populations with annual variation have again reached levels comparable with the early forties. The effect of such conditions is not always direct as the birds are often forced into marginal range, which frequently results in further attrition.

#### *Hunting Pressure:*

The first hunting season was held in New York in the fall of 1952 and annual seasons have been held since that time. Gunning pressure is nominally light as Hungarian partridge hunting is somewhat specialized. Canadian biologists feel that fall populations could safely be reduced by 70% and not materially affect breeding populations. A reduction of the fall population of 150 birds by approximately 50% on a 5,000 acre area here in Jefferson County, had no discernable effect on the population densities the following fall. It is doubtful, however, if hunting under present diversified conditions in this region will ever bring about a harvest that approximates this figure. It appears that currently less than 10% of the total fall populations are harvested during the hunting season.

#### *Stocking:*

The demand for stocking of game birds is always present but not always with justification. The original stock in the present range has perpetuated itself for a period of thirty years surviving, no doubt, through rigorous selection and a biotype or an acclimatized strain has resulted. The case for introducing stock that would in any manner change the characteristics of the present strains does not seem desirable at this time.

### SUMMARY

Much work is yet to be done before the life cycle of the Hungarian partridge in the region is fully understood. Little study has been conducted with reference to the reproductive or post-natal periods, as previously mentioned; this being the most critical, in terms of population dynamics. I think here is a place where the local ornithologist may well make an outstanding contribution. We, of course, expect to continue field studies in an effort to better understand many of the problems that these initial investigations stimulated. These might be enumerated as follows:

1. What is the extent of dispersal of paired birds at the time of covey breakup?
2. How important is intra-covey exchange to breeding success?
3. What is the extent of re-nesting attempt?
4. What is the most important singular nest loss factor?
5. The importance of non-productive males in the breeding population.
6. Methods of readily obtaining data in annual production:  
i. e., age ratios by wing collection.

Here we have enumerated only a few of the questions that need serious study and consideration before we can fully understand the limited success of the Hungarian partridge in New York.

P. O. Box 84, Watertown, N. Y.



TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Parus bicolor*)

## THE TUFTED TITMOUSE INVADES NEW YORK

S. W. EATON

The Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) is one of a group of four essentially non-migratory southern birds which have become quite regular in occurrence in parts of upstate New York. The Cardinal was the pioneer of these four, and has been followed by the Titmouse, Mockingbird and Carolina Wren. This is an attempt to describe the invasion by comparing the increase of the Tit with that of the Cardinal. These two species are essentially seed eaters in winter, whereas the Mockingbird and Wren with their slender bills are more insectivorous and because of these anatomical limitations seem less apt to successfully survive in upstate New York at least in areas remote from feeders. Roosting sites may well be important here as well as food-getting equipment. The Cardinal prefers coniferous thickets; the Tit holes; the Wren holes and crevices or thickets; the Mocker thickets.

Historically we know the Tit to be a regular resident of the New York City area (Dekay, J. F., 1844. *Zoology of New York*. Part II: Birds). E. H. Eaton (*Birds of New York*, Part II, p. 502, 1914) said it was confined to the warmer portion of the Carolinian district as a breeding species. He further said that he found no breeding records for the interior of the state but when noted early in the season, they were in pairs or small flocks indicating the possibility of breeding. W. E. Tood (1940. *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. University of Pittsburgh Press. p. 396-399.) gave us the best historical account of this bird immediately south of the western part of the Southern Tier. He said towards the northern part of its range individuals showed a decided tendency to wander during the cold season. These wanderers were as apt to wander in one direction as another. He further pointed out that the first occurrences in new areas were always in the winter and concluded that winter conditions, rather than mean temperatures of the breeding season, were important. He stated the bird is not peculiar to the Carolinian fauna as it had invaded the Plateau and the Allegheny Mountain Counties of Somerset and Cambria, Pennsylvania. South of the eastern part of our Southern Tier, P. B. Street (1956. *Birds of the Pocono Mountains Pennsylvania* DVOG, p. 41) considered it a rare straggler on the plateau but said it bred in limited numbers along the southern edge of the Plateau and in the Delaware River Valley. D. Fables, Jr. (*Annotated List of New Jersey Birds*, Umer Ornithologist Club 1955, p. 51) said of the Tit that it was a permanent resident throughout the state but much more regular on the coastal plain, while it was relatively scarce in the three northern counties adjacent to New York and northeastern Pennsylvania. The A. O. U. Check-list, fifth edition, 1957, recorded it as resident in extreme southern New York (Chautauqua County, Elmira, Staten Island) and further stated that in recent years it was spreading northward.

To get a more specific notion of the spread of the species I have assembled in the Table the occurrence or absence of both the Tufted Titmouse and Cardinal on the Audubon Society's Christmas counts. The figures indicate the number of birds seen per party (for a critique of such a procedure see — P. A. Stewart, *Wilson Bul.* Vol. 66 pp. 184-195, 1954). Ten upstate



New York cities, one New York City area (Rockland County), three Pennsylvania cities, Cleveland and two southern Ontario localities were tabulated.

In 1950 only Rockland County reported Titmice (reports from Elmira, Binghamton or Syracuse were not available). In 1954 four cities reported these birds; in 1958 six reported Titmice. This certainly represents a spread particularly when we examine cities reporting these birds — Geneva, Elmira, Binghamton and Schenectady. To these in 1958 are added Jamestown and Rochester. Here the major invasion route appears to be up the Susquehanna River - Finger Lakes corridor. Some spread appears to be from a source in extreme northwestern Pennsylvania into Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties probably following the Allegheny River valley and its tributaries. As with the Cardinal, little indication of movement up the Hudson is apparent. In southern Ontario no build up of the species appears. Though the Titmouse appears to be common about Detroit (sixty-eight seen on 1958 Christmas count) London, Ontario did not report this bird from 1950-1958, and Hamilton only once (1955). This is in contrast to the spread of the Cardinal in the same area. S. W. Eaton (*Prothonotary*, Sept. 1950, pp. 61-62) presented evidence to show the Cardinal at Buffalo may well have arrived by way of Southern Ontario as well as along the southern shores of Lake Erie. There was a gradual increase of the species at first Detroit, then London, then Hamilton followed by increases at Buffalo. The Rochester population of Cardinals appears to have come from the south up the Susquehanna and Finger Lakes country or the Chemung and Genesee River valleys. The Titmouse seems to be following this latter route but not the Canadian one.

The differences in invasion routes noted here may be explained on the habitat preferences of the two species. For nesting and feeding the Cardinal is essentially an edge-type species, the Titmouse a forest bird. The spread of the Cardinal preceded the Titmouse by from ten to twenty years. This might be correlated with the abandonment of many farms on the Allegheny Plateau which created first much edge habitat for the Cardinal then progressed to mature forest and became more favorable to Titmice.

The true forest habitat of this bird near Olean was well demonstrated to me from October 1956 to July 1957. During this period I observed the species in the Townships of Olean, Allegany, Carrollton and Great Valley, Cattaraugus County. As many as six individuals could be seen on a two mile hike through a mature Beech-Birch-Maple Forest. These were usually single and with different Chickadee flocks. Once three birds were seen in one forest party of birds made up of Chickadees, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. All these birds fed on beech-nuts in October and November up in the trees and from December to February, Titmice and Bluejays, from stores at tree bases and in holes. From October to February the Titmice were not easy to see and very shy — once their "dee" call and a peculiar high pitched "seep" note was learned it became easier to locate them. On March 3, the first whistling by the birds was noted. On July 4, 1957 I collected an immature, which had juvenal feathers on back and breast and almost no crest. It was with a small family group at 2,000 feet altitude in an area where I had seen them throughout

NUMBER OF TUFTED TITMICE AND CARDINALS SEEN PER PARTY  
BY AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTERS IN N. E.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Buffalo -----	0;1.0	0;0.9	0;1.9	0;0.9	0;1.3	0;1.3	0;0.8	0;1.5	0;1.7
Cortland -----	0;0	0;0	0;1.0	0;0	0;0	0;1.0	0;1.5	0;0.5	0;6.0
Geneva -----	0;0.5	0;2.2	0;2.0	0;1.9	0.1;2.1	0;3.4	0;4.0	0;8.0	0.3;4.0
Jamestown -----	0;1.3	0;2.0	0;3.5	0;2.5	0;1.3	0;1.3	0;2.0	0.2;2.0	0.4;2.2
Olean -----	0;2.3	0;0.4	0;2.5	0;0	0;0.8	0;1.0	0;0.5	0.8;0.3	0;1.5
Elmira -----	-----	0.3;2.0	0.3;2.3	0.1;0.8	0.3;0.4	0.1;4.8	-----	-----	0.5;4.6
Rochester -----	0;1.3	0;1.1	0;2.3	0;3.3	0;3.0	0.6;4.2	0.1;3.5	0;4.8	0.3;3.5
Syracuse -----	-----	-----	0;1.5	0;2.5	0;2.0	0;1.3	0;0.9	0;1.4	0;1.1
Binghamton -----	-----	-----	-----	0;0.9	0.5;1.3	1.0;2.4	0.3;2.8	0.7;2.2	0.5;6.8
Schenectady -----	0;0	0;0	0;0	0;0	0;1.0	0;0	0;0.1	0;0.1	0.3;0.5
Rockland Co. -----	8.5;3.2	-----	12.9;9.3	15.8;5.4	16.8;10.0	16.1;8.6	-----	-----	-----
Philadelphia -----	18.4;6.8	9.4;5.7	11.4;8.6	6.5;7.3	27.4;21.6	-----	-----	-----	-----
State College, Pa. -----	6.0;7.7	1.2;2.8	1.4;2.7	3.4;2.4	4.0;2.0	3.6;1.4	5.2;4.0	5.8;4.0	6.0;3.8
Warren, Pa. -----	0;11.0	0;5	0;3.5	2.0;7.0	0;5.0	2.0;12.0	4.0;6.0	9.0;6.0	8.0;24
Cleveland, Ohio -----	3.1;6.2	4.7;15.1	5.4;13.1	5.9;12.6	13.0;12.5	4.9;8.1	5.1;7.1	5.6;18.6	6.8;9.4
London, Ont. -----	0;12.4	0;9.0	0;14.7	0;13.6	0;5.6	0;19.3	0;19.0	0;18.0	0;14.4
Hamilton, Ont. -----	0;4.0	0;4.0	0;6.6	0;3.9	0;32	0.4;2.5	0;3.9	0;4.1	0;6.5

Numbers to left of semicolon are numbers of Tufted Titmice seen per party.

Numbers to right, numbers of Cardinals per party.

the fall, winter and spring. When I returned to the area in September 1957 (Ten Mile Valley near Vandalia, New York) the Titmice were absent. They have still not returned to southern Cattaraugus County in the numbers seen in 1956-1957. The beechnut crop was a complete failure in the fall of 1957 and may account for their leaving. This fall, 1958, there was an excellent crop of beechnuts but still no Titmice. In contrast, in the same general area the Cardinal is restricted to edge habitat of the valley of the Allegheny during the nesting season, seldom occurring above 1,600 feet. In winter they may leave the river valley and winter in hemlock groves of the smaller valleys and coves.

What is causing these southern birds to move north? Southern populations appear to be increasing if the Christmas counts are true measures of population changes (see Philadelphia and Cleveland on Table). Many attribute it to a gradual amelioration of the climate. This may be one of the factors but there are undoubtedly others. One which hasn't been stressed enough is the increase of the Japanese Honeysuckle which has become a 'vegetational starling' in the south, climbing over the shrubs and trees, producing much new thicket habitat. Maturing of the forests on abandoned farm land of the Allegheny Plateau may also be contributing to the successful colonization by the Titmouse.

#### SUMMARY

Though still not as commonly reported in upstate New York as the Cardinal the Tufted Titmouse seems to be continuing to increase. The principal invasion seems to be occurring up the Susquehanna and from areas in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Poconos, Catskills and the high plateaus may be somewhat constricting this invasion to the Susquehanna River valley and the western fringe of the High Plateaus. The invasion from southern Ontario towards Buffalo which occurred with the Cardinal in the 1940's, has not materialized with the Tufted Titmouse. The Hudson River - Mohawk Valley appears not to be an important invasion route into east central New York. The lag of the Titmouse behind the Cardinal may be due in some measure to the different habitat requirements. Cardinals are edge-type nesters; Titmice, mature forest nesters.

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# NEW YORK STATE BIRDS IN COLOMBIA

MARGARET RUSK

## *Introduction*

Just as interesting as seeing the exotic antbirds, woodcreepers, parrots, etc., and tropical members of the flycatcher, hummingbird and wren families during a South American stay, is discovering familiar North American birds on their migration routes or wintering grounds, sometimes in strikingly different habitats from their breeding ones. These notes are presented merely as raw data, without interpretation, and as a general indication of which groups of northern birds may be seen in Caribbean South America and of how their numbers vary through the months.

Most of the following observations of New York State birds in Colombia were made by me from early September to early June 1956-1957, although some are from the same months of the previous year and some were reported to me by friends after I returned to the United States. Some of the records, as specified, are from the higher interior regions of Colombia which I visited on vacations, but most are from the Caribbean coast, centering on the Magdalena River port of Barranquilla.

This is a savannah (tall grass-scrub jungle) region with temperature ranging from 75°-85° F. The dry season, when the trade wind from the northeast lashes the low trees of the monte (jungle), lasts from November 'til May. During the rainy season, the remaining half of the year, deciduous trees, mostly varieties of locust, put out new leaves, and the monte changes from a desert of thorn bushes rattling in the wind to a green jungle with paths grown over by vines. The rain then comes every afternoon or every few days in the form of violent cloudbursts which turn paved streets into roaring canals and wash the sandy topsoil down to the swift and muddy Magdalena.

Flooding and wind action cause constant shifting of shore sands also. For example, what was in October of 1955 a small partly-submerged sandbar beyond the rather wide beach at Puerto Colombia (which used to be the ocean port for Barranquilla before the Magdalena was kept dredged to admit large steamers to the city 18 miles upstream, but is now nothing but a sleepy seaside resort) increased to a wide sand spit paralleling the shore for over a mile, with a lagoon behind it which cut into the width of the old beach. This created two different types of shorebird habitat on the two sides of the spit. The ocean side was strewn with small clams, pebbles, seaweed, and driftwood, and its sand was dry a little way in from the high tide line. (The inter-tidal section of beach is narrower here than is the case nearer the poles). On the lagoon side, the sand was wet and muddy, so that grass, cacti, and beach peas soon began to grow in the low dunes.

## *Part I — Water Birds*

Most of the records in the present first section of this article, which includes the species through terns in the AOU Checklist, were made at Puerto Colombia. In general, the "trips" there were of one-half day's duration, so that the numbers listed are in fact those seen in about two hours in covering a length of beach of approximately two miles, unless otherwise noted.

The highly migratory plovers and sandpipers, familiar in summer or during migration in various part of New York State, find types of habitat to their liking on the shifting dunes and beach of Puerto Colombia. In general, they are present in the months of the northern autumn, the period of their immigration to Colombia, in greater numbers than at any other time.

Semipalmated plovers run over the higher dry dunes and the dark lagoon-side sand. My counts averaged 15 per trip in Sep, 16 per trip Oct, 24 per trip Nov, 15 per trip Dec, 20 per trip Jan, then none until May: five per trip. With them were often some of the Wilson's Plover which is casual in New York: an average of four per trip in Sep, five per trip in Oct, seven or eight in Nov, one every other trip in Dec, none in Jan and Feb, one every other trip in Mar and May, one or two per trip in Apr. In the same areas I found Black-bellied Plovers averaging 22 per trip in Sep, 12 in Oct, 21 — Nov, five — Dec, six — Jan, one — Feb, three — Mar, one every other trip in Apr, and one in May.

Ruddy Turnstones are regularly seen, both on the seaweed and pebbles of the outer beach at Puerto, and on the rock embankment of the excursion railway which runs along palustrine beaches out to the point where the Magdalena flows into the Caribbean at Bocas de Cenizas. Average numbers per trip are: 17 — Sep, 13 — Oct, 19 — Nov, four — Dec, one — Jan, one — Feb, five — Mar, two — Apr, five — May.

In the taller grasses of the landward side of the dunes sometimes Hudsonian Curlew lurked: about one per trip in Sep and Oct, usually two in Nov thru Jan, no records after that.

The Spotted Sandpiper was seen much more regularly throughout the year: about seven per trip in Sep, Dec, Mar, and Apr; and about one per trip in Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, and May. These fluctuations probably reflect nothing but very local changes in feeding conditions along the lagoon at Puerto and in similar habitat at other nearby beaches where I saw the Spotted. According to the AOU Checklist this species often remains far south during the northern summer, which goes to explain the regularity with which I saw it even in May.

However, another case of drop-off in numbers after the fall is the Willet: seen with the yellowlegs, about ten per trip in Sep, five — Oct, 12 — Nov, two — Dec, then no more than singles thru May. Lesser Yellowlegs on the muddy beach at Puerto averaged 12 per trip in Sep. Numbers dropped off sharply to one per trip in Oct and none were seen in Nov. Greater Yellowlegs ran about five, two, and three per trip, respectively, in these three months. I saw a few yellowlegs on ocean beaches in Mar also, but my only other records are for the Magdalena River in Dec, and for the marshes between the mouth of the Magdalena and the ocean shore in Feb, and a couple in Mar at Sabanilla beach near Puerto.

This drop-off in numbers observed in the months of the northern winter and spring is marked even though all the preceding species are known to winter in Colombia, according to the AOU Checklist. It seems that many shorebirds withdraw into the less accessible marshes where conditions are more tolerable as the dry season progresses. In general the northward migration is a much less spectacular affair than the autumn one when the

birds seem to spend much time on the beaches of their first landfall before continuing farther south or, more likely, moving a little way inland to spend their winter on the river flats or in marshes.

The phenomenon was even more noticeable with the Knot and the Short-billed Dowitcher. In Sep the Knot averaged six per trip, and in Oct nine per trip with a peak number of 35 on Oct 4, lined up resting on a flat stretch of sandbar at Puerto Colombia. I saw single Dowitchers probing in the muddy landward shore there on more than half the Sep trips and somewhat less than half the Oct trips. Outside of these two months I have no records of either Knot or Dowitcher.

I was unable to identify any "peep" besides Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. The former averaged six per trip in Sep, four — Oct, three — Nov and Dec, and five — Jan. Numbers of Semipalmateds for the same months were 42, 34, 60, ten, and ten. Since the observations are mainly from Puerto which is chiefly a sandy beach, it is understandable that the numbers of the "mud peep" would be lower. My other records are of flocks of unidentified peep on flats up the Magdalena from Barranquilla in late Dec and for the above-mentioned coastal swamps near Bocas de Cenizas in Feb; the peep too seem to withdraw into interior swamps and mudflats of Colombia during the dry season, and then trickle north largely unnoticed in spring.

Finally, of the shorebirds known to winter in Colombia, Sanderlings, found typically on the outermost sandy beaches at Puerto, averaged six per trip in Sep, 11 — Oct, 18 — Nov, then down sharply to about one every other trip in Dec, up again to 20 in Jan, but no records later than that.

There remain to be mentioned the two sandpipers I saw which pass through, but winter south of, Colombia. The Pectoral was a spectacular: on Oct 12, 1956 some were feeding on the lawn of the Barranquilla country club golf course, and then on the following day about 500 of them were there — with Eastern and Gray Kingbirds but no other shorebirds as far as I could determine. It was a field day, over that Columbus Day weekend, for small boys with slingshots. These are my only records for Pectorals in Colombia.

Lastly, the other shorebird of long-range migration is that "tall-grass-sandpiper", the Upland Plover. I located one by its call in unmowed lawn grass or tall stubble near Barranquilla once each in the months of Sep, Oct, and Nov only.

Among ducks, the most numerous Colombian migrant is the Blue-winged Teal. Many a Barranquillan duck hunter tells of bagging one with a U. S. Fish and Wildlife band on its leg, of sending the band to Washington as directed, and of receiving such a courteous letter in reply, telling the ducks' previous whereabouts as known from the band. According to the AOU Checklist's listing of ranges of subspecies, it is improbable that the Colombian Teal are of the subspecies that sees New York State, but I yielded to the temptation to include this picturesque migrant among the New York birds in Colombia. I have no Sep records of this duck, but in Oct have seen them flush up from a roadside marsh near Santa Marta as I passed by auto, and in Dec saw them along the Magdalena; also I have records of from one to four on the Puerto beach in Oct, Nov, and Jan.

The other New York State duck I saw was a wing-injured Baldpate, too swift of foot to allow himself to be caught, on the ocean beach at Sabanilla in April.

I shall do no more than mention the New York heron species seen in Colombia, as these herons occur here in numbers the year round, so that sight records without banding or extensive rookery censuses give no evidence as to the proportion of migrants from the north. Probably the majority of the Great Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets, Little Blues, the numerous Snowy and American Egrets, and the Louisiana Herons which one sees are year-round local residents. The same is true for the Glossy Ibis, vastly numerous in Colombia.

Of the hawks, the Kestrel and Turkey Vulture in Colombia are local, not New York, sub-species. I have probable sight records of the Peregrine and Merlin, both on the ocean beaches. According to the AOU Checklist, these could have migrated from the Empire State. The Broadwings, viewed from my city apartment, boiling out of a thunderstormy sky in the last week of Oct were probably migrants from the Eastern States just in off the Caribbean. And the Osprey — chances were good of seeing one on a trip to Puerto any of the months I was there — may well have come from New York State too.

Laughing Gulls and several New York State terns appeared at Puerto and along the Magdalena. In Sep Laughing Gulls averaged nine per trip at Puerto Colombia, in Nov five per trip, in Dec one every other trip to the beach. In Nov I saw numbers of them in Cienaga Grande, a large saltwater lake behind the barrier beach near Santa Marta, which is also on the Caribbean coast but east of the Magdalena River. Also in Nov and Dec I saw them in Barranquilla harbor. I have a Feb and an Apr record of one at Puerto, and in Apr saw 30 riding the waves in Santa Marta harbor.

I saw several Black Terns at Bocas de Cenizas in Sep and one at Puerto. Apparently they also do not stay the winter right along the coast: the only other record I have is of numbers seen at Cienaga Grande in Nov. I have Caspian Tern records for Puerto starting in Nov when they averaged two per trip among the Royal Terns. In Dec there were six per trip there, and I saw 15 on the first day out of Barranquilla on a boat trip up the Magdalena. Then again in Apr there were two or three per trip at Puerto. The Royal Tern could be seen every month I was in Colombia — probably New York birds together with more near-by breeders. At Puerto counts were of around 30 per trip in all months except Jan, Feb, and Mar when there would be only from two to five facing into the wind on the mudbars. They were always to be seen in numbers over the Magdalena near its mouth, and fishing over Barranquilla harbor.

For the Common Tern I have only Nov and Dec records of one or two on the Puerto beach. Least Terns were common there in Sep, as many as 15 per trip, but were fewer in Oct, the last month with Puerto records. But in Dec I saw them in numbers in the Magdalena, some distance above Barranquilla, where they must winter away from the coastal beaches, as do the greatest numbers of most of the species recorded in the present section of my notes.

100 Stadium Place, Syracuse 10

## LUDLOW GRISCOM—GREAT FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Ludlow Griscom, considered the country's leading field ornithologist, died at his home in Massachusetts on May 28. Although he served as research ornithologist, research curator and editor at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology from 1927 until his retirement in 1955, it might be said that our great "Empire State" lent him to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the benefit of both. He was born in New York, graduated from Columbia University in 1912 and received a Master of Arts degree from Cornell University in 1915. He taught biology in Cornell for a year, was associated with the American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. C., for three years and became assistant curator of ornithology from 1921 to 1927, when he went to Harvard.

While in New York he was a very active field student and his careful discrimination in those days established him as a stickler for accuracy in field identification. For many years he studied the distribution of birds and was a leading force in the annual Christmas bird counts for the National Audubon Society. Around the years 1910 and 1911 he censused the Long Beach area on Long Island and came up with a maximum count one December of 11 Ipswich Sparrows. Incidentally, this area today is covered with beach facilities, dwellings, hotels and resorts. He was a past president of the Linnaean Society of New York after joining it in 1907 and later he became a Fellow of this organization.

Mr. Griscom was a former chairman of the board of the National Audubon Society, held a membership in the New York Academy of Sciences, as well as a number of Societies outside of New York State. His greatest contribution to ornithology in New York State was "Birds of the New York City Region," 1923, American Museum of Natural History, in which he gives distributional data and other remarks on 377 species and subspecies. For many years this was considered the last word in field distribution until Cruickshank's "Birds Around New York City", 1942.

After leaving New York he was in a position to the north of us to discern the ornithological trend along the northeastern seacoast and add information essential to studies in both the New England and middle Atlantic States. Moreover, he was near enough to make frequent visits to the annual dinners of the National Audubon and Linnaean Societies. These were always pleasureable occasions and long to be remembered. His lingering illness for the last couple of years reduced his activities and we saw less of this great ornithologist who was the accepted authority for field identification and bird distribution.

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Note: Because of the limitation of *The Kingbird* to New York ornithology, the above deals principally with Mr. Griscom's activities in this State. He wrote many important articles while in Massachusetts which may be revealed by searching the literature.

3994 Park Ave., Seaford, L. I., N. Y.



## RECENT RANGE EXTENSION OF THE VEERY ON LONG ISLAND

GILBERT S. RAYNOR

Although the Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) has been considered a breeding species on Long Island for over one hundred years, it has, until recent years, been known only as a local nester on the western third. Giraud (1844) wrote, "It visits us in the spring, and continues with us during the summer," without giving any specific nesting localities. Likewise, Eaton (1914) spoke of it only as "rather uncommon on Long Island."

Recent writers have been more specific. Cruickshank (1942) wrote, "On Long Island, a few breeding pairs have been found on the north shore between Flushing and Northport and on the south shore between Idlewild and Woodmere. In recent years in southern Nassau County birds have been heard singing throughout June in ideal habitat near Massapequa and along the Meadowbrook Causeway, and it seems probable that they have bred there." Two years earlier, however, Turrell (1939) writing of the Smithtown area said, "Although its nest has never been found in this area to my knowledge, I have heard the bird singing in mid-July, which is sufficient evidence to establish a breeding record." This reference is probably to the area along the Nissequogue River.

During the 1940's the range of the Veery apparently remained static on the Island but during the present decade it has occupied territory in three areas east of the previously known breeding sites. In 1946, when Dennis Puleston began field work in the Carmen's River area between Brookhaven and Mastic, the Veery was unknown as a nesting species. In 1952, singing birds were found in May and remained to August in suitable breeding habitat. Since that time the species has become a regular breeding bird in the low-lying, swampy woodlands on the east or Mastic side of the river. At least six pairs are normally present although the 1958 population, in common with that of many other species, was abnormally low.

On June 14, 1956, the writer heard at least six singing Veeries on the grounds of the Cutting Arboretum on the banks of the Connecticut River at Great River. Although no attempt was made to find a nest, this number of birds in suitable habitat at the height of the breeding season seems reasonable evidence of nesting.

Prior to 1957, the Veery was unknown as a summer resident in the Peconic River region from Manorville to Riverhead. In late May of that year, however, a pair of Veeries moved into the low-lying wooded swamps bordering the Peconic River near the writer's residence in Manorville. These birds were heard and seen into July and presumably bred. In mid-May of 1958, several Veeries were present in the same area for over a week and showed evidence of territorialism but then disappeared. Later at least two birds were relocated calling and singing about one fourth mile to the east and were present at least until July 23.

On May 24, 1958, an adult Veery was found nest building by Dennis Puleston and the writer in a swampy woods near the Peconic River at Calverton. On June 14, the nest contained three young a few days old

and on the following day a photographic record of the nest was taken by Puleston.

It is probably significant that the four new Veery nesting locations discovered in the last twenty years are along Long Island's four largest rivers, the Nissequogue, Connecticut, Carmen's and Peconic. A natural alteration of habitat has been taking place in each of these regions which has rendered them attractive to the Veery for the first time. Observation indicates that plant succession in all four areas has been similar. Since the Peconic River is most familiar to the writer, the changes there will be described.

Originally, the Peconic River was bordered largely by wide, grassy fresh water marshes with only a narrow fringe of brush between the marsh and the adjacent upland forest. During the last twenty to thirty years, the marsh has been progressively overgrown with shrubs and trees, primarily High-bush Blueberry, Button-bush, Alder, Poison Ivy, Pepperidge and Swamp Maple, while near by swampy areas once largely bushy have been overtopped by moderate sized trees. These changes have created vast stretches of seemingly ideal Veery habitat and it is anticipated that much of it will be occupied in coming years.

#### LITERATURE

- Cruickshank, A. D., 1942, Birds Around New York City, The American Museum of Natural History Handbook Series, No. 13.  
Eaton, E. H., 1914, Birds of New York, New York State Museum Memoir 12.  
Giraud, J. P. Jr., 1844, Birds of Long Island, Wiley and Putnam, New York.  
Turrell, L. W., 1939, The Natural History of Smithtown, Arts-craft Press, St. James, Long Island.

*Manorville, L. I., N. Y.*

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### W. O. S. MEETING

LILLIAN C. STONER

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was quite well represented at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society at Rockland, Maine, June 11-14, 1959. Included in the attendance were 12 of our Federation.

Six of the 24 papers presented on the two-day paper session were given by the following New York State members: Kenneth C. Parker, Eugene Eisenmann and Stephen W. Eaton, each, offered papers on the Wood Warbler Symposium; while Eleanor E. Dater, Walter R. Spofford and Lawrence I. Grinnell spoke respectively on Lawrence Warbler, Golden Eagle and Tropical Birds of Australia.

The picture of the head of the Puffin, the peculiar looking bird with the large and colorful beak, was the emblem Ralph S. Palmer had prepared for this meeting. It was used on the Information and Abstract Booklets and Banquet Menu cards.

This organization, which was founded December 3, 1888 and named after Alexander Wilson, the first American ornithologist, had a membership last year of 1485. New members accepted at the business session numbered 188.

Registered attendance of 295 showed a wide Geographic representation as they were from 24 States, District of Columbia, Africa, Canada and Netherlands.

Sponsors of the Rockland, Maine, meeting were the Farnsworth Museum and Homestead, Portland Society of Natural History and the Maine Audubon Society.

The next annual meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society will be held at Gatlenburg, Tennessee, May 5-8, 1960.

399State Street, Albany 10, New York

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

Watertown, June 5-6-7

*Minutes of the Council Meeting*

The twelfth annual meeting of the Council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was held in the Watertown High School on June 6, 1959. Allan S. Klonick, the president, opened the meeting at 1:15 p. m. Delegates from 19 of the affiliated clubs answered the roll call.

The minutes of the 1958 meeting were read, corrected, and accepted.

Gerald Rising, the 1958 treasurer, reported a balance of \$731.02 on hand Dec. 31, 1958.

Treasurer's Report

Balance — January 1, 1958 .....	\$ 642.48
Receipts — Total for 1958 .....	1,225.48

	Gross Total .....	\$1,867.96
Expenditures for 1958 .....	\$1,136.94	

	Balance on Dec. 31, 1958	\$ 731.02
Balance in Permanent Fund on Dec. 31, 1958 .....	\$ 779.75	

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Reports of committees were given as follows:

*Financial:*

Mrs. Dayton Stoner, treasurer for 1959, presented the 1960 budget proposed by the Finance Committee. This budget was accepted by the Council, a complete report being placed on file.

Budget for 1958 .....	\$1,335.00
Expenses for 1958 .....	\$1,136.94
Proposed budget for 1959 .....	\$1,385.00

Mrs. Stoner gave a progress report for 1959 which she had prepared for the information of the Council. (Editor's Note — This report has been printed in *The Kingbird* for the interest of its readers. Federation members will note the attention and care being given to the financial affairs of their organization.)

Progress Report

Lillian C. Stoner, Treasurer

January 1, 1959 — June 5, 1959

Balance on Hand January 1, 1959 in checking Acct. ----- \$ 731.02

Deposits:

3 Supporting members ----- \$ 30.00  
17 Sustaining members ----- 85.00  
7 Subscriptions ----- 17.50

Individual members — annual dues:

1957 ( 5 members paid) ----- \$ 12.50  
1958 ( 38 members paid) ----- 95.00  
1959 (209 members paid) ----- 522.50  
1960 ( 3 members paid) ----- 7.50  
2 gifts at 50c ----- 1.00

Total individual dues and gifts ----- \$ 638.50

Club dues — annual dues: 10c per member)

1956 (1 club paid) ----- \$ 5.00  
1957 (2 clubs paid) ----- 7.50  
1958 (3 clubs paid) ----- 22.10  
1959 (19 clubs paid) ----- 243.00  
1960 (1 club paid) ----- 2.50

Total club dues ----- \$ 280.10

Total deposits in checking account ----- \$1,782.12

Disbursements:

Supplies, printing and mailing expense \$ 109.77  
Annual meeting — printing and  
mailing exp. ----- 28.16  
Postage, phone, etc. expense ----- 32.76  
Kingbird, Vol. VIII, 4 ----- 205.00  
Cash transferred to savings account ----- 200.00

Total disbursements ----- \$ 575.69

Balance on hand in checking account in  
National Commercial Bank and  
Trust Co., Albany, N. Y. ----- \$1,206.43

Savings Account in Community Savings  
Bank, Rochester, N. Y.

Balance on Hand ----- \$ 779.75  
3/3/59 Interest ----- 29.56  
6/1/59 Interest ----- 6.07  
6/4/59 Transferred from checking  
acct. ----- 200.00

Balance on hand in savings account 6/5/59 ----- \$1,015.38

*Conservation:*

Mr. H. Everest Clements, the chairman of the Conservation Committee, reported on the need for the protection of the Kingfisher. He made a motion that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., go on record as supporting a law for the protection of the Kingfisher. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Clements told that the Northrup Creek had been set aside as a sanctuary area.

Mr. John Elliot proposed that the Federation go on record as opposing mass spraying which is proving deleterious to wild life in general, especially the recent use of insecticides, such as 1080, which are recognizably devastating to bird life. The motion was passed.

Mr. Winston Brockner made a motion that the Federation go on record as being opposed to the acquisition of any State forest lands for purposes that would violate the "forever wild" concept of the State forest preserve. The motion was passed.

*State Book:*

Mr. Joseph W. Taylor of Rochester has been appointed as chairman of new State Bird Book Committee.

*Membership:*

Mr. Albert Fudge, the membership chairman, requested that each delegate try to obtain more individual members for the State Federation. He reported that 15 new individual memberships were obtained after the annual meeting in 1958 and 30 new members since Jan. 1, 1959.

Mr. Fudge read a letter of application for club membership from the Dutchess County Bird Club of Poughkeepsie. The Council voted to accept this club as a member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.  
*The Kingbird:*

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, the editor of *The Kingbird*, reported that she has continued the policy of the former editor, Gerald Rising. The publication is in a prosperous condition as more articles are contributed. The last issue had increased to 52 pages. Dr. Scotland reminded the Council that there is need for more articles about conservation.

Mr. William J. English suggested that each affiliated club try to have its delegate or delegates attend each annual Council Meeting.

*Nominating:*

Mr. Gerald Rising, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers which was elected:

President — Mrs. William G. Irving, West Nyack, N. Y.

Vice President — Mr. John J. Elliott, Seaford, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Etna, N. Y.

Recording Secretary — Mrs. Donald Radke, East Chatham, N. Y.

Treasurer — Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Albany, N. Y.

*Auditing:*

Mr. Guy Bartlett and Mr. Samuel Madison reported in writing that they, as the auditors, found the books of the Federation in order.

The nominating committee for the next year will be Mr. Allan Klonick, chairman, Mr. Joseph Blake and Dr. Walter Spofford.

The Buffalo Audubon Society invited the Federation of New York State

Birds Clubs, Inc., to hold the 1960 annual meeting in Buffalo.

Mr. Reginald Hartwell moved that the Federation express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the North Country Bird Club for a pleasant and well organized meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

Alice B. English, Recording Secretary

*Reception — Trips — Banquet — Picnic*

On Friday evening at the Woodruff Hotel arriving delegates and members of the Federation found a genuine welcome. Refreshing punch and cookies were provided by the local committee. Groups of visiting birders could be seen in the Drum Room and corridors. Federation committees, however, had to break away to attend their several meetings, some of which ran far into the night.

Five different field trips were listed for various areas on Saturday morning, with each scheduled to start at a different time so that late sleepers as well as early risers could be accommodated. A large group visited the primitive Tug Hill plateau area south of Watertown where there were many wooded trails to explore. A mid-morning thunderstorm "dampened" some of the other field trips, and a hawk-banding trip led by Dr. Burtt had to be postponed until the afternoon.

The annual banquet was held at 7:00 P. M. Saturday at the Hotel Woodruff and was well attended. Allan Klonick, outgoing president, introduced the new officers of the Federation. John Belknap, of the North Country Bird Club, presented a suitable certificate of merit to Fritz Scheider for taking top honors in a twenty-question afternoon examination on birds of New York State. Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt gave a talk on the very interesting new identification slides prepared under the auspices of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, and the talk was illustrated by a sampling of these slides. She invited inquiries concerning their use. Dr. Fritz Scheider of Syracuse lectured on bird migration at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, and this was followed by an illustrated talk by Dr. B. P. Burtt of Syracuse University on the methods and problems of banding young birds of prey.

On Sunday morning several large groups of observers paid visits in rotation to various areas in and around the Perch River Game Management Area. The early morning fog soon lifted, and the birding was excellent. A flock of Redheads was one of the highlights. Several observers saw the Red-headed Woodpecker, and a few were fortunate enough to add the Hungarian Partridge to their list. John Wilson of the New York State Conservation Department had given a fine talk on this introduced species at the Federation meeting of the previous afternoon.

Shortly after noon the various groups began meeting at the Crescent Yacht Club, at Chaumont on the shore of Lake Ontario, for the traditional Sunday box lunch. Dave Gordon, of the field trip committee, noted that the result of the weekend's efforts was some 125 varieties seen or heard. This lunch ended the formal weekend activities, but there was probably quite a bit of birding done as federation members slowly drove homeward that afternoon.

J. K. M.

## FIELD NOTES

**Evening Grosbeak in Unusual Plumage** — Among the Evening Grosbeaks taken in my banding traps on Jan 13, 1959, was a bird with aspects of both male and female plumages. On the breast, the division between the two plumages was so distinct that it appeared as if a line had been drawn lengthwise through the bird.

The left half of the bird had the characteristic yellow breast, under tail coverts and back of a male. The right half had the grayish-white coloration of a female. There were spots on the upper tail coverts — yellow on the left, white on the right side. The head was generally gray except for a faint yellow stripe over the left eye and a whitish one was across the forehead — Eleanor Radke, Box 138, R. R. 1, East Chatham.

**A partially albino Chickadee (continued)** — The partially albino Chickadee reported in the last issue of *The Kingbird* has been observed four times subsequently in approximately the same location at Selkirk Shores State Park — on April 18 and 24 and May 10 and 16, 1959. It has been possible to study the bird much more closely than when first seen on February 1, 1959. The eye was black, but the feet and legs light-colored and the bill pinkish horn-colored with some blackish spots. The flanks were light gray without any buff. The narrow fringe of black feathers bordering the white throat formed a crescent, with the points coming up the sides of the throat in a pattern similar to the blacker portion of a Mourning Warbler's crepe. The posterior aspect of the white crown was sparsely flecked with dark gray feathers, of which there were more on the nape. The amount of white in the secondaries was greater than normal. Basically, the albinism becomes increasingly subtle from head to tail — the head largely white, the back and wings with more than average white the tail apparently normal in color.

It is of interest to compare this Chickadee with the melanistic Chickadee skin in the Cornell collection (collected by James Tanner in October 1933 near Butter-milk Falls south of Ithaca) of which there is a painting by Albert Hochbaum at the Sapsucker Woods Ornithology Laboratory, as this painting shows a bird melanistic to approximately the same degree on the same parts of its anatomy where the Selkirk bird was albinistic. Tanner's Chickadee has black cheeks, and the black bib extends perhaps somewhat farther ventrally than normal, so that the result is a black-hooded bird, just the opposite of the white-hooded effect of the Selkirk Chickadee. For the rest, the Ithaca specimen's body color is darker-than-normal gray, the reverse of the whiter-than-normal color of the subject of this note.

Also worthy of mention is that the last time I saw the Selkirk Chickadee (May 16) it was in the company of only one other, normally-colored, Black-capped Chickadee. The albinistic bird responded to spishing consistently with the clear "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" call whereas the other bird gave only the hoarse "conversational" chickady" notes — Margaret S. Rusk, 100 Stadium Place, Syracuse 10.

**Checklist of New York State Birds** — There is now available a preliminary annotated checklist of New York State Birds. The authors of this 41-page publication are E. M. Reilly of the New York State Museum and K. C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh.

As Dr. Reilly pointed out at the Federation meeting in Watertown, it is impossible for any two compilers to have access to all the facts. It is hoped that observers will bring suggestions, additions, deletions, and other comments to the attention of the authors.

The publication costs twenty cents (to cover processing) and can be obtained by writing the New York State Museum and Science Service, State Education Department, Albany 1 — The Editor.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON APRIL 1 — MAY 31 JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration was a confusing one at best; it is difficult to apply any other term to observations on a state-wide basis. Birds scarce in one area were commonly seen in others. The waterfowl migration seemed to be

above average in the eastern and central sections; over twice as many Canada Geese went through Montezuma Refuge this spring than last. Excellent hawk flights were observed in Regions 2 and 5. There were relatively few good warbler days in May; these birds seemed to go through very quickly, and several regional editors commented on a general impression of low numbers.

Cattle Egrets were observed in Regions 3 and 8 and there was a "probable" in Region 5. Glossy Ibis were reported from two areas. A Louisiana Heron was collected in Region 1, and this species was also reported from Long Island. Snow Geese were observed in six of the ten reporting regions, and Blue Geese were seen in four. Of interest in the duck line were two of our "foreign" friends, a European Widgeon in Region 3, and a Common Teal in Region 4. Black-headed Gulls were in Region 1, and Little Gulls were seen in that area as well as Region 2. Reports of Wilson's Phalaropes in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 6 were of more than passing interest.

There was a strong southern flavor to many of the interesting passerine records. A White-eyed Vireo turned up in Region 3 for the first time since 1956, and the Hooded Warbler was also reported from that section. Prothonotary Warblers were observed in five of the reporting regions, and the Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler were each seen in two. There was a rash of Blue Grosbeak reports, with four sections reporting them, and the Summer Tanager was observed on Long Island. There was at least the usual number of reports of the Orchard Oriole.

Westerners were not completely unrepresented. A Bullock's Oriole showed up in Region 5, and a Clay-colored Sparrow in Region 3 was the first record for the Finger Lakes area since 1935.

Evening Grosbeaks generally put in a rather early departure. Red Crossbills were reported in four areas and White-wings in two. A real winter lingerer was a Snowy Owl seen April 11 in Region 4.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

In contrast to March the month of April was generally warm (average 2.2°F above normal) and sunny, a welcome change after the severe weather of the winter. Rainfall was somewhat above normal and was concentrated during the first nine and last six days of the month. Large snow drifts were in evidence in depressions and along north-south roads in the plateau after a 114.5 inch seasonal snowfall which was 38.4 inches above average. The ice in Lake Erie was heavy and floes covered miles of water at the end of April. Some of the last ice was moving down the Niagara River during the second week of May. The ice bridge also remained in the gorge below Niagara Falls until well into April. The warm trend continued into May, however, and this month's average temperature was 4.8°M above normal. Despite this there were frosts on the first and sixteenth. May was the first month of the year with precipitation below normal. No storms or excessively high winds occurred in this period. Both land and water bird migrants arrived either at normal times or somewhat early but some species of passerines, especially warblers, seemed to be low in numbers. No large waves of small



land birds occurred during April. Several distinct movements took place during May, particularly during the warming trends of the second to the sixth and the nineteenth and twentieth.

**Loons — Ducks:** There was a spectacular flight of Common Loons during late April on Lake Ontario. Four hundred were noted on Apr 26 mostly flying westward (Nathan et al.). Among these were several Red-throated Loons (Brockner, Nathan, Axtells et al.). Of great interest was the observation of an Arctic Loon in breeding plumage with a few Red-throated Loons off Point Breeze and Lake Ontario on Apr 26 (Axtells). Horned Grebes appeared in good numbers in April. There were 600 on Cuba Lake Apr 17 (Mitchell). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed flying over Hamburg on May 3 (Bourne). Green Herons and American Bitterns seemed to be less common than usual. An exceptional record was that of an adult male Louisiana Heron observed and collected on the Allegheny River near Olean May 20 (Eaton). The Least Bittern was not reported until May 17. The good flight of Whistling Swans ended early in April with a few being recorded up to the twelfth. A Snow Goose was seen near Shelby on Apr 15 and 16 (Nathan, Axtells, Andrie et al.) and from one to two Blue Geese were also noted at Shelby and Oak Orchard Swamp on Apr 8, 12, and 16 (Rosche, Klabundes, Andrie). Canada Geese reached a peak in numbers about the second week in April with over 36,000 birds, mostly at Oak Orchard Swamp, the sink areas, and on Lake Ontario. Ducks were generally below normal abundance in most sections. The report of a Green-winged Teal at Oak Orchard on May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein) indicates they may possibly be breeding this year. The last Buffleheads seen were seven off Grand Island on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene). Nine White-winged Scoters on Red House Lake in Allegany State Park May 24 (Elderkin) were the last migrants observed. The only Common Scoters reported were 11 on Lake Ontario Apr 26 (Brockners). A total of 168 Hooded Mergansers on the Bird Count Apr 12 was an unusually large number for the region.

**Hawks — Owls:** The first migrant Sharp-shinned Hawks were not noted until Apr 5 when seven were seen along the south shore of Lake Erie (Brockners). A Broad-winged Hawk at Shadigee (Andrie), another near East Aurora (Bourne), and one near Olean (Eaton), all on Apr 16 were the first observed. Two Bald Eagles, one an immature, were seen at Zoar Valley on May 17 (Wendlings). Three more were reported from southwestern Chautauqua County on the same date (Baker, rep. Parker). Ospreys passed through in about normal numbers, the last being reported from Oak Orchard on May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein). A Peregrine Falcon was observed near Hamburg on May 6 (Bourne) and another on May 17 at Taylor Hollow near Gowanda (Kivett). The only Pigeon Hawk during the period was seen by Bourne in the same locality (Hamburg) on Apr 13. The largest hawk flight reported occurred Apr 25 at Wilson on Lake Ontario when 336 hawks of seven species (the majority Broad-winged Hawks) were watched by the Axtells. No King Rails were reported throughout April and May. Soras were reported sparingly and appeared to be late in arriving. A Common Gallinule near Angola on Apr 12 (Rew, Rathbun) was a somewhat early observation. There seemed to be a fairly good shorebird migration through the region. Eaton reported 16 Short-billed Dowitchers, a female Northern Phalarope, and several other species on the Allegheny River May 17. The first Solitary Sandpiper was observed on Apr 25 near Wethersfield Springs (Rosche et al.). About 140 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported through the region on the Bird Count Apr 12. The observation by Rosche of 27 Least Sandpipers near Wethersfield Springs on May 30 was of interest as seldom are so many reported in one flock in spring. A fairly early Spotted Sandpiper was also reported by Rosche in Wyoming County Apr 12. A noteworthy record was the report of 15 Sanderlings near Batavia May 17 (Pixley et al.). Another outstanding record for April was the adult Black-headed Gull seen near the mouth of the Niagara River on the twelfth (North, Lowes). The only Little Gull of the spring, an adult in winter plumage, was noted on the Niagara River near Lewiston and also at its mouth Apr 13 and 14 (Axtells, Andrie et al.). Common Terns appeared in the region early and in numbers, the first reported being two on Apr 10 at Niagara Falls (Rosche). On the bird count two days later 277 were noted throughout the area. It seemed odd to observe them flying over and diving into the water near the ice floes. Caspian Terns also appeared quite early on both Lake Erie and Ontario. The first of this species was seen on Apr 12 and the largest number was seven on Apr 26 at Dunkirk (Mitchell). Both

species of cuckoos appeared to be in below normal numbers during most of May but were occurring more frequently at the close of the period. The Barn Owl again returned to nest in Tonawanda and was reported there Apr 1 (Wendlings). A Saw-whet Owl was heard on the Audubon Sanctuary near Java on Apr 25 (Rosche et al.) and was reported to be there until the end of the period.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were very low in numbers in May. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported near Lyndonville on Apr 12 (Axtells). Kingbirds appeared to be scarce in early May but were in at least normal abundance by the end of the month. Also Eastern Phoebes did not seem to be as numerous as in previous years. Tree Swallows were late in arriving and the first was not noted until Apr 4 at Java Lake (Rosche, Blowers). On the other hand Rough-winged Swallows appeared earlier than usual and 33 were reported Apr 12 from two inland localities. Blue Jays were not observed in their normal abundance in late April and early May migrating along the south shore of Lake Erie. Red-breasted Nuthatches continue to be lower in numbers than usual. Carolina Wrens were reported from several widespread localities, possibly indicating an increase after their apparent reduction in numbers last year. Two were observed on Grand Island, a new location, on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene). Individual Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from near Eden on May 14 (Bourne), near Lancaster May 17 (Bowen et al.), and two were seen near Wolcottsville May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein). A Mockingbird in Hamburg May 18 (Bourne), and one reported from the vicinity of New Albion on May 31 (Knox) were the only ones recorded from the region. The first Catbirds did not appear until May 7 when they were seen in five widely scattered localities. Very few Hermit Thrushes were found in the area. It was not until May 11 that the first Swainson's Thrush was seen by Coggeshall at East Aurora. They seemed to be in below normal abundance during May. Bluebirds continued to be scarce. A flock of fifty Water Pipits was observed on Apr 15 at East Aurora (Coggeshall) and a flock of 100 near East Eden on Apr 16 (Bourne).

**Vireos — Warblers:** In general vireos appeared to be slightly less common than usual in migration except for the Warbling Vireo. Eaton reported the first Solitary Vireos (3) near Vandalia Apr 19. Black-and-white Warblers were not seen until May 2 when they were found in three localities. The Golden-winged Warbler was not seen until May 17 and was less common in many of its breeding area. There were no Orange-crowned Warblers reported in the region. A Brewer's Warbler was observed May 10 near Gowanda (Andries). Parula Warblers were unusually scarce and could be considered rare this spring. Not more than three or four individuals were reported. Black-throated Blue Warblers and American Redstarts were low in numbers in May. The first migrant Myrtle Warblers were recorded Apr 12 in Chautauqua County (Stanley, Beal et al.) Black-throated Green Warblers were not found in April and were observed first in four places on May 2. Yellow Warblers were more common than usual in many areas. On May 17 the first Blackpoll Warbler was reported near Frewsburg (Beal et al.) but this species continued in rather poor numbers. A Pine Warbler on Apr 24 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne) was the only individual of this species recorded from the region. A great rarity here, a Kentucky Warbler, was found in Delaware Park, Buffalo on May 27 (Greene, Mitchell). Wilson's Warblers appeared somewhat earlier and in greater numbers than normal.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A Western Meadowlark was found south of Batavia a few days before the Bird Count Apr 12 (Pixley et al.) and was still there on May 17. A pair of this species was reported near Silver Creek on May 31 (Axtells). Of interest were the records of an Orchard Oriole at Hamburg on May 8 (Bourne), another at East Aurora on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene), and two in the vicinity of Dunkirk on May 17 (Schobers). This species is seldom seen east of the Niagara River. Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared to be more common than usual. The last Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Wellsville (6) (Brandes), and Allegany State Park (1) (Anderson et al.) on May 17. Purple Finches and Goldfinches, especially the latter, were in evidence in many places and seemed to be in above normal numbers. White-throated Sparrows first appeared Apr 12 near Olean (Eaton). An above average number of Lincoln's Sparrows was reported during May.

*Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo*

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Except for a small amount on April 4 the period was free from snow, which in itself was somewhat unusual. April was somewhat warmer and drier than average. May was about average in both temperature and rainfall. On the whole the migration was better than last year, especially for those able to be afield during the week. The two hoped-for best weekends in May, the 16th - 17th and 23rd - 24th, both produced rather disappointing results. The heaviest waves of the season occurred between these dates, with the most spectacular movement being on May 20. On this date Robert Dobson recorded 27 species of warblers during a three-hour period in the late afternoon.

The outstanding features of April were good hawk migrations on April 1 and 5 and spectacular flights on April 25 and 29. An Eared Grebe at Manitou April 19 observed by Listman was one of the months highlights. A Little Gull was recorded April 24 and 30 and May 12 and 17 around Manitou by several observers. It would seem as though two individuals were present inasmuch as the bird seen in May was in distinctly different plumage from the April bird. The greatest novelty reported was a "singing" Chuck-will's-widow heard in Joseph Taylor's back yard on May 19. The bird called several times and then answered a recording of the species played from a window for some time longer. The bird was not seen, but the recorder is very familiar with the call, having heard it often during southern trips (Ed — While the call of the Chuck-will's-widow is very distinctive, it must be pointed out that there has apparently been no prior state record, even hypothetical. Reference: the recently published "Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds" by E. M. Reilly and K. C. Parkes. The Chuck-will's-widow is now known to nest regularly but rarely as far north as Cape May County in southern New Jersey).

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons were in about average numbers, with six being recorded on the rather late date of May 24 along the east lake shore (Kemnitzer). Red-throated Loons were rarely reported, but they may have been present in better numbers since the foggy conditions that prevailed when the peak flights normally occur made observations far out in the lake impossible. Some 250 Red-necked Grebes were seen Apr 3 along the east lake shore (Kemnitzer), and 1000 Horned Grebes were noted Apr 7 along the west lake shore. Single Double-crested Cormorants were seen Apr 13 and 29 at Manitou, and two birds were observed along the east lake shore on May 24 (Kemnitzer). A single Common Egret was noted at Manitou Apr 7 and 14 (Listman), and the same or another bird was at Shore Acres on May 10 (Oreoman). Both Black-crowned Night Herons and American Bitterns occurred in larger numbers than last year, probably because of the higher water. Two Least Bitterns were reported at Round Pond May 17 by several observers, and one was seen at Manitou May 23 (O'Hara et al.). Four Whistling Swans were seen Apr 12 at Manitou (Listman). A late straggler was observed May 17 at Charlotte (Perry), and probably the same bird was seen the next day at Salmon Creek (Listman). Ten thousand Canada Geese were seen Apr 5 along the west lake shore (Dobson) who also saw a single Blue Goose in the same area. Five Brant were noted May 12 at Manitou (Listman), and small numbers occurred during the rest of the month. Four Gadwall were seen at Manitou Apr 30 (Listman), and 200 American Widgeon were seen Apr 4 along the west lake shore (O'Hara). Three hundred Oldsquaw were noted May 6 off Durand (Brummer, Listman). The largest flock of White-winged Scoters reported was one of 100 birds on the west lake shore Apr 5 (Dobson).

**Hawks — Owls:** Thirty-three Turkey Vultures and 87 Red-tailed Hawks Apr 5 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson) were high spring counts for these species, as were

671 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr 29 at the same place (Holland et al.). Eight thousand Broad-winged Hawks Apr 25 and 2,954 Apr 29 (Listman, Moons et al.) were the year's high counts. Ten Rough-legged Hawks on Apr 5 and four on Apr 29 were high as were four Bald Eagles on Apr 5 and seven on Apr 29. Ten Ospreys on Apr 29 (Moons) were high for this species. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen Apr 18 at Durand (O'Hara et al.), Apr 29 and May 11 at the Hawk Lookout, and May 18 at Spencerport (Listman). A single Pigeon Hawk was observed Apr 18 at Cranbury Pond (Listman), another was noted Apr 25 at the Hawk Lookout, and two were seen in the same place Apr 29. Thirty-eight Sparrow Hawks Apr 5 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson) is a high count for this species. Two Ruffed Grouse were seen May 17 at Bristol (A. Smith), and two were seen May 23 at Pultneyville (Kemnitzers). Eight Virginia Rails and five Soras on May 17 at Round Pond rewarded Bob Dobson for a lot of hard tramping. Eight Black-bellied Plover were seen May 27 at Rose's Marsh (Listman).

Some 21 Upland Plover migrating along the lake Apr 18 (Listman) is an encouraging count. Six were seen at Hamlin May 24 (McCarthy). A very early Solitary Sandpiper was seen Apr 4 and 5 at Round Pond (Miller et al.), and an early Dunlin was at Manitou Apr 19 (Listman). A Knot at Braddock's May 30 (Starling et al.) and four Short-billed Dowitchers at Ling Road May 13 (Zirtler) were rather uncommon spring migrants, and even more so was the Wilson's Phalarope at Ling Road May 17 (Tanghe et al.). Five Black-backed Gulls were seen at Braddock's May 30 (Starling et al.), and 750 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at Salmon Creek Apr 25 (Listman). A Caspian Tern at Manitou Apr 3 (Listman) and a Black Tern Apr 29 at the Hawk Lookout (Moons) were both rather early. Eight Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in Island Cottage Woods May 22 (Listman). Two Long-eared Owls were observed in the "owl" woods near Braddock's Apr 4 and 5 (O'Hara et al.), and a single bird was seen west of Manitou May 2 (Oresman, Starling). A Saw-whet Owl in the "owl" woods Apr 4 (O'Hara et al.) was our only record this spring for this species.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Three Whip-poor-wills were seen Apr 29 in the Island Cottage Woods (Starling), and the same observer saw a flock of 400 Chimney Swifts May 19 wheeling around the sites of demolished buildings in downtown Rochester. Phoebes seemed up in numbers from their low of last year. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Highland Park May 20 (Schmanke), and another was reported the same day from Island Cottage Woods (Dobson). Four were seen May 30 west of Manitou (Starling et al.). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported May 27 at Manitou (Listman). All the swallows were on the wires at Durand May 9 (Starling, Miller), and 25 Cliff Swallows were seen migrating at Manitou May 19 (Listman). A Tufted Titmouse was seen at Forest Lawn May 17 (Sunderlin, McNett). A Brown Creeper was seen in the Island Cottage Woods May 17 (Dobson). An early House Wren was reported Apr 19 in Pittsford (V. White), and the Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported May 17 near Sodus (Jones and Foster) and at Braddock's May 23 (O'Hara et al.). Thirty Eastern Bluebirds were noted at the Hawk Lookout Apr 5 (Dobson), and eight were seen May 12 at Manitou (Listman). This is probably more Bluebirds than were seen all of last year. Six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed in the Island Cottage Woods May 9, and at least one pair nested there. Some 1,000 Water Pipits were seen May 12 at Manitou (Listman).

**Vireos — Sparrows.** All the vireos seemed in about normal numbers except the Philadelphia which was reported only once, a bird near Sodus May 17 (Foster, Jones). Among the rarer warblers may be mentioned the Prothonotary, seen May 17 in Island Cottage Woods (Taylor et al.), the Blue-winged seen May 20 at Fishers (Brunner, Starling), the Orange-crowned noted May 17 in Durand (Perry) and May 20 in Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), the Pine seen Apr 18 at Manitou (O'Hara et al.) Apr 26 at Ling Road (Tanghe and Dobson) and May 3 at Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), the Prairie seen May 17 in Durand (McNett and Sunderlin) and again in the same place May 19 (O'Hara), the Connecticut, two of which were seen May 20 in Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), and the Yellow-breasted Chat, seen May 7 at Manitou (Listman) and at Island Cottage Woods May 17 (Dobson, McNetts, Taylor). A singing Western Meadowlark was reported from the Rochester Country Club Apr 23 (Taylor) and was still present May 10 (Zeitler). Two singing birds were reported Apr 26 in Webster (Lloyd) and were still present May 23 (Kemnitzer). One of the

birds at least was still present May 31 (Kemnitzner) who also reported another singing bird near Sodus May 23. The Webster birds were giving the calls as well as the song of the western species.

An Evening Grosbeak was seen in Durand May 3 (Miller) but the usual late spring flight of this species did not develop. Seventy-five Purple Finches were seen at Manitou Apr 18 (Listman), and this species seemed very common this spring. Five Pine Siskins were noted in Durand May 3 and six were seen in the same place May 6 (Starling and Brummer). Some 1,000 Goldfinches were seen May 11 at Manitou (Listman). A Rufous-sided Towhee on Apr 2 in Rochester (Allen) and another Apr 4 near Durand (Starling, Miller) probably represent birds which successfully wintered. An Oregon Junco frequented a feeder at the Hillside Home from Mar 4 to Apr 9 (Peters, Starling), and another bird of the same species was present Apr 7 and 8 (Peters). Another bird of this species was seen at a feeder in Irondequoit from Apr 9 to 12 (Moons). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen from May 9 to 27.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The weather during the reporting period for this year differed from last year's only in being dry instead of wet. The Saturday morning bird walks in Ithaca had below freezing temperatures for the first three Saturdays in May, and lists were low. There seemed to be no periods favorable for a wave of migrants — the weather stayed cold so long that the birds filtered through in small numbers. The 22°F morning low on Ithaca's census day (May 17), which discouraged all thrush, warbler, and flycatcher activity and song, was followed by 90° temperatures on the 20th, but by then the migration was about over. A statement made by Mrs. Carter of Avoca paints the picture well: "on May 7, in five hours hunt, I found 56 species, but three Nashville Warblers were the only transients I saw." The shorebird migration was also poor, for water levels were fairly high. Geese alone were in greater numbers than in most years, and attention is called in the body of the report to the unusual numbers of Blue and Snow Geese in the Cayuga Basin.

Highlights include our first record of the Cattle Egret and our second for the Clay-colored Sparrow. Two Wilson's Phalaropes and three Brewster's Warblers were also noteworthy.

**Loons — Ducks:** Only one Common Loon was seen at Hornell (May 7), and they were scarce at Elmira. One crash-landed in a driveway in Dryden on May 20, was brought to Sapsucker Woods and put on the pond there. Some 85 Horned Grebes were counted on the reservoir basin at Hornell on Apr 17, and they appeared at Montezuma in small numbers from Apr 11 to May 21. There were fewer than usual at Elmira. Great Blue Herons appeared at Montezuma in normal numbers and on schedule. I have just learned of a heronry (estimated 50 nests) on a wooded hilltop near Thurston, southeast of Bath, which has been known to nearby residents "for seven or eight years."

Morse reported the first Common Egret at Montezuma on Apr 2, an early date, and several were there on Apr 26. To Fritz Scheider and Ian Nisbet goes the credit for spying the first Cattle Egret in this region, this on Apr 26 about two miles northwest of Montezuma. A little later that day a Cattle Egret, probably the same individual, was on the refuge where it remained through May 1. Black-crowned Night Herons again were almost unknown at the head of Cayuga, where they used to be seen regularly. They appeared at Elmira first on Apr 16. An early American Bittern turned up at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, on Apr 7 and was seen fairly regularly thereafter. A Least Bittern obligingly appeared in the Fuertes duck pond at Stewart Park

for the Saturday morning bird walk on May 16, and another was spotted regularly at a marsh northwest of the County airport on Warren Road, Ithaca, the last week in May (N. Chase).

Two Glossy Ibis appeared at Montezuma on May 3, a few days later than the last two years, and one was there on May 17. One was seen on May 10 at the Big Flats pond of the Corning Glass Works, and later two were at a pond at the Rhodes farm (just north of the CGW pond) where they remained some time, were seen by scores of observers, and photographed.

An encouraging increase was noted in the numbers of Canada Geese that went through this spring. Morse reports that 15,000 stopped off at the refuge compared to 7,000 last year, and oldtimers on Cayuga Lake said they had never before seen such large flocks. Furthermore, the birds lingered late — many thousands were still on the lake May 5, and small V's were still going over the last week in May. Elmira reported 400 the first week in April, a high count. There were record numbers of Snows and Blues. On Apr 8 O. Hewitt saw 30 Lesser and two Greater Snows and 130 Blues at Aurora on Cayuga. On Apr 23 there were 35 Snows and 80 Blues at Montezuma.

Concerned over the poor nesting results in waterfowl last year and the apparent decrease in summer resident arrivals this spring, Manager Morse closed the dikes at Montezuma for the nesting season, except to conducted tours. A European Widgeon was spotted there on May 17 (D. McIlroy and census groups). All dabbling ducks were down in numbers at the refuge while divers were represented by more Scaup than usual, with a scattering of Ring-necks on May 5. There were few reports of Green-winged Teal in the region, and there were no broods of Wood Ducks by the end of the period at Sapsucker Woods, but seven females have fed evenings. There were six pairs of Ring-necks on the Hornell Reservoir Basin on Apr 17, a good count, while only one was seen at Elmira, that on Apr 26. A small flock of Lesser Scaup (about 20) flew back and forth from Sapsucker Woods pond and a neighboring pond for a week or ten days in early and mid May. Six males and one female Bufflehead were at Sapsucker Woods pond on Apr 6, and a late report for this species is May 27, at Smith's Pond west of Avoca. Both White-winged and Common Scoters were seen on Seneca on May 17 (J. Taylor), and there is a single report of a White-winged on the west side of Cayuga on Apr 23 (K. Fudge).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures were at Montezuma from Apr 5 on, but nesting hawks were down in numbers there. No Goshawks were reported, and there were few Cooper's and Sharp-shins. Red-tailed Hawks again attempted unsuccessfully to nest in Sapsucker Woods, where two pairs of Red-shoulders held forth, but the latter, though present, have not been found incubating this year. No Broad-winged Hawk migration was noted, but one was over Jacksonville in late April (Graham). The eagles have appeared to be incubating for some time, but they have evidently had their third nest failure in a row. Ospreys were seen less frequently this year — they were absent at Etna and along the Cohocton River at Avoca and were seen only rarely at the head of Cayuga. All reports mentioned a scarcity of hawks, most stressing the few Sparrow Hawks around, but I saw my usual two pairs daily in the five mile stretch home from the Laboratory.

Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasants were still low in numbers. Rails, Coots, and Gallinules were in normal numbers at Montezuma, scarce at Keuka (where no Virginia Rails had been spotted). The Killdeer again nested on the roof of one of the Veterinary College buildings at Cornell. Two Ruddy Turnstones were at Montezuma on May 17. These are irregular in spring migration. The American Woodcock seemed unusually abundant in the Ithaca area this spring — one short stretch of road north of the County Airport produced six singing males each evening. Upland Plovers returned to the field east of Dryden where they have been found for some years. None appeared at Keuka this year, but one, behaving as if nesting, was seen at Big Flats pond west of Elmira on May 23, a new station. Yellowlegs were absent at Keuka this year and scarce at Elmira. Pectoral Sandpipers, a new shore-bird for Sapsucker Woods, appeared shortly after the pond level was lowered because of a dike break. There were three on Apr 8. Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** were found in a small marshy pond near the railway tracks east of Wilseyville on May 24 by Dave West. Insofar as I can determine, this is a first spring record for the Cayuga Basin region.

A first record of the Bonaparte's Gull for the Avoca area is that of one on Apr 30 at Smith's Pond, west of the village. The species was quite scarce at Elmira this spring, was migrating at Montezuma on Apr 7-9, and nine were seen there on May 17. Morse reported fewer than usual Black Terns at Montezuma this spring. Both Cuckoos seemed to be present in normal numbers around Ithaca, in better numbers at Geneva, but no Yellow-bills were reported at Avoca, and the first one "in years" was caught in a garage at Hornell (Grosbeck).

Screech Owls, nesting as they have for some years at the North Hornell Grade School, brought off five young but lost one to a dog. The Barred Owl nested in Sapsucker Woods again. A Long-eared Owl was found dead near Welles farm at Elmira (not often reported there), and seven Short-eared Owls and later 14 more were seen flying low over the Elmira golf course in the early evening of May 1.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** This spring brought more reports of whip-poor-wills than in most years. One was heard May 22 on the Bardeen farm at Burdett for the first time since 1945. Elmira had one on May 1, and I had two reports for Ithaca during the third week in May. A very early Nighthawk was seen and heard on Apr 19 at Elmira (C. Fudge). Others did not appear until two weeks later. An early Hummingbird visited K. Fudge's tulip tree the last few days in April. Mine appeared in Etna on May 11, on schedule, but in late May the species was less in evidence at my feeders than it usually has been.

Yellow-shafted Flickers seemed to be in good numbers throughout the region. With the continuing uncertain status of the Red-headed Woodpecker in this area, it seems worthwhile to list the ones recorded: five found by the Eaton Bird Club on May 17, five by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society on May 16, one which is termed the first in many years at the home of Mrs. Claude Pierce at Rock Stream, and another on Warren Road close to Forest Home, Ithaca, on May 3 (R. Little). While no Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen at Avoca the Ithaca area had more of them reported than in some years, especially on the weekend of Apr 11-13. However, these birds did not appear to be nesting at Sapsucker Woods.

With the possible exception of the Traill's, all flycatchers (especially Phoebes and Wood Pewees) continued to be scarce. There were no reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the area all spring. Barn Swallows were scarce at Keuka, and I was struck by the absence of Barn and Tree Swallows in Etna, although all but one of the boxes at Sapsucker Woods pond had a pair of Tree Swallows. The Purple Martin colony at Sapsucker Woods has doubled this year, but the one at Stewart Park was much reduced. Martins were also on the increase at Hornell, Arkport, and Almond, where more houses keep going up for them.

Crows seemed very numerous and even bolder. There were no new stations for Tufted Titmice. Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost non-existent in migration. House Wrens continued scarce at most reporting points, but at Watkins Glen they were somewhat more numerous than last year. The only Winter Wren report around Ithaca was of one at Sapsucker Woods on Apr 15 (H. O'Leary), but three were noted at Avoca on Apr 25 and 29. The pair of Carolina Wrens at Watkins Glen entrance brought off young in mid-May. The Mockingbird first reported Jun 14, 1958, at Mrs. Larzelere's home in Esperanza was still there. One also appeared at Kopps' feeder (Reading Center) on May 20, and another was at Harris Hill on May 8. Brown Thrashers were up in numbers around Ithaca, also at Avoca, and reported as 'relatively numerous' at Keuka (Guthrie).

Robins everywhere seemed to have recovered somewhat in numbers over the marked scarcity of last spring. Their nesting was somewhat retarded by the cold weather, but successful broods of three and four were noted in many places. The Thrushes were still considerably below normal in numbers — the absence of Veery song in Stewart Park and Sapsucker Woods this spring was marked and distressing. There were only one or two reports of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and no Hermit Thrushes were seen in Sapsucker Woods. While the Bluebird was still definitely a 'disaster species,' Jim Hartshorne in his studies has found about a 30% increase over last year in a comparable area. They were also in slightly better numbers at Elmira, but still scarce at Watkins Glen and Geneva. Three were seen in Avoca this year, where only one was found last year (Carter).

Golden-crowned Kinglet migration was noted on Apr 12 by Gebhart but Ruby-crowns were not numerous anywhere at any time. A most encouraging increase is

noted in numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, especially in regard to nesting records. Mrs. Whitaker found them in four areas near Keuka, nest-building in one; Mrs. Carter watched a pair building in 12-mile Creek Valley northeast of Avoca, for the first record there; at Miller's pond, near Elmira, they were seen using strands from a tent-caterpillar web to build on May 5, and another pair was present at the Smith's at Wellsburg. A nest at Watkins Glen was broken up. Several pairs were found in Stewart Park, and a nest there was broken up in mid-May.

Loggerhead Shrikes were unreported. The Northern Shrike remained at Swanson's, south of Ithaca, through Apr 12.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A White-eyed Vireo was found by Paris Trail near Geneva on May 17. In the last ten years there have been only two other reports of this species from the region: both from Elmira, in 1954 and 1956. Almost no Solitary Vireos were noted in migration, nor have any residents been reported, and Philadelphia again were unrecorded in migration. One wonders if the warbler waves of a few years ago are a thing of the past, or if we continue to overlook them because of spotty field work. All areas, however, called it a poor migration, but reports varied from only six species noted at Hornell to 28 species at Keuka, but in small numbers. However, as I sort through the reports that have come to me, I find it difficult to see a pattern — species scarce in one area were in usual numbers in another. Black and Whites were generally scarce. Mrs. York had two pairs of Worm-eating Warblers on her hillside near Elmira this year. Blue-winged and Golden-winged were both found in Guyanoga Valley near Branchport, and a new station for Blue-winged was on the side of Mt. Zoar, near Elmira (K. Fudge) May 13 and 16. One of the two Ellis Hollow locations for Golden-winged and Blue-winged reported that they arrived on schedule, but did not stay; they were present at the other station (a mile to the west). Three Brewster's Warblers were found in the Ithaca area; one on Bald Hill Road on May 16 (Thorp, McIlroy), one on the south side of Ellis Hollow on May 21 (Johnson), and one on Mt. Pleasant Road just east of Turkey Hill Road on May 27 and 29 (McIlroy, Hoyt). Tennessees were numerous at Watkins Glen; late (May 16) and scarce at Ithaca. Nashvilles were scarce at Avoca, in normal numbers at Ithaca. Cape Mays were conspicuous in Etna on May 11 but were noted as scarce at Avoca. Myrtles were scarce everywhere. Ceruleans were up slightly in numbers around Ithaca — several pairs were nesting in Stewart Park this year. Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than in most years except at Avoca. I was most struck by the scarcity of Black-polls this year. Some years they are heard in every tree, for a week or ten days in mid-May. This year I heard almost none. However, at Watkins Glen they appeared to be numerous! A Warbler that has been unreported for some years is the **Prairie**. Six singing males were found by Paul Kelsey on Connecticut Hill on May 6 and three of them were still there on May 18 (Scheider, Kelsey). Loren Ward noted that there were no Ovenbirds at Geneva, but they were in usual numbers in Ithaca and Avoca. Mourning Warblers were conspicuous in 12-mile Valley near Avoca, where Mrs. Carter found eight in one 3-hour trip. The Hooded Warbler was found this year by the Elmira census group, and was seen by Spiker on May 11 at Esperanza, the third record for Keuka area in ten years. Wilson's seems to be noted regularly now on migration, whereas ten or more years ago it was usually missed. Canada Warblers were markedly scarce in Sapsucker Woods this year: five singing males as opposed to nine in 1958. Redstarts were in normal numbers at Watkins Glen and Avoca, but were scarce around Ithaca, where none seemed to be nesting in Sapsucker Woods, and Penny Ficken has found fewer nesting pairs in Stewart Park this year than in 1958 or 1957 (12 in 1959 as opposed to 19 in 1958 and 18 in 1957).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** With the exception of migrating Rusty Blackbirds, which were not seen in great numbers, all Icterids have taken a big jump in numbers this year. Bobolinks were in normal numbers around Ithaca, but were reported as "everywhere" at Avoca, unusually numerous at Keuka, and increasing steadily at Watkins Glen. Meadowlarks were abundant. But the really huge increase is in Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds, which were swarming over feeding stations. The complaint everywhere is that Grackles have driven the more desirable birds from feeders and yards. It has been suggested that these hardier birds have filled niches left by the hard-hit species of last year. Grackles' depredations on the nests of other birds have been widely noted too, and they seem successful in any situation — deepest woods



to dry hilltops. At Sapsucker Woods they have become efficient waders and seem to have no hesitation over dipping into water four or five inches deep after the corn scattered for ducks.

Scarlet Tanagers were normal in numbers, abundant at Keuka. Cardinals continued to increase at Avoca, and were reported as having returned to the Hornell Reservoir after an absence (Grosbeck adds parenthetically that there has been no roadside spraying there for the last two years). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed an increase in the more western parts of the region, but were down a little at Ithaca, and the same holds true for Indigo Buntings. We are always receiving reports of **Blue Grosbeaks**, which usually prove to be Indigo Buntings. One report, however, seems worth presenting, especially in view of the fact that positive records have been made this spring in neighboring regions. On May 16 the Brimmers of Elmira saw two males feeding with four Rose-breasts on Wyncoop Creek Road. They had opportunity for careful study of size, bill shape, and had seen, only a day or two previous, a changing male Indigo Bunting, for comparison. Evening Grosbeaks left the region by the end of April, except for a few scattered reports from Hornell and vicinity. This was two weeks earlier than last year. Purple Finches seemed up in numbers — both as migrants and residents. A Red Crossbill was seen by Mr. and Mrs. W. Thompson on the County House Road, west of Penn Yan, on May 16, the third record for this area (previously in 1950 and 1956).

Grasshopper Sparrows continued scarce in the eastern part of the region, while they increase in the western part. Juncos were not numerous in migration. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, second record for the Finger Lakes (first one was collected at Ithaca in April, 1935), was found in the Cayuga Heights section of Ithaca on May 10 by D. McIlroy moved the next day to a lot a few blocks to the southwest, and could be seen and heard in that lot at any hour of the day through the end of the period. Its song was recorded by P. P. Kellogg. The bird was constantly heckled by Chipping Sparrows, and sometimes by Song Sparrows too. White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were evidently very spotty — both were scarce, arriving late and leaving early, at Avoca, Keuka, Hornell, and Ithaca, but in better numbers at Elmira. White-throats were in normal numbers at Burdett. Fox Sparrows were more numerous in Sapsucker Woods during migration than I have ever known them to be — this was especially marked on Apr 7. Song Sparrows were down in numbers.

*Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca*

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April weather averaged very close to normal with respect to both temperature and precipitation. On only nine days, the last of which was Apr 22, did the temperature go to 32 degrees or lower. May averaged a little warmer and drier than normal. May 20, when the temperature reached 90 degrees, was only one of several very warm days but the cool spell around May 15 partially compensated for them in the average.

The waterfowl migration, although nothing in comparison with the norm in other regions with large bodies of water, was of more than usual interest. Several species were added to our rather young regional list, the most spectacular being the Common Teal at Greene Apr 4. Better coverage in the Oneonta area than in past years accounted for part of the added interest but the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam produced several good records, too. Outside of a few surprisingly early arrival dates the land birds produced few surprises, but several of the species that were hardest hit last year, such as the Phoebe and House Wren, staged an encouraging, if not complete, recovery. The return of Carolina Wrens to the Triple Cities area was also welcome.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Common Loon landed on a small pond near Homer Apr 6 (Wilson) and didn't have enough room to take off again. It was eventually captured and released in nearby Goodale Lake. One at Oxford Apr 11 (Whites) and another at Petonia Lake in southern Chenango County May 4 to 16 (Saunders) were the only ones recorded in the region, but one was at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania Apr 29 (N. Washburn). Three Red-necked Grebes, the first reported from the Triple Cities area in eight years, were at St. John's Pond, north of Johnson City Apr 25 (Sheffields). There were a number of Horned Grebes reported from Whitney Point, Norwich and Unadilla. The last ones were two at Norwich May 3 (Whites). Pied-billed Grebes arrived Apr 4 at Whitney Point (Sheffields). Seven Double-crested Cormorants found at Whitney Point Apr 11 (M. Sheffield) were the first recorded from the region since records were started in 1952. Three of them were still there the next day when several others confirmed the identification. Green Herons were at both Boland's Marsh, north of Binghamton, (Sheffields) and Sherburne (Whites) Apr 26. No Black-crowned Night Heron reports. Our first American Bittern was at Bainbridge Apr 9 (E. J. Smith).

The Mute Swan that appeared at Goodale Lake near Homer May 9 and remained several days was apparently one of several escapees from a local game farm (Gustafson). A whistling Swan at Whitney Point Dam Apr 12 (M. Sheffield) was the only one reported. Thirty Canada Geese flying over Choconut Center May 9 (Sheffields) were the last ones recorded. The fairly heavy flights that started in late March continued all through April with two noticeable peaks, one Apr 8 and another Apr 25. Pintails were at Whitney Point as late as Apr 25 (Sheffields). On Apr 4 Mr. Barlett of Greene reported by phone that a Common Teal was in a flooded corn field with a flock of American Widgeons and Green-winged Teal just north of the village. By the time other observers reached the spot later the same day all the ducks were gone, but Mr. Bartlett has had previous experience with the species, having hunted them in Europe while in the service. The bird was observed through a spotting scope. There were no more Green-winged Teal reported at Whitney Point after Apr 26, but on May 4 a pair was found on a beaver pond on state land near Newark Valley (H. Marsi, Misner). Blue-winged Teal were at Greene as late as May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) and American Widgeons, fairly numerous this spring, were at Whitney Point as late as Apr 19 (Sheffields). Wood Ducks have not been especially common.

Redheads were found at Whitney Point Dam Apr 12 and 16, but were otherwise unreported. Ring-necked Ducks were fairly plentiful at Whitney Point until Apr 19. The only later report was of one at the reservoir near Oneonta May 24 (New). A small flock of four or more Canvasbacks was at Whitney Point Apr 11 and 12 (M. Sheffield) but there were no more reported. Both species of Scaup were reported fairly often during April, but it was the Lessers that provided the better show when a flock of over 200 was found at Whitney Point Dam Apr 11 (M. Sheffield). That was the largest concentration of any species of diving duck reported in Broome County since 1952. Better than 50 of them were still there Apr 14. Two Lesser Scaup were still on the reservoir near Oneonta May 24 (New). Only late stragglers of the Common Goldeneye were reported the last Apr 25 on Mead's Pond at Norwich (Whites). Buffleheads were at Whitney Point in small numbers Apr 11 through 16, at Oneonta Apr 16 (New) and Norwich Apr 17 (Whites). One Oldsquaw in the period, the second of the year, at Norwich Apr 19 (Whites). Seven White-winged Scoters, unheard of in the region in recent years, were at the Oneonta reservoir May 24 (New). Only two Hooded Merganser reports after the fairly heavy March migration one at Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) and at Greene May 17 (Barlett, Maxon). Common Mergansers were last seen at both Unadilla (Wisner) and Whitney Point (Sheffields) Apr 12. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported on the Oneonta reservoir Apr 16 (New).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures appeared at Deposit Apr 5 (S. Wilson). Seven were counted at Hancock May 11 (S. Wilson). The only other one reported was at Bainbridge Apr 24 (E. J. Smith). Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in the usual rather small numbers but Broad-winged Hawks were decidedly scarce, one at Sherburne May 10 (Whites) and one at IBM Glen near Endwell (Washburns, et. al.) being the complete story. Thirteen Ospreys, slightly better than average, were reported from Apr 9 (Whites) to May 3 (Stratton), both at Oxford. One lone Bobwhite, an apparent survivor or progeny of last year's release, appeared at

Choconut Center, just three days before a new lot was released. On a county wide basis the Bobwhite release program is having very little in the way of enduring success, at least so far.

A Virginia Rail at Sherburne May 24 (Whites), a Virginia Rail and a Sora at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) and two American Coot at Whitney Point Apr 11 and 12 (Sheffields, Whites, Washburns) were the only Rallidae reported. Killdeer have been noticeably down in numbers all spring. A Common Snipe was at Whitney Point Apr 14 (M. Sheffield). On May 17 two more were reported, one at Sherburne (Whites) and one at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon). On May 17 Upland Plover were found breeding at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon), but none so far at Guilford and German. Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Whitney Point Apr 19 (Marsis). A Solitary Sandpiper was at the Newark Valley state land May 4 (H. Marsi, Misner) and two more were reported May 17, one at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon) and the other near Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). Two Greater Yellowlegs were seen from May 1 to 5 in a flooded field near Johnson City (Bemont), but there were no others reported. A Least Sandpiper at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) was the only one recorded. There was one very late Herring Gull near Binghamton May 17 (H. Marsi, Misner). Only one Ring-billed Gull report during the period — at Oneonta Apr 16 (New). There were several reports of Bonaparte's Gulls, the first at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields, Washburns) and the last at the Oneonta reservoir Apr 16 (New). The top count was eight at Whitney Point Apr 12 (M. Sheffield). Two Common Terns were at Goodale Lake near Homer May 10 (Gustafson) and three Black Terns were at the Oneonta reservoir May 24 (New). The first Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported May 17 in the Binghamton area (TCNC) and they have been scarce but Black-billed Cuckoos have been quite numerous after arriving May 9 at Ely Park in Binghamton (M. Sheffield) and at Maine (Beaver). Still no Screech Owl reports in 1959. On Apr 11 a late Snowy Owl was seen being mobbed by Crows on Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (Howard) and the evening of the same day a Long-eared Owl was heard calling in Endwell (Bemont).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The evening of May 3 a Whip-poor-will was heard calling on the south edge of Binghamton (Tate, Lewis) and at Bainbridge one was heard from May 20 to the end of the period (E. J. Smith). An early Chimney Swift was at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner) and another was at Maine Apr 25 (Beaver) but they did not arrive in numbers until May 1. An especially early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Homer May 1 (N. Gustafson), but the next one wasn't seen until May 12 at Binghamton (J. Minehan). Flickers became numerous about Apr 2. The only Red-headed Woodpecker reported during the period was at Oneonta May 12 (New). Sapsuckers appeared at two different places in the Binghamton area Apr 8 (Dechen, Larkin). They were quite numerous until Apr 25 and on Apr 11 there was a rather spectacular concentration of 75 or more in one wood lot on Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (Howard). Kingbirds arrived at Binghamton (Sheffields) and Oxford (Stratton) May 7. Phoebes although not back to their normal numbers were decidedly more common than last year. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found near Binghamton May 17 (Sheffields) and at Sherburne May 30 (Whites). A Traill's Flycatcher was at Endwell May 17 (Bemont). This species seems to become more common in the Triple Cities area each year. The only other area where they were found was Sherburne (Whites). Our first Least Flycatcher was at Maine May 2 (Beaver) and our first Wood Pewee was at Binghamton May 17 (Bemont). No Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported. Tree Swallows became common around Apr 10. Other Swallow firsts: Bank and Rough-winged — Apr 23 at Unadilla (Wisner), Barn — Apr 16 at Whitney Point (H. Marsi, Linberry, Misner), Cliff — May 3 at Norwich (Whites) and Purple Martins Apr 15 at Homer (Gustafson).

At Unadilla White-breasted Nuthatches seemed uncommon (Wisner). There were no April records of Red-breasted Nuthatches and only a few May records. A Brown Creeper was still at the state land near Newark Valley May 17 (M. Sheffield). House Wrens arrived at both Deposit (S. Wilson) and Newark Valley (Dean) Apr 19. They seem to have partially recovered from their low of last year. One at Binghamton Apr 14 (H. Marsi, Doren) was the last of four April Winter Wren reports. Two Carolina Wrens, the first in over a year, were reported; one Apr 9 at the state land near Newark Valley (H. Marsi, M. Hannan) and one at Willow Point across the river from Johnson City Apr 18 (Bemont). A Long-billed Marsh

Wren was at Truxton, in Cortland County, Apr 15 (Wilson). At Sherburne, in appropriate habitat, they were quite common but around the Triple Cities, where they used to be common, they have almost disappeared because of habitat destruction. Catbirds arrived at Binghamton May 1 (H. Marsi) and were common within a day or so throughout the region. Brown Thrashers arrived May 19. A Wood Thrush singing at Endwell May 30 (Bemont) was our first. Three Hermit Thrush records Apr 20 to 24 are probably of migrants but one at Newark Valley May 25 (Dean) and one at Sherburne May 30 are probably breeders. Our first Swainson's Thrushes were two just south of Binghamton May 3 (H. Marsi) and our last were at Deposit May 20 (S. Wilson). One, and perhaps two, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found at IBM Glen May 23 (M. Sheffield, Misner). A Veery at Ely Park in Binghamton May 3 (Hannans) was our first. Bluebirds were reported to be scarce in most areas but at Choconut Center there was some evidence of recovery from last year's low. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Apr 11 at Unadilla (Wisner) is the first known record from that area. There was one at Deposit Apr 19 (S. Wilson) and quite a few records from the Triple Cities area starting Apr 13 (Misner). Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were last reported May 2 and May 6, respectively. The latter species was quite common. Six water Pipits were seen at Norwich May 6 (Whites) but no more were reported. A Northern Shrike at the Broome County Airport Apr 14 (Beaver) was the last of three April records.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Two reports of Yellow-throated Vireos May 9 around Binghamton were our earliest. A Solitary Vireo was at Cortland Apr 19 (S. Wilson) and another was at Oneonta Apr 23 (New). One was still at Binghamton May 17 (TCNC). Red-eyed Vireos were at Newark Valley (Dean) and Deposit (S. Wilson) May 5 and were their usual ubiquitous selves throughout the region. A Philadelphia Vireo at Newark Valley May 31 (Dean) was the only one reported. A Warbling Vireo at Homer May 2 (Clemens) was our earliest.

A Black and White Warbler at Cortland Apr 23 (Wilson) was our first, but not until Apr 30 were they common. On May 11 a Worm-eating Warbler was picked up after bumping into a window of a Binghamton school (R. Hock). It was banded (H. Marsi) and released in apparently good condition two days later. Another was found singing on South Mountain in Binghamton May 17 (H. Marsi, Misner). The number of different spots around Binghamton that this species has been recorded in in different years suggests that it is much more common than the few records per year would indicate. An early Golden-winged Warbler was at Binghamton May 2 (Sheffields), but there were no more reported until May 14. On May 3 a Blue-winged Warbler came back to the same station near Binghamton that has been occupied for the past four years (H. Marsi). A Brewster's Warbler was near Choconut Center May 7 (Sheffields). An Orange-crowned Warbler was found at Binghamton May 14 (M. Sheffield) and another was at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon). The only Parula Warbler reported was at Oneonta May 17 (New). A very early Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Cortland Apr 23 (Wilson). The first Bay-breasted Warbler was at Binghamton May 11 (Bemont) and the last at Cortland May 18 (Wilson). In the Binghamton area they were very common. A very early Blackpoll Warbler was at Unadilla May 12 (Wisner). The next one was reported May 17. They were heard from then to the end of the period but never in too good numbers. A Yellow Palm Warbler was at Oneonta Apr 15 (New) and another was at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner). Western Palms were at Bainbridge May 3 (E. J. Smith), Norwich May 4 (Whites), Maine May 12 (Beaver) and Binghamton May 17. A Mourning Warbler was at Binghamton May 17 (Bemont) and another was at Norwich May 31 (Whites). Other Warbler first dates: Tennessee — May 8 at Deposit (S. Wilson), Nashville — May 2 at Binghamton and Deposit, Yellow Apr 30 at Binghamton (N. Washburn, Linaberry), Magnolia — May 5 at Deposit, Cape May — May 6 at Binghamton (Bemont), Black-throated Blue — May 4 at Deposit, Myrtle — Apr 13 at Deposit, Black-throated Green — Apr 30 at Deposit, Blackburnian — May 5 at Deposit and Binghamton (H. Marsi), Ovenbird — May 3 at Endwell (TCNC), Northern Waterthrush — Apr 28 at Norwich (Whites), Louisiana Waterthrush — Apr 15 at Deposit, Yellowthroat — May 3 at Binghamton, Unadilla and Norwich, Yellow-breasted Chat — May 17 at Binghamton (TCNC), Wilson's — May 9 at Norwich (Whites), Canada — May 7 at Deposit and Redstart — May 1 at Binghamton (H. Marsi).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** An early Bobolink was at Cortland Apr 28 (Mulholland) and another was at Deposit Apr 30 (S. Wilson). Baltimore Orioles arrived at the Triple Cities May 3 (TCNC) and were quickly abundant. A few Rusty Blackbirds were reported; the first Apr 4 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and the last May 9 near Endwell (TCNC). Cowbirds were particularly abundant at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and around the Triple Cities. An early Scarlet Tanager was at Cortland May 1 (Wilson), a week earlier than in other areas. They were quite numerous at Unadilla and at Deposit they were particularly numerous May 16 and 17. They were seen along streams and roads and quite a few were killed by cars (S. Wilson).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived at Choconut Center May 6 (Sheffields) and Indigo Buntings arrived at Unadilla May 5 (Wisner). Evening Grosbeaks thinned out rapidly as the end of April approached and after May 7, when one was at Endicott (Loomis), there were none. Several observers reported Purple Finches to be very plentiful. A flock of a dozen or so Pine Grosbeaks was still at Cortland Apr 13 (Balzano). There were many Pine Siskin reports during April and a few during May. At Cranberry Lake, about five miles south of the Pennsylvania border, a pair was seen building a nest (Washburns) and at Deposit, where they were still present at the end of the period, a pair was seen carrying nesting material. At Oneonta they were thought to be still present at the end of the period, too. Four Red Crossbills were at Maine May 9 (Beaver) and another flock was near Oxford May 11 (Stratton). There were no more White-winged Crossbills at Oneonta after Apr 21 (New) but at the Brookfield-Sherburne state land a flock of over 100 was still present May 30 (Whites). Rufous-sided Towhees were seen regularly in the Triple Cities area after Apr 9. Slate-colored Juncos were gone after May 4 except for a pair nesting at Cranberry Lake (Washburns) and the last Tree Sparrows were at Choconut Center Apr 29 (Sheffields). White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Newark Valley May 2 (Dean) and were gone after May 17. Only at Choconut Center were they at all common. The first White-throated Sparrows were at Willow Point Apr 4 (Bemont). A few were around until May 17 but most of them were gone after May 10. Fox Sparrows were reported frequently until the last one Apr 23 at Choconut Center (Sheffields). One Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at Deposit May 11 (S. Wilson) and on May 17 a total of four was seen at Greene and around Binghamton. This is the first year that sight records outnumbered banding records. Other Sparrow first dates; Savannah — Apr 12 at Whitney Point (M. Sheffield), Grasshopper — May 8 at Choconut Center (Sheffields), Henslow's — Apr 21 near Binghamton (Sheffields), Vesper — Apr 2 at Deposit (S. Wilson), Chipping — Apr 8 at Cortland (Wilson) and Swamp — Apr 5 at Whitney Point (Sheffields).

710 University Avenue, Endwell

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Early April suffered from residual March snow and cold; even worse was the inheritance of ice that remained, e.g. Oneida Lake jammed with slush ice until April 15, but some species still arrived surprisingly early. The middle two weeks of April were cold and fair with persistent west to north-west winds; these weather conditions probably explain the slow trickling of migrants thru that period. The last six days of April with warm weather and southwest winds brought wonderful lakeside flights (vide hawks, finches) and scattered new arrivals across the region with delightful uniformity of dates. And though April was dry, May was even drier with clear, cool weather thru the first nine days; then a series of cool days, both cloudy and clear, produced warbler waves on May 10, 13, and 17 culminating in a burst of warblers on May 20. The remainder of May was warm, windless, without waves but with rapid foliation. By Memorial Day summer was fully launched, bird, tree, flower, and weather-wise.

Noteworthy for this spring were 1) the poor early shorebird flight,

counter-balanced by a splendid late shorebird migration, both inland and along Lake Ontario; 2) below average counts for early warblers (Black-throated Green, Nashville, Northern Waterthrush) followed by a frank glut of later ones (Cape May, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll; 3) a short, rapid diving duck migration, held up late by ice formation, pushed on early by late April wind and warmth; this was, in turn, compensated for by large numbers of delaying dabblers. Other positives were large but late swallow flights, good counts of flycatchers, lakeshore landbird flights (up to late May), and a fair Brant movement. The few negatives were low counts on certain migrants (Water Pipit, Common Tern, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Nuthatch) and very little migrational singing by thrushes. However, this was no spring to complain; it was a spring to enjoy.

Rarities flourished so well this spring that one was reminded of fall. Outstanding finds included Little Blue Heron, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; a probable Cattle Egret was reported but could not be subsequently confirmed. This burst of rarities has a strong south-central or Mississippi Valley flavor and all but two of the above were reported either on the day of or within a day after strong south or south-west winds.

**Loons — Ducks:** Horned Grebe: high count of 125, Apr 12, Oneida Lake; last noted May 17, Lake Ontario. Common Egret: one on Apr 12, Howland's Island Game Management Area (HIGMA) is very early; five to six birds there regularly since. Little Blue Heron: an adult May 19 at Steven's Pond, five miles east of Phoenix, is both the first spring record and the first adult for the region (Scheider, Propst, Estoff). Cattle Egret: on May 2, a bird described as a "small white heron with a heavy yellow bill" was seen feeding amongst cattle in a pasture along Route 3 five miles north of Port Ontario by Mr. and Mrs. A. Zufelt who identified the bird as a Cattle Egret; checks there over the next two weeks failed to find the bird. American Bittern: counts somewhat higher (six-eight/day) in first two weeks of May; a full-fledged courtship performance noted May 16 (to be reported in later Field Notes) at Sandy Pond (Paquette, Wayland-Smith).

Whistling Swan: only reports are a single bird, Apr 12-20, HIGMA and two immatures, May 3-9, on the Salmon River; this paucity of birds is quite in contrast to the heavy flight noted in western New York. Canada Goose: maximum is 2,000, Apr 12-23, Beaver Lake; however, flocks of 20-300 seen across the region and up to 180 were reported at Sandy Pond where they are rarely seen in numbers in spring. Brant: late spring movement with 160, May 24, Sagamore Lake, Herkimer Co. and 22, May 28, Sandy Pond Inlet (Brown).

Mallard, Black Duck, and Pintail: spring counts still in the thousands as of the third week of April; broods of both Blacks and Mallards were afloat by May 19. Gadwall: a pair in vigorous courtship May 19 on Lake Ontario near Texas suggests perhaps later breeding on adjacent farm ponds or on the newly flooded Butterfly Marsh, west of Texas. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal: April counts never above 100/day, surprising in view of the good counts of other non-wintering dabblers (American Widgeon, Pintail, Shoveler). Green-winged Teal appeared to be breeding again at HIGMA and at Steven's Pond.

Diving Ducks: A Lake Oneida (Brewerton-to-Bridgeport) Count on Apr 12 revealed 4,000 Canvasbacks, 2,500 Greater Scaup, 2,000 Lesser Scaup, 400 Ring-necked Ducks but only 40 Redheads in the many open leads between the slush ice (3/4 ice, 1/4 open water); these numbers dropped sharply by Apr 24 and May figures were dozens only. Ruddy Duck: very scarce this spring; a single male, Apr 12, HIGMA, is the only one noted.

**Hawks — Owls:** Spring hawk flights (Apr 5, 16, 18, 24, 25, 28, and 30) at Derby Hill along Lake Ontario hit an all-time peak of 5,221 on Apr 25; the count

for that day was two Turkey Vultures, 375 Sharp-shinned, nine Cooper's 73 Red-tailed, 12 Red-shouldered, 4,660 Broad-winged (2,500 in the last hour — 4-5 P.M.), 19 Rough-legged, one Bald Eagle, 29 Marsh Hawk (Harrier), 17 Osprey, one Pigeon Hawk (Merlin), and 14 Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel). Goshawk: four reported thru Apr from Derby Hill with two there on Apr 18. Red-tailed Hawk: B. P. Burtt banded 20 young out of 13 nests, somewhat below the usual two birds per nest of the previous five years. Rough-legged Hawk: a light-phase bird, May 16, Port Ontario (Rusk) is a record departure date.

Virginia Rail: one on Apr 10, Clay Swamp, is quite early. Common Gallinule: arrival date is Apr 23; reported from almost every wet spot in Onondaga and Oswego Co. and several roadside kills were noted.

Early shorebirds (Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper) were frankly scarce with counts all below ten species/day for the first three weeks of April; the rapid fall in flooded areas, the cold weather, and strong west and northwest winds probably contributed to this scarcity. In late April, recently drained pools at HIGMA attracted shorebirds, and this along with the traditional late migration at Sandy Pond made for an exciting May of shorebirding. Spring maxima are: Spotted Sandpiper 28, May 17; Solitary Sandpiper, 9, May 17; Lesser Yellowlegs 12, Apr 26; Pectoral Sandpiper 11, Apr 28; Knot 20, May 24; Dowitcher 30, May 24; Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper) 75, May 24; Ringed Plover 39, May 17; Least Sandpiper 52, May 24. Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings, however, remained scarce items in the Sandy Pond shorebird flight with high tallies of eight and 15, respectively. Dunlin: first noted on Apr 26 (early) at HIGMA.

Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew): 13, a high count anytime, at Sandy Pond Inlet, May 24 (Peterson) were most unusual, as the species had been unrecorded in spring heretofore. Wilson's Phalarope: a pair in superb spring plumage, May 19, at Steven's Pond were also a regional spring first (Scheider). Glaucous Gull: a second year bird, Apr 23, Sandy Pond, is unusual both to time (late) and locality as this was the first "white-winger" seen recently on this rockless strip. Bonaparte's Gull: the spring flight consisted of a single bird seen near Utica on May 3 (Spofford); no other reports, a singular vernal lack. Common Terns arrived Apr 3, ten, at Skaneateles Lake and Caspian Tern on Apr 12, one, at Brewerton; both are record arrival dates.

Both cuckoos appeared rather scarce with first reports May 9 for Black-billed and May 10 for Yellow-billed. Barred Owl: reported May 3 at Tully and May 24 at HIGMA, both new stations for this species.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: first noted at the Cicero Bog breeding area on May 5 (late). Nighthawk: arrivals first noted on May 11, early in view of the cool weather at that point, not generally common until May 22 (late). Flicker: counts of migrant Flickers at Derby Hill, Lake Ontario, on Apr 23 showed them migrating by at ten/minute for two hours (thus 1,200 birds) with a gradual drop to three/minute by noontime. Sapsucker: heavy mid-Apr flight with a peak of 13, Apr 10, Syracuse; no migrants noted after May 3.

Eastern Kingbird: 35/hour seen in a heavy landbird flight along Lake Ontario on May 19, apparently jammed up along the lakeshore by southwest winds much as the hawks are in April. Crested Flycatcher: arrival date is Apr 25, Camilus, a few days early. Yellow-bellied, Traill's (Alder), and Olive-sided Flycatchers: first birds seen on May 15, May 10, and May 10, respectively, the first on time, the last two early; both Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported seven times in May. Traill's were recorded by the dozens, and Least Flycatchers and Wood Pewees were so numerous as to go uncounted.

Swallows dribbled thru the area thru the first two weeks of April with very low counts (up to 300/day) of Tree Swallows: However, the first two weeks of May produced very heavy swallow flights and on May 19 Bank and Barn Swallows were still migrating past Derby Hill by the thousands (5,000 and 4,000, respectively) along with hundreds of Rough-winged Swallows. Barn and Tree Swallows and Purple Martins appeared to have suffered no losses from below-freezing temperatures Apr 12-15. Cliff Swallows were reported Apr 10 but remained in low numbers until May 15 when they were suddenly reported widely (Texas, Baldwinsville, Sandy Pond, Phoenix) in slightly increased figures.

Blue Jay: migrants reported flying north over Selkirk shores State Park May 6, reaching a peak of 275/hour on May 19, Derby Hill. Red-breasted Nuthatch: about

ten April reports, all from Syracuse, and twelve May observations, all but one of single birds. Brown Creeper: excellent spring movement (three to 20/day) with a peak of 25, Apr 18, quite in contrast to the scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches. House Wren: Apr 20 is arrival date; spring numbers much above previous three years. Winter Wren: though reported widely, spring counts were low (never more than three/day) and reported on migration only to May 2. Carolina Wren: singles reported on May 3 at Camillus and on May 9 and 17 at HIGMA are probably spring strays but one can hope these rapidly rebuild the local population, decimated by the last two winters. Catbird: one wintered thru at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse and began singing Apr 24, about a week before migrant Catbirds appeared there; first spring arrival on Apr 18, Selkirk Shores State Park, is early.

Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrush: spring counts low (maxima 25/day) but night flights on May 11, 19 and 21 were heavy. Veery: though arrival date is May 1, numbers did not appear until May 13-15 (late). Bluebird: late April counts and the number of May nestings reported are quite encouraging, especially in view of the dismal March figures. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a single, Apr 18, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. is both a record early date and a new locality record; also reported at Oneida and six individuals reported from Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse from Apr 29 to May 22. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arrival Apr 4 (early); maxima 60/ hour Apr 18; departure date May 17. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arrival date Apr 1, maxima 70/hour Apr 10; departure date May 6. Water Pipit: a very poor spring movement with a peak of 75, Apr 5; departure date is May 24, one, HIGMA (late). Cedar Waxwing: heavy May flight with flocks of 25-30 thru the last three weeks of May. Loggerhead Shrike: no April reports; a pair, May 26, near Verona (Wayland-Smith) were almost certainly breeders.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireo: seen everywhere this spring for it popped up in backyards, city parks, and hedgerows; date range Apr 24 to May 18; a peak of eight on May 6 shows how solitary this vireo is, even in migration. Warbling Vireo: first noted on May 1; peak of 12 on May 17; counts of both this and the Yellow-throated Vireo seem to be above those of the past four years.

Spring warblers created no disappointments this spring. Early warblers such as Black-throated Green and Northern Waterthrush were not seen in large numbers (maxima of nine and six, respectively) but later migrants put on a "spectacular." Quite noticeable was the rapid decline in migrant warblers and the lack of waves after May 24. Of the common migrants, arrival dates, maxima with date, and/or departure dates are as follows — Black-and-white: Apr 30 (late), three; nine, May 17. Tennessee: May 7, two; 51, May 20; May 28, two. Nashville: Apr 30, three; six (very low), May 12-14; May 24 (late), two. Magnolia: May 6 (late), two; 15, May 20; May 23, three. Cape May: May 7 (late), five; 23, May 8; May 23, one female. Black-throated Blue: May 2, one; nine, May 10; May 20, four. Myrtle: Apr 15, 15; 60 (low), May 13; May 21, two. Blackburnian: May 6 (late), one; ten (very low), May 20; May 30, one. Bay-breasted: May 11, three; 40, May 17; May 24 (early departure), two. Blackpoll: May 12, two; 15, May 21; May 30, two. Palm: Apr 30, one; singles only; May 20, one. Mourning: May 7 (early), two; last migrant noted May 24 (early). Wilson's: Apr 30 (very early), one; May 23, four; May 25, one. Canada: May 9, one; one, May 19; May 30, three. In the above summary the short interval between peak and departure indicates how accelerated the later migration was and early departures were the rule, not the exception.

Prothonotary Warbler: first seen at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake, May 9, a trifle early. Worm-eating Warbler: two seen in the woods of the "warbler trap" at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. May 13 (Evans) and one seen at Syracuse May 16 (Freeland) are rare items in this sector any time. Golden-winged Warbler: May 6 is first report; a singing male at Centerville east of Pulaski, May 14, is most likely a new breeding station. Blue-winged Warbler: one seen May 11, 12, and 20 at Oneida (Thurber) would suggest a lingering stray, which will perhaps breed if either other Blue-winged or Golden-winged show up. Brewster's Warbler: one singing male, May 17, Camillus Valley. Orange-crowned Warbler: a record high of three, May 12, with a total of six of these rare spring migrants this year, the last on May 23. Parula Warbler: frankly scarce with maximum count of six, May 6. Yellow Warbler: an estimated 200 on May 9, HIGMA were but prelude to 500 there and at Camillus on May 17. Black-throated Blue Warbler: this spring's counts of seven and nine/day are unusual for



this customarily solitary migrant. Cerulean Warbler: spring maximum at Camillus is 30, May 10; one at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. on May 18 is probably a local overshoot. Yellow-throated Warbler: a single male of this southern species, vigorously singing, observed May 31 at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Rusk, Seaman, Spofford) is the second record in ten years of record compilation. Yellow-breasted Chat: one seen near May 8 at Kenwood (Ackley, Wayland-Smith) where it is a spring irregular. Hooded Warbler: one noted on May 20 near Oneida (Thurber) may indicate a new breeding locale and a report of three singing males May 29 near Marcellus almost certainly does.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: numbers well above last year; up to 80/hour noted in the lakeshore landbird flight on May 19, Derby Hill. Baltimore Oriole: first reported on Apr 30; spring counts high with a peak of 90 on May 17; up to 40/hour noted moving with Blue Jays, Kingbirds, and swallows along Lake Ontario, May 19. Bullock's Oriole: an immature male, well seen and carefully studied, noted May 23 at Holland Patent (Freeland) is a very rare western stray here, probably swung off course by southwest winds over the preceding two days. Rusty Blackbird: maximum is 1000, Apr 23, at Clay Swamp; departure date is May 3 (early).

Cardinal: now established at Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Blue Grosbeak: an adult male found in Oakwood Cemetery Syracuse, May 16 (Freeland) and noted there again on May 23 (Peterson) is a very rare spring southern stray for the state (rare but regular on Long Island in the fall) and a new species for the area. Evening Grosbeak: rapid early April decline with a smattering of records thru to departure date, May 19. Purple Finch: Nodecker describes an early April invasion of this species at Sherrill with 90 banded in a few days; these finches were also reported at Morrisville (Carter) in early Apr and 80 were migrating by Derby Hill, Apr 25; however, though regularly seen at Syracuse, no major movement in either Apr or May was encountered. Pine Siskin: scattered flocks (up to 100) thru late Apr and early May with last dates May 19, one, Derby Hill and May 24, 15, Sagamore Lake, Herkimer Co. White-winged Crossbill: late May showed a spate of records with peak counts of 20, May 24 near Oneida (Jones) and 100 near Hamilton, May 30 (White). Goldfinch: counts of 300, Apr 25 and 200, Apr 28 were forerunners to the many hundreds reported pan-regionally thru May with a migrant peak of 350/hour in the flight of May 19.

With the exception of the Slate-colored Junco (departure date May 9) and Vesper Sparrow, migrating sparrows showed up on time and in excellent numbers, especially Chipping, Fox, and Savannah, and even that sparrow shadow, the Lincoln's was seen (nine individuals between May 9 and 24. Henslow's Sparrow: not reported until May 2 (late). Tree Sparrow: last observed on Apr 24 near Port Ontario. White-crowned Sparrow: one on Apr 4 near Manlius (Gould) is most likely the one that wintered there; date range for migrants is Apr 30 to May 25 with up to 30/flock. White-throated Sparrow: first migrants noted Apr 4 (early); the usual late Apr swarms tapered very rapidly thru the first ten days of May; last migrant May 24. Fox Sparrow: excellent April flight (up to 23/day) with a rapid drop in the third week of April; departure date May 8 (late). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a single in the short marsh grass near Sandy Pond Inlet May 26 (Peterson) is most unusual and a spring regional first; one wonders if this species might not be regular there but exceedingly difficult to detect and whether this particular one was a member of the prairie population or the James Bay group.

151 *Seventh North Street, Syracuse*

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The reports for April and May were few, brief, and they contained nothing that was unusual, with one or two exceptions. The May 2 to 16 census showed 152 species, 17 of which were not recorded on the census last year. On the other hand, there were 20 species seen last year that were missed on the census this year.

**Loons — Ducks:** The nesting colony of Double-crested Cormorants was reported to be a little larger this year. Ducks seen at Perch River during the census

period included Mallard, Black, American Widgeon, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and all three Mergansers. Scaup were noted as late as May 14. Shovelers appeared to be more numerous than usual this year.

A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Perch River on May 14. Ospreys nested again this year at Yellow Lake. A pair of Lesser Yellowlegs was seen near Watertown on Apr 10, which is early, and the first Spotted Sandpiper was at Perch Lake on Apr 26. A Wilson's Phalarope was reported at Perch Lake Refuge in the first part of May, but details were not given.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** Two or three pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers have been found near Watertown. Other years we have seen only one or two pairs. Also seen near there were Winter Wren Apr 12; Wood Thrush, May 10; and Gray-cheeked Thrush, May 21. Bluebirds continued to be scarce, but we have seen as many as we should expect to see here. Among the birds seen May 10 in Watertown Park were Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Ovenbird. A Blackpoll Warbler appeared at Perch Lake Refuge May 23. The Blakes reported a Blue Grosbeak in their yard May 15. Evening Grosbeaks began to leave feeders in Watertown about the middle of April and they were not replaced by new arrivals as was the case a year ago. Few were seen in May, and none after about May 5. Gordon and Belknap saw a couple of Pine Siskins Apr 1. Cardinals were seen near Watertown during the first half of May. The first Vesper Sparrow was found near Burrville Apr 9, which is early.

173 *Haley St., Watertown*

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

AGNES AMSTUTZ

The spring season was disappointing in many ways. Early in the period the weather was cool, rainy, and windy, and field trips were generally unproductive. With the advent of hot weather the leaves came out rapidly, and again it was hard to find birds. It seems to me that not as many birds migrated through the section as in other years. There was no big warbler wave, nor was there the large flight of White-crowned Sparrows such as we have had in the past. At the time the early duck migrations came through there was little open water.

**Loons — Ducks:** On May 3 the Pied-billed Grebes and Great Blue Herons came in. Tupper Lake seemed to have more loons than usual; these birds do nest on several of the lakes and ponds in this area. Several flights of Canada Geese were noted, with 30 being seen on May 13. About that time many were at Tupper Lake. On Apr 1 three Snow Geese flew by overhead, low enough to be clearly seen.

From Apr 11 to Apr 19 we had present a considerable number of various kinds of waterfowl: Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks (many of which nest here), Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Black Ducks, and Wood Ducks. The Buffleheads were seen as late as May 3.

**Hawks — Shrikes:** Not too many hawks were seen, but most common among those noted were the Marsh Hawk and Osprey. Pigeon Hawks nest in this area, but so far this year none have been observed. The Common Snipe was seen and heard regularly from Apr 11 on and a Virginia Rail was seen and heard in the same marsh on May 30.

On May 2 a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and good numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were observed.

Eastern Phoebe arrived about Apr 18, and Eastern Kingbirds and Crested Flycatchers as well as the Traill's Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher came in about May 1. Only a few Horned Larks were noted. A conspicuous movement of Winter Wrens was noted on May 2 with many of the birds singing, but few could be located the following day.

Robins were present in great numbers by Apr 1. Hermit Thrushes were in evidence by May 2, and there were many Veery reports. Last year we had a nesting report of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but no such report has been yet submitted this year. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on Apr 11.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** The Warbling Vireo was seen on May 2, and a Philadelphia Vireo was noted on May 16. Both the Red-eyed Vireo and Yellow-throated Vireo were observed on May 23.

At no time were many warblers found in one place or in one flock, a contrast to last year. Two Wilson's Warblers on May 18 was an interesting report. No Bay-breasted Warblers were reported to me from the immediate area of Tupper Lake. Most of the warbler records constituted the very common transients and breeders (i. e. Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-throat, Redstart, etc.).

Eastern Meadowlarks arrived about Apr 1. Three pairs of Evening Grosbeaks, apparently nesting in the area, were still coming to bird feeders in the Tupper Lake region at the end of the period. Purple Finches put in a rather conspicuous and noisy appearance about Apr 4, and from that date until the end of May small groups of three to five Red Crossbills were frequently seen. The Crossbills have not been seen for some years as late as this. Goldfinches seemed quite common. From Apr 26 until the end of May we have had huge flights of Pine Siskins. These broke up into small flocks which we met up with here and there, and again they would consolidate — with at least 200 in a flock.

White-throats and Song Sparrows were in by Apr 5. Chipping Sparrows were present in small groups on Apr 26 and Swamp Sparrows were seen about a week later. The migration of White-crowns was disappointing; they were here from May 8 to 18, but only a few were seen at a time.

*Veteran's Administration Hospital, Box 63, Sunmount*

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring months of April and May were generally warm and dry in the capital district. The average temperature each month was about four degrees above normal.

The good waterfowl migration of late March continued on into early April, and this migration provided most of the interest this spring. The flight of small land birds, warblers in particular, was disappointing. There were few days when any waves were noted, and a few species, such as the Blackpoll, were inexplicably scarce. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were rarely reported.

The Schenectady Bird Club had a count of about 148 species on its annual "century run" (held May 16), and the Alan Devoe Bird Club, covering a more confined area, had 126 kinds that day, about a dozen of which were not on the Schenectady total.

The highlights of the period were probably a Lawrence's Warbler, a Prothonotary Warbler, and a Cattle Egret. The Cattle Egret is the second report for this region (if you attended the Federation meeting in Schenectady in May 1957 you will remember the first record).

**Loons — Ducks:** A few Common Loons were noted on May 16 on lakes and reservoirs south of Schenectady (Schenectady Bird Club). Seventeen Horned Grebes were at Scotia on Apr 10 (Hallenbeck), and about ten were at Saratoga Lake on Apr 19 (SBC). One was at Tomhannock Reservoir Apr 12 (Kilcowley), and a very late Horned Grebe was noted at a reservoir near New Salem on May 24 (Stoner, Thomas). Black-crowned Night Herons did not put in an appearance until May 1.

The Cattle Egret reported was seen and photographed near Glen Falls, in the northern part of the region, on Apr 19 by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hart. They were informed that the bird had been present about a week but it was not seen after Apr 19, although attempts were made.

The flight of Canada Geese was quite heavy both in April and May. Many observers reported flocks of geese heading north on Apr 8, and Apr 26 was another good day. A very large group was seen passing over the Guilderland area on May 18 (Van Vorst), and a flock estimated at 700 went north along the Hudson over Castleton on May 25 (Cook). The May flight of Canada Geese last year was better than that of April, and such might well have been the case this year. About 75 Snow Geese were on the Hudson at Castleton on Apr 8 (Alan Devoe Bird Club); these birds had been seen in the area in late March.

There were several reports of ducks not too frequently seen in this area. Three Shovelers along the lower Hudson Apr 11 (Holmes, Eddy, Van Vorst) and one at Meadowdale Marsh Apr 25 (Hallenbeck, Johnston, Linch, Meritt) were the first reported locally since 1954. Three Oldsquaws were reported at two separate localities on Apr 19. Quite a few Redhead reports were submitted but these reports are somewhat tainted in that the Redhead was one of the species released in the area this spring by the New York State Conservation Department.

About 25 Ring-necked Ducks were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Apr 15, and many Scaup of both species were there then (Benton). The Greater Scaup, the less common of the two varieties in the spring, was also reported from the Mohawk River at Niskayuna on Apr 12 (Kaskan). Hooded Mergansers were seen along the lower Hudson on Apr 11 and at Saratoga Lake on Apr 19. Red-breasted Mergansers were at Round Lake Apr 12 (Foote) and at Saratoga Lake Apr 19 (SBC). In all, at least 18 varieties of ducks were reported during the two-month period, a good total for this inland area. Scoters were missed entirely, as they usually are in the spring.

**Hawks — Owls:** The many reports of Turkey Vultures indicates that this species is becoming increasingly common locally during the spring and summer. The lone Bald Eagle seen was an immature at Alcove Reservoir on May 16 (SBC). Other hawk reports were few, and certainly not out of the ordinary.

Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse continued to be relatively scarce in the northern part of the area, and I don't believe more than the usual few Bobwhite were seen, these principally in the southern part of the region. A Turkey seen near Alcove Reservoir on May 16 created some excitement even though it was realized it was one of a group released in that area.

Common Gallinules seemed to be reported in very good numbers, especially along the Mohawk at Niskayuna. A Sora was killed by a cat in downtown Schenectady on Apr 11 and taken to the Schenectady Museum, where a skin was made. A good count of eighteen of these birds was made at Meadowdale May 10 (Sabin). Virginia Rails were recorded on several occasions, but there were no more than three of these birds at a time.

As usual, shorebirds were sparsely reported. Eight Least Sandpipers were at Mohawk View on May 17 (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and other reports included the Greater Yellowlegs, Woodcock, Common Snipe, and Solitary Sandpiper. The Upland Plover was seen in Scotia on May 27 and 28 (Halverson), at West Glenville on May 10 (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and also in the Delmar area (Sabin).

Two Caspian Terns, the first locally in several years, were in the Watervliet Reservoir area on Apr 29 (Benton). Four Black Terns and two Common Terns were seen over the Mohawk River at Niskayuna May 17 (SBC). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in expected numbers during May, but the Black-bill appeared to be a bit on the rare side, except in Columbia County where it was described as more numerous than last year. The Barred Owl was heard at Jenny Lake on May 16 (Bartlett), and a family of Great Horneds was at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). Both the Great Horned and Screech were recorded in Columbia County on May 16 (ADBC). A Screech Owl was present daily in New Concord during April (Radke).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** An early Whip-poor-will was heard in Columbia County on Apr 24, and another was heard in Loudonville, a rather urban area, on May 2 (O'Meara). The first Chimney Swift was an early one in Columbia County on Apr 19 (ADBC). Nighthawks, however, appeared to arrive later than normal.

The mid-April flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was quite heavy, and there was a late individual at Castleton on May 17 (Cook). A nesting Pileated Woodpecker was found in the Alcove Reservoir area on May 17 (Madison). There were reports of four Red-headed Woodpeckers, something virtually unprecedented in this area. Two of these birds first seen near Gallupville on May 16 were still present at month's end and were apparently nesting (Zimmer). Another bird first seen in Scotia on May 19 (Scott) remained for some time in a very restricted area and was seen by many observers. This might indicate a nesting, but only this one bird was noted. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Troy May 10 (Brocow).

The Eastern Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher were both reported in late April from Columbia County. The Traill's Flycatcher was late in arriving. At Meadowdale Marsh where they are usually quite common, they were not seen until May 24 (SBC). Eastern Phoebe seemed more common than last year, but they were still scarce in relation to pre-1958 years. Purple Martins returned to a Burnt Hills colony about Apr 17, and these birds also put in an appearance during April at their well-publicized South Bethlehem colony. All swallows seemed about normal in numbers.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported from Jenny Lake, where it breeds (Bartlett), but other reports were few. A Tufted Titmouse was seen in Nassau in April (fide Fletcher), and another bird was heard in Scotia in late May (Hallenbeck). Carolina Wrens were virtually unrecorded during the period, which seems to confirm a heavy population decrease this past winter. A Short-billed Marsh Wren, a rare bird locally, was seen and heard near Meadowdale on May 16 and was still present a week later (SBC). A Winter Wren was at New Concord on May 7 (Radke).

The first Brown Thrasher was at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). Thrushes generally were poorly represented. Bluebirds were a bit more common than last year, but they were still not up to normal numbers by any means. Wood Thrushes and Veeries were in normal numbers at best, but there were few reports of the Swainson's Thrush and only about three of the Gray-cheeked. A Water Pipit was seen near Vischer Ponds on May 6 (Benton). A few of these birds were at Ghent from Apr 12 to May 6 (Erlenbach). Shrikes were unrecorded.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Vireos were perhaps present in normal numbers, with the first one reported being a Solitary in Columbia County on Apr 30 (ADBC).

There were few good warbler days worthy of the name, but there were several interesting reports nevertheless. Chief among these was a Prothonotary Warbler seen at a small pond at Old Chatham on May 11 (Reilly); the last previous Region 8 report was during that fabulous spring of 1956. The Golden-winged Warbler was reported quite commonly, and there were several reports of the Blue-wing. But in the Mohawk Valley, at least, there were more reports of the Brewster's than of the Blue-wing. At least three Brewster's were seen on the Schenectady Bird Club's century run, and in Columbia County both the Brewster's and Lawrence's were seen nest-building. A male Lawrence's was paired with a female Blue-wing, and a female Brewster's was apparently mated with a male Golden-wing. These birds were seen by several observers of the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

A Worm-eating Warbler was noted on May 16 at Amsterdam (Fitzgerald), and the species was also seen that day and subsequently at Indian Ladder, Thacher Park (where it breeds). The Cerulean Warbler was reported from Schenectady's Central Park on May 16 (SBC) and also on several dates late in the month from Gallupville (Zimmer). Another Cerulean was seen along the Indian Ladder trail on May 19 (Hallenbeck) and again on May 30 (Stone).

Tennessee Warblers were quite commonly reported at several localities on May 17, and May 20, probably the best warbler day of the month, brought in good numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers at Niskayuna (Eddy). A Parula Warbler was in Niskayuna on May 9; this bird is uncommon locally. Reports of Wilson's Warblers were few. This species was seen in Columbia County on May 16 (ADBC), and one was noted at Indian Ladder on May 20 (Benton). There were two reports of the Mourning Warbler. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen on several occasions late in the month at Meadowdale, and one of these birds was recorded near Vischer Ponds on May 6 (Benton). Cape May Warblers were seen in fair numbers, with the first report being of an early bird at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). The Pine Warbler was noted on Apr 25 in Niskayuna (Eddy), but it was missed later in the

spring in the Karner barrens near Albany. A Lone Orange-crowned Warbler was carefully studied on May 10 in the Meadowdale area (Sabin).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Two Orchard Orioles were seen in Schenectady on Apr 22 (Overs), and two were also noted at Livingston on May 28 (Munson). There were several latish Rusty Blackbird reports. A pure albino Cowbird was observed in Thacher Park on May 16 (SBC). Evening Grosbeaks were last noted at Amsterdam on May 2 (Fitzgerald), but two were still at New Concord on May 7 (Radke), and a small group was at Delmar on May 10 (Madison). The departure of these birds was early this year.

A lone Pine Siskin was at Amsterdam May 9 (Fitzgerald). Five Cardinals were seen or heard together in Albany on May 10 (Baker), and there were many other reports of this increasingly common bird. Several Henslow's Sparrows were heard in the Meadowdale area on Apr 25, and this species appeared quite common there subsequently. There appeared to be a moderate May flight of White-crowned Sparrows, and one of these birds which had been present in Amsterdam since Jan 20 was banded in April (Fitzgerald). The West Sand Lake Oregon Junco finally departed on Apr 5, after an extended winter stay (Bardt). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded in Amsterdam May 9 and was present for several days thereafter. Late date for the Fox Sparrow was Apr 19 (Overs), and the Tree Sparrow was last noted at Amsterdam on Apr 26 (Fitzgerald).

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

April was slightly warmer with somewhat less than normal rainfall and with very little snow. The most noticeable weather factor in May was the dryness of the period. The migration was quite normal and mostly unimpressive from the standpoint of spectacular waves. Many observers claimed to be aware of a numerical drop in several of the flights indicating a loss of birds somewhere. In Rockland County most watchers were disappointed in the return of spring migrants there, especially flycatchers, swallows and some shorebirds. Up in Ulster County the picture was less discouraging with most of the usual birds around. Elsewhere the lack of comment on the overall picture leaves us short in telling just how much our Hudson Valley migration was off. The following species account tells us something of the migration trend, particularly the early arrivals and the off numbers of certain others. Prominent flights occurred around Apr 19, May 6 & 7 and around May 10.

**Loons — Ducks:** The Red-necked Grebe continued to attract attention in the lower part of our region, being found as far up as Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co. (Martha Earl). About 25 Double-crested Cormorants flew in at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co. on Apr 18 (Joseph Morlan). A definite nesting record of the wild Mute Swan was made in Rockland Co. with the location of a pair at Congers Lake. Seven young were noted on May 19 (Bob Deed). At the Cross River Reservoir in Westchester Stanley Grierson found a pair of Canada Geese with eight young on May 17. On May 23 a late flock of Canadas were migrating over the Lomontville area in Ulster Co. (Henry Dunbar). Around 500 Brant were seen over Katonah, Westchester on May 18 (S. Grierson) and about the same number on the same day at Highland Falls along the Hudson (Ed Treacy). Over 100 Snow Geese including one Blue Goose were watched by John LeMaire on Apr 5 as they were reforming their flight pattern in an area near Suffern, Rockland Co. The Blue Goose is Rockland's first record.

A pair of American Widgeon were watched at close range on a small beaver pond near Krumbille, Ulster Co. on Apr 25 (F. Hough). After several years of observing ducks on the Ashokan Res. in Ulster Co. Al Feldman finally added the Blue-winged Teal to the list. He saw one male on Apr 15.

**Hawks — Owls:** Little comment was made on the northward movement of hawks, excepting a fairly noticeable movement of Broad-wings during the latter part of April in the Ulster Co. area. Mrs. Geo. Little and Wm. Russell listed 40 Common Snipe on Apr 3 in the Carmel area in Putnam Co. The Spotted Sandpiper was hard to find in Rockland Co. this spring (Bob Deed et al.). The locally rare Bonaparte's Gull was found about the Ashokan Res. on May 1 by Al Feldman and along with this observation Mr. Feldman also saw a lone Black Tern, also uncommon around here. The migration of Cuckoos in the Ulster Co. part of our region was not as poor as we thought it might be. As usual, little was mentioned on the Owl populations. A very early Whip-poor-will was heard at Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 14 by Fred Hough and is our earliest date on record. John Price also heard one near New City, Rockland on Apr 21 which is still early.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** The Phoebe is still commonplace in Ulster Co. but is considered off in many areas in the lower part of the region. Reports received by Mrs. Earl on several Purple Martin colonies in Orange Co. indicate a very poor return this year. Like other species the Martin may have taken a setback. Early House Wrens appeared on Apr 18 in Katonah, Westchester (S. Grierson) and Apr 19 in Lomontville, Ulster (H. Dunbar). Mockingbirds were reported in Rockland (F. Steffens), Putnam & Dutchess (Mrs. G. Little; Wm. Russell) and Ulster (H. & I Dunbar) Counties. The Catbirds seemed to be up in numbers. There were no concrete signs of a severe drop in the numbers of Hermit Thrushes. Of all the birds, the Bluebird seems to show the least numbers during this period of natural (and un-natural) setbacks. Perhaps this is rather normal but most of us would just like to see more of these wonderful birds. The erection of nesting boxes in open places would certainly add to our pleasure and at least replace some of the natural nesting places lost. Both Kinglets were sparse and went through rapidly. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet spent about five days (Apr 20-25) in a solitary tamarack tree and occasionally nearby trees, at Stone Ridge, Ulster Co. (F. H.).

**Vireos — Warblers:** On May 9 near Valley Cottage, Rockland Co. Dr. Marjorie Hopper identified a Philadelphia Vireo making Rockland's first spring record for this elusive bird. An early Black and White Warbler appeared near Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 19 (F. Hough). The Prothonotary Warbler was again reported in Rockland Co. This one was seen on May 7 at Congers by Dr. Hopper. A modern day record for the Cerulean Warbler in Ulster County was made on May 9 by its discovery near John Burrough's Slabside at West Park, by many members of the John Burroughs Natural History Society and John Burroughs Association. At late date more than one Cerulean was reported in the same area. The Warbler migration in general was not spectacular with many species going through rapidly. Observers working on species count ran up fair lists but indicated a sparseness of many.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** An Orchard Oriole appeared at Nauraushaun, Rockland Co. on May 4, an early date (M. Hopper). This species was not seen about the Stone Ridge area in Ulster Co. this year after being there for several years (F. H.). Baltimore Orioles were abundant and appeared as early as Apr 22 at New Paltz, Ulster Co. (Dr. Robt. Pyle). Last Evening Grosbeak was reported at New Paltz on May 17 (Dr. R. P.). Pine Siskins were generally scarce. Towhees arrived early, at Kripplebush and New Paltz, Ulster Co. on Apr 9 (F. H., R. P.).

Savannah Sparrows were in at Orange Co. on Apr 5 (M. Earl) and first appeared at Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 11 (F. Hough). Grasshopper Sparrows seemed a little late unless missed but the Henslow's Sparrow was almost two weeks late at Kripplebush, Ulster and was scarce. The first one was noted on May 10 (F. Hough). Most other sparrows were near normal. Martha Earl had good luck with the White-crowned but elsewhere they were scarce and did not linger. White-throated Sparrows also moved through rather rapidly and did not show any great build-up as sometimes witnessed by observers who are afield during the latter part of April. The Lincoln's Sparrows escaped us altogether. Fox Sparrows as a whole did not linger although Dr. Pyle reported a late one near Mohonk, Ulster Co. on May 1.

Two late March reports of interest not included in the last summary follow: A Raven stayed about Katonah, Westchester for a couple of days at the end of March and was observed by Wm. Russell. It was chased by crows. A Hermit Thrush appeared at New City, Rockland (probably migrant) on Mar 29, a rather early date (Eben Moore).

*Accord 1*

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The late spring was reflected in the tardiness of land birds arriving from the south and even by May 1 no great spring northern movement had been recognized by our observers. On May 2, however, a fair migration came through on western Long Island when 112 species were counted principally from Woodmere to Brooklyn. About a week later, May 10, three groups of Lyman Langdon Audubon Society members covered western Long Island for a total of 114 species.

Scarce again this year were House and Winter Wrens, Phoebe, both kinglets and Brown Creeper, especially in eastern Suffolk County. Dennis Puleston, of Brookhaven, reported a drastic cut in populations. Especially scarce were the above mentioned, Bluebird, Prairie, Black and White, and Yellow Warblers. He saw more Scarlet Tanagers than usual and believes the resident Carolina Wren is staging a comeback from the 1958 low.

Among water birds, Jamaica Bay sanctuary had, in the early half of April, both Common and Snowy Egrets, and on the 18th of the month five Glossy Ibises were seen flying into the marshes and four were seen on May 3. Also one of the best early May lingering flock of ducks, including a dozen or more Bufflehead, were present on the pond, and Lapland Longspurs lingered on a sandy flat into early May.

On the north fork of extreme eastern Long Island at Orient, Roy Latham reported no Bluebirds, Phoebes, Meadowlarks or Northern Horned Larks this spring, but he did have two Indigo Buntings during the week of Apr 10.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loon flight normal with few lingerers. Horned Grebes stayed at Jamaica Bay sanctuary into late April; one, May 2 (Mayer, Rose). There was a good flight of Double-crested Cormorants, with about 300 on the morning of Apr 25 flying over Great River.

Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets and a Louisiana Heron were feeding together on the edge of the sanctuary pond at Jamaica Bay in late April; these along with several Glossy Ibises around Apr 25 caused one observer to suggest that a southern heron colony had come to long island. Maximum Glossy Ibises: five, Apr 18, Jamaica Bay Sanctuary (Queens County Bird Club). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were normal in numbers and distributed eastward to Mt. Sinai. A Mute Swan nest with seven eggs was found at Great River Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club). Snow Goose: big day for this species on Apr 5, with an estimated 700 seen flying over the south shore at Babylon in the morning (Alperin) and 24 were counted at Massapequa in the evening of the same day (Darrow). Ducks lingering at Jamaica Bay into very early May included several Blue-winged Teal, eight or 10 Buffleheads, a half dozen shoveler and over 100 Scaup; besides this over 500 Brant were in the adjacent bay. Wood Duck: three were at Lawrence Apr 11 (Bull); three were seen at Hempstead in mid-May (C. Ward), and three were at Northport throughout the spring (Mudge). King Eider: Mt. Sinai, May 16, one in immature plumage (Puleston). Hooded Merganser: Lawrence, Apr 11, six (Bull).

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawk flights were light, as is usual on Long Island; two Broad-winged Hawks were at Great River on Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club) and Bald Eagle was at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 2 (Mayer, Rose). A Pigeon Hawk was reported from Brookhaven Apr 24 (Puleston). A King Rail was seen at Far Rockaway May 18 (Bull), and a Yellow Rail was heard calling nightly from Apr 23 to Apr 29 at Brookhaven (Puleston). The Common Gallinule was reported at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 2 (Mayer, Rose). Piping Plovers arrived at Jamaica Bay in early April; the Willet was early in same area with one on Apr 19 (Bull). There was a fair flight of shore birds including peep, Greater Yellow-legs, and Black-bellied Plover on May 2 at Jamaica Bay, when 100 or more terns, both Least and Common, were seen on



the flats. Practically all Dunlin had left by May 1. No western Long Island reports this year of Phalaropes have been turned in. The Solitary Sandpiper was moving through Upton May 15 (Puleston). There were no White-winged Gulls. There were several reports of Laughing Gulls along the North Shore. Black Skimmers arrived in fair numbers about May 1. There were few reports of Jaegers or the accompanying species of shearwaters, but these usually show up later than the end of the period. However, three Sooty Shearwaters were seen on May 31 at Shinnecock (Puleston).

There were two Barn Owls at East Hampton on Apr 1 (Heck, Fischer), and a pair of Great Horned Owls, with two young in the nest, was observed in April on eastern Long Island. A Saw-whet Owl was at East Hampton on Apr 1 (Heck, Larrabee).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** There were only sporadic reports of the Nighthawk. The first Whip-poor-will was one calling on a roof at Orient on Apr 21 (Latham). Chimney Swifts seemed fairly plentiful. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was first seen in Northport on May 4 (Mudge). Sapsuckers were scarce this spring.

The Crested Flycatcher was quite common, but in general the flycatcher migration was poor. Rough-winged Swallows arrived at Springfield Apr 25, and Purple Martins put in an appearance at Brookhaven on Apr 16. There was a slight movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Alley Pond on Apr 12, but there was otherwise a scarcity of this species and the Golden-crowned as well. The season was also poor for House and Winter Wrens. Latham reported no Carolina Wrens heard in Greenport or Orient. There were several Mockingbird reports, with one singing at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary during May. Wood Thrushes were fairly numerous, but Hermit Thrushes were less common than normal on eastern Long Island. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from half a dozen areas, and this species was found in New Rochelle from late April into May (Hastings). About mid-May Hastings also reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a rare species this spring. There were practically no reports of Water Pipits or shrikes.

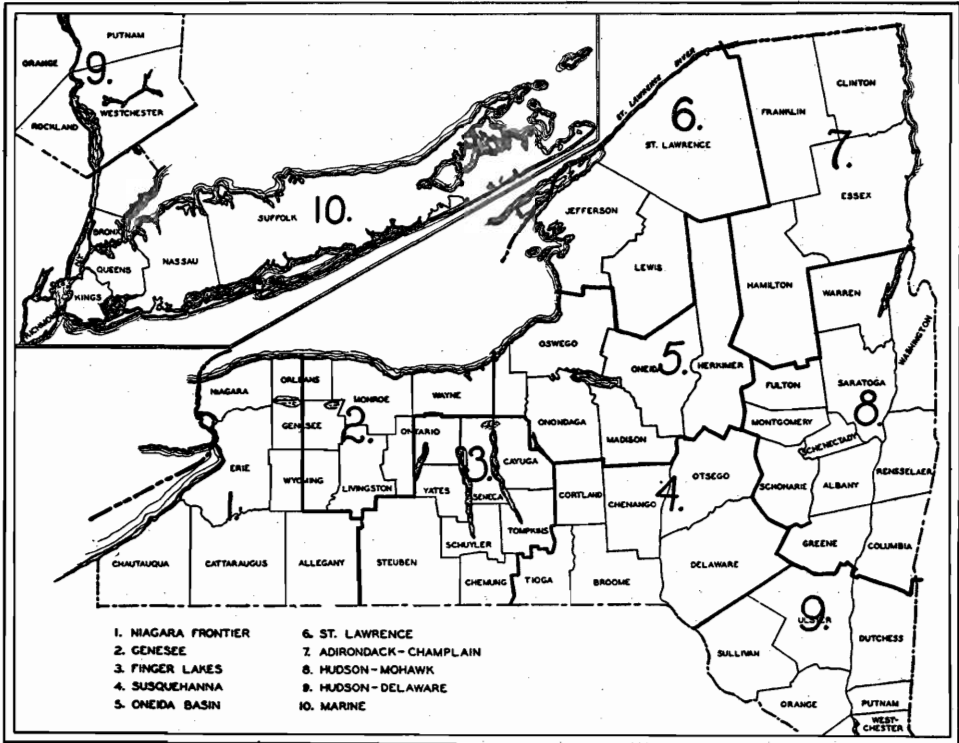
**Vireos — Warblers:** The first Solitary Vireo was at Idlewild Apr 25 (Mayer, Rose). Very few Yellow-throated Vireos were seen. The White-eyed Vireo appeared very early with one at Great River on Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club). The Pine, Prairie, and Black and White Warblers were very scarce on eastern Long Island, but fair numbers of Prairies passed through western Long Island in early May. About a dozen species of warblers, including a Hooded, were counted on May 3.

There were several records of Prothonotary Warbler from May 6, one in Hempstead (Ward) to May 17 and 18 at Far Rockaway (Levine, Bull). A remarkable showing of rare warblers appeared at Far Rockaway in the tops of tall oak trees. In this area there was a Worm-eating on May 9 and 10, a Cerulean and a Kentucky Warbler on May 13, and a Yellow-throated Warbler on May 9 (Bull). The Yellow-throated Warbler was also seen May 10 (Bull, Eisenmann). Six Louisiana Waterthrushes on the south shore at Idlewild on Apr 25 was phenomenal. Two were seen in mid to late May in Suffolk County at both Upton and Fort Solongia (Puleston). Puleston also had four Blackpoll Warblers on the fairly early date of May 7 at Brookhaven and a singing Mourning Warbler at Yaphank on May 15. Two Tennessee Warblers were at Northport on May 11. Two others, together with a Hooded and a pair of Worm-eaters, were there on May 14 (Mudge). Wilson's Warblers came through about mid-May on western Long Island, and the easternmost Suffolk record was one at Crystal Brook, near Pt. Jefferson, on May 16 (Puleston). A Kentucky Warbler was seen at Port Washington on May 15 (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), and one was at Harrison from May 25 to 28 (Hastings).

**Blackbird — Sparrows:** There were several Bobolink reports. A few reports on the Orchard Oriole came through from along the south shore, and one was seen at Port Washington. Although there were a thousand or more Cowbirds on western Long Island on the Christmas count, they apparently were no more plentiful than usual during the nesting season. Scarlet Tanagers were numerous in Suffolk County. A Summer Tanager was at Wading River on May 9 (Puleston), and one was reported at Woodmere on May 3 (Dignan, Levine, Ward). An adult male Blue Grosbeak was singing at Port Washington on May 24 (Dove, Gillan). There was a very unusual Red Crossbill record of five birds at Jones Beach on May 17 (Levine, Jacobson). Several Ipswich Sparrows lingered into late April at Jamaica Bay with one seen Apr 18 (Elliott, Dignan) and another on Apr 25 (Mayer, Rose). The Chipping Sparrow appeared at Brookhaven on Apr 11. The last Tree Sparrow was at Jamaica Bay, also on Apr 11. Five Lapland Longspurs at Jamaica Bay on May 2 were the last reported for the period (Elliott, Mayer, Rose).

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