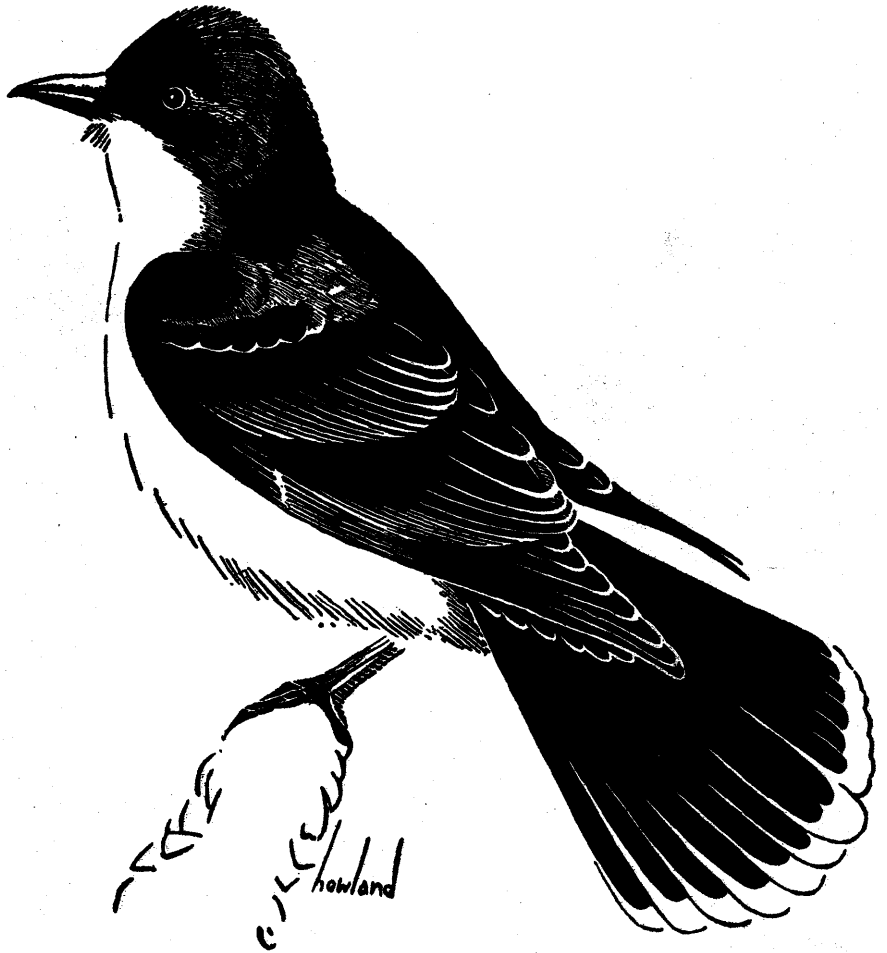


# The **KINGBIRD**



VOLUME X, No. 2

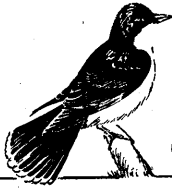
JULY • 1960

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

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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources, and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are \$2.50 annually, and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5), a Supporting Member (\$10), or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, 399 State Street, Albany 10, New York.

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# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

Vol. 10 No. 2

July, 1960

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*Editor* — MINNIE B. SCOTLAND

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## WHAT THE FEDERATION MEANS TO ITS MEMBER CLUBS

HAROLD D. MITCHELL

All bird clubs from time to time have local problems arise which only they can handle themselves. However, other Federation clubs can often be of help with suggestions from their own experience, or by aiding in contacting local, county, or state authorities on problems which may trouble the local club.

National conservation problems of a general nature are usually well covered by a number of nationwide organizations, such as the National Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society, and the Izaak Walton League of America, for example. Those problems relating to bird life in particular are brought to our attention through the National Audubon Society, the American Ornithologists' Union, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Unless you are on the special mailing list to receive National Wildlife Federation bulletins, there is sometimes a considerable time lag in bringing vital national issues to your attention.

The conservation committee of our own Federation has at times in the past kept each club informed on the status of important conservation issues by means of timely bulletins, and recommended the action which should be taken to benefit the bird life of New York State. At our recent annual meeting in Buffalo it was decided to again initiate the mailing of these bulletins.

It is in the field of specific New York State conservation issues, however, that our own Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has been of very great value to every club, and to every individual interested in the conservation of our bird life. The protection of the Double-crested Cormorant and of the Snowy Owl in the State was successfully engineered by our conservation committee. This active committee then worked for a model law protecting all hawks and owls in the State, and solicited the support of the National and the New York State Grange, The State Conservation Dept., and the Sportsmen's Clubs of the State in this endeavor, which was carried through to a successful conclusion. While many members have aided in these accomplishments, the names of Walter Elwood, Eugene Eisenmann, Stanley Grierson, Samuel Madison, Alvin Whitney, Winston Brockner, John Conway and Mr. Conservation himself in the person of H. Everest ("Hi") Clements, deserve especial mention.

We are indebted to all of our Federation members who selflessly worked for the passage of the protective legislation above referred to, as well as the defeat of the Panther Dam amendment, in which our members were in the forefront of the fight. Conservationists must be constantly on the alert to prevent predatory interests from taking over portions of our state's Forest Preserve bit by bit, and as a group we are so much more effective than we could be as individual clubs. In union there is strength.

Another asset of our Federation lies in the exchange of information between our member clubs. At our annual meetings any delegate can ask for cooperation of other clubs on some pet project, or help in solving a problem, at the Federation's Council Meeting. Sometimes there are symposiums at the Paper Sessions where club problems can be aired and discussed in detail. It is often found that some other club has already obtained

a satisfactory solution to the very problem which one has in mind. The exchange of local publications between clubs of the Federation is another help. I have heard many members say that they appreciate the chance of meeting delegates and other members of clubs, discussing problems with them, and often forming lifelong friendships. Many friends are also made through attending and working with various Federation committees, such as those on Membership, Finance, and Publications and Research, as well as the other committees mentioned elsewhere in this article. I regret that space does not permit me to mention many names of committee chairmen and workers whom I value as friends, and of whom we all owe a debt of gratitude.

The help of the Federation can be sought by any member club on legislation (even though it may be of a local nature), and if deemed beneficial all of the clubs and individual members will be reached either through publication in *The Kingbird*, or if speedy action is needed by means of a bulletin from the Conservation Committee.

The publication of *The Kingbird*, initiated nine years ago, has allowed the dissemination of the knowledge of our New York State bird life to reach all clubs and individual members of the Federation, through the reports of the ten Regional Editors, covering all parts of the State. All members can help in this cooperative effort by advising their Regional Editor of any significant records of the occurrence or of the nesting of various species in our State. Many articles of great interest to New York State bird observers appear in *The Kingbird*. Publication of *Bibliography of New York State Ornithology* in its pages by Dr. Allen Benton has given important information to all bird students. The statewide Waterfowl Count, a cooperative venture initiated by Gerald Rising five years ago, and its comparison with aerial surveys, has been published in *The Kingbird*, and continued by Leo Tanghe in recent years. It takes busy people to get things done. We have been fortunate to have as *Kingbird* editors Allan S. Klonick, Stephen W. Eaton, Gerald R. Rising, and Minnie B. Scotland, all of whom have been outstanding.

Several years ago a start was made in preparation for the publication of a new State Bird Book, which was suggested by Dr. Arthur A. Allen as a project for the Federation. A great deal of the groundwork has been done by the State Book Committee, first under the leadership of Dr. Gordon Meade and later under Robert Arbib, Jr. All Federation Clubs and Individual Members should be proud of the accomplishments of this committee, which among other things determined the divisions of the state to be set up as reporting districts, set standards of Abundance and Frequency of Occurrence, and Criteria for the Acceptance of Records. Certain of this material has been copied or referred to in Audubon Field Notes and other publications.

In an Annotated and Revised Checklist of the Birds of Massachusetts by Ludlow Griscom and Dorothy Snyder, it is stated: "The suggested criteria for the acceptance of bird records adopted recently by the New York State Bird Book Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (as published in Audubon Field Notes, February 1955: 58-59) seems to the authors an excellent set of rules which might well be adopted in this State.

There is an equally sensible set of criteria for breeding records. If these rules were widely accepted, sight records would be far more reliable and and valuable than they are at the present moment."

The State Book Editorial Board is now taking over from the original Book Committee, and is endeavoring to find an editor, and means of financing this major enterprise. The new State Book will be a lasting tribute to our Federation and its member clubs.

Beside the concrete points brought out in this article, there are certain intangibles which are hard to express in terms of benefits in dollars and cents, but which are nevertheless important. Even though we might have been unsuccessful in obtaining protective bird legislation in the State, the mere fact that we are banded together to fight for what we know are noble purposes gives each of us stature which otherwise we would lack.

We, in Buffalo, feel that the Federation has filled an urgent need for a statewide organization of bird clubs, and that the small expenditures which we have made for club memberships have repaid us several times over.

238 West Royal Pkwy, Williamsville

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
Buffalo, May 20-22

*Minutes of the Council Meeting (Condensed)*

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was held in the library of the Buffalo Museum of Science on May 21, 1960. The president, Mrs. William G. Irving, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Twenty-four delegates representing 18 clubs answered the roll call.

The minutes of the 1959 Council meeting were read, amended, and accepted.

Mrs. Dayton Stoner read the Treasurer's report for the year Jan. 1, 1959 to Dec. 31, 1959.

Balance — Jan. 1, 1959 -----	\$ 731.02
Receipts — 1959 -----	1,303.40
	<hr/>
Gross total -----	\$2,034.42
Expenses — 1959 -----	\$1,501.05
Withdrawal for deposit in savings account -----	200.00
Balance, Dec. 31 -----	\$ 333.37
Balance in savings account on Dec. 31, 1959 -----	\$1,031.94

Reports of appointed committees:

*Conservation*

Mr. Joseph A. Blake, Jr., chairman, reported the first passage by the State legislature of a concurrent resolution which would permit a private operator to lease Forest Preserve land in Greene County for a ski development. Accepted by the Council were the committee's recommendations to (a) publicize Federation opposition to this amendment, (b) have each member inform his representatives in the legislature of his opposition, and (c) empower the committee to reissue a Conservation Bulletin to cover this and other crucial issues as they may arise.

The committee recommended that Mr. H. Everest Clements investigate the roll of the N.Y.S. Waterfowl Association in the proposal to open certain areas of Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge to public shooting.

The Council passed a motion to oppose the encroachment by local officials on public land now principally used for conservation, and to favor the purchase of new lands to be used for conservation purposes,

Mr. Winston Brockner moved that the Federation give all the help it can to the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club in its efforts to preserve the Thompson Pond area. Motion carried.

Mr. Harold Mitchell moved that the Federation support the Wilderness Bill. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Brockner that the Federation go on record as favoring the Chemical Pesticides Coordination Bill, and that local clubs write their representatives urging approval of the bill. Motion passed.

The committee voted not to take action at this time on the proposal to change Dinosaur National Monument to a National Park. Mr. Brockner recommended that a bulletin be sent to the member clubs describing the difference between a National Monument and a National Park.

#### *Finance*

Mr. John Elliott presented the proposed 1961 budget, which was accepted by the Council. A complete report is on file.

Budget for 1961	-----	\$1,950.00
Estimated income	-----	1,303.40
Deficit	-----	\$ 646.60

#### *Kingbird Finance*

Mr. Brockner is chairman of this new committee, created to bring in more funds for Kingbird publication. Miss Gertrude Webster moved that his committee establish rates for advertising in the Kingbird. Motion carried.

#### *The Kingbird*

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, the editor, reported that a number of suggestions for the improvement of the Kingbird have been carried out this year. It is Dr. Scotland's goal to have an outstanding Tenth Anniversary Issue in December. A suggestion was made that member clubs make an effort to place the Kingbird in their local libraries.

#### *Membership*

Mr. Albert Fudge, the chairman, reported that 23 new applications for individual membership were received in 1959 and 57 in 1960. The Greene County Bird Club of Catskill and the Tioga Bird Watchers Club of Owego also applied for membership. The Council voted to accept the individual and the club applicants as members of the Federation.

Mr. Brockner moved that all membership applicants up to September first be given the Kingbird issues from January first of the current year; all applicants after September first would receive the next issue or issues of the Kingbird and all of those of the following year. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Fudge that, for the purpose of securing more members, the membership committee publish a pamphlet giving the history of the Federation, its aims and activities, a description of the Kingbird, the classes of membership and how to apply, and the advantages of membership in the Federation. Motion passed.

Mrs. Stoner, reported that the Federation now has 338 annual members, 29 sustaining members, 7 supporting members, and 6 life members, plus 28 member clubs.

*Publication and Research*

Mr. Harold Mitchell, chairman, reported that the former Book Committee, with Mr. Joseph Taylor as chairman, is now set up as a Special Book Committee. Mr. Robert Arbib, Jr. is organizing an editorial board for the State Book. An editor is to be chosen and a simplified species questionnaire devised.

Dr. Leo Tanghe's Waterfowl Census report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Mitchell moved that the question of the Federation taking an associate membership in the N.Y.S. Conservation Council be tabled for another year. Motion carried.

Two proposed amendments to the By-laws were presented and accepted by the Council.

1. Article V, Section 3: (Add italicized words) No officer-director shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years, except the corresponding secretary and the Treasurer who may hold office for not longer than four consecutive years.

2. Article 11, Section 2: (Add) C. Life membership can be paid over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid. There shall be no further dues payable during this interim period except the above mentioned payment and upon payment in full, member receives designation of "Life Member" with no further payment of dues.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 1961, which was elected:

President .....	Mrs. William Irving, West Nyack
Vice-President .....	Mr. John Elliott, Seaford
Corresponding Secretary .....	Mrs. Southgate Hoyt, Etna
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. Donald Radke, E. Chatham
Treasurer .....	Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Albany

The Council accepted the invitation of the Linnaean Society to hold the 1961 annual meeting in New York City.

Mr. Guy Bartlett and Mr. Samuel Madison were elected auditors for 1961.

Elected as nominating committee for 1961 were Mr. Albert Fudge, Mr. Eugene Eisenmann, and Dr. Gerhard Leubner.

Miss Elizabeth Manning moved that the Federation express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Buffalo Audubon Society, the Buffalo Ornithological Society, and the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences for a pleasant and well-organized meeting.

*Eleanor L. Radke, Recording Sec'y.*

*Reception — Trips — Papers — Banquet*

The 1960 annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., whose hosts were Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc., Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc., and Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, was, without a doubt, proof that "in unity there is strength". The visiting Club delegates wish to offer their personal and sincere thanks to these host societies for a wonderfully successful effort put forth by everyone to assure the utmost in accommodations and entertainment.



In the main lobby of the Hotel Lenox an informal reception took place on Friday evening. It is at this affair each year that arriving members gather and committee members find it difficult to leave for their scheduled meetings.

Field trips were planned for 6, 7, 8, and 9 o'clock on Saturday morning to nearby areas and those as distant as Beaver Meadow Refuge near Java, Grand Island and Niagara Falls. In spite of "heavy dew" encountered early birders returned with good reports, especially of an influx of warblers. At 10 o'clock conducted tours of the Buffalo Museum were arranged. A hot luncheon awaited all members in the cafeteria of the Museum.

At the afternoon meeting there were papers that revealed research is being carried on by Federation members in a variety of fields: "How to Interest Prospective Birders" (Brettle), "Some Notes on Breeding Habitats of New York State Warblers" (Seeber), "A Summer Tanager Record for Western New York" (Leubner), "The Recent Gull Concentration on the Niagara River" (Andrie), "Single Lens Reflex Photography for the Nature Student" (Coggeshall), and "Nature To-morrow" (A Motion Picture by Hall). The secretary gave a report of the morning Council Meeting to the Federation members attending the afternoon session.

A gay group filled the Central Hall of the Museum for the Annual Banquet on Saturday evening. It was the occasion for the President's address, which was not only humorous but challenging to every Club of the Federation. The guest speaker was Robert Hermes who brought with him his beautiful film "Ranch of the Purple Flowers"

Sunday morning's cloudiness became deeper and deeper until rain came at noon. However, the promised sight of whimbrels on the Canadian shore field trip was fulfilled. It was the "Bird of the Day" among 125 species listed in the summary. A buffet lunch was enjoyed at Rathfon Inn near Port Colborne in Ontario, after which the Federation members departed for their home "ports"

M. C. J.

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## FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The chairman of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., takes pleasure in welcoming the following new members during 1960:

Ahrens, Ruth, 18 Barker St., Jamestown  
Arthur, Mrs. William, 98 Fenimore St., Lynbrook, L. I.  
Baehr, Mrs. Charles V., "Rockcliff", R. D., Rensselaer  
Betts, Mrs. Charles E., 1065 Madison Ave., Albany 8  
Brandebury, Mrs. Carl V., 130 Home St., Malverne, L. I.  
Brown, Mrs. V. A., Randolph  
Bryant, Leslie E., 13 Second Ave., Auburn  
Burland, Robert, 16 Reynolds Ave., Oneonta  
Comar, Mrs. Cyril, 8 Highland Park, Ithaca  
Conner, Paul F., R. D. No. 1, Lowville  
Crone, Mrs. Lincoln E., 838 Union Road, Buffalo 24  
Cypher, Velma I., 16 Mohegan Rd., Ossining  
DeNeef, Walter, 25 Lake Rd. Ext., Dryden  
Douglas, Damon G., Jr., 1120 Ellis Hollow Rd., R. D. No. 2, Ithaca  
Dove, Mrs. William C., 12 Guilford Rd., Port Washington, L. I.  
Dunning, Orville M., 22 Longridge Rd., Plandome, L. I.  
English, Mrs. Lawrence, Frenchs Mill Rd., Altamont  
Fletcher, A. K., 27 Lake Rd. Ext., Dryden

Gamble, Edwin F., 148 Germonds Rd., West Nyack  
 Gehman, Erwin Richard, 61 Ozone Ave., Venice, California  
 Gokey, Aden L., Canaan  
 Good, Earl M., Seaman Neck Rd., Huntington, L. I.  
 Goodnough, Jay L., 82 Park Ave., Binghamton  
 Greenwood, Mrs. Sarah, 2838 E. Cheery Lynn Rd., Phoenix, Arizona  
 Gustafson, Dr. John A., R. D. No. 1, Homer  
 Hartell, S. N., 93 Oakland Ave., Port Washington, L. I.  
 Hayes, Samuel D., R. D. No. 1, Box 16, Greene  
 Heath, Fred A., 11-15 F. D. R. Drive, New York 9  
 Hoffman, Norwin, Cherry Valley Rd., Skaneateles  
 Holmes, Alice, 837 DeCamp Ave., Schenectady 9  
 Hoyt, Mrs. William, 267 South Main St., Warsaw  
 Irving, William Gary, Van Houten Fields, West Nyack  
 Kelsey, Paul, R. D. No. 1, Dryden  
 Kibler, Lewis F., 50 Stewart Ave., Jamestown  
 Krupas, Elizabeth, 515 Hector St., Ithaca  
 Lane, Arthur C., 26 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca  
 Liebich, Mrs. Warner P., 16 N. Helderberg Pkwy., Slingerlands  
 Matera, Mrs. Michael, 21 Fairview Ave., Port Washington  
 McIlroy, Mrs. Malcomb S., 419 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca  
 McLaughlin, Vincent P., Jr., 287 Poland Center Rd., Poland 14, Ohio  
 Michell, Charles W., R. D. No. 2, Canajoharie  
 Pierce, Mrs. Edward, 402 South Albany St., Ithaca  
 Pierce, Gladys, 16 Murray St., Augusta, Maine  
 Price, Mrs. John M., Jr., 8 E. 75th St., New York 21  
 Rathbun, Mrs. Daisy, R. D. No. 1, Burdett  
 Richter, Donald, 8 Revere St., Rockville Center, L. I.  
 Rubin, Mrs. Aniva H., 328 Archer St., Freeport, L. I.  
 Scott, Lawrence H., P. O. Box 304, Ithaca  
 Shepherd, Mrs. G. F., 101 Valley Rd., Ithaca  
 Sherman, Mrs. E., P. O. Box 7178, Oshville, North Carolina  
 Simon, Edward, 591 Campus Place, Baldwin, L. I.  
 Slocombe, Mrs. William, 169 Spruce St., West Hempstead, L. I.  
 Smilow, Mrs. Fred, R. D., East Chatham  
 Snyder, Robert, 8 Campus Place, Baldwin, L. I.  
 Spencer, Leon R., 36 South Main St., Walworth  
 Welch, Dr. D. S., 427 Warren Rd., Ithaca  
 Weld, Dr. Paul W., 42 Pinetree Lane, Rochester 17  
 Wertman, Mrs. W. Howard, Morner Rd., Rensselaer  
 White, Sally G., R. D. No. 1, Norwich  
 Wilder, Mrs. Arthur H., 3 Sunset Drive, Painted Post  
 Wollin, Alvin, 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, L. I.  
 Green County Bird Club, c/o Smith, 17 Liberty St., Catskill  
 Tioga Bird Watchers Club, c/o Taylor, R. D. No. 2, Box 339, Owego  
 Catskill Public Library, Franklin St., Catskill  
 Natural Science Center for Young People, American Museum of Natural History,  
 79th St. & Central Park West, New York 24  
 New York State Library, Periodicals Division, Education Bldg., Albany

Albert W. Fudge,  
 Chairman of Membership Committee

## FIELD NOTES

**Woodpecker Damage to Private Home:** On April 1st, 1960 Mr. John Kie of Brainard, N. Y. took me to the summer home of Mr. Arthur Aery of Albany, N. Y. This frame building is in northeastern Columbia County in the township of New Lebanon. The house had clap-board siding covered, some years ago, with cedar shakes. Mr. Kie had seen Woodpeckers, either or both the Downy **Dendrocopus pubescens** and the Hairy **Dendrocopus villosus**, drilling holes through the cedar shakes. They had already done considerable damage to the northeast side of the house. There were no holes on any other side of the house.



**Woodpecker Damage**

The holes were only driven in as far as the clap-board siding which was undamaged by the birds. The garage roof which projected from this side of the house, was littered with cedar splinters. Mr. Kie removed some of the shakes where the birds had been working and it was found that each hole was bored into a group of quiescent flies and other insects, mainly the Cluster-Fly **Pollenia rudis**, identified by Mr. John Wilcox, curator of entomology at the New York State Museum. While I was at the house, no woodpeckers were seen at work on the shingles, but both species mentioned above were seen in the nearby woods. Some Cluster-Flies were found alive under the shingles and by pressing our ears close to the siding faint buzzing noises could be heard.

The house is so situated that the early morning winter sun would strike the northeast side. Perhaps the warming rays of the sun would start some flies buzzing and thus attract the woodpeckers. There was no apparent reason as to why only the one side of the house was attacked since we did not have permission to tear shingles from the undamaged sides looking for flies.

The accompanying photograph shows a close-up of the holes. It can be seen that no building paper or tar paper was placed under the shingles which might have prevented such a large number of insects from gathering there. The shingles were still in excellent condition except for the woodpecker damage.

In the last few years there have been several reports of woodpeckers damaging house sidings. In some cases it was reported that the damage was done to new California Redwood siding. The author was unable to make personal inspections of any of these but can only suggest, in light of the above experience, that there may have been a similar cause. No one cares to pay for such damage to his own

house and the owners of such homes cannot be censured if they place the blame on the woodpeckers alone, not knowing the real culprits. It might be good conservation practice to see that builders and home-owners know the real cause and take steps to eliminate the insects rather than the woodpeckers. All instances of woodpecker damage in our areas should be examined, if possible, and home-owners should take reasonable precautions, where possible, to prevent future damage both to houses and to the woodpeckers.

Woodpeckers, usually the Hairy Woodpecker or the Flicker, have been known to use a house for a drumming post to the understandable annoyance of the occupants. Such action, however, would not lead to the severe and extensive damage shown in the photograph. — E. M. Reilly, Jr., Curator, Zoology, N. Y. S. Museum, Albany 1, N. Y.

**Yellow-nosed Albatross off Long Island:** On Sunday, May 29, 1960, a Yellow-nosed Albatross was observed about a mile and a half off the Jones Beach water tower, along the southern shore of Long Island. The bird was seen by some forty or fifty persons in two chartered boats on a scheduled Linnaean Society sea trip for pelagic birds.

When the albatross was discovered by the first boat, a radio message was sent to the second boat, some five miles away at the time. When the bird was first seen, it was on the water with Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls and resembled the latter in pattern. It was repeatedly flushed by the boats, upon which its wingspread, estimated at seven feet, could be observed at extremely close range. While in the air the albatross, an adult, was harassed by some of the gulls. Colored photographs, both still and moving, were made of the rarity by several of the observers. The bird was under observation for about an hour, and when the boats turned homeward it was still sitting on the water. Besides the albatross the ocean was alive with birds of a great variety of species (see Region 10, this issue). Chumming over the side brought many of these into close range.

An ocean trip by several Long Island bird clubs just six days later, Saturday, June 4, revealed no evidence of the albatross. The ocean was destitute of birds and except for an epidemic of mal de mer the net result was a half dozen Wilson's Petrels!

The normal range of the Yellow-nosed Albatross is restricted to the south Atlantic and Indian Oceans and to the seas near Australia. There have, however, been three or four previous North American records for the species, as indicated by the Fifth Edition of the AOU Checklist. This is apparently the first reported occurrence of any species of albatross in New York State waters. — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island.

**Cattle Egret reaches Western New York:** What is regarded as possibly the first record for the Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) in western New York, was observed by Gail Seamans and Richard G. Beebe, of Batavia, on May 29, 1960, west of the village of Byron, (Route 262 and Bank Street Road). They immediately notified Mrs. O. L. Pixley, of Batavia, who in turn telephoned Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich, in Buffalo. The Ulrichs advised us of this record on the same day. On the next day, May 30th, after a short search, and returning to the pond where the bird was supposed to be seen, I found the bird on the margin of the small farm pond.

It was an all white bird about the size of a Green Heron. The top of the head, over the back, and breast feathers were tinged by a brownish rust wash. One leg appeared to be injured.

While watching the bird, I talked to Mrs. Beach, wife of the man operating the farm where the Egret was discovered. She informed me that the white bird had been there for "about four weeks".

I had previously seen the Cattle Egret, at the "Coal Pocket Area" near Schenectady, on May 25, 1957. This was the first inland New York State record, and was seen by many attending the annual Federation meeting in Schenectady that year.

Another Cattle Egret was reported in John W. Brown's, "Birds Afield" column, published in the Rochester Times-Union newspaper, on June 2, 1960. This bird

was observed by Brown and Alfred Starling, on June 1st, on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. C. Morton Wadsworth, 369 Hill Road, Parma. The Wadsworths also saw the bird.

I discussed this second bird with Alfred Starling, and asked him if the legs appeared to be normal. He replied in the affirmative. This leads me to believe, that the Parma record was of a different bird than the earlier Byron record, and that two Cattle Egrets had been found west of the Genesee River. — Winston William Brockner, 63 Ardmore Place, Buffalo 13, New York.

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**A Concentration of Rough-legged Hawks:** Late in November 1959 it was seen that Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than usual in northern New York State, and it was soon apparent that a real incursion was taking place. As the winter progressed a concentration of these birds was noted in that portion of Jefferson County lying immediately north of Watertown. This area, in the towns of Brownville, Clayton, Pamela, Orleans, Leray, and Philadelphia, covers approximately 300 square miles and consists mainly of open farm land with an abundance of isolated trees for perching. Since the Rough-leg is primarily a "mouser," it may be presumed that this portion of Jefferson County provided an ample supply of small rodents.

Unsuspecting by nature, the Rough-legged Hawk is easily observed when perched in the open or flying leisurely over fields and meadows. In the area mentioned I observed thirty or more birds on several occasions, with a maximum count of forty-nine on February 8. It is believed that there may have been as many as 200 birds present. The majority were normal or light phase, with perhaps 20 percent being dark phase birds. While these hawks are usually solitary, groups of three or four were occasionally seen.

The Rough-legs remained throughout March and were present in small numbers during early April. It was evident, however, that the northward movement was underway soon after the end of March. — John B. Benknapp, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

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**An Unusual Duck in Central New York:** While walking the path around Green Lake in Fayetteville on the morning of December 25, 1959, I observed a duck of problematic identity upon two occasions at close range. I first saw the bird at fairly close range when it sprang with grouse-like abruptness from some floating cedar snags along the edge of the deep and unfrozen lake. It flew low across the lake and disappeared along the far shore. Closely observed through my 10 x 50 glasses, this bird was distinctly small, teal-sized, uniformly dark grayish-black above, with no trace of any wing marking whatsoever.

I did not identify the bird at once, although it seemed familiar, and I reflected that its identity would without doubt occur to me as I walked along. Some fifteen minutes later, when I realized I had not identified it, I began to earnestly consider what I had seen, and seen well. I did come to a tentative conclusion, and then wished I had taken more pains while I had the bird in close view. Suddenly, as abruptly startling as before, it arose close-in again, and again flew off low across the lake until about a quarter mile away. The duck then turned, gained some twenty feet and came back past me, whereupon it left the lake and disappeared toward the north. The bird was centered in my glasses almost as its feet left the water, and I noted, as did those with me, that it was attempting to swallow a small fish as it left. I again noted the uniformly unmarked dusky, gray-black upperparts, and this time also a trace of white in front of and behind the eye. The rounded head was almost hooded in appearance due to the small short beak being inserted at right angles below the high forehead. When the duck came past at a higher elevation, I noted the whitish ventor, which shaded without abrupt margin into the dark breast. Although I now believed I knew what I was seeing, it was not until I consulted my library with some care that I decided that I could find no alternative identification. While several expert field observers have suggested that I had seen a female Hooded Merganser, the latter is so unlike my observation that I can only conclude that I failed to communicate what I saw. From familiarity with this bird after watching one in the surf for about ten minutes at Sandy Pond Beach along Lake Ontario with Dr. Ian Nisbet on November 23, 1957, I identified the stranger as "Columbine" the female Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, a duck unusual in central New York State. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON APRIL 1—MAY 31

JAMES K. MERITT

Migration trends this spring were quite variable; they were neither consistently good nor consistently poor. An extended period of warm and clear weather in the latter part of April accounted for a steady influx of migrants during that period, and many early arrival dates were set. The first two weeks of May almost universally poor both from a birding and weather standpoint. It was cool and rainy. The migration on May 15 seemed to be about a day ahead of its progress on April 30. The third week in May saw a distinct improvement in weather conditions, and in most areas the first real warbler waves of the season were noted. The flight of May 21 appeared to mark the peak of the warbler migration.

The shorebird migration was below par generally, although Fritz Scheider mentions a good early flight in Region 5. Of note among this group were a Curlew Sandpiper on Long Island, a Northern Phalarope in Region 3, and all three Phalaropes in Region 10. The relatively high water level was undoubtedly a big factor in the generally low shorebird counts in the interior. An excellent April hawk migration was reported from Region 2, and the flights in Region 5 were also noteworthy. The migration of geese and waterfowl was perhaps average at best.

As is to be expected, there was a continuing number of observations of the Cattle Egret. Six of the ten reporting regions recorded this species, some for the first time. Other herons of note included the Little Blue in Regions 3 and 9 and a Snowy Egret in Region 2. Glossy Ibis were seen in several areas, with as many as three in Region 1 and seven in Region 3.

One of the very few North American observations of the Yellow-nosed Albatross was made late in May just off Long Island, and readers are referred to John Elliott's field note in this issue on details of this most unusual find. The albatross was, incidentally, just one of several interesting pelagic birds seen on what can only be described as a real red-letter trip.

Snowy Owls were reported from two areas in April, and the Saw-whet Owl was also reported from two regions. Fred Hough indicates possible evidence of the Saw-Whet's breeding in the higher Catskills.

The Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Ithaca again this spring, after being present there for an extended period last year. This year, however, Region 3 did not have this honor all to itself, as one of these birds was also seen in the Rochester area. Now if only the Ithaca bird could sing loudly enough, or perhaps vice versa, we might have on hand an interesting New York State nesting record.

Among the southerners reported were a Black Vulture and a Carolina Chickadee, both seen in Region 9. Although the "Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds", published last year, gives no previous state records for the Carolina Chickadee, it seems unlikely that such is actually the case. The bird's similarity to the familiar Black-capped Chickadee has undoubtedly cloaked other records, and observers in southern counties should be on the lookout for further occurrences. In Region 2 a Summer Tanager was trapped, banded, and then unfortunately collected by a cat.

The Bluebird population of the state hit another low this year, perhaps as severe as the one of 1958. The same situation prevails, unfortunately,

throughout the Middle Atlantic states, and one wonders what is in store for them, certainly one of the most welcome and enjoyable of all our birds. The coming breeding season should give us some indication.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The warm weather at the end of March continued through the first few days of April and the latter month's average temperature was 4.6°F above normal. Two warmer periods with above normal average daily temperatures occurred from the 12th to the 17th and from the 20th to the 25th. Precipitation, chiefly in the form of rain, was near the average although sections of the Allegheny Plateau received some fairly heavy snow on April 9. Average sunshine was only 48% of the possible, making the month considerably more cloudy than usual. May was a generally warm, wet and cloudy month. The average temperature was 2.7°F above normal and precipitation 1.58 inches over the mean. It was the fourth cloudiest May since 1891, sunshine being only 40% of the possible. It was certainly not a period for those who prefer clear weather in which to study birds. There were no severe storms or high velocity winds during the period.

Due to the warm weather several creeks overflowed and created flooded conditions in the plains in early April, but as the month progressed with no excessive rainfall the creeks subsided. The heavy ice in Lake Erie remained through most of April and the lower Niagara River was bankfull of ice floes at the month's end. During the first week in May most of the ice went downriver but the ice bridge at Niagara Falls did not entirely break up until the 8th.

More Blue and Snow Geese were recorded in the flooded land northeast of Buffalo than in previous years. Surface feeding ducks appeared to be somewhat below average in numbers although the diving ducks, particularly the mergansers on the Niagara River, seemed to be plentiful. Although winds were generally favorable in April only one hawk migration of note was reported. A number of the flycatchers, warblers and finches appeared earlier in April than usual in contrast to the tardiness of some species in the previous month. The only major land bird wave occurring in May was near the end of the passage of a warm sector on the 21st.

**Loons — Ducks:** The first migrant Common Loon was noted at Chautauqua Lake outlet on Apr 4 (Bohall) and the first Red-throated on Attica Reservoir Apr 21 (Rosche). Another Red-throated Loon was reported at Angola on Apr 27 (Bourne). A Red-necked Grebe on Lake Erie off Hamburg Town Park on Apr 17 was the first recorded. Double-crested Cormorants were reported from Akron Reservoir (1) on Apr 27 (Rosche) and off Athol Springs on Lake Erie (1) May 8 (Bourne). The observation of three Glossy Ibis at Lyndonville on Apr 28 (Smith) was a most interesting record of a great rarity. A total of 29,767 Canada Geese, mostly in the Oak Orchard - Wolcottsville area, were recorded in the Bird Count on Apr 10. Eleven and 18 Snow Geese and Blue Geese respectively were seen on the Wolcottsville Sinks Apr 18 (Rosche, Rubach). The first Gadwalls, two individuals, were noted at Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island Apr 9 (Brownstein). Four Buffleheads the last observed on May 14 at the Attica Reservoir (Rosche). The last Surf Scoters reported were four at Bayview on May 1 (Bourne).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures were not seen until Apr 3 when they were reported from five scattered localities in the plains. A Goshawk was seen at Angola on Apr 10 (Rew, Schaffner et al). A total of 201 Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed migrating at Youngstown Cemetery on Apr 24, a warm day of southwesterly winds (Klabundes). The first migrant Broad-winged Hawks were reported on Apr 17, six at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark) and one at Clarence (Brockners). A Bald Eagle was observed at Oak Orchard Swamp on May 15 (Klabundes). Another, an immature bird, was seen by Bourne at Chestnut Ridge Park on May 25. The last Osprey observed was near Attica on May 22 (Rosche, Rubach). At Silver Creek on May 7 Brockners reported a Peregrine Falcon and on the 13th Bourne saw a Pigeon Hawk on Hickox Road in the town of Hamburg. Two Bobwhite, probably released birds, were found on Sour Springs Road at Oak Orchard Swamp by the Axtells on May 28. The Turkey continued to be recorded in new localities as one or two were heard in Allenberg Bog near New Albion on Apr. 24 (Mitchell, Rosche et al). The

first Virginia Rail was reported from Oak Orchard Swamp on Apr 10, a slightly early date (Ulrichs et al). Also earlier than usual was a common Gallinule near Hamburg on the same date (Creighton et al). An American Coot at Oak Orchard on Apr 3 (Mitchell et al) was the first reported. The observation of six American Golden Plover at the Wolcottville Sinks on Apr 21 (Mitchell, Gregory) was of great interest as this species is rarely seen in spring. American Woodcock was not found in March, the first migrant being reported on Apr 2 at Buffalo (Krayna). Upland Plover was first noted on Apr 17 when four individuals were seen at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark). Pectoral Sandpipers were noted in fair numbers by several observers in early April on the Wolcottville Sinks. On Apr 12 near Hanover Center 120 were seen (Rew). The Bournes had a very interesting observation of an immature Parasitic Jaeger flying over Lake Erie off Hamburg Town Park on May 1. Bonaparte's Gulls are seldom recorded inland so the two at Little Valley on Apr 1 (Mitchells) and one at the Wolcottville Sinks on the 9th (Rosche) were noteworthy. A very early Caspian Tern was on the pier at Olcott Apr 10 (Lehrer). An unusually early Black-billed Cuckoo was seen on the west side of Buffalo Apr 25 (Brownstein).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** An early migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported on Apr 29 at Hamburg (Bourne). A Red-bellied Woodbecker, uncommon in the region, was noted at Oak Orchard Swamp on May 15 (Klabundes). An unusually early Eastern Kingbird was seen during a very warm period on Apr 16 on Nice Road, town of Newstead (Wendlings). Another was recorded the following day at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark). Eastern Phoebe was not seen in March, the first migrant being noted on Apr 1 at Buffalo (Brownstein, Schaffner). Other species of flycatchers were seen either at normal arrival dates or somewhat later than usual. Swallows arrived generally on schedule or slightly early as in the case of the Rough winged Swallow. The first House Wrens (3) were seen on Apr 22 in Hamburg (Avery). Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens continued to be reported from widespread localities. Of interest was a Short-billed Marsh Wren near Angola on May 19 (Bourne). Two of at least five Mockingbirds which had been observed in February and March were reported on Apr 10 at Buffalo (Freitag et al) and at Hamburg (Creighton et al). No thrushes (except Hermit) or gnatcatchers were reported in April. Eastern Bluebirds continued to be exceedingly scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was first reported on Apr 1 at Lewiston (Klabundes).

**Vireos — Warblers:** The first Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Lime Lake May 4, the first Solitary Vireo Apr 23 on Zimmerman Road in Boston township, and the first Red-eyed Vireo May 6 in Hamburg, all by Bourne. Beal found a somewhat early Warbling Vireo at Jamestown Apr 26. The recording of nine species of warblers during April reflected the warm weather and generally favorable wind conditions which prevailed. These species were Black-and-white Apr 25 at Lewiston (Klabundes), Nashville Warbler Apr 29 at Lewiston (Klabundes), Yellow Warbler Apr 26 at Jamestown (Beal), Black-throated Blue Warbler Apr 30 (2) at Lewiston (Klabundes), Myrtle Warbler Apr 10 at Allegany State Park (Bowen et al), Black-throated Green Warbler Apr 17, unusually early, at Buffalo (Freitag), Pine Warbler Apr 17 at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark), Northern Waterthrush (4) Apr 24 at Allenberg Bog (Mitchell, Rosche et al), and Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 28 near Varysburg (Rosche). During May warblers appeared to be generally in low numbers except on the wave of May 21. Most appeared on normal dates or in some cases slightly later. The last migrant Myrtle Warbler was seen on May 24 at Jamestown (Bohall, Rappole). An outstanding record of a rarity was the report of a Yellow-throated Warbler on May 1 at Point Gratiot, Dunkirk (Brockners). A Connecticut Warbler was reported from Batavia on May 15 (Pixley et al) and a female of the same species was seen in Forest Lawn Cemetery on May 22 (Andrle).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The report of an Orchard Oriole on May 14 at Hickox Road town of Hamburg (Bourne) was interesting. This species is seldom found in the region although recorded regularly in Canada. The last Rusty Blackbird reported was one at Batavia May 15 (Buckland). Evening Grosbeaks were seen in fair numbers on the Bird Count May 15, the last noted being at Hamburg on May 25 (Avery). Common Redpolls were last observed at Lakeview and Sturgeon Point on Apr 17 (3) (Brownstein, Clark). The first Grasshopper Sparrow was seen on Apr 21 on North Creek Road town of Boston (Bourne) and Henslow's Sparrow on Hickox Road town of Hamburg Apr 26 by the same observer. A most interesting record was the Oregon Junco observed by Klabundes at Lewiston Apr 20. The first White-crowned Sparrow was reported on Apr 30 at Lewiston by the same observers. Good numbers of these sparrows appeared in migration in May, particularly on the count of May



15. On May 9 Bourne reported the first Lincoln's Sparrow at Chestnut-Ridge Park. Further information on the banded Snow Bunting, picked up in West Seneca last March 21 and mentioned in the previous report, revealed that it was not banded in Denmark, but in northern Greenland.

Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures and precipitation were about normal during April, but in May the rainfall was much above normal. The water level of Lake Ontario was about a foot above that of a year ago, and this resulted in sharply reduced shorebird habitat except for inland rain pools.

Spectacular hawk flights were recorded on April 14 and 17. A good early hawk flight was recorded April 3, and smaller (although interesting) flights were noted on several other occasions. The weekend of April 30 - May 1 brought a heavy flight of land birds, including swarms of midseason migrants such as White-throated Sparrows, and a good early warbler flight. The next two weekends produced ordinary birding, with the peak of the spring flight not being reached until the weekend of May 21-22. The migration had tapered off sharply by the next weekend, and the late May flight of shorebirds seemed dull.

The most unusual birds recorded were the Snowy Egret, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**Loons — Ducks:** The peak of a very good loon flight was reached Apr 20 when 1000 Common and 3000 Red-throated Loons were seen along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). Some 25 of the latter species were at Manitou on Apr 25 (G.O.S. hike). Red-necked Grebes on the other hand were scarce, with but two birds being reported, one at Manitou Apr 14 (Listman) and one at Webster Park on Apr 15 (Kemnitzer). Six reports of Double-crested Cormorants were received, with a maximum of three birds May 22 at Manitou (Listman). A common Egret was observed May 10 at Mendon Ponds (Zeitler, Meyer), and another bird was seen the same day at Rose's Marsh (Listman). A Snowy Egret was noted May 15 at Manitou (Listman). This is the sixth record of this species in our area. Probably because of the higher water level American Bitterns were much more common than a year ago. It seemed that ten could be heard or seen this year in comparison to one a year ago. After last year's heavy flight Whistling Swans seemed rather scarce in the area, but seven were noted Apr 12 near Avon (Haller). Two more appeared later, and the nine remained until Apr 29.

Small numbers of Brant were present during the last ten days of May around Braddock's with a maximum of six on May 23 (Listman). Fourteen Snow and 23 Blue Geese were seen Apr 12 near Avon (Haller), and four birds of each species remained until Apr 25. A Gadwall was observed on May 11 at Paine Beach (Listman). Four Green-winged Teal were noted May 15 at Braddock's (Listman), and one was seen May 25 at Rose's Marsh. Sixty Ring-necked Ducks were seen Apr 23 around Shore Acres (G.O.S. hike). Two Common Goldeneye were at Braddock's on May 25 (Listman). Eight King Eiders were observed off Sea Breeze Apr 19 (Kemnitzer), and seven were noted there the following day (McNeth, Kemnitzer). Three hundred White-winged Scoters were seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman), and 26 were at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). A Surf Scoter was also present at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). Four Ruddy Ducks were seen on Irondequoit Bay Apr 14 (Kemnitzer).

**Hawks — Owls:** Maximum counts for the season were made Apr 17 by Dobson on the following species of hawks at the Hawk Lookout: Turkey Vulture 21, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1600, Cooper's Hawk 42, Broad-winged Hawk 5000, and Pigeon Hawk 1. The record for the last species was the only report for the year. High counts for the season on the following species were made Apr 3 at the Hawk Lookout by Bieber, Kemnitzer, Listman, et al: Rough-legged Hawk 75, Marsh Hawk 50, and Sparrow Hawk 200. On that same day Dobson counted 154 Red-tailed Hawks over Durand-Eastman Park, and on Apr 17 the same observer counted 61 of this species at the Hawk Lookout. Good late flight counts were made Apr 17 at the Hawk Lookout by Dobson on the Red-shouldered Hawk (21) and the Rough-legged-Hawk (13). Single Golden Eagles were seen there Apr 14 (Listman et al)

and Apr 23 (G.O.S. hike). Single Bald Eagles were observed along the west lakeshore Apr 3 (Listman et al), Apr 23 (G.O.S. hike), May 4 (Schmanke, Doherty), and May 15 (Listman). Two birds were seen Apr 17 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson). An adult eagle visited its nesting site in the Avon area Apr 16 but remained only one day (Haller). A Peregrine Falcon at Maplewood Park on May 8 (Foley, Listman) constituted our only spring record for this species.

Both Virginia Rails and Soras seemed more common and generally distributed, probably because of the increased suitable habitat. Single Black-bellied Plovers were noted along the west lakeshore on May 13, 21, and 29. Five Ruddy Turnstones were at Braddock's on May 29 (G.O.S. hike). Pectoral Sandpipers occurred in fairly good numbers for this species in spring, with a maximum of 35 being seen Apr 15 in Hilton (Listman). Two Whiterumped Sandpipers were observed in Gates on May 15 (Listman), and there was one May 29 near Shore Acres (G.O.S. hike). Dunlins were present in some numbers with a maximum of 35 on May 13 along the west lakeshore (Listman). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen May 18 near Paine Beach (Listman). A Little Gull was observed Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman).

The Barn Owl was recorded Apr 24 in the "owl woods" (Listman), May 15 in Island Cottage woods (O'Hara, Dakins), May 21 at Manitou (Listman), and May 21 at Island Cottage woods where two birds were seen (O'Hara, Miller). Two Snowy Owls were seen Apr 3 at Manitou (Listman et al). Long-eared Owls were frequently reported, with a maximum of six in the "owl woods" on Apr 2 (O'Hara, Miller). Two Saw-whet Owls were seen in the "owl woods" on Apr. 3, one of which was caught and photographed from an advantageous location (G.O.S. hike). Two birds were noted in the same area on Apr. 16 (Killip, Rising, Miller).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A Pileated Woodpecker was seen May 1 near Ellison Park, a location from which it had not previously been reported (Davis). Twelve Red-bellied Woodpeckers on May 15 from the Avon area (Haller) is a good Count even for that section. Five Yellow-bellied Flycatchers seen May 28 along the west lakeshore (Starling, Miller) was the high count for this species. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported May 21 at Manitou (Listman) and May 24 at Highland Park (Starling). All six species of swallows were reported on the wires at Manitou May 21 (O'Hara, Miller). Two Tufted Titmice reported in the Irondequoit Bay area May 21 (Sunderlin, McNeth) are probably nesting in the vicinity. Seventy-five Brown Creepers reported Apr 14 in the Braddock's area (Listman) indicates a large migratory flight at that time. A very early House Wren was observed Apr 21 near Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer). After disappearing during the latter part of the winter two Carolina Wrens reappeared in Webster Park (Kemnitzer), and another pair appeared in the east bay area (McNeth, Sunderlin). The Mockingbirds in the Webster area seemed to have disappeared, but one bird was reported Apr 25 in Pittsford (Cameron). Maximum numbers of Eastern Bluebirds reported were ten on Apr 3 along the lakeshore (Listman et al) and eight Apr 16 in the Avon area (Haller). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seemed rather scarce in the Rochester vicinity, but ten were reported May 10 near Avon (Haller). Water Pipits seemed rather low in numbers with no really large flocks being reported anywhere.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A White-eyed Vireo was seen at Rose's Marsh on May 7 (Listman). The Solitary Vireo was apparently rather scarce, but the Philadelphia Vireo seemed more common than usual. Four of the latter were along the west lakeshore on May 21 (O'Hara, Miller).

The migration seemed fairly normal insofar as the more common warblers were concerned, with possibly some of the earlier species slightly off in numbers and some of the later warblers such as the Bay-breasted and Wilson's in slightly above normal numbers. Of the more unusual warblers the Orange-crowned, Prairie, and Connecticut were unreported. The Blue-winged Warbler was observed on May 15 at Avon (Haller) and in White Swamp at Chili (Rising). The Pine Warbler was seen at Manitou Apr 19 (Listman). Four Louisiana Waterthrushes were noted May 10 near Avon (Haller). The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported May 15 from White Swamp in Chili (Rising), May 22 in Rochester (Brown) and Mendon Ponds Park (MacRae, Lloyd), and May 29 at the B.A.N.C. (McKinney). Three hundred Myrtle Warblers and 25 Northern Waterthrushes seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman) indicates a heavy migratory movement of these species. Perhaps the outstanding feature of the entire warbler migration was the number of reports received of the Brewster's Warbler. The five such reports were from the following areas: northwestern part of Monroe County on May 12 (Listman), White Swamp in Chili on May 15 (Rising),

B.A.N.C. on May 15 (Davis), Webster on May 19 (Lloyd), and Mendon Ponds Park on May 22 (MacRae, Lloyd).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A Western Meadowlark was seen and heard in Webster from Apr 30 to May 15, at which time it disappeared (Kemnitzner, Lloyd). Some 20,000 Redwings, 15,000 Grackles, and 15,000 Cowbirds seen Apr 3 at Manitou (Listman, Bieber) represent a continuing heavy flight of these respective species from the spectacular numbers seen in late March. About 5,000 Cowbirds were seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman). Two hundred Rusty Blackbirds seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman) is a good count of this species for the spring migration, and a count of 15 on May 12 at Rose's Marsh (Listman) is a rather late date.

An immature male Summer Tanager was trapped and banded May 7 at Dr. Leubner's residence in Irondequoit. On May 12 the bird was taken from a cat, and the specimen was turned over to the Rochester Museum. This is the second record for the region, the first being at Highland Park on May 19, 1947, by Elisha Atkins. Approximately 150 Evening Grosbeaks Apr 30 at Manitou and 125 there on May 7 were the last flocks of these birds reported (Listman). A single bird was observed at Manitou on May 15 (Listman), and another was seen that day in Webster (Kemnitzner).

Three hundred Purple Finches were noted migrating at Manitou on Apr 30 (Listman). Some 300 Common Redpolls were seen Apr 3 at Braddock's (Listman et al), and five seen Apr 15 at Webster Park (Kemnitzner) were the last reported for the season. Pine Siskins were present in small numbers, the ten seen May 15 at Manitou (Listman) being the last report received. Two Red Crossbills seen in Highland Park Apr 15 (Starling) and two birds seen at the Hillside Home on Apr 22 (Peters) were the only reports of this species for the period. About 25 Towhees were seen at Manitou on Apr 30 (Listman). This bird is scarce as a summer resident along the lake in our area but is fairly common farther inland. An Oregon Junco was observed at Meadowood, near Avon, on Apr 16 (Haller).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was first observed in Webster Park on May 28 (Kemnitzner, Lloyd). The observers' attention was first directed to the bird by its peculiar, rasping song, Al Kemnitzner having had field experience with the bird in the midwest. The Clay-colored Sparrow was still present no May 31. Several other observers had ample opportunity to carefully study the bird at leisure at close range and to listen to its distinctive song. Although the bird is new to this region, its identification seems irrefutable.

The 2,500 White-throated Sparrows reported by Listman at Manitou on Apr 30 is probably the greatest number of this species ever seen here by a single observer. Lincoln's Sparrows were rather frequently reported, with a maximum of five May 21 at Manitou (Listman).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

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### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

There was snow the first week in April, followed by unseasonable heat the weekend of the 16th. May lacked the extreme cold spells of last year, but it was consistently cool, and rainfall for the month broke records throughout the region, being from one to five inches above normal. Rain fell on 23 out of the 31 days. This certainly slowed up migration (and probably reduced the number of man-hours spent in studying migration!), eliminated mudflats and consequently cut down on shorebird counts, and it interfered greatly with first nestings of many birds. The Hornell Reservoir was not free of ice until mid-April this year.

Everyone commented on the scarcity of birds — that is of everything except Redwings, Grackles, and Starlings. With the exception of Yellow Warblers, the Parulidae were exceedingly scarce, although a good variety of species was found on census day, represented by singles. The winds of April 2 and 3 brought in Song Sparrows, and more blackbirds. Some thrushes and warblers came in on May 7, but most of these birds were very late, not arriving until after the 16th, the majority on the 21st.

Particular scarcities are noted in the body of this report, but special mention should be made of the second "crash" in three years of the Bluebird. Crows were increasingly numerous, bold, and destructive everywhere.

Unusual birds for the reporting period included Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Northern Phalarope, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**Loons — Ducks:** Migrant Common Loons were on Cayuga Lake on May 10, and there was one Red-throated Loon at Aurora, rare in Spring migration here. J. Morse reported one Red-necked Grebe at Montezuma on Apr 24. Pied-billed Grebes were scarce at Keuka Lake this spring. The first ones appeared at Montezuma on Apr 7; 20 were seen on May 7, and the Refuge appeared to have a good breeding population this year (Morse). There were no reports of Cormorants this spring. Up to 64 Great Blue Herons were at Montezuma in May, and they are nesting in the rookery at Vanderbilt swamp, north of the Refuge. An adult Little Blue Heron was at Montezuma on Apr 24 and for several days thereafter. It is usually immatures of this species which turn up here, and then rarely. A Cattle Egret was seen the first week in May just northeast of Montezuma; the bird later flew on to Howland's Island (Region 5). The first Common Egrets were at Montezuma on May 22. No Least Bitterns were observed at Montezuma during the period, but the first one at Ithaca was on May 1 (J. Shepard). Glossy Ibis seem to be appearing every year at Montezuma. There were two this year on May 12, four on May 13, seven on May 15 (on census day, hence seen by dozens of observers), and three on May 16. There was a Mute Swan on the Refuge storage pond the first week in May, and a Whistling Swan was on the main pool Apr 24 (Scheider). Another Whistling Swan was on Dryden Lake on May 15 and 16.

Good numbers of Canada Geese went over Hornell on Apr 2 (Groesbeck); Hewitt estimated 10,000 on Cayuga on Apr 13, and Morse reported the peak of the Goose count the same day at Montezuma, some 15,000. The number remained about 11,000 until the night of May 2-3, when most left the Refuge. Three pairs nested on the display pond, and on May 31 one Goose was incubating at Sapsucker Woods.

Twenty years ago Brant were seldom seen in the Finger Lakes, and never in spring. On May 26 Morse noted a heavy flight over the Refuge, with one flock of 1500. That same day 26 were seen on Seneca (Smart), probably part of the same flight, and there was one individual at Stewart Park, Ithaca, from Apr 13 until its capture in early May. The bird was placed on the Sapsucker Woods pond. In mid-April up to 30 Snow Geese and 25 Blue Geese as well as at least one Snow-Blue hybrid were reported on Cayuga and at Montezuma. One Blue Goose was seen Apr 18 by Walker on Mound Road near Waterloo, and he also noted one Snow still at Montezuma on May 30.

The first Mallard brood at Montezuma was noted on May 27, and at Sapsucker Woods the first brood hatched about May 31. The first Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal broods at Montezuma appeared on May 26. In general, because of the late spring and severe flooding conditions usage at Montezuma was irregular; comparison with other years was quite difficult. About 1000 ducks, mostly male Pintails, were at the Refuge the last week in April (in contrast, there were no Pintail records for Keuka Lake this spring.) The duck flight was poor at Seneca except for Blue-winged Teal and American Widgeon (Ward). Teal were almost absent on Keuka. The first Common Teal in many years was spotted at Montezuma on Apr 9 by Scheider. This was also the first date for a European Widgeon, which remained through Apr 26. There were at least six Wood Duck pairs at Sapsucker Woods, but no broods had appeared by May 31. Ward saw 2000 Scaup at the north end of Seneca on Apr 2. Cayuga had nothing comparable. Buffleheads seemed somewhat more common this spring, on Cayuga and at the Refuge. There were 35 Oldsquaws on Seneca on Apr 2 (Ward), and 12 Oldsquaws were seen on Keuka Lake on the late date of May 15 (Guthrie). There were almost no scoter reports, although a White-winged was reported at Jennings Pond on Apr 27 (Hewitt). A Hooded Merganser was seen from May 14 through the end of the month inspecting boxes and holes at Sapsucker Woods.

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawks were scarce everywhere. The first Turkey Vulture was at Geneva on Apr 3 (Peck), and up to 12 were seen at Montezuma that month.

A Cooper's Hawk nested at the northwest corner of Ithaca's municipal airport in May, a new location. Red-shoulders were strangely inconspicuous and quiet at Sapsucker Woods, although they probably nested, and Morse reported that Red-tails and Red-shoulders probably nested at Montezuma, although nests were not seen.

There were almost no reports of Broad-winged Hawks (and none at all at Keuka), but one was over the Cornell campus on Apr 17 (Ficken). Two late reports of Rough-legged Hawks (especially considering their winter scarcity in the region) were May 15 near Geneva (Ward) and May 20 near Montezuma (J. Elliott). The Bald Eagles began incubating on Apr 11, were still at it on May 10, but once again were unsuccessful in bringing off young. The first Osprey report was Apr 3 at Montezuma (Scheider), and reports in the Cayuga Basin were a little more numerous this year. One of these birds spent considerable time at Sapsucker Woods catching goldfish. An immature female Peregrine was at Montezuma on Apr 26 (Hoyt et al), and a male was seen there on May 1 (A. Fudge).

A number of reports of Bobwhites in the Ithaca area probably represent some recent releases, but one found in K. Thorp's basement garage on May 9 must have come from some distance. The Wild Turkeys released on Connecticut Hill seemed to be doing well, and a nest with 12 eggs was found by R. Fischer the end of May. Gallinules and Coots were in normal numbers at Montezuma. Shorebird reports were very spotty because of high water, and some species were unreported. There were two reports of Black-bellied Plover: one on May 7 at the southwest corner of Cayuga Lake (Severinghaus) and one on May 17 at Jasper (Margeson). A ruddy Turnstone was seen May 20 at Myers Point (J. Shepard).

Upland Plover returned to their usual station near Dryden (P. Kelsey) and were reported from a new station near Peruville (Patterson). Two pairs were found near Elmira this year (Welles). Greater Yellowlegs were found at Montezuma from Apr 6 through May 5. Twelve Dowitchers, very rare in spring migration, appeared at Sapsucker Woods on the late afternoon of May 16 and remained all evening, to be seen by the Seminar audience. A Northern Phalarope was found at Horseheads on May 31 and was photographed by K. Fudge.

In early April 500 Herring Gulls and 1000 Ring-billed Gulls feasted on winter-killed fish at Montezuma. There were fewer Bonaparte's Gulls than usual this spring; the first two were reported on Apr 21. Common Terns appeared at Montezuma on May 1. About 40 scattered pairs seemed to be breeding there. A Caspian Tern was seen on Cayuga on Apr 13 (Hewitt); two were on Seneca Lake on May 21 (Ward), and three were on Cayuga on May 13 (Walker). Black Terns returned on May 1 (Futuyma), and Morse reported a Montezuma breeding population of 400.

Mourning Doves were in usual numbers at most places. Groesbeck found them in numbers around Hornell, where he saw 10-15 in a 30-mile drive. The ones that have nested in past years at Refuge Headquarters at Montezuma have been driven out by Grackles. Except at Avoca, both species of cuckoos seemed quite abundant. There were several instances of cuckoos being killed by flying into windows.

There were no Barn Owl reports this spring. The Great Horned Owl nested again in Stewart Park, where it was not found last year.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The only Whip-poor-will reports this year were of one at Sapsucker Woods the night of Apr 29 (DGA) and one at Horseheads on May 21 (K. Fudge). While an occasional Hummingbird came in on time, most reports said they were a week late, arriving around May 15-20.

Mrs. Carter reported all woodpeckers to be scarcer at Avoca this year. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their slight comeback at Elmira, where at least three pairs were known to be nesting (Welles). One has appeared at Odessa this year (Strath), one was seen along Dobbin Road in Geneva (Genung), and there was another at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 15. The latter bird was not subsequently seen. The Red-bellied Woodpecker seemed to be missing from some of its recent stations — the Montezuma, Howland's Island, and Keuka birds have not been seen recently. The Pilated Woodpecker nested in Stewart Park this year, for the first time, along one of the main paths where it was enjoyed by Saturday morning bird-walkers. Among the flycatcher group Phoebes were still scarce at Keuka and Avoca, but they have picked up somewhat around Ithaca. There were no reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers anywhere in the region. There was one report of the Acadian at Ithaca on May 8 (M. Michener). Traill's Flycatchers appeared to be in good numbers this year — both "fee-beo" and "fitz-bugh" were to be heard on the Sapsucker Woods pond dike. There was one report of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, on May 25 at Monkey Run, Ithaca (R. Ficken). Tree Swallows went through in good numbers, and if judged by the concentration at Montezuma the last of April and early May they seem to have recouped much for their loss. Barn Swallows were also in good numbers everywhere this year. Purple Martins have increased around

Hornell (Goesbeck), and a new enormous house at Branchport should provide for an increase in the Keuka Lake area. Another new station for the Tufted Titmouse is the Maple Grove Cemetery in Waterloo, where one was seen by J. Walker Apr 6.

A red-breasted Nuthatch was found feeding young in the Cayuga Heights section of Ithaca on May 18. This is the first nest of this species ever located in the Cayuga Lake Basin, although young Red-breasts were seen at the Arthur Lanes' feeding station in the early 1930's. Brown Creepers nested in Sapsucker Woods again.

The Watkins Glen area had the only report of a Winter Wren on the May 15 census; the species was scarce this year. The only report of a Short-billed Marsh Wren was from Summit Marsh on May 15 (Hewitt).

The Mockingbird in Ithaca left the Mesc feeding station in mid-April. Shortly thereafter there were two reports of Mockers from different parts of Ithaca, and one was seen east of Dryden on May 16 (K. Thorp). The pair is reported to be nesting at Larzeler's, north of Esperanza, near Branchport, and I hope to have more information on this in the next regional summary. Another Mocker was reported in early May north of Horseheads, and there was still another at Jasper on Apr 16 (MacDonald). Brown Thrashers were seen more frequently than usual around Ithaca in April. There were fewer reports in May, and they were missing around Avoca and Jasper.

The cold rains of May brought reduced nesting success in Robins; a few young were to be seen at the end of the month. Hermit Thrushes were very scarce in migration, and none were seen at Keuka. Wood Thrushes and Veeries have picked up somewhat this year around Ithaca and the Geneva area. Bluebirds have had another very serious crash. In the Ithaca area Hartshorne reported that only five of last year's 16 pairs he studied have returned and that the situation is 50% worse than 1958, which was the "bad" year. Some areas of the region reported only one bird seen all spring. The Sapsucker Woods pair was broken up. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were building in Stewart Park, Ithaca, on Apr 28 (Johnson), and another nest was located later. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were abundant in migration the last week of April. Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce. Water Pipits were seen along Warren Road, north of Ithaca, on Apr 3 by Michener, but there were few other reports. Cedar Waxwings were reported as scarce or almost absent at Watkins Glen, Avoca, and Jasper.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireos were still down in numbers, but Red-eyes were in better numbers this year than last (22 singing males in Sapsucker Woods as opposed to 14 last year). Warbling Vireos were about the same. Philadelphiaeas were almost unreported again this year; one was seen May 21 on Hickory Grove Road, Elmira (M. Smith).

The warbler migration was much delayed — it didn't really begin until May 16, and in the Ithaca area it reached a peak on May 21. It was marked by superb variety of species, but there were few individuals, with the exceptions of Yellow Warblers at Ithaca, Geneva, Montezuma, and Howland's, and Bay-breasts and Blackburnians around Elmira.

The Worm-eating Warblers returned to Elmira (York). Blue-winged Warblers increased around Ithaca while Golden-wings were not so easy to find. At Keuka, however, Guthrie reports four records of Golden-wings, where usually only one is known. A new station for both of these is along the RR tracks at Varna and east along Fall Creek there. Two Brewster's were also seen in that area. Nashvilles were conspicuous around Ithaca, but scarce at Keuka. Ceruleans were at Stewart Park again. Of great interest was the appearance on Apr 22, for the first time in many years, of a Yellow-throated Warbler at Stewart Park (Ficken). The bird has sung consistently from one small area through May and has been seen and heard by dozens of people. There were only two reports of Pine Warblers. Prairie Warblers were again found on Connecticut Hill, southwest of Ithaca (Kelsey). This warbler was also noted on Apr 29 at Horseheads Marsh (Andus) and along Bowlby Road, Elmira, on May 13 (M. Smith). Ovenbirds were somewhat more abundant this year. Mourning Warblers have been reported from Friend-Potter woods near Branchport (Spiker), at the Mills Road woods near Waterloo (Walker) for the first time in several years, and on Star Stanton Hill and the Irish Settlement Road southwest of Dryden (Kelsey). Chats remained scarce. Canada Warblers have picked up a little everywhere. There were seven pairs nesting in Sapsucker Woods this year. While Redstarts seemed fairly abundant, M. Ficken reported one or two fewer pairs in her study area in Stewart Park this year, and so the count remains about 60% of that of 1957.

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**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks were scarce, and Meadowlarks abundant. At Elmira Meadowlarks seemed to raise young successfully in spite of May rains (Welles). Redwings and Grackles were everywhere, and the latter in particular drove out more desirable song birds, destroyed nests and young, and usurped nesting places. There was one Orchard report, in Ithaca on May 1 (D. Futuyama). Rusty Blackbirds did not seem as abundant as in some years during migration. Indigo Buntings arrived about May 20-22 with the exception of one very early bird Apr 30 at Forest Home, Ithaca (R. Little). This species was definitely up in numbers this year, being noted singing everywhere along roads. Most Evening Grosbeaks were gone by May 8, but I have late dates up to May 24 (Hornell) from several locations, and one female remained near Ithaca through the end of May. My Etna birds remained until May 19. There was an increase noted in flock numbers the last week of April, when migrants came through. Redpolls left on the nights of Apr 16 and 17, with south winds, but one remained at the Ficken feeder in Ithaca until Apr 30, and one female was seen in mid-May (C. Turk). Scattered Pine Siskins remained at feeders through most of April. The flock of Red Crossbills remained near Monkey Run through May (J. Brown). A few turned up on the Cornell campus in mid-May, some were seen on May 10 along Triphammer Road (York), and two were along the Danby Road on May 28 (Mrs. D. Layton).

The first Grasshopper Sparrow was Apr 24 (MacInnes), the first Henslow's Apr 22 (L. Pearsall). A first report in some years of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was of one seen at Montezuma on May 15 (R. Hough). Tree Sparrows left the third week in April. Chipping Sparrows arrived in numbers on Apr 20 and 21. The Clay-colored Sparrow returned to the exact location in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, where it spent over two months last summer. The bird was kept under close observation for signs of nesting. Its return to the area a second year arouses much conjecture.

White-crowned Sparrows were reported scarce at Watkins Glen and Scarce on the lowlands at Keuka, but a large concentration was seen in Pleasant Valley by Sturtevant. At Ithaca the main migration was on May 17 and 18. White-throated Sparrows had their main migration at Ithaca on Apr 18, although a few had appeared earlier. The Geneva migration was around May 1 (Ward). A White-throated Sparrow was still singing at the end of May at Star Stanton Hill and will be watched (Kelsey). There was only one report of a Lincoln's Sparrow: at Stewart Park, Ithaca, in mid-May (Kelsey). Song Sparrows appeared in numbers on Apr 3, following strong winds the night before. Resident Song Sparrows, however, seemed scarce.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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April was much warmer and slightly drier than normal, on average, but the meteorological event most easily correlated with bird behaviour was the heavy snowfall of the ninth. Flocks of Slate-colored Juncoes and Tree Sparrows flocked to feeders and banding traps to find food, along with a scattering of other species, including an Oregon Junco. The latter half of the month was warm enough to speed up what had been a slow migration and put it ahead of schedule.

The warm weather and the advanced migration continued through the first week of May but then it suddenly turned cold and wet. The migration then slowed down very markedly and in the case of some species stopped entirely and may even have gone into reverse, judging by the absence of such species as Tennessee Warblers for a week after they were first recorded. The end result was one big wave made up of both early and late species around the May 21-22 weekend but perhaps not coinciding with it. A migration of this type might explain the complaint of one observer that the nesting warblers were normal but the transients were few in number, especially if the one big wave missed the weekend.

The single most interesting record of the period was, of course, our first Cattle Egret.

**Loons — Ducks:** The only Common Loon report was from Unadilla Apr 30 (H. Wisner). Horned Grebes at Oneonta Apr 23 (J. New), three the same day at Whitney Point (R. & M. Sheffield) and two at Norwich Apr 30 (R. & S. White) were all that were reported, a distinct contrast with last year when many more were reported starting almost two weeks earlier. Pied-billed Grebes were only reported twice; one at Whitney Point Apr 10 (R. & M. Sheffield) and on Apr 13 at Owego

(Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Allan). A nesting colony of Great Blue Herons, which has been there at least a few years, was found near Whitney Point when a lead received as a result of Christmas Count newspaper publicity was followed up at the appropriate season. The property on which at least part of the colony is located was recently acquired by the Whitney Point Sportsmen's Club, an organization which is sympathetic to the birds and intends to encourage them. A Green Heron at Unadilla Apr 24 (H. Wisner) was our first. The species was up in numbers compared to last year and on May 15 one was seen sitting on a nest in an apple tree near a stream at Candor, in Tioga County (D. Weber). In the afternoon May 22 at Ninevah, east of Binghamton in Broome County, a Cattle Egret was seen by a number of people while on a hike sponsored by the Triple Cities Naturalists' Club. It was in a marsh near the road and was described as a large, white, heron-like bird with buffy patches on its breast and back and flesh colored bill and legs. Final identification was made after returning home and a book with information concerning the species in it was consulted (H. Marsi et al). The only Common Egret reported during the period was at Polkville, near Norwich, May 4 (A. Stratton). Apr 3 and again May 15 a single Black-crowned Night Heron was seen flying over Oneonta (R. Burland) but they were otherwise unreported. Our first American Bittern was near Binghamton Apr 16 (G. & H. Marsii). There were very few reported but May 15 a nesting pair was discovered at Otego Swamp near Oneonta (R. Burland).

A Whistling Swan spent six days, Apr 2 thru 7, on the partially flooded Chenango River flats at the northern Binghamton city line (TCNC). The Canada Goose migration, although a little lighter than last year, was still quite heavy. The peak seemed to pass between Apr 12 and 18 but three were still present at Owego May 24 (S. Lincoln). American Widgeons were first reported Apr 2 in several places around the Triple Cities (TCNC). They were last seen Apr 10 and were back to their normal small numbers after the relatively heavy migration of last year. Migrants of both Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were first reported Apr 2 at several Triple Cities localities. The former species was last seen May 1. On Apr 8 a Shoveller was at Boland's Pond, north of Binghamton (H. Marsi). The usual very small number of Redheads was reported, starting Apr 2 at Boland's Pond (H. Marsi). Ring-necked Ducks were present in small flocks until Apr 23. Two Canvasbacks at Oxford Apr 4 (A. Stratton) and several Scaup at Unadilla Apr 24 (H. Wisner) were in each case our last. After a very poor year last year Common Goldeneyes were back to their normal but still small numbers. Three at Whitney Point Apr 16 (M. Sheffield) were our last. Apr 2 a dozen or more Buffleheads, an unusually large concentration in this region, was at Whitney Point (R. & M. Sheffield). The species was last reported at Oneonta Apr 23 (J. New). Two Oldsquaws at Whitney Point Apr 16 (R. & M. Sheffield) and six at Norwich Apr 22 (R. & S. White) were all that were reported. Hooded Mergansers were reported in small numbers until Apr 23 and Common Mergansers were seen regularly until Apr 17. Red-breasted Mergansers were first noted at Boland's Marsh Apr 1 (R. Saunders) and were last seen Apr 16 at St. John's Pond, north of Johnson City (L. Bemont).

**Hawks — Owls:** The Turkey Vulture at Deposit Apr 1 (S. Wilson) and the one near Binghamton May 1 (H. Machotka, W. Vonvoss) were both in areas from which we have previous records for the species but the one at Oneonta Apr 17 (R. Burland) was in an area from which we have no records of the species on file. However Mr. Burland writes that a nest and young were discovered "several years ago" at Davenport, near Oneonta. Cooper's Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were reported more frequently than last year. Two different Red-shouldered Hawk nests were discovered near Skylake, east of Binghamton (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry). An early Broad-winged Hawk was at Choconut Center Apr 2 (R. Sheffield) but not until Apr 16 did the main migration start. The last one reported was at Norwich May 17 (R. & S. White). Bald Eagles were better represented in reports than in any of the past eight years. Two, one adult and one immature, were seen several hours apart at Oxford May 11 (A. Stratton). At Oneonta one was seen May 15 and what could have been the same bird was at the same spot the following day (R. Burland). On May 28 two were seen flying high over Cortland (Dr. Bowers). Our first Osprey was near Binghamton Apr 1 (H. Marsi). A few more were reported between then and May 15. There were no specific reports of Bobwhites, but sportsmen's groups claim to know of at least three small coveys that have survived from their stocking efforts during the past three years. No more were released this year. Pheasants seemed scarce at Oneonta (R. Burland).



The only Coot report was from Goodale Lake at Homer Apr 13 (J. Gustafson). A Semipalmated Plover at Owego May 15 (R. Williams, M. White) was our first and one at Oakdale, near Johnson City, May 25 (F. Linaberry) was our last. There were only a few reported, but even that was more than normal. There was some Killdeer increase noted over the low of last year, but at Oneonta they were still not numerous (R. Burland). Woodcock were found in about normal numbers and were "common where habitat is suitable" around Oneonta (J. New). At Norwich a nest with four eggs was found Apr 9 (White). An upland Plover was found at Coventry Apr 16 and another at East McDonough Apr 26, both in Chenango County (A. Stratton). Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and Binghamton (H. Marsi) Apr 22. A Solitary Sandpiper at Newark Valley May 8 (L. Dean) was the first and the last was at Oakdale May 22 (L. Bemont). Greater Yellowlegs were at Whitney Point (M. Sheffield) and Maine (H. Marsi) on Apr 23 and there were still a few around May 15. Lesser Yellowlegs were seen only May 15 at Whitney Point (M. Sheffield) and Oneonta. There were several reports of least Sandpipers after the one at the Oneonta Reservoir May 4 (R. Burland), most of them, May 15, which was also the last day they were seen, from various parts of the region. On May 15 a flock of twelve Dunlin was found at Vestal (L. Bemont) and three Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Boland's Marsh (L. Bemont). Ring-billed Gulls were seen until May 15, but none after. Five Bonaparte's Gulls at Whitney Point Apr 3 (M. Sheffield) were our earliest. Nineteen were at the same place Apr 23 and the last of them were seen May 1. Three Common Terns and a Caspian Tern, the only terns of any species reported during the period, were at Norwich Apr 22 (R. & S. White). Mourning Doves didn't seem as common as in previous years at Oneonta (R. Burland). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were first noted May 11 (H. Marsi) and Black-billed Cuckoos May 7 (M. Sheffield), both at Binghamton. Yellow-bills, after being very scarce last year, were the more common of the two, but both were in reasonably good supply. Screech Owls continue to be relatively scarce. The only one reported during the period was at McLane Bogs, in Cortland County, May 14 (J. Gustafson). A Barred Owl was heard at McLean Bogs May 14 (J. Gustafson) and another was at Chenango Valley State Park, near Binghamton, May 15 (W. Reeves, P. Cannaday).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-wills were heard around Binghamton May 15 and 21 (W. Reeves) and at Oneonta May 15 (R. Burland). Nighthawks were seen at Newark Valley May 11 (L. Dean) and Binghamton May 15 (H. Marsi, et. al.) but didn't become common until May 19. Two very early Chimney Swifts were at Cortland Apr 6 (Wilson). Two more at Oneonta Apr 20 were also quite early (R. Burland). They started to arrive in force Apr 28 at Binghamton. Our first Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Freetown Corners, in Cortland County, May 14 (J. Doren). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared Apr 14 at Deposit (S. Wilson) in Maine (J. Beaver). At Oneonta where a large migratory flock was seen last year there were very few this year (R. Burland). A Kingbird at Newark Valley May 3 (L. Dean) was our first but they didn't become common until May 15. A great Crested Flycatcher at Oneonta May 8 (R. Burland) was our first. They seemed more numerous than usual around Binghamton. Phoebes were reported to be scarce at Cortland (J. Gustafson) while at Binghamton they were about the same as last year, less than normal but better than the low of two years ago. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported at Binghamton May 22 (M. Sheffield), Oneonta May 25 (R. Burland) and Newark Valley May 28 (L. Dean). Traill's Flycatchers arrived at Owego May 15 (R. Williams, M. White) and Least Flycatchers arrived May 3 at Sidney Center (H. Wisner). Wood Pewees were first reported May 15 at Owego (D. Weber) and Oneonta (R. Burland). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was near Binghamton May 14 (E. Whitson) and a few more were reported before the end of the period. Bank Swallows were first reported from Owego Apr 19 (W. Reeves). Our first Rough-winged Swallows were at Homer Apr 17 and our first Barn Swallows were at Little York Apr 13 (J. Gustafson). Two Cliff Swallows were at Oneonta Apr 24 (R. Burland). A previously unreported colony, made up of more than twenty nests, was discovered at Norwich May 28 (R. & S. White). Purple Martins arrived at Binghamton (H. Marsi) and Homer (J. Gustafson) Apr 14.

Two Tufted Titmice were reported at Owego May 15 (M. White). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common at Binghamton until May 15 (TCNC). At Oneonta they were still common and two were still coming to a feeder for suet at the end of the period (J. New). A Brown Creeper was still at Oneonta May 15 (J. New) and another was seen and heard singing at Maine May 28 (J. Beaver). House Wrens were at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield) Apr 17. They were

reasonably abundant. A Winter Wren was seen and heard singing near Binghamton Apr 16 (M. Sheffield). There were several other reports, the last of which was May 2 at Binghamton (H. Marsi). A Carolina Wren was frequently heard singing at Endwell, a new location, during the period and another was seen at Chenango Bridge May 15 (L. Bemont). A Long-billed Marsh Wren at Otego May 15 was the first one reported (R. Burland). By May 26 the Sherburne swamp was "loaded with them" (R. & S. White). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was at Choconut Center May 14 (R. & M. Sheffield) and another was at Otego May 15 (R. Burland). A Mockingbird was seen at Whitney Point for several days starting Apr 22 (Gaylords, M. Sheffield) and another was at Cortland May 16 (Clemens). These are the first warm weather records of the species in the region. The main influx of Catbirds started with one at Deposit May 1 (S. Wilson). Brown Thrashers were at Unadilla Apr 14 (H. Wisner) but were not seen anywhere else until Apr 19. An early Hermit Thrush was at Whitney Point Apr 2 (M. Sheffield) and on May 15 a nest containing three eggs was found on a steep bank near Candor (D. Weber). An early Swainson's Thrush was at Binghamton Apr 28 (H. Marsi) and another was singing at Choconut Center May 7 (R. & M. Sheffield). At least three were seen May 15 but it was between May 21 and 24 that most of them seemed to go through and they could be seen hopping across lawns in city and suburban back yards. Two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found at Binghamton May 22 (M. Sheffield) and at least two more were found May 23 only two blocks from the business section of Oneonta (R. Burland). Our first Veery was at Endwell May 2 (F. Linaberry). No Bluebirds were found at Unadilla or Cortland and only a few at Oneonta. Only at Bainbridge and Choconut Center was the picture at all encouraging. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Choconut Center Apr 29 and 30 was the only one reported. Golden-crowned Kinglets were very scarce, but Ruby-crowned Kinglets were plentiful, especially from Apr 15 to 30, but were still present May 15. The Pipits at Maine Apr 9 (J. Beaver) were the only ones reported. A Loggerhead Shrike was at Whitney Point Apr 2 and 3 (M. Sheffield, J. Beaver).

**Vireos — Warblers:** The Yellow-throated Vireo at Oneonta Apr 17 seemed very early (J. New). The next one was at Unadilla May 2 (H. Wisner). Solitary Vireos were distinctly low in numbers. The only Philadelphia Vireo reported was at Oneonta May 21 (R. Burland). Warbling Vireos were quite common after they arrived May 5 in several areas simultaneously.

Black and White Warblers arrived at Deposit Apr 23 (S. Wilson) and seem to have recovered somewhat from their low numbers of the past two years. Still another new station was discovered for Worm-eating Warblers directly across the river from Chenango Valley State Park (L. Bemont). They were also present at one of the old stations on the south edge of Binghamton (H. Marsi). Golden-winged Warblers were common, as usual, in the Binghamton area in suitable habitat. Blue-winged Warblers, after being present at only one station for several years, appeared at four new ones this year as well as the old one. One was at Owego (Tioga Birdwatchers Club) and the other three were around the Triple Cities. No Brewster's Warblers this year. Tennessee Warblers were at Oneonta and Binghamton May 8 but then seemed to evaporate and were absent for a week. They were present in their usual large numbers around May 21 and 22. The only Orange-crowned Warbler reported was at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania May 21 (N. & E. Washburn). Nashville Warblers arrived at Unadilla Apr 24 (H. Wisner) and were present in normal numbers to the end of the period. A Parula Warbler at Oneonta May 9 (J. New) was the first of the usual rather few records. Magnolia Warblers, although first reported May 6 (S. Wilson), were rather difficult to find until May 21 when they were quite common, around Binghamton at least. Cape May Warblers were quite thin, but Black-throated Blue Warblers, while not really common, were more prevalent than in recent years. Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, usually thought of as among the early warblers, were most common at Binghamton May 21 and 22 although both were present in late April. Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers were also at the peak of their migration May 21 and 22 but this is normal for them. The only Pine Warbler reported was at Norwich Apr 28 (R. & S. White). A Mourning Warbler was at Unadilla May 22 (H. Wisner) and another at Oneonta the same day (J. New). A Third was at Norwich, in a new location for the species, May 24 (R. & S. White). Yellow-breasted Chats were scarce again around Binghamton but a new station was discovered at Norwich (R. & S. White). A Wilson's Warbler was at Newark Valley May 15 (L. Dean) and five more were reported in the Binghamton area May 21 and 22.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** At Afton there were more Bobolinks than had been seen in years (E. J. Smith). An orchard Oriole was reported at Sulfur Springs, near Owego, May 15 (M. White). Rusty Blackbirds were last reported at Maine Apr 30 (J. Beaver). Brown-headed Cowbirds were back to normal at Bainbridge after being excessively common last year (E. J. Smith). An early Scarlet Tanager was at Binghamton Apr 30 (W. Reeves) but they were not here in force until May 6.

A very early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Ludlow, in Chenango County, Apr 24 (A. Stratton). They started arriving in numbers May 3. Indigo Buntings seemed scarce and late (Apr 12). Evening Grosbeaks were common throughout the region through the first week of May. They started to thin out then and the last one was a Binghamton May 23 (C. Morehouse). Purple Finches were "not nearly as numerous" as last year at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). Quite a few Redpolls remained until the middle of April but most of them left then. The last straggler was near Endicott Apr 29 (L. Hevey, et. al.). Two Pine Siskins at Endwell May 9 (L. Bemont) were the only ones reported during the period. Six Red Crossbills at Cortland May 13 (Wilson) were also the only ones reported during the period or so far this year. A Savannah Sparrow Apr 3 (L. Bemont), a Grasshopper Sparrow Apr 24 (M. Sheffield), a Henslow's Sparrow Apr 23 (M. Sheffield) and a Vesper Sparrow Apr 6 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry), all in the Triple Cities area, were their respective firsts. An Oregon Junco, seen at close range several times, was at a feeder in Binghamton Apr 9 (H. Marsi, L. Bemont) along with large flocks of Slate-colored Juncos. The snow of that date brought hundreds of Juncos and nearly as many Tree Sparrows to feeders where they continued to visit for about a week and then both species thinned out rapidly. Five Tree Sparrows at Oneonta May 5 were the last, but a Slate-colored Junco nest with four eggs was found at Candor May 15 (D. Weber). White-crowned Sparrows were scarce at Oneonta and not common anywhere. A very early one was at Oneonta Apr 25 (R. Burland), but the rest were recorded between May 6 and 25 with the peak May 15 and 16. White-throated Sparrows were seen carrying nesting material at Bainbridge but nevertheless disappeared about May 20 (E. J. Smith). The main migration of Fox Sparrows was over about Apr 18 but there were stragglers present at Choconut Center as late as May 3 (R. & M. Sheffield).

There were three reports of Lincoln's Sparrows, one at Binghamton May 21 (M. Sheffield), one at Newark Valley May 22 (L. Dean) and one at Choconut Center May 22 (L. Bemont). Swamp Sparrows were scarce at Oneonta and in spite of special effort could not be found in some of the best spots (J. New). They seemed about normal around Binghamton.

**Additions and Corrections to Previous Reports:** Three Whistling Swans were at Windsor Mar 27, 1960 (H. Kent)

The Wood Thrush first date in the July 1959 issue, page 87, should be Apr 30 instead of May 30.

A Lark Bunting was reported at Cortland Feb 27, 1960 (W. Clemens). It was observed carefully for nearly five minutes at a distance of 15 to 20 feet and the heavily streaked breast and large white wing patch were carefully noted. The identification was completed after consulting Peterson's "Field Guide".

710 University Ave., Endwell

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April was warm, wet, and windless. From April 2 to 24 daily temperatures averaged 12° above normal, and April loss of migrant to snow storms and cold weather was negligible. Southwest winds were scarce, as were concomitant migratory bursts. Rain was abundant through May (3.96 inches, an inch above normal) and frequent (rain on 23 days). The month averaged slightly warmer than normal but primarily because of higher temperatures the latter half of the month. The first week of May was clear and warm, with no waves until May 7. The second week remained wet and persistently cold, which stagnated migration completely. The next two weeks with frequent lows, cold fronts, and foggy nights produced stellar waves (May 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26) and excellent thrush and warbler numbers (vide infra). However, early foliation secondary to the warm weather and abundant rainfall was a distinct handicap; strong winds on many days ran a close second for observational annoyances of the month.

Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake water levels were quite high with a consequent loss of their adjacent shorebird flats, but many marshes, heretofore dried up, were re-flooded. Both elms and oaks suffered from local insect infestations, a situation

capitalized on by migrant warblers, and also by breeding Catbirds, thrushes, and icterids. No tent caterpillar outbreaks have been noted to date, but cuckoos have still been common.

Spring migration features include on the positive side: 1) a widespread dabbling flight with better than average numbers of Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal, 2) several fine hawk flights (1000 + 1 day), 3) a good early shorebird flight, 4) a tremendous swallow flight, and 5) high counts of later warbler migrants. Negative aspects include: 1) the poor diving duck flight, 2) the extremely poor late May shorebird flight, and 3) low late April and early May warbler counts. Most small landbird migrants arrived on time or slightly late; this tardiness was especially notable in flycatchers, both in first arrival dates and in dates of peak counts. Specifically scarce were Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Water Pipit, and Savannah Sparrow (continental winterers) and Nighthawk, Hummingbird, and Northern Waterthrush (birds wintering in the tropics).

Rarities for the season include Cattle Egret, Gloss Ibis, Blue Goose, King Rail, Worm-eating Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

N. B. — In the summary below, the following initials will be used: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron, and SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: high count of 550 on Apr 12 on western Oneida Lake (163 in the air at once), the majority migrating west on the lake, then northwest out of Big Bay. Red-throated Loon: one — two birds seen Apr 15-May 17 on Lake Ontario near Texas (Cade, Spofford). Great Blue Heron: two flocks of 13 and 27 noted migrating Apr 3 east of Texas (Spofford); through scattered birds have been seen migrating in these lakeshore flights, flocks of these numbers were unrecorded heretofore. Common Egret: no April records but present in such summering areas as SSSP and Bridgeport by mid-May. Cattle Egret: an adult feeding in the goose pasture at HIGMA May 3 (Bauer) is our first definite record. Glossy Ibis: seven seen flying by the Hawk Lookout near Texas May 6 (Mrs. Curtis) is notable and is proof that all hawk watching is not hawk watching. Whistling Swan: one-six reported thru April around HIGMA; none from Oneida Lake or along Sandy Pond. Brandt: only Regional report was a flock of 50 over Sherrill May 26 (Nodecker); none at Sandy Pond this spring. Snow Goose: one Apr 23 at SSSP is an unusual location as few geese, even Canadas, gather in that area. Blue Goose: an adult Apr 24 near HIGMA in a flock of 700 Canadas was the only spring report.

Dabbling Ducks — Mallard, Black, and Pintail counts were good (1000-2000/day) thru the first two weeks of April; subsequently, with rapid run-off of flooded areas, the counts of lingering birds were small. However, Blue-winged Teal counts (250-300/day, Apr 24-26) were good, Shoveler counts of 75/day were noted, and Shovelers were seen for the first time in 18 years on Oneida Lake (mudlarking on flooded camp lawns) near Bridgeport.

Redhead and Canvasback: spring counts at ridiculous lows with no Redhead count above 50 and no Canvasback count above 500. Scaup and Goldeneye counts were in the high hundreds, and only Red-breasted Mergansers made the 1000 mark (2000 on Lake Ontario Apr 10). With the generally low counts, lingering birds were expectedly very scarce, and many ponds that would sport certain divers (Redhead, Scaup, Bufflehead) were devoid of same except for scattered groups (10-35) of Ring-necked Ducks. Oldsquaw: single drakes in summer and winter plumage respectively were noted courting a winter-plumaged female Apr 12 at Oneida Lake.

**Hawks — Owls:** Spring hawk flights (totaling over 10,000 individuals) near Texas were noted Apr 3, 16, 17, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, and May 30 (Cade, Elkins, Hager, Minor, Spofford) with peak count of 4000 on Apr 28 (Elkins). Maximum counts include — Turkey Vulture: 23, Apr 17; Sharp-shinned: 356 (low), Apr 17; Red-tailed: 354, Apr 3; Red-shouldered: 357, Apr 3; Broad-winged: 3848 on Apr 28, 1000+ on Apr 25 and 27; Rough-legged: 25, Apr 3; Bald Eagle: five, Apr 17; Marsh Hawk: 90+ on Apr 3; Osprey: 24 on Apr 16; Peregrine Falcon: a single Apr 28 (Elkins) was the only one noted in the April flights this year; Sparrow Hawk: 36, Apr 3. Of note was a flight of 162 Broad-wings, all but two immatures and the majority in molt, on May 30. At least ten Goshawks were noted, with a maximum of six on Apr 16; this is somewhat surprising in view of their complete absence last fall and winter, either locally or across the state.

Bobwhite: a small covey located east of Bridgeport in late April (Gould); the HIGMA birds did very poorly through the severe winter, and only two to three pairs

are believed to have survived. King Rail: one seen and heard May 15-24 near Cicero was the second record in as many years (many observers).

Early shorebird counts, particularly Pectoral and Yellowlegs, were quite good (maximum Greater Yellowlegs 65, Apr 24; Lesser Yellowlegs 20, Apr 26; Pectoral 55, Apr 24) as the migration peak coincided nicely with the last vestiges of flood run-off and transient superb conditions for shorebirds. Later shorebirds along Lake Ontario were very poor as high water and beach crowds virtually eliminated available habitat; the lack of a mooneye kill meant scant feeding potential also. Dunlin were reported by the dozen only, Turnstones counts were two to seven, Sanderlings below ten, and no Knots or Dowitchers were noted.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: last date is Apr 10, one and two respectively, along the Oswego River (Listman). Bonaparte's Gull: scarce, with no count over 20. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: frankly common this spring with six - seven/day, this despite the lack of a tent caterpillar outbreak.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Common Nighthawk: arrival date of May 20 was late; these birds were noted to be persistently scarce around Syracuse and at Oneida. Flicker: a ratio of 110:one male:female in the landbird flight Apr 16 near Texas is a previously unsuspected distribution, and this points to the need for further observations of such ratios in the other woodpeckers (Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers) that migrate along the lake shore. Sapsucker: a fair flight through April but frankly scarce the first two weeks of May, a time when numbers of female Sapsuckers are usually still present.

Exceptions to the general tardiness of flycatchers were a Least Flycatcher Apr 24 at HIGMA and an Eastern Kingbird Apr 27 at Lafayette. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two noted at Sandy Pond May 22 (Peterson) and singles at Syracuse May 24 and near Texas May 30.

On Apr 26, a cloudy, rather cold day with intermittent rain, some 30,000 swallows were observed hawking insects over Mexico Bay (about five miles long), with the approximate species estimates as follows: 10,000 Tree, 9,000 Bank, 500 Rough-winged, 12,000 Barn, and 1,000 Purple Martin (Scheider); it is to be noted that on the same day a similar dense concentration of 40,000 swallows was seen at Montezuma Refuge (Region 3). Cliff Swallow: a colony with 59 nests noted May 15 near Westernville (Aspinwall) is the largest local colony by far. Blue Jay: the mid and late May flight along Lake Ontario was again observed, and birds were noted flying by the Hawk Lookout near Texas in loose groups (10-25/flock) on May 30.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: none noted in migration at Syracuse, and the few noted at SSSP (Rusk) were most likely those that wintered, as they were regularly found in the same groves through early May. Singles noted in the pitch pine groves in the Rome Sand Plains Apr 24 (Aspinwall) and May 29 (Ackley, Carter, Poquettes) may point to local breeding. House Wrens: numbers appeared up this spring, quite in contrast to the miserable showing of Hermit Thrushes and Bluebirds. Short-billed Marsh Wren: singing birds were noted in thick grassy fields (dry) near Port Ontario and Texas May 30, no others reported. Mockingbird: May 17 at East Syracuse, one killed by crashing into a window (Abraham fide Burt); one seen intermittently through the last week of May in Jamesville (Gravatt) might indicate nearby nesting.

Robin: 2000 migrating east along the lake shore Apr 16 near Texas was noteworthy, as such counts are usually a late March or early April feature. Hermit Thrush: reported in ones and twos this spring, and many observers missed them in migration entirely; scarce in local breeding areas such as Constantia and Rome Sand Plains. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes: an enormous flight heard migrating overhead May 20 was prelude to a glut of various thrushes in the area on May 21; also 80 Swainson's Thrushes were noted May 26 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Bluebird: to date only five breeding pairs have been noted in the entire region, an indication of their great scarcity. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: only one bird was noted in migration at Syracuse this spring, and they were hard to find in the heavy creek-side woods, although they were present in usual numbers at Camillus. Golden-crowned Kinglet; no major early April wave, and counts ranged from ten to 40 through that month, Ruby-crowned Kinglet: an arriving wave Apr 17 produced counts of 20-30/hedgerow, and counts remained high through May, e.g., 30 on May 18, SSSP; last noted May 24.

Water Pipit: extremely scarce, with no April flights to speak of, but a small wave May 14-19 aided Big Runs; last seen May 30, a crippled bird in winter plumage, at Sandy Pond. Northern Shrike: last noted Apr 10 (late), one near Kirkville, one

near Texas (Listman, Brown). Loggerhead Shrike: at least eight noted from the Pulaski and Oswego areas; two were watched in courtship feeding Apr 16.

**Vireos — Warblers:** The vireo migration can be summed up in a few words. Solitary Vireos were scarce and late, Warbling Vireos were early (Apr 30), and seven Philadelphia Vireos, more than the usual number, were seen (May 17-30).

Patterns of warbler migration — Major warbler waves occurred May 7; 16, 17, and 18; 21 and 22; and 24, 25, and 26, with the best wave by all accounts on May 25. Early warbling (late April and early May) was disappointing because of the lack of waves and the failure of any concentrations to develop. The second week of May was solidly miserable with rain, wind, and cold, as was the Big Run May 15. However, May 16 ushered in a three-day burst of warblers which was quickly eclipsed by the warbler (and thrush) flight of May 21-22. May 24-26 was marvelous, and these days provided the best counts of the season (vide infra).

Plethora of warblers — Certain later local warbler counts will undoubtedly stand as peaks for some years, to wit — Yellow 400, May 8, HIGMA; Magnolia 65, May 25, SSSP; Black-throated Blue 25, May 25, Sandy Pond; Black-throated Green 105, May 25, Sandy Pond; Bay-breasted 85, May 18, Camillus Valley; Blackpoll 32, May 24, Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; Wilson's eight, May 22, Sandy Pond, and 15 on May 25, SSSP; Canada 75, May 25, SSSP (Evans, Peterson, Rusk, Scheider, Thurber).

Paucity of warblers — Scarce during the spring migration were Blackburnian (maximum of 25 on May 21), Nashville (maximum of 22 on May 17), and particularly Northern Waterthrush, which was very scarce on migration and has been quite scarce, almost rare, in local breeding areas. Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers were down slightly from previous spring counts with peaks of 35 on May 17 and 20 on May 25 respectively.

Warbler rarities — include two Worm-eating and a Prairie in the great warbler wave May 25 at SSSP (Evans), two Blue-winged Warblers May 17, Camillus Valley (Scheider), and four Orange-crowned May 21-25 at SSSP and Sandy Pond (Evans, Peterson).

Breeding warblers — Two singing male Golden-winged Warblers were noted on territory in a brushy marsh near Texas May 30, a new locality for them. Two singing male Cerulean Warblers noted May 24 on Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake (Evans) provides another station in the gap between the birds about Oneida and those west of Syracuse. Additional Pine Warbler pairs were located May 29 in the Rome Sand Plains (Ackley, Carter, Paquettes) and along the Oneida River (Scheider) May 30. No Louisiana Waterthrushes were noted in the region. Hooded Warbler: new stations located east of Marcellus May 24 (Spofford) and near Texas May 30 (Scheider), raising to 11 our known breeding localities for this species.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: a count of 150 on one lawn near SSSP May 25 (Evans) was impressive, and points up the lateness of the migration, as such numbers are usually found only in the first two weeks of May. Icterids constituted the majority of the huge landbird flight (jammed against the lake by southwest winds) at Texas Apr 16 (Cade, Rusk) with the following estimates: 350 Meadowlarks, 25,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 30,000 Grackles, and 10,000 Cowbirds plus 20,000 of the ubiquitous and inevitable Starling. Rusty Blackbird: 1000 noted Apr 19 at Clay Swamp was a record local high count.

Winter finches through April and early May seemed strangely out of place in the warm wet weather. Evening Grosbeak: over 1000 noted in the Apr 3-9 feeder survey (Burt); these birds left in two distinct periods, the majority Apr 20-30 and lesser numbers May 5-12; last noted May 18, Georgetown. Redpoll: hundreds still noted to Apr. 10 with over 500 in the April feeder survey. The exodus occurred between Apr 10 and 16; last noted, one, May 5, Lacoña (Wheeler). No Crossbills were noted through the period, and Pine Siskins were frankly scarce (groups of 10-20) with maximum 25, May 8, SSSP.

A Henslow's Sparrow on Apr 15 at Bridgeport was a record arrival date. Repeatedly listed amongst the decreasing local breeders are Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows; this decline is most striking in areas where land use has been persistently the same (Three Rivers Game Management Area, Bridgeport area). Slate-colored Junco: Heaviest movement was during the third week of April (late); last

migrant noted May 17, SSSP. Tree Sparrow: the majority of local departure dates fell between Apr 18 and 25; last seen May 4, one near Oneida (Felle).

White-crowned Sparrow: a short peaked migration period (May 3-22) with some areas inundated (e.g. Sandy Pond dunes, 110+, May 15) with these birds, while other areas were virtually devoid of them (Syracuse, Camillus). White-throated Sparrow: a spectacular Apr 30 wave with 500+ noted in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, and 800+ at Camillus and SSSP (Estoff and Propst); last migrant noted May 29 at Camillus (Paquettes). Snow Bunting: one Apr 23 on a plowed field (with territory-staking Horned Larks and Vesper Sparrows about) was a record date locally (Paquette, Thurber).

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The migration of many birds this spring was late. May was cool and wet, and the warblers were late and lower in numbers.

Our May census produced only 135 varieties, which is less than we found in a shorter period last year.

Among the individual records of note were a Cattle Egret and a late Snowy Owl.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Double-crested Cormorant was seen along the Pillar Point Shore Road on Apr 18. A Cattle Egret, probably an immature bird, was found near Clayton May 13. It remained there until May 23, and thus many people were afforded a good chance to see it. On Apr 24 a Snow Goose appeared at PRGMA (Perch River Game Management Area). Three were at Wilson Hill Game Management Area on May 25 (fide J. Wilson). Seven Blue Geese were reported at Perch River Flats Apr 9 (fide J. Blake). There were several pairs of Shovelers at Perch River Flats in April, and the early part of that month brought in a good flight of Hooded Mergansers.

**Hawks — Owls:** Gordon reported a Turkey Vulture at Sears Pond in the Tug Hill section on Apr. 16. He also saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk attacking a Grackle on Apr 15, but a car frightened the hawk away and the Grackle escaped. On the same day he watched another Sharp-shinned Hawk killing a struggling Robin on the ground. The hawk pulled feathers from the breast for several minutes with its beak and finally flew away with the Robin in its talons. Conner, Gordon, and Belknap saw a Goshawk in the Tug Hill section of Lewis County. Rough-legged Hawks were present the first part of April, and the last date was Apr 19 (Belknap). On May 6 Allen observed a Pigeon Hawk at PRGMA. Last dates for the Snowy Owl are Apr 4 and Apr 28.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** A male Whip-poor-will was flushed from the ground in a woods near Felts Mill Creek on Apr 30. An early date for Red-headed Woodpeckers is May 8 at PRGMA. There were two early reports of Tree Swallows, one of which was Apr 2. Cliff Swallows were seen at Rutland Pond Apr 30. Barn Swallows were said to be scarce in one place near Potsdam. There was a noted absence of Bluebirds everywhere. L. Blake has only one pair in her nest boxes this year. An early Legerhead Shrike was seen on Pillar Point Apr 2 (Gordon).

As mentioned above, the warbler migration was poor and late. A Yellow Warbler was at Perch Lake on May 7. An exception to the general rule was a sizeable wave of warblers noted by Gordon in Watertown Park on May 21. It was composed largely of Bay-breasts and Blackburnians, but there were other common warblers to be seen at the same time.

The last Evening Grosbeak came to Allen's feeder on May 17. The number banded in Watertown during the winter season (Nov 21 to May 15) was well over 2,000 (Elitharp, Clinch). The last Pine Siskin seen at my feeder was on May 7. Allen found a Grasshopper Sparrow near Watertown May 28. Slate-colored Juncos were common around Watertown the last half of April. White-crowned Sparrows arrived May 2 and stayed until May 26, which is late.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

There can be no doubt that we had a precocious spring, at least here in the North Country. Premature budding, followed by real cold snaps right up until the end of the period, left the birder as well as the birds utterly frustrated. Although there was snow on the ground until late April, there were days during the middle of that month when 70 degree temperatures were not uncommon.

There was a dearth of warblers, tanagers, and thrushes this spring. In the Keeseville area there were so few warblers that for days in a row they were absent from the listings. There were no so-called peak days. Further inland the flights appeared to be better, with more species being reported. I am grateful to my correspondents in that area, for without their reports there would be little to say at this time.

**Loons — Owls:** A few flocks of geese were seen or heard, but there was not an above-average number of reports this spring. Of the several species of waterfowl that wintered in the area (Lake Champlain never did completely freeze over during the winter), a few began moving inland in April. A few species were noted at Fish Creek campsite by Apr 23 (Amstutz) and as early as Apr 9 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty).

The Pigeon Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and Osprey were recorded at Sunmount on Apr 17, and a Bald Eagle was there on Apr 24 (Amstutz). While at Keeseville from Apr 1 to Apr 20 I recorded the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were no reports of Cooper's Hawks or Goshawks throughout the area.

The killdeer arrived at Sunmount on Apr 24 (Amstutz). The Spotted Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper were at Keeseville on May 3 and 11 respectively. A Common Snipe was recorded on Apr 24 (Amstutz). The Mourning Dove was seen on Apr 4 at Sunmount (Amstutz).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The Least Flycatcher was noted at Sunmount on May 18, and the Wood Pewee was there on May 21 (Amstutz). At Keeseville I saw the Phoebe on Apr 13 and the Eastern Kingbird on May 11. Bank Swallows had arrived at Keeseville by Apr 13, and Purple Martins were there by May 4. Tree Swallows were at Tupper Lake by Apr 18 (Delehanty).

Veeries had arrived at Tupper Lake by May 20, and Catbirds had arrived a bit over a week earlier (Delehanty). The Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush were recorded at Sunmount on Apr 24 and May 10 respectively (Amstutz). Bluebirds were at Keeseville by Apr 22, and the Brown Thrasher arrived on schedule on Apr 24. A shrike was seen on Apr 9 (Amstutz).

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Red-eyed Vireos put in an appearance on May 20. As previous mentioned, there were few warbler reports, but a few of the recorded arrival dates follow: Yellow Warbler (May 9), Yellowthroat, Redstart, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided and Ovenbird (May 7), Magnolia Warbler (May 18), and Cape May Warbler (May 21).

Bobolinks were seen at Keeseville late in the period, and Baltimore Orioles had arrived there by May 10.

Evening Grosbeaks were present at Tupper Lake until May 4 (Delehanty) and at Sunmount until May 22 (Amstutz). At Keeseville many large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks remained until early May when they apparently moved inland. No Pine Grosbeaks were reported in the region. Purple Finches were reported on several occasions in late April and early May. Pine Siskins were observed on Apr 25 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty).

Vesper Sparrows and Fox Sparrows were at Tupper Lake on Apr 8, and the Savannah Sparrow was there the following day (Delehanty). Chipping Sparrows had returned to Keeseville by Apr 22. There were several reports of White-crowned Sparrows.

Keeseville



## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON WALTON B. SABIN

This spring has been wetter than normal with temperatures slightly below normal. There were, however, no killing frosts early in the period.

The main topic of conversation among local bird watchers this spring was the poor migration, particularly with reference to the warbler clan. There was no denying that most migrants were reasonably close to schedule, species-wise, but there just weren't any real waves discernible. Birds could be found all right, but it required greater effort than is usually the case.

One of two outstanding records for the period is that of eight Bohemian Waxwings seen at Chatham on April 5. These birds were carefully and accurately identified. The other is of ten to twelve Red Crossbills feeding on pine cones the greater part of the day, May 29, at Gallupville. Very few of the birds were adult males.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons were reported within normal limits from Saratoga Lake to Alcove Reservoir. Horned Grebes were recorded between Apr 9 (SBC) and Apr 28 (Hallenbeck). A common Egret was present in Guilderland from Apr 7 (Johnston) to at least Apr 10 (Van Vorst). A Least Bittern, an uncommon bird at best in our region, was seen on May 14 at Rayville (Reilly). Virtually all species of ducks were reported during the period. Unusual were the number of Oldsquaws passing through, 23 of which were sighted at Saratoga Lake on Apr 24 (SBC). An investigation of Wood Duck nest boxes at Vischer Ferry revealed almost a quarter of those occupied were tenanted by Hooded Mergansers.

**Hawks — Owls:** An immature Bald Eagle was seen on May 14 at Stockport Station (Radke). Turkey Vultures were first sighted on Apr 6 near New Concord (Radke), and Ospreys were seen on Apr 9 along the Hudson River south of Albany (SBC). Soras and Common Gallinules arrived at Meadowdale on Apr 30 (Sabin). The Virginia Rail went unrecorded until May 14 at Meadowdale (Sabin, Korns, Madison, Parker). Semipalmated Plover were seen at Cedar Hill on May 14 (Sabin et al). Upland Plover arrived in Delmar on Apr 17 (fide Sabin). Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Round Lake on Apr 24 (SBC), while the Solitary Sandpiper was not recorded until May 1 at the Watervliet Reservoir (SBC) Greater Yellowlegs were seen between Apr 14 and May 14, while the Lesser Yellowlegs was seen only on Apr 17 and May 14. Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded only on Apr 17 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Angst). Least Sandpipers were recorded on May 8 at New Scotland and May 14 at Cedar Hill (Sabin et al). Great Black-backed Gulls passed up the Hudson in good numbers on Apr 2 when 50 were counted (Foote). The only report of Bonaparte's Gull during the period was Apr 24 at Round Lake (SBC). Black-billed Cuckoos arrived about May 5 and Yellow-billed Cuckoos several days later.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-wills were first reported from Red Rock on Apr 21 (fide Smilow), Nighthawks from Old Chatham on Apr 12 (Reilly), and Chimney Swifts from Round Lake on Apr 24 (SBC). A Red-headed Woodpecker was spotted at Meadowdale on May 27 (Sabin), and the last Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Slingerlands on Apr 26 (Sabin). Eastern Kingbirds arrived at Ghent on Apr 25 (Erlenbach), Leasts and Crested Flycatchers generally on May 3 and 4 respectively, Wood Pewees on May 8 at Gallupville (Zimmer), and Traill's Flycatchers on May 21 at Meadowdale (Parker, Sabin). Horned Larks were seen feeding young on May 10. First swallows were reported as follows: Tree Swallow, Apr 4; Barn Swallow, Apr 13; Rough-winged Swallow, Apr 20; Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Purple Martin, Apr 24.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were still present at the end of the period in Columbia County and gave indications they may be nesting. House Wrens arrived on Apr 24 at Delmar (Madison) and on Apr 26 at Albany (Thomas). A late Winter Wren was noted at Nassau on May 17 (Turner). Summer resident Long-billed Marsh Wrens were much in evidence at Meadowdale on May 14 (Sabin et al). A mockingbird was seen at Ghent on May 14 (Erlenbach), and a Brown Thrasher was at Slingerlands on Apr 18 (Grace). Wood Thrushes weren't really in until May 1, while Hermit Thrushes lingered at least until Apr 29 at Nassau (Shineman). Veeries were seen as early as Apr 25 in Ghent (Erlenbach). Swainson's Thrushes were noted but once, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes not at all. Bluebirds continued low in numbers; however, approximately a dozen nesting pairs have been reported scattered throughout the region. Water Pipits went through unnoticed except for a flock of 30 seen at Ghent on Apr 13 (Erlenbach) and a lone individual seen near Coeyman's Hollow on the late date

of May 14 (Sabin et al). Undoubtedly the most unusual record for April was that of the eight Bohemian Waxwings seen at Chatham Center on Apr 5 (Silvernail) and referred to above. A Northern Shrike was carefully identified near the Delmar Game Farm on Apr 12 (Sabin).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireos were first noted at Slingerlands on May 3 (Reilly). Solitary Vireos were present from Apr 14 at Chatham (Reilly) to at least May 14 at Indian Ladder (Sabin et al). Red-eyed Vireos arrived at Gallupville on May 8 (Zimmer); the Philadelphia Vireo was at Troy on May 15 (Austin), and Warbling Vireos were at Slingerlands (Sabin) and Gallupville (Zimmer) on May 6.

The warbler migration besides being unspectacular because there were no waves was also lacking in any rarities. Twenty-nine species plus one hybrid were recorded. The following species of warblers were first noted on the dates and at the places indicated: Black and White, Apr 23, Wolf Hollow (Angst); Worm-eating, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Golden-winged, May 3 Slingerlands (Sabin); Blue-winged, May 14, Alcove Reservoir (Sabin et al); Lawrence's, May 7, Nassau (Shineman); Tennessee, May 8, Burnt Hills (Foote); Orange-crowned, May 14, Rayville (Reilly); Nashville, Apr 29, Chatham (Radke); Parula, May 10, Slingerlands (Sabin); Yellow, Apr 26, Chatham (Alan Devoe Bird Club); Magnolia, May 20, Delmar (Parker, Sabin); Cape May, May 14, New Salem (Sabin et al); Black-throated Blue, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Myrtle, Apr 13, Chatham (ADBC); Black-throated Green, Apr 16, Nassau (Turner); Cerulean, May 8, Gallupville (Zimmer), Blackburnian, May 7, Rosendale Road, Niskayuna (Angst, Hallenbeck); Chestnut-sided, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Bay-breasted, May 25, Delmar (Parker); Blackpoll, May 20, Delmar (Parker, Sabin), Pine, Apr 24, Tomhannock Reservoir (Angst, Sabin); Prairie, no first date available at this writing; Palm, Apr 16, Old Chatham (Barten); Ovenbird, May 4, Slingerlands (Sabin); Northern Waterthrush, May 1, Meadowdale (Sabin); Louisiana Waterthrush, Apr 22, Red Rock (Smilow); Mourning May 27, Red Rock (Smilow); Common Yellowthroat, May 1, Watervliet Reservoir (SBC); Canada, May 17, Slingerlands (Sabin), and Redstart, May 5, Slingerlands (Sabin).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks arrived at Meadowdale on May 1 (Parker, Sabin), and Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers generally put in an appearance on May 4 and 5 respectively. The last Rusty Blackbirds and Evening Grosbeaks were seen along the Hudson River below Albany (SBC) and at Meadowdale (Parker, Sabin) on Apr 9 and May 21 respectively. Early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were seen Apr 26 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and Apr 29 at Hillsdale (Curtis) respectively. About 25 Pine Grosbeaks were observed at Ghent on Apr 30 (Erlenbach), and the last Redpoll was seen on May 1 at Hillsdale (Fremd). Pine Siskins were not reported after Apr 29 at Delmar (Madison). Unquestionably, the May record of the month was that of the Red Crossbills at Gallupville on May 29 (Zimmer). A Towhee was seen at Slingerlands on Apr 11 (Grace). Grasshopper Sparrows were first seen at Nassau on Apr 20 (Turner), Henslow's Sparrows at Slingerlands on Apr 28 (Sabin), and Chipping Sparrows at Slingerlands on Apr 9 (Sabin). The last Tree Sparrow was seen at Gallupville on May 4 (Zimmer). Fox Sparrows arrived generally on Apr 3, and the last one was seen May 12 at Hillsdale (Fremd). Swamp Sparrows were first noted on Apr 23 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). A few late Snow Buntings were seen on Apr 1 and 2 at Hillsdale (Fremd).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Following the late March migration there was a gradual catch-up of incoming birds during April, a stable unstormy month this year. This was encouraging as migration dates became near normal with some being earlier than usual. This in turn, however, was short-lived for a disconcerting note broke into the enthusiasm of most birders on the lookout for the May waves of migrants. Migration at this time entered into a "drifting in" of species, and there just did not appear to be any spectacular waves to bolster excitement and run up the high scores. This led to the unanimous agreement that our spring migration was definitely off, but it should be added that disappointment did not rule the whole period for there were many pleasant and interesting finds. We missed our waves, but most birds are here, some up and some down, and we again turn our thoughts to wondering what's ahead for the nesting season.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons and Pied-billed Grebes began to appear in the region in numbers during early April. Two counties added the Cattle Egret to their list of birds, as a first record — Dutchess County and Rockland County. These were seen in April. The not often reported Little Blue Heron was found at Crugers Island, Dutchess County, by Otis Waterman, Brother Michael et al and constitutes the first record in recent years. There was a heavy flight of Canada Geese seen over the Dutchess County area on May 24 (Ralph Waterman Bird Club). This seems late for large flocks. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens observed some sizeable flocks of Brant during mid-May over the Hudson River in Rockland County. About 100 Snow Geese were spotted over Bedford Village, Westchester Co., on Apr 7 by Joseph Parker and Eric Dammeyer. On Apr 12 another flock of these birds was seen over Katonah, Westchester Co., by William Russell, who noticed a couple of Blue Geese with them. In general most ducks were reported in average numbers.

**Hawks — Owls:** Rare in this region is the Black Vulture, the more southern relative of our common Turkey Vulture. Two were seen near Pine Plains, up in Dutchess County, on May 2 by H. Van Wagner, J. Beck, M. and J. Keyes, and T. Brau. This is also a first county record for Dutchess. As usual there was little comment on the migrating hawks. Ed Treacy has located at least three nesting Red-tails in the highlands area of Orange County. The last Rough-legged Hawk reported was seen in the Dutchess Co. area on Apr 10 (F. Germond, E. Pink).

A Sora was found near Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., on May 16 (T. Haight). The Common Snipe was observed more often than usual in our region this spring. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were spotted at Pine Plains by M. Van Wagner and E. Pink on May 14. A Least Sandpiper was also seen in Dutchess Co. on Apr 30 by T. Haight and F. Germond. A Dunlin was found by a small brook near the center of New City, Rockland County, on May 8 by Mr. and Mrs. F. Steffens. Back in Dutchess County G. Decker et al located a flock of about 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers near Swamp River on May 15. A lone Sanderling was found on the Hudson shore near Haverstraw, Rockland Co., on May 15 (Steffens). The Bonaparte's Gull was noted in two areas this spring — Orange County (Treacy, Pembleton) and Ulster County (A. Feldman). A Common Tern was seen near Grassy Point in Rockland Co. on May 14, an early date (Mr. and Mrs. R. Deed).

From all indications the Mourning Dove population in the region was good. Both cuckoos surprised us with some early arrival dates this year. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted by Mr. and Mrs. R. Deed on the early date of Apr 29 near Blauvelt, Rockland County, and another early one was observed near New Paltz, Ulster Co., on Apr 30 by Dr. Robert Pyle. The Black-billed Cuckoo even preceded the Yellow-billed. One found near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on Apr 27 (F. Hough) constitutes the earliest county record. Cuckoos in general seemed more common this season which might be due to the high infestation of tent caterpillars.

At Balsam Lake Mountain, in Ulster County and deep in the Catskills, Dan Smiley and I found the Saw-whet Owl on a very probable nesting site (May 14.) The bird heard spent most of the night calling, but unfortunately we were unable to complete the details of the record. We hope to pursue it further.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk flights in the region were very good. An early Chimney Swift was seen in Rockland County on Apr 23 (Eugene Brown). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed scarce in migration. The Red-bellied Woodpecker put in an appearance in Putnam Co. near Carmel on May 4 and 5 was checked at a feeder by Mabel Little who knows the bird. Another or the same bird was found in nearby Westchester County at Briarcliff on May 17 (fide Lester Walsh). Both are firsts for the counties. The usual woodpeckers were about in normal numbers. The flycatcher flights were not impressive. A very early Rough-winged Swallow was observed near Brown's Pond, Newburgh, Orange Co., on Apr 9 (E. A. Mearns Bird Club), and an early Barn Swallow appeared Apr 4 at Winona Lake, Newburgh, and was seen by E. Holden. Purple Martins were reported in four of the counties: Armonk, Westchester Co. (T. Parker); near Walkkill, Orange Co. (Clare Hoyt); Dutchess Co. (report of Mr. and Mrs. James Keyes), and New Paltz, Ulster Co. (Robert Pyle). Most of these came in during the latter part of April. The Fish Crow was seen west of New Paltz, several miles from the Hudson River, on two occasions during April (R. Pyle). On May 17 a Carolina Chickadee was discovered at the feeder of Paul Wolf, Putnam Valley, Westchester County, and was checked by the Bedford Audubon Society. The bird was also photographed. A Red-breasted Nuthatch lingered until at least May 18 at the feeder of Marjorie Hopper in Upper Nyack, Rockland County. Some House Wrens came in early this year, at Lomontville, Ulster Co., on

Apr 10 (Dunbars), in Dutchess Co. Apr 16 (RWBC), and in Rockland Co. Apr 18 (H. Kelsey). Mockingbirds continued to be reported in most of the counties of our region. The Brown Thrasher put in an early appearance in Rockland County, being seen on Apr 15 by Homer Kelsey. The Wood Thrush was also reported early in Rockland Co., one at West Nyack on Apr 22 (Ed Gamble). The Swainson's Thrush was thought to be scarce by most observers. The Bicknell's Thrush arrived on Balsam Lake Mountain, Ulster Co., on May 21 (F. Hough, D. Smiley). The Veery seemed scarce also. Again, the Bluebird population was disappointingly low. Another nesting record of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was made in Rockland Co. with the discovery of a nest at Tomkins Cove on May 7 by Isler and Connor. Little comment was received on either of the kinglets. Cedar Waxwings were not about in any pronounced numbers.

**Vireos — Warblers:** None of the vireos attracted special attention during the spring flights. About the only wave of warblers was noted around May 17. Outside of that there was no exciting show of mass flights among these little birds, although some did enter the region at an early date. Most counties reported the Worm-eating Warbler to be more common than usual; they arrived early too — in Rockland on Apr 30 (Isler, Connor) and in Westchester on the same date (L. Walsh). An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen by Margaret Dye at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson on Apr 20. The Parula Warbler arrived in Westchester on Apr 23 (L. Walsh), a very early date. Isler saw a Parula in Rockland on the following day. The bird was also reported early in Dutchess County (RWBC). The Myrtle Warbler usually presents itself in good numbers during migration through the Hudson Valley, but for some reason they made little show this year. The Cerulean Warbler was again found in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. The Blackpoll was first noted in Rockland on May 7 (Isler, Connor). Many Prairie Warblers came into the region early, the first being reported from the Westchester County area on Apr 26 (L. Walsh). They were first noted in Rockland County Apr 29 (Deeds). Redstarts made an early recorded date for Rockland Co. with one at Congers on Apr 24 (M. Hopper). The Yellowthroat arrived at its nesting site at Kripplebush, Ulster Co., on Apr 30 (F. Hough).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The Orchard Oriole arrived in the Nauraushaun area of Rockland Co. on Apr 30 (M. Isler, R. Connor). The species was also found at Red Oaks Mill, near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., on nesting site (W. Clare), and an immature male was heard singing near Dover Plains in Dutchess Co. on May 15 (G. Decker et al). The Baltimorees seemed as common as ever. Martha Earl discovered a Purple Finch nesting in a spruce tree in a locality near Newburgh, Orange County. Mrs. Earl also reported the Redpoll putting in one of its last appearances on Apr 19 in the Orange County area, but the amazingly late departure date for this bird was made down in Rockland County where one stayed until May 10 (Mrs. Adolph Meyer). Two White-winged Crossbills were seen in the balsam atop Balsam Lake Mountain on May 21 and were of interest (F. Hough).

The Savannah Sparrow arrived at Kripplebush, Ulster County, on its usual date of Apr 12 (F. Hough). Dr. Andrew Weir reported Tree Sparrows as late as Apr 17 in South Salem, Westchester County. Mr. and Mrs. William Grierson noted a sizeable number of early Chipping Sparrows on Apr 3 near Mt. Kisco, Westchester County. The White-crowned Sparrow was found at Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on Apr 27, an exceptionally early date (F. Hough), and an even earlier record was from Cornwall-on-the-Hudson Apr 25 (Margaret Dye).

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

There were few warblers before the middle of May, but there were several good flights in the latter half of the month. Pine and Prairie Warblers, almost non-existent last year, showed considerable gains on eastern Long Island. A scarcity of Phoebe, Bluebirds, and Winter Wrens was apparent. Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed fairly common, but House Wrens were still comparatively scarce.

There is little doubt as to the record of the period. This honor would go to the Yellow-nosed Albatross seen on the ocean on May 29 by the Linnaean Society of New York group (Edsee field notes section, this issue). This was indeed a spectacular day, for the remarkable list of pelagics included, in addition to the albatross, 35 Sooty Shearwaters, five Greater Shearwaters, two Cory's Shearwaters, four Leach's Petrels, 450 Wilson's Petrels, four Gannets, one Red Phalarope, four Northern Phalaropes, two Parasitic Jaegers, two Pomarine Jaegers, and one Long-tailed Jaeger.

**Loons — Ducks:** Although April showed no unusual flights of loons or Gannets, there were three Red-throated Loons at Jones Beach on Apr 10 (Pembleton) and five Gannets at Moriches on Apr 30 (Queens County Bird Club.) Five pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were at Mt. Sinai on May 7 (Puleston, Raynor), and a Cattle Egret was present at a duck farm in Brookhaven from May 3-6 (Puleston).

There was a flock of migrating Canada Geese over Manorville on Apr 12 (Raynor). A flock of 72 Snow Geese flew over Brookhaven on Apr 7 (Puleston), and two Blue Geese were at Jamaica Bay on Apr 10 (W. Norse). A good flight of 62 Gadwall appeared briefly at Babylon Apr 18 (Good, Pembleton). Blue-winged Teal were rather scarce. Three were noted at Center Moriches on Apr 2 (Puleston).

**Hawks — Owls:** There were several Red-shouldered Hawk reports. The first Broad-wing seen was at Northport on Apr 20 (Mudge), and a nest with three eggs was found at Calverton on May 14 (Puleston). The Osprey nested for the first time in many recent years at Mill Neck (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society).

There were no Yellow or Black Rail reports, but a King Rail was at Jamaica Bay on May 6 (Norse). A Purple Gallinule was present at Hewlett from May 17 until the end of the period (R. Sloss). An Oyster-catcher was seen at Jones Inlet on May 29 (Linnaean pelagic trip), and two others were at Moriches shortly thereafter (Puleston). Golden Plovers were unrecorded. Woodcock were in good numbers at Brookhaven, and there were nine at Northport in the official count of the New York State Conservation Department, May 7-18 (Mudge). A Willet showed up at Jamaica Bay on May 25, and there was a Whimbrel at Moriches on Apr 30. A Curlew Sandpiper in nearly complete breeding plumage appeared at Mecox on May 13 (Raynor) and was seen the following day by several observers. A Wilson's Phalarope in breeding plumage was at Jamaica Bay on May 14 (numerous observers), and there was a Northern Phalarope there on May 30.

A Glaucous Gull showed up at Jones Beach on Apr 10 (Pembleton), and there was another report on May 14 (Norse, Buckley, Post). The first Laughing Gull put in an appearance at Inwood on Apr 3 (Norse). Least Terns and Common Terns appeared at Jamaica Bay on Apr 24 and Apr 30 respectively. Unusual was the observation of a Razor-billed Auk at Moriches Breakwater on Apr 30 (Queens County Bird Club). Cuckoos were scarce; there was one Black-billed at Inwood on May 5 (Norse). There were few reports of owls, but a pair of Long-eareds was at Brookhaven the first week in April (Puleston).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-wills were scarcer than usual on eastern Long Island, and Nighthawks were almost non-existent. Chimney Swifts appeared on time and were regularly present. The Phoebe and Wood Pewee were infrequently seen. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Northport on May 21 (Mudge), and there was one at Rockville Centre on May 20 (Ward). Another was seen May 24 and 25 at Inwood (Norse). The resident Prairie Horned Larks were in greatly reduced numbers at Jones-Oak Beach.

Bank Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows came through principally on the North Shore. Cliff Swallows were very scarce, as usual, and Purple Martins arrived on their nesting grounds in fairly good numbers. A pair of Fish Crows probably nesting at Brookhaven were seen May 22. Two Tufted Titmice appeared at Mill Neck on Apr 26 (Good, Pembleton). A Carolina Wren was carrying nesting material at Cutting Arboretum on Apr 30, with two Cowbirds watching (Baldwin Bird Club). A Mockingbird was at Dix Hills from May 28 until the end of the period (Good, Pembleton). Very poor numbers of Hermit Thrushes came through. There were

several Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports the latter part of April and on into early May, but there were practically no observations of shrikes this spring.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Five Yellow-throated Vireos were at Cold Spring Harbor on May 31 (Puleston). There was but one report of the Philadelphia Vireo, and Warbling Vireos were scarce.

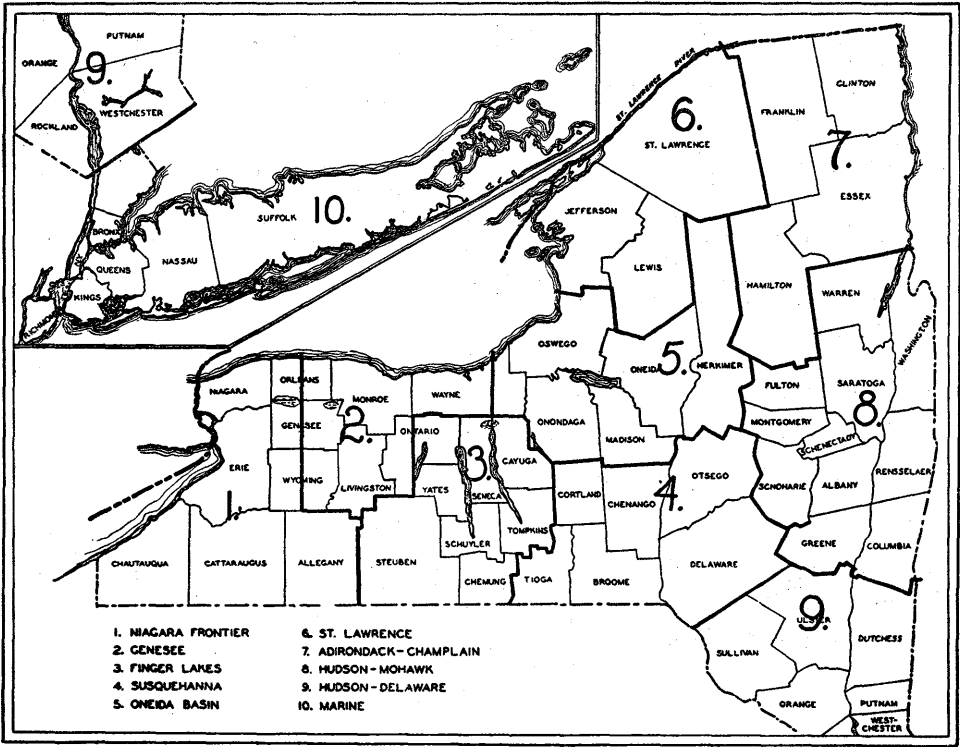
Very few warblers showed up before May 15. Good numbers went through at Brookhaven from May 16-21 with Tennessees and Bay-breasts common, an unusual occurrence. An estimated 30 Tennessee Warblers were at Inwood on May 16 (Norse). Two Yellow-throated Warblers were seen at the Cutting Arboretum on Apr 30 (Elliott, Ward), and there were several reported in the New York City region. The Prairie Warbler was at Dix Hills on Apr 28; this is the western boundary for nesting of this species (Good, Pembleton). Further east on Long Island the species was more common this year than for the last several. Surprising were three singing Kentucky Warblers in the Meadowbrook area near Freeport on May 21 (Levine, Ward). A Mourning Warbler showed up on May 18 at Inwood (Norse) and at Rockville Centre on May 21 (Ward).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Sixty Bobolinks stayed in the Brookhaven meadows from May 16 to 20 (Puleston). Orchard Orioles were scarce, but there was one at Inwood on May 23 and 24 (Norse). Baltimore Orioles appeared in good numbers, and Scarlet Tanagers were present throughout the oak woods. Cardinals were abundant and increasing.

Evening Grosbeaks were at Mt. Sinai to May 24 (D. Schaefer) and also at Inwood to May 12 (Norse). Indigo Buntings, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Vesper Sparrows were reported from eastern Long Island rather regularly (Mudge, Raynor). A late Ipswich Sparrow was at Jamaica Bay on Apr 23 (Norse). White-throated Sparrows appeared more as stragglers than in the usual flocks flooding the countryside. White-crowned Sparrows were almost non-existent. A Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded at Inwood on May 16 (Norse).

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