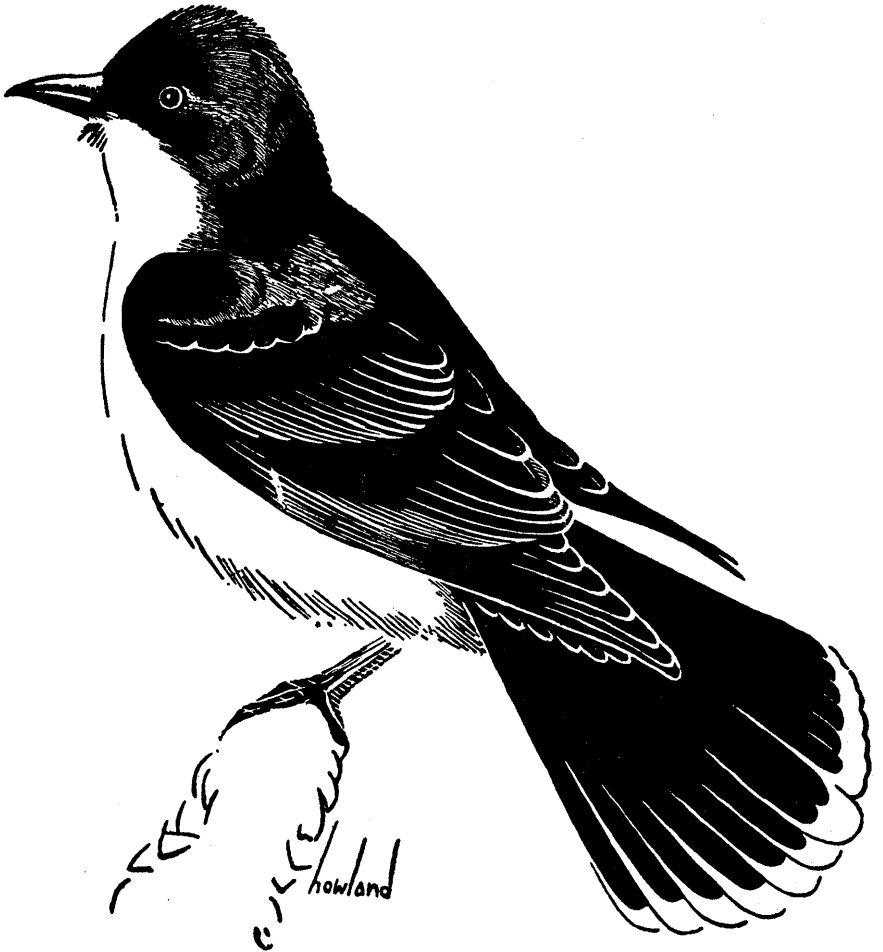


The KINGBIRD



VOL. XII, NO. 2

JULY • 1962

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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The KINGBIRD

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The EDITOR'S Page

Some time ago, the editorial board agreed favorably on the use of photographs and pictures in The Kingbird and expressed the opinion that these illustrations would add interest to and supplement the articles and field notes. Budget restrictions have limited their use. At the May meeting, after discussion on this matter the following methods of meeting this additional cost were offered: 1) Would the author care to meet the cost? 2) Could a fund be raised by contributions and set aside for this specific purpose?

The Alan Devoe Bird Club has quickly responded to the latter suggestion and has forwarded to our treasurer, Mrs. Lillian Stoner, a check for \$23.00. I, and I am sure, the Editorial Staff and the other Officers of the Federation thank the Alan Devoe Bird Club for their thoughtfulness in giving to us this sum.

Regretfully, I must announce to the Federation and to the readers of The Kingbird, that Walton B. Sabin, who has so generously written the excellent reports for Region 8—Mohawk-Hudson area, since December 1959, will be unable to compile these reports in the future.

Dr. Peter P. Wickham, Box 465A, R. D. 4, Troy will replace Mr. Sabin in writing the Region 8 records. Welcome, Dr. Wickham, to our Kingbird Staff.

For those members who may be confused, the editor gives the following information. Although the date of the Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., varies, the term of elected officers is always constant. Officers elected at the annual meeting assume their duties on the first of January following election. New committees take on their duties immediately on appointment by the new president.

Since people are still asking, what the classes of membership in the Federation are, the following list of classes and dues should answer their question.

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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are **\$3.00** 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.

THE BLUE-WINGED WARBLER AND GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

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INTRODUCTION

The northward extension of the range of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) toward the northern limit of the range of the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) has been noted in New York (Parkes, 1949 and 1951; Scheider, 1959) and in certain mid-western states, especially Michigan (Berger, 1958). The phenomenon appears to be occurring generally in the northern part of the ranges of these forms. Prior to the late 1940's, Golden-winged Warblers were uncommon and local in occurrence in New York (their presence in Central New York dates back at least to the latter part of the last century, according to Benton, 1960), while Blue-wings were virtually unknown outside the New York City and Buffalo regions. Blue-winged Warblers began moving into the Ithaca area between 1946 and 1949 according to Parkes (1949), who mentioned but one record of the form before 1946 and three more up to 1949. By 1953 Blue-wings had reached the Syracuse region (Scheider, 1959). Scheider mentions the occurrence of a Blue-winged Warbler near Watertown in late May, 1956. These observations indicate the movement into the area of the Blue-winged Warbler, and the extension of its range northward to closely approach the northern limit of the Golden-wing's range.

Since Parkes (1949) discussed the situation in the Ithaca region further changes have taken place. During the 1958 and 1959 breeding seasons Blue-wings were observed as commonly as Golden-wings near Ithaca. In these periods 25 males of the two forms (and hybrids) were secured from two colonies near Ithaca and one in the vicinity of Camillus (each year at least several males and all females were left at the colonies to perpetuate them). Since both forms are equally common around Ithaca at the present time, it is obvious that there exists considerable opportunity for interbreeding. The purpose of this paper is to discuss evidence for hybridization and introgression in these forms in Central New York, as provided by analysis of specimens and field observations.

HABITATS OF THE WARBLERS IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Both colonies studied near Ithaca occur on hilly slopes close to swampy, riparian areas and woodlands. The Varna colony occupied several fields containing heavy ground cover and scattered trees and bushes of various heights. The fields are surrounded by deciduous woodland on the west and south, a pine plantation along the east side, and swampy deciduous woodland bordering Fall Creek on the North side. The ground slopes gently down to the creek on the north, and several swampy areas are located in the fields above the creek wherever drainage is poor. A specimen of *pinus* was taken in this area in 1949 by Stephen Eaton (Cornell University collection no. 21981), indicating that the colony may be ten or more years old.

The Danby colony occupies a steep hillside in Michigan Hollow (southwest of Danby), and extends down the hill to second growth along a stream at its base. The entire area surrounding the colony is old agricultural land belonging to the State. A *pinus*-like male (C.U. no. 24129) was taken in this vicinity by W. J. Hamilton III, in 1953.

No difference in habitat was noted in the Varna colony between areas occupied by *pinus*-like individuals and those occupied by *chrysoptera*-like birds. However, the wettest area was occupied by a male Blue-wing (no. 781, table 2). In the Danby colony two *pinus*-like and one *chrysoptera*-like individuals were obtained on territories in swampy cover along the stream. On the hillside several *chrysoptera*-like individuals were observed (singing), one of which was taken, and only one *pinus*-like bird was seen (no. 773, table 2). A "Brewster's" warbler was seen in this area on May 18, 1958 by William C. Dilger (pers. comm.). These observations agree with those of Parkes (1951) that *chrysoptera* tends to occupy upland areas, while *pinus* is more likely to inhabit wetter areas. Overlap is indicated, however, since a *pinus*-like bird was taken in an upland area, a *chrysoptera*-like male was secured in swampy cover, and both forms were found in the same field in Varna. The common breeding birds in the vicinity of the warbler colonies were Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Rufous-sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) and Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*). Other colonies (one near Ithaca, one near Camillus) were not studied in detail.

ANALYSIS OF COLOR CHARACTERS AND DISCUSSION

Parkes (1951) has presented a report on the possible genetics of the *pinus-chrysoptera* complex. A fine plate (p. 5) illustrates the hybrids of various supposed genotypes (it might be noted that the suggested genotype of the third bird from the bottom should read "Ww Ss pp" rather than "Ww Ss PP"). The dominance of the plain ("P") throat of *pinus* over the black ("p") throat of *chrysoptera* is discussed. The suggestion that this character is controlled by a single gene is perhaps valid, although the throat patch is sufficiently variable in Golden-wing and "Lawrence's" Warblers examined from other areas to further suggest the action of modifier genes. The other characters discussed by Parkes (wings bars, color of underparts) are apparently controlled by polygenes. The suggested incomplete dominance of white over yellow underparts is again possible, but a number of genes may be involved in a more complex fashion. The suggestion that color of wing bars and color of underparts are correlated due to genetic linkage is not upheld by my examination of specimens. These two characters, and a complex of dorsal color characters (back color, color of hind-neck and rump color) seem to vary more or less independently (see tables 1 and 2 and discussion below). Linkage of auricular patch color and throat color determining genes appears valid. Other characters of value in the study of variation in these forms, if not in the study of their interbreeding, include: green coloration of secondaries, pattern of whitemarking in the tail, and extent of the yellow forehead patch. The tail markings are very interesting, showing great variability in both forms, often with some asymmetry of pattern.

Male specimens of both forms in the Cornell Collection were examined, in addition to those collected. Specimens of both forms and hybrids in the American Museum of Natural History and other museums were also examined. The results of analysis of the Central New York specimens are contained in tables 2 and 3. Studies of specimens from other areas are incomplete and will be reported separately. Throat color is indicated in table 2 by a "P" for a plain throat and "p" for a black throat (after Parkes, 1951). Five other characters (color of underparts, wing bars, back color, color of hind-neck and rump color) have been analyzed using the "hybrid index" technique (see Sibley, 1950, 1954). A score of "4" is given the expression of a character as exhibited by *chrysoptera*. A "0" is assigned a character expressed as in *pinus*. Intermediates are scored "1", "2" and "3", depending on whether the character is exactly intermediate or nearly so ("2"), more like *pinus*, but with indications of *chrysoptera* ("1"), or more like *chrysoptera*, but with traces of *pinus* ("3"). A synopsis of the characters, their graduation, and their scores is contained in table 1. A synopsis of the characters, songs and habitats of the Central New York males appears in table 2. Songs indicated are those noted for each individual heard singing just prior to being collected. The numbers for the specimens are the original collectors numbers; with the exception of one specimen in the American Museum of Natural History, all specimens are in the Cornell collection. The habitat in which each specimen was taken, and the year collected are indicated in table 2. Under the column "Assignment", the individuals are designated as one form or the other, or notation is made concerning over-all characteristics of the specimen as indicated by its index scores for various color characters.

TABLE 1
SYNOPSIS OF WARBLER CHARACTER INDEX

Color of Underparts

- 0—Yellow, as in Blue-wing.
- 1—Yellow with white traces.
- 2—Yellow and White; usually breast and malar more or less yellow, throat and belly more or less white.
- 3—White below, with yellow traces, usually as a yellow wash on breast and perhaps faint yellow in the malar area.
- 4—White, as in Golden-wing.

Back Color

- 0—Olive-yellow, as in Blue-wing.
- 1—Olive-yellow with blue-gray traces.
- 2—Mixture of considerable blue-gray and yellow-green.
- 3—Blue-gray with yellow-green traces.
- 4—Blue-gray, as in Golden-wing.

Gradations for Rump Color and Color of Hind-neck same as for Back Color, except that the Blue-winged Warbler Rump Color is more yellow, tending to be yellow-olive rather than olive-yellow, as in Back Color.

Wing Bars

- 0—Two narrow white bars, as in Blue-wing.
- 1—Two white bars with yellow traces.
- 2—Two broadened, pale yellowish bars.
- 3—Merging yellow bars, whitish traces.
- 4—Single broad yellow bar, as in Golden-wing.

The information presented in table 2 affords many points for discussion. Simple dominance of plain throat color over the black throat color is generally upheld by the lack of intermediacy of this character in the specimens (it should be noted, however, that several Golden-winged Warblers showed some variation in the degree of completeness of the throat patch, although none exhibited a patch that could in any way be called intermediate). As suggested by Grant (1957), the simple dominance type of inheritance of a character renders that character unimportant in critical analysis of hybrid or possible hybrid individuals. This should be taken into account in studies of warbler hybrids. Unfortunately, such a striking character is difficult to ignore, but investigators interested in the effects of gene exchange find that characters controlled by a number of genes provide a great deal more information than those under control of but one gene.

The so-called Brewster's warbler has unfortunately been generally thought of as the F 1 product of the crossing of *chrysoptera* and *pinus*. Observers list as "Brewster's" warblers all *apparent* hybrids *lacking a black throat and possessing either partially or completely white underparts*. It has been recognized that such hybrids vary in the expression of yellow color of the underparts. Parkes (1951, pp. 10-11) has indicated that several possible crosses (as F 1, F 2, F 3, and various backcrosses) may produce "Brewster's" warblers. However, in distinguishing white-breasted backcross "Brewster's" warblers from partially yellow-breasted ones Parkes infers that all the latter are F 1's. The information in table 2 shows the considerable variation in color of underparts and other characters as well in hybrids. It is suggested that various backcross "Brewster's" warblers have a wide range of variation in the amount of yellow in the underparts (from none at all to nearly complete yellow coloring below), depending on the nature of the cross producing them, and that such patterns may provide an index to the amount of gene flow between the forms. As shown in table 2, some hybrids may be very close to *chrysoptera*, some more nearly intermediate, and others more like *pinus* in color characters. Thus, the first "Brewster's" warbler in the table (no. 783) is like *chrysoptera* except for the lack of the black throat patch, the *pinus* traces in its wing bars and similar traces in color of underparts. The specimen listed just above the first "Brewster's" warbler has a black throat, but shows *pinus* influence in three of the other five characters studied. Disregarding throat color, the latter specimen is actually more nearly intermediate than is the first "Brewster's" warbler — *yet it would be noted in the field by the observer as simply a Golden-winged Warbler*. The second "Brewster's" warbler (no. 777) is more intermediate than the first, having the color of the underparts, back and hind neck scoring "2". The wing bars and rump color of this specimen are closer to *chrysoptera*. The third

TABLE 2 SYNOPSIS OF CHARACTERS, SONGS, AND HABITATS OF SOME CENTRAL NEW YORK VERMIVORA.

Locality	Year	Sex	Collector's Number	T	C h a r a c t e r s					Song**	Assignment	Habitat
					Be	W	B	N	R			
Ithaca	1953	M	—	p	4	4	4	4	4	?		?
Danby	1958	M	S772	p	4	4	4	4	4	G		Swamp along stream
Camillus	1959	M	W811	p	4	4	4	4	4	?	chrysoptera—	Cedar swamp
Camillus	1959	M	W812	p	4	4	4	4	4	?		Cedar swamp
Camillus	1959	M	W809	p	4	4	4	4	4	?		Cedar swamp
Varna	1958	M	S782	p	4	4	3	4	4	G		Hillside scrubby field
Danby	1958	M	S775	p	4	4	3	4	4	G		?
Varna	1958	M	S771	p	4	4	3	4	4	G	chrysoptera—	Hillside slope in trees
Howland Is.	1929	M	—	p	4	4	4	3	4	?		?
Camillus	1959	M	W808	p	4	3	4	4	4	?	pinus	Cedar swamp
Camillus	1959	F	S791	p	3	4	3	3	4	?	traces	Cedar swamp
Camillus	1959	M	W810	p	4	2	4	4	4	G and B		Cedar swamp
Varna	1958	M	S778	p	4	4	3	3	3	?		Hillside scrubby field
Howland Is.	1915	M	—	p	3	4	3	3	4	?		?
Varna	1958	M	S783	P	3	3	4	4	4	B		Hillside scrubby field
Varna	1958	M	S777	P	2	3	2	2	3	G+		Hillside scrubby field
Danby	1959	M	S792	P	2	3	2	2	3	G+	"Brewster's"	Hillside second growth
Dryden	1955	M	CS3628	P	1	2	2	1	1	G		?
Camillus	1958	M	S786	P	2	2	1	0	0	G+		Cedar swamp
Varna	1958	M	S779	P	0-	2	1	0	1	?		Wet wooded field
Danby	1958	M	S774	P	0-	1	2	0	0	G		Second growth along stream
Danby	1958	M	S776	P	0	1	1	0	0	G	pinus	Hillside second growth
Danby	1958	M	S773	P	0	1	0	0	0	B	with	Hillside second growth
Danby	1953	M	—	P	0	1	0	0	0	?	chrysoptera—	?
Danby	1959	M	S788	P	0	1	0	0	0	B	traces	Swampy thicket along stream
Danby	1959	M	S789	P	0	1	0	0	0	?		Hillside scrubby field
Danby	1959	M	S790	P	0	1	0	0	0	B		Hillside second growth
Danby	1959	M	S787	P	0	0	0	0	0	G and B		Swampy thicket along stream
Varna	1949	M	—	P	0	0	0	0	0	?		?
Varna	1958	M	S780	P	0	0	0	0	0	B	pinus	Wet wooded field
Varna	1958	M	S781	P	0	0	0	0	0	?		Wet wooded field
Varna	1958	M	S784	P	0	0	0	0	0	B		Hillside scrubby field

* Letters stand for: throat color (T), color below (Be), wing bars (W), back color (B), color of hind neck (N) and rump color (R)

** G "bee-bzz-bzz" (golden-wing), B "bee-bzzzzzz" (blue-wing). G+ "bee-zee-zee-zee"

"Brewster's" warbler is similar to the second. The fourth is intermediate in two characters, but more like *pinus* in three. The fifth (no. 786) is intermediate in color of underparts and wing bars, but very like *pinus* in the other three characters. Such variation suggests complex genetic control of the characters involved, although data are lacking on the degree of phenotypic variation due to environment influence (information on color pattern variation in true F 1 progeny would be most welcome in this regard). Needless to say, field studies of this problem should be undertaken with care, since backcross "Brewster's" warblers are impossible to distinguish (as far as is known) from F 1 individuals. The advantages of capturing and color banding of individuals to be studied, along with notation of their color characteristics, are obvious.

The number of "impure" specimens secured in the course of the investigation is of considerable interest. Four of the specimens taken in 1958 and 1959 were phenotypically pure Blue-winged Warblers, four were phenotypically pure Golden-winged Warblers, and eighteen were variously intermediate. A number of otherwise "pure" *chrysoptera* and *pinus* individuals show traces of characters found in the other form. These results are similar to those obtained from examination of specimens from other areas (Short, in prep.). The abundance of intermediate types indicates considerable independence in action of genes controlling the various color characters. It also suggests that widespread interbreeding and backcrossing are permitting a great deal of gene flow (introgression) between the forms. It is most unlikely that chance mutation or crossover of genes would affect such a large proportion of the population.

Linkage of genes controlling the color characters is a possibility, but this study provides no evidence for its occurrence. The information obtained does indicate, however, that close linkage does not occur. Even in color of underparts, only one of 14 specimens showing indications of hybridization in one or more of the three characters (back, rump and hind neck color) exhibits approximately equal expression of traces in all three of them.

No "Lawrence's" warblers were obtained in 1958 or 1959. On the basis of the extensive interbreeding noted in the Ithaca region, it is expected that individuals of this type will shortly be found in Central New York. It has been shown (Parkes, 1951; and others dating back to Nichols, 1908) that "Lawrence's" warblers are not produced by an initial (F 1) cross of Golden-wing X Blue-wing, but can only result from backcrossing or an F 2 cross. In view of the apparent degree of gene flow between the two forms, and the infrequency of occurrence (one in 16 progeny) of "Lawrence's" warblers in the F 2 cross, it is likely that most of these individuals are backcross products.

MEASUREMENTS

A summary of the range of variation in mensural characters of Central New York specimens is contained in table 3. Although the sample sizes were insufficient for detailed statistical treatment, a number of points are apparent from perusal of the table. The Golden-winged Warbler is slightly larger than the Blue-wing, with definitely longer wings and tail, a generally

longer bill, and about the same tarsal length. The hybrids are more or less intermediate between the parental forms in their measurements. An important point is that individuals of *pinus* or *chrysoptera* which exhibit traces of the other form in color pattern also tend toward that form in measurements. This strengthens the view that the color pattern traces are the result of introgression.

TABLE 3
SUMMARY OF MENSURAL CHARACTERS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK
V E R M I V O R A

FORM	N	Weight	Wing Length	RANGES IN VARIATION IN:		
				Tail Length	Bill Length	Tarsal Length
<i>chrysoptera</i> *	12	8.5-9.5gms.	61.1-65.7mm.	46.4-51.5mm.	7.8-9.6mm.	15.4-17.6mm.
<i>chrysoptera</i> with <i>pinus</i> traces	9	8.3-9.9gms.	61.5-65.1mm.	46.8-51.5mm.	8.2-9.0mm.	16.5-18.0mm.
"Brewster's" warblers	5	7.9-9.5gms.	59.3-64.6mm.	47.6-51.2mm.	8.5-9.2mm.	17.0-17.6mm.
<i>pinus</i> with <i>chrysoptera</i> traces	8	8.2-9.3gms.	58.5-60.7mm.	46.4-48.8mm.	8.2-8.8mm.	16.7-18.4mm.
<i>pinus</i>	5	7.1-9.1gms.	57.5-58.5mm.	45.1-47.0mm.	7.9-8.3mm.	15.9-17.1mm.

* *chrysoptera* in table 2 plus several others from Cayuga County.

SONG

Songs noted for individuals of various phenotypes are also of interest (see table 2). Eisenmann (1946) has pointed out that individuals of one form may sing the song of the other. No detailed study of song was attempted, but most singing males listed in the table were heard, and notes taken on their songs, for some period of time before they were collected. Three Blue-wing males were heard singing, one giving the typical Blue-wing song ("bee-bzzzzzzz"), a second the typical Golden-wing song ("bee-bzz-bzz"), while the third sang both types interchangeably. Three of the five *pinus*-like individuals with *chrysoptera* traces heard singing gave Blue-wing songs, while two sang like Golden-wings. The "Brewster's" warbler most like *chrysoptera* in color characters (no. 783) sang like a Blue-wing. The other four sang like *chrysoptera* (except that an extra "bzz" note was added in three cases). Three of the four males of the "*chrysoptera*" with traces of *pinus*" group which were heard singing uttered Golden-wing songs. One, however, sang both song types interchangeably. The one Golden-wing for which the song was noted gave the Golden-wing song. The songs of these warblers are unlike those of other members of the genus *Vermivora*, and similar to those of certain warblers of the genus *Dendroica*. Songs of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) and the Cerulean Warbler (*D. caerulea*) in particular can be mistaken for those of the Blue-wing or Golden-wing at a distance. When singing ceases in July the birds become extremely difficult to find, as noted by Berger (1958, p. 50), and others. The interchangeability of the songs, as indicated above by Eisenmann (1946) and myself is of importance, since it suggests that learning may play a role in determination of songs used by males, as occurs in meadowlarks (*Sturnella*,

see Lanyon, 1957, p. 50). At any rate the forms *cannot be identified with certainty* by song. It is unlikely that the song is involved as an isolating mechanism acting to reduce interbreeding between the two forms.

THE VARNA COLONY

The situation at the Varna colony where nine males were taken in 1958 is worthy of more detailed discussion. The colony contained about a dozen pairs of warblers, though females were observed so infrequently that it is not certain whether all males were paired. In one field of about six acres five males were secured from territories, four on June 7 and one on June 24, 1958. Two of the five were "Brewster's" warblers (table 2, nos. 777 and 783), one was a "pure" Blue-winged Warbler (no. 780), another was a *pinus* showing *chrysoptera* influence (no. 779), and the fifth was a *chrysoptera* with slight *pinus* back color traces (no. 782). The Blue-wing sang a Golden-wing song. One "Brewster's" (no. 783) sang like a Blue-wing; the other more nearly intermediate in color pattern, sang a Golden-wing song (typical except for an additional syllable). Songs of the other two birds were of the Goldenwing (one bird) and Blue-wing (the second bird) types, but since neither was heard singing just prior to being taken, song-types could not be definitely ascribed to the birds. One "Brewster's" male was observed (no. 777) to fly to a perch in a young elm tree, sing once, be attacked by an apparent Bluewing, and drive the intruder off before flying back to its perch to resume singing. The "Blue-wing" was collected (no. 779), and was found to exhibit *chrysoptera* traces in several characters. The other "Brewster's" warbler was collected as it sang on June 24 in a small elm from which the *pinus* (no. 780) was taken three weeks before.

Two fields were adjacent to the main field where the five warblers were taken. One field was quite wet, with standing water and swampy conditions in several places. In this field of about four acres two Blue-wings (nos. 781 and 784) were taken. Number 781 was secured while feeding about a foot from the ground on June 12. The other was collected on June 24 about 150 feet from where the first was obtained. The other field was on a hillside between the fields previously mentioned and the creek. In this sloping, well-drained field were many small trees and several of larger size. In this area one *chrysoptera*-like warbler (no. 771) was secured while singing a typical Golden-wing song. Another specimen (no. 778) was taken in this vicinity by W. J. Bock on May 27. This bird showed *pinus* influence in back, hind neck and rump color, but was otherwise like *chrysoptera*.

No evidence was found in this colony, or in others visited, for the action of isolating mechanisms restricted interbreeding between the forms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History for permitting me to examine and borrow *Vermivora* specimens in that collection. I am grateful to the following for comments and suggestions in discussions concerning the warbler situation: Walter J. Bock, Paul Buckley, Eugene Eisenmann, Millicent S. and Robert

W. Ficken, Wesley E. Lanyon, Neal Smith, David A. West and Robert G. Wolk. Walter J. Bock, Robert W. Ficken, Fred C. Sibley and Roger Clapp aided in the field work. The manuscript was read in earlier forms by Arthur A. Allen, Walter J. Bock, William C. Dilger and Charles G. Sibley, who made helpful suggestions, for which I am grateful.

SUMMARY

An analysis of Central New York specimens of Blue-winged Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers and their hybrids was undertaken using the "hybrid index" technique. Most specimens were hybrids. The Blue-winged Warbler is now as common as the Golden-winged Warbler near the northern limit of the range of the latter form in the state. Songs, measurements and habitats of warblers with various phenotypes are discussed. The data indicate that gene flow between populations of the two forms is considerable. The tendency of field observers to simply "type" warblers observed as Blue-winged Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, "Brewster's" Warblers or "Lawrence's" Warblers should be discouraged in favor of the careful noting of color characters. Hybrids vary greatly in color pattern, and birds appearing at first glance to be either Blue-wings or Golden-wings may actually show indications of introgression when studied carefully. Song is so variable that it cannot be used alone to identify warblers as Blue-wings or Golden-wings. There is so far *no* evidence to indicate the existence of isolating mechanisms acting to prevent or limit gene flow between the two forms.

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THE HOUSE FINCH IN NEW YORK STATE

By GILBERT CANT

"If in some way the American house-finch could be induced to come east," wrote Leander S. Keyser in *Birds and Nature* in 1902, "and the English sparrow could be given papers of extradition, the exchange would be a relief and benefit to the whole country." Belatedly, the House Finch has been induced to settle in the East, and its greatest concentrations in its new habitat lie in New York State. Because it is easily confused with the Eastern Purple Finch by observers who are not especially alert for it, and because it is not shown in the manuals and field guides most commonly used in this region, the House Finch represents an appealing challenge to New York bird lovers.

In the United States, the original range of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) extended from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, and as far north as Boulder, Colo. and Provo, Utah, with a slight bulge farther to the north along the California coast. Since the days of the Spanish missions the species has been noted for its adaptability to living around, and even on, human habitations. This alone may explain its spread into Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon as those states became more heavily settled. But the explanation of the House Finch's appearance in the East is as different as it is remarkable. For the bird is virtually non-migratory in the West, and it appears to be especially immune to the accidents which have sent "strays" of many other species across the continent. Indeed, the House Finch is not known to have occurred *naturally* anywhere east of the 100th meridian.

But for almost half a century there was a heavy cage-bird trade in House Finches, under such names as "California Linnets" and "Hollywood Finches." They were trapped as pests around California orchards, and sold for an average of 25 cents each. In 1933, I received a pair, bought as a gift in a pet shop in metropolitan New Jersey. The fact that I thought of releasing them, before I gave them to the New York Zoological Society, raises the question whether others had not been released by owners who recognized them as wild-caught, adult birds and therefore untamable.

So far as we can now ascertain, the first deliberate introduction of the House Finch in the East was in Brooklyn in 1940. This has been well documented by John J. Elliott and Robert S. Arbib Jr. in *The Auk* (1953). By a legal quirk, the House Finch had been put on the list of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico (despite its non-migratory habits!) This enabled the National Audubon Society to bring down the law on proprietors of about 20 pet shops which had stocks of the birds. Several pet-shop owners, probably in Manhattan as well as in Brooklyn, disposed of the evidence against them by the simple expedient of releasing the birds. Nobody expected them to survive in a climate so different from that of their native habitat. (Until then, aside from game birds, only the Rock Dove, Starling and House Sparrow had successfully colonized the eastern states, although more than 20 species of songbirds had been hopefully introduced from Europe.)

But a House Finch in the feral state was seen at Jones Beach in Nassau County, in April of 1941, and the species was found nesting at Babylon two years later. The first unquestionable record of a House Finch on the eastern mainland was at Tarrytown, in Westchester County, in May of 1948, followed by records at Bedford and Armonk in 1951. The first record for Connecticut, at Riverside, only a few miles from the Westchester line, also occurred in late 1951.

It is often assumed, as in the *Audubon Magazine* for July-August, 1958, that these mainland birds were descended from an overflow of the Long Island colonies. There is no evidence for this. There are, as yet, no records of House Finches banded on Long Island and recovered on the mainland to the north. On the other hand, two banded at Riverside have been recovered on Long Island. It is possible that House Finches bred on the mainland for several years before they were identified there. In fact, some of the keenest field observers, going over their old records, are now putting question marks against their identifications of "Purple Finches" at unusual locations in the breeding season.

How likely it is that the two species have been confused, even by experienced and careful observers, has been emphasized in the last few years. Banders have the advantage of holding the bird in the hand and can study it closely, yet virtually every eastern bander I know has misidentified his first House Finch as a Purple. The second factor contributing to the confusion is that the Purple Finch is also extending its breeding range, and is moving into areas where some of us have become accustomed to seeing House Finches. So it will be well to settle the identifying features as best we can. Unfortunately, most of the commonly used guides emphasize the least reliable features for distinguishing between the two species.

Body build is extremely characteristic. The Purple Finch is "broad-shouldered" and built short and heavy, like a House Sparrow, whereas the House Finch is noticeably sleeker and is built more like an American Tree Sparrow. The tail is proportionately shorter in the Purple Finch, and appears broader; its central feathers are shorter than the outer ones, giving the tail a "notched" appearance which is usually visible at a moderate distance. The House Finch's tail appears longer and straighter, and rarely shows a notch (except perhaps during the moult).

Color is equally important but more variable. The adult male Purple Finch is well described by Roger Tory Peterson as appearing to have been "dipped in raspberry juice." This bright color covers the entire head. The male House Finch is not necessarily "brighter red," as is often stated. Its reddish coloration ranges all the way from tawny or orange, through rose and "old rose," to what we might call strawberry. (I have seen only one individual so deeply "raspberry" colored as to be confusing.) A major difference in the distribution of the reddish color on the House Finch: it is not continuous, as from a "dipping" process, but is concentrated on the forehead and the back of the head and nape, leaving the crown a dull brown. It also extends, of course, to the throat and rump.

The spotting and streaking and the color of the underparts are decidedly different. The female and immature male Purple Finch have contrasting lines on the lower jaw, which the House Finch lacks. Purple Finches in this plumage have whitish or creamy underparts, contrastingly marked with heavy spots of a raindrop shape. Only rarely do these extend to the flanks, vent area and lower tail coverts; these areas are usually clear in the Purple Finch. The entire underparts of the House Finch are dusky in all plumages. Adult males resemble females and immatures in being streaked (with longish, narrow streaks) on their dusky flanks and under tail coverts. The females and immatures have darker, dusky underparts with streaking throughout, from throat to under tail coverts.

Body build and coloration are relative and variable, but there is one other characteristic difference which is virtually absolute: the shape of the bill. The Purple Finch's bill has a straight line along its upper edge (culmen), whereas the House Finch's is curved in an aquiline or "Roman" shape.

Finally there are differences in voice, some of which can best be learned from the excellent records now available, though they generally omit the call notes. The commonest call note of the House Finch is somewhat like that of the English Sparrow, but is slightly longer and has a different "timbre"; though this is hard to describe in words, it is easily recognized once it has been learned. One of the Purple Finch's most characteristic notes, its "ticking", is never heard from the House Finch. As for full song, that of the Purple Finch is more liquid and lilting; the House Finch's is somewhat drier, and nearly always ends in an energetic, drawn-out "shwee'er" of poor musical quality.

When Elliott first found the House Finch nesting at Babylon it showed a preference for ornamental evergreens in nursery plantings. The birds still like these nesting sites, but as they have become more numerous it has become clear that nestings are about equally divided between specimen evergreens and buildings. Nests have been found behind screens and shutters, lodged in trellises, or in vines such as ivy and wisteria attached to buildings.

The most remarkable and gratifying aspect of the House Finch's introduction in the East is its rapid spread and increase in numbers. It may not be capable of handing "papers of extradition" to the House Sparrow, but appears able to compete successfully with it. Less than ten years ago, in the summer of 1952, only five breeding colonies were known: at Babylon, Westbury, Hewlett and Lawrence, all in Nassau County, and one in Connecticut. Now there are dozens.

The species has extended its range about 50 miles eastward, mainly along the south shore of Long Island, to East Islip, Sayville, Blue Point, Amityville, Brookhaven and East Moriches. On the north shore there is a flourishing colony at Cold Spring Harbor around the Kalbfleisch Research Station. Fall and winter, when the birds disperse without apparent pattern from their breeding sites, have produced records as far east as the Hamptons and Montauk. Some clue to the birds' numbers can be

gleaned from the fact that Leroy Wilcox has banded more than 400, with one of his cooperators banding 120 in a single month.

It is remarkable that there are as yet no records from such famous "bird traps" as Prospect and Central Parks in New York City, and none from Staten Island. For there is intriguing evidence from banding returns that many House Finches, from both Long Island and the Westchester-Connecticut mainland, have established a migration pattern which carries them across central New Jersey to the Philadelphia area. At least two birds that I banded in Mamaroneck during the summer have been trapped during the following winter at Ardmore, Penna., and have returned to my area for the next breeding season. About a dozen records of "one-way trips" between these areas, with the Pennsylvania recoveries all in the winter, suggest that the migration involves many more birds, and that so far we have simply failed to trap enough of them at both ends of their journeys.

There are a few scattered records of House Finches in The Bronx and in the Inwood section of Manhattan, probably of transient rather than breeding birds.

The species is well established along the Sound shore of Westchester. But there (as in Connecticut) the distribution is patchy. Most colonies are between the New England Thruway and Long Island Sound. Recently, however, there have been increasing numbers of records from central Westchester.

Those of us with special interest in the House Finch are now eager to see how far it will spread to the north and west. The most northerly breeding colony of which I have any record is already eight years old. William Wheeler had three House Finches feeding with Purple Finches at the Trailside Museum in Ward-Pound Ridge Reservation in January, 1954. Evidently they bred there that year, as birds were seen in the reservation all summer, although no nests were found. The species has been present there in every subsequent year, both summer and winter, but with no marked increase in numbers.

The most northerly occurrences of the House Finch (but so far without evidence of nesting) appear to be on the Westchester-Putnam border at Oregon Corners, where Paul J. Wolf has had small numbers at his feeders on several occasions since March 27, 1960.

West of the Hudson River there are several breeding colonies and many records of transients in New Jersey. The extension of the House Finch's range appears to be generally in a southwesterly direction away from New York. The first proved record for Rockland County is of a female at New City in 1960, followed by the report of a pair in South Nyack.

The severity of the winters in the Hudson Valley, and still more so in the adjacent highlands, makes it unlikely that the House Finch can extend its range much farther northward or westward unless it develops a migration pattern. That this is possible is indicated by the banding and trapping records of two-way travel between the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. Since the birds disperse (we do not yet know how far) from

their breeding areas in August and September, observers should be especially alert for them then.

The House Finch has already surprised many ornithologists, notably Roger Peterson, by establishing itself at all in the East. It may yet surprise us still more, by further extending its range and giving the House Sparrow more competition. For those who would like to help it: the House Finch loves sunflower seed.

716 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, N. Y.

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

Albany, May 11 - 13, 1962

The fifteenth annual meeting of the council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held in the Inn Towne Motor Hotel in Albany on May 12, 1962. Mr. John J. Elliott, President, called the meeting to order at 9:27 A. M. 31 delegates representing 22 clubs answered the roll call.

The minutes of the 1961 council meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Treasurer, read her report for the year 1961, which is summarized as follows:

Balance in General Fund Jan. 1, 1961	\$ 606.69
Receipts—Dues, interest on Savings Account, etc. --	1,885.53
	<u>\$2,492.22</u>
Expenses—Kingbird, etc.	\$2,308.72
Balance in General Fund Dec. 31, 1961	183.50
	<u> </u>
Balance in savings account Jan. 1, 1961	\$ 900.00
Receipts during 1961	
Bequest — John P. Bruck	1,000.00
Life membership installments	75.00
	<u> </u>
Balance in savings account Dec. 31, 1961	\$1,975.00

Mrs. Stoner also presented an interim report for the period from Jan. 1, 1962 to May, 1962, showing a present general fund balance of \$1,323.21 and \$2,050.00 in the savings account. The reports were accepted.

Mrs. Stoner presented the expense budget for the year 1963 indicating total expenditures of \$2,360. This budget was approved.

Mrs. Stoner read a report that she had received to date a fund of \$160.00 contributed by Schenectady Bird Club members and friends and to be known as "The Nelle G. VanVorst Memorial Fund". This will be placed in the savings account.

It was voted to extend our thanks to the executors of the Estate of John P. Bruck for the generous gift of \$1,000.00.

The Kingbird

Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich reported on her work as Editor of *The Kingbird*. She thanked all who had helped by contributing, for the answers to questionnaires sent to the clubs, for the articles, for the field notes, and Mr. Wheat for his conservation work. The next issue will be increased to 600 copies. She asked that articles for publication be kept coming in.

Membership

Mrs. Eleanor L. Radke, membership chairman, reported the receipt of application for membership in the Federation from the Cortland County Bird Club, having an active membership of 57. On vote the Club was received. Also approved were 36 new individual members. She commended Mrs. Stoner for her work in getting sustaining, supporting and life memberships. The delegates were asked to emphasize all types of membership in their local clubs. Publication of a pamphlet concerning membership in the Federation is being prepared.

Conservation

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., conservation chairman, reported on the work that the committee had done, with the help of telegrams, letters and telephone calls, which resulted in the defeat in the State Senate of the proposed bill to permit shooting of the Great Horned Owl, and thanked all who had a part. We should be on the alert for another attempt to pass this bill again next year. The clubs had been requested for letters and telegrams to be included in the record of hearing on the Golden Eagle bill in the House sub-committee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. Having passed in the House of Representatives in April, it is now before the Senate committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. We should keep our letters going to the Senate committee to have this bill reported out as soon as possible. Dr. Walter Spofford testified before the House committee hearings.

We should mobilize an effort to persuade our congressmen to support the Wilderness Bill which is now in a House sub-committee. It must be passed this year.

Local clubs having conservation problems should report them to the Federation conservation committee for Federation support.

Mr. Wheat suggested that the Federation join the New York State Conservation Council. After discussion it was voted that Mr. Wheat be appointed, with such other members of the conservation committee as he desires, to approach each member club and get the consensus of opinion after explaining the policies of the Conservation Council. The Federation will not join the Conservation Council, which would entail a dues expenditure of \$25.00, until approval is received from two-thirds of the member clubs.

A resolution that the Federation support legislation to remove the kingfisher from the list of unprotected birds of New York State was approved.

The Federation approved a resolution that it is opposed to any amendment to the forever wild clause in the State Constitution for the protection of the Forest Preserve.

Publications and Research

Dr. Steven Eaton, chairman of the Publication and Research committee

requested that lists of breeding birds in each location that are on the danger list be sent to Mr. Maxwell Wheat.

State Bird Book

Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Editor of the State Bird Book, reported that they are now close to the point where a full or part time editor is needed to put the book together in its final form. Also needed is some means of financing before publication. The Book will give the distribution of the birds of New York State and a sample write-up on the Loon will be included in a future issue of *The Kingbird*. Surveys of the breeding birds in your areas, taken this summer, would be very helpful.

The nominating committee, Mr. Richard A. Sloss, chairman, presented the following slate of officers for the year 1963, and they were on vote elected:

President	-----	Mr. John J. Elliott, Seaford
Vice-President	-----	Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Mamaroneck
Corresponding Secretary	-----	Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Albany
Recording Secretary	-----	Mr. Watson B. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry
Treasurer	-----	Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello

An auditing committee for 1963 was elected consisting of Mr. Guy Bartlett and Mr. Samuel R. Madison.

The following were elected as the nominating committee for the next annual meeting: Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., chairman, Mr. Albert Fudge and Mr. Walton B. Sabin.

A suggestion that the Federation take membership in the Natural History Society in Washington was after discussion tabled until next year. But in the mean time an informative article about the Society will be published in *The Kingbird*.

The tentative invitation presented by Miss Margaret Rusk to meet next year in Syracuse as the guests of the Onondaga Audubon Society was received with approval.

Thanks was extended to the two outgoing officers: Dr. Sally Hoyt, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. Lillian Stoner, Treasurer; and to Mr. Harold Mitchell, Publications and Research chairman; Dr. Stephen Eaton, Bibliography; and Mr. Joseph Blake, Conservation chairman, for the excellent work done during the past year.

Mr. Harold Mitchell requested that someone volunteer to cooperate a state wide hawk count this fall, with a continuation next spring.

A special commendation of thanks was voted to the members of the local committee, incl. Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr. for the papers session, and to the Alan Devoe Bird Club, the Greene County Bird Club and the Schenectady Bird Club for the excellent arrangements and planning for this meeting.—Watson B. Hastings, Recording Secretary.

CORRIGENDUM: (Vol. 12, No 1, p 10, line 23-24)

The diet includes ants, wasps, beetles, bugs, grasshoppers, crickets, moths, caterpillars, spiders etc., but hardly any wood-boring beetle larvae.

CORRIGENDUM: (Vol. 2, No 1, p 11, line 42-45) — The largest number of hairy woodpeckers are seen in the winter but several times as many downy woodpeckers are seen at that time. Only in the most densely wooded areas or in large forested tracts such as the Adirondacks does the hairy equal or surpass the downy in numbers.

THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

One of the most important ornithological meetings to be held in the United States met at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York from June 17-24. This was the 13th International Ornithological Congress; these congresses are held every four years and this was the first time that it has taken place outside of Europe. About eight hundred ornithologists attended the meeting, some 230 were from outside the United States. To mention just a few of the delegates from aboard, Salim Ali from India, Broekhuysen from South Africa, Carrick and Serventy from Australia, Curry-Lindahl from Sweden, Finnur Gudmundson from Iceland, David Lack and Peter Scott from England, Niethammer and Stresemann from Germany, Dorst from France, Voous from Holland, Helmut Sick from Brazil and Phelps from Venezuela.

About one hundred and fifty papers were presented at the meeting. These were given in concurrent sessions which made it very difficult to decide which ones to attend. In an account of this length it is impossible to mention more than a few of the papers and in any case, I was only able to hear a quarter of the papers given. Many papers were presented on migration; George Lowery showed how much information could be obtained on broad-front migration with patience and a telescope. Eastwood, on the other hand, presented the picture of migration using a million dollars worth of radar equipment. On the experimental side of bird migration outstanding papers were given by Matthews and Sauer. There were symposiums on such technical matters as anthropod-borne viruses and the relationship of protein structure to systematics. The session on the biology of penguins and albatrosses gave much information on the lives of birds that manage to exist in the harsh climate of the Antarctic.

Three members of the Federation contributed papers to the meeting. Stephen Eaton talked on "Some Osteological Adaptations in the Parulidae" and both Walter Spofford and David Peakall gave papers in the protein structure symposium. Many members of the Federation served on the local committees.

One of the highlights of the congress were the films shown in the evenings. Heinz Sielmann's film on the birds of the Galapagos stole the show and was shown four times during the meeting. There were magnificent sequences on the courtship of frigate-birds, showing the inflation of the red pouch, and of albatrosses calling and bill-snapping. Perhaps the finest sequence was of a Darwin's finch using a cactus thorn to extract insects from their holes in a tree. Mrs. Waldhoer showed a fine film of the colorful Wall-creeper (like a huge Brown Creeper with scarlet wing-patches) nesting in the walls of a castle in Germany. Guy Mountford showed a film taken on the British expeditions to Hungary and Bulgaria, including many of the breeding herons, pelicans, and of such colorful species as the Bee-eater and Hoopoe.

The early morning field trips lead by Dr. Allen from the Laboratory of Ornithology proved to be highly popular. One morning Sally Hoyt had a hundred people to which she served a continental breakfast before they set out

to explore Sapsucker Woods. There was also a shuttle service run during the meeting to Sapsucker Woods. Visitors also inspected the bio-acoustical laboratory of Dr. Kellogg. Mid-week excursions were arranged to a number of places and the one to Montezuma was popular and successful. Besides the field trips, excursions were arranged before and after the meeting. Two of these, each of week in length, were made within the state. These were based on the Cornell University Biological Research Station at Shackleton Point on Oneida Lake. The excursions were organized by Dr. Swanson of Cornell University and several of the Syracuse birders served as local leaders. The itinerary was worked out by Miss Rusk and Dr. Spofford. Our guests, just over a dozen on each excursion, included Eric Hosking, the British bird photographer, Guy Mountford, Sir Landsborough Thompson, Dr. Niethammer, Rudebeck from Sweden, Brouwer from Holland and Schuz from Germany. The party visited Sandy Pond and Selkirk on the first day, Camillus Valley and Howland's Island on the next. Two days were spent in the Adirondacks, where we stayed at Covewood Lodge with Mr. and Mrs. Bowes. The Bowes lead bird trips to South America in the winter and run Covewood Lodge in the summer. They arranged a fine, and somewhat adventuresome, lake trip to see beavers and birds. These trips finished about midnight after having run aground. The last full day was spent in the Rome Sand Plains. Our total list for each week was about 130. Leading these excursions was great fun. The people were all experts in their own areas, but most of them had not been to North America before. We saw some twenty species of Wood Warblers, a purely new world family and several of another large new world family, the tyrant flycatchers. Some of the birds that impressed our visitors most were the Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager. Guy Mountford, who has clarified the range of many species in Europe, discovered a Tufted Titmouse in the central Adirondacks. Dr. Schuz stalking what he thought was a Pileated Woodpecker found that it was his fellow countryman, Dr. Niethammer tapping in an attempt to attract a woodpecker. All in all it was a most successful meeting; the next is to be held in England in 1966.

David B. Peakall — Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10.

CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

While the earth is still with us, conservationists are borrowing something from the stratagems of war to conduct a global rescue of vanishing species of birds and animals.

A "War room", resembling perhaps the hectic efficiency of some nuclear bombing command headquarters, is to be established in Switzerland. Instead of any orbiting missiles, the pins and flags probably stuck in the large-scale maps, would represent the Arabian Oryx, the Spanish Imperial Eagles, the African Rhinoceros, the California Condor and many more.

The proposed operations intelligence center, in which many organizations would participate, was described at the 13th international conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation held in New York City last June 1961. Thirty two nations were represented.

Eugene Eisenmann, former president of the Federation and currently a member of its conservation committee, was secretary of the American delegation headed by Roger Tory Peterson as chairman.

The world was like a much-lacerated patient being probed here and there by the ornithologists seeking to staunch the gushing out of its wildlife. They concurred on resolutions urging protection for areas throughout the globe, from the Congolese national parks in Africa, the Korean swamps where the Japanese cranes feed to the Antarctic where the delegates feared the effect on the "fragile" balance of nature of man's transformation of habitat and introduction of domestic species. One of the birds singled out for special study and attention if it is to survive was the Hawaiian Duck or Koloa.

The Council called for further implementation of the 1954 International Convention of the Pollution of the Sea by Waste Oil. It recommended that governments require scheduled and military aircraft to report oil slicks sighted at sea.

In view of the lethal consequence of pesticides on wildlife and the fact that little is known of the cumulative effects, the delegates requested governments to adopt legislation limiting applications to minimum effective concentrations. They supported continuing research to find control methods that would not harm vertebrates or beneficial insects.

The ornithologists asked for an end to all bounties for the destruction of birds, citing the "lamentable psychological effect" of this practice.

I could not help thinking, that while we in New York State have been alert to keep the Great Horned Owl on the protected list, Pennsylvania has been paying \$5 each for their carcasses. Dr. Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure University, recently brought our attention to a clipping from a "New York State newspaper" located near the Pennsylvania border and picturing a boy proudly displaying the owl he was being praised and paid for killing.

Actually this youngster was being put upon — derived of the fun of observing and studying this great bird in the wild. In part, the blame probably goes back to the schools. Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., curator of birds at the New York State Museum and President of the Alan Devoe Bird Club, declared at the recent Federation convention that the schools generally have not been including material showing the value of predator creatures. On the contrary, he pointed out, children have been getting the impression that some wild creatures are good and some are bad.

The delegates at the International Council meeting, citing the critical decrease in the numbers of many species of birds of prey, stressed the need for educational efforts, through films, pamphlets, etc., to combat the widespread erroneous concepts concerning these birds.

How helpful such material would have been in backing our Great Horned Owl fight this winter or the Golden Eagle effort. By way of report, Senate hearings on the eagle were held in June — these being brought about in great part through the work of the National Audubon Society, eagle expert John Alderman of New York City and Texas, and Senator Kenneth B. Keating, co-sponsor of the Senate bill. The member clubs and individuals of the Federation came through with a tremendous amount of support in their letters and making sure that there was effective representation at the hearings.

Who knows how much the increasing publicity concerning the vanishing species of the world may have been helpful in the progress made with the Golden Eagle this year?

These world-wide efforts may have important effect in dramatizing the conservation work. An example occurred in New York in June when Prince Phillip flew in from Canada at 6 o'clock one evening (at the controls of the plane himself) and was back at Idlewild Airport at eleven that same night for a commercial flight to England — but not before he had left reporters and photographers with plenty of material for the morning editions publicizing the launching of the one-million-dollar World Wildlife Fund at which he spoke during his brief stop-over.

Attracting the participation of such newsworthy figures and engaging in adventurous rescue efforts — these international organizations can most easily win prime space and time in the big publicity media.

This publicity can help reorientate the public attitude so that perhaps in, we hope the not too distant future, we can count on even more public support when the Federation works to add, for example, the Kingfisher to the list of birds protected in New York (which the Federation at its convention approved doing) or for a club to gain preservation for a local habitat — like the Watkins-Montour Bird Club which is concerned with a 50-acre tract of woods and marsh near Odessa.

Besides a fine stand of Hemlock, there are deciduous trees and a bog luxuriating with fascinating plant life — orchids, sundews, winter berry holly, etc. All kinds of warblers and other birds flock there in spring, including Traill's and Olive-sided Flycatchers which have nested there together with Pileated Woodpeckers and Wood Ducks.

Who knows? Under a canopy of public opinion built up through the exciting conservation efforts continents away, perhaps the African Rhinoceros will have more to do with the Watkins-Montour Bird Club having these acres made into a sanctuary, than one would now suspect.

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FIELD NOTES

Mortality Among Returning Purple Martins: In 1958 I put up a martin house on my property on the Cold Brook Road, Homer, and that year one male and four female Purple Martins took up residence, with each of the females rearing young. It appeared that each female was mated to the one male. In succeeding years the colony has grown, so that in 1960 and 1961, 24 adult birds returned to the nest. In 1958, the first year the house was up, no martins were seen until May 2, when one male came. In 1959 and 1961 the first returning martin (always a male) came on April 15, and in 1960 on April 14. Expecting that they would again return on that date this year, I intended to wait until then to put up the house. However, a single male martin was seen sitting on the electric wires near where the house is located, on April 8, 1962. We put up the house that day. On April 10 a female arrived to join the male, on the 12th there were two pair, and on the 14th a total of six birds had returned.

The weather was uncommonly sunny and mild during all of March and the early part of April, which is the probable reason for these birds coming back so early. However, on April 12th it rained most of the day, and on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th it was cold, and snowy. We saw little of the birds on the 15th and 16th. Late in the day, on April 17th I saw two martins. On the 18th I saw only a wing moving from one of the openings. On the 19th one male was seen flying and landing on the house. On the 20th I found one male dead near the house, and on the 21st my son, who is light enough to climb a ladder placed against the pole, removed two dead females and a dead male from three of the compartments. No others were found in the house.

Although Tree Swallows are often reported over our lakes in Cortland County late in March, where they evidently find insects in flight near the water, it may be that martins cannot survive so prolonged a period of inclement and cold weather as described above. The colony on my property is about one mile from the nearest lake or pond other than a small farm pond.

Dr. John A. Gustafson, State Teachers College, Cortland

Spring Broad-winged Hawk Flight at Mexico, N. Y.: The Derby Hill region in Mexico, New York, at the southeast corner of Lake Ontario, appears to be one of the best places north of Texas to watch the spring Broad-winged Hawk flight. These hawks are unwilling to cross large bodies of water, due to the lack of thermal air-currents over the water which are so vital to their flight. So the groups of Broad-wings tend to become larger and larger as they reach the water-barrier of the lakes and drift eastward, looking for land to continue on their migration northeastward.

From April 25 to April 27 (½ day only) I counted 13,020 hawks migrating within an area of four or five miles around the Ontario Shore. The most favorable wind direction is southwest; and even very slight variations in this direction can change the entire migration line of flight, driving the birds two or three miles farther inland. Thus, when the flight appeared to stop at Derby Hill about 1:30 PM on April 26, by moving inland on Fort Leazar Road I picked up about 1000 more.

On the morning of April 27 the sky was almost cloudless, and the hawks were difficult to see. However, there were two or three white puffy clouds toward the lake-front, and we were able to see the Broad-wings stream across these small clouds and head northeast. In an hour and a half, I saw by far the largest concentration of hawks that I have ever found in spring flights. Usually it is possible to count fairly accurately by 10's or even by 50's; but for 45 minutes these birds moved so steadily and in such large groups that one could only estimate the size of masses of Broad-wings circling north of the Derby Hill road, and attempt to count one enormous group as is stretched 50 or 60 abreast from zenith to horizon.

By about 11:00 AM I had counted 6580, in round numbers, with groups of 200, 1000, 750, 2000, another 1000, 500 and 750; and at this time the flight stopped abruptly, leaving the observer with the feeling that the actual peak of migration had just swept past, and the flight had stopped only because there were no hawks left to go. — Frances T. Elkins, 303 Mill Street, Belmont, Mass.

The total count based largely on the counts of Mrs. Elkins but supplemented by observations of Mrs. E. Estoff, Mr. & Mrs. W. Minor, Mrs. J. Propst, Miss M. Rusk, Dr. F. Scheider and Dr. D. Peakall for the week are given in the table below.

Dcte	Wind	Sharp-shinned	Red-tailed	Red-should.	Broad-wing	Rough-legged	Harrier	Osp-rey	Kestrel
21	w/10	14	27	4	1	3	12	1	2
22	w/10	132	19	17	956	14	14	10	24
25	w/25	110	8	2	1438	2	21	9	11
26	sw/10	101	11	3	4963	3	16	10	4
27	sw/10	13	4	0	6550	0	6	1	3
28	ssw/ 5	93	4	0	385	5	7	5	1
Totals		463	73	26	14293	27	76	36	45

In addition 13 Turkey Vultures and six Cooper's Hawks were seen. Single Goshawks were recorded on the 22nd and 25th; single Bald Eagles on 26th and 27th; two Peregrines, 28th; four Merlins on 22nd and two on the 26th. A total of just over 15,000 hawks.

Dr. David B. Peakall, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse

An Occurrence of the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) in Central New York: On the afternoon of January 20, 1962, my attention was attracted to two large owls which flew into neighboring trees near my home at Pulaski, N.Y. From my kitchen window overlooking open fields with scattered trees, a small wildlife pond, and adjoining woods, I watched the owls perch and fly from tree to tree from 3:00 PM until after 4:00 PM. For nearly an hour they were in a large deciduous tree about 100 yards from my kitchen window, where they were under nearly constant observation through my 20x Balscope. After studying details of their plumage I found the plate in Eaton's "Birds of New York" of the Great Gray Owl as most nearly fitting the birds I was watching. I noted particularly the prominent black chin spot, the large round facial disks without ear-tufts, pale yellowish eyes and streaked breast. There was no barring of the upper breast as in the Barred Owl. Two of my friends also watched the owls and we all agreed upon the Great Gray Owl as being the species under observation, although none of us are experienced field ornithologists.

The birds appeared to be hunting even in the midafternoon, and once one of the owls flew down onto the snow on the hillside and appeared to make a catch. A week or so after this occurrence, we saw the Audubon Wildlife Film by Mr. Edgar Jones which featured a nesting of the Great Gray Owl and again our identification was confirmed. My husband, John D. Bulger of the National Wildlife Federation did not see the owls, but from my description felt sure we had identified them correctly. — Mrs. John D. Bulger, Pulaski

Note: For the record it may be pointed out that in the great Snowy Owl flight of 1926-'27, the window full of Snowy Owls in the taxidermy shop of Mr. Clock in Canastota, N. Y., figured in photographic plates in the Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Vol. 6, No. 1, "Peterboro Swamp and Labrador Pond" by C. J. Spiker, contains a Great Gray Owl as well as a Hawk Owl and many Snowy Owls, some Goshawks, etc., which were shot at that time. Several subsequent Snowy Owl reports for N. Y. State (Stoner, Meade, Peakall) have not noted this rarer owl.

However, another report that may also refer to this species comes from Mr. David Corse. While snow-shoeing in Sandy Creek Community Park (a few miles from Pulaski) in early March he saw a large owl without ear-tufts and having yellow eyes.

Dr. Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse

Purple Martins vs. Tree Swallows: A pair of Tree Swallows took over a nesting box, which they had used for several years, shortly after they arrived here on April 18, 1961. As a rule swallows guard their nests well, but on the morning of May 12 the box was unguarded, and a few minutes was all the time a House Wren needed to have the three swallow eggs punctured and out on the ground.

The swallows abandoned the box and moved to a compartment in a martin house about fifty feet away. The martins objected, and many battles resulted. However, the Tree Swallows were finally able to build. The martins used the sections facing south and west, while the Tree Swallows were in the end facing east. Things were peaceful during the period of incubation, but when the young appeared and had to be fed, the battling resumed.

Feeding became such a problem for the Tree Swallows that they got their young out of the nest about four days before they could fly. On the morning of July 4 the adults were feeding three young on the ground; a fourth was found dead under the martin house.

Frank Clinch banded the three young. The next morning one was found dead, wedged between the curbing and a stone at edge of driveway. For three days the parents fed the two on the ground, and the following day the young perched in a bush. After a lapse of several days during which they were not seen, two banded young Tree Swallows appeared, perched on a wire nearby. — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.

Short-eared Owls in a Suburban Housing Development: Short-eared Owls are usually thought of as open fields, marshes and dunes birds, retiring to a clump of weeds, or more often nearby evergreens or thickets for roosting and usually more or less removed from civilization. Because they often do their hunting at dusk or dawn, many are probably unnoticed and unreported in their invasion into our state. An exception to this rule was found near Ithaca this late winter.

On February 27, 1962, Mrs. William Bishop, of Ludlowville, phoned the Laboratory of Ornithology to report that she had tentatively identified as owls, (rather than hawks as she had first thought) several large, pale birds which periodically appeared near her home, perching in trees in her yard, or cruising over a nearby field. Two trips to locate them were unsuccessful, but on March 5, Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy visited the area and found six Short-eared Owls, close to a small, well-built up suburban housing development. They floated back and forth across a field, and one perched in an apple tree, not 50 feet from a home.

The next day the spot was again visited and four owls emerged from a group of cedars in a vacant lot near the houses. The next day, David Allen found and photographed "at least 10", and subsequent visits produced varying numbers, up to 10.

The birds apparently were roosting in the cedars, none of which was over 12 feet tall. But the remarkable part about it was that this vacant lot was sandwiched in between houses, with children and dogs all over the area, and the closest house 50-75 feet from most of the trees. Similar small cedars were scattered throughout the development, and undoubtedly the owls used many of these as roosts, although the one vacant lot seemed to be the favorite location. Mrs. Bishop said they had been around for about two months. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

A Sparrow Hawk Dines on Suet: A Sparrow Hawk was first noticed feeding on suet January 19, 1962. Between this date and February 23 it was seen at suet fourteen times. Only once did the hawk appear to notice the hasty retreat of the other birds as it entered the area of the feeders. On one occasion the bird spent twenty-three minutes eating suet. The hawk was a male in beautiful plumage, apparently a healthy bird.

Wire baskets filled with suet have been in the same position on four trees each winter since 1945. A Sparrow Hawk has been a visitor to the area nearly every winter during this period, but this is the first time one has eaten suet. Has anyone else ever had a similar experience? — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.

Cattle Egrets: "Birds? . . . little old men . . . pieces of paper . . ." The comments flew, but the birds did not, as six of us stared at Cattle Egrets. Twenty of them were grouped in the grassy yard at Wickes Lumber Company in Selkirk (Albany County) on April 30, and all were engaged in a cleanup, every one preening.

As the screech of a slow-moving train startled them, they leaped-frogged to the right, away from the tracks, and thus disturbed they began to feed. As a flock they worked along the ground after insects, occasionally ferreting out a nightcrawler. Like Robins, they braced their feet and tugged, dangling the huge worms a moment or ducking a covetous neighbor swallowed the prizes whole. When steadily feeding, they moved along so rapidly we almost had to sweep the scope to keep any one bird in view. After a few minutes one Egret lifted lightly over the high fence, and the others followed in two's and three's, to continue their searching in greener pastures.

All this time the flock had been drawing closer to us until they were only 25 feet away. At this range we could see three color variations, and noticed that the "yellow" bills were really light orange. Three of the twenty had Hallowe'en-corn bills and matching reddish legs. The tawny plumes of these three were deeper in color than those of the other birds. Four Egrets were very pale, showing almost no color on the back, and the head and breast feathers were corresponding lighter, bills yellow. We saw some dusky legs, and thought they belonged to the whiter birds.

The other thirteen looked alike, with yellowish legs and yellow bills. Their caps were sandy, and sandy plumes were both feathered across the upper backs and were seemingly clumped on the front of the long necks. The crowns lay smooth most of the time, but now and then a prickly crest was raised. All the birds had dusky feet.

These fascinating birds were about the size of Snowy Egrets, and like them, showed the crooked neck often pulled tight to the shoulders. In short flight they were beautiful, pure white of wing and spreading tail, more graceful than the Green Heron. It was amusing to watch them land nearby when the long legs swung forward from under the tails and the birds settled with a jerk. One more outstanding feature was the eye — yellow with a black rim around the iris, and deep-set close to the bill, giving the bird an air both stern and comical.

They paid little attention to us and so engrossed were we that we watched for an hour — and considered ourselves lucky indeed.

Mrs. George Budlong, who discovered the Egrets the morning of April 30 and kindly spread the alert, reported later "late in the afternoon I noticed most of them were resting with their heads lowered and only a few were eating, staying in a close group. Then about 6:30 p.m. they started moving around, spreading out and eating again. Finally, at 5 minutes to 7 they circled the field a few times and took off heading north and flying low".

On May 1 twelve Cattle Egrets were seen on Sunnyside Road, Scotia, in Schenectady County, and directly upriver from where the Egrets stopped in Selkirk.
Beverly Stevens Waite, R. D. 2, Box 454, Altamont.

A Wintering Brown Thrasher: Although for several winters we have enjoyed special bird visitors, this winter was made especially exciting by having a Brown Thrasher spend many hours in a pine tree and under the picnic table just outside our back patio, and as a regular guest partake of our suet and bird seed.

We had watched a family of Brown Thrashers since last May, first noticing them in the early mornings, feeding on the back lawn or singing at dusk prior to a bedtime snack of insects. After they had raised two broods we saw less and less of the birds and after a very mild, balmy week-end in October we assumed that they had migrated. We were sorry to see them leave because the possibility of their return seemed remote for the brush row where they had nested was cleared by the caretaker of some neighboring property.

However, on Christmas morning my husband looked out at the snow glittering in the sunlight, and saw a Brown Thrasher just outside the window. It sat jauntily

on a secluded branch of an evergreen beside an electric light bulb, basking in the warm sun, having her picture taken, and accepting the excited admiration of our four-year old, all within a distance of two feet.

Our first thoughts were of plans for survival food for this area. After consulting various bird books, we decided to put out test portions and see which the bird preferred, and which locations would be most acceptable. Wild bird seeds, uncooked oatmeal, chick scratch, and sunflower seeds were placed in small separate portions under the pine tree and beneath the picnic table. It was necessary to put the food out the night before, since the thrasher came at dawn or as soon as the kitchen lights shown out on the patio. The wild bird seed mixture and a little of the oatmeal soon were proven the accepted food. Pieces of apple and an orange, sliced in half were available, and several times we saw the bird peck at them. Since the ground under the table was seldom frozen and the thrasher worked at the dried leaves along the edge of the flag stones, this seemed the most suitable place for regular feeding. When it snowed we always cleared the snow down to the leaves and soil, before spreading the seeds. As far as we know the thrasher always ground-fed, and did not go to the feeder with the other birds, though it ate snow from the pine boughs.

After each severely cold night, or storm we anxiously watched for the bird. The favorite night roost seemed to be in some thick fir trees across from us, and their heavy branches must have given protection through several wet-snow and sleet storms, when the wind was so cutting even to us.

Our windows afforded us rare opportunities to see this wood-land visitor from many angles. The bird soon had several favorite perches in the pine tree and we, peering through the venetian blinds would look until we saw the fluff of rich brown, and the striped buff breast.

Our visitor gradually become a very important part of our family, and if our movements were slow and guarded, would feed in full view. On Sunday mornings we heard the thrasher's song, mingled with the cardinal's, and have felt more than compensated for all the worry and watching we have had over our welcome southern winter visitor. — Mrs. Perry R. Mackey, Hillside Lake, Wappinger Falls.



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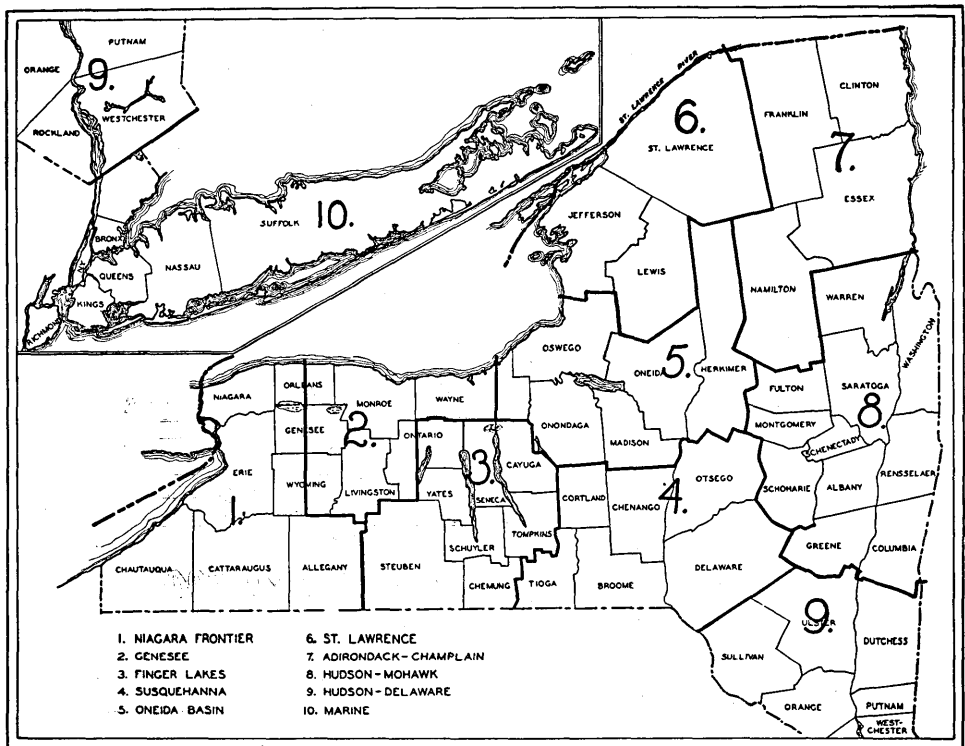
REVIEW OF HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

The Handbook of North American Birds is welcomed by teachers and students of bird life. For a long time they have wanted a reference book that was well organized and clearly written. This first of a series of at least six forthcoming volumes, edited by Ralph S. Palmer and published by Yale University Press, bids promise of great satisfaction. The scholarly attention given by the authors and illustrators to details such as measurements, color, distribution, and life cycles demands the respect of readers. To find available the biological aspects of all the North American Water Birds from Loons through Flamingos, with excellently typed references and bibliography, the inquiring mind will be stimulated to carry on further pursuits in the field of Ornithology.

Libraries, both public and private, should have this very informative and enduring work.*

* Handbook of North American Birds — Vol. 1, Loons through Flamingos. Edited by Ralph S. Palmer. Yale University Press, May 1962. Minnie B. Scotland — 42 Continental Avenue, Cohoes.

REPORTING REGIONS



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

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

DAVID B. PEAKALL

This will be the first issue of 'The Kingbird' since 1955 without a contribution from Jim Meritt. He served as editor for region 8 from 1955 to 1959 and as writer of 'The highlights of the season' since 1958. We will miss his wide knowledge of the birds of this state and hope to hear from him before long.

In general the weather in April was normal. May was very dry and parts of it excessively hot. Two major waves of migration were reported, neither of them affected Long Island. The first of these occurred on April 28-29 in the western portion of the state. In the Buffalo area it was described as "the most extensive and noticeable wave of passerines of the entire spring season" and from Rochester "the weekend of April 28-29 produced probably the best April birding this area has ever seen." The rest of the state was not affected by this movement. For a detailed account of the weather conditions the reader is referred to Richard Rosche's excellent and detailed summary. Besides good numbers of the commoner birds this wave produced Black-throated Gray Warbler and Lark Sparrow. The second wave occurred on May 14-15 and large numbers of migrants especially warblers were noted in the central and eastern portions of the state.

The invasion of Cattle Egrets was on a much larger scale than in any previous year. The earlier history of this species in New York has been summarized by Belknap (Kingbird XI (1) 26-27). To bring his table up to date.

Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1954-61	0	8	4	1	4	2	0	2	8	12
1962	0	15/24	4/5	12/13	4/6	3/3	0	20/60	2/3	40/50

The figures for 1954-61 refer to total numbers, for 1962 the first figure refers to the largest single party and the second is an estimate of the most likely total number of birds involved. Using merely the sum of the single flocks it will be seen that more than double the number of Cattle Egrets were reported this spring than have been reported previously in all years combined. A large early flock of Common Egrets was reported from Long Island and the numbers of upstate records of Glossy Ibis were rather more than usual.

There were two other outstanding records from Long Island. One was the second record of a flock of Wood Ibis; previous records have been detailed by Elliott (Kingbird VIII (4) 109-110). The other was a Manx Shearwater off Jones Beach; this is the third record for the state (Reilly and Parkes, 1959).

The flight of Canada Geese was good to excellent throughout the state, Buffalo, Montezuma and Syracuse areas all reporting record or near record counts. In mid-April the total population of these areas alone was about 100,000. The counts of Blue and Snow Geese were also good. 200 Blue Geese at Montezuma being particularly noteworthy. It is interesting

that the percentage of chen geese is much higher in the Cayuga Lake/Montezuma area than it is in the geese concentrations both to the east and west. A single White-fronted Goose, assigned to the Greenland race *flavirostris*, was observed at Newstead (Erie Co.) and two, not subspecifically identified, were recorded near Syracuse. In contrast the spring flight of ducks was generally poor and the numbers of Canvasbacks and especially Redheads still gave cause for concern. However, two European Teal were recorded, (regions 5 & 8), both were regional firsts and they appear to be the 4th and 5th upstate records this century. A hybrid European — Green-winged Teal was observed in region 4. While, in general, I think it is good idea for local journals to follow the official names, the name Common Teal is so bad that I refuse. The species is not common to both continents, if the Asiatic part of the range worries the editors of the AOU list, then the name Eurasian Teal could be used.

Good late April hawk flights were reported along the south shores of the Great Lakes. Seventeen hundred Broadwings were noted near Buffalo and thirty-four hundred near Rochester on April 25. At the south-east corner of Lake Ontario the main flight was observed on the 26th and 27th when over eleven thousand were observed. A group of twelve Black Vultures near Castleton in May is a most unusual record.

The shorebird migration was, in general, normal although some areas reported that the late flight was poor. Outstanding was a flock of 120 Whimbrel near Rochester, probably the largest group ever recorded in the state. Regions 1, 2, & 10 reported Golden Plover, a scarce bird in spring, and a Husonion Godwit was noted in region 1. A Little Gull was reported in late May near Rochester, the discovery this year of a breeding site near Toronto helps to make sense of the records of this species in the Great Lakes area.

The collection of a specimen of a Raven from a crow shoot near Lyndonville confirms the occurrence of a species often suspected in the large April crow flights.

Carolina Wrens were reported as unusually scarce in the western part of the state. A great increase in the breeding population of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in the lower Hudson valley. Particularly large numbers of Slate-colored Juncos were noted on migration in all central and western regions of the state.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

April began with a general winter snowstorm that dropped two to eleven inches of snow over Western New York. The first three weeks were more like March, weatherwise, than was March this year. Another major snowfall occurred at mid month. The month ended with a record breaking heat wave which brought average temperatures for the month 1.9 degrees above the normal.

Like the last part of April, May was unusually warm and pleasant. Below normal amounts of precipitation continued and the average monthly temperature was 6.6 degrees above normal. Weather patterns throughout the month were rather flat

with little day to day change, and the frequent low pressure systems, so essential to good passerine "waves", were less frequent and intense than usual.

In many respects April was far more interesting, birdwise, than was May. On two very snowy weekends, two of the most outstanding rarities were found — White-fronted Goose on Apr 1 and Hudsonian Godwit on Apr 14. The latter bird as well as an Apr 15 Golden Plover followed an intense storm system originating in Southwestern United States and accompanied by rather strong winds from that direction.

Small passerine arrivals in the region during most of April were either about on time or slightly later than in the normal year. A few species like Spotted Sandpiper, Myrtle Warbler and Chipping Sparrow were extremely late in arriving in their usual numbers. Observers covering several excellent vantage points along the south shore of Lake Erie, where in the past several spring seasons good numbers of overhead migrants were noted, report generally poor flights through the end of the third week of April.

What April lacked in the form of landbirds during its first three weeks, was more than made up for during the last week. The record breaking heat wave was caused by a flow of warm Gulf air, accompanied by moderately strong winds primarily from the southwestern quarter. During this time many first arrivals were noted — among species whose average arrival dates are often much earlier in the month. Favorable winds produced several good hawk flights along the south shore of Lake Erie.

On the last three days of April, but especially on Apr 29, the most extensive and noticeable "wave" of passerines of the entire spring season occurred. Most of the evidence available at present seems to indicate that the large numbers of birds were mostly confined to areas immediately adjacent to the south shore of Lake Erie. Observers covering areas on April 29 only one-two miles inland from the lake shore, reported relatively few migrants. Some speculated that unusually cold lake waters producing a rather heavy fog cover over the lake when coming into contact with the warm air, served as a barrier and caused passerine migrants to "jam up" on the south shore. Reports from the north shore of Lake Erie in Canada for these same three days, indicate far fewer birds than were present on the south shore.

Many of the usual early to mid May arrivals were among the passerines reported during late April. The table below, using a few of the most outstanding examples, serves to show the extent of this trend. Column A shows the earliest arrival date in the region between 1948 and 1961. Column B shows the latest arrival dates between 1948 and 1961. Column C shows the average arrival dates for the years 1948 through 1961. Column D shows the 1962 arrival date.

	A	B	C	D
Least Flycatcher	Apr 27	May 11	May 3	Apr 29
Catbird	Apr 23	May 7	May 1	Apr 25
Wood Thrush	Apr 28	May 6	May 1	Apr 29
Swainson's Thrush	May 1	May 12	May 7	Apr 30
Veery	Apr 24	May 9	May 3	Apr 30
Golden-winged Warbler	May 1	May 14	May 9	Apr 30
Orange-crowned Warbler	Apr 22	May 18	May 10	Apr 30
Cerulean Warbler	Apr 24	May 20	May 10	Apr 29
Blackburnian Warbler	Apr 29	May 11	May 3	Apr 29
Ovenbird	May 1	May 8	May 4	Apr 29
American Redstart	Apr 28	May 9	May 4	Apr 28
Bobolink	Apr 27	May 6	May 2	Apr 29
Baltimore Oriole	Apr 25	May 5	May 3	Apr 28

The late April influx of small passerines was composed of a number of species most commonly found on the Gulf Coast during the third week of April. The unusual number of Prairie and Palm Warblers, the early Cerulean, Orange-crowned, Golden-winged Warblers, the Black-throated Gray Warbler and the early May Lark Sparrow seem to indicate a mid western origin for this "wave". While early stragglers of the more typical Atlantic Coast passerine migrants were first noted in late April, their numbers were very low until the end of the first week of May. Would not the rather strong and consistent southwesterly winds during April 17-28 make this situation even more likely? It will be interesting to look over the other reports for New York State in order to see if the same conditions were prevalent elsewhere. At this time,

however, it appears that the "best birding" in this region was produced by strong southwesterly winds and their associated pressure systems sweeping across the continent.

During the first week of May, the movement of passerines was generally poor to fair; a minor "wave" occurred May 5-6. After that, however, the weather was so fair and mild and so conducive to migration, that the majority of migrants flew right over without stopping. On most any night one could hear numbers of birds calling as they flew over. But on the following days at dawn it was the same, consistent story — "evrything flew over", "no bad weather to bring them down", "few small passerines", etc. My May 19 nesting populations of most species appeared to be about normal. Relatively small numbers of migrants and a few stragglers occurred during the remainder of the month.

Highlights of the season include: Eared Grebe, White-fronted Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Common Raven, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

Contributors: KPA — K. P. Able; RSA — Mr. & Mrs. R. Annabal; VA — Mr. & Mrs. H. van Arnim; CB — C. Beal; TLB — T. L. Bourne; RB — R. Brownstein; FD — Mrs. F. Danner; DD — D. Duttweiler; VG — Mrs. V. Gastol; WHK — W. & H. Klabunde; GJL — G. J. Lehrer; PJJ — Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Loersch; WM — W. Mallam; HDM — H. D. Mitchell; BN — B. Natham; RP — Mrs. R. Pillsbury; FR — F. Rathbun; RCR — R. C. Rosche; AS — A. Schaffner; EAU — Mr. & Mrs. Ulrich; GGW — G. G. Webster; MW — M. Wendling.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: migrants overhead Apr 18-25; peak counts of 21, Apr 22, over OOGMA (RB et al) and two counts of 18 and 25, Apr 25, over two points on south shore of Lake Erie (AS, KPA et al). Red-throated Loon: 1, Apr 8, Silver Creek Reservoir, Town of Hanover — another addition to a growing number of reports indicating regularity of occurrence in this part of the region (FR et al); 1, Apr 28, Lake Ontario at Point Breeze (KPA). Eared Grebe: 1 (almost in complete nuptial plumage), Apr 21-25, Dunkirk Harbor (RCR et al). Common Egret: 1, Apr 8, OOGMA (HDM et al); 1, Apr 18, over Hamburg (KPA). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Apr 5 (first report since last autumn), Eden (TLB); 40, (highest count in several years), Apr 8, Grand Island (AEU et al). Whistling Swan: extremely poor flight all spring, two being the maximum count reported. Canada Goose: much better than average flight on probably close to record numbers present: 37,000 estimated plus unestimated many thousands one-half mile off south shore of Lake Ontario between Point Breeze and Thirty Mile Point, Apr 8 (BOS Bird Count). White-fronted Goose: 1, Apr 1, sinks in Town of Newstead, Erie Co. (KPA et al); probably same individual observed Apr 15, 16, 18 in same area by many observers; the brilliant orange-yellow bill and dark head and neck indicate the Greenland race, **A.a. flavirostris**; first record for the Niagara Frontier area. Snow Goose: unusually high number Apr 8 — 4 with Lake Ontario goose concentration (GJL) and 15 in Jamestown area (VG). Blue Goose: 16 (unusually high number), Apr 8, with Lake Ontario goose concentration (GJL). A comment made by Able in connection with the results of the BOS Apr 8 Bird Count, generally reflects the duck situation throughout the period. — "Ducks, in general, were extremely low, conforming with the current trend in the East. Mallards and Black Ducks, for example, totaled only half their usual numbers. Diving ducks also showed drastic drops from even last year's count which was also low. Canvasbacks and Redheads were especially low. Both species of Scaup seem to be the only ducks in numbers even approaching normality." King Eider: 1 (adult male), Apr 8, Niagara River off Grand Island (AEU et al).

Hawks — Owls: Southwest winds on Apr 21, 25, 26 produced good hawk flights on the south shore of Lake Erie. Several parties watched at a number of points near the shore on these days. Without a doubt, the most outstanding lookout this year proved to be on the Allegany Road, about one-half mile east of Route #5, Town of Hanover, Chaut. Co. The largest and most impressive flights occurred over this area on Apr 25 and 26 (AS et al). High counts of migrants are as follows: Sharp-shinned Hawk — 50, Apr 26, over Hanover (RB et al). Cooper's Hawk — 15, Apr 25, over Hamburg (KPA). Red-tailed Hawk — 20, Apr 26, over Hanover (RB et

al). Broad-winged Hawk — Apr 25, 1716, over Hanover (AS et al); 954, over Portland (RCR); and 575, over Hamburg (KPA). Osprey — 6, Apr 25, over Lake View and Hanover (AS et al). An interesting late hawk flight occurred May 20 on a strong south wind along the south shore of Lake Ontario near Point Breeze. The following birds, mostly immatures, were flying to the east: Turkey Vulture — 6, Cooper's Hawk — 1, Red-tailed Hawk — 9, Red-shouldered Hawk — 1 and Broad-winged Hawk — 8 (KPA et al). Bald Eagle. 1 (immature), Apr 8, near Youngstown (WHK); 3 (immatures with partially white heads), Apr 18, near Lockport (rep. GGW). Pigeon Hawk: 1, Apr 26, Point Gratiot (RB et al). King Rail: 3 reported, May 20, OOGMA (RB). In general, this was a good shorebird spring. During April the flooded fields in the Wolcottville region produced the greatest variety and numbers. Golden Plover: 1, Apr 15-18, Steiner Road, Town of Newstead (RB et al); 1, Apr 28, Wolcottville Sinks (AS). Greater Yellowlegs: 75 (high count), Apr 28, Wolcottville Sinks (KPA et al). Lesser Yellowlegs: 1, Apr 1 (unusually early), Wolcottville Sinks (KPA); 80 (high count), May 4, Wolcottville Sinks (RCR). Pectoral Sandpiper: near record numbers this spring after being nearly absent during spring 1961; 124, Apr 8 (BOS Bird Count); numbers gradually built up through April on sinks and muddy fields in Wolcottville area — 189 counted there Apr 28 (AS et al). White-rumped Sandpiper: 1, May 30, Tiff Street, Buffalo (RCR et al). Hudsonian Godwit: (first spring record for the region) 1, Apr 14-19, Wolcottville Sinks (many observers) — primarily in winter plumage but traces of rusty present on underparts. Caspian Tern: good flight along south shore of Lake Erie; 8 (maximum count), Apr 25, over Lake View (AS et al). Barn Owl: 1, May 10, Hamburg (TLB); 1, May 20, near Wolcottville (RB). Long-eared Owl: 1, Apr 17, Hamburg (TLB). Short-eared Owl: appeared to have remained in the region in some numbers much later than usual; 11, Apr 8, (BOS Bird Count). Saw-whet Owl: 1, Apr 8 (latest date), near Youngstown (WHK).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Yellow-shafted Flicker: 80 (flight), Apr 22, over Lake View (KPA); hybrid possessing pinkish secondary shafts, Apr 19, Town of Newstead, Erie Co. (KPA). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1, Apr 8, near Batavia (BOS Bird Count); 1, Apr 15, OOGMA (RCR et al). Red-headed Woodpecker: none reported until first migrants arrived Apr 28; apparently none wintered. Eastern Phoebe: more abundant throughout region than usual. Blue Jay: good movement over south shore of Lake Erie on several days; 383, Apr 29, Dunkirk-Portland area (RB et al); 275, May 12, over Lake View (KPA); 810, May 13, over Lake View (KPA); 75, May 15, over Lake View (KPA); 35, May 15, Athol Springs (TLB). Common Raven: one specimen, now located in collection at Buffalo Museum of Science, was shot either Apr 4 or 8 on a crow shoot near Lyndonville, Orleans Co. (rep HDM); this is first specimen for the region; 1, Apr 19, migrating over Lake View (KPA). Tufted Titmouse: present in slightly above average numbers but much less abundant than during last fall and winter; reports for the last few days of April suggest a movement into the region with the many small passerines that were present on the south shore of Lake Erie. White-breasted Nuthatch: far more abundant than usual; definite movement evident from report of 30, Apr 26, flying over and at Point Gratiot (AS et al). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce until the last few days of April when large numbers moved into region with the numerous other small passerines; 25 estimated, Apr 29, south shore of Lake Erie between Lake View and Portland (RCR et al); many observers thought they were more common from late April through mid May than at any other time in recent years. Carolina Wren: scarcity of reports indicates another withdrawal from the region; this is rather difficult to explain especially in the light of the mild winter of 1961-62; two birds roosting regularly in a garage at Springbrook last seen Apr 20 (FD). Short-billed Marsh Wren: for first time in last three years several appeared in former regular breeding areas on the Lake Plains during May. Mockingbird: one observed frequently in residential neighborhood at Lewiston throughout the past winter last reported Apr 8 (WM); 1, Apr 29-May 5, East Aurora (PJL et al); 2, late May, Day Road, Town of Alexander, Genesee Co. (RSA); 1, May 27, Francis Road, Town of Bethany, Genesee Co. (RCR); the two latter locations are near where a pair successfully nested in 1952. Eastern Bluebird: scarce throughout the region; young successfully reared at Pavilion (RSA) and West Clarks-ville (VA). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 12 (unusually high count), Apr 29, Portland area (RB et al). Loggerhead Shrike: extremely scarce all spring with few reports of single individuals; 1, May 20, orchard country near Gasport, Niagara Co. (suggests possible nesting area), (RCR et al).

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: 1, May 12, Hamburg (TLB). A brief study of April warbler reports beginning in 1947 shows several interesting items that make April 1962 especially outstanding warbler-wise. A total of 17 species of warblers were reported in April 1962. The highest previous total since 1947 was 13 species in 1949. The average over the 16 year period is eight species. Five species were observed in April this year for the first time since 1947 — Golden-winged, Black-throated Gray, Chestnut-sided, Prairie and Ovenbird. Prothonotary Warbler: 1 (singing male), May 4, Hamburg (TLB); 7, May 17 and 4, May 20 at OOGMA (regular breeding locality) (HDM, RB et al). Golden-winged Warbler: 1, Apr 30 (unusually early), Hamburg, (TLB). "Brewster's" Warbler: 1, Tonawanda Indian Reservation, May 30 (BN et al). Orange-crowned Warbler: 1, Apr 30 (unusually early), Silver Creek (RB et al). Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1, (singing male), Apr 28-29, near Portland, Chautauqua Co. (HDM et al); the second record for the region, the first being for May 11, 1930 at OOGMA. Cerulean Warbler: 1, Apr 29 (unusually early), near Portland (RCR et al). Pine Warbler: 1, Apr 21, Hamburg (TLB); 1, Apr 28, Angola (GGW et al); 1, Apr 30, near Portland (RB et al). Prairie Warbler: influx in late April and early May is unprecedented here; 1, Apr 29, near Portland (KPA et al); 1, Apr 29, Point Gratiot (KPA et al); 1, May 6, near Lake Erie State Park (RCR et al). Palm Warbler: 75 (unusually high number), Apr 29, Dunkirk-Portland area (KPA et al). Ovenbird: 1, Apr 29, Clarence (MW); 1, Apr 30, Hamburg (KPA). Connecticut Warbler: 1, May 26, Delaware Park, Buffalo (BN et al); 1, May 28, near Youngstown (RCR). Mourning Warbler: most observers thought this species was more abundant than in recent years. American Redstart: 2, Apr 28 (unusually early), near Portland (RP et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Black-headed Grosbeak: the bird noted in the last report at a feeding station near Holland, Erie Co. remained there until Apr 8 (DD). Evening Grosbeak: flocks gradually diminished in number during May in the Hamburg-East Aurora area where they are usually most abundant; most birds had left by May 17-18; flight along south shore of Lake Erie occurred Apr 26-30 and May 12-15; maximum count of 180, May 12, over Lake View (KPA). Pine Grosbeak: 1, Apr 5, near Jamestown (CB); 3, Apr 8, OOGMA (HDM et al). Common Redpoll: 3, Apr 1 (last date), Hamburg (KPA). Pine Siskin: no reports. Red Crossbill: 3, Apr 21, Hamburg (TLB). Lark Sparrow: 1 (adult), May 2-3, Dunkirk (AS et al); first record in recent years. Slate-colored Junco: 2000 estimated (unusually high count), Apr 1, between Jamestown and Dunkirk (RP et al).

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first two weeks of the period were very cold. Five inches of snow fell in Rochester on April 1, and snow flurries were frequent until the 15th, with heavier snowfall in the hill country to the south. A warming trend then started on the 16th and the rest of April was above average, temperaturewise. The first two weeks of May were average but a torrid spell occurred from the 14th to 21st, bringing four days of 90°, and three other days of high 80°. The last ten days of the month were nearer normal, but even so, the month was the third hottest May in Rochester Weather Bureau records. Precipitation for both months was slightly below normal.

The migration of land birds was well behind average until April 21. On this date, an early April migrant like the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was nearly if not completely absent. However, a marked wave arrived on the night of Apr 21-22 and, spurred by above average temperatures, the migration was ahead of average by the end of the month. The weekend of Apr 28-29 produced probably the best April birding this area has ever seen.

The first part of May produced nothing much in the way of definite waves. Peak numbers were probably reached on the 13 and 20, but these movements were confined entirely to the lakeshore; and inland areas had relatively poor migratory movements. The weekend of May 27-28 produced little and Decoration Day produced the usual late-arriving cuckoos, flycatchers, and a few warblers.

Among the outstanding birds reported were Western Grebe, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, an unprecedented flight of Whimbrels, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler and Dickcissel.

The following abbreviations are used below: L Ont — Lake Ontario; Pultn — Pultneyville; HSP — Hamlin State Park; Web P — Webster Park; HL — Hawk Lookout.

Loons — Ducks: The peak of the spring loon flight was reached Apr 26 when 350 Common and 150 Red-throated Loons were at Pultn (B & Al E. Kemnitzer). A few of the former were present on L Ont until the end of the period, and three of the latter were at Web. P May 12 (AEK). Two Red-necked Grebes at Port Bay Apr 8 (AEK) were our only report for this species. 1200 Horned Grebe between Irondequoit Bay and Web P Apr 23 (AEK) was a high peak count for this species. A Western Grebe was carefully studied under favorable conditions at Pultn Apr 26 (B & AEK).

The first Cattle Egret of the year was at Parma Apr 28 (Richard T O'Hara et al). Several other reports of single birds were received, a flock of 15 at Scottsville May 17 (Mrs. Jeanne Haller) and 9 at Clarkson May 18 (Mr. and Mrs. Howard Neugle). A Common Egret at Braddock's Bay Apr 26 (Walter C. Listman) and one at Long Pond Apr 28 (John Foster et al). A Snowy Egret at Manitou May 13 (WCL et al). A Glossy Ibis at Manitou Apr 26 (WCL), and two were seen in the same general area Apr 29 — May 7 (Stephen B. Oresman et al).

Whistling Swans were comparatively scarce, a flock of seven on the Groveland Flats May 5 (JH) being the largest number reported. Two weeks later the area was bone dry. Brant were likewise scarce, a flock seen well out in L Ont off Manitou May 20 (Joseph Taylor et al) being the only report. Snow and Blue Geese were unreported. An European Widgeon was in the Parma vicinity Apr 28-May 7 (Howard S. Miller et al). 5 Common Goldeneyes at Manitou May 19 (RTO et al). This is a rather late date for this number.

Hawks — Owls: The peak dates for the April hawk flights were the 22 and 25. In May, the birds "dribbled" through on almost constant S W winds. Peak counts were: Turkey Vulture — 22 at HL Apr 22 (Gerald Rising et al); Sharp-shinned Hawk — 350 same place and same date; Broad-winger Hawk — 3400 HL Apr 25 (AEK et al); Rough-legged Hawk — 58 HL Apr 21 (GOS hike). This seemed to be an unfavorable day for a hawk flight with a WNW wind. An adult Bald Eagle was near Avon Apr 6 (JH). A max. of three immatures at HL Apr 25 (AEK et al). Single Peregrine Falcons were along the west lakeshore May 7, 12 and 25 (RTO et al). An early Pigeon Hawk was at Sodus Bay Apr 8 (AEK), one at Pultn Apr 22 (AEK) and one at Manitou May 13 (JT et al).

The early part of the spring shorebird flight was at least average, with good numbers of both Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers present. The late May flight, in contrast to a year ago, was disappointing. An Am. Golden Plover, a rare spring migrant in our area, was in Parma May 13 (AEK). Two Black-bellied Plover, usually a fairly common spring migrant, were in Clarkson May 19 (HSM et al). A single Whimbrel was at Manitou May 26 (WCL) and an unprecedented flock of 120 was migrating past Web P the next day (AEK). A very early White-rumped Sandpiper was with a small flock of Pectoral Sandpipers in Clarkson Apr 28 (RTO et al). A Baird's Sandpiper, an accidental spring migrant in this area, was carefully observed at Manitou May 11 (WCL). An Iceland Gull, rare all winter, was at Manitou May 26 (HSM et al). A Little Gull was at Web P May 27 (AEK).

A Saw-Whet Owl, rare this spring, was at HSP Apr 8 (GOS hike). The bird was caught and photographed.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawk arrived May 14 and, due to the steady hot weather was common within a few days. Pileated Woodpecker — one May 14 Seneca Park, Rochester (Peter Zachmann). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker did not arrive until Apr 20, one of the latest arrival dates on record. Olive-sided Flycatchers — frequently reported with max. of three May 30 along the west lakeshore (Alfred Starling et al). Tufted Titmice were reported several times, but the Carolina Wren was unreported. Singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens were heard in several places where the species has been unreported for some time.

A Mockingbird was reported several times in the Manitou area (Leo Miller et al) and three were in Webster May 27 (AEK). Both Swainson's and Graycheeked Thrushes seemed to be very scarce, with only a relatively few of the former reported. Only one report of the latter was received, a single bird in Island Cottage woods May 20 (David H. Perry). Eastern Blue birds seemed up in numbers slightly. Single pairs nested in Webster, Mendon and Parma. Five were at Manitou May 30 (WCL). Cedar Waxwings — 175 at Durand Apr 28 (Joseph and Thelma McNett), and good numbers were reported late in the period.

Vireos — Warblers: A White-eyed Vireo was carefully observed at Island Cottage Woods May 19 (Frank Schmanke et al) and a very early Philadelphia Vireo was at Letchworth May 5 (JF). A Worm-eating Warbler along the river bank near Cottage St. in Rochester May 1 (Thomas E. Tetlow et al). Three Blue-winged Warblers were at Letchworth May 5 (Mrs. Sue Clark et al). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Manitou Apr 28 (RTO et al) and another was in the same place May 14 (WCL). Parula Warblers seemed scarce. Blackpoll Warblers arrived early, with 15 in the Island Cottage area on May 20 (J & TM). Pine Warblers were reported frequently with two at Manitou Apr 29 (Robert White et al). Single Prairie Warblers were in Braddock's Bay area May 6, 12, and 26, (Miss Margaret Foley et al). 25 Palm Warblers in Durand-Eastman Park May 5 (Bruce Brown et al) is a high count. The only report of the Connecticut Warbler was one bird in Island Cottage Woods May 20 (DP). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats nested in Mendon Ponds Park (AS) but otherwise the species seemed rather scarce.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: An adult male Dickcissel was at a feeder on Lake Road, Webster, May 16 (J & TM et al). There was a heavy spring flight of Evening Grosbeaks, with a high count of 300 at Manitou May 13 (Robert G. McKinney). The last straggler was seen in the same place May 24 (WCL). The last Common Redpoll was at Manitou Apr 22 (WCL). Pine Siskins were very scarce, only a few scattered birds being reported. This was in sharp contrast to a year ago when they were reported in flocks of hundreds. No Crossbills were reported. Slate-colored Juncos seemed very common, with flocks of over a hundred birds being reported around mid April. An adult Oregon Junco was at a feeder on Lake Road, Webster, from Apr 2-15 (Mrs. Maryann Sunderlin et al). A very, very late Tree Sparrow was at Manitou May 20 (John Brown et al).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

April was fairly normal in rainfall and temperature until the last week. From April 25, through the first week in May, a hot spell brought in the migrants following cold, wet weather from Apr 20-25. This period was followed by a few days, May 8-14, when there seemed to be no birds — the early arrivals had left, (no new ones came until mid-May. In most areas, no warbler wave was noted, but at Jasper, trees were alive with warblers May 14 and 15 (Margeson). Certain Warblers were unusually scarce as Cape Mays and Black-throated Greens.

In the over-all picture, migration was not far different from normal, except that some birds seemed to come in ahead of schedule (Cuckoos, Pewees, most Swallows, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the 'field' Sparrows), while others were late (Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Catbirds, Swainson's Thrushes).

Manager Morse reported that the peak count of 25,000 Canada Geese at Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge was the highest in five or more years. However, this **may** not represent an over-all increase in the Cayuga Lake Basin, just a Montezouma increase with an apparent corresponding Cayuga Lake decrease.

May was one of the warmest on record, and extremely dry, less than an inch of rain being recorded in most areas. The effect of this on fruit and seed crops remains to be seen.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, Apr 17, Owasco Lake (W. H. Allison); few noted on Cayuga or Keuka Lakes. Red-throated Loon: one, Apr 5, Salubria Lake, Bath (Mary Smith-MS). Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 30, first report in several years on Kueka Lake (Francis Orcutt); one, May 18 Chemung River (Al Fudge-AF).

Cattle Egret: one, McIntyre Rd., near Mecklenburg, May 13; another probable, Cornell Fish Hatchery, late April; four, May 20, Montezuma and vicinity (Census groups). Common Egret: one Apr 16 (first) n. of Montezuma (Walter Benning-WB). Black-crowned Night Heron: from May 15 on, Elmira. Glossy Ibis: five, May 6 and 20, Montezuma (WB, John Morse-JM); six May 21 (Fritz Scheider-FS). Least Bittern: one, (rare) May 30, Hinman Swamp near Alpine (P. Bishop). Whistling Swan: two, Apr. 22, Sullivan's Monument, Chem Co., (MS); two Apr 26, Montezuma (JM); four Apr 30, Montezuma (J. Walker-JW). Canada Goose: 25,000 (peak) Apr 20, Montezuma (JM). See introductory comments. Peak counts of Snow Geese 50, Apr 26 (JM) and Blue Geese 200, Apr 23 (FS), Montezuma, both all time highs.

Mallard: first broods, last week in May, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (A. A. Allen-AAA). Blue-winged Teal; several nestings near Elmira and near Ithaca, late May; an increase over recent years. European Widgeon: one, May 6, Tyre Marsh, Seneca Co. (Neal Smith); three, May 20, Montezuma (Census group). Shoveler: one, May 19, Park Station Chem Co. (rare in Co.) (E. Brimmer-EB). White-winged Scoter: one, Apr 16, Chemung River; one, Apr 30, Horseheads Dump; one, Apr 26, Jennings Pond, Danby, (Charles MacInnes). Hooded Merganser: brood, late May, Montezuma; probably nesting in Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures: one, Texas Hollow, Schu Co. May 20 (AF); other reports show continuing increase in the species. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are definitely scarcer. Rough-legged Hawk: last reports, last week of April. Bald Eagle seen on nest, Apr 3 and 8 W. Spofford-WS) but no indication of eggs. Bobwhite: Reports throughout the region; cautious optimism of success of recent releases. Wild Turkey: increase in reports in southern half of region 3. Common Gallinule: one, (first) Apr 14, Rte 31 near Montezuma (WB). Black-bellied Plover: several through May, S.W. corner of Cayuga Lake; rare in spring. Ruddy Turnstone: one, May 21, Montezuma (FS); one, May 17, S.W. corner of Cayuga Lake (J. House). Common Snipe: up to 100, migrating, Apr 8, Watkins-Montour airport marsh (B. Strath). Upland Plover: four stations near Ithaca, mid-May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Apr 30, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (AAA); May 19, Elmira. Baird's Sandpiper: three, May 16, Branchport (Frank Guthrie); very rare in Keuka drainage. Dunlin: 20, May 21 Montezuma (FS). Dowitchers: eight, May 21, Montezuma (FS). Both of these species were also at Hog Hole and Ithaca, later in month.

Great Black-backed Gull: immatures staying through May at Ithaca; unusually late. Black Tern: one (first) Apr 28 (WB). Barn Owl: two, May 18, Sapsucker Woods, nesting. Short-eared Owl: two, Apr 8 (last date) Montezuma (WS). Whip-poor-will: two, mid-May, Rathbun Farm east of Bennettsburg; several, May 20, White Church area south-east of Ithaca (R. Little-RL).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Flicker: reported as being common everywhere. Red-bellied Woodpecker nesting pair driven out by Starlings in King Ferry. Red-headed Woodpecker: two at King Ferry (Thatcher); one Forest Home, Ithaca, May 10 (Kirkpatrick); five, May 13, Geneva (Census group); "More than in previous years" at Elmira. Great Crested Flycatcher: 23, a high count, May 13, Geneva (Census group). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: (usually rare) one, May 9, Elmira; one, May 20, near Montezuma (WB); one, May 20, Ithaca (Census group). Olive-sided Flycatcher: (usually rare in spring) two at new locations near Elmira, May 19; one, May 24 Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (W. Turner).

Barn Swallow: scarcer in western part of the area, banders say. Cliff Swallow: scarcer at Elmira; more nesting at Pleasant Valley near Branchport, 43 nests, (C. Sturdevant). Boreal Chickadee: Apr 8, last date, Ithaca (F. Randolph). Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers in migration, Elmira and Ithaca. Mockingbird: three at Horseheads, (MS); one, Apr 26, Reading Center, (Bernice Spencer); two at Branchport, no sign of nesting this year (Larzelere); two in Ithaca area in May. Robins reported as increased at Ithaca, Burdett, Hornell, Keuka and Jasper. Bluebirds: still scarce everywhere. Pipits: few reports, except a flock of 100 at Elmira, Apr 1.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: reported scarce everywhere. Red-eyed Vireo: later than normal in arriving and scarcer. Prothonotary Warbler: one, May 20, Texas Hollow (A. Kopp); one, May 20 Montezuma, (RL). Worm-eating Warbler: one, May 13, Breesport, new location, (EB). Brewster's Warbler: one, May 10, e. of Elmira (MS); one, May 17, Mt. Zoar (MS); two, May 6 near Varna, Tomp Co. (M. Ficken). Parula Warbler: almost no reports. Cape May: definitely scarce, missing entirely around Keuka. Black-throated Green: very scarce; absent at Hornell in an area where usually abundant. Blackpoll Warbler: rather early, May 14, Ithaca; May 17, Mt. Zoar, but scarce, and did not linger. Prairie Warbler: often not reported; one, May 10, Sullivan's Monument (MS); one, May 17, Mt. Zoar (MS). The Connecticut Hill colony was not checked. Palm Warbler: one wave noted; flock at Burdett, May 7 (J. Bardeen).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks: in some areas (Ithaca, Hornell) have been replaced by Redwings, but reported abundant, or on increase, at Keuka, Jasper, Burdett, Waterloo. Orchard Oriole: one, imm. male, May 7, Horseheads (M. Welles); one, adult male, May 3, Ithaca (NS). Baltimore Oriole: abundant at Jasper, and in Geneva area, where over 100 were found on May 13 census. Redwings and Grackles: very abundant — 110 Grackles banded on my property in Etna this spring (Weske, Hoyt). Scarlet Tanagers, slight increase. Eastern Cardinal: constant increase at Keuka and Geneva. Evening Grosbeak: large influx Apr 29, and for ten days thereafter — probably representing arrival of those wintering farther south. Most left between May 10 and 14, all gone by May 22. Only one report of Pine Grosbeak after Apr. 1. Slate-colored Junco: unusual numbers in migration Apr 1-15; flocks left Apr 17-20. Tree Sparrow: last dates fell between Apr 18-30. The Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Ithaca, on Apr. 27 for the 4th year — was seen and heard for three days, then disappeared. White-crowned Sparrow: abundant in migration everywhere except Hornell. White-throated Sparrow: scarce in migration. Several still present end of May near Ithaca. Lincoln's Sparrow: one very early record, Apr 2, Sapsucker Woods (AAA); two netted, May 20, north of Ithaca (JW).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was generally mild with slightly more than the normal amount of precipitation but slightly less in the form of snow. Most of the cold and snow came in the week starting April 13, treacherously following a stretch of abnormally warm weather. The only reported instance of early migrants in trouble during the cold spell will be covered by a field note, but there can be little doubt that many others suffered to some extent, too. The month ended with record breaking or equalling high temperatures on four of the last five days. The first week of May continued warm, but May 7 to 12 was another cold spell including the last frost of the season. The Wood Pewee records reported below are of especial interest when compared to this weather pattern. May 14 to 20 was a genuine hot spell with six days in the 90's, but for the rest of the month temperatures were not far from normal. On average the month was very warm and very dry.

Arrival dates averaged early, but were not unanimously so. There were very few arrivals during the May 7 to 12 cold spell, but this was largely because many of the species that normally check in then were already here. May 6 and 12 and Bay-breasted Warblers on the 20th produced the closest thing to warbler "waves" recorded, but with the 14th and 15th, the logical dates for any damming effect of the cold weather to be evident, falling on Monday and Tuesday the waves may have been missed.

Bluebird and Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were encouraging in some areas, at least. Some of the more interesting records obtained were Cattle Egrets, a Kentucky Warbler, a Western Meadowlark and a teal hybrid.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: Binghamton — Bing, Susquehanna River — Susq R, Triple Cities — TC, Whitney Point — WP, Unadilla — Unad, Norwich — Nor, Marsh Pond near Windsor—MP, Deposit — Dep, Newark Valley — NV, and Naturalists Club — NC.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: reported from Owego, Oneonta and WP in small numbers with the last at WP Apr 20. Red-necked Grebe: one, May 5, WP (M. Sheffield-MS). Horned Grebe: 25 (max), Apr 19 at Guilford (R. & S. White-R & SW); May 5 (last), WP (MS). Pied-billed Grebe: small numbers until Apr 15. Double-crested Cormorant: May 6, Candor (D. Weber-DW), the only report. Great Blue Heron: possible new nesting colony found south of Owego about May 1 (D. Bendle-DB). Green Heron: two, Apr 26 (first), Vestal (S. Lincoln-SL). Cattle Egret: one, Apr 9, Berkshire (Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Lynch), second report for the region: 12, May 12, Harpursville, by otherwise uninterested observer but description seemed unmistakable. Black-crowned Night Heron: scattered reports; one, Apr 27 (first), Oxford, (A. Stratton-AS); also Cortland and TC. Am. Bittern: May 9 (first), MP (H. Marsi-HM, F. Linaberry-FL). Least Bittern: one, May 20, Vestal (MS), only report.

Canada Goose: frequent small and medium flocks all during Apr until 300 plus (max & last), May 5 at Unad (H. Wisner-HW). Am. Widgeon: two, Apr 15 (last), WP (MS), few others. Pintail: Only one in period, Apr 21, WP (MS). Common x Green-winged Teal Hybrid: one, Apr 14 & 15, WP (MS, R & SW), white horizontal stripe over wing clearly visible, but also had less pronounced whitish shoulder patch. Green-winged Teal: Apr 29 (last), WP (MS), usual small numbers. Blue-winged Teal: three, Apr 1 (first), WP (MS). Redhead: Apr. 5 (last), Owego (SL) & Candor (DW). Ring-necked Duck: 15 plus (max), Apr 8, WP (MS); one, Apr 28 (last), Chenango Forks (M. & A. Davis-M & AD). Lesser Scaup: one pair, May 19 (late), Little York (J. Gustafson-JG). Common Goldeneye: one, May 5, Unad (HW); one, May 6 (last), WP (MS); both late. Bufflehead: 10 (max), Apr 19, Susq R, Endwell (N. Washburn-NW); Apr 29 (last), St. John's Pond, n. of Johnson City (MS); best numbers in years, though still relatively small. Old Squaw: six, May 5 (late), Nor (R & SW). Hooded Merganser: one, Apr 22 (last), WP (MS). Common Merganser: Apr 27 (last), Susq R, Endwell (HM et al). Red-breasted Merganser: six, Apr 23 (last), Nor (R & SW).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: five (max), May 4, Dep (S. Wilson-SW) and fairly regularly at the same locality in smaller numbers; also reported at Unad (F. Quick-FQ), Bing (C. Howard-CH), MP (HM et al). Goshawk: one, May 2, Bing (HM, FL). Sharp-skinned Hawk: Apr 3, Oneonta (J. New-JN), migrating. Broad-winged Hawk: one, Apr 22 (first), Walton (SL); May 20 (last), TC (Naturalists' Club). Rough-legged Hawk: one, May 10 (last), Bing (CH), four other records. Bald Eagle: May 20, Owego (A. Evelein-AE), only record. Marsh Hawk: one, Apr 1 (first), WP (MS), only three other records. Osprey: two, Apr 1 (first), Dep (SW), May 7 (last); Chenango Forks (M & AD); total of 18 records, at least 25 individuals. Sparrow Hawk: seem quite common this year.

Bob-white: four, (max), May 11, Cortland (JG); also at Owego (G. Helmers-GH), Oxford (AS) and Flemingville. Virginia Rail: present at Vestal (MS). Sora: present at Vestal (G. Corderman-GO, HM). Am. Coot: one, Apr 14, Nor (R & SW); Apr 29, Owego (SL); the only ones recorded. Semi-palmated Plover: two, May 14 (first) WP (MS), only a few. Killdeer: almost returned to abundance of several years ago. Black-bellied Plover: two, May 14, WP (MS), only record. Common Snipe: one, Apr 8 (first), Endwell (V. Misner-VM, GC), reported more frequently than in past years. Spotted Sandpiper: one, Apr 27 (first), Endwell (CG, VM, HM) and Nor (R & SW); nest with 4 eggs May 27, Endwell (L. Belmont-LB). Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 28 (first), WP (MS); May 20 (last). Greater Yellowlegs one, Apr 27 (first), Endwell (VM, CG, HM) and Owego (SL); May 9 (last), Endwell (LB); not many reported. Lesser Yellowlegs: one, May 1 (first), Bing (CH); May 20 (last), TC (NC). Least Sandpiper: May 11 (first), Owego (SL); five (max), May 14 & May 16, WP (MS); May 30 (last), WP (MS). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: May 20 (first), TC (NC); 26 (max), May 30, WP (MS). Herring Gull: 10 plus, Apr 9 (last), Oxford (AS). Ring-billed Gull: 500 (max), Apr 1, TC (GC, HM), largest flocks in several years;

tapered down to 130 Apr 4 and small flocks until Apr 20 (last), Vestal (SL). Bonaparte's Gull: 13 records of one to 12 birds each, from TC, Nor, Little York and Owego periodically through Apr to the last, May 9, Endwell (LB). Common Tern: two, May 19, Labrador Pond in Cortland Co. (JG); the only record. Black Tern: May 6 (first); 12 (Max) at WP (MS) and Spencer Marsh (DW); May 19 (last), Bing (HM); also reported at Nor. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 11 (first), Bing (HM); fair numbers around TC but no reports from elsewhere. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 11 (first), Bing (HM), better than average numbers with reports from most parts of the region; May 29, Dep, nest with one egg (SW). Screech Owl: Apr 1, Owego (GH), the only report.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: Apr 27 (first), Owego (R. Williams-RW); also reported at TC (R. & J. Saunders), Oneonta (JN), Unad (HW) and NV (L. Dean-LD); at Oneonta reported to be established and increasing. Nighthawk: May 12 (first), Endicott (SL); other reports only from Bing and Cortland. Chimney Swift: Apr 27 (first), Cortland (JG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, May 7 (first), Endwell (Gillfillan). Red-headed Woodpecker: May 1 (first), Owego (AE); also two reports from TC, two from Oneonta, one from Candor, one from Dep and one from Cortland. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 20 (last migrant), TC (NC) and NV (LD). Kingbird: one, Apr 27 (first), Owego (SL); five more reports before May 4 and main body of migrants. Great Crested Flycatcher: two plus, May 5 (first), TC (NC). Phoebe: further improvement in numbers this year. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: May 19, Cortland (JG), the only report. Traill's Flycatcher: May 18 (first), Chenango Bridge (MS); more found each year. Least Flycatcher: May 1 (first), Unad (HW). Wood Pewee: one, May 4 (first), Dep (SW); four reports May 4, 5 & 6 then no more until May 15. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 20, Bing; May 30, Castle Creek (MS), the only reports. Horned Lark: seemed more common than usual in May. Bank Swallow: Apr 27 (first), Chenango Forks (M & AD). Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 29 (first) WP (MS). Barn Swallow: two, Apr 15 (first), Oswego (SL). Cliff Swallow: Apr 30 (first), Greene (C. & J. Davis-C & JD). Purple Martin: Apr 1 (first), Owego (M. White-MW); Apr 4, Bing (F. Fargo); Apr 8, Cortland (JG); normal arrival date is Apr 15.

Blue Jay: Apr 5, Endwell (NC), migrants passing over. Boreal Chickadee: Apr 7, Oquaga Lake (SW), bird banded during winter still present. Tufted Titmouse: reported from Oquaga Lake (SW), Cortland (Hall), Itaska and WP (MS), two places near Endwell (M. Fisher, E. & N. Washburn) and Bing (HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: frequent reports May 1 to May 16; May 19 (last), Endwell (NC). Brown Creeper: May 14 (last), Chenango Forks (M & AD). House Wren: Apr 26 (first), Owego (Hewitt); numbers improved over last year. Winter Wren: scattered reports in TC area to May 14 (last), WP (MS). Carolina Wren: one at NV last seen Apr 25 (Mrs. W. Ballard). Long-billed Marsh Wren: a few reported but no representative first date. Short-billed Marsh Wren: May 12, NV (LD); only report. Mockingbird: Apr 7, Owego (Hills); one, May 6, Endwell (FL); the only reports. Catbird: Apr 27 (first), Castle Creek (B. Burgher-BB). Brown Thrasher: Apr 13 (first), Bainbridge (E. J. Smith-EJS) and Owego (DB). Wood Thrush: Apr 22 (first), Bainbridge (EJS); at NV five different reports of them killed at picture windows (LD). Hermit Thrush: Apr 8 (first), NV (LD). Swainson's Thrush: May 6, Owego (MW, et al); one, May 8, Nor (R & SW); May 9, MP (HM, FL); the only reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush; May 19 (first), Chenango Forks (M & AD); total of four reports. Veery: two, May 4 (first), Endwell (LB). Bluebird: 24 (max), May 20, Owego (Tioga Birdwatchers); in the Owego-Candor-NV area and between Bing and WP, they are present in respectable numbers but in the rest of the region they are scarce. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one, Apr 28 (first), Endwell (LB); also reported at two places in Bing, WP and Candor. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 plus (max), Apr 21, at Cranberry Lake in nearby Penna (N & EW); May 6 (last), Owego (AE). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 6 (first), Dep (SW) and no more until Apr 22; May 14 (last), Bing (CH); good numbers. Water Pipit: 10, May 2, Bing (CH), the only report received. Cedar Waxwing: present in considerable numbers all during the period.

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 5 (first), in several localities. Solitary Vireo: Apr 26 (first), Dep (SW). Red-eyed Vireo: Apr 30 (first), Owego (RW); two, May 1, Bing (CH), then no more until May 9. Warbling Vireo: Apr 27

(first), NV (LD). Black & White Warbler: Apr 27 (first), Bing (HM). Worm-eating Warbler: May 22, Chenango Forks (M & AD) and Endwell (LB), the only reports. Golden-winged Warbler: May 6 (first), Dep (SW). Brewster's Warbler: May 14, Oneonta (JN); also at Dep (SW), Bing (HM, CH). Blue-winged Warbler: May 16 (first), Bing (CH). Tennessee Warbler: May 7 (first), Bing (MS); not particularly common. Orange-crowned Warbler; one Apr 24 & 25, Dep (S. & J. Wilson), good description. Nashville Warbler: one, Apr 26 (first), Endwell (LB); common. Parula Warbler: two, May 5 (first), Endwell (NC); May 25 (last), Oneonta (JN); three other records. Yellow Warbler: Apr 26 (first), Endwell (NW). Magnolia Warbler: May 6 (first), several localities. Cape May Warbler: (first, early), Owego (MW, RW); May 20 (last), TC, (NC); only seven other records. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Apr 28 (first), Greene (C & JD). Myrtle Warbler: May 16, apparent peak date; May 22 (last), several observers. Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Apr 28 (first), Endwell (LB). Blackburnian Warbler: May 2 (first), Chenango Forks (M & AD) and Bing (HM, FL); still present May 30. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 4 (first), Dep (SW). Bay-breasted Warbler: May 15 (first), Oneonta (JN); abundant at TC May 20 (NC) but none thereafter. Blackpoll Warbler: May 20 (first), several observers; frequent reports to May 31. Pine Warbler: May 14, Owego (MW, RW); only report. Prairie Warbler: Apr 29, Chenango Bridge (R & SW); the only report. Palm Warbler: Apr 26 (first), Dep (SW); May 7 (last), several observers; best numbers in several years. Ovenbird: Apr 29 (first), Dep (SW). Northern Waterthrush: two, Apr 28 (first), Sherburne (R & SW); best numbers in several years. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 23 (first, 3-8 days later then in the last few years), TC (MS) and Dep (SW). Kentucky Warbler: May 20, Candor (DW, fide RW), described, seen again May 30. Mourning Warbler: May 11 (first), Chenango Forks (M & AD), also reported at Dep (SW), Castle Creek (MS), Cortland (JG) and Nor (R & SW). Yellowthroat: Apr 28 (first), Owego (RW). Yellow-breasted Chat: May 14 (first), Bing (CH). Hooded Warbler: May 20, NV (LD), the only record. Wilson's Warbler: May 16 (first), WP (MS); only a few. Canada Warbler: May 6 (first), Dep (SW). Am. Redstart: Apr 28 (first), Dep (SW).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: one, May 4 (first), Bing (CH); particularly numerous this year at Homer (JG), NV (LD) and TC, but at Oxford "not so many" (AS). Western Meadowlark: one, Apr 27, Oakley's Corners, se of Newark Valley (HM, GC, VM); still there May 20 (R. Sheffield); first known record for the region. Baltimore Oriole: Apr 28 (first), Bing (C. Morehouse) and Owego (D. Williams); main influx May 5. Rusty Blackbird: May 20 (last), TC (NC). Scarlet Tanager: May 8 (first), Cortland (Stafford). Cardinal: reports of increases still received. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr 30 (first), Chenango Forks (M & AD). Indigo Bunting: May 10 (first), Cortland (Newman). Evening Grosbeak: almost all gone by May 20; May 30 (last), Endwell (LB), injured. Purple Finch: quite common Apr 25 to May 20; few still present at end of May; 116 banded at Dep during the period (SW). Pine Grosbeak: two, Apr 22 (last), Castle Creek (BB), banded. Redpoll: Apr 3, Sidney (FQ), only report after Mar 31. Pine Siskin, two, Apr 8 (first); 11 (max), Apr 10; two Apr 25 (last), Endwell, (E & NW); reported nowhere else. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 20 (first), TC (MS); main wave arrived Apr 28. Savannah Sparrow: quite a few. Grasshopper Sparrow: Apr 29 (first), TC (MS). Henslow's Sparrow: Apr 26 (first), TC (MS); reported increasing in Oneonta area (JN). Vesper Sparrow: 300 est. (Max), Apr 14, Bing (HM, GC). Slate-colored Junco: thick all during Apr; after May 12 uncommon. Oregon Junco: Apr 1, TC (MS); Apr 18 (last), Chenango Forks (M & AD), had been there most of winter. Tree Sparrow: Apr 29 (last), Vestal (SL), uncommon after Apr 22. Chipping Sparrow: Apr 12 (first), Castle Creek (BB); main wave Apr 21. White-crowned Sparrow: one, Apr 7 (first), Endwell (E & NW); May 29 (last), Sidney (FQ); practically all records between Apr 26 and May 19 with May 9 the peak date. White-throated Sparrow: present in large numbers from Apr 26 to May 12, few still present May 29. Fox Sparrow: Apr 2 to May 26 in good numbers; May 6 (last), Greene (C & JD). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 9, Bing (CH), until May 11; May 11, Oneonta (JN); May 14 and 16, Dep (SW), both banded. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 8 (first recorded date), TC (several observers).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The rainfall in Apr. was slightly above average, but the low snowfall of the winter precluded flooding of many areas, and the hot spell in May (which was an exceptionally arid month) completed the drying-up, causing one of the poorest late shorebird flights on record.

Two reports of Cattle Egrets involving six individuals is the largest spring invasion so far recorded. Nine Glossy Ibis is the biggest group ever noted in the Region, of this southern species that first bred in the state in 1961.

The fine goose flight continued until late Apr; both Blue and Snow were recorded, also the first Regional White-fronted Geese. The lack of flooded areas was reflected in the low counts of dabbling ducks, but those that were reported included the first Regional record of the European Teal.

The best-ever flight of Broadwings, totaling over 14,000 individuals, is detailed in the field-note section of this issue.

A White-eyed Vireo seen in Camillus Valley was another Regional first for the period.

More than the usual number of Worm-eating, Blue-winged, and Brewster's Warblers were reported (see below). That there was an outstanding wave of warblers and other passerines beginning May 13, reaching a peak May 14, and gradually tapering off in the next few days, so that most of the earlier migrants had left by May 20 (date of the 'big run'), is documented by the dates of maxima and departure for the various species. Most of these counts were made in Oakwood Cemetery by Meredith Estoff and Jean Probst, who fortunately were able to spend the morning of May 14 there.

The following abbreviations are used below: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area, SP — Sandy Pond, SSSP — Sle Kirk Shores State Park, TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area, L — Lake, Nr — near, Pd — pond, Arr — arrived, Syr — Syracuse, St. Pk — State Park.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: good flight L Ontario Apr 22-26 with 300 Apr 26 and 275 Apr 22; last May 25 SP. Red-throated Loon: two dead SP Apr 15 (M. Mathis) is only record. Double-crested Cormorant: one SP May 25 (M. Estoff-ME & J. Props-JP) is only report.

Common Egret: up to three seen irregularly at HIGMA during May (R. Bauer-RB). Little Blue Heron: adult nr Mohawk May 30 (G. Murphy & R. Woods-RW) is the 2nd spring record of recent years. Black-crowned Night Heron: only reports are singles, Cicero Swamp Apr 28 and HIGMA May 20. Cattle Egret: four nr Mexico Apr 28 (many observers) is the largest single party recorded in the Region to date; two nr Sterling May 2 (W. Foster fide B. Burt-BB). Arrival dates of other herons: Green Apr 28, Bittern Apr 27, and Least Bittern Apr 27 (early). Glossy Ibis: two HIGMA Apr 27 (F. Scheider-FS); nine nr Chittenango May 4 (D. Moyer) seen later the same day by BB, the largest group ever reported in the Region.

Canada Goose: max count HIGMA 10,000, high, (RB); max Beaver L 18,000 Apr 27 (FS), a record high count, down to 150 by May 6; numbers migrating over Rome increase annually (H. Aspinwell-HA) — several hundred were noted; six young reared at Stevens Pond nr Phoenix. White-fronted Goose: two adults (D. Gibson) Beaver L Apr 8 is a Regional 1st, altho there have been two recent records from Montezuma; present to Apr 13 (many observers). Blue Goose: two Beaver L Apr 8-9 (D. Peakall-DP). Snow Goose: one Beaver L Apr 20 (FS).

Counts of dabbling ducks were poor due to shortage of flooded lands. No counts of Mallard or Black over 100/day, but the former species had a good breeding season at HIGMA. Gadwell: unreported away from HIGMA; max there 25. Pintail: max 400 Chittenango Apr 8-15; last May 22. Green-winged Teal: max 60 Apr 8 Phoenix; pair present Stevens Pd to end of period. European Teal: a male HIGMA Apr 23 (FS) is a Regional 1st. Baldpate: max 100 HIGMA, low.

Bufflehead: max 101 Tully Apr 19. Oldsquaw: two interesting 'inland' records, 17 Tully Apr 19 (ME & JP) and 18 Hatch L on the very late date of May 7 (E. Reilly). White-winged Scoter: one probably crippled, nr Mohawk May 30 (RW).

Good flight of Red-breasted Merganser L Ontario: 2000-2500 noted on Apr 22, 25, and 26. Hooded Merganser: one TRGMA May 20; more information ist needed on the breeding of this species.

The details of the fine hawk flights in late Apr when over 15,000 hawks of 14 species were recorded are given in the field-note section. Goshawk: one Tully May 3 (JP). Rough-legged: two late records, one HIGMA May 15 (RB) and one Stevens Pd May 20 (W. Spofford-WS); this last date sets a new record. Broad-winged: last May 20 Camillus. 10 Ospreys in the 1st week of May nr Utica is a large number for that area (E. Curtis).

1st report of rails: Virginia May 4, Sora Apr 27, and Gallinule Apr 26 (late).

The early shorebird flight was moderate, but the early drying-up of many areas caused the late flight of shorebirds such as Ringed Plover, Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone to be poor. Ringed Plover: arr May 19, max five. Piping: not recorded. Black-bellied: four SP May 26 is only record. Turnstone: arr May 25, max four. Woodcock: total of 22 recorded in the Region on the 'big run' May 20. Snipe: arr Apr 2 Oneida. Upland Sandpiper: seven Derby Hill Apr 22 are 1st; courtship flight observed Cicero Apr 28; a pr at Ilion late May; five in 1 pasture nr Sherrill May 27. Spotted: arr Apr 24. Solitary: date range Apr 28-May 20, max three. Greater Yellowlegs: max 20 on Apr 24; last May 24. Lesser Yellowlegs: date range Apr 8-May 20; max five, low. Knot: not recorded. Pectoral: arr Apr 8; max 22 on May 5; last May 20. Least: 1st Apr 28, early; max 50 HIGMA May 19; last May 25. Dunlin: arr May 25; max 25 SP May 26. Semipalmated: arr May 25; max 15 SP May 26. Sanderling: one SP May 26 is only record.

John Belknap and Art Allen visited Long Island in Oneida L; they estimated the gull population there as 300 nests of Ring-billed and 11 of Herring Gull. Five years ago the counts, by the same observers, were 734 and five, respectively. Common Tern: arr Apr 23. Caspian Tern: few, late May SP. Black Tern: arr May 4.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 13, Black-billed May 17.

Barred Owl: recorded at the following sites — Cicero Swamp Apr 28, Pleasant L May 19, and HIGMA and n shore of Oneida L May 20. Saw-whet Owl: only record is one hand-caught and banded by BB in Syr Apr 7; in the last few years sufficient spring records of this species have been amassed to indicate, together with the absence of Jan and Feb reports, a Mar-May migration thru the Region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: arr Apr 26 Green L St Pk; about 8 heard around Oneida L early on May 20. Nighthawk: arr May 16, normal, Syr. Chimney Swift: first date is Apr 30 at the Mansion House, Kenwood, where there is a large roost which often has the earliest arrivals. Hummingbird: arr May 14, late, Oneida. Kingfisher: max migrants nine Derby Hill Apr 25.

Flicker: max flight 1000 passed Derby Hill by 10 AM Apr 22 (FS). Pileated: reported at HIGMA, TRGMA, Camillus, Tully, and Sherrill during the period. Red-bellied: only record one Plainville, where they are regularly present, first half of May. Red-headed: one during spring Sherrill; one each May 3 Tully (ME & JP); May 13 SSSP (E. Evans-EE); May 22 Stokes (HA); also one Oakwood Syr May 20 excavating a hole, not seen subsequently (M. Rusk-MR). Sapsucker: arr Apr 8 Oakwood: one still present Camillus May 20.

Phoebe: 30 migrants Apr 22 Derby Hill is a good count. Flycatcher arr: Kingbird Apr 29 SSSP; Crested Apr 29 Camillus; Alder May 13 (early) SSSP; Least May HIGMA; Pewee May 16 (late) Oakwood. Only migrant Yellow-bellieds Sherrill (D. Ackley-DA) and Brookfield (R. & S. White-R&SW) both May 30, and Olive-sided Oakwood May 24 (ME & JP) and Brookfield May 30 (R & SW). Tree Swallows, which arrived at Shackleton Pt the early date of Mar 20, were there by 100s Apr 15. Other swallow arr: Barn Apr 15 Shackleton; 15 Bank, 35 Rough-winged, and two Cliff all Apr 22, Derby Hill; Martin Apr 10 Skaneateles. Cliff Swallows, quite scarce elsewhere, are regularly to be found around Sherrill, Rome, and north into the Tug Hill region.

Black-capped Chickadee: migration max 275 passing Derby Hill during the morning Apr 28, probably part of the return flight corresponding to last fall's southward invasion. Boreal Chickadees: though several had been present during winter 1961-2, none were noted in the spring migration period. Tufted Titmouse: continues

to spread — one Fischer's Bay, Oneida L Apr 3 (ME & JP) and 15; Burt's Apr feeder survey listed two Brewerton (Theisen), also one Baldwinsville, two Oneida Apr 21 (DA); and one HIGMA May 1 (S. Hoyt-SH) and six — all locations in or near which there have been previous records, but these reports are becoming more regular.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 migrating past Derby Hill Apr 22 and 28, indicating a fair flight. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only a moderate flight with max four per day Oakwood May 16; 1st migrant Apr 20 Oakwood. Brown Creeper: largest migrating concentration reported is 22 (low) Apr 26 SSSP. House Wren: arr Apr 27 at several places in the Region. Winter Wren: migrant singing in Oakwood Apr 16 and 19; max migrants 10 SSSP Apr 26; last migrant Oakwood May 3 — no late-lingering one found May 20. Carolina Wren: one HIGMA, a new location, Apr 27 (FS); and one Clark Reservation, where it is intermittently present, May 17 (DP); not found this spring at Camillus where it was vigorously singing a year ago. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 4 May 4 two at Clay Swamp. Short-billed Marsh Wren: two singing at night early on May 20 in a long-grass marsh at Toad Harbor, n. shore Oneida L, where the species has not been found for several years; one still there May 28.

Robin: maxima 60 Apr 15, the total of two migrating flocks near Pompey, and 1000 passing Derby Hill Apr 22, bear out the general impression of good numbers this spring. Hermit Thrush: arr Apr 25, late, two Oakwood; max only 10/day Apr 28 SSSP. Wood: arr May 1 HIGMA. Olive-backed: arr May 13, one Oneida; max 10 Oakwood May 16 is only moderate; last migrant May 28 Oakwood. Gray-cheeked: noted only May 19 Camillus (FS et al). Veery: arr Apr 30 Oakwood.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: first two HIGMA May 1 (SH); 1 Plainville May 4 (M. Bitz-MB) — this may prove to be another breeding station along with the Camillus and HIGMA ones; high of three migrants Oakwood May 15; present at three separate locations Camillus and one HIGMA May 19.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: moderate highs of 40 Apr 19 Oakwood and 40 Apr 28 SSSP. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Mar 31 (early) Oakwood (DP); peak 100 May 11 Oakwood; last 40 May 14 Oakwood — none present May 20.

Pipit: high of 80 nr Pompey Apr 15; 25 Phoenix Apr. 28; last 10 Camillus May 6 — only a moderate flight. Northern Shrike: last one, Apr 8, late, Central Sq. (ME & JP). Loggerhead Shrike: singles reported Oneida Apr 5 (DA), Central Sq Apr 8 (ME & JP), SP Apr 10 (ME & JP), and SP May 20 (B. Peterson-BP).

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: one heard singing, then seen, in hawthorne bushes on Nose Hill above Camillus Valley May 6 (MR) is a Regional 1st. Yellow-throated: arr Apr 28, early, Derby Hill. Solitary: arr Apr 27 Oakwood; last migrant May 11 Oakwood; two Brookfield May 30 (R & SW) are doubtless breeders. Red-eyed: arr May 6, early, HIGMA (N. Smith-NS). Philadelphia: only reports two SSSP May 21 (FS) and one Oakwood May 22 and 24 (MR).

Black-and-white Warbler: three Camillus Apr 29 (first), max eight Oakwood May 14. Prothonotary: one on May 13 (first), SSSP (EE) where they have never before been noted; 2nd half of May a singing male at each of two locations nr Muskrat Bay Oneida Lake where they are regular. Worm-eating: an unusual number of migrants of this rare species — one SSSP Apr 29 (R. Williams et al), one SSSP May 12 (EE), one Oakwood May 12 (H. Ives et al) and May 13 (DP) — all **before** the May 14 wave.

Golden-winged: five Camillus May 6 (first); one migrant SSSP May 13 (EE); one Plainville from May 11 on (MB); on the Tug Hill fringes Golden-winged song was heard at a new location, near Colosse, May 25, (NE & JP) as well as again this year at Centerville, May 26; it would be interesting to know whether the Colosse bird was on territory or en route to a location still farther north. Blue-winged: one Camillus May 12 (DP) and another south of Camillus Valley May 20 (WS); some springs they go entirely unnoted. Brewster's: also more than the average number of reports — single migrants Thornden Pk Syr May 11 (R. Seaman-RS) and Oakwood May 15 (MR); one Camillus May 19 and 20 and one at another location there May 19 (FS et al); most interesting is one nr N. Victory May 31 (A & E Ulrich), as this is

near the edge of the known breeding range of the Golden-winged in that sector.

Tennessee: 1st two Oakwood May 14 (late); max 25, low, Oakwood May 15; May 31 Oakwood. Orange-crowned: only reports one Nose Hill Camillus May 6 (MR) and three there May 7 (ME & JP) — early. Nashville: arr Apr 30 Oakwood; max 60 May 14 Oakwood; last migrant May 19, Oakwood. Parula: arr May 6 HIGMA; max three, low, Oakwood May 11; last migrant Camillus May 19. Yellow: arr Apr 28 Morrisville (A. Carter-AC); 1st counts of this abundant species — 25 on Apr 29 Tully, 30 on Apr 29 Camillus, 20 on Apr 30 Oakwood, 50 on May 1 HIGMA.

Magnolia: arr Apr 28, early, Oakwood; max 20 Oakwood May 14; last migrant May 22 Oakwood. Cape May: arr May 11 (late) seven Oakwood; a notable max 25 there May 14; last May 25 Oakwood. Black-throated Blue: arr May 3 Kenwood; peak only eight Oakwood May 14. Myrtle: one Tully Apr 4 (JP) may have wintered, else a very early migrant; next noted, three Oakwood Apr 20; maxima of 80 Oakwood May 7 and SSSP May 14; last four migrants May 25 SP. Black-throated Green: arr Apr 29 Camillus; 20 in May 14 wave Oakwood is not high; last migrant May 26 SP. Cerulean: arr Apr 29 Camillus; 80 there May 13 (BP et al); by May 19 number was down to the usual breeding population of about 25. Blackburnian: arr May 8, late, Oakwood; max 15 there May 14; last migrant there May 25.

Chestnut-sided: arr May 5 Bolivar; max 25 Oakwood May 14; last migrants May 25 Oakwood and SP. Bay-breasted: 1st one came with wave Oakwood May 14 (late); max eight there May 15, quite low in comparison with other species in the wave; four SSSP May 26 (EE). Black-poll: not noted until May 18 Oakwood; max 30 there May 24; last Jun 11 SP (late). Pine: two arr at the regular breeding area, the white pine grove at SSSP, Apr 26; present since. Palm: only records one Derby Hill Apr 22 (FS), 1 HIGMA May 6 (NS), and one SSSP May 21 (EE). Ovenbird: arr Camillus May 6; max 22 Oakwood May 14. Northern Waterthrush: three arr Apr 28 Brookfield (R & SW); no migrating concentrations.

Mourning: arr May 14, four Oakwood; at breeding station Camillus May 19; one-two Oakwood thru May 24. Yellowthroat: arr Plainville May 4; Max 18 Oakwood May 14. Yellow-breasted Chat: Camillus birds not noted until May 19 when individuals were heard at three separate locations; migrants again reported May 17 Kenwood and May 20 Sherrill (both DA) — Where are these birds seen in May east of Oneida L going, or do they have an unknown breeding location nearby? Hooded: two on location May 19 Camillus and two heard SSSP May 20 where one regularly breeds; no other reports. Wilson's: arr Oakwood May 14; never more than one per day reported; last Kenwood May 30. Canada: 1st eight arr May 14 Oakwood; no higher migration counts. Redstart: 1st five arr May 5 Camillus; max 50 Camillus May 12, two days before the max for most warbler species.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: arr Apr 28 Cicero; common this spring, with nearly every suitable field containing one or more, in contrast with many years. Rusty Blackbird: date range Apr 1 Oneida to May 6 HIGMA; max 60/day Apr 22. Scarlet Tanager: arr May 6 Tully.

Cardinal: present in Morrisville, where it has been noted intermittently in the past, in late Apr (AC); still increasing around Rome (HA). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 6, late, Camillus. Evening Grosbeak: increased numbers at feeders and passing overhead Apr and 1st half of May, e.g. 30-SSSP May 12 (EE), as southward-wintering birds returned north; last migrants May 20 TRGMA (FS). Purple Finch: quite scarce this winter, but one finally arr Oakwood Apr 20; up to seven there first half of May, about normal.

Pine Grosbeak: despite their remarkable influx this winter, none were reported during the present period. Redpoll: flock of 30 Apr 3 Fischer's Bay, ME & JP) are the last. Pine Siskin: only report for the period is two SSSP Apr 26 (FS), in contrast with last year's big movement. Crossbills: no spring reports, also in contrast with a year ago.

Meadow sparrow arrivals: Savannah Apr 8 SSSP, (a migrating group of 22 near Pompey Apr 15 observed feeding in a plowed barnyard); Grasshopper Apr 22 Skaneateles, RS) quite early; Henslow's Apr 28 Cicero; Vesper Apr 3 Fischer's Bay. Grasshopper have been present at several locations; near Skaneateles, on Nose Hill Camil-

lus, Stevens Pond Phoenix, and TRGMA. Henslow's are common — one or more to be heard in nearly every suitable field around Cicero and Phoenix.

Tree Sparrow: Last reported May 1 Taberg (HA). **Slate-colored Junco:** a fair-sized migration with max 350 Apr 19 Tully; last migrant May 17 Oakwood; one SP May 25 might be a local breeder. **Oregon Junco:** a brightly colored individual, suggesting at first glance a miniature Towhee, present with Slate-colored Oakwood Apr 7-9 (MR et al).

White-crowned Sparrow: a small and brief flight — arr May 3 Oneida (M. Felle-MF); max 30 SSSP May 11 (EE); last two Oakwood May 17 (DP); none present May 20. **White-throated:** 1st migrants reported Apr 9 Rome (HA); max 200 Oakwood Apr 30 is a good number; last migrants TRGMA May 20; one heard singing Centerville May 26 (J. Peterson and MR) might be a breeding bird. **Fox:** arr Apr 1, two Kenwood (Paquettes); numbers low with max four Oneida Apr 2 (MF); noted singing Oakwood Apr 11, 16, 20 (MR); last Apr 26, one SSSP (FS). **Lincoln's:** unreported this spring. **Swamp:** not generally noted until Apr 19-21, (late). **Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting:** unreported during present period despite good numbers in Mar. — Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

April started with several inches of wet snow which soon melted. April 14-15 brought more snow. May was mild and very dry. May 14-20 was very hot. Foliage appeared early on the trees which made warblers hard to locate. There were no spectacular warbler waves noted this spring, but at least six species were seen May 13. A total of 159 species appeared on the May census list.

Abbreviations used are PRGMA for the Robertson Flats, dike and Anthony Farm section of the Perch Lake Game Management Area in Jefferson County and WHGMA for the Wilson Hill Game Management Area and vicinity, this is on the St. Lawrence River seven miles from Massena.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: Apr 15, Pillar Pt. Double-crested Cormorant: Apr 22 in Lake Ontario. Great Blue Heron: seems more numerous this spring, several at PRGMA. Cattle Egret: three in grassy field by a dairy barn near WHGMA 6 (Wolk). Black-crowned Night Heron: at WHGMA May 6 and at PRGMA late May. Canada Geese seemed more numerous than usual. Several flocks of 40-60 were seen flying over Apr 1-28. Mallard, Black Duck and Green-winged Teal: WHGMA May 6. Blue-winged Teal were numerous. Redhead: at least 12 at PRGMA in late May. Ringed-necked Duck: WHGMA May 6. A few Bufflehead were reported.

Hawks — Owls: Red-shouldered Hawk: A nest found Apr 27 near Felts Mills contained two young and an egg on June 9. Bald Eagle: an Immature at PRGMA May 8, an adult at El Dorado May 24 (Allen). Osprey: one at PRGMA Apr 26. Sparrow Hawk: numerous the middle of Apr. Semi-palmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs were at El Dorado May 24. Knot: two at El Dorado May 19. Least Sandpiper: many, El Dorado May 19. Dunlin: three El Dorado May 24. Black Tern: at PRGMA and WHGMA. They are less numerous at Beaver Meadows than a few years ago.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawks: first about May 18. Chimney Swifts: May 5 Watertown, May 6 WHGMA. Kingbird: May 5 Watertown. Phoebe: a nest found May 12 contained two Phoebe eggs and three Cowbird eggs (Gordon). Least Flycatcher: May 5. Tree Swallow: first Apr 9, they seemed numerous this year. Bank Swallow: first Apr 27, about as many nesting as last year. Cliff Swallow: May 6 WHGMA. Purple Martin: Apr 27, seem less numerous this year (Allen). Mockingbird: May 26 near Watertown (Gordon). At least two other persons have reported a Mockingbird in about the same place. Hermit Thrush: Apr 22 in Watertown is early. Bluebird: 12 seen in Watertown Apr 1 when the ground was covered with snow. A nest was found near Gouverneur and another near Carthage. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May 6 at WHGMA. Water Pipit: Apr 18 Pillard Pt., and later at WHGMA.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: Apr 29. Warbling Vireo: May 5. Red-eyed Vireo: May 12. Black-and-White Warbler: Apr 29. Orange-crowned Warbler: one near Clayton. Nashville Warbler: May 6 at Watertown Center and at WHGMA. Magnolia Warbler: May 14. Black-throated Blue Warbler; Apr 29. Myrtle Warbler: Apr 25 at PRGMA, became numerous later. Blackburnian: May 29. Chestnut-sided: May 6. Palm: May 10. Ovenbird: May 13. Northern Waterthrush: May 12 at Natural Bridge. Mourning Warbler: May 20. Yellowthroat: May 12 Canton. Canada Warbler: May 13. Red-start May 13.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: May 6 WHGMA. Baltimore Oriole: May 6 WHGMA. Rusty Blackbird: May 6. Scarlet Tanager: May 13. Cardinal: at least four singing males in or near Watertown. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 13. Indigo Bunting: May 18. Evening Grosbeaks: numbers began to decrease about May 11, last seen at Allen's feeder May 21. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 28 at Watertown. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 15, early. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 7 near Waetrtown, early. White-crowned Sparrow: several seen May 2-15. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 23. Slate-colored Junco: numerous. — 173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

A very marked slow warming trend kept winter snows in considerable depth throughout the greater part of our mountain area. Snow accumulations were slightly below normal. As late as the first week of May considerable fields of snow could be found lying on the northerly slopes, in deeper ravines and under the conifer cover. Frosting continued in the lower areas, broken by a three day 'heat-wave' in the second week of May, then night temperatures of high 30's and low 40's were the rule rather than the exception, to the end of the period.

Probably due to these sub-normal temperatures, which did not encourage abundant insect life, there were no spectacular invasions of insectivores. It was rather, a slow casual somewhat timid infiltration, although Spofford reported considerable immigration on May 14 in the southern part of the region. Some boreal species were here one day and totally absent the next. Nesting, therefore, by summer migrants got off to a late start. The migration of warblers was spotty but the vireos were very numerous and of wide variety. Thrushes arrived late and in low numbers. Of great local comment were the myraids of Slate-colored Juncos, nearly everywhere and by thousands. Probable Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported from Trembleau. Woodcock arrived early at Raybrook, and Ruddy Turnstone and Western Sandpiper were reported at Chazy.

To sum up the reporting period; continued very cold weather, slow snow run-off, no peak dates, poor birding. However, at the end of the period most species that could be expected had been observed.

The following initials are used for regular observers: — AA-Miss A. Amstutz, HD-Mrs. H. Delafield, D-Mrs. Delahanty, MK-Dr. M. Kingsbury, TL-T. Lesperance, FS-F. Sibley.

Here I must mention that Mr. F. C. Sibley will be moving from the William Minor Foundation Agriculture Institute to a new teaching position on Long Island. We will lose a very able observer and he will be sorely missed. Best of luck, Fred, and please keep in touch. Abberivations used: — Arrived-arr; Lake-L; River-R.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: Tupper L. Apr 21-30 (MK); L. Colby, May 9 (HD). Red-throated Loon: Tupper L, May 2 (MK). Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 1-30, Tupper L. Horned Grebe: Apr 19 Tupper L. Great Blue Heron: arr Chazy Apr 1 (FS); Keesville Apr 10 (TL). Green Heron: Chazy, May 19. Black-crowned Night Heron :Chazy, May 19 (FS). Bittern: noted about Apr 30, Sunmount (AA); Saranac May 3 and 14.

Blue Geese: two Apr 1, 14 and 25. Snow Geese: nine Apr 1 at the mouth of the big Chazy River (FS). Canada Geese: 1000+ Apr 1 I. Alice; Keji reports flocks up to 500 at Raybrook from Apr 26 to May 10; small flocks of 5-15 moving through the Tupper area from Apr 2-May 11.

Good variety, if not large numbers of ducks were noted in all reporting areas.

The Kingbird

Black, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Goldeneye and Bufflehead were noted at Tupper L May 2-9 (D). Better than usual numbers of Wood Ducks and Bufflehead were noted by AA. Ring-necked Duck: 18, mainly paired, Saranac R, May 12 (HD). In the Chazy area, Mallard, Black, Pintail, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Baldpate, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Goldeneye and Bufflehead were reported. Hooded, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were noted from all areas.

Hawks — Owls: In the Keeseville area several Goshawks were seen throughout the reporting period (TL). Cooper's Hawk: seen both at Keeseville and Chazy May 1. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one, Franklin Co. Apr 11 (HD); one, Raybrook Apr 15 (Keji). Red-shouldered Hawk: pair in residence, L Alice, Apr 8 (FS). Rough-legged Hawk: one, Chazy Apr 22 (FS). Bald Eagle: one was constantly seen in the Plattsburg-Willsboro-Elizabethtown-Peru quadrant since the start of the period. It is hopeful that this bird may have nested somewhere within these confines (TL). Other records are — Tupper Apr 3 to May 25 (D) and an immature, Chazy, Apr 21 (FS). Marsh Hawk: Tupper Lake Apr 1-25 (D); northern Franklin Co. Apr 11 and near Saranac L, early May (HD); Raybrook, May 5; Chazy Apr 1. Osprey: present at Tupper L Apr 10 to end of period; Miss Amstutz found an Osprey's nest with one young; present at Raybrook to May 20; at Keeseville May 4 and at Chazy May 6. Pigeon Hawk: one, northern Franklin Co. Apr. 11.

Gallinule: one, Chazy, May 19 & 27. Woodcock: reported at Raybrook on Apr 2 (MK), while snow was on the ground; one taking a dust bath in the middle of the road, Union Falls, Apr 14 (HD); present at Chazy Apr 15; Tupper L Apr 30 and three at Saranac L May 10. Snipe: Tupper, May 19. Spotted Sandpiper: Saranac L May 12 and Tupper L May 13. A good list of shorebirds was obtained by FS at the mouth of the Big Chazy R. Semipalmated Plover: one, May 19; 15 May 27. Ruddy Turnstone: 10 May 27. Greater Yellowlegs: ten May 27. Lesser Yellowlegs: one May 27. Pectoral: 10-15 May 16 & 19. Least: five May 19; one May 27. Dunlin: five May 27. Dowitcher: 30-40 May 16; none May 19. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 5-10 May 27. Western Sandpiper: one May 27.

Herring Gulls had worked inland from L Champlain as far as Tupper L by Apr 1 (MK); Keji noted them at Raybrook on Apr 9. Both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls had started laying on the islands in L Champlain by May 15. Common and Black Tern were reported near Chazy from May 19-27 (FS). Black Tern: two-seven Tupper May 22, 23, 28 and 31. Both Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoo: May 29 Saranac.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will May 5 (first) (Kains). Nighthawk: Arr Chazy May 19; Tupper May 25. Chimney Swift: one at Raybrook May 1 (early arrival); reported at Saranac May 8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Arr May 13, Little Simon Pond and immediately hovered in front of the spot where the feeder had been the previous year (X.B. Read, W. Spofford). Kingfisher: some wintered, numbers increased by Apr 20 (HD).

Flicker: Arr Saranac May 5. Sapsucker: Arr Tupper Apr 19. Kingbird: Arr Saranac May 8; Keeseville May 12. Crested Flycatcher: arr Keeseville May 12; Saranac May 19. Phoebe: arr Apr 10 Keeseville. Trail's Flycatcher: Saranac May 19. Least Flycatcher: arr Saranac May 8; Keeseville May 13. Wood Pewee: arr Saranac May 20. Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Saranac May 20.

Tree Swallows: arr Saranac Apr 9; Keeseville Apr 11; several thousand reported at Chazy Apr 15 — 24. Barn Swallow: arr Chazy Apr. 25; Saranac Apr 28. Cliff Swallow: active nest sites reported at Chazy; Horseshoe L (Franklin Co) and Sabatis. Although still not common this species appears to be making a comeback. It would be of interest to record all active breeding sites. Purple Martin: arr Keeseville May 11. Canada Jay: near Little Tupper L Apr 20. Brown-capped Chickadee: two Saranac, Apr 17; one May 28. Both White and Red-breasted Nuthatch were in the Saranac-Tupper area on May 2. House Wren: arr Keeseville Apr 26; Saranac Apr 30. Winter Wren: at Saranac Apr 15. Long-billed Marsh Wren: present Saranac May 20. Short-billed Marsh Wren: Chazy May 27. Catbird: arr Keeseville May 13; Saranac May 14. Brown Thrasher: arr Chazy May 5.

Robin: arr Sunmount and Saranac Apr 1. Wood Thrush: arr Raybrook May 14; Chazy May 17. Hermit Thrush: one Raybrook Apr 16 then not seen again until May 12; first Chazy May 19. Swainson's Thrush: Chazy May 27. Veery: arr Raybrook May 11; Chazy May 17. Bluebird: Chazy Apr 22 and Saranac May 23.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: small flocks, Saranac Apr 20-21 (HD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Chazy Apr 22. Water Pipit: 18, unusually good record, May 9; two May 10 and 16 May 11; Raybrook May 11 (Keji). Loggerhead Shrike: many records in the Saranac area in Apr (HD). Northern Shrike: Chazy Apr 8 & 14 (FS).

Vireos — Warblers: Blue-headed Vireo: arr Saranac May 15. Red-eyed Vireo: Saranac May 15; Chazy May 19. Warbling Vireo: arr Keeseville May 11. Black & White Warbler: at Chazy May 19 and Tupper May 20. Tennessee: at Chazy & Saranac May 19. Nashville: Saranac May 15; Chazy May 27. Parula: arr Saranac May 18, seen near last years' nest May 27 (HD). Yellow: Saranac May 9. Magnolia: arr Saranac May 15; Chazy May 19. Black-throated Blue: Saranac May 18. Myrtle: arr Saranac Apr 27. Black-throated Green: Paul Smiths May 7, back in numbers at Saranac by May 16. Bay-breasted: Saranac May 17. Blackburnian: Saranac May 16; Chazy May 19. Chestnut-sided: Saranac May 14; Chazy May 19. Ovenbird: one Saranac May 16. Northern Waterthrush: Saranac May 16; Chazy May 19. Mourning Warbler: arr Saranac May 17. Yellowthroat: Saranac May 13. Canada: Saranac May 13. Redstart: Saranac May 13; Chazy May 19.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: arr Sunmount and Chazy May 14, 20; Saranac May 16. Baltimore Oriole: arr Keeseville May 15, Saranac May 17. Grackle: large numbers at Saranac in late Apr. Scarlet Tanager: L Alice May 16; Saranac May 17. At Trembleau Mt. on Apr 21, 17 grosbeaks were seen 'budding' in an elm tree. Upon observation they appeared to be Black-headed Grosbeaks. An attempt to collect a specimen was unsuccessful so the record is only probable since I am unfamiliar with the species (TL). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Saranac May 15. Indigo Bunting: arr L Alice May 19. Evening Grosbeak: at Saranac the last flock of ten May 19; last pair, May 24; still present at the end of period at L Alice. Purple Finch: Keeseville Apr 27, reported as very late returning at Saranac, 17 (peak number) May 7. Redpoll: Keeseville Apr 2; L Alice Apr 5. Pine Siskin: near Port Kent May 19. Goldfinch: arr Chazy Apr 21; Saranac May 5. Red Crossbill: Apr 22 Raybrook (Keji).

Savannah Sparrow: Keeseville Apr 3. Vesper Sparrow: back early Apr, Saranac. Tree Sparrow: good numbers through Apr at Saranac, last, May 9. Chipping: arr L Alice Apr 22; Keeseville and Raybrook Apr 28. Field: Keeseville Apr 5. White-crowned: arr Saranac Apr 30; max. ten May 9; last May 23. White-throated: arr Saranac Apr 26. Fox Sparrow: reported Apr 1-26, more records than usual (HD). Song Sparrow: peak during period, 24, Apr 2, migration about over by Apr 22. Snow Bunting: Saranac Apr 4 (last). Lapland Longspur: in early April every flock of Horned Larks had three — five Longspurs mixed within, there was probably several hundred Longspurs in the area. Keeseville.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

April weather statistically was close to normal. However most of the rainfall occurred during the first half of the month with the result that dry weather set in rapidly and from the 17th through the 28th it became increasingly dry. During this period unusually windy days with low humidity produced a very serious fire hazard and many forest and grass fires developed. The highest temperature of the month, 91°, occurred on the 27th, the lowest of 21° on the 4th and the average for the month was 47.0°, +0.8° above normal. Precipitation totaled 3.25", or 0.48" above normal. May was one of the driest months on record with total precipitation of 1.40", or 2.07" below normal. Soil moisture was well below normal at the close of the month and crops and gardens were showing definite need of rain. Lawns were beginning to show brown. Scattered frost occurred in the area on the 10th and 12th when many areas suffered widespread damage to early plants. There was a heat wave May 18-20 with record high temperatures. All in all it was a warm dry spring.

The last few days of March caused some species to come north the first week in April, much earlier than usual. After this things reverted back to normal with another period of influx during the last week of the month. May waves were by and large non-existent with peaks and troughs pretty much leveled off. The only excep-

tion to this apparently occurred on May 15 when many observers reported great numbers of migrating warblers, etc., passing through. Region 8 was briefly invaded by Cattle Egrets, apparently splinter groups from those moving up the Middle Atlantic and New England coasts. Rare unusual, or uncommon species reported during this period, in addition to the Cattle Egrets, were: Snowy Egret, European Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Red-shafted Flicker, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak.

Abbreviations used: — Alan Devoe Bird Club-ADBC; Greene County Bird Club-GCBC; Schenectady Bird Club-SBC; Black Creek Marshes-BICr Marsh; Niskayuna Widewaters-Nisk Nw; Road-Rd; County-Co.; River-R.

Loons — Ducks: Loon: one Apr 6, Saratoga Lake before all the ice was gone out (Donald J. Tucker-DJT): 14 May 19 at Alcove Res (Walton B. Sabin-WBS, R. F. Korn, H. Ingraham, P. P. Wickham-PPW). Red-thr. Loon: one May 19, Alcove Res (WBS et al). Horned Grebe: two Apr 2, Vly Creek Res (Mary L. Shedd-MLS); six May 6, Niskayuna Widewaters (Gus Angst-GA, Esly Hallenbeck-EH). Pied-b. Grebe: two Apr 4 Stony Creek Res (Hazel Eddy-HE); one Apr 4 BI Cr Marsh (MLS). Great Blue Heron: one Apr 4 Hudson (Henry Thurston-HT). Common Egret: ten May 15 at Catskill (James H Bush-JHB). Snowy Egret: one May 4 at Nisk Ww (EH). Cattle Egret: 12 Apr 26 at Claverack (HT); 20 Apr 30 at Selkirk (Helen Budlong); 14 May 1 Scotia (EH); two May 12 at S. Schdack (George Mesick); newspaper reports indicated possibly as many as 40 birds were in the Glens Falls area in Apr-probably this species, judging by sketchy descriptions. Green Heron: one Apr 27 at Ghent (Georgia Erlenbach-GE). Black-cr, Nt. Heron: one May 5 Claverack (HT). Am. Bittern: one May 5 at BI Cr Marsh (MLS). Canada Goose: 23 Apr 4 Nick Ww (HE); heavy flights on Apr 22, 23 (many observers); 1500+ May 20 at Claverack (HT). Snow Geese: 50 Apr 4 at Stockport (Marjorie Foote-MF); 25 Apr 6 Stockport (fide HT); four Apr 7 at Round L and 100+ at Glens Falls (fide Marcia Kent-MK); 40+ Apr 8 at Cohoes (fide WBS); 11 Apr 19 at Crescent Bridge (fide MK). Black Duck: nest with nine eggs Apr 26 at Karner Rd in Colonie (John Fuller-JF). Am. Widgeon: six Apr 19 at BI Cr Marsh (Phil Clark, EH). Pintail: one May 6 Stony Creek Res (DJT). Green-w Teal: one May 19 on Century Run (SBC). European Teal: one Apr 5 at Vischer Ferry (DJT); "this single bird was in company with Green-w Teal, the horizontal wing stripe readily seen, observed at distances of 20 yards for about 15 minutes, was apparently courting the same female as a male Green-w Teal"; first record of this species for region 8. Shoveler: two Apr 21 at Vosburgh marsh, Coxsackie (GCBC). Redhead: two May 19 Vly Creek Res, these may not have been stocked birds (WBS et al). Ring-nk Duck: one May 6 Stony Creek Res (DJT). Canvasback: two Apr 4 Stony Creek Res (HE, EH). Greater Scaup: one identified out of flock of 30 scaup Apr 6 Saratoga L (DJT). Lesser scaup: one May 6 Stony Creek Res (EH). Scaup Duck, Species (?): one female May 27 Sacandaga Res (WBS, Robert Shedd). Common Goldeneye: seven Apr 25 Alcove Res (MK). Barrow's Goldeneye: adult male Apr 20 Saratoga L (MLS). Bufflehead: six Apr 6 Saratoga L (DJT); six May 6 at Nisk. Ww (EH). Oldsquaw: one May 6 Nisk Ww (WBS et al). White-w. Scoter: one May 6 Stony Creek Res (EH). Surf Scoter: two May 6 Stony Creek Res (GA, EH). Red-br Merganser: four Apr 4 Vischer Ferry (EH); eight May 6 at Nisk Ww (WBS et al).

Hawks — Owls: Black Vulture: group of 12 seen May 18 near Casleton (Lee Burland-LB), who is thoroughly familiar with this species. Goshawk: one Apr 8 & 21 at Old Chatham (LB, E. M. Reilly-EMR); the latter bird was observed to strike, kill and eat a Ruffed Grouse. Red-should. Hawk: one Apr 15 Stony Creek Res. (EH). Broad-w. Hawk: one in Columbia Co. Apr 6 (ADBC). Rough-leg. Hawk: last one May 12 Old Chatham (Fed. of N Y St Bird Clubs). Bald Eagle: one Apr 18 at Hudson (HT); one May 6 at Medusa (MK). Osprey: one Apr 7 (first) near Stockport (SBC). Virginia Rail: one Apr 8 (first) BI Cr Marsh (MLS). Sora: two Apr 27 BI Cr Marsh (PPW, Beverly Waite-BW). Com. Gallinule: one Apr 28 BI Cr Marsh (PPW et al). Coot: one Apr 21 BI Cr Marsh (MLS); one May 12 Vischer Ferry (Mabel W. French). Semipalmated Plover: one May 19 Niskayuna (Alice Holmes). Black-bell. Plover: one May 1 Nisk Ww (HE, EH). Com. Snipe: peak around May 6 when 10 were seen and flushed at Nisk Ww. (DJT et al). Upland Plover: first one Apr Delmar (fide WBS). Spotted Snodpiper: generally reported first Apr 29. Solitary Sandpiper: one Apr 28 BI Cr Marsh (WBS, PPW). Greater Yellowlegs: three Apr 29

Ghent (C. Mapes). Lesser Yellowlegs: three Apr 20 along the Mohawk R (DJT). Pectoral Sandpiper: one May 6 Nisk Ww. (WBS et al). White-rump. Sandpiper: one Apr 28 at Catskill (GCBC). Least Sandpiper: one May 5 Nisk Ww. (MF). Dunlin: one Apr 5 BI Cr Marsh (HE). Semipalm. Sandpiper: one May 19 Nisk Ww. (L. Stoner). Western Sandpiper: five May 19 Nisk Ww. (MF, EH). Black-b Gull: a late first year bird May 6 Nisk Ww. (WBS et al). Bonaparte's Gull: three Apr 2 on Mohawk R. (EH); one May 6 Nisk Ww. (DJT et al). Com. Tern: one Apr 29 Nisk Ww. (DJT). Black Tern: three May 9 at Lock 7 (PC, EH). Yellow-b Cuckoo: one May 3 (first) Ghent (GE). Black-b Cuckoo: one May 11 (first) Catskill (JHB). Barn Owl: one found shot Apr 23 at Karner Rd, Colonie (JF); one May 18 in old church tower in Claverack (HT). Saw-whet Owl: Apr 20 to May 2 Karner Rd, Colonie (JF).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: one May 7 near Westerlo (MK). Night-hawk: three Apr 9 (early) Duaneburg (HE); one Apr 23 & 27 Westerlo (MK). Chimney Swift: Apr 21 Ghent (GE). Hummingbird: one May 6 Loudonville (M. W. French). Red-shafted Flicker: one May 5 at Preston Hollow (fide V. Haskins). Red-head. Woodpecker: one May 19 at Indian Ladder (B. Hicks). Yellow-b Sapsucker: four Apr 9 in Columbia Co (ADBC). Kingbird: one Apr 8 Lawrenceville, Greene Co (JHB); one May 1 Ghent (GE). Crested Flycatcher: two Apr 26 & 30 near Westerlo (MK); one May 1 Ghent (GE). Yellow-b Flycatcher: one May 4 Nisk Ww. (EH). Trail's Flycatcher: several May 18 BI Cr Marsh (BW). Least Flycatcher: two May 5 Old Chatham (PPW). Wood Pewee: one Apr 1 (early) Catskill (JHB); one Apr 21 Ghent (GE); one Apr 29 River Rd., Nisk. (SBC). Olive-s Flycatcher: one May 12 Old Chatham (ADBC); one May 19 at Nassau and near Voorheesville (BS, WBS et al, respectively); one May 22 Catskill (JHB).

Bank Swallow: several May 6 Nisk Ww. (PPW et al). Barn Swallow: one Apr 12 Ghent (GE); one Apr 14 Saratoga L (SBC). Cliff Swallow: one May 12 Burnt Hills (MF). Purple Martin: seven Apr 29 River Rd., Nisk. (SBC). Boreal Chickadee: two Apr 13 (last) near Rensselaerville (fide WBS); one remained until Apr 24 at Broderick St., Colonie (JF). House Wren: one Apr 26 Catskill (JHB); generally reported Apr 27. Winter Wren: one Apr 20 Karner Rd., Colonie (JF); singing male May 11 at Indian Ladder where it usually nests (WBS); at least two singing males May 27 at Crane Mt., Warren Co (WBS, R. Shedd). Long-b Marsh Wren: several Apr 28 BI Cr Marsh (WBS et al). Mockingbird: in Apr at Ghent and Claverack (GE, HT respect.); one May 17 Catskill (JHB); one May 25 to 31 S. Schodack (ADBC). Catbird: one present all winter, Dec. 6 to Apr 27, when migrants arrived, Broderick St. Colonie (JF). Brown Thrasher: one Apr 26 Ghent (GE). Wood Thrush: one Apr 3 (early) Old Chatham (EMR); one Apr 24 Durham (V. Haskins); one May 2 Defreestville (PPW). Hermit Thrush: one Apr 25 Schenectady (DJT). Swainson's Thrush: May 19 in Albany Co (SBC). Veery: one May 4 Kiskaton (JHB). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one May 4 near New Salem (fide WBS); one May 6 River Rd., Niskayuna (GA, EH); two May 22 Mossy Hill Rd, Catskill (JHB). Golden-cr Kinglet: one May 27 Crane Mt., Warren Co where it may nest (RS, WBS). Ruby-cr Kinglet one May 14 Ghent (GE). Water Pipit: 30 Apr 5 BI Cr Marsh (MLS); May 4 (last) at Ghent (GE). Loggerhead Shrike: one Apr 3 near Westerlo (MK); one Apr 6 at Albany airport (DJT).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-th Vireo: one May 5 Burnt Hills (MF). Solitary Vireo: one Apr 24 Schenectady (HE, EH). Red-eyed Vireo: May 12 (first) Old Chatham (ADBC). Warbling Vireo: two Apr 29 Vischer Ferry (DJT).

Warbler arrival dates were as follows: Black & White: Apr 27 at Red Rock (M. Smilow); Worm-eating: May 11 Indian Ladder (WBS). Golden-winged: May 6 generally. Blue-winged: May 5 Ghent (GE). Brewster's: May 12 Indian Ladder (SBC). Tennessee: May 14 Ghent (GE). Nashville: Apr 29 Defreestville (PPW). Parula: Apr 28 Slingerlands (PPW). Yellow: Apr 1 (early) Catskill (JHB); Apr 16 at Nassau (B. Shineman). Magnolia: May 11 at Vly Creek Res (WBS). Cape May: May 6 River Rd Nisk. (GA) and Defreestville (PPW). Black-thr Blue: Apr 30 Catskill (JHB). Myrtle: Apr 24 BI Cr Marsh (MLS). Black-thr Green: May 4 Troy (PPW). Blackburnian: Apr 29 River Rd., Nisk. (DJT). Chestnut-s: May 6 River Rd., Nisk. (GA). Bay-br: May 10 Catskill (JHB). Blackpoll: May 19 Claverack (HT) and Indian Ladder (MLS). Pine: Apr 26 Old Chatham (LB). Prairie: May 7 Catskill (JHB). Palm: Apr 24 BI Cr Marsh (MLS). Ovenbird: Apr 29 near New Salem (fide WBS). Nor. Waterthrush: Apr 29 River Rd., Nisk. (DJT). La. Waterthrush: Apr 18

Red Rock (MS). Kentucky: May 16 & 19 Ghent (GE). Connecticut: May 6 Old Chatham (ADBC). Yellowthroat: Apr 29 Catskill (JHB). Yellowlbr Chat: two May 19 Bl Cr Marsh (WBS et al). Wilson's: May 5 Catskill (JHB). Canda: May 12 Old Chatham (ADBC). Redstart: May 1 Ghent (GE).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: one May 2 Bl Cr. Marsh (JF). Orchard Oriole: one Apr 29 Catskill (E. Rusack); pair May 12 on, started nest building May 19 at Castleton (J. Cook). Baltimore Oriole: one Apr 19 Schenectady (HE). Rusty Blackbird: one May 11 Wolf Hollow (MF). Scarlet Tanager: one May 5 Slingerlands (WBS). Summer Tanager: one May 6 Embough, Catskill (GCBC). Rose-br Grosbeak: one Apr 29 Ghent (GE). Blue Grosbeak: one adult male May 6 Delmar (fide, A. H. Benton); one first year male May 21 near New Salem fide (WBS). Indigo Bunting: one Apr 25 Durham (V. Haskins); one Apr 26 Catskill (JHB). Evening Grosbeak: last one recorded May 22 in Columbia Co (ADBC). Redpoll: one Apr 28 Bl Cr Marsh (BW et al); one May 19 L. Taghkanic (T. Brown). Pine Siskin: six May 17 Castleton (LB). Towhee: one Apr 3 Old Chatham (EMR).

Savannah Sparrow: one Apr 3 Old Chatham (EMR). Grasshopper Sparrow: one May 6 Castleton (LB). Henslow's Sparrow: several May 6 Bl Cr Marsh (WBS et al). Slate-col. Junco: last migrant May 14 in most areas. Oregon Junco: the wintering bird reported last period remained until Apr 14 at Broderick St., Colonie (JF). Tree Sparrow: last one May 8 Old Chatham (EMR). White-cr Sparrow: one immature Apr 2 Schenectady (HE); one Apr 17 Chatham (E. La Pointe); Last seen May 22 in Columbia Co (ADBC). White-thr Sparrow: several Apr 9 Albany (L. Novak). Fox Sparrow: one May 25 (very late) Catskill (JHB). Lincoln's Sparrow: one Apr 15 (only report) Catskill (JHB). — 652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The Warming trend that started in March continued into April to make this one of the more pleasurable springs of recent years. When winter cold departed, it remained departed. In precipitation, April was near normal, but May was very dry. Weather-wise, conditions were relatively constant which probably accounts for the broad, steady flow of migrant birds without a real peak noted. Fred Hough calls the season "unexciting", and Bob Deed refers to it as "dull". It was not without its exciting moments, however, if not in numbers then in "finds". The Gnatcatcher population is like never before with reports from every county but Ulst and Putn. Loons, northern ducks and northern finches lingered extremely long and the Cattle Egret was reported more often than before.

**Abbreviations used in this report are: each county-first four letters, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester; island-Is; Reservoir-res; Mearn's Bird Club-MBC; Waterman Bird Club-WBC; Rockland Audubon Society-RAS.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: Arrived on time throughout the area, but lingered late; two on Highland Res. near Middletown, Oran, May 8, (Iris Dean-ID); two, on Tomahawk Lake near Washingtonville, Oran, May 19 (MBC); two on Cross River Res., West. (Stanley O Grierson-SOG); one on Washington Lake, Newburgh (Martha Earl-ME). Red-throated Loon: Always a rarity in the region; one at Kay's Pond, Pleasant Valley, Dutch on Apr 15 (O. Waterman-OW); first record in Dutch in ten years. Red-necked Grebe: one at Upton Lake, Dutch on Apr 1 (F. Germond-FG). Pied-billed Grebe: normal numbers, arrived late in Dutch; heard calling throughout Apr on the Basher Kill, Sull (ID); an adult with ten young observed there (Margaret Dye-MD) and (B. Peters) (no date). Double-crested Cormorant: one at Crugers Is, Dutch May 12, (Brother Michael-BM), always rare. Great Blue Heron: three pair nesting in Dutch (WBC). Cattle Egret: one in full breeding plumage at Viola, Rock, May 1-4 (J. LeMaire); two at Bedford Hills, West, May 16-20 (SOG). Common Egret: one at Harvey School, Katonah May 8 (Mrs. L. Smith); an unusual bird for the area in spring. Green Heron: numbers seem to be down (WBC). Black-crowned Night Heron: usual arrival in Dutch at Crugers Is, three birds. American Bittern: two reported from Dutch, one Apr 13 (T. Haight-TH); one Apr 20 (BM). Least Bittern: one May 7, Basher Kill (ID) and another, same place, May 26 (MBC). Mute Swan: nine on Tomahawk Lake Apr 7 (MBC); population generally up throughout region. Canada Goose: Heavy migration third week of Apr; many reports of migrant

flocks, some quite late, May 21 for Ulst and May 21-25 for Oran. This species bred again in Oran for the second year, and also in West; three young were observed with their parents at Stillwell Lake, USMA (J & MD); the same number were at Cross River Res (SOG). Snow Goose: two flocks (700 birds), Apr 5, Dover Plains, Dutch (G. Decker). Brant: many reports, particularly heavy flights May 18, 20, 22 (WBC-MBC). Resident ducks seemed normal in numbers. Green-winged Teal: one remained through May at Pine Plains, Dutch (V. Parkhurst). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 28 (early date) Congers Lake, Rock (Dr. Marjorie Hopper-MH). Wood Duck: Population good throughout region. Scaup: stayed late, May 11 Basher Kill (ID); through June 2 Tomahawk Lake (ME). Bufflehead: one pair, Byram Lake, Mt. Kisco (SOG). Old Squaw: one, Stillwell Lake, Mar 31; two pair Apr 7 Washington Lake, Newburg (MBC); 15 at Crugers Is Apr 16 (BM). White-winged Scoter; one male, Cross River Res May 20 (SOG); first report for this area. Ruddy Duck: 11 on Basher Kill Apr 18 (ID). Common Merganser: 35 at Crugers Is during Apr, two remained to May 12 (BM). Red-breasted Merganser: one female at Highland Res May 9 (ID).

Hawks — Owls: Apr 20 was a big day for hawks in Oran, (J & MD) noted Red-tails, Red-shouldered, Broad-wings, Rough-legs, Cooper's and Sparrow Hawks. Buteous populations are normal, but Accipiter reports are scarce. Rough-legged Hawk: three Apr 19 at Amenia (H. Manson); one May 12 at Crugers Is (very late) (BM). Bald Eagle: Spring reports are rare, but we have two; one over Bedfordville, Apr 23 (M. Powers); one over USMA May 19 (Edward D. Treacy-EDT). Marsh Hawk: reports were few. Osprey: also down in numbers. Ruffed Grouse: population normal. Rail reports were normal, and several reports of Florida Gallinule came in. Coot: one (only record) at Millbrook, Dutch Apr 18 (WBC). Wilson's Snipe: migration normal, adult with young carefully observed near Pawling May 27 (J & MK); first breeding for Dutch. Shorebird movements through the region were normal, with some species such as Yellowlegs better than average. Gulls were normal with immature Black-backs once more in evidence after very low numbers during the winter. Terns made a mark this spring, with Common Terns reported from Basher Kill May 2 (ID), and Crugers Is. Apr 30 (BM); this bird is rarely reported in spring. Black Tern: one from Dutch on May 5 (BM) and one May 12 (TH): four at Basher Kill, May 9 (ID); always rare and unknown in spring throughout much of the region. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: above normal in Ulst., but normal in Dutch though late in arrival. Owls: Usual reports throughout region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: Apr 25 (first) in Ulst and Apr 26 (first) in Dutch and West; seem to be more numerous this year than last. Night-hawk: arrival later than usual, May 14 at Poughkeepsie (W. Claire, Jr.-WC); numbers normal to below thereafter (WBC). Chimney Swift; arrived Apr 26 at Mt. Kisco, West (J. Malone), but late throughout rest of region. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Early record set for Ulst, one at Kripplebush Apr 29 (F. Hough); otherwise late and generally scarce. Pileated Woodpecker: "More every year!" (OW). Red-headed Woodpecker: This Oran resident is recorded more and more frequently in Rock and Dutch; one at Tappan May 12 (MH); one May 16 at Wappingers Falls. Wood Pewee: scarce throughout region, Apr 20, early date for Dutch (WC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: very rare in spring; two at Blooming Grove, Oran, May 18 (ME). Horned Lark: nested in Dutch, three eggs in nest two of which hatched Apr 19 and were destroyed Apr 23 (WC), for third straight year. Swallows: Most species seem to be down in numbers, no unusual dates reported. Purple Martin: New colonies established locally in Oran and West; well established in most counties except Rock, no colonies there in years. Blue Jays: populations back to normal in most areas after winter without them; heavy flights were reported during the first half of May. Tufted Titmouse: numbers on the increase in the northern part of region; generally stable in the southern part. Red-breasted Nuthatch: well represented throughout region in Apr and May; usually rare after Apr. House Wren: generally late, but populations on the rise after low ebb of several years ago. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers down this year, areas that supported dozens in the past now have three or four residents (WBC). Mockingbird: recorded in every county, breeding in most although restricted to one or two pairs; this species too is extending northward. Robin: real influx in Rock Apr 2 (Ed. Gamble); more than plentiful. Wood Thrush: Apr 26 (first) in Dutch (WC), and Apr 26 in Ulst at Lake Mohonk (D. Smiley). Swainson's Thrush: numbers very low this spring, unobserved

by many active birders. Veery: Apr 5 (very early date) in Dutch (WC); first week in May usual arrival date. Bluebird: remains very scarce throughout region. Waterman Bird Club is conducting an all out campaign to provide nest sites, they note 23 birds in Apr, and numbers definitely up by end of period. Blue-gray Gnat-catcher: phenomenal increase for a very rare species; two, suspected nesting on Crugers Is; two at Sterling Forest, Tuxedo; **four** pair at Basher Kill (ID), one of which was feeding young in the nest June 1 (MD); two pair at Weyant's Pond, USMA, here one pair built a nest twice from the same materials. After moving the nest the second time it could not be relocated; **three** pair found in Rock; two pairs near Congers (Bob Deed); one pair near Tomking Cove (MI), this pair was found where it nested in 1960 and 1957. Pipit: Apr 29 (very late date) near Mountainville, Oran (J&MD).

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were generally normal throughout the region except for the Solitary which was lower than usual. Red-eyes were late arriving, but became normal. Warbling Vireos may be slightly above normal. Warblers came through in "drips and drabs, with no apparent large waves." (OW). Blackpolls which are generally regarded as harbingers of the end of migration were reported in Oran, Rock, and West as early as Apr 29, in Dutch May 3. The RAS "Break-a-Hundred" weekend of May 19 & 20 was by no means the peak time that it should have been. One week later, 13 species of warblers were listed by Homer Kelsey in Ramapo, and on the same date Bob and Louise Deed saw a dozen Bay-breasted and eight Black-throated Blue Warblers in less than hour in South Nyack. The WBC has provided excellent notes on the status of warblers in their area. Listed early arrivals were: Worm-eating, Blue-winger, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Cerulean and Blackpoll. Most other species were late. Listed as scarce were: Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Myrtle, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's and Canada. Cerulean Warbler: four at Basher Kill May 17 (P. Moon). Connecticut Warbler: one May 6 in Dutch (J & M Key—J&MK).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: two, May 3 (early date) at Hawthorne, West (B. Augustine). Numbers normal to better than average throughout region. Orchard Orioles: Still scarce, but one or two birds noted in every county but Putn. Baltimore Orioles: Apr 11 (very early date) at Warwick, Oran (H. Alexander). Rusty Blackbird: Last reported on May 12 (late date); four at Crugers Is (BM). Cowbird: appears to be more numerous this year than last (if that's possible). Scarlet Tanager: majority arrived late, and seem to be down in numbers. **Summer Tanager:** one female on May 26 at Crugers Is (BM & Brother Austin), first record for Dutch. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: generally late throughout region, numbers normal. Indigo Bunting: reported as abundant in Putn (ML); a short distance to the north the WBC noted them as late and quite scarce; none were reported on their May 13 census. Evening Grosbeak: one of these years this species is going to forget to leave. Their departure date seems to get later each spring, May 27 in Ulst; still in Dutch at the end of season; May 13 in western Oran and May 24 in eastern Oran; May 15 in Rock and May 19 in West. House Finch: one (second record for Dutch) Apr 5 at Overlook Heights (PG). Pine Grosbeak: last date for Dutch Apr 8 and for Oran, May 7. Redpoll: Apr 8 (very late date) Cornwall (D. Taylor). Pine Siskin: Scarce throughout winter and spring; last reported Apr 26 at Cornwall (MD). Grasshopper Sparrow: population normal in Dutch (WBC). Iris Dean reports that this species used to be common in the Greenville area of Oran, but that this year she had her first record (May 3) since 1954. Vesper Sparrow: numbers are down, particularly in Dutch. Slate-colored Junco: last reported May 13 Dutch (WBC). Oregon Junco: the wintering bird finally left Cornwall home of (MD) on Apr 2; one Apr 30 at Crugers Is (BM). Tree Sparrow: Apr 20 (last date) Dutch (E. Pink et al). Chipping Sparrow: Apr 2 (early date) at Balmville, Oran (BH). White-crowned Sparrow: numbers up over last three or four years. Fox Sparrow: Apr 23 last date in Dutch (FG). Lincoln's Sparrow: two from Ulst; one from Dutch; one from Oran; seems to pass through in better numbers than expected. This is born out by banding records of (ME); many birds are overlooked as Song Sparrows.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

April and May were cold and dry followed by extreme heat in May. Less than one-fourth of an inch of rainfall occurred from the first week in April until June 1 on eastern Long Island and very little more westward. Long grasses by late May were yellow and along the parkways several burned tracts were obvious. Roy Latham (RL) of Orient, writes that no warbler wave occurred for the whole period. Gilbert Raynor (GR) of Manorville, and Denis Puleston (DP) of Brookhaven, reported spring migration very poor with no waves observed and many species were missed. There was the usual big flight of Blue Jays in Orient. On western Long Island the best all day birding at Alley Pond and Jamaica Bay turned up 91 species on May 15, compared to 134 for May 13 last year (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society (LLAS). Warblers were late at Orient but the Yellow appeared May 1 and at nearby Greenport on April 28. Carolina Wrens are back in Greenport's woods and Bluebirds showed up at Orient this spring for the first time in four years.

The most phenomenal records were of water birds; 15 Wood Ibis over Meadowbrook Causeway, April 4, and a nearby, extremely early large flock of 35 Common Egrets (I. Alperin, (IA). Equally amazing was a flock of 40-50 Cattle Egrets at Remsenberg, May 2-5 (R. Wilcox, (RW) and up to seven at Sayville (W. Terry, (WT). Singles of two or three over eastern Long Island were thought to be probably some of the original large flock. Also very unusual was the identification to the writer's satisfaction of a Manx Shearwater, five miles off Jones Beach (a field note is to follow in *The Kingbird*) (P. Post (PP) et al.)

As for warblers, more Ceruleans were reported on Long Island than in any other spring record I can find. Kentucky Warblers also drifted into eastern Long Island. Evening Grosbeaks appeared to the very end of the period — 15 at Orient May 31.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: three May 31 at Orient (RL); others were reported passing along the Fire Island coast through late May. There were several reports of Red-necked Grebe in Mar and Apr. Sooty Shearwater: 100, May 23 off Montauk (DP); 20, on the May pelagic trip off Jones Beach and a Manx Shearwater. Cattle Egret: 40-50 May 2-5, Remsenberg (RW); seven at Sayville (WT) and several widespread records later. There were one or two Louisiana Herons reported and several Least Bittern. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Apr 22, Pelham Bay Park, two at nests (W. B. Hastings). Wood Ibis: 15, Apr 4, at Meadowbrook Causeway (IA). Glossy Ibis: two Apr 23 (earliest), Rockaway (PP); 12 May 30, The Raunt (GR). Snow Goose: four, Apr 20, Orient and one Blue Goose, Apr 25 (RL); 75 (max.) Mar 29 over Westbury (H. Pembleton, (HP), E. Good (EG); also 25 same day over Brookhaven (DP). Shoveller: 25 Apr 14, Jones Beach (A. Dignan, (AD).

Hawks — Owls: The scarcity of Buteos, which is yearly extending eastward into Suffolk county was again noted on western Long Island. Turkey Vulture: one, May 14, Orient (RL). Accipiter and Falcon flights along the south shore were very light. Pigeon Hawk: one, Apr 15, Jones Beach (C. Ward). No small rare rails; Sora reports — several; King Rail, one May 4, Upton (DP). Golden Plover: two, May 19, Raunt (Jamaica Bay Bird Sanctuary) (P. Gillen). Oystermatcher: two, May 26, Moriches (GR). Upland Plover: several reports, two from Orient, one from Lawrence and two from Westbury. A fairly good movement of Sandpipers including several Willet, White-rumped; no late Purple or Curlew Sandpipers were reported this year from Jamaica Bay region. Wilson's Phalarope: one, May 15, Jones Beach (Levine, et al). Northern Phalarope: 18, May 3, Shinnecock and Tiana Bays (IA). Glaucous Gull: Montauk, Apr 2 and two Iceland Gulls, same date and same place (DP). Little Gull, one, May 4, Upper Bay (PP et al). Common Tern: Apr 22 (early) Orient, (RL). Caspian Tern: (migrant) May 9, Smith Point (IA). Great Horned Owl: two adults, three young, nesting at Pelham Bay Park; still around Mill Neck with an adult calling, Apr 23 (O. Heck).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Fairly good flight of Swifts on north shore; very few Nighthawks reported. Whip-poor-will practically eliminated from western Long Island with disappearance of habitat. Hummingbird, nesting at Manorville, May

17 (GR). Red-headed Woodpecker: Hempstead Lake, May 1-15 (EL, et al). Red-bellied Woodpecker: several reports from western Long Island and one from Central Park, N. Y. C. Rough-winged Swallow: six, West Islip, Apr 13 (IA); five, Mt. Sinai, May 27 (GR). Mockingbird: two nesting at Pinelawn, mid-May (HP, EG); one May 5-13, Remsenberg (GR). Tufted Titmouse: several records. Bluebird: a pair, Apr 1-22, Manorville, started nesting but moved on; several at Mill Neck, early Apr (LLAS). Cedar Waxwing: Port Washington, flock of 12, May 15 (A. Dove); 20, Apr 19, Massapequa (N. Elliott).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: on nesting locations on north shore, at Oyster Bay, and Cold Spring Harbor; fair flight of Solitary; a couple of reports of Philadelphia; Warbling very scarce on Long Island. There was an early report of White-eyed at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Apr 28 (Baldwin Bird Club). Prothonotary Warbler: several reports on western Long Island, one, May 4, Hempstead (A. Wollin). Worm-eating Warbler: three each in Alley Pond and Central Park N. Y. C. and others ranging from May 4-18 on western Long Island (D. Cohen, (DC). Blackpoll: Apr 29 (early) Alley Pond (DC et al). More Cerulean Warblers were reported than ever before with records from Alley Pond (several), Watermill, Noyack, Manorville, etc. Several records of Kentucky Warblers for the same period came from eastern Long Island, with singles at Greenport, Watermill, Noyack; also one or two from western Long Island.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink flight was light; several small flocks of Rusty Blackbirds; several Orchard Oriole records around mid-May, two at Syosset (J. Taylor); Kuoque (DP); Northport (E. Mudge); May 28 at Orient (RL); on western Long Island, one at Jamaica Bay May 5-7 (DC et al). Early Scarlet Tanager, Apr. 26, Far Rockaway (J. Bull). Summer Tanager: Alley Pond, May 9 (LLAS). Indigo Bunting: one, Riis Park, Apr 29 (PP); May 3, Orient (RL). Evening Grosbeaks were numerous to the end of the period with 15, May 31 at Orient (RL). Large flock of Purple Finches at Mill Neck, early Apr (LLAS); also, scattered through Apr and May at Orient (RL). Ipswich Sparrow: two, Montauk, Apr 2 (DP). Savannah Sparrow: 20-30 in one field at Orient, Apr 21, (RL). Several good records of Vesper Sparrow from eastern Long Island, Orient, Manorville, Noyack; 10 (max.) at Port Washington, Apr 2 (AD). White-crowned Sparrow: scarce as compared to last year when abundant through May; one at Jamaica Bay, May 7 (DC). Several Lincoln Sparrow reports. Swamp Sparrow flight passed through early, apparently none remaining to breed.

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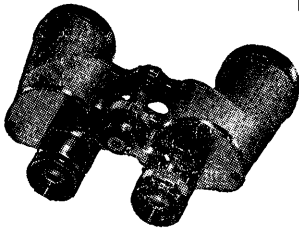
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JOHN V. DENNIS plunged into a busy ornithological career after World War II service in China and India. Presently with Koppers Company, he is working on a cure for woodpecker damage to utility poles. His interest in woodpeckers began at the University of Florida where he won his Master's Degree in ornithology with a thesis on the ecology of Florida woodpeckers. An interest in bird migration has resulted in many fall season trips to Nantucket Island to observe migration activity there. His banding operations and findings on Nantucket have been covered in his *Audubon Magazine* series, "Are Warblers Decreasing?" These studies culminated in 1958 with the founding of the Nantucket Ornithological Research Station. Mr. Dennis has written a large number of technical reports and popular articles and has traveled throughout North and Central America on many ornithological assignments. He lives in Leesburg, Va. at the present time.

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