

The KINGBIRD



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Albert W. Fudge, Larchmont Road, Elmira.

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The Editor's Page

Early in July our printer Mr. Eddy suffered a severe loss by fire but by good fortune our plates were undamaged. If there has been a short delay because of this misfortune, we ask your indulgence.

After ten years and under four editors, the Kingbird can now be called a well established magazine.

Allan Klonick by his courage and effort brought the wobbling infant Kingbird through 10 issues to a sturdy youthful publication.

For the next 19 issues, first Dr. Stephen Eaton and then Gerald Rising directed and guided our publication.

Dr. Minnie Scotland, as editor, brought out twelve issues, the most notable of which was the tenth anniversary edition.

Each of these editors has helped to fledge the Kingbird into a magazine full of high quality materials of diverse ornithological interest.

The support of many individuals has made it possible for the former editors to successfully advance the Kingbird to its present standard.

I have assumed the editorship and look forward to the continued active and timely support of all members and thereby maintain the standards of my predecessors.

With assurance of your support, I shall with Mr. Ulrich's help, endeavor to keep the Kingbird at its present high standard.

At this time I want to thank Dr. Scotland for the detailed instructions and her patience in turning over the editorship to me and to Dr. Hoyt, Mr. Meritt and the regional reporters for their reports and all contributors for their field notes and articles.

May I ask that you send **all** of your Kingbird materials directly to me at 193 La Salle Ave., Buffalo 14? This includes all manuscripts, fields notes and club notes.

May I remind you that materials printed in the Kingbird concern **birding in New York State**.

I here print the final dates that materials for each issue can be accepted and the periods that are included in regional reports.

Number	Issue	Deadline	Period Covered in Regional Report
1	May	April 20	Winter Season: Dec. 1 - March 31
2	July	June 20	Spring Season: Apr. 1 - May 31
3	October	Sept. 20	Summer Season: June 1 - Aug. 15
4	December	Nov. 20	Fall Season: Aug. 16 - Nov. 30

Let me remind you, that all materials should be double spaced and typewritten.

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.

Notes From Our President

We express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Minnie B. Scotland who has been a most capable editor of THE KINGBIRD from the July 1958 issue through May 1961. Under her editorship we have had two of the largest volumes in the history of the magazine — Volume IX 184 pages and Volume X 214 pages. Congratulations to Dr. Scotland for a job well done.

Our new editor, Mrs. Alice Ulrich, is a life member and a past recording secretary of the Federation. We extend a hearty welcome to her as THE KINGBIRD's fifth editor.

When Winston Brockner was appointed THE KINGBIRD's finance chairman he agreed to organize the committee and get the work started. We are grateful to him for all he has done in spite of a very busy schedule. The work is to be continued by our new chairman, Alfred Starling of Rochester.

We are all aware how much costs have increased. In order to help defray the cost of printing and mailing THE KINGBIRD we need to sell more advertising space in the magazine. The cooperation of each member club and each individual member is invited. If you know a possible advertiser please send your suggestion to Mr. Starling as soon as possible.

Frances H. Irving

GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS OF 1961

Bancroft, R. B.	42 Mitchell St., Norwich	-----	1961
*Brown, Elizabeth	331 Keyes Ave., Watertown	-----	1961
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Curtis, Mrs. C. Robert	Box 305, Hamilton	-----	1961
Daniels, Mrs. R. A.	10 Gold Street, Norwich	-----	1961
*Finley, Virginia	965 Livingston Ave., Schenectady	-----	1961
Gosier, Elinore	134 Keyes Ave., Watertown	-----	1961
Ives, Hubert F.	102 Benedict Ave., Syracuse	-----	1961
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Parks, G. Hapgood	99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford 5, Conn.	-----	1961
Parsons, Mrs. Lawrence H.	337 Grant Blvd., Syracuse	-----	1961
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Safford, Mrs. C. E.	34 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar	-----	1961
Schaeffer, Frederick S.	141-50, 85th Road, Jamaica	-----	1961
Schmanke, Frank	174 Elmerton Rd., Rochester, 20	-----	1961
Sharp, Henry S.	180 Ames Ave., Leonia, N. J.	-----	1961
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Wheeler, Mrs. A. Hunt	R. D. No. 1, Penn Yan	-----	1961
White, Mrs. Mildred	1 Front St., Owego	-----	1961
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Worley, Mrs. Claude B.	18 Ridge Drive, Glen Cove	-----	1961
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Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, Orange County, Sec. Miss Carrie Carnright,
49 Duncan Ave., Cornwall-on-Hudson. ----- 1961

List prepared by Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Treasurer.

IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

LILLIAN C. STONER

Since many people start out as amateur bird enthusiasts and have a mind cluttered with many unanswered questions, the following article taken from a lengthy paper written by the late Wheeler M. Rogerson, (*1) Niagara Falls, N. Y., an observations he made over a period of some twenty years, will illustrate the problems of a beginner. This is an excellent example of how a novice began bird study on his own property and found the answers to many questions, and by so doing he also derived much satisfaction and pleasure.

The many excellent Bird Guides now published offer a sure and valuable means to tie in personal experiences with the accepted and proven standards of scientific ornithology. With the aid of this information, the student has at hand ready answers to the very many perplexing questions, such as: How do you identify the birds that you have seen? How do you learn their songs and calls? How do you know what book to buy?

Here is the major portion of the paper entitled "In Your Own Back Yard" as given in Mr. Rogerson's own words (with a few minor corrections). The accompanying sketch is a copy of the one which ended the original paper.

I should like to tell of an experience of a house-holder, with a small back yard within the corporate limits of a large city, so that many people interested in birds and who would like to cater to them, but feel that their efforts would only be wasted on a flock of English Sparrows can, with patience, be rewarded with a number of species far beyond their expectations. It will, however, take time and patience and one must not feel too badly when the aforementioned sparrows seem to be the only recipients of one's generosity.

About twenty or more years ago we became interested in birds and enjoyed throwing out crumbs in the yard and watching the response of the sparrows as they would rush about trying to consume their share and more before others of their ilk could get a stand in. This is about as far as we went the first year.

The next year a bird house or two were purchased and put up before the snow left so they would be weathered by nesting time.

Feeding the sparrows continued and one day we noticed in the group a nervous little fellow, darker than the sparrows on the back and much lighter on the under parts. When he found a crumb he would start scratching in the snow in hopes of finding another bite to eat. We learned it was a Slate-colored Junco and he was really our inspiration to extend our endeavors.

*1. The material in this article are extracts from a paper written by a nonprofessional and are about the experiences he and his sister had with birds in their own back yard. Mr. Rogerson, now deceased, was a banker who kept accurate notes and later compiled them into a paper. These he sent to Mrs. Stoner who after reviewing them now presents them in their present form.

Suet racks and grain feeding stations were put up in the fall. These proved to be just what the sparrows were waiting for as they immediately took possession and it was a little discouraging to see them do away with the contents. I, however, will say this: disliking the sparrows as much as I do, I really think they have a lot to do with attracting the attention of migrating wild birds, who are always on the watch for a place to eat and rest. As they fly by and seeing other birds eating, it is an incentive for them to drop down and investigate, and if you are fortunate enough to be prepared you may expect an annual spring and fall visit of ever increasing numbers. Do not, however, start feeding unless you intend to keep it up, as without this attraction your home will be no different than hundreds of others to the passing bird.

During the next few years, we added other feeding stations, a pool with a pipe line from the house and a natural stone bird bath placed above the pool at the back. Water trickles through a narrow rock channel into the bird bath and overflows into the pool. The pool and bath are inclosed at the sides and rear by an area that is allowed to develop naturally. Originally ferns, lady slippers, trilliums, hepaticas, jack-in-the-pulpits, violets, and other wild things were planted. Today these are supplemented with many small trees, bushes, vines and other things from the seeds dropped by the birds. This I believe, is our greatest attraction and has been used year in and year out by many birds of all sizes. Care should be taken to keep the water in a bird bath shallow, as even the larger birds are loath to take a chance on water much over an inch and a half deep and after witnessing the average bird bath we can understand their caution. They really appear out of this world, flopping and sliding from one side to the other, entirely oblivious of their surroundings.

Birds differ in their bathing methods: Robins, Thrushes and most of the other small birds wallow in the water, throwing it over their back by flopping their wings and dousing their heads. The Red-eyed Vireo will perch on a branch above the bath, diving in and right out again. The Hummingbird will find a leaf that has been splashed by the larger bathers and have a whale of a time in a drop or two of water, but the bird that really gets a kick out of a bath is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. He takes a long time to get up courage to even alight near the bath, but once in he stays, just going crazy, paying no attention to other birds even though they land on top of him. It is really something to see.

It might be interesting to relate some of the happenings in the yard in the last few years. Our greatest thrill was to look out one very snowy morning in the spring of 1943 and see a migration of thirty or forty Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Fortunately, the night before, we had scattered a few sunflower seeds for the early rising Cardinals and the Grosbeaks were busy with these seeds. It was a Sunday morning and we spent practically the whole day replenishing the food, so by nightfall they knew fairly well where to camp the next day. In fact we held them for ten days. It took about a half bushel of sunflower seeds to keep them happy, but it was well worth it, as they were always on hand to supply a thrill to the many people who availed themselves of the opportunity to view them from the window.

In the flock was a brilliantly colored male with a broken bill. He would sit on the feeder near the window trying to pick up seeds without success. A saucer of bread and milk was placed in the feeder and for ten days he gorged himself on that, scooping it up with the side of his bill. He left with the others.

We started charting in 1939, recording for that year fifty-seven species. This increased each year until our average yearly count now is around one hundred and ten species, ranging from the little Hummingbird to the Bald Eagle. The latter of course was not a visitor to our garden but was easily discernible from the back porch flying toward the Niagara River Gorge. It was first seen by Mr. Clark S. Beardslee, statistician of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and since then we have recorded it several times in a year.

Our Purple Martins have been an interesting phase of our bird garden. The twenty-six room house erected for them catered to sparrows for the first year or two, then one spring a male Martin investigated with the result that the house was occupied by a pair of Martins for a couple of years. This was gradually increased until we had about a dozen pairs. Another house was erected but, unfortunately, it was near some thorn apple trees that grew tall enough that year to be level with the nesting holes of the house, consequently no Martins, since they do not like a tree near their home. In the spring of 1945 we had to take down the original house as it had begun to fall apart. A smaller house of eight rooms was ordered to replace it, but before it came the Martins arrived. They sat on the poles and wires craning their necks looking for their home, then they would leave but return the next day to see if by any chance the house had been replaced. In about a week the new house had arrived and was placed on the poles Friday night, with not a Martin in sight. The next morning bedlam had broken loose — the birds had returned and found the house, even though it was a new one, which as a rule is unattractive to them, and by eight o'clock they were building nests.

While we do not band our birds, certain characteristics show that the same bird returns year after year. Take, for instance, the pair of catbirds that has raised families in the shrubs near the house since 1939. On arrival in the spring the male will perch on the feeding station near the window and stare into the room until someone takes out a saucer of bread and milk, which seems to be his favorite food in the early spring. It is also enjoyed by Robins, Orioles, Song Sparrows and others. The Orioles, on arrival, look for the Hummingbird feeders filled with sugar and water that hang on a mulberry tree near the veranda. The Chickadees, Nuthatches and Blue Jays come direct to the feeding station.

Now, more than twenty years after our uninteresting start with a few sparrows, it is not unusual to glance out toward the pool and count ten or more species of birds that use our back yard for a regular junction stop. During migration, both fall and spring, there may be individual specie flocks of ten or more, and larger flocks of White-throated Sparrows, the latter usually spending a month with us in the fall. In 1946 ten Purple Finches were here for the month of September.

An attraction to a great many birds are the berry bearing shrubs and trees and our plantings have been made with this in mind, as we are now practically surrounded with honeysuckle, viburnums, wild cherries, elders, wild thorn apples, peaches, raspberries, etc. The viburnum and high-bush cranberry carry their red berries through the winter and have never failed to attract flocks of twenty or thirty Cedar Waxwings, in the spring, who stay until the last berry is consumed. The thorn apples serve a double purpose, being used by early spring arrivals until the last fall travelers as a protective night roost. We have counted over one hundred Robins in the waning hours of an early spring day and in the morning only one or two pairs who have chosen our yard for their home, remain. This continues until the last migrant has left for the south in the fall. The fruit of the thorn, which ripens about the middle of September, furnishes food for the Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Brown Thrasher and other fruit-eating birds until time for their southern sojourn. It is interesting to note, that where the ground under the trees will be a bright red carpet the latter part of September, by the time that the last bird has departed it is hard to find a single apple on the ground.

A number of amusing incidents have happened with our bird families. One was the flight of the sleepy little Brown Creeper. In our yard was a dead cherry tree, left standing as it provided a perfect spot for Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Chickadees to probe for grubs and a wonderful ant cafeteria for the Flickers. The bark on the tree was loose in spots and our Brown Creeper decided it was his place for the night period. After investigating, he picked a piece of loose bark and pushed his way under it. He must have fallen asleep immediately, since I went out to get a better look at him and actually touched him without any effect on him whatever. We got up next morning at daybreak to see him wake up, which he did shortly after we were seated at the window, but with such an effort. He pushed himself out of the bark, then apparently took a minute's snooze, stretched out one wing and a leg, rested again, then the other wing. This exercise was probably what was needed to throw off his lethargy, since after a couple of shakes he flew away to start his endless creeping up trees to find his breakfast.

The following birds are now with us from spring until fall nesting either in or near the yard: Robin, Oriole, Catbird, House Wren, Crested Flycatcher, Mourning Dove, Chickadee, Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Song and Chipping Sparrows, Hummingbird, Purple Martin, Cardinal and this year, in addition, Wood Thrush, Veery and Brown Thrasher. The winter residents will be the Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Junco, Tree Sparrow and Cardinal.

Our record for the last year includes 134 different kinds of birds that we have observed in or flying over our back yard.

Just a final word or so to point out the real benefits you can look for by devoting a few minutes of each day to the birds. If you have a bird book with colored pictures, note the many bright colors you may look for flashing back and forth. Just as blossoms are the attraction of your flower

beds so the birds will be the attraction of the shrubs and trees and added to this will be the many songs of nature's first line vocalists. Then, if you are interested in a closer companionship than is usually the result between man and wild birds and if you have Chickadees in and around your yard, it needs only a few days with a few broken nut meats to entice the little fellows to your hand.

We have flower beds on which sprays and dusts unlimited have been used, and since the war, vegetables have been added to our garden. For the past five years, however, not one particle of insecticide has been used and we can truthfully state today very few pests are encountered. Of course now and then you will see a small caterpillar swinging on his string of silk from some branch of a tree, but the chances are you will also see a Catbird, a Flycatcher or a Vireo flash by and when you look again bird and caterpillar have disappeared.

Some people have the belief that by feeding the birds with extra food it takes away their desire to look for their natural food. This is not the case as the food you put out, in my estimation, is more or less of a treat and the real meal will come from the source that the bird has always known.



Mr. Fred Hall, Director of the Buffalo Museum of Science, prepared this sketch of a Song Sparrow's nest which is similar to the sketch at the close of Mr. Rogerson's paper.

NEST SHARING BY ROBIN AND CATBIRD

ALLEN H. BENTON

State University of New York, College of Education, Albany

Use of the same nest by more than one bird, even of different species, is not uncommon among certain waterfowl, but instances of this behavior in passerine birds are rare. Raney (Auk 56:337-338, 1939) reported a nest shared by a robin and a mourning dove, and Mr. William Hillegas once showed me some photographs of a nest shared by these same two species. The following report is based largely on the observations of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar S. Pitkin, of Loudonville, Albany County, New York, to whom I am indebted for calling this unusual occurrence to my attention.

In late May, 1961, Mr. Pitkin noticed a pair of catbirds, (*Dumatella carolinensis*,) building a nest in a lilac bush beside the house. Before the nest was completed, a pair of robins (*Turdus migratorius*) began to evince interest in the nest, eventually taking over the completion of the nest. When the catbird would bring nest material, the female robin would take it from her and incorporate it into the nest. It was evident throughout the nesting that the robins dominated the situation, although there is no doubt that the nest was originally that of the catbirds.

Seven eggs were laid, and although I did not see the eggs, I judge from the description that three were catbird eggs, four robin eggs. Both pairs of birds were in almost constant attendance at the nest, and again the dominance of the robins was clear. The robin brooded the eggs most of the time, and only occasionally was the catbird able to slip in and take over the nesting duties while the robin was away. On some occasions, the male robin was seen to remain near the nest and drive the catbird away until the female robin returned.

Hatching began on June 15, and when I visited the nest on June 16 there were three young. So far as I know, none of the other eggs hatched, for on June 22 there were still three young birds. At that time they were recognizable as two robins and one catbird. During the period the young were in the nest, the dominance of the robins continued. On some occasions the catbirds were seen to pass food to the adult robin, which would then feed the young. So far as could be determined, the adult birds made no distinction between their own young and the young of the other species. Only the robin was seen performing nest sanitation, although the nest was observed so sporadically that this is not necessarily significant.

The behavior of the two species around the nest was interestingly different. The robin would burst into the bush chirping loudly, and go directly to the nest. On the rare occasions when the catbird was seen at the nest, she (or they) would skulk around in the bush for some time and approach the nest cautiously. At the slightest sign of aggression by the robin, the catbird would flee precipitately.

There is some evidence that a state of peaceful coexistence was reached near the end of the nesting. On June 21, both catbirds and one robin were observed at the nest simultaneously, passing food back and forth and feeding the young with every evidence of having settled their differences. On June 22, when I photographed the nest, the catbird was on the nest when I arrived, although the robin was busily going back and forth with food.

The nesting could scarcely be considered successful from the point of view of productivity. Separately, the two pairs of birds might have been expected to produce eight fledglings successfully, instead of the three produced by the joint nesting. That they succeeded in rearing a brood of any size, however, is of some interest.

At the time of writing, the young have not yet left the nest. I shall report later on the success of the brood, as well as on the nest, which appears to have the shape of the robin's nest and the composition of the catbird's nest.

REDSTARTS AND COWBIRDS

MILLICENT S. FICKEN

Laboratory of Ornithology
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Ithaca, New York

The American Redstart is a common victim of Cowbird parasitism (Friedmann, 1929). In Ithaca, Mary Benson (1939) found 74% of the nests in her study area had one or more Cowbird eggs. However, the Cowbird population in this area is particularly high and is probably not typical of the situation in many other parts of the Redstart's extensive breeding range.

The effects of Cowbird parasitism have not been studied extensively in the Redstart. However, Mayfield (1961) found that Cowbird parasitism reduces the number of young produced at all stages in the Kirtland's Warbler. The Cowbird often removes one of the host's eggs and the hatchability of the remaining eggs may be reduced because of the presence of the larger Cowbird egg. In addition, the warbler hatchlings are at a disadvantage in competing with the young Cowbirds. On the other hand, Hofslund (1957) found no indication of reduced survival of young Yellowthroats in parasitized nests although there was loss during the egg stage.

The Redstart has several ways of reducing this parasitism. The first involves prevention of the Cowbird from gaining access to the nest. The female spends most of her time from early nest building through the egg laying period in the vicinity of the nest and reacts aggressively to the presence of Cowbirds. The male usually does not participate in nest defense, probably because he simply does not spend much time in the nest area.

The reaction of the female to female Cowbirds differs from her reaction to other species in several ways. She reacts aggressively to Cowbirds even before the nest is built, and later, at a greater distance from the nest, in an area in which other species are usually tolerated. The Redstart apparently reacts specifically to the Cowbird and I have a few field observations indicating that she sometimes makes "mistakes". For example, in one instance a female made an aggressive approach to a Catbird some distance from the nest, but when she got closer, turned and retreated. A similar incident was noted with a female Redwinged Blackbird. The female never retreated in this manner when a Cowbird was involved and it would appear that a distance these birds were responded to as Cowbirds, perhaps because of their somewhat similar size and coloration.

My observations indicate that the female initially reacts to the presence of a Cowbird in the territory by approaching it and remaining about ten feet away. She then often performs a display, while facing the opponent, termed the Head Forward, which involves a horizontal body, sleeked plumage, and often a gape which exhibits the red mouth lining. The tail is often spread. While in this posture she frequently gives a vocalization termed

the Snarl and sometimes also snaps her bill (Bill Snaps). She continues displaying in this manner while moving all around the Cowbird. If the Cowbird leaves, she then flies after it, Snarling and Bill Snapping until it is out of the territory. If on the other hand, the Cowbird approaches the nest more closely, she increases her attacks and may "dive bomb" her, uttering Snarls and Bill Snaps. If the Cowbird actually enters the nest, the Redstart's attack motivation increases still further and she may then actually land on her back and peck her head, or make flying attacks striking with the feet.

Cowbirds never threaten the female Redstart and usually seem to ignore her attacks. However, the Cowbird often leaves the area after a few minutes and it appears that the Redstart's threats are often influential in causing her departure.

If these aggressive measures fail, and a Cowbird does succeed in laying, the Redstart may desert the nest. This is likely to occur if the Cowbird lays before the Redstart, or if there is only one Redstart egg. A new nest is then built immediately in the same territory and the female often takes much material from the old nest. However, Cowbird eggs are usually accepted if laid after the Redstart has two or more eggs of her own.

Cases have also been reported of Redstarts covering up Cowbird eggs by building a new lining over them and then laying on top of this (Bent, 1953). This type of behavior occasionally occurs in many different species that are parasitized by the Cowbird, but is apparently only commonly employed by the Yellow Warbler (Friedmann, 1929).

It can thus be seen that the Redstart has several ways of reducing Cowbird parasitism. What of other species victimized by Cowbirds? Friedmann (1929) mentions some of these: In addition to covering up the Cowbird egg, they involve desertion and removal of the foreign egg. However the heavily parasitized Kirtland's Warbler apparently has no defenses. Mayfield (1961) discusses this problem and points out that severe Cowbird parasitism is endangering the survival of this species which has an estimated population of fewer than 1000 individuals. He suggests that the lack of defenses is due to the recent contact of these two species; the Cowbird was rare in the eastern United States before the advent of settlers. The Redstart has probably been in contact with the Cowbird for a longer period and thus has had time to evolve mechanisms functioning to decrease parasitism and/or its effects. However, it is interesting to note that some species which are infrequently parasitized (Friedman, 1929), or which apparently have recently come in contact with Cowbirds (e.g. Myrtle Warbler; Kent, 1953), have at least some mechanisms for reducing parasitism. Thus the lack of defenses in the Kirtland's Warbler may be due to some deficiency in the adaptive potential of the species rather than merely lack of time in which to acquire defenses. It has long been known that species which are near extinction may demonstrate a lowered genetic plasticity.

Some of the Redstart's defenses may be a detriment; the vigilance toward Cowbirds in the nest area may aid the Cowbird in finding the nest and

desertion of nests delays the Redstart's reproduction. However, it is obvious that these measures must provide a net positive contribution to reproductive success in the species, although they may be deleterious in some instances.

There is very little information concerning the mechanisms for reduction of Cowbird parasitism in most species, and detailed field observations could add greatly to knowledge in this area. Suggestions for further study would include observations of the behavior of both sexes toward Cowbirds, the reaction to the presence of a Cowbird egg in the nest, and the effects of parasitism on nesting success.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Salt Marshes: The fight that bird clubs in New York City and on Long Island are waging to preserve upwards to 10,000 acres of salt water marshes has attracted concern from the National Audubon Society in New York to the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Washington, D. C. These, plus many conservation groups and leaders, are giving plenty of moral support to the effort being mounted by the bird clubs in cooperation with the Nassau and Suffolk County Fish and Game Associations. The two Associations represent 8,000 members on Long Island.

The Audubon Society, for instance, declares that these lands which are threatened with development are "the heart of a key area on Long Island that is vital to the wild waterfowl of the entire Atlantic flyway." It is one of the biggest salt marsh units in the northeast. It is the biggest for the south shore of Long Island wholly within a single township. This simplifies the work to the degree that only one body of voters has to be persuaded to save their wetlands — the residents of the Town of Hempstead.

Hence, the bird watchers and sportsmen have banded themselves together as the Hempstead Town Lands Resources Council. Their initial objective is the preparation of a brochure explaining concisely why the wet lands should be left as they are. This would be the answer to one released by the Township together with Robert Moses, president of (among other things) the Long Island State Park Commission.

This brochure describes consulting engineers' plans for preserving 8,500 acres and converting 1,500 acres for park use — picnic areas, golf courses, etc. Three specific sections of the wetlands would be involved in the parks.

However, the plans have been criticized for revealing no indications that marine biologists were consulted. For example, were the sections selected at least in part for their minimum affect on fish and wild life? The report does not say. Since considerable dredging would be involved, the sportsmen, ornithologists, and conservationists are fearful of widespread detrimental effects. Plans were being pushed this summer for a layman's survey of the area (using all the trained help available). Their findings would be incorporated in the brochure.

The Council's secretary, Mrs. Norman Mellon, has already been doing some scaling on the maps. Mrs. Mellon is a housewife who just wants to keep the wetlands intact. In measuring off for all that would be involved including creeks, she found that 40 miles of mud banks would be destroyed. "Scientists, she asserted, have just really started finding out how fertile mud banks might be. These should not be destroyed until we know more about their potential as far as shell fish in particular are concerned," she said. She typifies the quality of leadership. Rod Vandivert, advertising man and the chairman, is also a neutralist when it comes to hunting or bird watching. But he reveals a welcome one-sidedness in wanting to save these wetlands that he likes to view from his cruiser.

To date, the Council is working with a temporary board of directors. Cornelius Ward, president of the Baldwin Bird Club, is serving as a member representing the ornithologists.

Many persons representing other organizations have attended meetings, joined or served as consultants: Dr. Ira Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Charles H. Callison, assistant to the president of the National Audubon Society; State Assemblyman R. Watson Pomeroy, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, and others.

They are watching also to see if the plan of action developed by this Council could serve as a model for other communities seeking to save open space areas.

Membership fees are being used to finance the brochure, which will be aimed for the discernment of those voters who, in the final analysis, are the ones who will have to apply the pressure on the opposition in the Township of Hempstead. Classification of dues and other information about the Hempstead Town Lands Resources Council can be obtained by writing to Mr. Sherwin E. Allen, Treasurer, 1430 North Grand Ave., Baldwin, N. Y.

Golden Eagles: At last, after 20 years of trying, a break-through was achieved for the Golden Eagle. A bill to save it was finally introduced in Congress. June 15, Senator Ralph W. Yarborough of Texas put Senate Joint Resolution 105 into the legislative hopper. This would amend the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 to include protection of the Golden Eagle. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of which Senator Yarborough is a member. He hoped to have it passed at this session.

New York State's Senator Kenneth B. Keating, in response to the many letters from bird watchers throughout the state, co-sponsored the bill. Addressing the Senate he gave two reasons for passing the bill:

"First, the Golden Eagle resembles the Bald Eagle in so many respects that, as concerns the young birds, only trained ornithologists can recognize the difference. Federal protection of the Golden Eagle would, therefore, have a beneficial effect upon the survival of the Bald Eagle as well.

"Second, the Golden Eagle is a magnificent creature in its own right, but it is on the verge of extinction in many areas because of the sport of shooting such birds from airplanes."

Full credit must go to Senator Keating for his support. As part of the campaign to back him and Senator Yarborough, heaps of letters have been sent out by, among others, the Federation's own Dr. Walter Spofford, Golden Eagle expert from Syracuse, N. Y., and Mrs. Charles Noel Edge, president of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.

Forest Preserve: Sometimes you hardly know what plans are afoot for the Forest Preserve until you pull the curtain behind you in the voting booth. These proposals are often slipped quietly through the legislature. Thus, voters this November will find a proposed constitutional amendment that would 'improve' the unpaved section of State Route 10 passing through the Preserve at Arietta.

The Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., fears that this means a federally supported "high-speed, heavy-duty highway." The Club declares in a pamphlet that much timber would then be removed. It argues that such a highway is not warranted. The organization is pushing for a statewide campaign to defeat the amendment. Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from David L. Newhouse, chairman, Conservation Committee, Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., 402 Terrace Road, Schenectady 6, New York.

At A Quick Glance: Serious drought on the best duck nesting grounds in the Canadian prairies was reported May 27 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There were murmurings among conservationists about a closed season if the drought did not let up. National Wildlands News, edited by Devereux Butcher in Washington, was hinting such a stand if rains did not come Dr. Sally F. Hoyt, Region 3 editor of The Kingbird had a fine article in the June-July issue of The Conservationist, telling why the Kingfisher should be protected Congress was considering a bill to protect the Nene, a rare Hawaiian goose. One of us might get out there someday and would like to see it.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, L. I.

FIELD NOTES

THE C. HUBER WATSON EGG COLLECTION FROM ALLEGANY COUNTY:

C. Huber Watson, a jeweler and optometrist by occupation and naturalist by hobby, lived most of his life in Andover, Allegany County New York. He was born June 17, 1879 in Cuba, N. Y. and died at Andover May 22, 1957. St. Bonaventure University acquired his collection of eggs shortly before his death. It contains clutches which represent 106 species and 40 families of birds. The collection authenticates many nesting records of historical and ecological interest for this County.

Of greatest historical record are: the clutch of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) eggs taken in 1922 at Andover; the probable clutch of Rough-winged Swallow taken in 1898 along the Genesee River near Belfast (Eaton, E. H. vol. 2, says they arrived at Springville between 1884 and 1900); House Sparrow clutches which were taken at Cuba in 1897 and 1899; and a clutch of Horned Lark eggs from Cuba in 1899.

All dates and localities are of ecological interest because there are few published records of nesting from Allegany County. Besides collecting eggs Watson also ran a bird banding station and was a very competent photographer. Many of his photographs were published in *Bird Lore* and other naturalist journals of the early part of the 1900's (McMurtry, Edna Hewes-Kingbird Vol. 5, pp. 3-7.). Below is a list of clutches collected by Watson from Allegany Co.

Red shouldered Hawk, 4 eggs fresh, April 12, 1925, Andover; Marsh Hawk, 2 eggs fresh, May 15, 1901, Cuba; Ruffed Grouse, 9 eggs May 7, 1904 fresh, Alfred; Wilson's Snipe, Belmont 1948—2 eggs saved from deserted nest of 4 (collected by Walter McMurtry, Jr.); Spotted Sandpiper, 4 eggs May 22, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Black-billed Cuckoo, 4 eggs May 20, 1895, fresh, Cuba; Great Horned Owl, 2 eggs Feb. 5, 1933 fresh, Cuba; Long-eared Owl, 5 eggs May 5, 1896 incubation advanced, nest in natural hollow in maple tree about 25 feet up composed of leaves, Cuba; Kingfisher, 6 eggs June 10, 1899 incubation slight, Cuba; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5 eggs May 31, 1905 incubation slight, Alfred; Downy Woodpecker, 3 eggs May 31, 1906, Alfred; Flicker, 7 eggs May 17, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Phoebe, 5 eggs June 9, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Kingbird, 4 eggs fresh, Cuba; Rough-winged Swallow (marked Bank Swallow but the solitary hole and ecology suggest Rough-winged Swallow), 6 eggs June 4, 1898, Genesee River bank near Belfast; Crow, 6 sets taken at Cuba and Andover, one set of 5, Apr. 29, 1897, another of 5 eggs Apr. 13, 1898, another of 4 eggs Apr. 30, 1900, another of 5 eggs Apr. 24, 1899, another of 3 eggs May 5, 1933; Catbird 5 eggs May 30, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Wood Thrush, 4 eggs May 30, 1906 fresh, Alfred; Veery (Wilson's Thrush), 4 eggs June 2, 1906 fresh, Alfred; Bluebird, 6 eggs Apr. 30, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Cedar Waxwing, 4 eggs July 5, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Starling, 5 eggs June 13, 1922 fresh, Andover in Methodist Episcopal Church belfry, bird seen, nest of roots and grass; Yellow Warbler, 4 eggs May 27, 1898, Cuba; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4 eggs June 10, 1905 fresh, Alfred; Ovenbird, 5 eggs May 27, 1905 fresh, Alfred; Horned Lark, 3 eggs April 17, 1899, Cuba (according to E. H. Eaton (Birds of N. Y. vol. 2, p. 203) this bird was not found nesting in Niagara Co. until 1884); House Sparrow, 5 eggs Apr. 25, 1899 and May 2, 1897 fresh, Cuba; Bobolink, 5 eggs June 1, 1898, fresh, Cuba; Meadowlark, 4 eggs July 8, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Red-winged Blackbird, May 17, 1898, May 27, 1898, June 8, 1898 all sets of 4 fresh eggs, Cuba; Baltimore Oriole, 4 eggs May 27, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Common Grackle, May 2, 1899 (set of 5) Cuba, May 9, 1907 (set of 6) Alfred, May 8, 1899 (set of 4) Cuba; Indigo Bunting, 4 eggs June 6, 1898, Cuba; Purple Finch, 3 eggs July 8, 1899 incubation slight, Cuba; Goldfinch, 4 eggs July 30, 1898, Cuba; Chipping Sparrow, 4 eggs June 10, 1898, Cuba; Field Sparrow, 4 eggs June 6, 1898, Cuba; Song Sparrow, 5 eggs June 3, 1898, Cuba, another set June 11, 1906 of 4 eggs, Alfred. — Stephen W. Eaton, Department of Biology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N. Y.

Hybrid Flickers: *Colaptes auratus* x *C. cafer* in New York State: The Red shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer* ranges from the Pacific coast eastwards to the western portion of the Great Plains (western Dakotas, western Nebraska, western Kansas). Our Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus* ranges westward to the eastern edge of the Rockies. Hybrids are fairly common where the ranges of the two species overlap and are progressively less common westwards and eastwards. On April 29, 1961, Mr. John Heller, the staff-photographer of the New York State Museum, brought me a Flicker which he found dead at the north end of the Education Building here in Albany. This specimen, now N.Y.S. Museum #19783, was an adult male. The outermost and two innermost rectrices were almost completely normal for a Yellow-shafted Flicker but the three in-between rectrices on each side range from almost true Red-shafted coloration of the innermost to a somewhat lighter red. The reddish in both wings is confined to the 4th to 8th primaries. The small outermost (10th) and next (9th) are normal for a Yellow-shafted Flicker, the 8th and 4th have a slight reddish tinge on the lower (entad) vane. The 6th and 8th primaries have both vanes and shafts a rather light, but typical, Red-shafted Flicker coloration. The 7th primary is a typical "Red-shafted" feather.: In all other observable respects, the bird is a normal Yellow-shafted-Flicker.

Mr. Henry Thurston, now on the staff of the N. Y. S. Museum, reported a Flicker from the Claverack area of Columbia County first seen on April 29th, as having nearly similar coloration. He has been unable to collect this bird.

Dr. Allen Benton, Albany State Teacher's College sent me the following data about a specimen in the College collection:

"Killed by car at Utica, N. Y., September 1955. Adult female, so of course it has no mustache marks. Shafts and vanes of most rectrices reddish at base, shading off to normal yellow near tip. First two primaries likewise normal toward tip but quite reddish near base, other primaries appear quite normal. There is some evidence of molt in primaries, so the ones I mention as first two may actually be farther back. Most of the wing feathers, however, are relatively normal to quite normal."

There have been other records and reports of such hybrids in the east. I recall a specimen, similar to the two here recorded, in the Cornell University collection and there are probably others elsewhere. It would be interesting to plot such occurrences on a map to see the real extent of such "hybridization". A rather hasty perusal of the literature available disclosed no data on dominance of red over yellow or **vice versa**. Careful sight observations should be made of Flickers to note the appearance of any "reddish" individuals. Birdwatchers finding any dead Flickers with such characteristics could save, at least, the wings and tails and notes on the rest of the plumage. If no other institution desires such specimens the New York State Museum would be happy to accept all those sent.
—E. M. Reilly, Jr. Curator, Zoology, N. Y. S. Museum, Albany 1, N. Y.

Lark Sparrow in Onondaga County: On Sunday, May 14, 1961, as we turned from Munro Road into Lyons, south of Camillus, we noticed a bird fly from the road to an adjoining piece of plough-land. The bird was a large sparrow with white prominent on the outer tail feathers. I stopped the car and the bird returned to feed on the road in front of us, where it was observed from a distance of about 12 feet for 4 minutes before it flew up into a tree.

The bird was unfamiliar to us. We noticed particularly well the black moustaches, the cream stripes on the head, the white spectacles, the distinct chestnut cheeks and the breast spot. As the bird moved about, the white corners of the spot. As the bird moved about, the white corners of the tail were quite distinct. It was larger than a Vesper and somewhat more heavily built than a Horned Lark (one of which fed with it during the subsequent observation.) The breast, except for the spot was clear and unstreaked.

Having satisfied ourselves that the bird was positively a Lark Sparrow, we hastened to bring to the scene Margaret Rusk, Roberta Seaman and Walter Spofford. After searching for three-quarters of an hour, and as we were about to give up and depart, we found the bird feeding again at the same spot on the road. The identification was confirmed by Spofford, who knows the bird in the Mississippi Valley. Good views were obtained through the telescope (20X) and Spofford took several photographs. We noted that the bird took readily to perching in trees when it was disturbed, flying up from the road into the tree, then dropping down again to feed.

The day was sunny with clear skies and temperatures in the 70's. The preceding day (May 13th) had southern air streams (10-15 mph) coming into the area, with a low pressure system moving east from the Mississippi Valley. The preceding week had seen a heavy migration of Passeriformes following the end of cold April weather. Migration had been very heavy on Tuesday, May 9th.

The Lark Sparrow is listed as an occasional, quite irregular visitant in upstate New York. This is a first record, so far as we are able to determine, for Onondaga County. — Mr. and Mrs. Michael Thomas, 420 Orchard Road, Syracuse 9.

Little Galloo Island Revisited: On May 25, 1961, after a lapse of four years, I again visited the prodigious gull colony on Little Galloo. The first definite information on this colony at the eastern end of Lake Ontario was obtained sixteen years ago by the late Harry L. Kutz. At that time Kutz estimated 2000 breeding birds, 90% Ring-billed Gulls and the remainder Herring Gulls. In May 1948 at the time of my first visit it was evident that the Ring-billed Gulls were increasing rapidly. In the next few years the colony continued to expand and by 1954 occupied about twenty acres, nearly one-half of the island. During this period estimates of nest density were made, the average being 2100 per acre. On May 22, 1955 there were judged to be 45,000 nests of the Ring-billed Gull on Little Galloo.

My observations indicate that the Herring Gull population has remained nearly stationary, at no time being more than fifty pairs. This species maintains a circular area in the interior of the island against intrusion by the Ring-bills.

On the current trip few birds of any kind were seen after leaving Henderson Harbor. As the boat approached Little Galloo about seventy-five Brant left the water and settled down on the opposite side of the island. On landing it was noted that Black-crowned Night Herons were more numerous than in the past. Many nests were located in the low bushes that fringe the island. At least fifty contained eggs, and a few downy young were seen.

The Ring-billed Gull colony had obviously expanded since 1957. Most of the island, except for the domain of the Herring Gulls, was covered by their nests. This amounted to at least thirty acres, and, using the density figure previously mentioned, a total of 63,000 nests is obtained. Some contained one egg, others two, still others three, while a few held four. There was a sprinkling of young birds, mostly one to three days old.

The amount of food required to maintain this colony during the period the young are being raised must be tremendous. Assuming two surviving young per nest, the total number of birds is in the neighborhood of 250,000. To obtain food the adults scour the shoreline of Lake Ontario for miles, they range inland over the farmlands of southern Jefferson County, and even follow the branches of Sandy Creek well onto the Tug Hill plateau. — John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton St., Gouverneur.

Let's Protect The Kingfisher: New York State has done well in shortening the list of unprotected birds. There are five species not currently protected by state law: house sparrow, starling, crow, grackle and kingfisher. The nuisance value and purported crop destruction associated with the first four of these birds will undoubtedly keep them unprotected for some time to come. However, I can see no valid reason for not providing the kingfisher with the benefit of legal protection. It has been only in recent years that this bird began to reappear noticeably in the Upper Susquehanna Valley Region. It is apparent that the Kingfisher does not presently suffer from wanton destruction. Nevertheless, he is fair "game" for the living-target seeker. Also, there still are sport fishermen who are not willing to admit the truth revealed by research into feeding habits of the Kingfisher which indicates that this bird can actually improve stream fishing by maintaining the intrinsic balance of Nature.

If these deterrents to the kingfisher's welfare seem too insignificant for granting him protection, then let us evaluate his individuality. As his name infers, he is a master at his craft. His name also suggests dignity and poise which he upholds well in a most regal and prepossessive attitude, both in his physical mien and the authoritative control of his domain. True, his voice is not even slightly melodious but his hearty, unexpurgated rattle endorses not only the air but the area with a distinctive signature which is sadly missed when the Kingfisher is not there. This endorsement alone warrants protection for the Kingfisher in order to preserve the bird and the very character of his natural realm. Yes, I feel very sincerely that New York State can and should add the kingfisher to the list of birds protected within the State boundaries. If enough interest is brought to light, this protection can become an actuality.

—Robert Burland, 16 Reynolds Ave., Oneonta.

Comment by Mr. Joseph A. Blake Jr., Chairman of the Conservation Committee: I am in favor of granting New York State protection to the Kingfisher. As has often been pointed out the damage to game fish by this bird is negligible and, on the whole, he is an engaging member of our fauna. I should certainly miss him, as would many persons, if he were absent.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

APRIL 1 — May 31

JAMES K. MERITT

Our spring weather left a lot to be desired. Temperatures were below normal, the deviation being the greater in April, and precipitation, by no means all of it rain, was above the average. There were very few really warm and sunny days of the type we had expected, or at least hoped for, after one of the severest winters in recent years. These warm days came in bunches of several days duration, and they had an obvious effect on the migration pattern. Winter weather gave a dying gasp with late May snow flurries in the Adirondacks, below freezing temperatures in the Finger Lakes region, and readings not much above freezing along the Lake Ontario shore. May's weather was otherwise highlighted by a damaging tornado that hit Sullivan County (Region 9) on the 10th and by a small twister May 15 in the Buffalo region.

These weather conditions resulted in a somewhat latish migration, particularly among the early arrivals (although swallows were a notable exception). Foliage development was behind schedule at least until mid-May. The few brief periods of warm weather, with the accompanying southerly winds, accounted for several excellent landbird flights, and the intensity and number of these waves was the dominating feature of this year's spring migration. These movements were not necessarily state-wide, and indeed in a few areas (i.e. eastern Long Island) an absence of major flights was noted. There were apparently five well-spaced major waves that were experienced in at least some sections of the state, two of these in April and three in May. While the date and degree of each varied somewhat by region, in general they might be stated as follows: April 15-16, April 21-26, May 6-10, May 16-18, and May 27-30. It was the opinion of at least several observers in areas where these waves were most felt that the landbird migration this year was probably the best we have witnessed since that fabulous spring of 1956.

The flight of Canada Geese was generally good, and perhaps a bit late. While numbers at Montezuma did not reach last year's peak, numbers elsewhere in Region 3 were impressive, and a count of over 40,000 was made in the Buffalo area on April 16. There were several late May flights up the Hudson Valley. Of individual note in this family were the two White-fronted Geese which appeared at Montezuma on April 15 and the Barnacle Goose present for several days in early April in Region 1.

The migration of other waterfowl was not overly encouraging, particularly as it applied to the diving ducks. While there are earnest hopes for a successful breeding season, conditions on these birds' northern nesting grounds have been something less than ideal. American Widgeon were reported in definitely below average numbers among the dabbling ducks. John Elliott mentions a flight of about 10,000 scoters off Montauk Point

in early April. Among the other individual waterfowl records of note were the European Widgeon in Region 3, the Common Teal in Regions 2 and 10, and the Barrow's Goldeneye at Oneida Lake in early April. Details on the latter record were included in the field notes section of the last issue.

An early Common Egret appeared in Region 1 on April 1, and a Snowy Egret in Region 8 on April 19 was the only upstate record for that species. Cattle Egrets were reported from Regions 2, 3 and 9, as well as on Long Island, indicative of another year of expansion for these newcomers. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron in late April in Region 3 was an unusual find for that locality. The only Glossy Ibis reports mentioned were the four adult birds found in late April and early May in Region 5.

There were several good April hawk flights in Region 1, the first coinciding with the big landbird wave there on April 15, and Region 2 also had several notable April flights. Peak hawk counts in Region 5 were not obtained until early May, but Fritz Scheider points out that the hawk lookout near Texas was unmanned on at least one late April date when ideal weather conditions prevailed.

The northward shorebird migration was not spectacular, and high water levels in some areas were a factor. There were seasonably good late May counts in Region 5, but the migration on Long Island was described as unimpressive. A real rarity was the Purple Sandpiper in late May in Region 5, and a Wilson's Phalarope in Region 2 was also noteworthy. An Upland Plover was sighted in the central Adirondacks.

The landbird wave of April 15-16 was well marked in western areas of the state. This brought an early swallow flight into Region 1. There was a spectacular flight of Vesper Sparrows in Region 2, and large numbers were also observed in Region 3. There were good counts of Sapsuckers in all western areas during this two-day period, and a heavy influx of kinglets was evident in Region 5. Mild weather again prevailed during the third week in April, and this second major influx was perhaps a bit more extended. John Elliott notes that the principal April flights in New York City occurred on the 25th and 26th. Heavy swallow concentrations were noted in Region 3 on April 24 and in Region 5 on April 25 and 26. There was also a superb Junco flight in the latter locality. Richard Rosche notes that migrational movements were quite pronounced in the Buffalo area during the entire period April 21-26.

The first heavy May influx was perhaps the best of the season. In the Buffalo region this occurred on May 7 and for several days thereafter. On western Long Island these peak days were May 8 and 9. The peak days in Regions 8 and 9 were May 9 and 10, and in the Champlain Valley and in Region 4 May 10 was apparently the day of greatest concentration. This first May wave brought the first heavy warbler flight of the season (27 species in one day at Hempstead Lake State Park, Long Island). The third week of May produced another good flight of warblers, principally in the central part of the state. The late May influx brought large numbers of late transients to Regions 1 and 6 and the Lake Ontario shore of Region 5 (e.g. 240 Wood Pewees on May 27 at Sandy Pond.)

Our winter birds hung on late. Red crossbills continued to be widely reported, and in western areas of the state they were present throughout the period. They were seen on Long Island as late as May 25. There were April observations of White-winged Crossbills in Regions 5 and 9 and a late May report from Region 1. Pine Siskins continued to be regularly noted in many areas, and there was a breeding record from Region 2. There were May reports of Black-backed Woodpeckers from Regions 3 and 8. Snowy Owls were noted throughout April in Regions 1 and 2, and the last state record was apparently two birds on May 5 at Syracuse, where the flight had been so heavy during the winter. Late Northern Shrikes were seen in two areas. Rough-legged Hawks departed in late April and early May, the last report being on May 7 at Montezuma. A single Bohemian Waxwing was sighted in Region 2. Snow Buntings were seen as late as April 9 in Region 3 and April 16 in Region 1, and there was an extremely late Lapland Longspur observed on May 29 in Region 3. Evening Grosbeaks had generally departed by the end of April from most areas, although there were one or two sporadic reports thereafter.

The Clay-colored Sparrow must sense the ornithological atmosphere of Ithaca's environs, for the bird appeared again this season at the same locality for the third year in a row. A Lark Sparrow, a rarity at any time in the state but especially so in the spring and away from the coast, showed up in Region 5 and was duly photographed. Details of this record are given in the field notes section of this issue. Western Meadowlarks appeared in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5.

There were several reports of Summer Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks on Long Island. Our annual upstate quota for Summer Tanagers is about one, and this spring's report came from Region 1. Other individual records of especial interest include several hybrid flickers in Region 8, a Little Gull in Region 2, a Western Grebe in Region 9, male Oregon Juncos in Regions 2 and 3, Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Regions 1 and 7, and a European Goldfinch on eastern Long Island.

The annual late May Linnaean Society boat trip for sea birds off Long Island this year produced no Yellow-nosed Albatross and in fact relatively few birds in comparison to last year's results. Seas were not calm, and it is reported that interest in bird-watching suffered (that is the right word) accordingly.

It is with a sense of deep loss that we must note the resignation of Fritz Scheider as regional editor for the Oneida Lake Basin. Fritz's first summary appeared in the *Kingbird* of May, 1954, and since then he has consistently presented an accurate and informative description of the birdlife of the area he loves and knows so well. He has been a frequent contributor of articles pertaining to the birdlife of central New York, and we trust he will continue in this capacity. He is also well known to Federation members by virtue of his excellent presentations at the annual meetings. We wish him the best of luck in the U. S. Army and a speedy return home.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

To observers in many parts of the region April was more like winter than March. The month began with a heavy, wet snowfall on the first day. Snow fell on 14 of the first 18 days according to the U. S. Weather Bureau at Buffalo. Southern tier areas, as usual, were subjected to even more severe conditions, including an eight inch snowfall resulting from the northern edge of a "great April storm" passing through on April 10. By month's end measurable snowfall was the fourth heaviest for April since 1870, and a new record for a total precipitation, 5.91 inches, was established. Record low amounts of sunshine were the rule and the average monthly temperature was four degrees below the mean. In spite of the cold, wet weather the ice was gone from Lake Erie, the ice bridge in the gorge at Niagara Falls had broken up, and all inland ponds and lakes were ice free by April 15. The progress of vegetation and agricultural activities were considerably delayed.

Cold, wet weather continued through the first five days of May and two inches of snow was recorded in some sections on the second. Relatively mild conditions prevailed May 6-10. Severe thundersqualls and a small tornado during the night of May 15 ended a four day heat wave during which one old maximum temperature record was equalled and another exceeded. Below normal temperatures occurred every day during the last half of May with the exception of two, and record lows were recorded on May 26 and 30. Light snow was also recorded on May 26. Total precipitation for the month was near normal. Although aided by the mild weather during mid-month, vegetation was still retarded at the end of the month.

The tendency for migrants arriving from the south to be earlier than usual, as exhibited during March this year, did not continue into April and May.

Instead, movement was generally retarded and most landbirds, with the obvious exception of the swallows, were up to a week late in arriving compared with most years. Likewise, departure dates of some winter visitors, i.e. Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting, were considerably later than usual.

Except for a few periods of mild weather conducive to migration, large numbers or concentrations of migrants were not reported. However, during April and early May the same unfavorable weather conditions that retarded migration appeared to concentrate or "jam" migrants to the south of the region. Consequently, during those brief periods of favorable conditions large numbers of birds moved into the region. Such was the case on April 15, the first day of the month during which the average temperature was above normal, when an unusually early swallow migration moved up the south shore of Lake Erie and a notable hawk migration was observed. April 21-26, another relatively mild period, caused another influx of birds.

Late April and the first five days of May were rather unproductive, migration-wise. However, a rapidly moving frontal system on May 6-7, with a warm sector touching the surface during the night, brought a great influx of late April and early May migrants. From every area from which reports were received for May 7, a tremendous influx of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers and orioles was evident. Many observers thought this was the most obvious and widespread "wave" of the season. Movement was good during the second week of May and by the time the heat wave of May 12-15 ended, migration was probably as close to normal as it was at any other time during this report period.

Regardless of the very unseasonable weather conditions during the last half of May, there were good numbers of birds moving through the region. Nevertheless, by the end of the month it was very obvious that migration progress had

been considerably retarded again. On the last two days of the month many observers reported unusually large numbers of migrant species which in most years are only represented by odd stragglers by the end of May. Nesting populations of a number of late May arrivals such as the cuckoos, nighthawk and Traill's Flycatcher had not yet reached their usual proportions by the end of the period.

Rarities reported during the period included a Barnacle Goose, Wormeating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Loons — Ducks: Loons appeared to be less common than in most years. The maximum count of 55 Common Loons occurred Apr 30 on Lake Ontario between Point Breeze and the western edge of Orleans County (Axtells et al). Because there are few records away from the Great Lakes and the Niagara River, a single Red-throated Loon observed Apr 29 at Cassadaga Lake was of special interest (Rew et al). Other single birds were noted Apr 30 and May 21 on Lake Ontario at Point Breeze (Nathan et al). One Red-necked Grebe was reported Apr 17 on a temporary pond in the town of Newstead (Byron). Two were present Apr 18 and one was noted Apr 24 on Lake Erie near Hamburg (Bourne). The first Double-crested Cormorant was observed Apr 10 at Grand Island (Brownstein), several occurred Apr 29-30, and another was picked up dead May 23 from the shore of Lake Erie at Bayview (Able). Unusually early was a Common Egret observed Apr 1 in the Oak Orchard region (Axtells et al). Many observers have expressed concern over dwindling heron populations within a radius of approximately 30 miles of Buffalo. There is much reason to believe that the unfavorable environmental conditions which have already drastically reduced the Black-crowned Night Heron populations in this region, are also affecting the Great Blue and Green Herons and both species of bitterns. However, south of Buffalo where farm pond and wildlife marsh construction has been proceeding with break-neck speed, the latter three species appear to be at least holding their own, if not increasing. Small groups of Whistling Swans remained on various ponds and reservoirs through April, although peak numbers moved through the region in late March and early April. Two swans, a Whistling and a Mute, caused considerable interest among local observers and laymen, as they fed on a small pond near Langford May 27-31 (Bourne, Bacon et al). A record 42,817 Canada Geese were estimated Apr 16 by members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society on the annual April Bird Count. Most of these were in the Oak Orchard-Wolcottsville region. A few were observed in the same area through the end of the period. It is not known at present whether or not these late birds are wild. A small Canada Goose, believed to be *B.c. hutchinsii* was still present Apr 4 at Oak Orchard (Brownstein et al). Perhaps the outstanding rarity reported during the period was a Barnacle Goose studied carefully by many observers Apr 4-7 on the sinks near Wolcottsville (Listman, R. Axtell et al). This is the fourth record for the region. A maximum of three Snow Geese were observed Apr 9-19 in the Oak Orchard-Wolcottsville region (Axtells, Brockners et al) and several Blue Geese were present in the same area Apr 6-16. Neither was as numerous as a year ago. Most interesting was a report of 18 Blue Geese Apr 16 in the Jamestown region (Pillsbury et al). There are few known reports from the southern tier. Among the dabbling ducks, the Black Duck and American Widgeon appeared to be less numerous than in most years while Green-winged Teal were reported in near record numbers throughout the period. Other dabblers were about normal, although their comparative abundance varied from area to area depending on water level conditions. During the last four days of the period several Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Shoveler were still present in the Oak Orchard region (Axtells, Nathan et al). The European Widgeon was not reported. Most observers agreed that most diving ducks were somewhat below normal in abundance especially Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Common Merganser. This impression, however, may be somewhat misleading, inasmuch as the flight appeared to be spread out over a larger area during a longer period of time than in most years. Record numbers of divers were noted at a number of inland ponds and reservoirs during April, whereas in some of those areas where large numbers are usually

recorded, fewer than usual were noted. Unusually late was a single Ring-necked Duck May 25 (Mitchell et al) and one Bufflehead May 30 (Nathan et al) at Oak Orchard. Several Redheads observed in late May at Oak Orchard probably were pinioned birds. The King Eiders, present on the Niagara River through late March, were not observed during this report period. Two early Surf Scoters were observed Apr 14 at Sturgeon Point (Bourne). Several were last noted May 14 on Chautauqua Lake (Kibler et al). At the same location 114 Ruddy Ducks were counted Apr 30 (Brockners).

Hawks — Owls: Several notable hawk migrations were observed along the south shore of Lake Erie during April. 1) Between Lakeview and Angola: a) April 15—Turkey Vulture - 18, Sharp-shinned Hawk - 16, Cooper's - 9, Red-tailed - 24, Rough-legged - 1, Marsh - 4, Osprey - 3, Sparrow - 6. Total-81 (Clark). b) April 21 — Sharp-shinned - 197, Broad-winged - -13, Marsh - 5, Sparrow - 11. Total - 226 (Clark et al). c) April 23 — Red-shouldered -20, Broad-winged - 50. Total — 70 (Able). d) April 29 — Sharp-shinned - 30, Cooper's - 10, Osprey - 1, Peregrine Falcon - 1, Total — 42 (Able). 2) Over Portland: a) April 23 — Turkey Vulture-1, Sharp-shinned-40, Cooper's-6, Red-tailed-20, Broad-winged-397, Marsh-5, Osprey-5, Pigeon-2, Sparrow-3. Total-479 (Thill et al). b) April 30 — Sharp-shinned - 9, Red-shouldered - 24, Broad-winged - 136. Total - 169 (Brockners). About 850 Broad-winged Hawks passed over Hamburg Apr 27 and about 50 more were observed Apr 28 (Bourne, Ramsdell et al). The last Rough-legged Hawks occurred Apr 30 at Yates (Brownstein et al) and at Bennington (Rosche). Four Bald Eagles, all immatures, were reported during the period: Apr 23 at Lakeview (Able), Apr 26 at Grand Island (Tulinoffs), Apr 27 over Hamburg (Bourne) and May 12 over Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne). In addition to those already noted, single Pigeon Hawks were observed Apr 29 near Hanover Center (Webster et al) and May 1 at Hamburg (Bourne). Two other reports came from the Wellsville region Apr 16 and May 21 (Madden). The Chukar, mentioned in the previous report, was not observed during this report period, One King Rail was observed May 21 and 25 at Oak Orchard (Nathan, Mitchell et al.) American Coots continued to be very scarce during migration, there being only scattered reports of one to several individuals. Migrant shorebird reports are usually rather scant in the spring and this year was no exception. In some instances there were even fewer reports than usual. Two Semipalmated Plovers were noted May 20 at a pond near Langford (Bourne) and four others were observed May 25 at Oak Orchard (Mitchell et al). Turnstones occurred May 22-23 at Hamburg (Bourne) and a maximum of 18 were noted May 22 at Bayview (Able). A single Whimbrel flew over Hamburg May 18 (Able). Both the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were far less common than they have been in recent years. Some observers who were regularly in the field failed to find either of these birds during the entire spring migration. And if yellowlegs were scarce, Pectoral Sandpipers, in contrast to the past several spring seasons, were even more scarce. Single birds were observed Apr 9 at Rossburg, Allegany County (Rosche) and May 21 (B. O. S. Count) and ten were noted Apr 16 in the Batavia region (Pixley et al). An early Least Sandpiper was studied well May 6 at Java Lake (Rosche). Also earlier than usual were eight Dunlin observed Apr 16 at Batavia (Pixley). The Dunlin flight was more extensive than in most years with noteworthy numbers occurring in several inland localities, i.e. 47 birds May 22 near North Java (Bacons) and 25 birds May 23 in the Oak Orchard area (Mitchell et al). Although still somewhat less common than usual, the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported more frequently than during the previous report period. One Glaucous was still present May 21 on Lake Erie at Lakeview (Creighton et al). One Little Gull, the only one reported, was noted Apr 6 on the Niagara River at Lewiston (R. Axtell et al). Caspian Terns were reported from various points along the south of Lake Erie more frequently between Apr 12 and May 10 than in the past few years. Single Barn Owls occurred Apr 2 near Youngstown (R. Axtell et al) and May 11 in Buffalo (Fisher rep. Brownstein). Three were reported Apr 16 near the 1960 nesting site at Hamburg (Hartoff rep. Bacon). Remnants of the major invasion of last winter, several Snowy Owls were regularly observed on Grand Island through the end of April (Tulinoffs et al). Two others remained within Buffalo until Apr 16 (Freitag, Rew et al). These were the first April reports since 1954. Most interesting

was the nest of a Long-eared Owl containing three young in an orchard near Lockport (Hall, Mitchell et al). At Grand Island, where unprecedented numbers of Short-eared Owls wintered, none were reported during this report period. One bird, however, was noted Apr 16 near Cuba Reservoir (Freund). This bird is seldom observed in the Allegany Plateau region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Several observers remarked that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were less abundant than usual. However, 62 individuals recorded on the B. O. S. Count Apr 16 was the highest since 1945. Eastern Phoebe populations continued to be below normal but appeared to be somewhat higher than those of a year ago. Two Horned Larks (*E. a. alpestris*) Apr 4 near North Boston were the latest reported (Bourne). The swallows were the only major group of landbirds to arrive in some numbers slightly earlier than usual. On Apr 15 the following were observed migrating past Lakeview along the south shore of Lake Erie: Tree-700, Bank-50, Rough-winged-25, Barn-200, Purple Martin-60 (Able). Bank and Cliff Swallows appeared to be somewhat below normal in abundance. Red-breasted Nuthatches were extremely scarce with only one bird Apr 16 near Delevan being reported (Bourne). Brown Creepers, on the other hand, were more common than usual, and many remained in likely nesting habitats much later in the season than in most years. Another "wave" of Mockingbirds was apparent between early April and mid May. One visited a feeding station Apr 3 at Hamburg — the same place where one appeared slightly over a year ago (O'Bryant rep. Bourne). Another appeared in mid April at Brocton and was noted regularly through the end of the period (Schober et al). A single bird occurred May 8 near Lakeview (Bourne) and another was reported May 14 at Ashville (Kibler). Both the Hermit Thrush and Eastern Bluebird continued to be scarce, but the increased number of reports over a year ago was encouraging. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was observed building a nest at Point Gratiot near Dunkirk Apr 30 (Brockners). Many observers asked, "Where are the pipits this spring?" Their scarcity was pronounced throughout the region, as were the plowed fields and mudflats where they are often found. Two very late Northern Shrikes were observed under excellent conditions Apr 8 at Clarence and Barrie (Coggeshall et al). Another was studied at close range Apr 15 near Bennington (Rosche). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported less frequently than in most years.

Vireos — Warblers: April warblers included five species: Yellow, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Pine and Palm. A single Myrtle Warbler Apr 1 near Chautauqua was unusually early (Beal et al). More Pine Warblers were observed during April than during any other time in recent years. Residents of the village of Hamburg contributed another outstanding warbler specimen to the local collection again. Even more outstanding than the Blue-winged Warbler found there and mentioned in the fall report, was a Worm-eating Warbler May 10. It had apparently flown into a picture window and upon being found dead was donated to the Buffalo Museum of Science (Bacon et al). The Tennessee Warbler was less abundant than usual in the Allegany River Valley near Olean (Eaton). Parulas, after being what many observers called a rare bird during the past several years, were evident in many localities and one was noted regularly May 8-31 at St. Bonaventure (Eaton). Thirty-five migrant Yellow Warblers were observed flying past Lakeview May 13 (Able) and 115 were recorded in the same place May 7 (Clark). Perhaps the outstanding warbler rarity of the season was a Kentucky Warbler reported May 9 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo (Freitag).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Western Meadowlark was reported near Batavia from about May 7-21 (Pixley). Another was observed and heard singing on several occasions May 25-31 along the Miller Road, town of Niagara (Rosche et al). Blackbirds congregated at the Jamestown bird roost and the following were estimated Apr 16: Starling-10000, Red-winged Blackbird-5000, Common Grackle-1000, Brown-headed Cowbird-250 (Beal). All reports continued to show an upward trend in the abundance of grackles and cowbirds. Near Greenhurst, Chautauqua County, several observers studied a male Summer Tanager May 17 from distances as close as 25 feet for about 15 minutes. Describing this bird, Mrs. Russell Pillsbury, one of the observers, states, "It was an all red bird with

a light colored bill, about the size of a Scarlet Tanager. It had no crest, and no black markings on wings, head or anywhere else." Single Evening Grosbeaks Apr 16 near Frewsburg (Jamestown Audubon Society) and Apr 23 at Springville (True) were the only reports. Purple Finches occurred in greater numbers than usual during April and early May. Pine Siskins, in general, appeared to have moved out of the region by mid April. However, scattered birds were reported, primarily in the Southern Tier, through the end of the period. A pair of Siskins was observed constructing a nest Apr 15 near Jamestown. A visit two weeks later revealed that the partially completed nest had been abandoned (Kibler). Red Crossbills continued to be observed throughout the region in unprecedented numbers. Several were known to be still visiting feeding trays at the end of May. Four White-winged Crossbills were noted Apr 29 in the South Dayton region (Webster et al) and flocks of 35 and 75 were observed in the Java area May 6 and 21 respectively (Rosche). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, rare at any time in this region but especially so in spring, was studied Apr 21 on the edge of a small pond in the town of Boston (Bourne). About 300 Snow Buntings and four Lapland Longspurs were observed Apr 2 near Albion (Brockners). Ten buntings were observed well Apr 16, an unusually late date, as they fed on the edges of a snowbank in the town of Wethersfield (Rosche).
48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

REGION 2—GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

April was cold and wet. There was at least some rain on most days, and there was light snow on several days early in the month. The maximum temperature was only 65°. The first half of May was warm and wet; a three-day "heat wave" from May 13-15 produced a high reading of 88° on the latter date. Late May fell back into the pattern of April, cool and wet, with a low temperature of 36° on May 30. Rainfall for the first five months of the year has been over two inches above normal, most of the excess having come during April and May. Crop planting was delayed, and the water level of the lake and surrounding ponds and bays was rather high.

Development of vegetation was retarded until the mid-May warm spell when it caught up in a rush. The spring migration probably reached its peak on May 13-15 although an all-time record count of 202 species was reached on May 22.

The flight of Common Loons was barely normal, and the numbers of Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Grebes were light, the latter species being especially scarce. The peak of the spring duck flight was reached April 8-9. Peak hawk flights were recorded April 27 and 29 and May 15. While the high water along the lake rendered most areas unsuitable for shorebirds, two sizeable rain-water ponds west of Manitou and another flooded area near Perry produced good counts of almost all the regular shorebirds.

Outstanding birds seen during the period included Cattle Egret, Common Teal, Goshawk, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Oregon Junco.

Loons — Ducks: Twenty-five Common Loons seen May 9 along the west lake-shore (Listman) appeared to be the spring's high count. The maximum count of Red-throated Loons was 27 at Webster Park on Apr 30 (Lloyd); this compares with the usual spring peak count of thousands. A Red-necked Grebe seen at Summer-ville Apr 7 (O'Hara, Miller) and another at Manitou Apr 9 (Listman) were the only spring records. Two Double-crested Cormorants were sighted at Manitou on Apr 16, and single birds were there on Apr 22 and May 24 (Listman). Dobson's report of one at Braddock's May 7 completed the spring's record for this species.

A Cattle Egret was seen May 21 in Clarkson (Starling, Taylor, et al). This is our third area record in the last two years, all three records coming within an

area of about a mile. A Common Egret seen Apr 29-30 at Mendon Ponds (Starling, Tetlow) and one seen May 14 at Hamlin Beach (Schmanke) were our only spring records of this bird. An early Least Bittern was seen May 6 at the Elmwood Ave. marsh (Foster, Tetlow).

Seven Whistling Swans were seen at Groveland Apr 7 (Listman). Six were noted Apr 29 at Cranberry Pond (Starling et al), and three lingered at Shore Acres until May 21 (Taylor et al). Some 1500 Canada Geese were seen near Avon Apr 15 (Haller), and 750 were reported Apr 23 along the west lakeshore (Lloyd). Four Blue Geese were observed on the Groveland Flats Apr 29 (Listman). Three Brant which appeared on May 26 at Braddock's Bay (Listman) and remained until the end of the month were the only ones reported this spring.

Robert Dobson, a reliable observer, reported a Common (European) Teal Apr 5 at Oak Orchard (Stafford's Pond). The bird was with a large flock of Green-winged Teal, and Dobson had ample time to observe and compare it with the common species at a reasonable distance both with binoculars and scope. He sent me a complete verification report which leaves no doubt as to the correct identification of the bird.

Ten Shovelers, ten Redheads, 60 Ring-necked Ducks, and 15 Canvasbacks were seen on the Groveland Flats Apr 7, and two Bufflehead and a Ruddy Duck were there on May 29 (Listman). Five thousand Red-breasted Mergansers were seen migrating past Manitou on Apr 15 (Listman).

Hawks — Owls: Sixteen Turkey Vultures seen Apr 23 at the Hawk Lookout (Listman et al) was the high spring count for this species. A Goshawk was seen Apr 22 in Clarkson (Foster et al), and another was sighted at Flynn Road on Apr 27 (Maurice Broun et al). Sharp-shinned Hawks seemed down in numbers, with the high count being only 80 on May 7 at Webster Park and vicinity (Lloyd). Some 3500 Broad-winged Hawks at Flynn Road Apr 27 (Broun et al), 3300 at Durand Apr 29 (Dobson), and 1850 at the Hawk Lookout on May 15 (Listman) were the peak counts for this species. Three Bald Eagles at Manitou Apr 29 (Dobson) and four at the Hawk Lookout May 15 (Listman) were high counts for this species which seems to have shown a slight increase this spring. Twenty-five Marsh Hawks seen Apr 23 at the Hawk Lookout (Listman et al) was the spring's high count, as were eight Ospreys at the same place May 15 (Listman). Single Peregrine Falcons were sighted Apr 27 at Flynn Road (Broun et al), May 7 at the Hawk Lookout (Moons et al), May 17 at Braddock's (Listman), and May 21 near Hemlock Lake (Maley et al). Last year we had but one record for the area. A Pigeon Hawk was observed at Durand Apr 29 (Dobson) and another or the same bird was seen the same day at Webster Park (Lloyd).

The following represent the season's high count for the various shorebird species: 40 Semipalmated Plover at scattered points along the west lakeshore May 28 (GOS hike), 14 Black-bellied Plover at Perry May 30 (Rosche), 25 Ruddy Turnstones at Manitou May 30 (Starling), three Knots at Lighthouse Road on May 27 (O'Hara et al), ten White-rumped Sandpipers at Perry on May 28 (Rosche), 160 Least Sandpipers in Clarkson May 21 (Starling et al), 150 Dunlin along the west lakeshore May 28 (GOS hike), two Short-billed Dowitchers (a very uncommon spring migrant) in Clarkson May 20 (O'Hara et al), 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Clarkson May 28 (GOS hike), two Western Sandpipers in Clarkson May 28 (GOS hike), one Sanderling (a very uncommon spring migrant) in Clarkson, and one Wilson's Phalarope (a rare spring migrant) in Clarkson May 21 (GOS census).

A Glaucous Gull remained at Manitou until at least Apr 23 (Lloyd et al). A Little Gull appeared at Manitou May 21 (Listman) and was still present at the end of the month. Some 150 Common Terns were sighted at Manitou May 10 (Listman), and 11 Caspian Terns were seen at the same place on Apr 22 (O'Hara et al).

No Barn Owls were reported. A Snowy Owl remained in Webster until Apr 30 (Lloyd). Two Long-eared Owls were seen in the "owl" woods Apr 22 (O'Hara) and remained at least until Apr 27 (Schmanke). One was seen in Riverside Cemetery May 14 (Dobson), and a nest with two half-grown young was found May 16 near Canadice Lake (Maley et al). However, the nest was deserted on

May 21 from unknown causes. Eight Short-eared Owls were observed putting on an interesting flight display near Manitou Apr 1 (Starling et al). A Saw-whet Owl last seen in Salmon Creek woods Apr 1 was the only one reported in the area this year.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Forty Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen Apr 30 in Webster Park (Lloyd). Eight Red-headed Woodpeckers seen along the west lakeshore May 13 (Schmanke et al) indicates a gradual increase of this species in our area over a few years ago. Thirty Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seen along the west lakeshore Apr 16 (Listman) was the spring's high count for this species. Three were seen in Powder Hill Park May 30 (Tetlow et al). Eight Eastern Kingbirds and 15 Great Crested Flycatchers in scattered places in eastern Wyoming County (Rosche) emphasize the extent of the mid May migration wave. Nine Eastern Wood Pewees were seen in Letchworth Park on May 20 (Rosche), a rather early date for this number.

A Tufted Titmouse was seen at the Hawk Lookout Apr 27 (Listman et al), and two were observed near Nine Mile Point May 21 (McNetts, Sunderlin). This species seems to have decreased to a considerable extent in the area during the last year. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Letchworth Park May 20 (Rosche), and a pair was still present at the end of the month in Durand (Foley). This may well indicate nesting, although no nest was actually found. A Carolina Wren was still present on the east side of Irondequoit Bay May 21 (Sunderlin) and may have been nesting. A Short-billed Marsh Wren seen near Shore Acres May 16 (Listman, Tetlow) was still present at the end of the month. Two Mockingbirds were observed in their previous nesting area in Webster May 21 (McNetts), and another bird was seen in Greece May 21 (Lanks). Thirty-five Catbirds and 58 Wood Thrushes were good single day's counts obtained in Letchworth Park on May 13 (Rosche). The Eastern Bluebird showed little or no increase. The peak migratory flight count along the lake was four May 16 at Braddock's (Listman, Tetlow). Single pairs nested at Webster (McNetts), at B.A.N.C. (Foley), and at LeRoy. Eight Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at scattered points May 21 (GOS census), and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was noted south of Wayland the same day (Listman). Two hundred Water Pipits on both May 9 and May 16 along the west lakeshore (Listman, Tetlow) were the peak spring counts. The bird was unreported in Wyoming County (Rosche). A very late Bohemian Waxwing was seen in Durand-Eastman Park in company with a large flock of Cedar Waxwings (Foley et al)

Vireos—Warblers: A singing White-eyed Vireo was carefully observed at Manitou on May 9 (Listman). Solitary Vireos seemed more common than a year ago, with a maximum of four noted May 21 (GOS census). Philadelphia Vireos, on the other hand, seemed scarce, with only one bird reported on any checklist. Twenty-seven Warbling Vireos were reported May 21 at scattered points (GOS census).

Parula and Cape May Warblers seemed scarce. Two Cape Mays were seen at Letchworth Park May 13 (Rosche), but other than that no more than one of each species was reported on any one checklist. Exceptionally high counts of the Tennessee Warbler (250) and the Nashville Warbler (80) were made May 21 in the Avon area (Heller). Other noteworthy high counts were 60 Black-throated Green, 23 Chestnut-sided, 15 Bay-breasts, and 65 Yellowthroats, all in Letchworth Park May 13 (Rosche).

Two singing male Prothonotary Warblers were sighted at Oak Orchard May 21 by Jean Haller. A singing Worm-eating Warbler was observed in Rose's Marsh May 13 (Listman). Blue-winged Warbler records included one in Bergen Swamp on May 13, one in Powder Mill on May 14 (Davis, Melitz), four in Letchworth Park May 20 (Rosche), one at Conesus May 21 (Foley et al), and one in Island Cottage Woods on May 21 (McNetts et al). Three Brewster's Warblers were spotted May 21 (GOS census). An Orange-crowned Warbler was netted and banded near Manitou on May 14 (Leubner), and one was seen in Island Cottage Woods on May 21 (Sunderlin et al). Single Pine Warblers were observed near Braddock's Bay Apr 22 and 27 (Listman) and at Durand-Eastman Park Apr 30 (McNetts). A Prairie Warbler was seen at Manitou May 13 (Listman). A Louisiana Waterthrush was noted Apr 22 at Letchworth, and two were there on May 13 (Rosche). A Connecticut Warbler was reported in Rush May 14

(Oresman et al). No less than twelve reports of Yellow-breasted Chats were received from scattered localities.

Only the Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler were unrecorded among our more uncommon warblers.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A singing Western Meadowlark appeared at the Rochester Country Club golf course Apr 15 (Taylor), and the bird was still present there at the end of the period.

Three Rusty Blackbirds were still at Silver Lake May 29 (Rosche). The Evening Grosbeak was unreported for the whole period. A single Common Redpoll was observed feeding with American Goldfinches in black birch trees in Island Cottage Woods May 6 (O'Hara et al). Pine Siskins were still present at the end of the period in small numbers, and a pair successfully raised a brood of young in Irondequoit (Moons). This is our area's first breeding record for this species. Thirty-one Red Crossbills were noted in scattered localities on May 21 (GOS census), and some were still present at the end of the month. One wonders if and when they are going to nest.

A spectacular flight of Vesper Sparrows occurred Apr 15-16, and hundreds must have been present along the lakeshore for those two days. A male Oregon Junco was seen at Lake and Bay Roads Apr 3 (McNetts), and another was seen at Manitou Apr 26 (Listman). One hundred fifty White-throated Sparrows May 6 (Dobson) and 100 White-crowned Sparrows May 13 (Listman) were the peak counts for these species. Lincoln's Sparrows were frequent, with a high count of four at Island Cottage Woods and Manitou on May 13 (Listman et al).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The Finger Lakes shivered and swam through a period which, on the calendar only, was termed spring. Below freezing temperatures on May 30 and 31 weren't a real surprise, as they followed two months marked by other late freezes and wet snows. When it wasn't snowing it was raining. Total precipitation for the two months was not much below twelve inches in the Ithaca area.

Oddly enough, the effect on bird life was not as marked as might be expected. Bird-watching got an assist from the weather in that leaves were not fully out before the end of May. This served, however, to keep down the number of insects, and birds had a hard time finding food. Orioles came to suet, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches found sunflower seeds on feeders, both unusual procedures in this area. There was no set pattern to arrival of vireos, and warblers were slightly late. Hummingbirds were on time; Indigo Buntings were early. In general, nesting has been delayed.

Loon — Ducks: Common Loons appeared in normal numbers. One grounded during a storm is thriving (wing-clipped) on Sapsucker Woods pond. The only report of a Red-throated Loon was May 21 on Cayuga. Horned Grebes were found in numbers in the Elmira area on Apr 6 following a heavy storm the night before, and one Red-necked Grebe was sighted also. Another Red-necked Grebe was observed on Apr 30 at Interlaken Beach on Cayuga (O. Hewitt). Morse reported Pied-billed Grebes as somewhat less common at Montezuma. There were about four sightings of Double-crested Cormorants this spring — twice the normal number. Two Cattle Egrets appeared at Montezuma on Apr 29 and were seen regularly through the first week in May. Another was at Big Flats, Elmira, on May 10 (M. Smith et al) — the first for that area. Except for one Common Egret on Apr 15 at the Refuge, this species was unreported this period, unlike the last few years when several have been in evidence at the Refuge before June 1. A most unusual record was that of an adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** on Apr 25 in the swamp woods south of Routes 5-20 at Montezuma, Those seeing and identifying this bird were Dean Case, W. Wilcox, and Foster Helmer.

Canada Geese peaked at 9,500 the week of Apr 7 at Montezuma. Numbers dropped to 6,000 on May 5, and most had left a day or so later. This peak is below that of a year ago. However, the numbers on Cayuga were very large. On Apr 27, for example, the raft extended for 6½ miles, an estimated 20,000-25,000 birds. Keuka Lake also had fine Canada flights.

To promote nesting of Canada Geese birds have been released by the State and Federal Governments at Montezuma, and ten nests had been found by Jun 1.

There were 40 Brant at Montezuma on Apr 10 (Dewey), and two flocks of Brant were seen by A. A. Allen on May 21 at Ithaca. The second record of the **White-fronted Goose** in the Cayuga Basin occurred on Apr 15 when two were seen at Montezuma by Charles Farnham, an observation confirmed by Hosking and Ray Hendricks. A high count of 100 Blue Geese and 30 Snow Geese was reported from the Refuge, and there were more than the usual number of reports of these birds in the Canada flocks on Cayuga. There were 25 Snows at King Ferry on May 5 (L. Kelsey).

The first Mallard brood was spotted at Sapsucker Woods on May 22, a week earlier than last year. Pintails and American Widgeon were in lower numbers at Montezuma, but they may have scattered out on the unusually wet neighboring mucklands. The European Widgeon was sighted at Montezuma on Apr 27 (McIlroy). There were more migrant Shovelers than in past years. Eleven pairs of Wood Ducks were coming to the feeding area at Sapsucker Woods. At least one pair was using a nesting box, while the other seemed to be in natural cavities in the woods. There was a slight increase in breeding Redheads at Montezuma (Morse). There were no scoters on Keuka this spring, and the only scoter report from Cayuga was a White-winged on Apr 24 (Futuyma). A brood of Hooded Mergansers was seen on a farm pond near Malloryville in late May (P. Kelsey), and it is suspected that this species was trying to nest at Sapsucker Woods again. Some 36 Red-breasted Mergansers at Branchport on May 9 was a large number for that date (Guthrie). Numbers on Cayuga seemed large in late April.

Hawks — Owls: All observers reported Turkey Vultures more common than ever. For example, seven immatures were seen on May 21 near Cameron (W. Groesbeck). A Goshawk seen by Al Fudge at Elmira on Apr 22 was the only report. Cooper's Hawks were unreported all spring, and all hawks were scarce around Avoca (M. Carter). Some Redtails were noted in migration over Ithaca on Apr 23. Red-shoulders seemed scarce in the Geneva area (J. Walker), and neither nest has been found this year in Sapsucker Woods, although the two pairs are seen from time to time. The last report of a Rough-legged Hawk was on May 7 at Montezuma. An immature Bald Eagle was seen over Elmira on May 17 (O. York). The Montezuma pair made only token attempts to nest this year. Pigeon Hawks were seen at Ithaca on Apr 20 (P. Buckley, N. Smith) and at Waterloo on May 14 (Walker).

Ospreys made the news this season, for not in the last twenty years have there been so many reported. For example, Paul Kelsey saw seven at once over Dryden Lake on Apr 27. One spent a full month at Sapsucker Woods (sometimes joined by a second) and fed on goldfish in front of the observatory windows. Ruffed Grouse were not much in evidence. Wild Turkeys were spotted near Breesport.

Black-bellied Plover, often missed in spring, were reported from three locations. Snipe seemed more abundant than usual; they were heard winnowing around Ithaca through May. Upland Plover were scarcer than last year at Elmira and Ithaca, and they were unreported at Keuka. In spite of high water there was a better variation of shorebirds at Montezuma than is usual in the spring. Of note were White-rumps there on Apr 24 and fifteen Whimbrel on May 26 (Cummings and Dewey).

There were fewer Bonaparte's Gulls this year on Cayuga. The census usually produces 12-15, whereas only a couple were seen this year. Several hundred Ring-billed Gulls were seen on the May 21 census, however, a surprisingly large number. Great Black-backed Gulls were last seen at Montezuma on May 7. Morse reported fewer migrant Black Terns at the Refuge, although the breeding population was about normal. Mourning Doves were scarce around Avoca, and there were fewer cuckoos of both varieties than last year.

There was only one Barn Owl report in the entire Ithaca area, and Horned Owls were missing from Stewart Park there. Both Barred Owl and Long-eared Owl were found in Texas Hollow on May 21 (B. Strath). Paul Kelsey saw the only Short-eared Owl of the spring, at the Seneca Ordnance Depot on Apr 13.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Whip-poor-will was heard by Randy Little on May 21 at Michigan Hollows, and one was heard by the Montour-Watkins group the same day. Nighthawks came in on May 13 at Hornell (they usually arrive there about May 22).

Chimney Swifts arrived ten days late in the Keuka area (Guthrie). There was a good movement of Flickers Apr 20-24 throughout the region. The Pileated Woodpecker nested again in Stewart Park, but the first nest was lost when the tree snapped off in a windstorm. They seem to be continuing their increase in the Ithaca area. The big news was the seeming increase in Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Cayuga Lake Basin. There were at least two reports from the west shore, three from the east shore, a single bird in Stewart Park, one in Forest Home, a pair on the Cornell golf course, and a single at Sapsucker Woods, May they all be successful in nesting! Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were abundant the weekend of Apr 15, and a pair of these birds nested in Sapsucker Woods. A female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker delighted Ithaca observers, envious of neighboring regions for so long, by spending two days on a pine tree on Beebe Lake Drive at the very end of May, a late record indeed as well as a rarity. A male of this species had been seen by T. Ryder near Sapsucker Woods on May 7 but was not found again.

Elmira had good numbers of all flycatchers. This was not the case elsewhere. Certainly around Ithaca Phoebes and Kingbirds were scarce, and Geneva and Keuka observers remarked on the absence of Phoebes. Several reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers this spring may just reflect more hours in the field at the right time.

While swallows seemed very abundant in migration (for example, close to 8,000, including 6,000 Trees, were noted by F. Scheider at Montezuma on Apr 24), resident swallows seemed scarce. Barn Swallows were early, oddly enough, at Hall (W. Robson), appearing there on Apr 19. Cliff Swallows were found dying, with empty stomachs, following a cold spell at Keuka (C. Sturdevant). Purple Martins were really late in returning to boxes near Ithaca; the Sapsucker Woods birds, save for individuals alighting briefly, did not turn up until the very end of the period.

Tufted Titmice are appearing more regularly on higher elevations in areas where they have been present for several years at lower spots. They continue moving northward. Brown Creepers nested at Sapsucker Woods, near the Laboratory Building. House Wrens have not yet returned to old abundance, although they are picking up around Geneva. The Winter Wren was reported singing into June on Beam Hill, south of Dryden (Dunham). The slight gain registered last year by Carolina Wrens was wiped out this past winter; the species went unreported many weeks around Ithaca. Short-billed Marsh Wrens seemed absent from usual areas around Elmira.

Mockingbirds were in the news. Singles were seen near Varna on Apr 28 (Mrs. Hanks) and near North Lansing in May (O. Hewitt). The species nested successfully at the Largelere's at Esperanze, bringing off two young, and Mockingbirds were reported nesting in Breesport (fide A. Fudge.)

One of the largest movement of Robins I have ever seen in this area occurred on Apr 11 and 12 near Ithaca. The birds were everywhere. On the morning of the 11th the ground was covered by a light snow, and in a two-mile stretch of field west of Etna I counted 98 Robins just as I drove along the road. Prof. Guthrie noted that Wood Thrushes were unusually common at Keuka. Both Woods and Veeries have picked up a little at Ithaca, but Veeries were unusually silent early this year. Bluebirds were still extremely scarce. Paul Kelsey reported large numbers of Water Pipits on Apr 13 near Seneca Ordnance Depot.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireos were absent at Keuka, and they seemed scarce in the Ithaca area. It is often difficult to gauge the abundance of vireos in the absence of song. The cold and wet weather resulted in little song, and

many vireos were undoubtedly overlooked for when warmer weather set in, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos were common enough. There were several reports of Philadelphia Vireos this spring, including at least two on Connecticut Hill and one in Sapsucker Woods.

The warbler story is again a difficult one to evaluate. I heard of no wave around Ithaca, and yet Loren Ward reported one of the heaviest migrations in some years at Geneva on May 18. Several Watkins-Montour observers spoke of good flights on May 3-5. Most of the spring census reports mentioned many species, but few individuals. There were a couple of Prothonotary reports in the region, but these birds can no longer be found with ease at Montezuma. The Worm-eating Warbler was late in arriving (May 20) at Mrs. York's hill in Elmira. Bob and Penny Ficken reported a considerable increase in Golden-wings in the Ithaca area, and several Brewster's were found, one with a nest (which unfortunately was broken up). A Brewster's was also noted at Geneva. Tennessees, although fairly common at Geneva, were none too abundant in Stewart Park, Ithaca, or at Keuka, or else unusually quiet. There were two reports of Orange-crowns, rare in spring: one at Sapsucker Woods on May 21 (D. McIlroy) and one east of Elmira on May 10 (M. Smith). Nashvilles seemed common at Geneva, scarce at Keuka, as were Parulas and Cape Mays. Myrtle Warblers seemed scarce around Watkins, were noted migrating Apr 15 elsewhere.

More Blackburnians than usual were observed in the Ithaca area this spring, and glimpses of these warblers — one of our loveliest — rewarded those who turned out faithfully for cold bird-walks at Stewart Park. A Yellow-throated Warbler, being found almost every year now, was seen May 15 by Nancy Deane near the Cornell campus, and one was found at Odessa by B. Strath on May 14. Blackpolls lingered into June. A rather early Pine Warbler appeared near Beebe Lake at Cornell during a wet snow on Apr 8 and was trapped and banded by John Weske. Prairie Warblers were found again on Connecticut Hill on May 15, and one was at Sullivan's Monument on May 10. Louisiana Waterthrushes were absent from some of the glens around Ithaca this year. Chats, almost completely missing around Ithaca for the last two or three years, were back at least two of their old stations. A Hooded Warbler, rare in the region, was seen at Bennettsburg by D. Rathbun on May 21.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were slightly commoner than in the last few years. At Avoca Mrs. Carter noticed that as Redwings increase in the dry fields at lower elevations Bobolinks seem to move to higher elevations and to be more common there. Do others agree? Certainly Bobolinks are now missing from many areas in which they used to occur around Ithaca. Is this a change in habitat conditions?

A **Western Meadowlark** (singing and giving typical call notes) was found the middle of May along Route 89 east of Ovid at the LeConte Meyer farm (identified by Mrs. Meyer, confirmed by D. McIlroy). Baltimore Orioles were up in numbers. Indigo Buntings came in early (first report was May 8 at Ithaca by K. Thorp) and were unusually abundant, turning up in new localities. Evening Grosbeaks appeared for the first time this past "winter" in some localities in April (after their appearance other places in February and March — see May **Kingbird**), but almost none of the species reached as far west as Keuka and Hornell. All had departed by the last week of April.

Resident Purple Finches have increased in several sections of the region. Pine Siskins, so abundant at the end of the last reporting period, pulled out rather suddenly by the last of April, except for a few here and there. Goldfinches remained abundant. The influx of Red Crossbills persisted, but numbers dropped off after mid-May. However, some were still present around Ithaca at the end of May, but they showed no signs of nesting. Red Crossbills were reported from Branchport on May 14 (Whitaker).

Vesper Sparrows were moving in good numbers Apr 13-15, being noted particularly around Hornell and Ithaca. A male Oregon Junco fed with the Slate-colored at the home of Lincoln Kelsey in Ithaca on May 1. Ithaca's Clay-colored Sparrow returned to the same field for the third season; the bird was

sighted on Apr 28 (D. McIlroy) and began singing his "second song" before the end of May [Ed—for an account of this bird's nesting activities in 1960, see the May, 1961, **Kingbird**]. White-crowned Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows seemed quite scarce everywhere; this scarcity was especially noted at Auburn (Coalson), Hornell (Groesbeck), and Ithaca. At Geneva all the field species of sparrows were scarce (Ward). A Lapland Longspur at the Welles farm on May 29 is certainly a late record for this species (M. Welles).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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April was cold and wet. Only from Apr 21 to 26 did temperatures average above normal. The cold was a matter of average rather than extremes and each day the maximum temperature was above freezing so although snow fell frequently until Apr 18, with the major falls coming Apr 10 and Apr 13, it melted off quickly and there was no snow cover after Apr 18.

In May there were periods of much above and periods of much below normal temperature with the monthly average slightly below. The warm spells were May 8, 9 and May 13-15 and the cool spells May 1-3, May 19, 22, 23 and May 27, 30. The last frost of any consequence came May 1, so it is evident that the much below normal temperatures were not extreme enough to be a direct hazard to migrants but they appeared to be the cause of a decidedly late migration.

The variability of the May weather would lead one to expect migration waves and at Oneonta, at least, they materialized spectacularly. Dr. New writes that their first warblers, seven different species, arrived May 8, but it was May 10 that they "had a flight of warblers the likes of which I haven't seen in many years — never around here. — Birds were all over and in one tree there were often as many as five or six species of warblers and possibly 10 -12 individuals. It was amazing and exciting to see." On May 17 he reports another smaller flight, mostly Bay-breasted Warblers, and a final flight May 29 of Blackpoll Warblers. The same general pattern was apparent around the Triple Cities but evidently on a less spectacular scale. Where these waves were missed warblers appeared scarce. There were some obvious exceptions to the lateness of the migration such as the three April Kingbird records but there were also a number of species that appeared to be on time on the basis of the first report but the main movement of the species was nevertheless late. The late break-up of ice on ponds in the Norwich — Sherburne area was reported as a possible cause for the scarcity of ducks.

An interesting assortment of shorebirds was found at the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam the week following May 21.

Loons — Ducks: There were several Common Loons reported between the first Apr 23 at Whitney Point (R. & M. Sheffield) and the last May 9 at Candor (H. Doty). Horned Grebes were noted in relatively good numbers for this region from Apr 6 at Owego (M. White, C. Gerould) to Apr 30 when a dozen or so were at Unadilla (H. Wisner). Green Herons arrived at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Deposit (S. Wilson) Apr 22. Three Common Egrets at Deposit Apr 21 (S. Wilson) were the only ones reported. Our first American Bittern was near Chenango Bridge, a little north of Binghamton, Apr 20 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry). They were reported a little more frequently than in recent years. A Least Bittern, of the color phase known as Cory's Least Bittern, was shot south of Newark Valley in late May and turned over to Lee Loomis, a taxidermist in Endicott. Mr. Loomis is currently assembling collections for the planned museums at Binghamton and Cooperstown and it will eventually be part of one of them.

No Whistling Swans were reported. The Canada Goose migration continued until at least May 22 when 200 were at Whitney Point (V. Misner, H. Marsi). The peak came during the last week of April when a number of counts were in the hundreds. On Apr 28 over 1000, in four flocks, were seen flying over in the Norwich area (R. & S. White). A sub-adult Snow Goose was seen and well described Apr 16 at Greene (W. Bartlett). American Widgeons, Pintails and Green-winged Teal were noted in the Triple Cities — Whitney Point area

as late as Apr 22, Apr 29 and Apr 22 respectively (R. & M. Sheffield). Blue-winged Teal were still at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) and seemed to be nesting at a pond near Newark Valley (L. Dean). Two Shovelers, both males, were at Whitney Point Apr 22 (R. & M. Sheffield) and the next day the species was reported at Owego (R. Williams).

Ring-necked Ducks were last reported at Norwich Apr 26 (R. & S. White). Numbers were normal except for one raft of over 100 at Whitney Point Apr 2 (M. Sheffield), an unusual concentration of any diving duck in this region. One Canvasback was at Whitney Point Apr 9 (Naturalists' Club) and two were at the same place Apr 15 (F. Linaberry) but that's all during the period. During the latter half of April there was a movement of Scaup through the region which seemed to be independent of those noted in March. This later movement seemed to be mostly Lessers (by popular vote). Our last Common Goldeneyes were noted Apr 20 at Whitney Point. Buffleheads were around from Apr 7 at Whitney Point (H. Marsi, V. Misner, F. Linaberry) to Apr 25 at Norwich (R. & S. White). Oldsquaws were reported in better numbers than in recent springs. Apr 15 and Apr 30 saw the first and last of them with the high count of 73 coming Apr 23 (Nat. Club). A White-winged Scoter, an unusual species in the region, was at Norwich Apr 18 (R. & S. White). A Ruddy Duck, an infrequently reported but not necessarily uncommon species in the region, was at Norwich Apr 26 (R. & S. White). Hooded Mergansers were not reported after Apr 22 and our last Common Mergansers were noted Apr 24. Red-breasted Mergansers were at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) as late as Apr 30.

Hawks — Owls: There seems to have been an important increase in Turkey Vultures in the region this year. Cortland (J. Gustafson) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) are new areas for the species leaving Chenango County as the only large area in the region where there are active observers which they have not been reported. They continue to be noted most frequently in the Deposit area. Red-tailed Hawk reports seemed a little more numerous than in recent years. Small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were reported throughout April with the last report May 5 at Oneonta (R. Burland). Marsh Hawks continue to be relatively scarce. There were substantially more Osprey reports than in recent years with the first near Chenango Bridge Apr 8 (V. Misner, H. Marsi, J. Vivier) and the last at Oxford May 10 (A. Stratton).

Virginia Rails and Soras were both reported from Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland) and later at Apalachin, but from nowhere else. The only Common Gallinule reported turned up on the Naturalists' Club spring bird count in Vestal May 21 and the only American Coot was at Apalachin May 12 and 13 (C. Gerould, M. White). Semipalmated Plovers were present at Whitney Point from May 21 (M. Sheffield) to the end of the period. Killdeers continue to be scarce. There were ten Black-bellied Plovers at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) and one was still there May 30. The only Common Snipe reported were at Norwich Apr 16 (R. & S. White) and Newark Valley Apr 25 (L. Dean). A Spotted Sandpiper at Norwich Apr 24 (R. & S. White) was our first. Solitary Sandpipers were first seen Apr 30 at Norwich (R. & S. White) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) and were around in small numbers until May 21 at Oneonta and the Triple Cities. A Willet, a species that has not been recorded in the Triple Cities for at least the last eight years, was seen for almost two hours on Ingraham Hill, just south of Binghamton, May 31 (C. Howard). It was following farm equipment picking up insects and could be observed at fairly close range. It was reported the same day by telephone and all diagnostic field marks, except voice, were fully described. Greater Yellowlegs were at Whitney Point Apr 16 (M. Sheffield) and at the same place May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi). In between they were also reported at Oneonta, Norwich and Owego. Lesser Yellowlegs, on the other hand, were only reported once — at Whitney Point May 23 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry, Barney). Pectoral Sandpipers were at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi). Least Sandpipers were first reported at Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland) and were still present at Whitney Point at the end of the period. Dunlins were first reported at Whitney Point May 21 (M. Sheffield). Roughly 200 were there May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) but by the next day, May 23, only ten were left and no more were reported there-

after. On May 22 ten Dowitchers (Sp?) were at Whitney Point (V. Misner, H. Marsi). Semipalmated Sandpipers were first noted May 13 at Candor (D. Weber). They were still present at Whitney Point May 30.

There is a strong tendency on the part of many observers to list any gull seen as a Herring Gull unless it is definitely identified as something else, so some of our May Herring Gulls may actually have been misidentified Ring-billed Gulls, but one seen May 21 in the Triple Cities area (M. Sheffield) was carefully observed at close range and was without doubt a Herring Gull. During the last week of Apr and most of May Ring-billed Gulls were present in the Triple Cities area in numbers unusual for this region. On two occasions counts of over one hundred were made and smaller numbers were seen frequently. Sixteen Bonaparte's Gulls were at Owego Apr 22 and fifteen were near Norwich Apr 23. On the latter day they were also seen at Endicott (D. Sterling). Five Caspian Terns were reported at Owego Apr 25 (W. Reeves). The only Black Tern report came from Owego May 7 (C. Gerould, M. White). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were first noted at Endicott May 11 and have not been too common. Black-billed Cuckoos have been only slightly more common and were first found May 8 at Choconut Center (R. Sheffield).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Two Whip-poor-wills were reported just north of Binghamton, one May 5 (R. & J. Saunders) and the other May 15 (J. Beaver). Another was recorded at Unadilla May 20 (H. Wisner). Our first Nighthawk was at Binghamton May 10 (E. Whitson). A flock of fifty or more Chimney Swifts at Binghamton Apr 25 were the first reported. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Oxford May 9 (A. Stratton) was our earliest. They seemed scarce in some areas but taking the region as a whole were more common than in either of the last two years. A Red-headed Woodpecker was at Deposit May 9 (S. Wilson), one was at Endicott May 21 (L. Bemont) and another was at Newark Valley May 26, (L. Dean). Still another was found dead along a road south of Newark Valley, apparently hit by a car, and turned over to Lee Loomis. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrived Apr 15 in the Triple Cities area and were noted there and at Unadilla to almost the end of the period. At Oneonta they were low in numbers (J. New). There were no less than three mid-April Kingbird reports and a fourth was held back by the observer because it was impossible to get more than a brief look at the bird. The first was at Oneonta Apr 10 (R. Burland), another was at Tioga Center Apr 18 (J. Barnes) and another was near Whitney Point Apr 20 (F. Linaberry). May 7 was the generally adhered to arrival date. Great Crested Flycatchers arrived May 8 and seemed substantially more common than in recent years. Phoebes seem to be recovering slowly from the lean years but at Unadilla (H. Wisner) and Greene (W. Bartlett) were still considered scarce. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reported were at Binghamton May 21 (M. Sheffield). Traill's Flycatchers were at Newark Valley May 13. (L. Dean). This is a species whose apparent increase in numbers in recent years may be largely a matter of observer education. A Least Flycatcher was at Binghamton Apr 27 (H. Marsi) but, except for an Empidonax (sp.?) May 1 at Deposit (S. Wilson), probably of this species, no more were found until May 6. Wood Pewees were noted at Candor (D. Weber) and Newark Valley (L. Dean) May 7 but no more until May 13. The only Olive-sided Flycatchers reported were at Oneonta May 21 (R. Burland). Bank Swallows were at Owego Apr 18 (R. Williams) and Rough-winged Swallows were at Oneonta Apr 26 (R. Burland). A Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallows were in the Triple Cities area Apr 12 and Apr 20 respectively. Purple Martins were at both Owego (M. Hills) and Binghamton "5. Fargo) Apr 15.

Tufted Titmice were present at Owego, Deposit and the Triple Cities. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was still near Endwell May 24 (L. Bemont). There was also a report from Oneonta May 21. No more Brown Creepers were reported after Apr 29. Our first House Wren was reported Apr 21 but not many were found before May 1. They were not too common at Unadilla (H. Wisner) but at Oneonta were said to be "all over" (J. New). In other areas they appear to be recovering slowly from the recent bad years. Two Winter Wren reports — Apr 9 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and Apr 20 near Chenango Bridge (F. Linaberry). Carolina Wrens were reported only from Owego Apr 13 (R. Williams). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at Owego May 8 (M. White, R. Williams) and there was one Short-

billed Marsh Wren report from Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland).

Mrs. F. Voorhaas of Sherburne has reported, via Mrs. Hoyt at Cornell, that she has had a Mockingbird at her feeder the last two years. Another Mockingbird was reported at Kattellville, just north of Binghamton, May 14 (H. Thomas). Catbirds were reported at Newark Valley Apr 26 (L. Dean) but were not common until May 7 or 8. An early Brown Thrasher was south of Tully Apr 7 (H. Wisner) but the species was not generally reported until Apr 24. A Wood Thrush near Binghamton Apr 27 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry) was a few days ahead of the more general arrival date of May 1. A Hermit Thrush was at Candor Apr 23 (D. Weber). The species shows an encouraging increase over recent lean years. Swainson's Thrushes arrived at Deposit (S. Wilson) and the Triple Cities May 10. They were reported frequently but only in small numbers. A Gray-cheeked Thrush May 12 (L. Bemont) and another May 21 (J. Beaver), both in the Triple Cities area, were the only ones reported. Veeries were at Owego May 6 (R. Williams). The Bluebird status appears encouraging only at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield) and Newark Valley (L. Dean). In all other areas they were seen only once or twice. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found near Johnson City May 4 (L. Bemont) and were seen at the same spot on almost every visit thereafter but no nest was found. At Ely Park in Binghamton a pair was seen in the act of nest-building May 21 (M. Sheffield). The only other one reported was at Deposit May 11 (S. Wilson) and it was not seen again. Golden-crowned Kinglets were not particularly common and were last reported May 10. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first noted Apr 19 at Deposit (S. Wilson). They were quite common and were last reported at Oneonta and Binghamton May 21. Seven Water Pipits were at Ingraham Hill May 3 (C. Howard). They were only reported twice more, May 7 and 13, both times in the Triple Cities area. A Loggerhead Shrike was banded at Deposit May 1 (J. Wilson).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireos were at Deposit May 2 (S. Wilson), but nowhere else until May 7. Solitary Vireos arrived Apr 25 and Red-eyed Vireos May 6, both at Owego (R. Williams). One Philadelphia Vireo was banded at Binghamton May 16 (H. Marsi). Warbling Vireos were at Newark Valley Apr 28 (L. Dean).

The only Worm-eating Warbler reported was at Norwich May 15 (R. & S. White). Golden-winged Warblers were near Endwell May 10, about one week late. They seem to be increasing in numbers steadily from year to year but this is another species where the observers' increasing familiarity with it could give such an impression falsely. Perhaps indicative of an actual increase is the fact that three of the five areas in the region where they were reported this year did not report them in either of the last two years, namely Deposit, Unadilla and Norwich. At Norwich this was the first record of the species in a great many more years than that (R. & S. White). A Brewster's Warbler was at IBM Glen, near Endwell, May 12 (L. Bemont) and a Blue-winged Warbler was found not far from the same spot May 21. The station near Binghamton that was occupied by Blue-wings for the last three or four years has now become the site of a new housing development. Tennessee Warblers were here from May 9 at Unadilla (H. Wisner) to May 24 near Endwell and several reports mention lower numbers than usual. Nashville Warblers were late, arriving May 2 at Owego (R. Williams, M. White). Parula Warblers, never common, were a little more so than usual. They were at Owego (L. Saddlemire) and Binghamton (H. Marsi) May 11 and were reported as late as May 23. Yellow Warblers were at Deposit Apr 26, close to normal, but Magnolia Warblers didn't arrive until May 9, a few days late. Two Cape May Warblers at Norwich May 7 were our first and they were last seen May 21. They were scarce. A Black-throated Blue Warbler near Endwell May 6 (Naturalists' Club) was our earliest. They seemed more common than usual and at Oneonta were reported to be "abundant at times" (J. New). Myrtle Warblers arrived Apr 21 and were gone from most of the region after May 21, but at Unadilla they were present until May 30. In the Triple Cities area, at least, they seemed less common than usual. Blackburnian Warblers arrived at Sherburne and Binghamton May 7, almost two weeks later than last year. They were quite numerous. A few Bay-breasted Warblers were at Oxford May 8 (A. Stratton) and Oneonta (J. New) May 10, early dates for the species. Then there were no more reported until May 15, but after that

there were plenty of them. May 28 saw the last of them. Blackpoll Warblers were also early, arriving at Owego May 13 (L. & C. Cole). After May 21 there were no more until May 28 but there was a flight of them May 29 at Oneonta (J. New). They were also present in the Triple Cities area at the end of the period. There were two Pine Warbler reports — at Newark Valley Apr 15 (L. Dean) and at Owego May 13 (M. White). An Ovenbird was near Endwell Apr 28 (H. Marsi, M. Fisher) but then no more were reported until May 6. A Northern Waterthrush was near Windsor May 3 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry) and a Louisiana Waterthrush was at Deposit Apr 15 (S. Wilson). Mourning Warblers were at Castle Creek May 21 (M. Sheffield), at Norwich May 22 (R. & S. White) and Deposit May 30 (S. Wilson). Our first Yellowthroat, at Owego May 6, was a few days late. A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Johnson City May 6 (W. Reeves). They were also reported at Newark Valley (L. Dean) and several other spots in the Triple Cities area. It was a good year for Wilson's Warblers. Our first was at Oneonta May 10 (J. New) and they kept popping up, one to three at a time, at Candor, Newark Valley, Deposit, Oneonta and the Triple Cities area until May 28. Our first Canada Warbler, at Norwich May 9 (R. & S. White), was a few days late and our first American Redstart, near Endwell May 6, was a full week later than last year.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Bobolink at Choconut Center May 7 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) was our first. An Orchard Oriole was reported at Owego May 13 (R. Williams). An early Baltimore Oriole was at Deposit Apr 26 (S. Wilson) then no more were found until May 6, the beginning of the main influx. A very late Rusty Blackbird was reported at Oneonta May 14 (R. Burland). Cowbirds have been particularly numerous at Newark Valley, Oxford and Endwell. A Scarlet Tanager was just south of Tully May 7 (H. Wisner).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Deposit May 2 (S. Wilson) but then no more until May 6. Indigo Buntings arrived in several different areas May 9. Evening Grosbeaks were seen regularly, in small flocks, through Apr 26. Reports then became scattered until the last one was noted about May 16 at Unadilla (H. Wisner). Purple Finches have been present in several areas almost continuously all period. A few Pine Siskins were present through May 12 in the Triple Cities area, but the last ones reported were at Oneonta May 21. Large flocks of Red Crossbills were still present at Greene Apr 16 (W. Bartlett). They were regular visitors at Unadilla Apr 9 to May 15 (H. Wisner). They were also reported a couple of times at Binghamton (M. Sheffield) and Sherburne (R. & S. White) and a dead one was found at Newark Valley (L. Dean). The Rufous-sided Towhee at Oneonta Apr 2 (R. Burland) could have been a bird that wintered. Apr 21 appeared to be the date when migrants started arriving.

No Grasshopper Sparrows were reported until May 7 and no Henslow's Sparrows until Apr 30. Slate-colored Juncos were seen regularly until about Apr 27 with the big wave going through Deposit Apr 11 when 100 were banded (S. Wilson). There were occasional reports through May and one was still at Deposit at the end of the period. The last Tree Sparrow reported was at Choconut Center May 7 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) but most were gone after Apr 27. Chipping Sparrows arrived at Oneonta Apr 16 (R. Burland) and Field Sparrows at Endwell Apr 12. Our first White-crowned Sparrows were at Owego Apr 26 (M. White) and our last near Binghamton May 21 but almost all of them passed through between May 3 and May 15. Fox Sparrows were last seen May 23. A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Endwell May 10 (L. Bemont) and one at Choconut Center (M. Sheffield) and another at Owego (R. Williams) May 13. Swamp Sparrows arrived Apr 22.

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

"April is the cruelist month" — T. S. Eliot.

April bungled spring badly and May did little better at it. April was cool (3.1° daily below normal), cloudy (less than 50% of the average hours of sunshine), and wet; the only advantage of the last was that it was well spaced and caused little flooding. A lack of SW winds precluded any hawk flights, and the month was sorely deficient in same. However, extreme wet weather to the west produced abundant flooding on the Seneca River lowlands around Weedsport, Port Byron, and Montezuma and created superb waterfowl conditions and, later, excellent shorebird habitat. May continued cool (2.2° daily below normal), very cloudy and windy, but with only normal precipitation. A low of 39° on May 30 equalled the all-time local record for that date.

April notables included 1) a fine Canada Goose flight with excellent numbers of some dabblers (Pintail, teal, Shoveler), 2) two splendid landbird flights — Apr 15-16 (Sapsucker, kinglets, "meadow" sparrows) and Apr 22-26 (swallows, Creeper, kinglets, early warblers, q. v.) In late April the paucity of hawk flights, the scarcity of certain ducks (American Widgeon, Ruddy Duck) and the over-all tardiness of migrants shed an aura of ornithological gloom over the region.

May had no major landbird movements until the 6th and 7th, which days were followed by a six-day nearly warblerless period. May 16-18 produced excellent warbling plus scads of Empidonax Anonymous (so difficult to identify they drive you to drink). The remainder of May progressed with irritating quietude until May 27-29 when a superb flycatcher-thrush-vireo-warbler flight hit Selkirk Shore State Park and the Sandy Pond dunes (q.v. Warblers). A wonderful but brief shorebird flight at Sandy Pond May 27-30 climaxed an otherwise passive month of migration.

May negatives included 1) general tardiness of almost all resident goatsuckers, flycatchers, and thrushes, 2) a very poor early warbler flight, both in dates or arrival and in numbers, and 3) an outstanding scarcity of normally very common migrants (Water Pipit, Palm Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, q. v.).

Rarities for the spring included Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye (see December-March regional report), Purple Sandpiper, Worm-eating Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and Lark Sparrow.

In the following summary these abbreviations are used for place names: TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; SSP — Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; SP and SPI — Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond inlet; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron.

Loons — Ducks: A sparse flight of both loons with maxima of 60 Common and two Red-throated Loons Apr 24 between Texas and Port Ontario (McIlroy). Horned Grebe: many migrants thru early April; peak of 165 on Apr 30 at Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario; present to May 17.

Glossy Ibis: four adults noted Apr 29 (Peakall) to May 7 (many observers) on the flooded Seneca River flats southwest of HIGMA. Common Egret: first noted Apr 15 (early) at HIGMA (Evans).

Whistling Swan: The only April report is an immature Apr 14-29 at Cedar Bay Widewaters near Fayetteville (Gould). Canada Goose: a superb but late goose exodus occurred Apr 28-29; breeding Canada Geese noted at TRGMA and Steven's Pond near Phoenix. A few Blue Geese and Snow Geese were noted Apr 23-24 with the Canadas at Beaver Lake; no Snows or Blues noted at Oneida Lake or along eastern Lake Ontario. Brant: flocks of 8-50 first observed May 21 at Sandy Pond (Richardson, Rusk); still present at end of period.

Gadwall: numbers up slightly with 20-40/day Apr 11-26 in the ponds of HIGMA and the flooded areas nearby (Bauer). **Pintail:** a superb late (Apr 23-29) flight with flocks of 2000+ from the Seneca River flats and flooded areas along Chittenango Creek at Bridgeport and Chittenango (Scheider). As with the geese, a very rapid fall in numbers the last three days in April, and only a few dozen were present in these areas as of May 6. **Green-winged Teal:** max. of 160 on Apr 16 north of Phoenix; smaller numbers on the Seneca River flats and a wide scattering of May birds at TRGMA and HIGMA (Bauer, Seaman). **American Widgeon:** very scarce thru the entire season; no count above 70 for the entire

region in marked contrast to the abundant Pintail. Shoveler: groups of 3-8 reported from the flooded Chittenango Creek bottomlands thru April and 18-44/day on the Seneca River flats to Apr 26; also reported from Oneida Lake Apr 23 and from Mexico Apr 22 (McIlroy, Rusk, Scheider).

Redhead: peak of 150 on Apr 9 at Oneida Lake; this, like most of the diving ducks, had a very rapid decline in the second week of April. Ring-necked Duck: numbers up considerably with a peak of 600 on Apr 9, Oneida Lake and HIGMA; counts held up well to late April, and over 25 were still present May 6-7 at HIGMA (Seaman). Canvasback: top tally for April is 200 Apr 1-5 at Bridgeport, a sad commentary on a formerly very common species (Scheider). The Oneida Lake flight of Scaup was extremely poor with combined max. of 2500 on Apr 11; whether this decline is due to local or to range-wide conditions is unknown, but both Scaup seemed widely scattered in small numbers (Tully, Mexico, Oneida, Baldwinsville) until Apr 28-29, the date of the exodus of the majority of Scaup. Common Goldeneye: 1000+ present at Hitchcock Point, Oneida Lake, Apr 8-11; a very rapid decline (to 300 Apr 14) in the next week, but a few birds were still present to May 17. Barrow's Goldeneye: an adult drake and probable female present to Apr 5 at Fischer's Bay, Oneida Lake (numerous observers). Bufflehead: peak of 120 on Apr 11, Oneida Lake; strangely deficient along Lake Ontario and only scattered pairs were present in the Salmon River, which usually holds in mid-April (? disturbance from early motorboats). Ruddy Duck: extremely scarce, with a ridiculous peak of **three** at Oneida Lake on Apr 5.

Hooded Merganser: six-40/day in the first two weeks of April; females present Apr 26 at Mexico and May 16-17 at Camillus; an adult male May 27 at Sandy Pond is hard to place but may represent a male fleeing the domesticity of a local nesting.

Hawks-Owls: A lack of SW winds and an abundance of weekend rain eliminated most hawk flights in April. A small flight Apr 15 netted eight species and 350+ hawks, the majority (226) Red-tailed (Estoff, Propst). On Apr 27, a beautiful flight day, the hawk lookout near Texas was unwatched as all local birders were at their respective salt mines. Peak counts, therefore, came on a single flight day, May 6, with 165 Sharp-shinned, 500+ Broad-winged, and 22 Osprey. No appreciable movements of Marsh Hawks were detected throughout April. Bald Eagle: wandering adult birds noted May 6 at Texas (Seaman), May 17 at Camillus (Thurber), and May 21 at Sandy Pond; no local breeding known. A singleton female Pigeon Hawk and an immature Goshawk were notables of the May 6 lakeshore flight at Texas.

Most rails were late — Virginia (Apr 29 - Scheider) and Sora (May 6 - Propst) — and unobtrusive. A King Rail, rare locally, was heard May 17 at Clay Swamp. Common Gallinule: first noted Apr 19 and soon present in every damp area of Oswego (Phoenix, Pennellville, Sandy Pond), Oneida (Bolivar, Chittenango, Oneida), and Onondaga Counties; as many as 18 birds in sight at once May 7 at Clay Swamp.

Early shorebirding seemed frankly desultory with only small number of Yellowlegs and Snipe. Late April produced a pleasant rise in Yellowlegs counts, but it was not until May 6-7 that a variety of shorebirds appeared. May 27-30 at Sandy Pond saw a very fine shorebird movement with impressive counts, probably because of a combination of strong W winds, cold weather, a recent "mooneye" kill, and a paucity of people.

Piping Plover: a pair present May 17-29 at Sandy Pond Inlet; it is to be hoped they bring off young before the airplane-dog-beer-can-bather season set in. Semipalmated Plover: first noted May 7 on a drained pond at HIGMA; a spring peak of 105 on May 29 at Sandy Pond. Ruddy Turnstone: the two May 21 at SPI were but prelude to the 65 there May 27 and the 135 (record count) on May 29. Black-bellied Plover: first noted May 14 at Toad Harbor, Oneida Lake (Felle) and on May 16 on the Seneca River flats, but also reported May 21 near HIGMA; the peak count of 22 did not occur until Jun 4 at SPI.

Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew): one-two present May 27-29 at SPI where it is quite rare in spring (Rusk). Solitary Sandpiper: one Apr 16 near Phoenix is very early though not a record arrival date (Scheider). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: peak counts of 30 Apr 29 and ten May 3 respectively on the Seneca River flats (late for the Greater, low for the Lesser). Knot: one-six/day from May 27 with

max. of eight May 29 at SPI. Pectoral Sandpiper: very scarce this spring with peak tally of three Apr 25 near HIGMA (McIlroy). White-rumped Sandpiper: one-three/day noted May 21 on the Seneca River flats, May 27-29 at SPI. Normally this bird is found only in the shorebird concentrations at SPI in spring.

Purple Sandpiper: an adult passing into spring plumage May 27 at SPI is an extreme rarity and the first regional spring record (Scheider). Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper): late but very widespread flight this spring commencing May 16 with peak count 120 May 21 on the Seneca River flats; 65-95/day present May 17-30 at SPI. Dowitcher: two May 7 (Scheider) on the Seneca River flats are very early and rare spring migrants; three noted May 21 at SPI (Rusk et al) are slightly more seasonable but equally notable. Semipalmated Sandpiper: present from May 17 with peak of 80 on May 28 at SPI. Western Sandpiper: a fine spring adult noted May 27 and 29 at SPI (Scheider); such birds annually noted at SPI which by all field criteria are Western Sandpipers should be collected to prove that the species is a rare but regular spring transient in this sector. Sanderling: 35-60 present May 27-29 in the shorebird concentrations at SP and SPI.

Aside from a plethora of Ring-billed Gulls (5000+ on Apr 25) and a paucity of Bonaparte's Gulls, gull watching was persistently dull thru the season. Both Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull appear to be nesting on the Oneida Lake Islands of Long and Wantry.

Aside from an early Common Tern Apr 2 at Oneida Lake, terns were tardy (Caspian — Apr 23, Black — Apr 24) and low in numbers (Caspian — 7, May 17; Black — 200, May 6). Both Common and Black Terns have large and active colonies at Sandy Pond; the location of the Common Tern colony on a rocky shoal on the pond may help local breeding success; the beach colonies there have been as successful as a stuttering salesman with bronchitis.

Both cuckoos arrived late — Yellow-billed on May 8, Black-billed on May 6 — and to the present seem somewhat scarce.

Barn Owl: nine young removed May 21 from a dismantled silo near Kirkville were referred on to Cornell University (Burtt). Snowy Owl: one-seven/day noted from Apr 1 to general departure date of Apr 14 from Bridgeport to Brewerton along the south shore of Oneida Lake; the influx of migrants Apr 15-16 marked the exodus of the Snowies, as four were noted in the space of an hour the evening of Apr 14 and only one the next day; departure date is May 5, two, Syracuse (Peterson). Barred Owl: vigorously hooting birds noted May 14 (Rusk) at Labrador Pond, a site long thought to be abandoned by them. Short-eared Owl: last noted Apr 1 at Onondaga Lake (Bart, Rusk). Saw-whet Owl: an adult trapped in a mist net May 10 at Solvay (Thomas) is late.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will was not noted until May 6, SSSP, and Nighthawk not until May 20, Syracuse, both very late.

Chimney Swift: peak tally of 1000+ noted passing the Hawk Lookout near Texas May 6. Flicker: no major April flight noted but 25-70/day reported Apr 19-May 6 with max. of 300 on May 6 at Hawk Lookout and SSSP. Sapsucker: unreported until Apr 15 when numbers (six-fifteen) were reported at Solvay, Baldwinsville, Syracuse, and Oneida (Ackley, Evans, Rusk).

The majority of flycatchers were late in arrival with Kingbird May 6, Crested May 1, Least May 5, Traill's May 8, and Wood Pewee May 9. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher not noted until May 28 (very late), and no migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported this season (very unusual). Wood Pewee: 240+ noted on May 27 in the Sandy Pond dune woods gives some hint of the magnitude of the landbird flight on that day.

The late April swallow flights were almost unbelievable. Creek margins, marshes, and ponds were misted over with swallows, a situation found a few days later at HIGMA and environs — Tree-12,000 on Apr 26 and May 6; Bank-8,000 on May 6 and 6,000 on May 7; Barn-5,000 on Apr 25, 7,000 on Apr 26, 6,000 on May 6, 5,000 on May 7. This boom in swallows was not shared by the Purple Martins, and the peak count for this species was a mere 60 on Apr 25.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: **no migrants** noted this season; birds excavating nesting holes noted May 13 at SSSP (Peterson, Rusk) and at Rome Sand Plains (Ackley et al). Brown Creeper: a great wave of Creepers swept thru SSSP Apr 22 with 60 seen there in three hours along with hundreds of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a scattering of Winter Wrens; Creepers appear to be nesting at Camillus and at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake.

Carolina Wren: a singleton reported vigorously singing at Camillus May 7-28; also a pair reported May 13 at Clark's Reservation near Jamesville (Minor) and one noted nest-building near Pulaski in mid-May (Evans). Short-billed Marsh Wren: three vigorously singing males noted May 17-29 at SP, the first occupancy of the grassy marshes noted there in three years.

Mockingbird: intermittently reported at Jamesville, DeWitt, and Skaneateles in the first three weeks of April; one Apr 24 at the Hawk Lookout near Texas (McIlroy, Scheider) is undoubtedly a wandering bird as it was not seen thereafter despite frequent checks of the area. Catbird: peak of 100+ on May 27 on the Sandy Pond dunes feeding in all sorts of ways — wading to flycatching inclusive (Scheider).

Robin: notably abundant this spring (80-200/day) in striking contrast to the very scarce Bluebird; some 900 Robins in four hours time were observed Apr 9 passing the Hawk Lookout near Texas. Hermit Thrush: rather tardy, first noted Apr 9 with peak count of 25, May 6 (quite late) at SSSP. Swainson's Thrushes trickled thru the region from May 13 on with small waves (25-35+) May 16 and May 27. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were unreported until the last great land-bird wave of May 27-29.

Bluebird: the total number reported by all observers this spring is less than 25, the majority in early and mid-April, total breeding population as far as known for the entire region — one pair near Pulaski! an amazing population debacle, for in less than five years this species has become more scarce than the now advancing Carolina Wren.

Water Pipit: unreported except for singletons to Apr 25; a tally of 150 May 6 over the Hawk Lookout at Texas and SSSP is the peak for the season and only small groups (three-four/day) were noted thereafter to May 17.

Northern Shrike: an adult Apr 10 near Pennellville is extremely late. Loggerhead Shrike: an adult May 27 near Churchville, Oneida County (Ackley et al) and a pair the last week of May near Skaneateles (Seaman) point to possible adjacent breeding.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were late (Solitary — Apr 26, Warbling — Apr 29, Yellow-throated — May 6, Red-eyed — May 14) but plentiful when they finally came (e.g. five Solitary on May 9 at Syracuse and 300+ Red-eyed Vireo May 27 on the Sandy Pond dunes). Philadelphia Vireo: singles noted May 16 at Camillus and May 27 at Sandy Pond; otherwise unreported.

Early warbler watching proved frustrating with only a late April trickle of the expected migrants (Myrtle, Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Green), and a major wave was not noted until May 6-7; the next weekend continued dull and warblerless with a small wave on May 14 and a superb wave on May 16-18. The Sandy Pond dunes where minimal cover and restricted food supply made conspicuous last wave of the season, May 27-29, was a spectacular with best counts from the abundant but usually unobtrusive migrants.

The early migrating warblers tended to tardiness (Black & White — Apr 28, Myrtle — Apr 22, Black-throated Green — May 2, Palm — May 6, Pine — Apr 22, Northern Waterthrush — Apr 29) with a slow build-up to rather low peak numbers (e.g. Black and White — 8, May 17; Nashville — 28; May 16 and 20; Black-throated Green — 14, May 17; Myrtle — 60, May 7). Later Warblers arrived about on time (Tennessee — May 14, Magnolia — May 6, Cerulean — May 7, Chestnut-sided — May 7, Bay-breasted — May 14, Blackpoll — May 16, Mourning Warbler — May 14, Wilson's Warbler — May 14) with very high numbers in a few to ten days. The spectacular wave of warblers at Sandy Pond May 27-29 produced numerous high tallies for these middle and late species—22 Magnolia, 45 Black-throated Blue, 75 Bay-breasted, 55 Blackpoll, 30 Canada, 100+ Redstart—and for overshadowed the two earlier May waves.

Notable concentrations of migrants also include 35 Tennessee May 16 and 20, 500 Yellow May 21 at HIGMA, 25 Magnolia May 16, 25 Blackburnian May 20, and 22 Ovenbird May 17. Mourning Warblers were reported with greater frequency and four-five/day were noted intermittently May 17-31. Particularly scarce this spring were Parula (max. of four, May 27, with only a dozen reports for the entire month), Cape May (peak of six - very low - May 17 at Solvay), Palm (noted only in the wave of May 6-7 with none thereafter!), and Wilson's (never more than three/day during the period).

Tardiness in departure matched the lateness of arriving warblers and migrant Black & White, Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Mourning, Wilson's, and Canada were all present into early June. More unusual warblers included three singing male Prothonotary May 17-31 at Short Point Bay and another singing male May 21 at HIGMA, a new locale for this species (Scheider); a single Worm-eating Warbler May 16-20 at Camillus Valley (Scheider et al); two Blue-winged Warblers May 14-16 at Camillus Valley (Seaman); and single Orange-crowned Warblers on May 17 and 22 and two each on May 19, Solvay, and May 27, SP dunes.

Breeding warblers proved interesting on three accounts. At least five localities for breeding Yellow-breasted Chats have been located in and around Syracuse, Camillus, and Marcellus (Estoff, Propst, Rusk, and Spofford) involving at least seven singing males. Singing Hooded Warblers were located in late May at two new spots near Camillus and at one new location at SSSP. Some 25-30 Cerulean Warblers were regularly tallied after May 10 in Camillus Valley (Scheider), a distinct increase from two years ago.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The general lateness of warblers spilled over to Bobolink (May 6 arrival date) and Baltimore Oriole (Apr 29); however, in mid-May both were quite abundant, and counts of 60+ and 100+/day respectively were obtained. Common Grackle: a stream of 100,000+ of this species plus 30,000+ Cowbirds and 80,000+ Red-winged Blackbirds went over the Texas Hawk Lookout Apr 9. All black icterids continue locally in annoying abundance. Western Meadowlark: a single bird noted Apr 26 near Steven's Pond, Phoenix, was still present at the end of the period (Scheider); this is the third local record in twenty years.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: not reported until May 7 (late) with max. of 22 on May 21 (late peak date). A mild, late flight of Evening Grosbeaks Apr 22-May 6 passed through SSSP but seemed non-existent away from this migrational trap (Evans, Scheider). The winter inundation of Pine Siskins persisted thru April and early May with the higher counts of migrating flocks from observational points along Lake Ontario (300+ Apr 9, 65 on Apr 24, 40 on May 6 near Texas and at SSSP); they were present at SSSP and at the Rome Sand Plains (Ackley, Carter, Rusk) until May 27.

The Red Crossbill incursion of 1960-1961 continued thru April with 40-70/day at around Oneida (Nodecker) with 20 still there as of May 21; lesser numbers (six-12/day) at Syracuse, Pulaski, and Baldwinsville. The much more scarce White-winged Crossbill was not noted after Apr 15.

Meadow sparrows arrived late with Savannah on Apr 8, Grasshopper on May 16 (very late), Henslow's on May 6 (very late), Vesper on Apr 2, and Field Sparrow on Apr 8; numbers of all (however, appeared definitely increased, especially Savannah, Grasshopper, and Vesper Sparrows, near Baldwinsville and Phoenix. Slate-colored Junco: a wave (350+ Apr 22-25 at SSSP — late for such numbers) surged thru the area and local Syracuse hedgerows oozed Juncos for the next week; an equally rapid exodus occurred in the first week in May; last migrant noted May 19 at Syracuse (Estoff, Propst, Rusk). The lateness of this departure is in keeping with the departure dates of the even more northern Tree Sparrow (May 6, Cicero) and Snow Bunting (Apr 9, Texas). The same migrant wave Apr 22-24 that produced the flood of Juncos ushered in a lesser but impressive wave of Chipping and Savannah Sparrows; a second wave of the former (160+) moved thru SSSP May 6.

Lark Sparrow: an adult first noted by M. and N. Thomas May 14 near Camillus, later photographed by Spofford, is the first local record of this central New York rarity; it was not seen subsequently [Ed—see field notes section]. White-crowned Sparrow: late in arriving (May 6), low in numbers (max. of 20, May 9, Syracuse), and very early departure (May 20, Solvay). Quite in contrast to this scant movement was the influx of White-throated Sparrows with arrival date Apr 17, a veritable flood of birds Apr 27 — May 10 with 250+/day, and departure date May 27, SSSP. Fox Sparrow: small numbers (one-six/day) Apr 1 to departure date of Apr 27; no build-up in the Apr 15-16 or Apr 22-24 waves.

N.B.: With this summary my tour of duty as Editor for Region 5 must end; a tour of duty in the U. S. Army demands that I relinquish this present task which has been stimulating, informative, occasionally time-consuming, but always enjoyable. I would like to thank simply but sincerely the many contributors and report-

ers that have made these summaries possible. Despite the possibility of distant assignments in the military, be assured that my birding interest, enthusiasm, and almost filial affections will remain in the hills and habitats of central New York. My one wish is that the enthusiasm and cooperation that the contributors have evinced will continue unabated.

The Editorship passes to Dr. David B. Peakall and Miss Margaret S. Rusk (Mailing address — Dr. D. B. Peakall, College of Medicine, Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10, New York). My best wishes to them.

Good bye and good birding.
151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather in April and May was generally wet and cool. A few birds arrived early, but most species came on time or somewhat later than usual. Most persons had little of interest to report.

Loons—Ducks: Double-crested Cormorants were seen on Lake Ontario May 25. About 50 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons were noted the same day on Galloo Island. Brant visited Pleasant Lake near Watertown the middle of May, and at least 50 of them were near Galloo Island May 25. A few ducks stayed late: Common Goldeneye, May 13, and Greater Scaup and Oldsquaw, May 25.

Hawks—Owls: The only report of a Turkey Vulture was that of one near East Hounsfield Apr 20. The last date for Rough-legged Hawks was Apr 19 when there were two on Point Peninsula. On May 25 a Bald Eagle was seen at El Dorado. The first Osprey appeared Apr 23. Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeers, Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Spotted and Least Sandpipers were observed at El Dorado May 25. Sanderlings were at El Dorado May 29.

Allen and Belknap estimated the number of Ring-billed Gull nests on Little Galloo Island to be about 60,000. It would appear that the Ring-billed Gulls are increasing at a faster rate than are the Herring Gulls.

Few cuckoos were seen, but a Black-billed Cuckoo was found dead on the road south of Watertown May 30. She would have started laying eggs in another day. The last Snowy Owls were near Chaumont Apr 19.

Goatsuckers—Sparrows: Red-headed Woodpeckers have returned to three areas in Jefferson County where they nested other years. Tree Swallows were first seen Apr 19, which is late. There were several reports of Swainson's Thrush during the latter part of May, and on May 27 a Gray-cheeked Thrush appeared north of Watertown. One Bluebird was seen north of Watertown Apr 2, but most people have not seen any. We do not know of any nests near Watertown, but there are a few in Lewis County. There were no spectacular warbler waves, except, perhaps, May 27 and 28, when species that usually migrate earlier were seen going through with the Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers. Some of the first seen were: Black White, Apr 29; Magnolia Warbler, May 7; Black-throated Blue, May 7; and Black-throated Green, May 6. Gordon noted a Louisiana Waterthrush which was seen under ideal conditions along Felts Mills Creek Apr 29.

Evening Grosbeaks came late and left early. The last date for Jefferson County was about Apr 19, but they were present in St. Lawrence County a month later. Gordon saw two Pine Siskins in Lewis County May 20. Tree Sparrows were last seen Apr 24. White-crowned Sparrows passed through Watertown between May 7 and May 23.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK—CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

Over most of the region snow, heavy rains, and unseasonable cold prevailed during the reporting period. The minimum May temperature in our area was 27° on May 1, and the maximum of 80° was recorded on May 28. Very late May snow flurries in some areas seemed to emphasize the general coolness. Saranac Lake experienced freezing temperatures and ice and snow mixed with rain over Memorial Day.

The peak waves seemed to have occurred generally throughout the area from May 10 to May 16, with the heaviest concentration on May 10. Variety of species was excellent.

Coverage of the area was, on the whole, better. From time to time birders from other areas visit the Adirondacks and send me their records while here. These are very welcome and add to our coverage of the region, which at best has too few observers. Such a list was recently sent me by D. B. Peakall, as spokesman for a party of birders composed of Dr. Dean Amadon, Mr. Leslie Brown, and Dr. Walter Spofford. This group will be referred to by the designation "P" in the following note credits. In the interest of furthering my medical education I was out of the state for most of the reporting period, and these additional notes from visitors to the area were thus doubly welcome.

Interest has been intensified in the formation of a club. It is hoped that at our organizational meeting in a few weeks we will have that broader coverage we still so badly need. No one can actually know the tremendous good work that is currently being done with the few birders we now have. They certainly deserve much credit.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were reported in good numbers, and the Pied-billed Grebe was at Sunmount on Apr 9 (Kingsbury). Great Blue Herons were common in areas where seen. American Bitterns were reported from widely scattered areas, including Saranac Lake May 4 (Delafield), Sunmount on May 7 (Kingsbury) and Tupper Lake on May 13 (Delahanty).

Keji heard many Canada Geese passing overhead at Raybrook on Apr 15. Tupper Lake area records included 12 on Apr 10 (Delahanty), 25 on Raquette Pond Apr 18 (Delafield), and 80-100 on Apr 22 (Delahanty).

It is reported that late and heavy rains flooded some Black Duck nests at AuSable Marsh. There were various reports of the Ring-necked Duck, and these included the following: Apr 14 at AuSable Marsh, Apr 13 at Sunmount (Kingsbury), Apr 25 at Slush Pond (Hart), two pairs on the Saranac River on May 13 (Delafield), and a report from Paul Smith's on May 26 (P). Also reported from Sunmount were Scaup on Apr 15, Bufflehead on Apr 9, Common Goldeneye on Apr 15, and Wood Duck on Apr 30 (Kingsbury). There were several reports of Common Mergansers. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from Sunmount on Apr 15 (Kingsbury), and one was seen on a rock in the Saranac River on May 1 (Delafield). Two Hooded Mergansers were noted over the Saranac River on Apr 11 (Delafield), and the species was at Tupper Lake on Apr 20 (Amstutz).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures seemed quite common in the Keeseville area (Lesperance). Peakall and party found a Goshawk's nest with three young at Meecham Lake, and in the same area they recorded the Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk on May 26. At Saranac Lake Red-tailed Hawks were back in good numbers the first week of April, and Red-shoulders were back a little later and also in good numbers (Delafield). Some hawk dates at Sunmount include Osprey on Apr 30, Marsh Hawk on Apr 30, and Cooper's on May 14 (Kingsbury). Over at Raybrook Keji noted Red-tailed Hawk on Apr 9, Cooper's Hawk on Apr 17, and Marsh Hawk on Apr 18. Three Bald Eagles were in the vicinity of Tupper Lake at least through April (Hart, Delafield).

Ruffed Grouse were present in good numbers at Saranac Lake, and a nest with nine eggs was found there on May 8 (Delafield).

The Common Snipe was reported at Sunmount Apr 30 (Kingsbury), at Tupper Lake May 13 (Delahanty), and at Saranac Lake, also in May (Delafield). At the latter locality Woodcock were described as normal according to the singing bird census (Delafield). Woodcock were recorded at Sunmount on Apr 30 (Kingsbury), and in early April they were heard in mating flight at Keeseville (Lesperance). The greater Yellowlegs was at Sunmount Apr 30 (Kingsbury). Good numbers of Spotted Sandpipers were present at Saranac Lake after May 9 (Delafield). An Upland Plover was sighted at the Saranac Inn golf course on May 8 (Anderson, Delafield), and the observers enjoyed fine views of this bird under ideal conditions.

Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were very common at the end of the reporting period in the Lake Champlain area (Lesperance). A Herring Gull nest was found on a rock in Lower Saranac Lake on May 13 (Delafield). Three Ring-billed Gulls were seen on Normans Ridge May 16 (Delafield). A Black Tern was spotted perched on a channel marker in Osetah Lake on May 13, and this bird

permitted close approach (Delafield). The Common Tern was seen off Cumberland Head on May 19 (Delafield).

Black-billed Ckcoos seemed quite common in the Keeseville area (Lesperance). The Short-eared Owl was seen at Sunmount on Apr 6 (Amstutz), and the Barred Owl was heard at Little Simon Lake on May 30 (P).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The first Whip-poor-will was heard at Sunmount on Apr 29 (Amstutz), and two Common Nighthawks were back early in May at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

In the Saranac Lake area four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were found dead without a mark on them during and immediately after Memorial Day, victims of the freakish weather. The expected woodpeckers were seen in normal numbers.

At Keeseville a Phoebe was seen in a snow flurry on Apr 1 (Lesperance). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted at Sunmount on May 27 (Kingsbury) and Mariah about the same time (P). Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Sunmount on May 14 (Kingsbury), and they were noted at Saranac Lake by May 25 (Delafield). Several Traill's Flycatchers were reported.

Cliff Swallows were observed at Raybrook on May 12 (Keji), and at the Sabbattis RR Station Peakall and party found 13 occupied nests during the last several days of May. Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows were at Tupper Lake on Apr 18 (Delahanty), and at Saranac Lake 18 Bank Swallow nests were well started by May 8 (Delafield).

Gray Jays were reported at Ross Park on May 26 by Peakall and party. Red-breasted Nuthatches were described as normal in the Saranac Lake area (Delafield). A Winter Wren was at Lake Kiwassa on May 7 (R. Merkel). The Winter Wren and the Long-billed Marsh Wren were reported at Sunmount on May 1 and May 21 respectively (Kingsbury). Robins were generally reported in better numbers than last year; at Saranac Lake the first real evening song was heard Apr 6 (Delafield). Veeries were reported to be numerous by at least one observer, and the other thrushes were at least in normal numbers.

Water Pipits were seen May 6 at Raybrook (Keji) and at Gabriels Ridge May 10 (Delafield). They were last reported in the Saranac Lake area on May 27 (David Young).

A Loggerhead Shrike was at Tupper Lake on Apr 10 (Delahanty).

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireos were at Saranac Lake by May 5 (Delafield) and at Sunmount by May 6 (Kingsbury). There were at least two reports of Philadelphia Vireos.

A heavy wave of warblers was noted at Sunmount May 10, and a possible nesting pair of Parula Warblers was reported there the latter part of May (Amstutz). At Tupper Lake the Yellowthroat, Black & White, Chestnut-sided, and Redstart were seen between May 11 and 13 (Delahanty). Warbler records by Kingsbury at Sunmount included Nashville (May 10), Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Redstart, and Ovenbird (May 14), Canada (May 20), Tennessee, Wilson's Mourning, and Cape May (May 21), and Blackpoll (May 27). At Raybrook Keji's report included the following: Myrtle (Apr 30), Nashville (May 6), Yellow and Black & White (May 9), Black-throated Green (May 10), Black-throated Blue (May 11), Cape May and Chestnut-sided (May 12), Yellowthroat (May 14), Magnolia (May 16), Bay-breasted (May 17), and Wilson's (May 21). Warbler records by Harriet Delafield at Saranac Lake included Myrtle (Apr 3), Yellow (May 11), Northern Waterthrush (May 11), Magnolia (May 12), Ovenbird (May 13), Yellowthroat (May 14), Wilson's Warbler (May 14), and Bay-breasted Warbler (May 28). Blackburnians were common in the early warbler waves there.

Peakall and party reported Black & White, Nashville, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Canada, Blackpoll, and Mourning Warblers as few to fairly common in areas where seen. Several of the latter were noted in the Little Simon Lake region.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were first reported on May 12 from Sunmount (Kingsbury) and Saranac Lake (Delafield); this is a rather early date for this species. Several Rusty Blackbirds, including a nesting pair, were located at Little Simon Lake late in May (P). The Baltimore Oriole had returned to Sunmount by May 10 (Amstutz).

A Cardinal reported from Apr 1 to Apr 17 at Tupper Lake feeders was not reported thereafter.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported to about May 15 in most areas, and Pine Siskins were in good numbers, reported by all observers in the western sections of the area. Although at Saranac Lake the last large Siskin flocks were seen on Apr 19, a few were present there throughout the period, and one was seen with nesting material on May 8 (Delafield). Good numbers of Purple Finches were reported from all areas, and both species of crossbill were observed. Six Red Crossbills were at Saranac Lake on Apr 19 (Delafield). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were first noted at Sunmount on May 14 (Kingsbury) and at Saranac Lake May 17 (Delafield).

Every spring seems to disclose a new species not yet recorded for the area. From Mr. Joseph Keji at Raybrook, a very reliable observer, comes a description which would seem to identify the Western Tanager. However, Mr. Keji is reluctant to definitely state his observation as such, lacking corroborative evidence. I will await with much interest a return sighting by Mr. Keji or other observers in that area.

White-crowned Sparrows were reported between May 7 and May 14 at Saranac Lake, with a flock there on May 10 (Delafield). These birds were reported on May 11 from Sunmount (Amstutz, Kingsbury) and Tupper Lake (Delahanty). Fox Sparrow dates were Apr 11 at Tupper Lake (Delahanty) and Apr 18 at Raybrook (Keji). Also, at Raybrook, Field Sparrows were first reported on Apr 11 (Keji). Juncos were in good numbers at Tupper Lake on Apr 1 (Delahanty), but in the Saranac Lake area they seemed less common than last year (Delafield).

On May 6 four Sharp-tailed Sparrows were sighted in a small marshy area surrounding a pond on the Saranac Inn golf course. Their marked ochre face pattern made these birds unmistakable. One bird was still present the following day, but none could be found when a search was made again on May 10. This interesting record was by Delafield.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK—HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

It was a very wet and cool Spring. Rainfall during the period was better than two inches above normal. Temperatures for April and May were 1.2 degrees and 2.1 degrees below normal respectively. Scattered frosts occurred frequently throughout May and on May 31 was quite severe in some low areas. Snow was reported from higher elevations on May 27. The most unusual records of the period were of Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, Blue Goose, Snow Goose, King Rail, nesting Long-eared Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Red Crossbill. Also several hybrid yellow-shafted — red-shafted flickers were reported (see field notes section). Except for May 9-10 there was little in the way of any big "waves". Minor "waves" were apparent in some areas on May 6, 13, and 21.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were seen from April 5 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck) to May 13 at Alcove Reservoir (Sabin). The only Red-necked Grebe reported was one seen at Vly Creek Reservoir May 14 (Linch, Johnston). It was reported as having been there "several days." Horned Grebes were seen at Saratoga Lake on April 16 (Hallenbeck) and last seen on May 5 at Vly Creek Reservoir (Sabin). Pied-billed Grebes were commonly reported after April 9 at Vly Creek Reservoir (Hallenbeck). A Snowy Egret was reported from the Black Creek Marshes where it was seen on April 19 only (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al). Common Egrets were seen on May 25 about one mile south of Albany on the Hudson River (Thurston) for the only report on this species. A pair of Least Bitterns was seen at the Black Creek Marshes on May 12 (Sabin). American Bitterns were widely reported, after the middle of April, by many observers. The three Whistling Swans reported in March dwindled to one by April 1 and it continued to be present at Black Creek Marshes until at least April 19 (Hallenbeck). This was the immature bird, the two adults having left during the last week of March. Many flocks of Canadian Geese were reported throughout April and May until May 20 (Smilow). A single Blue Goose was seen on April 14 at Stuyvesant (Thurston) and a lone Snow Goose on April 15 at the Black Creek Marshes in company with the above-mentioned Whistling Swan (Hallenbeck et al). Residents Mallards and Black Ducks apparently had good success with many reports of broods of young being

seen in May. Most American Widgeon, Pintail, and Green-winged Teal went through by April 19 (Hallenbeck). No Gadwalls or Shovelers were reported. The only report of Redhead occurred on May 13 at Black Creek Marshes (Linch et al). Ring-necked Ducks were common to abundant through April 22 with flocks of 45 and 50 birds being reported (Hallenbeck, Yunick, et al). Canvasback (4) were reported but once, on April 5 from Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck). Both species of Scaup Duck (Lesser Scaup predominating) were reported between April 5 and 23 (Hallenbeck). A pair of Lesser Scaup were seen as late as May 6 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). Numbers of Goldeneyes (40 to 60) went through between April 5 and 16 (Hallenbeck). Bufflehead were reported on April 8, 15, and 23 from Tomhannock Reservoir (Yunick) and on April 16 from Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck). The only reports of Old-Squaws were of two birds on May 5 and 13 at Vly Creek and Alcove Reservoirs respectively (Sabin). There is, of course, the possibility that these two reports may be of the same two birds. No Scoters were reported during the period. The only Ruddy Ducks reported were five seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on May 5 (Yunick). Hooded Mergansers were uncommon with reports only on April 5 and 16 from Saratoga Lake, a pair on May 6 at Vischer Ferry, (Hallenbeck) and a female from Kinderhook Creek on May 26 (Reilly). Common Mergansers were widely reported between April 8 and 23 from many localities. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from April 15 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck) to April 22 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck).

Hawks — Owls: A maximum of 20 Turkey Vultures was seen on April 14 at Jackson's Corners (Giddings). A late Goshawk was seen on May 6 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). The last of the Rough-legged Hawks were seen on May 13 at Castleton (Burland) and West Sand Lake (Bordt). Presumably the same Bald Eagle was seen on April 28 as on April 30, both at Stockport Station (Thurston and Brown). The first Osprey was seen on April 22 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). This species was widely reported the next and succeeding days. Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant were widely reported. Bobwhites are being reported in or near areas where individuals have been released by the New York State Conservation Department in their efforts to re-establish this species as a part of the native fauna. Efforts along this same line with the Wild Turkey resulted in one report during the period, from West Taghkanic on April 17 (Milne). The first spring arrivals of Virginia Ralis, Sora, and Common Gallinules were from the Black Creek Marshes on May 12, 11, and 4 respectively (Sabin). The uncommon King Rail was seen also at the Black Creek Marshes from May 19 (Shedd) to the end of the period (many observers). When seen on May 23 (Sabin) the bird was seen to have a bad right leg which caused it to walk with a pronounced limp. When pressed, it flew strongly and readily, though not far. An American Coot was seen as late as April 22 (Hallenbeck) at Vischer Ferry, where it summered in 1960. Woodcock were in full flight song by April 1 in many areas. Common Snipe were first noted on April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). A few days later they were widely reported, many performing their flight songs. The Upland Plover arrived on April 2 at Hennessey Road near the Voorheesville Depot (Baker), and the Spotted Sandpiper at Livingston on April 28 (Mapes). The first Solitary Sandpiper was reported on May 5 at New Scotland (Sabin) and Greater Yellowlegs on April 16 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenbeck) after which both species were commonly reported. The only reports of Lesser Yellowlegs were on May 18 and 21 above Hudson (Thurston). A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen near Voorheesville on May 17 (Waite). Two Least Sandpipers were seen on May 10 at New Scotland (Sabin), 50 on May 13 at Cedar Hill Flats (Sabin), 3 at Stockport Station on May 13 and 20 (Brown, Burland), and 3 at Niskayuna Widewaters on May 14 (Hallenbeck). A late Black-backed Gull was noted, also at Niskayuna Widewaters, on May 14 (Hallenbeck). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls continued as migrants throughout the period with the bulk going through in April. Three Black Terns were seen near Niskayuna Widewaters on May 7 (SBC field trip), and a single bird on the 14th at the same place (Hallenbeck). Both species of Cuckoos arrived May 13 in the area (many observers). Nesting Great-Horned and Screech Owls were widely reported. The last Snowy Owl of the winter was seen on April 9 at Schenectady Airport (Halverson), and the last two Short-eared Owls were seen off Elm Avenue, Delmar on April 15 (Sabin). A Long-eared Owl was reported from Chatham on April 23 (Reilly). Near Altamont a pair of Long-eared Owls and three fuzzy young were discovered at their nest on May 10 (Shedd, Waite).

Subsequently these owls were seen by over 20 observers.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were first recorded at Ghent on May 13 (Erlenbach). Nighthawks arrived in Albany during the third week in April (Malone). The Chimney Swift was seen on April 25 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and many other places in the next few days. The first Hummingbird made an appearance at Loudonville on May 10 (French). Hybrid Yellow-shafted/Red-shafted Flickers have been picked up dead as the result of accidents as follows: April 27 — one found dead outside State Education Building, Albany; May 20 — one found dead near Hudson (Thurston). Both of these were taken to the State Museum where they are now in the bird collection. Another bird is reported to be present at Claverack (Thurston). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers first were seen on April 18 and 20 at Scotia and Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Several Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in the area: on May 12 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin), May 13 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and Chatham (Farmer), May 18-21 at Gallupville (Zimmer), and May 19 at Old Chatham (Lefferts). An adult male Black-backed Woodpecker was discovered feeding in a pine grove in Thacher Park on May 13. Three observers were able to view this bird from all angles at distances no greater than 20 feet while it was chipping off pieces of bark from 10 feet up in a red pine tree (Ingraham, Korn, Sabin). Kingbirds were reported on April 28 and 29 at Livingston (Brown) and Ghent (Erlenbach) respectively. With the next few days many were reported. An early Crested Flycatcher was seen on April 24 at Red Rock (Smilow). This species was not considered common, however, until May 9 at which time it was generally reported. Traill's Flycatchers made their usual late arrival on May 21 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). The first reported Least Flycatcher was seen near Niskayuna Widewaters on May 7 (SBC field trip). Wood Pewees were reported May 13 from many areas. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Rosendale Road, Schenectady on May 14 (Hallenbeck). On May 13 a pair of Horned Larks was seen to feed fledged young at Meadowdale Hill (Korns). At this writing I have no arrival dates for Bank, Cliff, or Rough-winged Swallows or Purple Martins. Barn Swallows were first reported on April 9 at Hillsdale (Burland), and early date. Tufted Titmice were reported only from Columbia County (ADBC). Red-breasted nuthatches are apparently nesting again this year in Red Rock, Columbia County (Smilow). Brown Creepers were present in Burnt Hills until May 13 (Foote). The first House Wren was seen on April 24 at Ghent (Erlenbach). Winter Wrens apparently migrated through this region unnoticed. Two early Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen on April 15 at Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck, Eddy, et al). The large influx of this species, however, did not occur until at least two weeks later. Early Catbirds were seen April 15 and 20 at Nassau (Shineman). The first Brown Thrasher was recorded on April 24 at Ghent (Erlenbach). A Mockingbird was recorded on April 19 at Scotia (Hallenbeck), not at all in May.

Wood Thrushes were first observed on May 7 at Chatham (ADBC). Three early Hermit Thrushes were seen at Ghent on April 2 (Erlenbach), then none were seen until April 20 at Schenectady (Eddy) and April 25 again at Ghent (Erlenbach). On May 13 it was recorded at Taborton where it nests (Kilcawley). Swainson's Thrushes first appeared May 4 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al) and were still passing through at the end of the month. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen on May 9 at Loudonville (French) and Red Rock (Smilow) and in several localities a few days later. Veeries arrived May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote) and Slingerlands (Sabin). Bluebirds were widely reported and appear to be more numerous than last year. Golden-crowned Kinglets were generally reported after April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin) and Canaan (Payne), up to May 13 at Taborton (Kilcawley). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were commonly reported from April 21 at Nassau (Shineman) through May 13 (many observers). Water Pipits were present in the Ghent area throughout the period up to May 22 (Erlenbach). These birds constituted a flock of about 100 individuals. Cedar Waxwings were reported from different parts of the region or area in their usual frequency. No shrikes were reported.

Vireos — Warblers: Arrival dates for the vireos and warblers were as follows: Yellow-throated Vireo — May 4 at Schenectady (Hallenbeck), Solitary Vireo — April 27 at Back Creek Marshes (Zimmer), Red-eyed Vireo — May 11 at Scotia (Hallenbeck), Warbling Vireo — April 20 at Livingston (Munson), Philadelphia Vireo — May 4 at Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Other Philadelphia Vireos were

seen May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), and May 13 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hicks, et al). Black and White Warbler — April 26 at Red Rock (Smilow), Worm-eating Warbler — May 10 at Indian Ladder (Sabin), Golden-winged Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Blue-winged Warbler — May 13 at Altamont (Waite), Poestenkill (Kilcawley), and Alcove Reservoir (Sabin), Lawrence's Warbler — May 13 in Columbia County (ADBC) and May 19 at Scotia (fide Foote), Tennessee Warbler — May 9 at New Concord (Radke), Nashville Warbler — May 9 at Central Park (Eddy, Hallenbeck), Parula Warbler — none reported, Yellow Warbler — April 27 at Black Creek Marshes (Zimmer), Magnolia Warbler — May 10 at Indian Ladder (Sabin), at Burnt Hills (Foote), and Loudonville (French), Black-throated Green Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Myrtle Warbler — April 8 at Chatham (Reilly), Black-throated Blue Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck), Blackburnian Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck), et al), Cerulean Warbler — May 13 at Gallupville (Zimmer), Chestnut-sided Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin) and Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), Bay-breasted Warbler — May 2 at Loudonville (French), Black-poll Warbler — May 13 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hicks, et al), Pine Warbler — April 27 at Schenectady (Eddy), Prairie Warbler — May 13 at Karners (many observers), and Columbia County (ADBC), Palm Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), Ovenbird — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Northern Waterthrush — May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), Louisiana Waterthrush — April 24 at Red Rock (Smilow), Mourning Warbler — May 13 at Taborton (Kilcawley), Northern Yellowthroat — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Yellow-breasted Chat — May 13 at Karners (Baker) and Poestenkill (Kilcawley), Wilson's Warbler — May 9 at Ghent (Erlenbach), Canada Warbler — May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), and Redstart — May 9 at Loudonville (French).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The earliest date for Bobolinks appears to be May 11 at Meadowdale when an estimated 20 birds were present (Sabin). Baltimore Orioles were first reported on April 15 at Nassau (Shineman). However, they did not become common until after May 8 in most areas. Rusty Blackbirds were seen on April 9 at the Black Creek Marshes (Sabin), April 30 at Ghent (Erlenbach), and a very late migrant on May 27 at Ghent (Erlenbach). Scarlet Tanagers became quite common after May 9 when two were seen at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported as arriving in most areas on May 9. Indigo Buntings on the other hand did not arrive until May 11 in many areas. Evening Grosbeaks were present in many areas throughout April with the last report coming from Canaan on May 13 (Gokay). Purple Finches have been very sporadic, but consistently so. Pine Siskins have been commoner than usual with the latest report being of two birds at Indian Ladder on May 10 (Sabin). Goldfinches have been very common. The erratic and irregular Red Crossbill has been rather widely reported from April 6 at Claverack (Reeve) to May 21 at Gallupville (Zimmer). The first Towhees were seen on April 30 at Watervliet Reservoir (SBC field trip). Savannah Sparrows arrived in numbers after mid-April, and Vesper Sparrow after April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were first recorded on May 13 (Sabin) and May 1 at Nassau (Shineman) respectively. Juncos were present generally throughout the region throughout April and to mid-May. A very late Tree Sparrow was recorded on May 13 at a feeder in Averill Park (Farney). A few White-crowned Sparrows went through in the last week of April but the majority of them arrived in the first 10 days of May. White-throated Sparrows lingered to May 3 at Slingerlands. Fox Sparrows were present until April 23 in Columbia County (ADBC). A Lincoln's Sparrow was present at Ghent from April 6-13 (Erlenbach).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Continuing on from March the advancement of spring remained somewhat backward, staying any chance of an early season. Patches of snow could still be found in the higher Catskills even to the end of May. The effects of the variable weather on migration were not deeply pronounced, and yet it undoubtedly influenced some species to show early while others were retarded. It all presented a mixed-up picture best termed as a normal season surrounded by early and late dates.

One of the best migration waves of the period came on May 9 and 10 with the old veritable "flood of migrants" passing through the region. There seems no question that this year presented more satisfying results for birders than did last.

Loons — Ducks: Al Feldman and his waterfowl watching activities about the Ashokan Res. in Ulster Co. added a new species to the county list in April. This was a Western Grebe spotted on the 17th and carefully studied. The occurrence of Cattle Egrets in parts of the region again attracted attention. Martha Earl noted two near Goshen, Orange Co., on May 24 in the same general area as previously reported by her. Down below in Rockland County Bob Deed saw one near New City on May 27.

There were many good flights of Canada Geese up the Hudson Valley. As late as May 24 and 25 large flights were seen in Westchester Co. (Emily Kosakowski, Victoria Kosak, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Grierson).

Brant were conspicuous in several counties. Large numbers were seen in Rockland (Bob Deed). In Ulster about 500 were flying north overland on May 18, and another estimated 500 were over Dutchess Co. on May 26 (T. Haight, T. Gilbert). Several observations were made on the flights of Snow Geese during April. The northward flight of ducks in general left it impossible to render an accurate conclusion as to their status. Eleanor Pink had a Green-winged Teal in central Dutchess County on the late date of May 14.

Hawks — Owls: Most of the hawk flights were probably usual except for some notable late dates of departure set by the Rough-legged. One was seen over Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., on Apr 14, migrating in an undulating fashion against a brisk northerly wind. Maratha Earl saw another down in Orange Co. on Apr 16, and the last one reported from this region came from over in Dutchess County where F. Germond made the observation on Apr 24. The Bald Eagle was reported at Several points.

The Black-bellied Plover, usually missed in the spring migration here, was found in two instances during May. Joseph Morlan made Rockland County's first spring record with the finding of four at Piermont Pier on May 13. At Pleasant Valley in Dutchess Co. Otis Waterman et al saw the species on May 18. One Upland Plover was reported at Iona Island, near Bear Mountain, on Apr 26 (John Orth). Mr. Orth observed an Iceland Gull, an uncommon bird about this region, near Iona Island on Apr 2 and 7. The Bonaparte's Gull was reported in early April in the Cornwall area of Orange County (E.A. Mearns Bird Club) and in the Ashokan Reservoir area of Ulster County during late April and early May (A. Feldman, H. Dunbar, R. Pyle). A Common Tern was seen flying over the Ashokan Res. on Apr 26 (A. Feldman). The Black Tern appeared in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, on May 14 (B. Whiting) and was reported again at Pine Plains on May 16 (L. Palmatier).

The number of cuckoos in migration seemed to be very good this year. An early Yellow-billed appeared in Dutchess County on Apr 28 (K. and R. Davis). Owls were, for the most part, inconspicuous. A Long-eared Owl was found nesting near New Paltz, Ulster County (Robert Pyle), and the Saw-whet heard at Kripplebush, Ulster County, during March continued on to mid-April (F. Hough).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Common Nighthawk appeared to show more concentration on the west side of the Hudson than on the east. Some unprecedented early arrival Hummingbirds were reported. Mrs. Javius Matsumoto reported a male on Apr 28 near Carmel, Putnam County (it was hit by a car but not killed), but the earliest date comes from just south of our region on Staten Island where the Ruby-throat was seen on Apr 14 and 15 (Donald Deed). Some Kingbirds were extremely early in Orange County with one at Balmville on Apr 7 (E. K. Holden) and another near Newburgh on Apr 8 (Paul Jeheber). A rather early Crested Flycatcher appeared at Sterling Forest, Rockland County, on Apr 28 (R. Deed). Martha Earl reported the arrival of the first Barn Swallow in her area of Orange County on Apr 14. Thomas Parker's small colony of Purple Martins returned again this year on Apr 15 at his residence in Armonk, Westchester County. Other Martins were found near New Paltz, Ulster County (R. Pyle).

There was a noticeable movement of Blue Jays through Rockland County during parts of May (RAS), and a few were apparently still migrating up in Ulster County near the end of the month (F. Hough). Red-breasted Nuthatches were

absent from nearly all reports. The Mockingbird status seems to be about the same at this point. One was seen in Kingston, Ulster County, during May (Arthur Cragin), which is in the northern environs of our region. A rather early Wood Thrush showed up in Lomontville, Ulster County, on Apr 26 (H. and I. Dunbar). Observations of the Swainson's Thrush during migration were more numerous this year. The Bicknell's Thrush was just arriving on Slide Mountain May 20 (F. Hough, D. Smiley). Our Bluebird population still remained on the meagre side to suit our pleasure in this lovely bird. Mrs. Javius Matsumoto of Chappaqua, Westchester Co., reported her first brood of Bluebirds were off the nest on Apr 30. There was a definite increase in the number of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports for this season. Most of these were in early May - Westchester (Mrs. John Lentz), Rockland (R. Deed, E. Brown, J. Orth), Orange (Mrs. John Dye), and Dutchess (F. Germond) Brother Michael O. Waterman, B. Whiting). Brother Michael reported nesting attempts on Cruger's Island. It was also seen in Putnam County by Mrs. George Little and in Sullivan County. Kenneth Niven reported complete nesting success of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Westbrookville. This was a first record for Sullivan. Cedar Waxwings were rather inconspicuous during this migrating period.

Vireos — Warblers: The Brewster's Warbler was reported on two occasions — at Bedford Village, Westchester County, on May 13 (Mrs. John Bennett) and near Carmel, Putnam County, on May 12 (Mabel Little). One of the most difficult of all warblers to identify is the Orange-crowned. Many a migration passes without a single record, but occasionally an alert observer is able to spot one. The solitary record we have for this spring is credited to Brother Michael who found this warbler on Cruger's Island, Dutchess Co., on Apr 26. Cerulean Warblers were reported in their usual habitat in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. A good find was the Yellow-throated Warbler at Barrytown, Dutchess County, on May 11 by Brother Michael and Otis Waterman. Blackpoll Warblers were arriving on Slide Mountain in Ulster County on May 20 (Hough, Smiley). Of interest is another record of the Kentucky Warbler in the upper parts of our region. This one was seen by T. Strauss on May 8 in Dutchess County. Most observers felt that this was a pretty good warbler year.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The first Baltimore Oriole was reported by Margaret Dye on Apr 26 at Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange County. Cardinals were plentiful all around and promised a good nesting season. A very early Indigo Bunting showed up at West Nyack, Rockland County, on Apr 17 and was seen by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Weindling. Fair numbers of Pine Siskins were noted during their movements through this part of the state.

The erratic Red Crossbill gave us a better show this year than they usually do. One was in Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co., on Apr 10 (Mrs. Henry Yoars), and on Apr 15 ten more were seen in the general vicinity (Douglas Orbison). Mrs. Joseph Malone found them still around Tarrytown, Westchester Co., on May 4, and Mrs. Wm. Murphy saw a few at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., on May 14. The Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club found this Crossbill in fair abundance in Dutchess County during the last of April and early May. In Ulster County they were seen near Slide Mountain, in the Catskills, on May 20 (Hough, Smiley). In contrast to the Red Crossbill the White-winged Crossbill was all but unreported; the one observation was made near Naponach, Ulster County, where Chandler Young saw three on Apr 12. A Junco was still at Cornwall, Orange County, on May 29 arrival date for this species. She reported the first one at Blooming Grove, Orange (M. Dye). Mrs. Robert Earl's alertness for Lincoln's Sparrow netted her an early arrival date for this species. She reported the first one at Blooming Grove, Orange County, on Apr 25. Elsewhere the scanty reports indicated a more normal flight; the species was at Krumville, Ulster County, on May 6 (Hough), and one was banded at Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, on May 7 (Smiley).

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

April and May were cold and very backward. May 27 was bitterly cold and damp, but the weather moderated by the end of the month. The principal April flights in Inwood Park, New York City, were on the 25th and 26th (W. Norse). Around New York City and western Long Island the best spring flight came on May 8 and 9, with 21 species of warblers counted May 8 and 27 on May 9 at Hempstead Lake State Park where birds reportedly flooded the trees.

Several hundred White-crowned Sparrows were estimated at Jones Beach on May 9; also "thrushes of every description abounded at the beach, there were literally ten Catbirds in every bush, Towhees by the hundreds, Thrashers everywhere, and almost too many White-throats to Count" — (M. Levine).

Apparently this wave failed to materialize on central and eastern Long Island. At Brookhaven "May 25 was the only good day" — (D. Puleston). Further east at Manorville Gilbert Raynor wrote "spring migration very late and poor, no good waves observed." At the extreme eastern tip of the north fork at Orient, Roy Latham reported a "dull spring," except for more Orchard Orioles than in recent years and a European Goldfinch on May 30, his first record for the area.

Unusual Long Island May records included widespread reports of Red Crossbills and four records of Blue Grosbeaks.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons passed through early with only scattered May reports. Three Red-necked Grebes were at Rockaway on Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose). There were few if any records of shearwaters or petrels in April and May, and the special Linnaean Society pelagic trip on May 28, so productive a year ago, turned out a complete failure with not even a Wilson's Petrel sighted by the seasick occupants of the two wave-tossed boats. The Gannet flight was over in the early part of the period, and large flocks of Double-crested Cormorants were passing through by mid-April. There was one Great Cormorant at Rockaway on Apr 15. Five Common Egrets, three Snowy Egrets, and about 100 Black-crowned Night Herons were in the nesting pines along Ocean Boulevard, Jones Beach, by Apr 8; a later count (May 6) totaled some 110 Snowy and 25 Common Egrets (Elliott), and there were 13 Snowy Egrets at Shinnecock on May 20 (G. Raynor). Two Little Blue Herons were at Sagaponack on May 30, and there were three Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Mt. Sinai on breeding location (G. Raynor). A Cattle Egret and a Louisiana Heron were seen at Montauk on Apr 4 (D. Guthrie), and another Cattle Egret was at Riverhead on Apr 15 and May 10 (H. Evans). Two other Louisiana Herons appeared on eastern Long Island, one at Quogue on May 20 (Puleston) and one at Shinnecock on the same date (Raynor).

Ducks had generally moved out by late April. Two Blue-winged Teal were seen at Sagaponack on May 30 (Raynor), and there were two Oldsquaws at Gilgo on May 14 (Puleston). Perhaps the largest scoter flights recorded this spring were at Montauk on Apr 4, with an estimated 3,000 White-winged, 2,000 Surf, and 5,000 Common seen around the Point (D. Guthrie). A Common Teal was found at Jones Beach with about 40 to 50 Green-winged Teal; the bird was present from Apr 5 to 8 and was seen by numerous observers.

Hawks — Owls: The accipiter flight was poor. Red-tailed Hawks were regularly reported in the Manorville region, and there were several reports of Broadwings in early April. Six active Osprey nests were noted at Shelter Island in mid-April (Mrs. Benedict). A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Orient on Apr 5 (Latham), and two other Pigeon Hawks were reported in May, one at Bayville and one at Hempstead Lake State Park (Levine, Ward). Peregrine Falcons were rather rare; there was one at Brookhaven on May 20 (Puleston).

A King Rail was recorded at Meadowbrook Causeway on May 9 (Levine), and a Common Gallinule was at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose). There was a good flight of yellowlegs along the north shore in early May. Other shorebird records included 25 Piping Plover at Moriches Apr 4 (Guthrie), six Willet at Shinnecock on May 20 (Raynor), two Solitary Sandpipers at Wading River on May 7, a White-rumped Sandpiper seen at Shinnecock on May 20, and a Northern Phalarope female at Quogue on May 30 (Puleston). Otherwise phalaropes and other shorebirds were scarce to the end of the period with no real rarities appearing.

An Iceland Gull stayed at Inwood Park until May 5 (Norse, Kallman). Two Laughing Gulls appeared at Rockaway Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose), and there was one at Orient on Apr 23 (Latham). Three Common Terns were sighted at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15, a week or two before the general flight. Least Terns appeared abundantly at Zach's Bay in early May.

Some alcid winter mortality was indicated by the two Razor-billed Auks and one Common Murre found dead at Moriches on Apr 4 (Guthrie). There was a fair flight of cuckoos in May. The Long-eared Owl was at Brookhaven on Apr 23 (Puleston).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The first Whip-poor-will was at Manorville on Apr 27 (Raynor). Nighthawks were scarce. Eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers turned up at Lawrence on Apr 15, and very unusual was a Pileated Woodpecker which turned up at Inwood Park on Apr 23 (Norse, Kallman).

A late Kingbird at Orient on May 20 resorted to following a tractor for disturbed insects. The first Phoebe was at Orient on Apr 4 (Latham). Swallow records included three Rough-wings at Wading River on May 7, 15 Barn Swallows at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15 (Meyer, Rose), and Purple Martins at Roosevelt the same day (C. Ward).

Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were all very scarce. There was a good flight of Hermit Thrushes. The first Swainson's Thrush was at Jones Beach on Apr 27 (Elliott). Bluebirds continued rare. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Orient on May 12 (Latham), and the species was present at Inwood from Apr 24 to May 22 (Norse). There was a good flight of Cedar Waxwings on eastern Long Island. A late Water Pipit was at Orient on Apr 28 (Latham).

Vireos — Warblers: The Yellow-throated Vireo was at Brookhaven on May 8 (Puleston), and there were two at Cold Spring Harbor on May 29 (Raynor). White-eyed Vireos were plentiful, and there were several Warbling Vireos.

A Prothonotary Warbler was seen at Yaphank on May 7 (Puleston et al). Two Worm-eating Warblers were seen at Hempstead on May 8 (Ward, Levine, Sullivan, Hirshbein). Golden-winged Warblers were at Hempstead and Jones Beach May 8 and 9 (Levine) and at Mt. Sinai May 13 (Raynor). A Cerulean Warbler was at Hempstead on May 8 (Hirshbein, Levine, Sullivan). Most Warblers were seen at Brookhaven on May 25, including three Bay-breasted two Wilson's and a big flight of female Pine Warblers (Puleston). The Kentucky Warbler was at Hempstead May 9 (Levine, Wollin) and at Inwood May 14 (Kallman). The earliest Hooded Warbler was at Inwood on Apr 28 (Norse), but there was one at Hempstead on May 8 and 9 (Dignan, Simon, Snider, Sullivan, Ward) and one at Brookhaven on May 5 and May 14 (Puleston).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: There were a few western Long Island Orchard Oriole records, a pair at Brookhaven on May 9 and 12 (Puleston) and several at Orient on May 7 (Latham). Rusty Blackbirds moved through Inwood during the first half of May (Norse); usually scarce on the south shore of Long Island, there was one at Roosevelt on May 7 (Levine, Ward). A Bobolink was at Jamaica Bay on May 6 (Norse). The earliest Scarlet Tanager was at Orient May 17 (Latham). Summer Tanager records included three at Wading River, May 14, also two at Yaphank May 17 (Puleston). Three Blue Grosbeaks were at Patchogue, one Apr 27-30, one until May 3, and one May 11-13, all banded (W. Terry). One was banded at Center Moriches about May 1 (Wilcox), and Singles were at Riis Park May 10 and at Inwood May 13 (Norse). There was a Dickcissel at Brookhaven May 11-16 (Puleston).

Red Crossbill records included 12 on Loop Causeway Apr 8 (Levine, Ward), four at Brookhaven May 25 (Puleston), and one at Upton May 25 (Raynor). A single European Goldfinch was at Orient on May 30 (Latham). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Point Lookout on May 8 (Carleton), and there were a half dozen or more records of Lincoln's Sparrows May 7-9 at Jones Beach and Riis Park.

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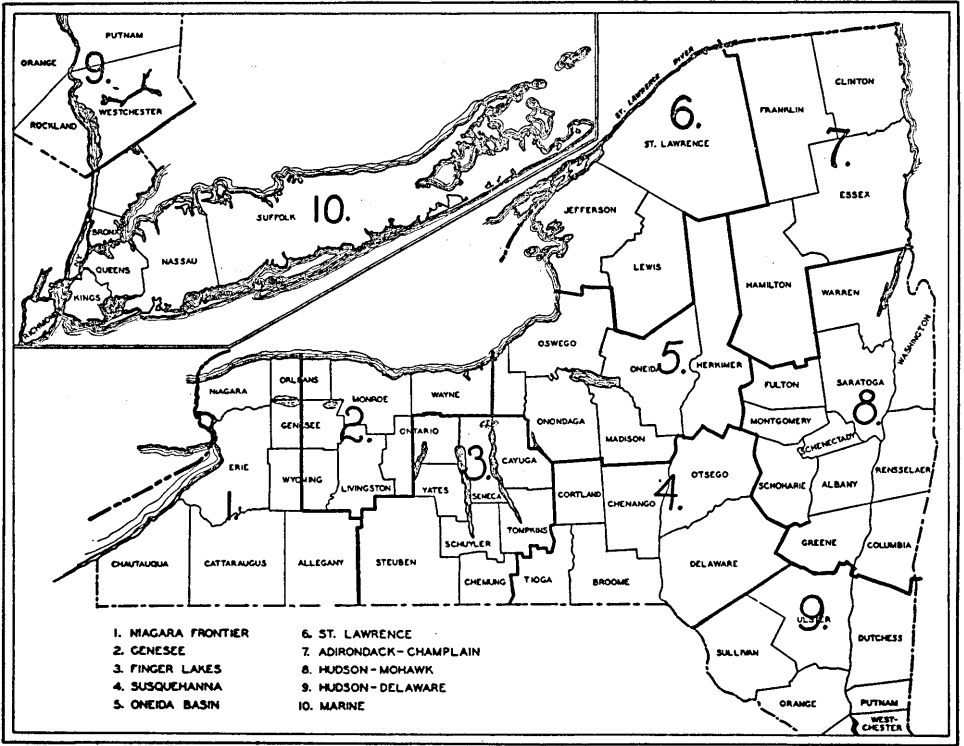
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