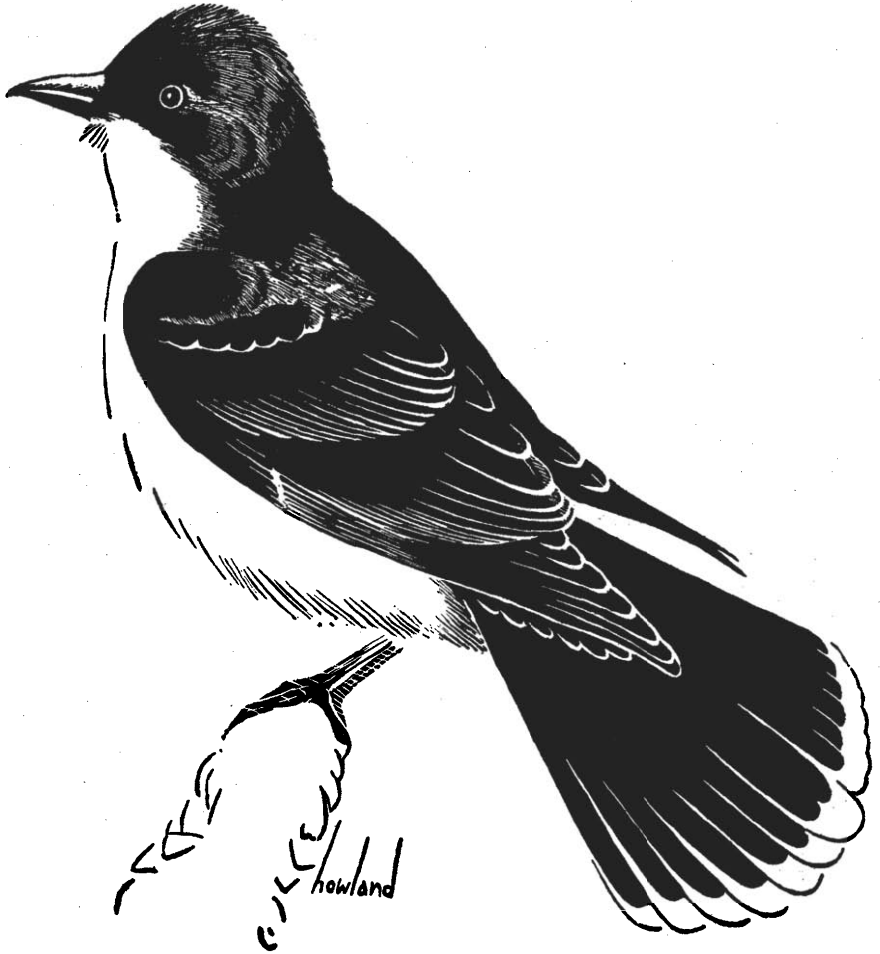


The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XVIII, NO. 3

JULY • 1968

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

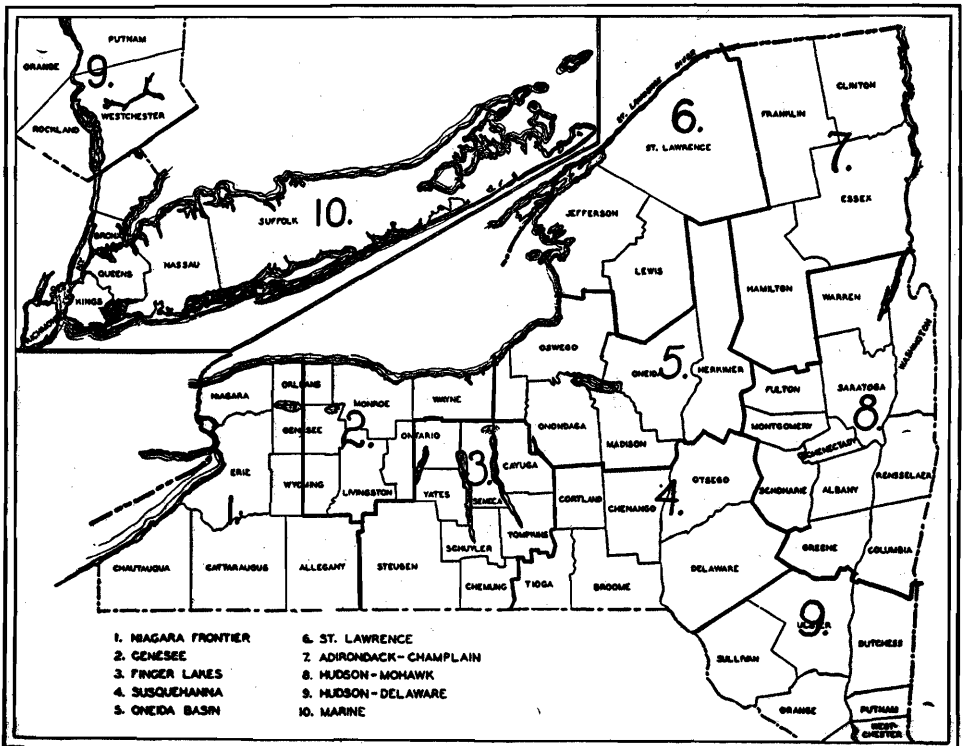
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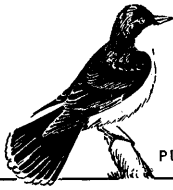
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

14. Bullock's Oriole



Photograph by Adrian Dignan
Woodmere, Nassau Co., 26 February 1966

A non-extant specimen of the Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*, reported taken on 17 May 1875, in Onondaga Co., formed the basis for the inclusion of this form on the New York hypothetical list [Eaton, *Birds of New York*, Univ. State of New York, vol. 2, 1914: 242].

Between the years 1947 and 1964 there appeared at least five published reports of this species from New York:

1. Two adults seen on 20 May 1947 at Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., by Philip Lenna and Alan Van Why. This record was placed on the hypothetical list by Beardslee and Mitchell in their *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* [Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Hist., 22. 406, 1965].
2. A female reported seen at Short Beach, Nassau Co., 14 September 1949, by Richard Ryan and William Solomon [*Linn. News-letter*, vol. 3, no. 6, 1949].
3. An immature male with the black throat seen on the Montauk Christmas Count near the village of Montauk, Suffolk Co., 27 December 1958, by Ned Boyajian, Neal Smith, and Joseph Horowitz [*Aud. Field Notes*, 13(2): 98, April 1959; Boyajian, personal communication].

4. A female present for about three months during the winter of 1958-59, at the feeding station of Mrs. Herbert Jacoby and other feeding stations in the neighborhood of Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. [*Kingbird*, 9(1): 50, May 1959; Jacoby, personal communication].
5. An immature male seen on 23 May 1959 at Holland Patent, Oneida Co., by Freeland [*Kingbird*, 9(2). 92, July 1959].

The Bullock's Oriole was officially removed from the New York hypothetical list when an immature male was captured, measured, and photographed, by LeRoy Wilcox on 20 December 1963 at Allan Robinson's feeder, Eastport, Suffolk Co. [*EBBA News*, 27(2). 58, 1964; Bull, *Birds of the New York City Area*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1964. 481-482]. This bird, present from 12 December 1963 to mid-March 1964, was seen by dozens of observers. A photograph of it appears in the issue of *EBBA News* cited above.

Three winters later another Bullock's Oriole, this time an adult male, was discovered at Samuel I. Steinberg's feeder, Woodmere, Nassau Co. This bird, also seen by numerous observers, was present from 23 January to 2 April 1966 [*Kingbird*, 16(2): 126, May 1966; *Kingbird*, 16(3): 187, July 1966; *Aud Field Notes*, 20(3): 405, June 1966].

The Bullock's Oriole breeds east to the Great Plains where it meets the Baltimore Oriole, *I. galbula*. The two forms may be conspecific, forming an extensive zone of hybridization over a 150-200 mile wide area from Saskatchewan to central Texas [Sibley & Short, *Condor*, 66(2). 130-150, 1964]. At my request Dr. Short kindly examined the original color slides of the Woodmere bird and concluded that it "shows no evidence of hybridization with *I. glabula*."

Robert Tyson kindly made the black and white print reproduced here.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York, N.Y. 10033; Present address: Columbia University Field Station, Apartado 1-U, Calama, Chile.

ADDENDUM: To "Photographs of New York State Rarities, 12. Lark Bunting", *Kingbird* 18(1): 3—one in female or winter plumage at Westhampton Beach 17 October 1965 by Gilbert Raynor *Kingbird* 16(1):64, January 1966 and *Aud. Field Notes* 20(1): 22, February 1966.

BIRDS OF THE ROME SAND PLAINS

MARGARET S. RUSK

Six miles northeast of Oneida Lake recognizable traces of the shores of glacial Lake Iroquois, of which the present Lake is the remnant, form the Rome Sand Plains. Approximately twelve square miles in extent, the Sand Plains lie west of Rome in a triangle bounded by State Route 69 on the northeast and State Route 49 on the south. Fish Creek cuts along the Sand Plains' west edge, forming steep sand-mud bluffs.

In the Rome Sand Plains are small patches of "live" (shifting) sand dunes on which no vegetation at all grows yet, bordered by mossy heath where bracken is the largest plant to have gained a hold. Scratch this heath, as by quarrying for sand, and ecological succession is quickly set back again to bare sand beach.

Traveling in order of ecological succession "inland" from the shore and through the moss-bracken-huckleberry heath, the next stage encountered has birch and aspen mixed with pitch pine, the characteristic tree of the Rome Sand Plains, and oaks. If one drives past the Sand Plains on Route 49, the distinctive gnarled-branched pitch pines together with the white and other oaks, which keep their brown leaves through the winter, are the clues that here is a shore-edge woods, so strikingly different from the surrounding meadows and mixed forest. Much white pine is interspersed with the stands of pitch pine; so a typical view of the Sand Plains woods includes these two, oaks and, especially at the edges, birch and aspen. The trees, especially the larger ones, grow well spaced from each other in order to receive enough moisture from the well-drained soil, giving the area a park-like aspect.

Though the Sand Plains is generally a dry woods, remnants of Lake Iroquois waters, so to speak, are trapped in the hollows between the old vegetated dunes to form aspen-alder bordered sphagnum bogs in several stages of filling-in.

Tributaries of Fish Creek have cut steep gorges through the sand flats. These moist ravines support large hemlocks, yew, tall ferns, and a variety of deciduous trees and shrubs. In spots in the more mature pine-oak woods there is enough moisture and humus to have produced, besides hemlocks, maples and beeches and other species of a typical central New York mixed woods. Thus one can trace succession in the Rome Sand Plains from lake beach to beech forest!

This area and the Albany-Schenectady pine barrens are the most extensive pitch pine plains in upstate New York. The Albany barrens have a marked black locust-scrub oak understory which the Rome Sand Plains lack, and there are doubtless other important botanical differences. Treacy, in "Birds of the Albany County pine-oak barrens" listed the avifauna of the Karner tract. To date no Golden-winged nor Prairie Warbler nor Yellow-breasted Chat, all mentioned by Treacy, has been

found in the Rome Sand Plains. Aside from these, the Rome Sand Plains' summer birds include all species listed by Treacy, but a census comparable to his would probably show a different "top six".

No quantitative censuses have been taken in the Rome Sand Plains, though one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife breeding bird survey routes runs through it for three miles; thus, in future, comparable data will happily be available. The following account of typical birds of the Rome Sand Plains, both uncommon species which occur there regularly and common birds which are strikingly abundant there, is thus only descriptive. The species are discussed by habitats, with some rough indications of abundance. Much of this information is from Region 5 *Kingbird* reports, especially for the summer seasons, but some is from the author's field notes.

Along the creeks Phoebes utilize the bridges for nest sites. Bank Swallow colonies in the banks of Fish Creek usually number over 500 active holes; where sand is being quarried are smaller colonies of precarious existence. Yellow Warblers are common in the creek-bordering alders, but not elsewhere in the area.

In the October 1955 *Kingbird* report, Scheider noted that Vesper Sparrows are "common . . . only where *bare* sandy areas meet grassy swales." Towhees are quite common, especially on the woods-heath edge, ten-15 being counted in a couple miles' walk.

Goldfinches frequent the roadsides (man-made edge), Purple Finches are associated with ornamental spruce plantings around Sand Plains residences, and Bluebirds use nest boxes (occasionally holes in trees) on the small lawns that create openings in the pine woods.

The October 1956 *Kingbird* report contains this observation for Field Sparrow and Indigo Bunting: "These were the two dominant finches of the Rome Sand Plains with the Field Sparrows in the oak scrub and the Indigo Buntings in the birch-blackberry thickets."

The dominant *Dendroica* is the Chestnut-sided Warbler of the birch-aspen scrub, with *sixty* counted in one and a half miles in 1956. In this habitat, near one of the bogs, in June 1956 Robert Wayland-Smith and Paul Paquette accidentally discovered the nest of a Whip-poor-will. It has been possible to hear several Whip-poor-wills calling on a summer evening in the Sand Plains, but in the past two years there has been a marked population drop in this species in central New York.

In the bogs proper are Nashville Warblers (up to 25 in a morning's walk), Yellowthroats, and White-throated Sparrows (20 or more in a day of the latter two).

Open pitch pine-aspen-white oak woods is the habitat of Red-breasted Nuthatches (an active nest in a dead aspen stub was found in 1961), Brown Creepers, Black-and-white Warblers—in low numbers—and of Hermit Thrushes and Ovenbirds. A 1955 count of "dozens" of Hermit Thrushes singing at noon would be difficult to duplicate today, but this

thrush is still more common in the Sand Plains than almost anywhere else in Region 5. The Ovenbird, of which a count of 80 along two miles of woods paths was made in 1955, is perhaps the most numerous woods nester in the Sand Plains.

The Wood Pewee, Myrtle, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager are typical of the more mature oak-pitch pine-white pine sectors. Pine Warblers, associated with tall white pines but never common, have dropped in abundance during the dozen or so years of frequent birdwatching visits to the Sand Plains, to the point where they can no longer be found regularly, though in 1960 breeding was confirmed by the discovery of a pair with three young. Magnolia Warblers are found in the lower bushy second-growth conifers. Along the paths through these park-like woods a Broad-winged Hawk is often heard or glimpsed, and recently-used Broad-wing nests have been found. A Sharp-shinned Hawk raised one young as recently as 1965 in a hemlock surrounded by white pines on the edge of a gorge.

In the ravines are an occasional Winter Wren, and Black-throated Blue, Mourning, and Canada Warblers, and Northern Waterthrushes. The presence of these typical Canadian-zone birds underscores the fact that the Sand Plains are located on the southern edge of the Tug Hill Plateau which is noted for its northern affinities. Interestingly, however, Juncos have never been found in summer in the Sand Plains proper, though they are fairly common a few miles distant.

Common passerines of the mixed-deciduous areas in the Sand Plains are the Crested Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Redstart (which makes 16 warbler species in the Sand Plains!), and Cowbird. In 1965 Red-shouldered Hawks raised three young in a nest in a white oak tree just west of Fish Creek on the periphery of the Sand Plains.

In winter Ruffed Grouse are frequently seen feeding in the aspen and birch. Northern finches find the Sand Plains early in winter and linger late in flight years, probably due to both the Plains' geographical location just south of the Tug Hill and Adirondacks and the abundance of pine and alder cones and birch and aspen catkins.

Summary

The geological history of the Rome Sand Plains has brought about a unique botanical association which in turn supports a varied and distinctive avifauna. It is greatly to be hoped that the area will be preserved in a natural state for future study and enjoyment.

Acknowledgements

I want to express my gratitude to Paul and Sylvia Paquette, who first showed me the Rome Sand Plains, to Dorothy Ackley and Anita Rayns-

ford, who have guided me on many field trips there and have written a short guide to the area, and to Fritz Scheider and Walter Spofford, who have shared their thoughts about its ecology.

220 Ostrom Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

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21st ANNUAL MEETING

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

APRIL 26 — 28, 1968

The 21st Annual Meeting of the FNYSBC was held at the Treadway Inn, the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, and the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, N.Y., April 26-28, 1968, with the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the Genesee Ornithological Society acting as hosts. The Council Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, April 27 by Dr. David B. Peakall, acting president, and a quorum was declared with 28 clubs present.

The minutes of the 20th Annual Meeting were approved as published in the October 1967 *Kingbird*.

The treasurer, Mr. Dort Cameron, gave the following report, for 1967, which was accepted:

Cash on hand 12/31/66			
Checking account		\$1,340.93	
Savings account		<u>4,240.00</u>	\$5,580.93
Net income, 1967*			<u>950.70</u>
Cash on hand, 12/31/67			
Checking account	\$1,725.70		
Accrued interest, savings account	<u>215.93</u>		
Total Operating Funds		1,941.63	
Savings account		<u>4,590.00</u>	6,531.63
Income, 1967			
Dues, Individuals & Subscriptions		2,390.25	
Dues, New Members		233.00	
Dues in arrears, collected		247.70	
Dues, member clubs		618.20	
Life membership payments		350.00	
Interest on savings account		215.93	
Misc. income		<u>234.01</u>	4,289.09

Expenses, 1967

Kingbird	2,818.11	
Membership maintenance	84.58	
Postage & stationery	186.65	
Conservation	51.00	
Annual meeting	66.89	
Misu.	131.16	3,338.39
Increase in operating funds	600.70	
Increase in Life Membership funds	350.00	950.70*
		\$4,289.09

The Auditing Committee was absent, but had signed the report.

The corresponding secretary, Mrs. Harriet Marsi, reported that the notice of the Annual Meeting was mailed to all members and member clubs 30 days before the date, as required in the by-laws. The slate of officers to be presented by the Nominating Committee could not be included, as it usually is, due to the sudden death of our president, Watson Hastings. This was mailed out at a later date when adjustments had been made.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, editor of the *Kingbird*, reported as follows: 633 copies of the January 1968 *Kingbird* were sent out, a decrease from January 1967. This included 25 free copies sent to authors, advertiser and usual copies sent to Library of Congress, Patuxent Research Refuge, Biological Abstracts, etc. Paid copies were 608. There has been no change in printing or mailing charges during the year.

Articles continue to come in somewhat ahead of time, but there is still *no backlog*. I ask you as delegates frequently during the year to remind and urge members of your clubs to submit articles for publication.

Back copies of all but two issues are still available.

I wish to thank the Regional Editors for their labors on the Regional Reports. This takes more time than one might expect, from seeing that local birdwatchers submit their records, through getting additional information or confirmation for unusual records and writing the introductory summary of the season in the Region, to sending off the typed copies. I also wish especially to express my thanks to my two associate editors, Sally Spofford and David Peakall, who cheerfully respond to requests for all sorts of advice and information. I could never do the job without them.

Mr. Edgar M. Reilly, chairman of Publications and Research Committee, reported that about one fourth of the questionnaires sent out to member clubs had been returned.

Mr. Edward M. Somers, chairman of the Publicity Committee, reported as follows: At the request of past president Allen Benton a press release was prepared describing the Federation's Red-tailed Hawk nesting program. The release was presented in two forms: One designed to be issued by the Federation president for mailing to daily newspapers, radio and television stations, and certain conservation publications and organizations; the other designed to be issued by the presidents of the local clubs for mailing to local weekly newspapers for more complete coverage. Both release forms were approved by Dr. Benton and our late president Watson B. Hastings. The statewide form was mailed to 266 daily newspapers, radio and television stations, and some 40 additional conservation columnists, conservation publications, and organizations; i.e., National Audubon, New York-New Jersey Trail Association, the Conservation Foundation, Belle Baruch Foundation, etc. A copy of the local release was mailed to each member club, along with names and addresses of local weekly newspapers known to me, as an aid to the club.

Several clubs sent tear sheets of the release taken from their local papers, and it is generally considered that the release was well received and that our Red-tail program has been given good publicity.

The Committee is working on the design of a certificate which will have a photo of a Red-tail and a message of approval, which can be presented to the recipients of our rewards. It is hoped that local clubs will be able to obtain photographs of presentations of such awards and that these photographs along with a small release can be published in the local papers.

The Committee is also considering the possibility of preparing inexpensive, black and white postcards with a photograph of a hawk or other bird of prey and a brief message explaining their value to man. These cards would then be distributed free through the Federation to the various Conservation Camps run by the State of New York, 4-H, Girl and Boy Scouts, etc. throughout the state for the children's use in writing home.

The Committee is also hoping to send out a press release to papers and radio and television stations in the state at the start of the hunting season next fall, explaining the value of birds of prey and urging hunters to do their utmost to protect these fine and endangered birds.

Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., chairman of the State Bird Book Committee, reported that John Bull has completed two of the four years of his fellowship as editor and that the progress would be given in detail by Mr. Bull at the afternoon paper session.

Mr. John L. Mitchell, chairman of the Waterfowl Count Committee, reported that there has been nothing new. There is some upward or downward trend in some species.

Mr. Richard Sloss, chairman of the By-laws Committee, reported that the amendments approved by the Council last year had been approved by two-thirds of the member clubs and incorporated into the by-laws. Copies of the by-laws were available at the meeting and were to be sent to member clubs that had no representation at the meeting. Suggestions for further changes would be welcomed. No amendments are pending. Mr. Sloss also reported that application has been made for tax-exempt status, and approval of such exemption was expected within a few weeks. Bequests to the organization would then become tax deductible.

A motion that the president name a committee of three to study the structure of the Federation and make recommendations for changes was passed. This was the outcome of a discussion of the suggestion that a second vice-president be added to the officers.

The proposed slate of officers for 1969 was presented by Dr. E. M. Reilly, chairman of the Nominating Committee:

President — Dr. David B. Peakall, Syracuse
Vice-president — Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., Old Chatham
Corresponding Secretary — Miss Frances Rew, Buffalo
Recording Secretary — Mrs. Frederic Knight, Spencertown
Treasurer — Mr. Dort Cameron, Pittsford

The slate was unanimously elected.

Mr. Cameron then resigned as of January 1969.

Mr. James J. Doherty, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported 593 active members and 37 new applicants. Applicants were accepted into membership. Clubs were urged to try to get new members. A list of delinquents who had not paid dues was distributed. These would be removed from the rolls if dues were not received within the time specified in the By-laws.

It was suggested that two Audubon societies on Long Island be approached for possible membership. It was also suggested that a membership list be published in the *Kingbird*.

Mr. Cameron presented the budget for 1969. After some discussion a motion to increase the allotment for the Conservation Committee from \$50 to \$100 was passed. It was suggested that individuals and clubs make contributions toward the work of the Conservation Committee. The budget adopted is as follows:

Income

Dues — individuals and subscriptions	\$2,450
Dues — new members	250
Dues — arrears	50
Dues — member clubs	700
Interest	230
Miscellaneous	100
	<hr/>
	\$3,780

Expenses

Kingbird	\$3,000
Membership maintenance	250
Postage and stationery	150
Conservation	100
Annual meeting	100
Administrative expense	150
Miscellaneous	25
	<hr/>
	\$3,775

It was moved by Mrs. Homer Germond and seconded by Mr. Maxwell Wheat that the Federation become affiliated with the New York State Conservation Council. After much discussion the vote was as follows: For — 24; Against — 9; Abstaining — 4

It was moved by Mrs. Homer Germond and seconded by Mr. Allan S. Klonick that the Federation become affiliated with the National Audubon Society. Again there was much discussion. The vote was: For — 23; Against — 5; Abstaining — 6

The following report was made by Mr. Nicholas Smith, delegate of the North Country Bird Club of Watertown:

THREAT TO IMPORTANT HABITAT

Upstate birders know that Eldorado is the place to see shore birds. Several bird clubs make annual trips there. Individual birders go there in August, September and October to see the many shore birds, to photograph them and to band them. Readers of *The Kingbird* are aware of the many kinds of shore birds that are seen at Eldorado. Thirty species of shore birds and from twenty to twenty-five species of waterfowl have been seen there. Included are golden plover, whimbrel, willet, all three phalaropes, purple sandpiper, western sandpiper, Baird's sandpiper and sadly enough, a dead gyrfalcon!

Eldorado is in southeastern Jefferson County on the eastern end of Lake Ontario. The bed rock along the shore slopes gently into the water. Shore birds find food on the mud flats and in the material washed onto the shore. The shore line is about 3600 ft. long. The land back from the shore is of little use for farming. Much of it is low and wet, but the soil above the rock is so shallow that it is too dry in dry weather. It has been used for pasture and there are trees in some places.

This is a *unique area for birds*. We know of no other place like it. It cannot be reached by a main road. It is isolated enough that it is seldom disturbed by man. It is large enough so that when birds are driven from one part, they merely fly to another part of the shore.

The Eldorado property has long been owned by the Wood family, and the present owner is Willard Wood of Watertown. For years birders have been given permission to go on his property and he has even encouraged them to do so. This has been a satisfactory arrangement for the birders even though they knew it was too good to last.

It now seems certain that parts of the shore may soon be sold as lots on which cottages will be built. An option to buy the shore (3600 ft.) and about 250 acres

can be obtained. The land away from the shore is of little value, except that owning it is very necessary as a buffer zone. If this property is not obtained now as a bird sanctuary, parts will be sold and this area will attract more people and fewer birds. The North Country Bird Club of Watertown believes this area must be saved. The central New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy has been contacted but Federation support is essential.

At first, the cost of this property may seem high. However, compare the cost with many other desirable projects such as game management areas, parks and recreation areas. Many require additional money every year. The cost of buying Eldorado is about \$56,000. Little would have to be done to the property and the annual cost of maintaining it as a stopping place during migration would not be very much.

The Council was sympathetic to this report and suggestions were made.

The Conservation Committee report was presented by the chairman, Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., and approved in its entirety.

Activities and Recommendations for More Effective Operation

This year the Legislature passed the bill adding the Belted Kingfisher to the list of birds protected in New York State. Thanks should go in large part to Dr. Sally Spofford, Mr. Dennis Puleston and Mr. Arthur Cooley (the latter two of the Brookhaven Town Natural Resources Council) for helping to have bills introduced.

Conservation Committee members and Federation officers were asked their advice regarding the Kingfisher Bill. Several replied with helpful suggestions. This practice should be continued.

Gratitude and recognition should be paid to a project conducted independently of the Conservation Committee – the Hawk Reward Project developed by Dr. Allen Benton and publicized by Mr. Edward Somers, the Federation's publicity chairman.

Three issues of CONSERVATION NOW! were published – October, February and April. It should be issued at least once every two months (September through June). This might be possible if the work was divided:

1. One to write and (or) edit it
2. One to take charge of printing
2. One to handle distribution

This year copies were sent to both the Presidents and Conservation Chairmen of all clubs instead of just to one officer as in previous years. However, effectiveness would be broadened if CONSERVATION NOW! were distributed more widely:

1. To all officers in a club
2. To all Federation members

and a Federation membership application included in each issue.

Because I was in Florida and could not otherwise handle the emergency situation with regard to S-5588 allowing hunting of Mourning Doves on Long Island, I sent requests to several Conservation Committee members and others strategically located geographically and asked them to contact designated clubs to mount opposition to this bill. Although bred of necessity, I feel that this kind of structure has possibilities. I urge:

1. Appointment of area or regional Conservation Chairmen ready to go into action quickly when an emergency arises.
 - A. The resultant closer contact with clubs would also serve to strengthen the Federation.
 - B. When possible these chairmen could be encouraged to be available for speaking appearances before bird clubs and other groups.
2. That the Federation adopt a general statement of Conservation purposes and principles.

Perhaps a committee of three could prepare such a statement. Under this statement, the Conservation Chairman, with the approval of two-thirds of the Committee, would be free to act quickly — which is so often the need. This would not prevent specific action on issues being taken at Annual Meetings.

For example, one principle could relate conservation to such problems as poverty. Mr. Harold Mitchell this year was involved in an effort to maintain a flow of poverty funds for employment of the poor in a Federal Refuge in the Buffalo area. Relating conservation to other needs further justifies conservation itself.

The problem of how to meet with the Conservation Committee has not been solved. The Council last year authorized setting up a concurrent meeting at the same time as the Council meeting. The latter would have a chance to ratify the findings of the former before adjournment. This possibility has not evolved because of lack of momentum. Another possibility would be a Friday afternoon session, but a query in CONSERVATION NOW! did not produce any response.

The time may come when the Federation could hold a Saturday mid-winter meeting in Albany with delegates from all clubs. Key legislative persons and experts could speak at opening sessions with workshops on particular problems following. Their reports could be ratified as Federation policy at a joint concluding session.

The Federation should budget some money for contributions to fights which are its fights. These could be made on a majority vote by the Conservation Committee. For example, a request was made to the Conservation Chairman for a donation to the effort against the Transportation Bond Issue last year. It was embarrassing to reply that we did not have the money. Currently there is the Emergency Environmental Defense Fund which is taking the pesticides battle into court — an expensive effort.

The Federation should be represented at important conservation meetings, workshops, conferences, etc. The Chairman attended one such session that had meetings on the Forest Preserve, Long Island wetlands and a proposed hurricane dune project, etc. This was enlightening to the Chairman, enhancing his background in order to better represent the Federation.

There is increasing talk and movement toward a closer unity and federation among conservation groups. For example, a meeting of the Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve to form itself into a permanent organization will be held at 9:30 AM May 4, in the Thruway Motor Inn, Albany. This group is made up of representatives of many organizations as well as individual members. The Federation should be represented at this meeting and in the permanent organization, for their fight is our fight. Movements toward federation of conservation groups are developing in Westchester and Suffolk Counties and in New Jersey. There are the beginnings of state-wide federation. Individual groups belonging to them retain autonomy. Two reasons seem to be motivating these movements.

1. Need to exert greater power on lawmakers through united action.
2. To obtain more expertise in the many areas increasingly involving conservationists: transportation, refuse disposal, zoning, community planning, etc.

Funds allowing, the Federation should join the National Audubon Society whose fight today is our fight.

The recent introduction of a bill to allow hunting of the Mourning Dove demonstrates the need to be a member of the New York State Conservation Council, a sportsmen's group.

The Conservation Forum of the Annual Meeting is a responsibility of the Conservation Committee. The program arranged for the 1968 Forum presented Assemblyman Constance Cook of Ithaca, who introduced the Kingfisher Bill, and Dr. David Peakall, president of the Federation, speaking on new findings in pesticides.

Proposed Conservation Action by the Council

1. In Congress, S-2951 by Senators Alan Bible, Howard Cannon, Frank Church and a rash of similar bills would give primary authority to states over fish and

wildlife on Federal lands. A very dangerous bill that could affect protection of the Bald Eagle, allow hunting in National Parks, etc. OPPOSITION is recommended.

2. In Congress, S-2984 by Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas would prevent importation of endangered species into the U.S., and would prevent interstate shipment of reptiles, amphibians, etc., taken contrary to state law. Would be helpful in saving the alligator. This and similar legislation should be APPROVED.
3. In the State Senate, S-5588 would permit hunting of Mourning Doves on Long Island. OPPOSITION recommended.
4. In the Legislature, S-4255 by Sen. Bernard Smith would provide for issuance of license to be known as falconry license with fee to be \$10, with no game birds to be taken or killed in open season and to fix qualifications therefore. After some discussions, it was suggested that the bill be changed to permit use of Sparrow Hawks, Goshawks and Red-Tailed Hawks only.
5. Support the efforts of the Citizens Committee for the Hempstead Plains on Long Island to preserve a remnant of prairie where Upland Plover and Grasshopper Sparrows are now found nesting. APPROVAL recommended.
6. Support the effort of the North Country Bird Club to preserve Eldorado Shores, shoreline property on Lake Ontario in southern Jefferson County, it being the only major shorebird area left in the region. APPROVAL recommended.
7. Commend Presiding Supervisor Ralph Case and the Town Board of the Town of Hempstead for their action in requiring a referendum for disposition of Town-owned wetlands for purposes not consistent with conservation. APPROVAL recommended.
8. If still needed, urge continuation of funds for the Office of Economic Opportunity in Buffalo for a Job Corps Center supplying labor for development of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, 35 miles northeast of Buffalo. APPROVAL recommended.
9. Endorse and do what we can to support efforts of the Environmental Defense Fund which has taken the pesticide fight into the courts. Its chairman is Federation member Dennis Puleston of Brookhaven. APPROVAL recommended.
10. Endorse the Bill of Rights Legislation by Assemblyman Stockmeister. APPROVAL recommended.

The Nominating Committee for 1969 was elected as follows: Mrs. Harriet Marsi, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Mrs. Watson B. Hastings.

The present Auditing Committee, consisting of Mr. Allen E. Kemnitzer and Mr. John Foster, was reelected.

The following resolutions were read by Mr. Richard Sloss and passed:

We, the officers, delegates and members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs record with the deepest sorrow the sudden death of our President, fellow-member and friend Watson B. Hastings. His efforts and devotion to the interests of the Federation were an example for us all and his death not only deprives us of his wise, sympathetic advice and invaluable services, but has made us keenly aware of our great loss of his personality and friendship.

As an expression of our appreciation of his efforts and to record our deep personal loss, be it resolved that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy thereof be forwarded to his beloved wife.

Rochester, New York, April 27, 1968

Whereas, the officers and members of the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club have generously given of their time and effort to plan, organize and provide facilities for the twenty-first annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Federation to record its appreciation and gratitude by these minutes, be it

Resolved: that the Federation express its recognition and thanks to the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club for their outstanding work and hospitality that was responsible for the success of the 1968 annual meeting of the Federation.

Rochester, New York, April 27, 1968

It was announced by Dr. Peakall that the 1969 meeting will be at Cortland, with the Cortland County Bird Club as host.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hortense B. Knight
Recording Secretary

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1968

“The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at the annual banquet to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in the *Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges.”

At the annual banquet April 27, Dr. Edgar M. Reilly presented the Elliott Prize to Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. for his series of articles “Conservation News”, with special mention of “Conservation and State Secrets” and “‘Natural Beauty’ Is a 20th Century Phrase.”

THE PAPER SESSION

Annual Meeting — April 27, 1968

The following papers were given at the Saturday afternoon paper session:

1. Remarks on the Ecology of Bird Fleas Dr. Allen H. Benton
2. Wetland Valuation and Appraisal Allan S. Klonick
2. Present Status of the New York State Bird Book John Bull
4. Use of Birds in Poetry Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.
5. Maintenance Behavior of the Black-crowned Night Heron
Dr. George R. Maxwell II
6. The Nassau County Museum of Natural History Robert G. Wolk
7. Vocalizations and Life Histories of the Common Crow and the Northern Raven
Dwight R. Chamberlain

ANNUAL MEETING FIELD TRIPS REPORT — APRIL 27 AND 28

Field trips to various habitats were conducted: one early Saturday morning for delegates; several during the Council meeting for non-delegates; several Sunday morning all of which ended with box lunch at the Hawk Lookout, Braddock's Bay.

A total of 131 species were observed, including 12 which are rare to uncommon in the Rochester area. The two nesting Bald Eagles at Hemlock Lake were undoubtedly the outstanding birds of the weekend. Saturday being quite cold with northerly winds produced no small bird migration and no hawks. Although Sunday winds were westerly and rather cool, a hawk flight developed about 9 a.m. and lasted until 2 p.m. No exact count was kept, but approximately 1,000 hawks passed

Hawk Lookout during this time, including Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon and Sparrow Hawk.

Some of the other more interesting species seen were: Common Loon; 2 Red-throated Loon; 1 Common Egret; 2 Whistling Swan; 20 species of ducks; 1 Western Sandpiper in spring plumage with a Semipalmated Sandpiper and Dunlin for comparison; Caspian Tern; Great Horned Owl; 7 species of woodpeckers; Red-breasted Nuthatch; 1 Carolina Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; only Yellow, Myrtle, Pine and Palm Warblers and Yellowthroat; 2 Western Meadowlarks; 16 species of Fringillid including Evening Grosbeaks and 2 Red Crossbills.

Warren Lloyd, 1756 Ridge Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580

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Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography Committee: Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman, John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, and Kenneth C. Parkes.

CONSERVATION AND POLITICS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

The newest gimmick in political campaigning was reported in the June 15 issue of the Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide. It was a Birdwalk for Eugene McCarthy organized in East Hampton by wildlife writer Peter Mathhiessen. The price for watching birds in support of someone's presidential candidacy was \$15 per binocular squinter.

Birding had now been used for politics—but has politics been used very much for conservation? Used, that is, by conservationists? This extremely political year raises the question that has quite often been discussed, but mostly in secluded corners at conferences. Should conservationists become active in politics?

Incumbents and aspirants for Congress, the Legislature, a host of other offices as well as those for President will probably at some time this fall say something positive—and general—about conservation, just as they will about motherhood, fighting and sin. Conservation has been elevated into that “nobody is against it” league.

But where is the political leverage to implement these platitudes, particularly if no conservationists—or very few—can maneuver around in the swivel seats of some law making hall or scribble their signature on laws placed before them on wide, neat mayoralty desks? How many members of legislative or congressional conservation or related committees have merely inherited these posts by seniority or have been assigned them until something more to their interest opens up? How many county supervisors and municipal councilmen are conservationists? How many members of planning, zoning and other commissions (and I don't include the honorific advisory committees whose recommendations, other than planting some trees on Arbor Day, are magnanimously received and filed for future, *very future*, reference) are conservationists? The answers to these questions will provide a good estimate of how much power conservationists can exercise.

One of the most helpless experiences is to be politely, even enthusiastically, received at some hearing that can determine the fate of a particular pristine area and you know that the commission members have never sloshed into a bog while trying to get a closer look at a Rose

Pogonia, or been in an oak-beech woods on a May morning with the warblers waving through, or taken their youngsters on a summer's walk along a meadow brook of clear, cool water. How can they defend the human values, as well as the ecological ones, of these resources unless they have experienced them (presupposing, of course, that they were moved to speak for them, which so often isn't the case)? It's on such a commission and behind the closed doors, when plans are being developed and finalized, that conservation needs an effective voice. But conservation does not have a voice there. Why?

Conservationists generally are not active politically. There is even a resistance to political involvement. Yet, it is the governmental-political system that makes the decision about routing a highway through some marsh.

What may be wrong with politics is that it is left by default to those who are not really interested in issues, but who are concerned more with enjoying some sense of power—and occasionally even personal gain. There's a lot of talk these days about "The New Politics." I don't think any clear definition has crystalized yet. But one phenomenon is observable—the many, issue-orientated people involving themselves in politics who had never been closer to it than once a year in the polling booth. Conservationists are issue conscious. How wonderful it would be if the government structure was filled with people concerned with the issues—and even the party structure permeated with such people serving as committee members and even chairmen.

The committeeman or woman is the person who covers an election district, canvassing and getting out the vote for his or her party. The position in itself doesn't embrace much power, but it involves you on the periphery of the power-exercising structure—the mesh of government and party organization. There you can begin urging policies and appointments. Should you become a zone leader or town chairman, for examples, you would be in even a stronger position to urge that some biologist be appointed to a county public works department.

Organize a Committee of Conservationists in support of an incumbent who has achieved an outstanding conservation record or of a candidate who has taken a clear, comprehensive stand. There is a gamble here—probably considerable influence if your man wins, and not so much if the other wins. For this reason, although you can't form committees in support of a man without strong assurances, conservationists can be active in both major parties so that in either case some conservationist will have access to the victor.

Should conservationists contribute money to campaigns? Probably not as specific organizations, but perhaps as individuals or groups of individuals. Especially if a Committee of Conservationists has been organized. Its members might each make a donation so there would be a good total. At testimonials, which are really means to pay a candidate's

campaign debts, a group could take a table or two. All this is in the interest of a better working Democracy. If more of the public—and especially those who care about one or more issues—contribute, then the office seekers and political parties have to be more responsive to them than to a few large givers who then can swing a lot of power. This has been the idea in back of the annual Dollars for Democrats and Dollars for Republicans campaigns conducted by party committeemen and women.

We are being taxed of our natural resources without representation. Unless conservation has strong representation in the decision making, our Nation may, through obsession with progress plus lack of understanding, be taxed irretrievably beyond the capacity of its natural resources to renew themselves.

IN BRIEF—The bills to allow Mourning Dove hunting on Long Island and to license falconry failed to pass the Legislature. Suggestions and reasons as to what Federation policy should be on allowing or not allowing falconry can be sent to the conservation chairman. . . . Federation member David M. Bigelow, artist and Curator of the Buffalo Museum of Natural Sciences Education Department, has been named a regional vice president of the Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve. Following its organization to maintain “forever wild” protection of the Preserve in the new and subsequently defeated state constitution, it was made permanent at a meeting in Albany, May 4. Individual memberships of \$3.00 can be sent to its offices: 3rd Floor, 15 East 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. . . . *The Long Island Naturalist*, published by the Baldwin Bird Club and edited by Paul W. Liebold, 58 Hardy Lane, Westbury, New York, 11590, is now available for \$1.00 (two issues) per year. . . . I never realized that conservation articles in *The Kingbird* would be eligible for the John J. Elliott Memorial Award for an article in that publication. So I really couldn't believe the words I was hearing at the Annual Meeting when Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., announced for the committee that I received the award for the conservation articles. I must say I felt somewhat sentimental at receiving this award from the Federation in which I have so many good associations and friends. Also, personally it was the best award I could have received anyplace because of my friendship with Mr. Elliott who taught me so much about identification—and even more about the close sense of appreciation one can feel about nature.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

FIELD NOTES

Observations on a young Long-eared Owl from Allegany County: A young Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) was found by Rex Brown on June 24, 1966 near Belvidere, N.Y. about 2 miles north of Belmont, the Allegany County seat. The bird was sitting on the limb of an aspen tree (*Populus tremuloides*) about 10 feet from the ground. The tree was one of a stand of 25 to 30 foot aspens covering about 200 acres of a wet Genesee River flat. No nest was seen and neither of the adults were about. The young could not fly and made no effort to get away until it was in hand. Brown kept the bird until July 9 when he gave it to Olmstead who kept it in captivity until Aug. 14, and took a series of seven kodachrome slides between June 25 and Aug. 10. Eaton kept the bird in captivity from Aug. 14 to Oct. 18 when the bird died, apparently of a lung infection.

The major changes in plumage during this time in captivity were obtained from a review of Olmstead's slides. *June 25:* iris yellow; body covered by barred juvenal down feathers—back darker grey than breast; allula and other flight feathers appeared quite fully formed; bill horn color. *June 26:* facial disc dark brown, some slight suggestion of ear tuft feathers. *July 12:* Downy ear tufts obvious; brown facial discs with broad white outer trim; body still covered by juvenal down. *July 16:* white trim below and around sides of facial discs; ear tufts still downy; downy body feathers still horizontally barred with greyish brown but not vertically barred; facial discs with broad white outer trim; body still covered by juvenal down. *July 16:* white ear tufts lost; the brown facial discs more prominent. *Aug. 10:* second set of ear tufts now prominent and contour feathers appeared to be complete being vertically and horizontally marked on the lower breast. *Sept. 11:* last picture taken; typically plumaged Long-eared Owl; white feathers between eyes and bill increased in fullness during Aug. and Sept.; the ear tufts reached full development about the end of Aug.

During June, July and Aug. Olmstead fed the bird hamburg, mice, rabbit entrails, snakes and liver. The bird took quite readily to captivity and after July 9 was kept in cages 6 feet by 6 ft. by 6 ft. and larger so that it could fly a few strokes of the wings before perching. From Aug. 15 to Oct. 18 Eaton fed the Owl 18 Deer Mice, 12 Short-tailed Shrews, 5 Field Mice, 3 Long-tailed Shrews, 2 Red-backed Voles, 3 Chipmunks and about a pound of liver.

When a mouse was placed on a post within the cage the owl flew to the post, grabbed the mouse with its foot and mouthed the mammal in a manner not unlike a bitch ridding its pups of fleas. Then the owl moved the mammal to its bill and flew to a sheltered end of the cage. First it picked at the skin over the occiput until the skin was broken. It then took the head in its mouth, and pulling the head free of the rest of the mammal, swallowed it with a slight pumping action of the head and neck. The bird then picked off the forelimbs. Next it attacked the entrails and ate most everything, occasionally flicking off and away, rather large pieces of small intestine. If the small mammal was not too large the rest of the trunk was swallowed whole—the last piece to disappear was the tail.

The bird was heard to give a weak, high pitched whistle in July and Aug. at night. It was, for the most part, almost mute. In bright light the bird would wink, its long eye lashes moving in a rather seductive manner and when attempting to localize sounds would weave and bob its head.

The bird was prepared into a skeleton and is now No. 1073 in the bird skeleton collection at St. Bonaventure University.

Edwin A. Olmstead, Belmont and Stephen W. Eaton, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y. 14778.

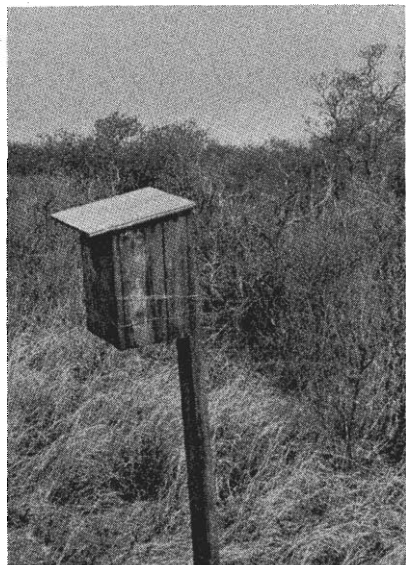
Saw-whet Owl nesting at Tobay Sanctuary, Long Island: Over the last four years, Roy Barth of Malverne, L.I., has erected several dozens of well-constructed wooden nest-boxes at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Refuge (Tobay Sanctuary), Nassau Co. On March 26, 1968, Mr. Barth, who was casually examining and cleaning all his boxes saw a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) fly out of a box. He communicated this fact to me, but at the time, I felt this was just one of the wintering Saw-whets. I was surprised when Mr. Barth observed the owl at this box again on April 7, 1968. I examined the box on April 7th and found a Saw-whet within. It was sitting on a rough lining of dried grasses with some loose downy feathers on top of this. I banded the Saw-whet and noticed the beginning of a brood-patch.

Now definitely on the alert, I revisited the box on April 20, 1968 and found six eggs. The adult, which was the one I had banded and therefore must be a female, was not too aggressive and allowed me to take a few color photographs. The pictures shown here I took on May 5, 1968 when I found three young and three eggs. On May 11 there were five young and one egg.

About this time, Mr. Ed Kirchmeier of the Queensboro Bird Club had also peeked into the box and published this occurrence in his newsletter. Luckily, and for this I sincerely thank him, he did not disclose the location of the box. Had mobs of observers come to see this bird, I am fully confident the young would not have survived. The young attained juvenal plumage by May 26th. The remaining egg was infertile and was removed from the box on May 30th.

White-footed Mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) seemed to be the main food supply of this bird. I learned from Frank Enders, who had done a study of the mice of Tobay, that this was the commonest rodent.

The location of this particular nest is quite unusual, although a nest in a Wood Duck box was recorded in 1966 in Region 5 [*Kingbird* 16(3): 168, 1966]. Saw-whet



*Photographs by Frederick S. Schaffer
Tobay Sanctuary, L.I., N.Y. 5 May 1968*

Owls normally nest in extensively wooded areas in mountainous country although they have been found breeding in the dense pine barrens of New Jersey and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The habitat surrounding the Saw-whet's nest at Tobay is low, coastal scrub. The box is located on the edge of one of the many mosquito control ditches in the vicinity of the observation tower. Low reeds (*Phragmites communis*) are in the immediate foreground and medium-sized Bayberry bushes (*Myrica pensylvanica*), Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*) and High Tide (*Baccharius halimifolia*) form a background. About 100 feet north of the box are the salt marshes adjoining South Oyster Bay. Nearby nest boxes are occupied exclusively by Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). These swallows have been seen chasing the owl when it left its nest for short periods early in the day.

The only other definite breeding record in our area was a nest with five eggs at Miller Place, Long Island in 1879 [Bull, 1964, *Birds of the New York Area*: 277]. A young Saw-whet Owl with traces of juvenal plumage was found at Quogue Beach, Suffolk Co. on July 21, 1966 [*Kingbird* 16(4): 244, 1966]; possibly a pair bred that year in the Long Island pine barrens. Both the above records followed big winter flights. The wintering Saw-whet Owl population last winter was about normal in numbers.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1—May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

"Things ain't what they used to be". This is the standard lament of the old-timer but many birders seem to be making this comment. One can see it expressed in many regional reports, most clearly in that of Region 10 whose editors cannot be classed as old-timers. Davis and Post mention the possibilities for the low numbers of warblers and vireos—weather, pesticides, and habitat destruction. On the last mentioned it should be remembered that destruction of wintering habitat south of the border may also be of importance. They also mention on the positive side that radar shows that large migrations of birds are passing unseen. Radar is a useful way of studying migration, it can monitor flights on a hundred mile front at one time and is virtually independent of weather; whereas the visible record is often the result of abnormal migration. Anyone interested in this fascinating field should read Eastwood's book "Radar Ornithology". However it should be remembered that quantitation of flights is rough and species identification is almost impossible. A preliminary analysis of the breeding bird survey recently issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service for 1966-67 covers 29 species. In general the figures show a fairly stable population, with the increases balancing the decreases, and most changes are not statistically significant. All three warblers studied show small decreases. Although these decreases are not significant for the one year period under study it will be interesting to watch long-term trends. The value of this survey will increase from year to year.

Although probably due to poor conditions for observing migration rather than to a real scarcity of birds, all regional editors agreed that no major waves of warblers were observed. Besides the lament on the poor showing of warblers and vireos one experienced observer who spends much time in the field commented to me that the arrival of warblers was later than it used to be. I wondered if this impression was correct. Using the data from her home region—Region 5—I calculated the average date for the peak number for nine species of warblers for the period 1955–58 and 1965–68. The figures showed no change for two species, earlier in the second period in one case, and in six cases it was earlier in the fifties. I also looked at first arrival dates and found that in two-thirds of the cases the arrival dates were earlier in the late 1950's than they are today. A more detailed analysis would be necessary to prove Jean Propst's point but it is an intriguing idea. Possible explanations would include climatic changes and delay in the onset of the migratory urge due to decreased hormone levels caused by increased breakdown by pesticide-induced enzymes. This latter possibility has been examined elsewhere (Peakall, *Atlantic Naturalist* 22: 109, 1967) and cannot be discussed in detail here.

The continued observation of a large number of migrating hawks along the shores of Lake Ontario has been not only a joy to observers but a comfort in view of the continued scarcity of breeding hawks in the state. Thus it is disturbing to read in the Region 5 report that the numbers were lower this year despite good coverage and good weather conditions.

Record appearances of scoters, together with some Ruddy Ducks, in Regions 3 and 4 can be correlated with a heavy movement of scoters along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario; although peak counts at the western end of the lake occurred earlier. High counts of Canada Geese were noted at Montezuma and Oak Orchard. A steady increase of this species over the last decade has been noted in the Atlantic Flyway on the wintering grounds counts.

The nesting of the Raven in the Adirondacks is the first nesting record in the state for many years. Eaton (1912) refers vaguely to nesting in the north country but gives no details. There has been an expansion of the range of this species in Vermont and New Hampshire since the late 1950's so that this interesting record is not completely unexpected.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr—arrival, arrived; Co—County; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

All numbers given are numbers of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

During many years April weather is characterized by an early cold pattern with occasional snow and a gradually moderating trend, particularly throughout the second half. May often brings a continuation of the modifying trend with increasingly warm temperatures sometimes giving way to midsummer-like heat. This year April was unusually warm and dry practically throughout while May was generally cold and wet although there were no late snowfalls as during the past two years. The sometimes spectacular waves of migrants produced by periods of fair weather punctuated with intermittent low pressure systems combined with southerly or southwesterly winds did not occur and most birders complained of a rather lackluster spring migration in general.

There were certain responses to the reversal of the usual spring weather patterns. Although very few migrants arrived early during April as might have been expected because of the warm temperatures, at least one breeding species, the Eastern Bluebird, started nesting several weeks earlier than usual in April. This produced disastrous results for the nestlings after the weather changed in May. Details will be presented in the next report. More noticeable was the general lack of good or even fair birthing during the first half of May due to the scarcity or absence of the usual migrants. Examination of the arrival dates of many late April and May migrants, especially warblers, will reveal that the first individuals were observed from three to sixteen days later than usual. Several regularly occurring warblers were not listed since earlier arrival dates were obtained in adjacent southeastern Ontario. The only notable hawk flight occurred on April 23.

Rarities included the Cattle Egret, Common Teal, Little Gull, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated and Connecticut Warblers, Western Meadowlark and the only Pine Grosbeak seen during the past winter. For an indication of how slow this spring was, compare this list with that of last year [*Kingbird* 17 (3): 153].

Abbreviations: ABC—April Bird Count; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; Han—Hanover Township (Alleghany Road), Chautauqua County; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MBC—May Bird Count; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; JB—Joanna Burger; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; DD—Dorothy Danner; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; PH—Paul Hess; JK—Joseph Kikta; CK—Clarence Klingensmith; VL—Virgil Lunardini; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; AGR—Archie G. Richardson; WGS—William and George Smith; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; OS—Ora Swanson; GW—Gertrude Webster; MMW—Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: very poor spring flight with max four at several localities. Red-throated Loon: only report—two Apr 27 Red House L, Alleghany State Pk (Harris Johnson, William Highhouse). *CATTLE EGRET*: one Apr 29, May 5 TGMA (Dodge, WAM). Common Egret: one May 28 OOGMA (PB). Least Bittern: decreasing in recent years—singles May 19 on, at four scattered localities.

Whistling Swan: late—one May 30 Alleghany Reservoir (AGR). Canada Goose: max 57,520 Apr 7 mostly OOGMA—TGMA—INWR complex (mob). Blue Goose: last—one Apr 28 Lyndonville (WAM). *COMMON TEAL*: adult male with two pairs of Greenwings Apr 14—28 TGMA (RB, PB, RAS *et al*). Shoveler: max 49 Apr 11 Oak Orchard area (AF). Bufflehead: late—two May 31 Riverside Marsh (AGR).

Oldsquaw: good spring concentration—1200 Apr 7 northern Nia Co BOSABC. Scoters: good spring count Apr 21 L Ont, Orleans Co—White-winged, 520 Pt Breeze to Yates; Surf, two Yates; Common, 11 Lakeside (RB,JB); other reports of Surf, two Apr 19 Cassadaga L (FMR) and four Apr 27 Alfred (CK).

HAWKS—OWLS: A fine hawk migration occurred on Apr 23 at Jerusalem Corners (southwest of Hamburg); Sharp-shin 78, Cooper's 1, Red-tail 14, Broad-wing 3126, Pigeon 1 (RFA). A small movement was observed at Han on Apr 14: Turkey Vulture 7, Sharp-shin 71, Cooper's 3, Red-tail 42, Broad-wing 24, Rough-leg 2, Marsh 5, Osprey 1, Sparrow 4 (VL). Other reports of interest: Han (VL)—Goshawk singles Apr 16, 19; Broad-wing 109 May 4; Rough-leg last, one May 4; from elsewhere—Rough-leg max 15 Apr 7 Lyndonville area BOSABC; Bald Eagle (only report) one Apr 7 Hamburg area BOSABC; Marsh max eight Apr 4 Lyndonville (WGS); Osprey 40 reports mostly of individuals, max three Apr 25 Belmont (LDB), three May 3 Ceres (LDB); Pigeon one May 5 Town of Amherst (Inskip).

Rails arr late in small numbers with the only exception the near-normal date of Apr 14 for the Common Gallinule TGMA (RB). The spring flight of Am. Coot was exceptionally poor, max 55 in southern Chaut Co Apr 7 BOSABC. Shorebirds: usual poor to mediocre spring flight inland and along south shore L Erie. Am. Golden Plover: one Apr 21 INWR (AF *et al*). Black-bellied Plover: earliest regional record—one Apr 21 Scio (LDB). Upland Plover: arr three Apr 13 Lancaster (JK). Sandpipers: Solitary, max eight May 10 Canadaway Creek (FMR); Pectoral, max 100 Apr 15 INWR (GW *et al*) well below usual counts; four Least, one Dunlin, two Semipalmated May 12 Cuba L (LDB); Dunlin, 25 May 21 Riverside Marsh (AGR); Short-billed Dowitcher, early—eight May 15 TGMA (MMW). Glaucous Gull: one Apr 19 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). *LITTLE GULL*: one Apr 25 Bay View (TLB), three Apr 25 Lewiston (PB). Caspian Tern: max 10 Apr 27 Dunkirk Harbor (RFA *et al*). Black Tern: arr two May 3 Wellsville (LDB).

Owls: Barn, one May 6 Belmont (LDB); Snowy, last-one Apr 1 Jamestown airport (AGR); Long-eared, singles Apr 6, 7 Lyndonville (WGS), May 23 Hamburg (TLB); Short-eared, max seven Apr 6 Lyndonville (WGS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr late—one May 4 Delaware Pk, Bflo (WAM *et al*); three other singles at scattered localities. Common Nighthawk: arr late—one May 16 Bflo (PH). Chimney Swift: arr one Apr 24 Lyndonville (WGS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one May 8 Lyndonville (WGS). Eastern Phoebe: excellent counts on BOSABC and MBC—370 Apr 7 and 282 May 19. Observed on normal early arr dates, when many other insectivorous species were late, were two flycatchers: Yellow-bellied one May 10 Elma (DD) and Traill's one May 15 Akron (MMW).

Swallows: retarded migration again this year with more large numbers on BOSMBC May 19—Tree 2332; Bank 2004; Rough-wing 407; Barn 3045; Cliff 100; Purple Martin 1877. House Wren: arr one Apr 22 Hamburg (TLB). Carolina Wren: one May 6 Athol Springs (TLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: singles May 11 Bear L Outlet (FMR), May 21 Eden (TLB), May 30 Randolph (RAS,AGR).

Mockingbird: eight reports from five scattered localities mostly in southern Tier—four of these may well represent birds moving with spring migrants. Catbird: arr one May 3 Water Valley (TLB). Brown Thrasher: arr early—two Apr 6 Orchard Pk (HS); four (three scattered southern county locations) Apr 7 BOSABC; one Apr 8 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK). Thrushes: Hermit, arr Apr 7 BOSABC, two Hamburg area, six Cuba L area; Swainson's, arr late—one May 11 Spring Brook (DD); Gray-cheeked, average arr date—singles May 11 Delaware Pk, Bflo (M.L.Emerson), May 11 Belmont (LDB). Eastern Bluebird: 138 May 19 BOSMBC (116 last year). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: early—Apr 15 East Eden Pond (TLB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: unusually late—two May 31 Panama (RFA *et al*). Water Pipit: peak Apr 7 BOSABC—100 Hamburg area, 75 Elma area, 23 Jamestown area; last—eight May 19 Elma

(DD). Loggerhead Shrike: only four reports of three birds on L Ont plain in northern Nia and Orleans Cos.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: In very few other years has there been a complete lack of vireos during April. Arr this year: Yellow-throated, one May 12 Akron (GW *et al*); Solitary, very late—one May 1 Bflo (PH); Red-eyed, late—two May 13 Lakeview (TLB); Warbling, three May 3 Bflo—Hamburg area.

Warblers: Prothonotary, male observed twice during later half of May examining nest box occupied by Tree Swallows along Chadakoin R in Jamestown (Raistricks); *WORM EATING*, one closely observed and heard singing May 18 Delaware Pk. Bflo (C.Hammond,MMW,WAM); Golden-winged, one May 4 Brocton (FMR); Blue-winged, one May 5 Charlotte (FMR), 60 May 19 BOSMBC; Orange-crowned, singles May 11 Delaware Pk, Bflo (J.Thill *et al*), May 19 Bflo area, Belfast area BOSMBC, May 21 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK); Nashville, two Apr 30 Dunkirk (FE *et al*); Parula, late and scarce—one May 18 Delaware Pk, Bflo (MMW *et al*); three May 19 Vandalia area, Wellsville area BOSMBC; Yellow, one Apr 28 Alabama (FMR); Cape May, one May 6 Athol Springs (TLB); Myrtle, one Apr 7 Belfast area BOSABC; Black-throated Green, two Apr 27 Alfred (CK); Cerulean, one May 8 Evans (RFA); Blackburnian, one May 2 Water Valley (TLB,Booth); *YELLOW-THROATED*, second Chaut Co record,—one seen and heard at close range for thirty minutes May 19 Westfield (OS,N.Bates,L.Buck); Chestnut-sided, singles May 10 South Pk, Bflo (JK), Belmont (LDB), Canadaway Creek (FMR); Pine, singles Apr 22 Lyndonville (WGS), Athol Springs (TLB); Prairie, unreported; Palm, early—one Apr 17 Scio (Larson); Ovenbird, one Apr 30 Spring Brook (Schafer); Northern Waterthrush, one May 4 Riverside (FE); Louisiana Waterthrush, one May 14 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); *CONNECTICUT*, one closely studied and ideally compared with Nashville May 22 Jamestown (AGR); Mourning, one May 18 Jamestown (FE); Yellowthroat, singles May 7 Riverside (FE), Belmont (LDB), Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Hooded, two May 14 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Canada, one May 11 Spring Brook (DD); Am. Redstart, two May 8 Riverside (FE), one May 8 East Eden Pond (TLB).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr three May 4 Riverside (FE). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: two Apr 20 Yates (PB,R.Rybczynski); birds present last two years at Fredonia and Center Rd, Sheridan Township, Chaut Co did not return. Orchard Oriole: male May 12, 18, 19 Caneadea (LarryWilson). Baltimore Oriole: 1068 May 19 BOSMBC.

Cardinal: 449 May 19 BOSMBC. Evening Grosbeak: 205 Apr 7 BOSABC in Allegany and Catt Cos; last—15 Apr 28 Alfred (CK). Purple Finch: large spring count 180 Apr 7 BOSABC. *PINE GROSBEAK*: only report of winter—one female Apr 7 Niobe (ECP) BOSABC. Pine Siskin: last—two May 30 Randolph (RAS, AGR). Am. Goldfinch: highest MBC total 4545 May 19. Red Crossbill: five Apr 7 Vandalia area BOSABC; three Apr 17 Water Valley (TLB); 13 Apr 28 Hamburg (JK); 14 May 19 unspecified localities BOSMBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: very high totals on BOSABC and MBC—58 Apr 7 and 506 May 19 (580 last year May 21 was highest ever).

Sparrows: Grasshopper, arr one Apr 24 Langford (TLB); Henslow's, arr one Apr 21 Hamburg (RFA), about twice usual total—41 May 19 BOSMBC; Tree, last—one Apr 30 Dunkirk (ECP,FE,OS); Field, high count 512 May 19 BOSMBC; White-throated, poor flight with no outstanding concentrations; Lincoln's, one May 8 Eden (TLB), five May 19 BOSMBC; Song, large numbers on ABC and MBC—4554 Apr 7 and 2808 May 19.

ADDENDUM. *Kingbird* 18(2). 92, May 1968, Region I report: insert after Eastern Phoebe: first winter record—one Dec 30 (Hamburg CC).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

April was very warm with the temperature averaging 4.5° above normal. Precipitation was less than one half of normal, but the lake and ponds remained at a high level. May was cool, with the average temperature 3.5° below normal. Rainfall was slightly above average. Owing to the warm weather in April, the spring migration was well ahead of average by the end of the month. The cool weather of May slowed this early trend down to average or slightly behind schedule by the middle of the month.

The spring flight of geese and ducks was about average with some of the latter remaining in numbers rather late. The peak of the hawk flight was April 23 but numbers were recorded through May. This was especially true of the Broad-winged which occurred in higher than average numbers through the latter part of the period on favorable days. The early shorebird flight was good, but the late flight was rather poor. This was probably due in part to lack of suitable feeding areas. Terns, except for the Black, seemed scarce. Eastern Bluebirds were reported more frequently. Owing to the cool weather in May, the early arriving species of warblers were late and seemed to be in below average numbers. The late arriving species were average. There was hardly any return spring flight of northern finches.

Noteworthy birds included the Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Warbler and Western Meadowlark.

Groups cited in text: NYF—New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

Observers cited in text: GD—Gertrude Davis; JJD—James J. Doherty; JWF—John W. Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; TM—Ted Mack; AM—Alfred Maley; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—Laura Moon; NM—Dr. Neil Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; ES—Esther Stiles; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; RJW—Robert J. White.

Locations: BB—Braddock's Bay; ELS—East Lake Shore; LS—Lake Shore; WP—Webster Park; WLS—West Lake Shore; WS—West Spit.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 350 Apr 18 ELS (AEK). Red-throated Loon: scarce, one to two Apr 19–28 ELS (several). Red-necked Grebe: scarce compared to last year, max four Apr 6 Manitou (WCL), four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Horned Grebe: max 80 Apr 18 ELS (AEK). Common Egret: one Apr 28 BB (NYF), one May 11 Manitou (HSM,RTO). *CATTLE EGRET*: two Apr. 13 BB (AEK), one Apr 29-May 14 BB (Mrs.H.W.Lowden *et al*). *GLOSSY IBIS*: one to five May 18–31 BB (several)—never more than one bird at a time previously.

Whistling Swan: two Shore Acres Apr 28 (NYF). Snow Goose: four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Blue Goose: four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). European Widgeon: one adult male Apr 20–26 Parma (RGM,NYF). Ring-necked Duck: max 80 Apr 26 Hamlin (RGM). Common Goldeneye: 13 May 19 BB (WCL,TET) late for this number. Oldsquaw: 200 Apr. 26 WLS (RGM) late for this number. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: a sub-adult male May 18–19 BB (WCL *et al*)—while late, we have at least two previous May dates.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Apr 19 BB (RTO). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 150 Apr 23 BB (WCL), 76 May 8 BB (LM,TET). Broad-winged Hawk: max 5000 Apr 23 LS (several). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: two Apr 13 Hilton (AEK,WCL), one Apr 23 Hilton (WCL). Bald Eagle: one imm Apr 13 BB (RTO *et al*), two Apr 23 Hilton (WCL), one imm May 8 Hamlin (TM,RJW), two imm May 24 WLS (WCL). The pair reported last year from the Finger Lakes area returned to their

nest and were incubating April 28. Peregrine Falcon: two Apr 23 WP (WLL), one Apr 23 BB (WCL), one Apr 24 WP (WLL), one Apr 28 BB (NYF).

Am. Golden Plover: two Apr 4 Hamlin (WCL)—this date is early and the bird is scarce in the spring. Spotted Sandpiper: two Apr 20 WP (AEK) rather early. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 203 Apr 13 WLS (AEK,WCL), 126 Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Dunlin: 21 May 19 WLS (HSM,RTO). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Apr 27–28 WLS (NYF) early. Western Sandpiper: one Apr 27–28 WLS (NYF) very early. Sanderling: four May 26 BB (RTO), very uncommon in spring. Wilson's Phalarope: one May 19 WLS (WCL,TET). Northern Phalarope: one May 30 Hamlin (WCL)—very rare locally in spring, although not uncommon in fall.

Iceland Gull: one Apr 27 Manitou (NYF). Bonaparte's Gull: 400 Apr 26 WLS (RGM).

Barn Owl: the pair that raised ten young in a silo in Parma last year again nested there this year. They hatched and were raising only one bird this year. They were reported by the caretaker on the farm to have spent the winter there. Snowy Owl: one Apr 14 WLS (WCL). Long-eared Owl: one May 21 Webster (AEK), only report for the year. Short-eared Owl: two Apr 20 Newark (ES) last report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one May 3 Penfield (GD)—the species generally arrived late. Pileated Woodpecker: reported from Mendon, Penfield and Webster. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one May 26 BB (HSM,FHP). Tufted Titmouse: reported more frequently from wider areas. Carolina Wren: a singing bird frequently reported from the Durand-Eastman Pk area; a second-hand report of one from Penfield. Water Pipit: 44 May 8 BB (LM,TET).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow Warbler: one Apr 23 WS (AM) very early. Pine Warbler: one Apr 28 (A.Starling); one May 5 Durand-Eastman Park (JM,TM). Prairie Warbler: one May 14 Kendall (WCL), the only report this spring. Louisiana Waterthrush: nine Apr 25 Canadice L (AM).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: one to four Apr 1-May 31 Hamlin (several), identified by song, call notes and plumage characteristics: a specimen was collected in this area in 1952. Evening Grosbeak: Durand-Eastman Pk, Apr 28 (TM); one May 15 Penfield (GD). Pine Siskin: a few reports of one to two birds. Red Crossbill: two Apr 27 Parma (TET) only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: max three May 19 WLS (HSM,RTO). Lapland Longspur: two May 19 Parma (RGM) very late, two May 26 Hamlin (RTO) very late.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Again we had an unusually wet and cool spring, but without the extreme low temperatures of 1967. (However 24 days in May had below normal readings.) Migration seemed slightly delayed, with a few exceptions. May had heavy rains, and undoubtedly many nests were destroyed. Elmira had flooding at the end of the month, and ground nesters in particular suffered. Of interest in waterfowl migration was the dropping in on the Chemung River the night of April 26–27 of unusual numbers of waterfowl including: 20 Horned Grebes, 120 Buffleheads, 25 Oldsquaws, 25 White-winged Scoters, 30 Common Scoters, two Surf Scoters, and 10 Ruddy Ducks. With 15 Common Scoters noted at another Elmira location, this marked not only the first record but unusual numbers of the species.

Purple Martins seem to have suffered a serious set-back, with bad weather of the last few years, scarcity of insect food, and perhaps pesticide effects. Some colonies were deserted or almost so this year.

The only good warbler migration occurred on the weekend of May 18-19, and this was not outstanding.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; AF—Albert Fudge; FG—Frank Guthrie; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; CH—Clayton Hardy; VH—Vincent Hannan; WH—Wilfred Howard; BJ—Brad Jacobs; CKK—Cameron and Kay Kepler; DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mary Smith; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles.

Area Compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, William M. Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: *EARED GREBE*: May 5-12, MNWR, (Hardy, Scheider, Benning *et al*) full spring plumage; fewer than five previous records. Pied-billed Grebe: slight increase noted at Hornell, 1-3 regularly (WMG). All herons were reported as scarce at Elmira. Great Blue Heron: only nestings known in Region were near Reynoldsville (JB) and near Montezuma. Common Egret: one Apr 13 MNWR (DAL and class), an early date. Cattle Egret: one Apr 25 MNWR (CH *et al*), only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: 14 max May 19 MNWR is above usual spring max. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one, May 11-12 Stewart Pk, Ithaca, near same area as May 20, 1967; one May 19 Horseheads (WH); rare in Region. Least and American Bitterns continue to be difficult to find; none of latter at Hornell, for third successive year (WMG). Glossy Ibis: no reports.

Whistling Swan: one May 4 MNWR last report (WEB). Canada Goose: 70,000 max week of Apr 21 MNWR, highest ever; most left May 8. Snow Goose 200 max and Blue Goose 800 max Apr 21 MNWR, also high. *BAR-HEADED GOOSE* and perhaps two, undoubtedly escapees, noted at MNWR first on Apr 21, present into early May (CH and mob). Brant: one only, May 26 Ithaca marina area (R. Robinson). Mallard: first brood Apr 29 SWS, earliest date ever. Black Duck: fewer than usual MNWR at period end, but Gadwall abundant. Pintail and American Widgeon: no records for Apr at Keuka—usually present. Blue-winged Teal: pairs on various farm ponds, never abundant but regular. *European Widgeon*: one Apr 16 MNWR (CH); this species is seen regularly there, but does not seem to increase. Wood Duck: 15-20 pairs SWS, normal; reported as increasing at Keuka (FG). Ring-necked Duck: several observers reported this species missing from usual stopping-off places in migration, WEB said scarce at MNWR. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: female May 7-9 Sheldrake Pt Cay L (DM and others; verification report on file), first record for Region. White-winged Scoter: one Apr 27 Hornell Reservoir (WMG); seven May 12 Keuka L (FG) but no reports from Cay L Basin. Surf Scoter: three May 14 Keuka L near Penn Yan—rare in spring. See also introductory remarks for Chemung R report of unusual numbers of scoters. Ruddy Ducks: arr in numbers Apr 13-14 MNWR (CH). All mergansers in lower numbers this year than normal. Hooded Merganser: raised brood of 12 near Tompkins Co Airport (J. Hauck).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 35 Apr 9 MNWR (WEB) unusually high count; nest in Marengo swamp active again, one egg May 22; three adults May 18 Elmira (AF), usually singles only. Goshawk: one adult May 9 Hawley Hill Elmira (WH); two active nests s.e. of Ithaca late May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no nesting sites, almost no sightings. Cooper's Hawk: one Apr 13 Ludlowville (DAL *et al*); one May 24-26 near Texas Hollow (JBr *et al*); one May 21 Mills Rd Waterloo (JW); no nesting sites known. Red-tailed Hawk: most known nesting areas occupied, plus several new. Red-shouldered Hawk: still decreasing; SWS pair present, but silent, and no nest found. Broad-winged Hawk: first migrants Apr 26 near Etna (WRS). Rough-legged Hawk: Apr 14 last date in Cay Basin; none in period in

Keuka area (FG). Bald Eagle: one report only, May 7 near Etna (WRS). Marsh Hawk: one-two MNWR during period, no reports elsewhere. Osprey: scattered reports Apr 2 through mid-May. No verified Peregrine or Merlin reports. Sparrow Hawk: reports vary from "completely missing in area" to "present at usual nesting sites". It would be worthwhile to have some careful studies locally of the population of these little falcons. Ring-necked Pheasant: good numbers everywhere, though some reports of scarcity of cocks. Turkey: sightings at Conn Hill, Watkins Glen and near Dryden.

Virginia Rail: missing most Elmira stations this year (MPW); few reports anywhere. Common Gallinule: numbers seem considerably below those of a few years ago at MNWR, but exact figures are hard to obtain. American Coot: all observers mentioned fewer numbers of this species this year. American Golden Plover: four Apr 13 MNWR (WEB) rare in spring. *WHIMBREL*: rare at anytime, esp. in spring—one dead on road May 10, Town of Caton (Matt Welles). Upland Plover: at most usual stations, but arr late (late May). White-rumped Sandpiper: 12 max May 26, high count. Dunlin: 60 May 18 Chemung R flats (MS) highest spring count for Elmira area; 250 max May 19 MNWR (WEB) same high as in '67. Western Sandpiper: very rare in spring, one May 30 MNWR (WEB). Wilson's Phalarope: female May 10 MNWR (WEB); female May 22 Horseheads near A and P plant (mob). The almost annual spotting of this species in spring may simply represent more field work than was the case ten or 20 years ago or it may mean a change in migration pattern. Northern Phalarope: two females May 30 MNWR (WEB) unusual in spring. Bonaparte's Gull: first arrivals Apr 1-6 ; 800 Apr 15 Cay L (DM) s. of Canoga extremely high count, seven there Apr 21; 55 max at Elmira, Chemung R (WH) a high count there also. Caspian Tern: none reported from MNWR; one seen s. end Cay L May 17. Scattered Common and Black Terns at MNWR through May. Snowy Owl: last dates Apr 2 Ithaca, Troy Rd, Apr 17 Horseheads, Ridge Rd. Barred Owl: fledged two young in SWS, mid May, one killed on road two weeks later.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very scarce and first reports later than usual. Whip-poor-will: one May 4 Ithaca (K.Hakes); one May 9 Elmira, one May 12 Texas Hollow (JBr). Belted Kingfisher: missing from several former locations in Ithaca area; Benning reports scarce MNWR. Red-headed Woodpecker: population at Keuka improving, four pairs known (FG). No increase Ithaca area. Continuing report of fewer Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers at feeders. Flycatchers in general were a few days late in arriving; Eastern Kingbirds, Least Flycatchers and Wood Pewees were relatively scarce. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one report only, May 18 Elmira (WH). *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER*: very few Regional records of this southern species, one May 26 North Hornell (WMG). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 30 Pinewoods Rd six miles e. of Ithaca (J.Patterson); one May 30 Texas Hollow (JBr).

Swallow migration noted along Seneca Lake May 2 (BS). No new colonies of Bank Swallows reported. Changes made in the barns on the Sweetland farm south of Dryden resulted in temporary abandonment of the site by the only local Cliff Swallows. By the end of May, a dozen or so birds had returned and apparently accepted things. Purple Martin: very scarce throughout Region, and those present returned in May, not April. The SWS colony did not return this year. Common Raven: one (rare) over valley between Combs Hill and Mt. Zoar, Elmira May 14 (WH). Tufted Titmouse: have disappeared in Keuka area, none reported there during period; present elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: rare Regional breeder, found regularly during the period Conn Hill, s.w. Ithaca (JBr). Marsh Wrens: none found Keuka or Elmira; scarce MNWR. Mockingbird: several definite nestings at Elmira, suspected at Ithaca. Numerous reports of failure of first nestings of Wood Thrush and Bluebird, possibly due to bad weather. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nestings reported Elmira, Ithaca.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Again, with monotony and regularity, I must report: no waves of warblers and vireos; most species noted, but few individuals. At Hornell, WMG remarked on poor migration, with absence of Black-throated Green Warblers and Redstarts. Yellow-throated Vireos were scarce everywhere. Philadelphia Vireo: one (only report) May 19 Brooktondale (CK). Prothonotary Warbler: one, May 13 Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW); no other reports. Golden-winged Warbler: this species continues to disappear from former locations, as Blue-winged Warblers become well established. Brewster's Warbler: two reports at Ithaca. Cerulean Warbler: missing from several former stations; a rare species at best. Prairie Warbler: no reports. Species noted as scarce or missing as residents or migrants by various observers were Tennessee, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Pine, Mourning, and Redstart.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: with one exception (WEB) all observers noted an increase in this species, though not back to numbers of 20 years ago. Red-winged Blackbird: extremely abundant. Orchard Oriole: one, May 22-25 Starkey on Sen L (JB) third report for area in 20 years; pair Campbell Ave w. Ithaca, same location as 1967 (VH). Rusty Blackbird: few migrants noted. Scarlet Tanager: arr late (mid-May) and scarce, Ithaca and Hornell. Indigo Bunting: fewer roadside singers noted (SHS). *DICKCISSEL*: bright male May 15-16, Danby Rd, Ithaca (Miller,DM); this species when present is usually a winter visitor, in dull plumage. Evening Grosbeak: last dates Ithaca Apr 11 (J.Hutt), Apr 30 (BJ). Purple Finch: abundant in Hornell area, fairly so elsewhere, but no big flocks or incursion noted. Crossbills: no reports. White-throated Sparrow: scarce in migration (WEB,SHS). White-crowned Sparrow: abundant. Fox Sparrow: numerous in migration at Keuka, scarce at Ithaca. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, May 3 Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW); two at different locations at Elmira May 4.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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This report will cover both the winter and spring periods, from December 1 through May 31, since there was no report for the Region in the last issue.

Reasonably mild in December, temperatures were rather severe during January and February when there were 18 days with sub-zero temperatures. Snowfall, however, was below normal. From mid March through the first three weeks of April temperatures were above normal and bird arrivals seemed to be ahead of schedule. The last week of April and most of May was cool and very wet and the bird migration fell behind schedule, but there was little indication of early nesters being in serious trouble.

Mockingbirds continue to increase their numbers in the Region substantially, not only in the winter months, but during the breeding season, too. One definite breeding record, the first for the Region, was obtained and one other situation was reported where breeding was suspected.

Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks were quite prominent in some parts of the Region. The winter finch flights, while disappointing, were better than last year. Several half-hardies, such as a Baltimore Oriole, a Catbird and a couple of Brown Thrashers survived at least until the severe January weather set in. A Varied Thrush and Caspian Terns represent new additions to the Region list and other rarities included a Yellow-crowned night Heron, a Clay-colored Sparrow, an Orchard Oriole and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Observer's initials: DB—D. Bemont; LB—L. Bemont; LC—Mrs. L. Clark; GC—G. Corderman; WC—W. Corderman ;MC—M. Cubberly; M,AD—M. & A. Davis;

RD—R. Dirig; EF—E. Feldhusen; CG—C. Gerould; BG—B. Gorton; CGo—C. Gottschall; JAG—J. Gustafson; J,MH—J. & M. Harris; MH—M. Hills; CH—C. Howard; VH—V. Hudson; PK—P. Kalka; EK—E. Kirch; AL—A. Levy; ML—M. Lynch; HM—H. Marsi; JO—J. Osadchey; JR—J. Ranney; HR—H. Rinker; R,JS—R. & J. Saunders; DS—D. Sawyer; MS—M. Sheffield; AS—A. Stratton; E,NW—E. & N. Washburn; DW—D. Weber; MW—M. White; R,SW—R. & S. White; BW—B. Williams ;RW—R. Williams; SW—S. Wilson.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center; Pep Res—Pepaction Reservoir; WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Jan 20 Cortland (JAG), waterfowl count; Mar 24 Conklin, SE of Bing (J,MD); Apr 27 WP (MS); May 18 Pep Res (MC); May 19 Owego (MW,CG); eight at WP May 19 (MS); May 19 Unadilla (DS). Red-necked Grebe: one Mar 22 Bing (CH); one Mar 31 and Apr 7 Conklin (J,MH); one Apr 1 WP (J,MH); an infrequently reported species in Region. Horned Grebe: Mar 23, Johnson City (GC,WC); 10 reports to Apr 1 then three more reports to May 4, Pied-billed Grebe; Mar 24 Owego (MW,CG) and three at Norwich (R,SW); in mid-May at Oneonta (JN), otherwise none after Apr 27; a total of eleven reports. Double-crested Cormorant: May 19 WP (BG); seldom reported in Region. Great Blue Heron: one wintered at Candor (DW); one at Delhi Jan 4 (LC); one at Chen Forks Dec 8 (M,AD); three returned to Candor rookery; 18 nests at East Freetown rookery—young half grown May 25 (JAG). Green Heron: Apr 27 WP (J,MH), early. Black-crowned Night Heron: Apr 29 Owego (MW,CG); the only report. *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: one adult May 19 Apalachin (HM, GC,CGo,EK); only one or two previous records in Region. American Bittern: Mar 29 CC (MS). Whistling Swan: numerous reports from Mar 23 to 30 in Broome, Chenango, Cortland & Tioga Cos; max 82 Mar 24 Smithboro Flats in Tioga Co (MW,CG); also 26 in Greene-Oxford area mentioned by several observers. Canada Goose: a flock heard flying over just s. of Bing Dec 22 and seven counted flying over the same area Dec 29 (CGo); one Jan 21 Kirkwood (R,JS); migrants from Mar 7 to May 21, mostly between Mar 20 and May 5. Brant: Mar 24 Smithboro Flats (MW,CG); May 20 Oneonta (JN).

Mallard: approx. 250 at Sherburne Game Farm, plus small numbers at Candor, Deposit, Bing and Cortland wintered; more frequent reports after mid Mar. Black Duck: only about 60 wintering at Sherburne, but larger numbers dispersed along rivers and creeks throughout make total wintering population nearly as great as that of Mallards; more frequent reports from Mar 23. Gadwall: three Apr 27 WP (J, MH); one May 4 Norwich (R,SW). Pintail: Mar 20 Berkshire (ML); three more reports to Apr 25. Green-winged Teal: Mar 24 at Smithboro Flats (RW,BW) and two at Norwich (R,SW); five more reports to May 4. Blue-winged Teal: Mar 24 Smithboro Flats (MW,CG) and ten Mar 31 Homer (JAG), both early ;next report Apr 26. American Widgeon: Mar 14 to Apr 1, ten reports; max seven Mar 14 Bing (CH). Shoveler: two Mar 30 WP (MS); two Mar 31 Homer (JAG); two Apr 28 and four May 4, Norwich (R,SW). Wood Duck: two Jan 1 Sherburne; migrants Mar 23 at Oxford (AS) and Deposit (SW). Redhead: four Jan 1 Skaneateles L (JO); Mar 23 and 24 and May 19. Ring-necked Duck: 23 reports (max 10) from Mar 16 to 31. Canvasback: one Jan 1 Little York (JAG); ten reports of migrants Mar 23 to Apr 1, max 20 Oxford Mar 23 (AS). Lesser Scaup: two Jan 1 Skaneateles L (JO); eleven reports Mar 21 to May 4, max approx. 400 Apr 27. Greater Scaup: 50 Apr 27 WP (J,MH). Common Goldeneye: 45 Jan 1 Skaneateles L (JO); 14 more scattered reports to Apr 7. Bufflehead: one female Jan 24 Candor (DW); one Feb 14 Bing (CGo); eight reports Mar 24 to Apr 28; max 250 Apr 27 WP (J,MH). Oldsquaw: 76 Apr 1 WP (J,MH); also at Conklin Forks Apr 1 (PK) and WP Apr 27. White-winged Scoter: Apr 1 and 76 Apr 27, WP (J,MH). Common Scoter: 20 Apr 27 WP (J,MH,MS). Ruddy Duck: two females Apr 1 and a male and two

females Apr 27, WP (J,MH). Hooded Merganser: two Dec 30, Bing Christmas count; one Jan 1, Cortland Christmas count; migrants Mar 10 to Apr 1, 17 reports (max 24). Common Merganser: a few all winter in much of Region; migrants until Apr 27 ; May 19 Endwell (HM *et al*). Red-breasted Merganser: Jan 14 Owego (RW,CG,MW); migrants Mar 23 to May 8, ten reports.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Mar 25 Hancock (RD); eight other records, all from Delaware, Broome and Tioga Cos. Goshawk: Dec 31, Owego Christmas census (CG); one imm Feb 4 CC (MS), sitting on feeder; Feb 14, Chen Valley State Pk (CGo); Mar 11 Deposit (SW), adult sitting on nest—both adults and three young at nest May 23; also nesting at Scott—three young (JAG). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 30, Bing Christmas census; one banded at Deposit Feb 11; six other Feb and Mar records. Cooper's Hawk: at least nine records from Feb 26 to end of May; at Candor a "nest with 5 downy young early in season" (DW). Red-tailed Hawk: three Dec 10 Norwich (R,SW), all at one time; two Dec 30, Bing Christmas census; *eight* Jan 1, Cortland Christmas census; more frequent reports than in any recent year, especially after Mar 19. Red-shouldered Hawk: an imm Jan 13 Oxford (AS), sitting on suet post—not seen eating suet; Mar 19 Owego (RW) and four Apr and May records. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr 27 North Owego (CG) and Homer (JAG); common. Rough-legged Hawk: four Dec 30, Bing census and three Jan 1, Cortland census ;fourteen other reports. Golden Eagle: one Jan 7, Pep Res (MC), flying—"whitish at base of tail-wing linings not streaked—smaller head than bald eagle—seen twice well." Bald Eagle: "as usual, about three wintered around Pep Res and fed on deer carcasses in the ice"; Feb 18 and 20, between Walton and Delhi (LC). Marsh Hawk: Mar 13 Bing (HM); two other Mar and one May record. Osprey: one Apr 10 Oxford (AS); twelve other records all between Apr 26 and May 11. Pigeon Hawk: Mar 5 Bing (HM).

Bobwhite: heard calling on a hill near Cortland in Apr or May (JAG). Turkey: three Feb 10 Hancock (RD), known to have been in area all fall and winter; Mar 31 Vestal Center (CGo). Killdeer: five Dec and Jan records thru Jan 5; migrants Mar 2 Unadilla (DS). Am. Woodcock: Mar 18 Chen Forks (M,AD). Common Snipe: Mar 21 Berkshire (ML). Upland Plover: May 11, three at Homer and two at Cortlandville (JAG). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 21. Solitary Sandpiper: May 11 Oneonta (JN). Ring-billed Gull: flocks of over 100 at Bing Mar 22 (EK) and WP Mar 24 (J,MH), early for such numbers. Bonaparte's Gull: Mar 22 Owego (MW,CG); five more reports to Apr 27. Common Tern: Apr 27 WP (MS,J,MH) and six May records, all in Broome and Tioga Cos; an irregular migrant in Region. CASPIAN TERN: seven or more May 19, WP (MS); first record for Region. Black Tern: May 19 Owego (MW,CG); ten May 19 Norwich (R,SW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: four records from May 19. Black-billed Cuckoo: twenty records from May 16.

Screech Owl: five distinct records in Broome Co and also reported in Cortland and Owego areas. Horned Owl: ten Dec 30, Bing census, an all time high; numerous other reports. Snowy Owl: A. Christopher saw five in one morning and seen in several places in Cortland Co all winter; several reports from Tioga Co also; one Jan 28 Hancock (RD). Barred Owl: recorded several times throughout periods at Candor (DW) and south of Bing (GC,WC,EK); a nest with two young at Scott in May (JO); also recorded at Nichols (HR) and Hancock (RD). Long-eared Owl: May 23 Delhi (LC). Short-eared Owl: one Dec 10 Bing (J,MH). Saw-whet Owl: one Jan 28 Bing (Mrs. Leon Lyman); one heard regularly from late Jan thru mid Feb at Ingraham Hill, just south of Bing (CH); one heard regularly from Feb 28 thru Mar 25 at Candor (DW); one heard Mar 2 and Mar 19 at another Bing locality.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: May 10 Bing (R,JS); May 15 North Owego (CG). Common Nighthawk: May 5 Owego (MW), early; next report May 15, Oneonta (EF). Chimney Swift: May 1 Bing (MS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 12 CC (MS). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Mar 24 Deposit and Bing; at

Oxford one observed on two different days, during hard rain, seeking shelter close up under a bluebird box; two Dec 30 Bing census. Pileated Woodpecker: 16 reports in the six months. Red-headed Woodpecker: May 2 Nichols (VH,HR); May 11 McGraw (JAG), three males fighting over nesting site and mate. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar 28 Hancock (RD). Eastern Kingbird: May 4 Bing (J,MH). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 1 Conklin Forks (PK). Eastern Phoebe: Mar 17 Vestal (GC). Traill's Flycatcher: May 18 Oneonta (JN). Acadian Flycatcher: May 6, North Owego (CG), "identified by call". Eastern Wood Pewee: May 12 South Owego (CG) and Oneonta (EF). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 18 Delhi (LC); two others.

Tree Swallow: Mar 20 Owego (MW). Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 27 Greene (MS). Barn Swallow: Apr 24 Bing (J,MH). Cliff Swallow: Apr 28 Johnson City (JR). Purple Martin: Apr 6 Endicott (MH); promising numbers in spite of the last two years. Tufted Titmouse: 28 Dec 30, Bing census. Red-breasted Nuthatch: three Dec 30, Bing census; one Jan 1, Cortland census; spring migrants scarce. Brown Creeper: the usual small winter population; six May records. House Wren: Apr 19 Nichols (HR); next report Apr 27. Winter Wren: three Dec 30, Bing census; singing Mar 31 Castle Creek (MS); six Apr and May records, the last May 12 Owego (MW). Carolina Wren: at feeder in Owego all winter and still present in Apr and May (MW); also two reports in Broome Co. Mockingbird: winter reports from Franklin (Mrs. Ralph Simmons), Delhi (at least four birds) (LC,EF), Homer (A. Christopher), Newark Valley (L.&W. Dean), CC (MS) and Greene (S.&H. Hayes); young birds, just off the nest, at CC from May 25 (MS) after several good mimicking concerts during Apr and May and discovery of an apparently false nest; spring records also from Bing (J,MH), Conklin Forks (PK), Vestal Center (E,NW), North Owego (CG,MW), Oxford (regularly from May 7) (AS), and Delhi (LC). Catbird: Jan 4 Owego (CG); first migrant Apr 29 South Owego (CG). Brown Thrasher: one Dec 30, Bing census; Mar 6 Owego (D. Bandle); migrants Apr 15 Oxford (AS).

VARIED THRUSH: one at Candor in Jan and Mar the first for Region; see field note in May *Kingbird* for details. Robin: migrants Mar 12 and in force Mar 16. Hermit Thrush: one Dec 2 Endwell (LB); Mar 26 Conklin Forks (PK); a number of May records. Swainson's Thrush: four reports around Bing May 19--no other reports. Eastern Bluebird: a male Mar 17 CC (MS), the first; in Cortland area "nesting success poor, too wet in May" (JAG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 2 Chen Forks (M,AD); May 30 Berkshire (ML); the only two reports. Golden-crowned Kinglet: an estimated 400 at Bing Mar 29 (J,MH); still at Bing (B. Bozdos, Kintner) and Owego (MW) May 19. Water Pipit: 20 Mar 24 Owego (RW,BW); May 7 Berkshire (ML); May 11 Cortlandville (C. Wilkins). Northern Shrike: six records Dec 28 to Feb 24. Loggerhead Shrike: Mar 24 South Apalachin (CG); one Mar 27 Bing (J,MH); Apr 1 WP (J,MH).

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: May 5 Owego (MW) and Johnson City (MS). Solitary: Apr 27 Chen Forks (M,AD). Red-eyed: May 7 Owego (MW); next report May 13. Philadelphia: two reports May 19, Bing (J,MH,HM *et al*) Warbling: May 4, Unadilla (DS) and two at WP (MS).

Warblers: Black-and-white: Apr 27 Chen Forks (M,AD). Golden-winged: May 8 Chen Forks (M,AD). Brewster's: May 18 Endwell (LB,DB); May 23 Oneonta (JN). Blue-winged: May 17 CC (MS); also at Oneonta (JN). Orange-crowned: May 3 Bing (J,MH). Tennessee: May 15-21, and then no more. Nashville: May 3 Bing (J,MH). Parula: May 19 Owego (RW); only two other records, both May 25. Yellow: Apr 23 South Owego (CG); no more until May 2. Magnolia: May 5 Newark Valley (RW); no more until May 18. Cape May: May 4 Chen Forks (M,AD); nine records to May 21. Black-throated Blue: May 4 Delhi (LC). Myrtle: Mar 16 Nichols (HR); no more until Apr 21; still quite numerous May 19 which is

unusual. Black-throated Green: May 1 Bing (R,JS). Blackburnian: May 5 Owego (RW). Chestnut-sided: May 2 Owego (RW); no more until May 8. Bay-breasted: May 12 Owego (RW); next report May 17 Chen Forks (M,AD). Blackpoll: May 7 Owego (MW)—incredibly early; next reports May 19 Apalachin. Pine: May 7 Owego (MW); May 11 Freetown (M. Rutbell). Prairie: May 3 Vestal Center (E,NW) and still present there at the end of May, as last year.

Ovenbird: May 4 Conklin Forks (PK). Northern Waterthrush; May 2 Oxford (AS). Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 14 Norwich (R,SW) and Endwell (JR). Mourning Warbler: May 19 Bing (HM *et al*); May 22 Nichols (HR,VH). Yellowthroat: May 5 Vestal (MS). Yellow-breasted Chat: two reports—May 19 Bing (BG) and May 22 Nichols (HR,VH). Hooded Warbler: May 23 Nichols (VH), the only one. Wilson's Warbler: May 11 Conklin Forks (PK); at least nine other reports all after May 18. Canada Warbler: May 5 Owego (RW); next report May 10. American Redstart: May 5 Owego (RW); "several early in month", Oxford (AS); others all after May 17.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 1 Owego (CG) and May 4 Unadilla (DS); no others before May 11. Eastern Meadowlark: two Dec 30, Bing census and three other Dec and Jan records; migrants Mar 19. Redwinged Blackbird: migrants Mar 7. Orchard Oriole: May 22, Nichols (HR, description filed with RW). Baltimore Oriole: one at Margaretville, Delaware Co in the early part of Jan (Mrs. H. Gavette); migrants May 1 Unadilla (DS). Rusty Blackbird: six reports from Mar 22 to May 5. Common Grackle: several Dec records in Bing and Cortland areas; migrants Mar 6. Brown-headed Cowbird: occasional scattered feeder reports all winter; migrants became numerous about Mar 20. Scarlet Tanager: May 5 Newark Valley (RW).

Cardinal: 114 Dec 30, Bing census; 22 Jan 1, Cortland census. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 3 Chen Forks (M,AD). Indigo Bunting: May 5 Newark Valley (E. Williams); next report May 17. Evening Grosbeak: numerous reports with a marked increase about mid Feb, but flocks of over 30 remained exceptional all winter with only three mentions of flocks over 100; an abrupt decrease in reports after Mar 31, only five between then and May 5. Purple Finch: present throughout Region all period although not in impressive numbers; "a large migration in Mar" at Cortland (JAG). Pine Grosbeak: reported at Scott in Mar and Apr (JO), but nowhere else. Common Redpoll: six Mar 20 Oxford (AS), the only ones. Pine Siskin: "unusually common all winter" at Deposit (SW); scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch: common all period. Red Crossbill; two Apr 9 Unadilla (DS); ten May 10 Cortland Water Works feeding on elm seeds (JAG). Rufous-sided Towhee; one Dec 30, Bing census; Mar 1 Cortland (H. Burtis); Mar 9 Deposit (SW); five reports between Mar 27 and Apr 6, then seen regularly although not in full numbers until Apr 20.

Sparrows: Savannah: Mar 20 Ingraham Hill (CH). Grasshopper: Apr 29 Oxford (AS); reasonable numbers, mostly after May 11. Henslow's: several May 3 CC (MS); five other records, all in the Triple Cities area. *SHARP-TAILED*: Mar 31, WP (ML and five other observers), seen at very close range—"a little buzzy note—creeping around the undergrowth. Had streaked back and bright line over and under the eye; very fine streaking on breast; chestnut on shoulder. Flushed up a short distance then flew back."; second documented record for Region. Vesper: Mar 23 Vestal (Mrs. J. Kiley). Slate-colored Junco: reduced to small summer population after Apr 30. Oregon Junco: two Dec 30, Bing census (M. Rutbell). Tree: last one Apr 19 Nichols (HR). Chipping: one Dec 30, Bing census and a week or so before and after (M. Rutbell); Apr 7 Nichols (VH), early; next report Apr 13, regular from Apr 20. *CLAY-COLORED*: one, possibly two, May 18 Endwell (AL, HM, LB, DB, and others), incessant buzzy song—distinct facial pattern seen at close range, bird allowing close approach repeatedly; probably present a week earlier, but not identified then, and still present May 30; second report in Region. Field: Dec 31

Owego (RW); Jan 20 Endwell (Mrs. Rutbell); migrants Mar 23. White-crowned: one Dec 30, Bing census; Dec 31, Owego census; one all Jan at Homer (E. Fountain); migrants Apr 30 through May 23 in good numbers although not as many as last year. White-throated: quite frequent reports all winter; most migrants between Apr 11 and May 11, those still present at the end of May probably summer residents. Fox: most migrants from Mar 23 to Mar 31; a few early Apr reports and May 11, Walton (EF). Lincoln's: May 17 Bing (J,MH), the only spring record. Swamp: Mar 27 Conklin Forks (PK). Song: 55 Dec 30, Bing census and 10 Jan 1, Cortland census suggest larger than normal winter population and the frequency of other winter reports agrees; migrants swelling numbers significantly about Mar 10. Lapland Longspur: Dec 30 Halsey Valley, Tioga Co (RW,BW); infrequently reported in Region. Snow Bunting: 384 Dec 30, Bing census; 460 Jan 1, Cortland census; several other reports to Mar 15 but never in large numbers.

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y., 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

J. W. PROPST, M. S. RUSK, AND F. G. SCHEIDER

The bright clear days of April, many with south winds, presaged an early spring. However, most species arrived on time or a few days later than average and only a handful were even a few days early. These early few also did not cluster in either date or geography, i.e. along Lake Ontario shoreline, to suggest early migrants trapped in a tropical airflow and thus hastened northward. Southern winds seemed capricious and many days at Derby Hill had flights of hawks, Kingbirds, swallows, Blue Jays, and icterids on west or even easterly winds. May was very hot in the first ten days with tremendously accelerated leaf growth but few waves of warblers and very little song from what few warblers did pass through. A cool spell with rain May 17-23 created a few light waves and one major one May 20. The late May influx of Wood Pewees, vireos, and female warblers simply did not occur, and Wood Pewees and other flycatchers and Red-eyed vireos were frankly scarce as migrants.

Positives for the season include: 1) a fair number of southern wader reports; 2) a record flight of Brant; 3) record counts of Shoveler; 4) a good late-shorebird flight; 5) high numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; 6) good flights of Baltimore Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak; 7) some very late winter finches; 8) a marked migration of Goldfinches.

Some negatives are: 1) very low counts of loons and grebes; 2) poor numbers of Ruddy Duck and Red-breasted Merganser; 3) lowered hawk counts at Derby Hill; 4) a poor early-shorebird flight; 5) low numbers of some terns, both cuckoos, and aerial insectivores e.g. Whip-poor-will, flycatchers, and swallows; 6) lack of Black-capped Chickadee-nuthatch-Winter Wren migration; 7) low numbers of most vireos; 8) poor and late warbler flight.

Rarities for the season: Cattle Egret, Common Egret, Glossy Ibis, European Woodpeck, Bald and Golden Eagles, Peregrine, Prairie and Connecticut Warblers, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet settling impoundments S of Howland's Island; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SMC—Six Mile Creek near Phoenix; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Syr—Syracuse; Oakwood—Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse.

Observers: AC—A. Carter; VB—V. Billings; FD—F. Dittrich; C&EF—C. & E. Farnham; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: arr Apr 7 (late) DH; max ten (low) on May 9 DH; two still present SP Jun 8 (FLF). No Red-throated Loon or Red-necked Grebe reported. Horned Grebe: low max for period 20, W half of S shore of Oneida L Apr 20 (FGS) and 12 DH Apr 27 (RJS); dep May 4 (early) two DH. Pied-billed Grebe: max only seven HIGMA Apr 18 and six Woodman's Pond near Hamilton Apr 12 (GLC). *CATTLE EGRET*: unconfirmed report of 12, May 12, but at least one, confirmed May 17 (FLF) Manlius Twp. *COMMON EGRET*: one DH, Apr 23 (JWP,C&EF) and May 19 (GS). Black-crowned Night Heron: very scarce—only records two HIGMA May 4 thru end of period (FLF,RJS) and one DH May 14 (JWP). Least Bittern: continues scarce with only report, one-three Scott Swamp near Phoenix May 19–21 thru end of period (mob). *GLOSSY IBIS*: one DH May 9 (FGS) and nine May 11 Cedarville (VB).

Whistling Swan: from the big late-Mar influx, one Oneida L Apr 2 (JWP), nine still at L Moraine in Madison Co Apr 3 (AC), one Scott Swamp Apr 15 and 18 (FGS,GS), and one HIGMA Apr 6 (GS). Mute Swan: one with Whistling at Phoenix Apr 18 and one HIGMA Apr 6. Canada Goose: max 3000 HIGMA Apr 7 (RJS) and, though numbers were heard passing over Syr Apr 13–15 (JWP), 5000 Beaver L Apr 11–20 and 1000 FR Apr 21; migrants in small numbers (14–50) still present May 19. Brant: only report is of 800, a record spring count, DH May 23 (FGS). Blue Goose: one HIGMA Apr 6 (GS) and one Beaver L Apr 11 (FGS).

Pintail: 800, residua from big Mar flight, still present Seneca R flats Apr 11 (FGS). Gadwall and Green-winged Teal: good max at FR with 24 Apr 25 and 125 Apr 18 respectively. American Widgeon: fair counts of 100–300 FR and HIGMA Apr 7–21. *EUROPEAN WIDGEON*: a male HIGMA Apr 13–21 (E. Sibley, mob) first Regional spring record,—however, the species is regular at Montezuma NWR in spring. Shoveler: max 104 (about twice the previous spring record), mostly males, FR Apr 18 (FGS), with 20 still present there May 12; also reported one-seven/day near Phoenix to Apr 29 (JWP). Wood Duck: max ten-12 Old Fly at Pompey Apr 1–30 (FLF) and eight-ten Phoenix vicinity May 4–21—somewhat scarce. Ring-necked Duck: fair max 240 Seneca R flats, Apr 11 (FGS). White-winged Scoter: a sharp high peak of 300 on Apr 27 DH; much smaller numbers, one-five/day, there Apr 7–May 4 dep—very early (both RJS). Ruddy Duck: scarce—three reports totaling six birds. Red-breasted Merganser: very low spring max 120 DH Apr 7.

HAWKS—OWLS: The total number of hawks observed at DH, approximately 17,300, is about 2300 fewer than last year; excluding Broad-winged (which are down somewhat despite more S-wind days during their migration period than last year) the 1968 total is one-sixth less than 1967 counts—this despite two 5000+ days, Apr 23 and 24. Only Sharp-shinned Hawk and the scarce Merlin are up in comparison with last year. Rough-legged Hawk and Osprey tallied about the same for both years, both eagles were lower than last year; most common species are also down (most distressingly so in Red-tailed and Red-shouldered), in some cases by 50%. In 1967 it was felt that low numbers were due to the many poor flight days with consequent lack of hawk-concentration, but this year many good S-wind days (the best, Mar 26 and Apr 23–24) brought fewer hawks than heretofore. The 1968 flight was covered on 50 days of the 90-day period Mar 1–May 30, including virtually all the “good” (i.e. appropriate weather pattern) days.

Hawks, certainly or probably migrants, other than at DH, include: Turkey Vultures (one-two) from Mar 19, at Brewerton, Madison L, Pompey, HIGMA, and E end of Oneida L; Sharp-shinned Apr 14–May 5 at Holland Patent and E end of Oneida L; Red-shouldered at Pompey from Apr 5 on, also at Madison L, New Woodstock, and Ilion; Broad-winged (one-three) from mid-Apr at HIGMA, Camillus, Pompey, Woodman's Pond, Madison L, New Woodstock, E end of Oneida L, and Forestport; single Marsh Hawks repeatedly at HIGMA, Phoenix, and Ilion, and at Pompey Apr 5 and Holland Patent May 5; single Ospreys Apr 18–May 19 at

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION

Species	Date range	Total	Date range of 90% of the birds	Peak day(s)	No. on peak days
TURKEY VULTURE	Mar 26–May 23	89	Apr 4–May 23	Apr 12	12
GOSHAWK	Mar 7–Apr 24	55	Mar 15–Apr 21	Mar 15&16	9
SHARP-SHINNED	Mar 16–May 19	1877	Mar 28–May 8	Apr 23	317
COOPER'S	Mar 15–May 8	113	Mar 16–Apr 23	Mar 26&28	21; 20
RED-TAILED	Mar 7–May 27	1335	Mar 15–Apr 21	Mar 26	216
RED-SHOULDERED	Mar 9–May 14	490	Mar 15–Apr 12	Mar 26	154
BROAD-WINGED	Apr 12–May 23	12273	Apr 23–May 3	Apr 23&24	5336; 5236
ROUGH-LEGGED	Mar 7–May 14	188	Mar 16–May 3	Mar 28	22
BALD EAGLE	Mar 28&May 3	2			
GOLDEN EAGLE	Apr 12–May 8	6		Apr 29	2
MARSH HAWK	Mar 15–May 20	275	Mar 19–May 3	Mar 26&Apr 4	39
OSPREY	Apr 7–May 16	104	Apr 14–May 14	Apr 21	15
PEREGRINE	Mar 30	1			
MERLIN	Mar 15–May 8	14		Apr 13&23	3
SPARROW HAWK	Mar 15–May 27	273	Mar 21–Apr 24	Apr 8	44
UNIDENTIFIED					
HAWKS		195			

HIGMA, Phoenix, Oneida, Trenton, Delta L, Holland Patent, Ilion, Eaton, and Utica; a Merlin HIGMA May 26 (C. Leck *et al*, *vide* S. H. Spofford).

Virginia Rail and Sora: both arr May 2 HIGMA; max four and ten respectively May 19 (FGS). Early shorebirds, except Pectoral Sandpiper, seemed scarce, but the May migrants appeared in fair to good numbers. Semipalmated Plover: arr May 16 Phoenix; max 22 Jun 2 SP (MSR); dep Jun 8 two SP (MSR). Golden Plover: two, one in winter and one in breeding plumage, SMC Apr 11–12 (FGS) 2nd Regional spring record. Black-bellied Plover: arr, one SP, May 23 (FD); low max, three SP Jun 2—which is also dep date. Ruddy Turnstone: arr, four, May 22 SP (FD); max 46 SP Jun 2—also dep.

Woodcock: nine on May 2 on U.S. Fish and Wildlife-N.Y.S. Conservation Dept. 3.6-mile randomized route near Fulton (JWP,MSR) seems good; comparison with future years will be of interest. Common Snipe: widespread but in low numbers with max six near Phoenix Apr 4. Upland Plover: arr Apr 16 (about average) Verona (*vide* D. W. Ackley). Solitary Sandpiper: arr May 2 (late) Lakeland; fair max, eight May 9 and dep May 21, both SMC. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Apr 4 DH; low max 12 on May 19 (FGS) was late; dep May 21 (late) four SMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Apr 4; max only seven May 9; dep May 21, two—all SMC. No Knot reported. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Mar 31 Clay Swamp; record max 130 SMC Apr 14 (MSR) but early dep Apr 21 HIGMA. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Jun 6 (late) Onon L (GS); max four SP Jun 8 (S. Morgan). Least Sandpiper: arr May 9 (late) 21 HIGMA; max 40 there May 19; dep, four, May 26 SMC. Dunlin: arr May 12 (late) two Nine Mile Pt E of Oswego; good max 70 SP plus SMC May 20; last two Jun 2 SP. Short-billed Dowitcher: average flight—arr May 19 FR; max nine SMC May 20; dep Jun 2 SP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr May 19 (late) SMC; max 75 SP Jun 2 and Onon Creek Jun 6—the latter also dep date. Sanderling: arr May 19 five SP; max only six SP Jun 2—also dep.

Bonaparte's Gull: date range Mar 23–Jun 2 with max 30 May 19 Fair Haven; also ten Utica Apr 5 and 12 SP May 25, plus a few reports of lesser numbers. Caspian Tern: very few reports (total six birds) and very late—date range May 4–20. Black Tern: arr May 4 (late) HIGMA (FLF). Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos: arr May 11 and May 10 CV respectively; total reports seven Yellow-billed and 12 Black-billed from 17 observers—slight increase? Great Horned Owl: active nests located at Utica (two), Eaton, Pompey, Syr, Skaneateles, SSSP, and Sandy Creek,

Barred Owl: additional new locations this period, with a pair each, Victory Twp Cayuga Co and near Redfield Oswego Co. Saw-whet Owl: not heard this period.

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: arr May 19 (late) one Cicero Swamp (JWP); only other locations—Rome Sand Plains three May 19 (D. W. Ackley) and Boonville four May 25 (KGH). Common Nighthawk: arr May 9 (early) Onon Hill (GS); not reported again until May 19; thereafter, one-four/day at Syr. Chimney Swift: arr Apr 20 (early) DH (FLF); 20-90/day passing DH May 8-25. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr May 11 (somewhat late) N Syr; max nine DH May 16 (GS).

Yellow-shafted Flicker: max 610 passing DH Apr 13 (RJS); 70-325/day there Apr 4-21. Red-headed Woodpecker: total of only six migrants noted at DH, May 16-27. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr and peak Apr 3, six Thornden Park in Syr (M. Thomas)—very poor flight; last migrant Apr 28 Oakwood Cemetery, Syr (JWP). Eastern Kingbird: max/day only 20 DH May 9 (FGS); many sites not with resident pair until after May 20! Crested Flycatcher: five-ten/day May 12-25. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: very scarce—only one reported, May 25 SP (FLF,RJS). Traill's and Least Flycatchers: arr May 18 Camillus and Boliver Swamp, and May 9 L Ontario, Pompey, and Syr respectively (both late); both low with max of three and 20 respectively. E. Wood Pewee: arr May 18 (quite late); max only three/day thru May and many observers had none—very scarce! Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr May 19 Holland Patent (J.&E. Van Dresar); three other migrants May 28-Jun 3—scarce.

Barn Swallow: arr Mar 29 (early) Rainbow Shores on L Ontario (C&EF). Cliff Swallow: arr Apr 21 (late) DH (FGS). Bank and Rough-winged Swallows both arr Apr 18 (somewhat late) DH. Peaks for all swallows are low—Tree 700 Apr 4, total of various places; Bank 700 May 9 DH; Rough-winged 100 May 4 DH; Barn 775 May 4 DH plus Scott Swamp; Cliff seven May 23 SSSP-SP plus Pompey; Purple Martin 45 May 16 DH.

Blue Jay: peak May counts at DH 256 May 9, 436 May 14, 760 May 16, 182 May 25; also at DH 93 in the first half hour of flight Jun 4 and 90 in a flight lasting 1½ hours Jun 8—are these late migrants all in breeding condition? Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: migration at DH barely detectable (one-three/day). Tufted Titmouse: one regularly in CV May 2-19 (JWP,FGS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: never more than three/day anywhere, i.e. virtually no migration. Brown Creeper: light flight with six-12/day Apr 3-18. House Wren: arr Apr 20 (somewhat early) HIGMA (MSR). Winter Wren; never more than *one migrant/day*—several active observers had none until resident birds were on location; these low counts are even more remarkable in view of the heavy 1967 fall flight, but probably many Winter Wrens were killed in the severe Jan 1968 cold. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one singing Morgan Rd in Clay Twp, ½ mile S of the 1967 location, May 26 thru end of period (S. Morgan).

Mockingbird: one May 19 N Syr (E. Smith, *vide* B. Burt) with perhaps an additional individual in that area. Brown Thrasher: arr Apr 15 Oakwood; seemed scarce with counts only three-five/day. Robin: max DH only 200 Apr 12 (GS) but seemed common panregionally this spring. *Hylocichla* thrushes in fair to poor numbers—Wood arr Apr 14 (very early) Liverpool (D.B. Peakall); max 25 May 19 and 20 (FGS). Hermit arr Apr 15 Oakwood; max only three Utica Apr 16 (VB); like Winter Wren, extraordinarily scarce in migration. Swainson's arr May 16 (late) CV; max only 12 in big May 20 wave SSSP (FGS). Gray-cheeked arr May 19 (two) (C&EF); total of only five birds—very scarce—thru Jun 2 (JWP). Veery arr May 9 (late) Tully, but commonly reported from May 10 on, and max 42 (good, especially in comparison with the others) SSSP May 20 (FGS). Eastern Bluebird: two-ten/day DH Mar 20-Apr 21; seen elsewhere in small numbers by nearly every observer; thus apparently increasing.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Apr 14, four DH (MSR), notable as species is an uncommon migrant along L Ontario; max 16 (high) CV May 18 (FGS); present at

Morrisville Apr 16-May 14 (AC), reported Oneida Apr 20 (B.&S. Peebles), one Tully May 7 (JWP), two Utica May 15 (VB)—rare E of Oneida L even in migration. Kinglets: migrant Golden-crowned Apr 2-May 19 with max 20 on Apr 25 (FGS); Ruby-crowned Apr 13-May 23 with max 35 on May 1 SSSP (JWP)—both low, especially in comparison with last fall—are low counts secondary to decimation by Jan 1968 cold? Water Pipit: arr Mar 23 Cicero (FGS); record spring max of 475 May 5 at Cold Brook, Herkimer Co (KGH); next highest count 75 Apr 4 Pompey (FLF), and not widespread nor common in DH, i.e. lakeshore, migration; last May 13 Pompey (FLF). Loggerhead Shrike: migrants Mar 25 HIGMA (JWP) to Apr 11 DH (GS); max three Mar 28 DH (mob).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Max for vireos five Yellow-throated May 19 various places; three Solitary May 20 L Ontario; 18 Red-eyed May 23 SSSP; total Philadelphia nine May 17–21 (JWP) with max six May 20 SSSP (FGS); 20 Warbling May 18 S shore of Oneida L (MSR)—tallies of first three species are low.

The largest wave in a warbler-scarce May arrived on May 20, as indicated by the large number of species maxima on that date. That this was not the “weekend effect” is shown by the facts that Sun. May 19 was Region 5’s Big Run day and that one of the Region’s most active observers had available birdwatching time May 16–21, but made highest counts on the 20th. Lesser waves occurred on May 9 and 17—brief intense ones which provided many arrival dates but didn’t even last the morning at Syr. Some compensation for the paucity of warblers in the first half of May was the continued presence of migrants thru the month, with a number of rather late departures.

Unusual warblers—Blue-winged: one at Utica, where it is rare, May 9 and 22 (J.&B. Barker). Brewster’s: one each May 19 Camillus (S. Hosler) and near Tully (JWP); also one Sandy Creek Twp May 18 (N. Hamer). PRAIRIE: one Camillus May 16–19 (FGS, C&EF). CONNECTICUT: a singing male on SP dunes May 20 in the big warbler wave (FGS), first spring record in four years. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr May 10 Camillus (JWP); one at N Camillus May 16 (FGS); one near Baldwinsville May 16–18 (M. Wooley); one Moon Hill on W side of Otisco L May 19 (FD, W. Brosseau)—the last two sites are new areas for the species. Hooded: only report is of the Salmon R Reservoir colony, first noted May 22 (FD), with up to four present.

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 8 (late) five DH; fair max 86 passing DH May 14 (JWP). E. Meadowlark: high max of 465 passing DH Mar 27 (GS). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: bird singing Western’s song Lacona May 16–19 (N. Hamer, *vide* FGS). ORCHARD ORIOLE: a singing imm male CV May 19 (FGS), first record in five years. Baltimore Oriole: DH max 160 May 9 (FGS), 102 May 14 (JWP), 243 May 16 (GS); also 100 May 14 Ilion (KGH)—better-than-average numbers. Rusty Blackbird: highest count 40 (very low) Apr 25 FR (FGS). Scarlet Tanager: arr May 9 DH; moderate max 11 May 19. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 5 CV and Pompey; two good migrational peaks—15 May 12 HIGMA vicinity and 16 May 20 L Ontario. Indigo Bunting: arr May 11 (late) Oakwood; low max nine CV May 16 (FGS); scarce thru remainder of May.

Evening Grosbeak: one-eight/day DH to dep date May 9. Pine Siskin: at DH max 40 on Apr 18 (GS); also 20 on Apr 21 (FGS); last one Jun 4 (MSR). HOUSE FINCH: singing adult male Liverpool (W. Brosseau feeder, mob) Apr 14–22, first Regional record. Am. Goldfinch: abundant—high counts include, at DH, 458 May 8, 1100 May 9, 582 May 14, 300 May 25; also 300 Columbia Center May 4 (VB). Red Crossbill: 14 Morrisville Apr 17 (AC), eight Oakwood May 7 (JWP), 12 Baldwinsville May 19 (FGS). Henslow’s Sparrow: arr Apr 21 (early) FR (FGS); three new colonies plus two 1967 colonies located, perhaps increasing. Slate-colored Junco: moderate max 160 Oakwood Apr 15 (JWP); no other counts over 100. Tree Sparrow: dep Apr 16 (early) Pompey (FLF); some observers had none in Apr!

Species	Arrival date, No., Place	Peak count, Date, Place	Departure date, No., Place
Black-and-white	May 2, 1, CV	7, May 9, Oakwood 7, May 20, SSSP	Jun 2, 1, Oakwood
Golden-winged	May 5, 2, CV	10, May 10, CV	—
Blue-winged	May 9, 1, Utica	5, May 19, Otisco Hill	May 22, 1, Oakwood
Tennessee	May 9, 1, Oakwood	12, May 20, SSSP-SP	Jun 1, 1, Utica
Nashville	Apr. 30, 1, Utica	14, May 29, SP-DH	May 21, 2, Oakwood
Parula	May 9, 1, Oakwood	2, May 19, Fair Haven 2, May 20, SSSP 2, May 21, Oakwood	May 25, 1, Oakwood
Yellow	May 2, 2, CV	140, May 19, HIGMA	—
Magnolia	May 10, 1 each, Pulaski & Oakwood	38, May 20, SSSP	May 30, 1, Oakwood
Cape May	May 8, 1, DH	2, May 18, CV 2, May 21, Otisco	May 22, 1, Oakwood
Black-throated Blue	May 9, 1 each, Utica & Oakwood	25, May 20, SSSP	May 21, 1, Oakwood
Myrtle	Apr 7, 1, DH	212, May 8, DH	May 25, 2, SP
Black-throated Green	May 1, 1, SSSP	32, May 20, SSSP	May 7, 1, Oakwood
Cerulean	May 9, 1, Tully L	15, May 18, CV	May 20, 1, SSSP
Blackburnian	May 9, 1, SSSP	32, May 20, SSSP	May 27, 3, Oakwood
Chestnut-sided	May 7, 1, Tully L	26, May 20, SSSP	May 23, 1, Oakwood
Bay-breasted	May 17, 1, Oakwood	16, May 20, SSSP	May 27, 1, Oakwood
Blackpoll	May 18, 1, Manlius Ctr	15, May 28, Oakwood	Jun 2, 10, Oakwood Jun 2, 5, SP
Pine	Apr 15, 1, SSSP	—	—
Palm	Apr 24, 1, Scott Swamp	6, May 4, Scott Swamp	May 20, 1, SSSP
Ovenbird	May 5, 1, CV	15, May 20, SSSP	—
N. Waterthrush	Apr 28, 1, Tully	6, May 2 & 7, Tully	May 20, 1, Oakwood
La. Waterthrush	Apr 18, 1, Fish Gulf	—	May 21, 1, SSSP
Mourning	May 18, 2, CV	2, May 19, CV	Jun 2, 1, Oakwood
Yellowthroat	May 4, 1, HIGMA	20, May 22, SSSP 25, May 25, Boonville	—
Wilson's	May 16, 1, DH	2, May 20, SSSP 2, May 21, CV 2, May 27, Pompey	Jun 4, 1, DH
Canada	May 10, 1, Oakwood	11, May 20, SSSP	May 27, 2, Oakwood May 27, 1, DH
Redstart	May 5, 1, CV	48, May 20, SSSP	May 27, 8, Oakwood

White-crowned Sparrow was relatively more abundant than White-throated, as compared to the averages of previous springs, with max of the former 50 SSSP May 8 and of the latter 130 Oakwood Apr 28 (both JWP); White-crowned widespread along L Ontario to May 21, dep date. Fox Sparrow: only one-three/day for a total of eight reports from 17 observers, nearly all Mar 20-Apr 14. Lincoln's Sparrow: total only eight individuals May 11-20. No Lapland Longspur or Snow Bunting in period.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

For about three weeks the weather was warm with little rain. Foliage came out earlier than usual, and the migration of some birds was early. The latter part of April and most of May brought cooler weather and frequent rains. Warblers seemed to be late and in smaller numbers than most years.

The list of unusual birds is rather long and includes Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Blue Goose, Blue Goose hybrid, Mute Swan, Whistling Swan, Stilt Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler.

Abbreviations: ED—El Dorado; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area which now includes about 7,000 acres, near Watertown; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area; SLC—St. Lawrence County.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; RW—Robert and June Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one ED May 4. Horned Grebe: May 5 SLC. Double-crested Cormorant: only a few at Gull Is. about six May 30, several nests, some probably old ones (JB). Great Blue Heron: Apr 6; 24 nests PRGMA Apr 20, down from 37 last year, but nesting not fully underway. Green Heron: May 3. Black-crowned Night Heron: nests on Gull and Little Galloo Is. May 30 (JB). SNOWY EGRET: WHGMA first week in May, seen by Benson (LC). CATTLE EGRET: May 7–13 PRGMA. American Bittern. May 2. Glossy Ibis: four May 4–14 PRGMA (RW, mob). MUTE SWAN: two until Apr 6, one thru May 31 PRGMA, origin of these birds not known. Whistling Swan: two imm PRGMA Apr 4–19 (mob). Canada Goose: 2000+ Scotts Corners, Henderson, Apr 16; 4000–5000 over Smith Rd Town of Henderson in evening Apr 17; about 5000 PRGMA Apr 17, also Henderson Harbor and Black River flats near Lowville; some nesting in area. Brant: six May 30 ED (DG). Blue Goose: Apr 17 PRGMA (DG), one paired with male Canada Goose WHGMA (LC). Blue Goose X Canada Goose hybrid: Apr 12 PRGMA, white-headed, white-necked, size of Canada Goose same description *King-bird* 16(4). 212–213 (DG). Gadwall: pair Apr 15 Sherwin's Bay. Pintail: thru May 18. Green-winged Teal: Apr 6. Shoveler: Apr 6 thru May 30. Redhead: Apr 6. Canvasback: Apr 6. White-winged Scoter: one female May 30 ED—very late (DG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: four Millsite L Apr 14; one May 5 Edwards; two May 15 SLC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Apr 17. Broad-winged Hawk: May 5 S Edwards. Rough-legged Hawk: May 7—very late (JB). Virginia Rail: May 22 (AA). Common Gallinule: Apr 19. American Coot: May 3 (AA).

Semipalmated Plover: May 13–31 ED. Black-bellied Plover: two Henderson May 31 (Houghton, FC). Ruddy Turnstone: ED May 30–31. American Woodcock: Apr 2 (AA). Common Snipe: Apr 10 (LC). Upland Plover: Apr 14 (AA)—very early. Spotted Sandpiper: May 4. Solitary Sandpiper: May 12. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 6, May 4. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 12, May 4. Pectoral Sandpiper: Apr 15. White-rumped Sandpiper: May 18 (DG). Least Sandpiper: May 18 Dunlin. May 18. Short-billed Dowitcher: May 18. *STILT SANDPIPER*: May 6 PRGMA—beautifully barred, close range (AA)—first spring date for Region. Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 13 thru May 31. Sanderling: May 30.

Glaucous Gull: two ED Apr 16. Great Black-backed Gull: late dates Apr 15, 16, May 4, 18. Herring Gull: large concentrations of all gulls in late spring probably attracted by greatest killoff of alewives known, beaches and waters of Lake Ontario littered with tons of dead fish (DG). Ring-billed Gull: number of nests on Gull Is. way down from 12–15 years ago, colony on Little Galloo looked as large as ever

May 30 (JB). Bonaparte's Gull: late dates May 4, 18 and max three May 30-31 at ED. Common Tern: May 13 ED. Black Tern: May 6; numbers at PRGMA have increased as more land has been flooded.

Black-billed Cuckoo: May 27 (AA). *BARN OWL*: the desicated remains of one were found trapped inadvertently in the Vaadi barn, PRGMA Jun 7 or 8. The trap had been set in late winter for coons and later forgotten. The remains weighed about six ounces, or not more than a third of the weight of a live owl. The owl must have been caught earlier and starved. There is nothing to indicate nesting in this area. Snowy Owl: one near West Wood Corners (Rt 11 west of Evans Mills) throughout period, still there *May 30* (and in Jun) (JB). Barred Owl: Apr 20 S Edwards (AA).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Common Nighthawk: May 24. Chimney Swift: May 3 (AA). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 21. Belted Kingfisher: Apr 6. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 6. Yellow-shafted X Red-shafted Flicker hybrid: first two live hybrid flickers observed in Region at close range thru 7x50 binoculars, both males, black moustaches, only red visible in tails, both red and yellow feathers in wings seen on both surfaces as they fanned tails and opened wings repeatedly while chasing each other and perching in trees PRGMA May 31 (see *Kingbird* 18: 86-87, May 1968). Pileated Woodpecker: one found dead at Boon St. school, Watertown had been injured by flying against some object like a window early May. *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: May 12 Watertown Center—first Regional record and most northern record for state (DG). Red-headed Woodpecker: May 11. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 7.

Eastern Kingbird: May 5 (RW). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 12. Traill's Flycatcher: May 30 (AA). Least Flycatcher: May 11. Wood Pewee: May 27—late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 25 Upper Whetstone Park, Lewis Co. Bank Swallow: Apr 15. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 15. Barn Swallow: Apr 17. Cliff Swallow: May 4. Purple Martin: May 3. House Wren: May 4. Winter Wren: Apr 13. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 30. Mockingbird: near Antwerp (JB). Catbird: May 10. Brown Thrasher: Apr 21. Wood Thrush: May 10. Hermit Thrush: Apr 8. Veery: May 11. Eastern Bluebird: May 12; best distribution of breeding birds is in Natural Bridge-Harrisville-Pitcairn area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr 13. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 10-May 4. Water Pipit: May 4 ED. Loggerhead Shrike: in Stony Point-Dexter section.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 31 PRGMA (DG). Solitary Vireo: May 4. Red-eyed Vireo: May 12. Warbling Vireo: May 4.

Warblers: Black-and-white: Apr 20. *GOLDEN-WINGED*: May 11 near Gouverneur, previously seen May 1964 (JB). *BLUE-WINGED*: May 18 Middle Roads Woods near Watertown, only recent record (DG). Tennessee: May 19. Nashville: May 5 (AA). Yellow: May 8. Magnolia: May 15. Black-throated Blue: May 12. Myrtle: Apr 6. Black-throated Green: May 4. Cerulean: May 19 (DG). Black-burnian: May 15. Chestnut-sided: May 11. Bay-breasted: May 31. Blackpoll: May 26-31. Ovenbird: May 11. Northern Waterthrush: May 5. Mourning: May 19. Yellowthroat: May 12. Canada: May 15. Am. Redstart: May 11.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 10. Western Meadowlark: reported singing on Danely Rd near ED (Hughes, Houghton). Baltimore Oriole: May 8. Rusty Blackbird: Apr 20-21. Scarlet Tanager: May 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 11. Indigo Bunting: May 18. Pine Siskin: May 5 SLC. Goldfinch: first in spring plumage Apr 27. Red Crossbill: ten Apr 3 Hammond SLC (RW). Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 13. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 5. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 6. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 15. Chipping Sparrow: Apr 13. Field Sparrow: Apr 6. White-crowned Sparrow: May 3-23. White-throated Sparrow: Apr 7. Fox Sparrow: Apr 6. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 6.

173 Haley St., Watertown 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

April started out cold with light snows as usual, but soon warmed up enough to make itself something of an historic month. Peepers were heard on April 4. On April 13 the temperature ranged between fifty-four and seventy-four degrees and on April 14, between sixty-eight and seventy-two degrees. On April 19 one expert announced that the month was "warmer than any April since 1941."

There were some high winds: gusts of sixty to seventy miles per hour on April 9 and up to fifty miles per hour on April 24. The early part of the month was dry but a heavy rain on the twenty-second made buds pop and grasses shoot.

Despite these records neither resident nor migrant birds returned particularly early.

May was relatively cold. There was frost on May 6, 7, and 27. On May 9 signals went out for "high fire danger" and the temperature reached sixty-two degrees. From then until the end of the month the weather was chilly and damp with temperatures mostly in the forties and fifties.

The event of greatest interest is the Common Raven's nest. There were three young; two, at least, reached the flying stage—there will be more details in the next issue of the "Kingbird".

The fact that the Woodcock Singing-ground Survey routes have been "randomized" makes the American Woodcock population of the area less easy to assess as most co-operators were unable to find time to run their established routes—some with data going back twenty years or more—as well as the arbitrary routes now assigned to them.

The Red-headed Woodpecker report is of interest as is the fact that there are four Mockingbird reports: the largest number for Region 7 in any period that we have noted.

No spectacular spring warbler migration waves were reported.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hager; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Meier; HT—Helen Tyler; IW—Isabel Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus—Ausable; B—brook; LP—Lake Placid; M—marsh; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two May 12 Little Tupper L (MK); two Duck P near Loon L late May (GTC); two May 31 Sabattis (RM). Great Blue Heron: one Apr 22, two May 26 RB (JK); one Chazy Landing May 15, one Polliwog P near Saranac Inn May 24, one Bloomingdale May 27 (EA&HD). Green Heron: one May 9 and 13 RB (JK). American Bittern: two May 11 RB (MK); one King's Bay May 15 (EA). Canada Goose: two Apr 14 TL, 100 Apr 20 RB (MK); 400 in several Vs Apr 27 Elizabethtown (GC); heard Apr 19, 20 May 1 SL (HD). Mallard: one West Canada Creek, Hamilton Co May 1 (EA&HD). Black Duck: two Saranac R near SL Apr 3 (HD); two Apr 8 and May 4 RB (JK); two Apr 14 TL and Little Tupper L (MK). Pintail: Chazy Landing May 25 (HD). Green-winged Teal: two pair Apr 20 RB (JK). Wood Duck: eight Apr 7, two Apr 21 Ticonderoga (MK). Ring-necked Duck: four TL and Little Tupper L Apr 14 (MK). Lesser Scaup: thirteen Apr 14 Little Tupper L (MK); three pair L Champlain near Ingraham May 15 (EA&HD). Common Goldeneye: two May 12 TL (MK). Bufflehead: four male, two female Apr 14 TL (MK); pair Wawbeek May 1 (EA&HD). Hooded Merganser: two pair either side of Franklin Falls Apr 3 (EA&HD). Common Merganser: one pair downstream from Franklin Falls Apr 3,

pair Wawbeek May 1 (EA&HD); two pair Apr 27 thru May 8 RB (JK); five TL and Little Tupper L May 12 (MK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Vermontville April 30 (ED); one Morehouse May 1 (EA&HD); two eggs Jay nest Apr 20 (RH). Red-tailed Hawk: one Jay Range area May 3 (GTC). Red-shouldered Hawk: two playing L Colby outlet May 21 (HD), nest Wickham Marsh May (GCT); one Keene May 28 (HD). Broad-winged Hawk: two Apr 21 thru period RB (JK); one SL May 24 (HD). Golden Eagle: one hunting near Mt Van Hovenberg May 28 (GTC). Marsh Hawk: one Bloomingdale Apr 3, one near L Clear May 22 and 24 (HD); one Apr 7 south of Westport (MK). Osprey: one Aus R, Clintonville May 3 (JH); one SL May 6 (GTC); one Saranac Inn May 6 (HD); one May 10 and 30 RB (JK). Sparrow Hawk: pairing May 3 SL, one May 7, 8, 10 and early June SL (HD). Ruffed Grouse: one or two seen SL, TL, RB, and near Derrick Apr 14 thru May 19. Killdeer: one SL Apr 3, one West Chazy May 12, pair Chazy Landing May 15, one on way to Derrick May 23 (EA&HD); one SL May 25 (ED); one Apr 3 thru May 11 RB (JK). American Woodcock: one Apr 22 RB (JK); one May 9 TL (RM); one Coreys Apr 14 thru May 19 (MK); three SL May 10 thru 17, one L Clear Junction May 23, four Bloomingdale May 27 (EA&HD). Common Snipe: three Apr 14, five May 14 TL (MK). Spotted Sandpiper: one May 18 RB (JK); two May 25 RB (MK). Herring Gull: two Bloomingdale Apr 3, two SL Apr 9, two King's Bay May 15 (HD); two May 2-30 RB (JK). Common Tern: three King's Bay, one Chazy Landing May 15 (EA&HD). Black Tern: three King's Bay May 15 (EA&HD); three TL May 27 (MK). Mourning Dove: two Apr 23 thru period SL (EB); one May 13 and 25 RB (JK&MK); one May 27 Bloomingdale (HD). Great Horned Owl: one Mt. View near Plumadore Range May 10 (GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one May 18 and occasionally since, TL (RM). Chimney Swift: one to six May 3 thru period RB (JK); seven May 20 SL (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one May 14 thru period TL (RM); one May 19 and 28 RB (JK&MK); one SL May 30 (HD). Belted Kingfisher: two Apr 8 thru period RB (JK); one May 31 Sabattis (RM). Yellow-shafted Flicker: small numbers arr Apr 17 SL (HD) and Apr 8 RB (JK). **RED-HEADED WOOD-PECKER:** one May 20 Keene (GC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Apr 8 RB (MK); one May 3 SL (HD). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: small numbers all areas. Eastern Kingbird: one May 11 SL, one May 15 Ingraham (EA&HD); one May 8 LP (MK); one May 18 RB (JK); one May 26 TL (RM). Great Crested Flycatcher: one May 18 LP (MK); one May 23 near Derrick (HD). Eastern Phoebe: first SL Apr 3 (HD); Apr 2 RB (JK). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one singing May 25 RB (MK). Traill's Flycatcher: one singing RB May 30 (JK). Least Flycatcher: first May 10 RB (JK); May 15 TL (MK); May 21 SL (HD). Tree Swallow: one Apr 7, five eggs May 21 Vermontville (HT); back Apr 10 SL (HD); Apr 12 RB (JK); RM was not in TL in April but saw two birds May 9 on her return. Bank Swallow: six May 1 thru period RB (JK). Rough-winged Swallow: one early May RB (JK). Barn Swallow: back late Apr to early May all areas. Cliff Swallow: back SL early May (HD); May 8 RB (JK); May 12 Little Tupper L (MK).

Blue Jay: quiet, but two to ten present all areas thru period. **COMMON RAVEN:** northern Adirondacks, one adult May 27 (GC); two adults and nest May 28 (GTC) —see introduction. Common Crow: small numbers all areas thru period. Black-capped chickadee: same as Blue Jay. Boreal Chickadee: one Apr 1 SL (EB). White-breasted Nuthatch: contrary to some opinions, this is the more common feeder bird of the two species in the higher Adirondacks; in an ordinary day's concentrated birding there will be more Red-breasted Nuthatches seen, maybe even three or four to one, but the Red-breasteds will be found in the woods more often than in the clearings. Brown Creeper: one or two thru period, one nest found RB (JK). Winter

Wren: one Saranac Inn May 6, one St Hubert's May 29 (HD); one Apr 22, May 8 and 19 RB (JK&MK) *MOCKINGBIRD*: one Sabael May 1 (HD); one May 12 Little Tupper L (MK); one May 12 SL (RH); one May 14 SL (MK). Catbird: one May 10 thru period RB (JK); one or two May 21 thru period SL (HD); May 30 TL (RM). Brown Thrasher: one May 2, pair May 9 SL, one near Derrick May 6 (HD); one May 2-22 RB (JK); one May 11 TL (RM). Robin: common all areas, 50 Apr 15 RB (JK); fledgeling May 26 SL (Parker). Wood Thrush: first heard May 10 TL (RM), RB (JK), SL (HD); May 28 Elizabethtown (HD). Hermit Thrush: one RB Apr 18 (JK & MK); two Saranac Inn May 8, one Bloomingdale May 27 (HD). Swainson's Thrush: one May 11 and 19 RB (MK). Veery: about ten days late returning but many reports after second week in May. Eastern Bluebird: one May 6 SL (HD); one Moffitsville May 12, one near L Clear May 22 (EA); one Wilmington May 30 (Baker); pair Vermontville May 22 (HT); one May 16-22 RB (JK); two May 18 LP (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one or two Apr 3 thru May 14 RB (JK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 19 thru May 18 RB (JK). Water Pipit: a few early birds in Apr, main flocks up to 80 mid-May Gabriels (DY). Cedar Waxwing: six May 30 TL (RM); 12 May 30 RB (JK). Starling: not such large flocks as 1967 but nesting birds all areas.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Apr 21 thru May 14 RB (JK). Red-eyed Vireo: one May 9 and 18 SL (HD); one May 18 and 22 RB (JK); several May 25 RB (MK). Warbling Vireo: one Chazy Landing May 15 (HD).

Warblers: Black-and-white: one May 1 Elizabethtown (GC); one May 11-21 RB (JK). Tennessee: one singing May 13 RB (MK); one May 21-25 RB (JK). Nashville: Apr 30 thru period RB (JK&MK). Parula: one Apr 30 and May 15 RB (JK); one May 18 SL; two L Colby Outlet May 22 thru period, one Keene May 28 (HD). Yellow: one May 18 RB (JK). Magnolia: one May 18-22 RB (JK); two SL to L Clear May 22, one near Derrick May 24, one Bloomingdale May 27 (HD). Cape May: one May 14 and 18 RB (JK). Black-throated Blue: one May 10-19 RB (JK&MK); one Ampersand Bay May 10, one on way to Saranac Inn May 22 (HD). Myrtle: Apr 21 thru period RB (JK); May 4 thru period SL (HD). Black-throated Green: May 10 thru period RB (JK); on way to Saranac Inn May 22, Osgood R at Mt P May 23 (HD). Blackburnian: May 10 thru period RB (JK&MK); near Derrick May 24 (HD). Chestnut-sided: May 11 thru period RB (JK); May 16 thru period SL, Cascades May 28 (HD). Bay-breasted: two May 21 RB (JK). Palm: one May 4 RB (JK). Ovenbird: four to eight singing in ordinary day's birding RB and SL areas May 10 thru period. Northern Waterthrush: one May 13 on RB (MK); two, way to Saranac Inn May 22 thru period; one Osgood R at Mt P May 23 (HD). Yellowthroat: the most common warbler all appropriate areas mid-May thru period. Wilson's Warbler: one L Clear airport May 18 (RH); one Osgood R near Mt P May 23 (HD). Canada: one May 18 thru period RB (JK). American Redstart: May 21 thru period SL (HD); May 23 thru period RB (JK); not as many reports as other recent years.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: small numbers all areas. Bobolink: one May 10 TL (RM); three LP May 18 (MK); two McMasters near L Clear May 22 and thru period, pair May 25 SL (HD); two May 22 RB (JK). Eastern Meadowlark: two to four average day's birding suitable areas RB, TL, SL and Saranac Inn. Red-winged Blackbird: small flocks early Apr, displaying and pairing Apr 23, many pairs in marshy areas thru May. Baltimore Oriole: one May 15 TL, two May 19 SL (MK); one May 16 RB (JK); one Ingraham May 15, one Kiwassa May 18, one Bloomingdale May 26, one Keene May 28 (HD). Rusty Blackbird: two singing SL Golf Course Apr 20 (MK). Common Grackle: thru period, flocks of 25 plus early Apr RB (JK); one to four thru period SL (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: thru period, 14 displaying Apr 22 SL (HD). Scarlet Tanager: one or two May 10 thru 21 RB (JK). Cardinal: one female Bloomingdale Apr 3 (IW). Rose-breasted Gros-

beak; very good numbers thru period all areas after mid-May, six May 19 RB (MK). Indigo Bunting: one May 29 SL (Kains). Evening Grosbeak: last large number 40 plus RB May 4 (JK); small numbers suitable habitat thru period. Purple Finch: one to two singing males all suitable habitat thru period. Pine Siskin: up to ten thru period RB (JK); two, one singing, Apr 3 Bloomingdale (HD). American Goldfinch: small flocks RB, SL and near Derrick thru period (JK&HD). Red Crossbill: thru period, 45 plus May 30 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one May 13 thru period TL (RM); one Apr 4, 5 and 6 SL (RH); one Apr 30 RB (JK).

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 18 thru period RB (JK); May 10 thru period SL (HD). Vesper: one Apr 7 south of Westport (MK); one Apr 15-22 RB (JK); one May 18 SL (HD). Slate-colored Junco: no large flocks, few reported thru period RB and SL. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 22 SL (EB). Chipping: good numbers last week in Apr thru period all areas. Field: arr Apr 20 RB (JK); heard May 12 SL, May 22 near L Clear (HD). White-crowned: fewer than last four years, one to three stayed May 9-22 SL (HD); one May 9 Westport (GC); five May 20 RB (JK); six one day mid-May Vermontville (HT). White-throated: from mid-Apr thru period all areas, 29 singing May 29 on three-mile stretch of trail. Fox: one first two weeks of Apr western outskirts of SL (EB); one Apr 5 eastern outskirts of SL (ED). Lincoln's: one May 9 Elizabethtown (GC); one May 28 RB (JK). Swamp: three May 12 RB (JK); two May 15 TL (MK). Song: common early Apr thru period all areas.

Please have summer reports in by Aug 25.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

HAZEL F. BUNDY

The first three weeks of April were warm and dry, with the temperature soaring to 83 degrees on two consecutive days, April 13 and 14 (weather data taken at Albany). A rainfall of 2.01 inches on Apr 24 ushered in a week of cooler, wetter, cloudier days. On more than half of the 30 days the thermometer climbed to 65 degrees or above. The average temperature was 48.4 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. May was cooler and wetter than normal, with the average temperature about three degrees less than the May norm, and rainfall about one inch over normal. Almost two inches of the rain fell on a single day, May 29.

The long, unusually warm period the first three weeks of April appeared to speed the migration of water fowl, for these were conspicuously absent in any large numbers for any appreciable length of time. Horned Grebes were not seen after Apr 27; Pied-billed Grebes were unreported in May in the northern areas of the Region, although a few were reported from the southern areas. There were no Goldeneyes after Apr 13; with the exception of a few isolated individuals, the following were not seen after Apr 20: American Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser.

The early warmth produced foliage at an unusually early period—perhaps two weeks earlier than normal. With this condition existing, many observers were expecting an early migration of all passerines. However, this was a spring of paradox; some species that were scheduled to arrive early came earlier than usual, while those scheduled to come late, came later than usual. Phoebes and Tree Swallows were notably early and nested early; Purple Finches and Slate-colored Juncos passed through in large numbers about ten to 15 days sooner than usual; White-throated Sparrows were early, also. The lingerers included the Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Myrtle Warbler. Most warblers arrived about the usual dates—in greatly reduced numbers. Many other species arrived about on schedule, although there were a few conspicuously early individual birds, including a Solitary

Sandpiper, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a Brown Thrasher, and a Myrtle Warbler.

Three important May waves were evident. May 3-5, after a heavy rain on May 3, the following appeared in large numbers: Eastern Kingbird, Catbird, Wood Thrush, two species of vireos, ten species of warblers, and Baltimore Oriole. A second wave, May 10-12, brought in Great Crested Flycatcher, Veery, more warblers, Bobolinks, and many additional reports of Eastern Kingbirds. On May 21 and 22 a large flight appeared to be under way.

Rare or unusual species included: Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Black-bellied Plover, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Harris' Sparrow. The location of a Blue Heron rookery was of special interest, as was an extremely late appearance of a Snowy Owl.

Abbreviations used: BCM—Black Creek Marshes; Col Co—Columbia Co; Emb—Embought; EG—East Greenbush; Gr—Greenville; IL—Indian Ladder; Nisk—Niskayuna NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC—Greene Co Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; J&BB—James and Barbara Bush; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JC—Juanita Cook; PC—Paul Connor; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MDG—Monte Gruett; WG—William Gorman; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MK—Marcia Kent; C&CK—Clare and Clarissa Ketcham; E&LL—Edna and Luther Lane; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; RMcC—Robert McCullough; SM—Sam Madison; P&MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; J&EP—J. and E. Payne; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; R&MS—Robert and Mary Lou Shedd; NS—Naomi Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; H&MW—H. and M. Webb; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: arr Apr 7 (SBC). Red-throated Loon: early reports—one Apr 13 SL (EH) and two Apr 21 SL (GB,BS); last two May 18 SL (HFB, PMcG). Red-necked Grebe: singles Apr 7 SL (SBC) and Apr 13 SL (HFB, PMcG,EH). Horned Grebe: reported to Apr 27 (CK), an early departure date. Pied-billed Grebe: seemed scarce; last report May 24 (CK), with all May reports from the southern areas. Double-crested Cormorant: one Apr 28 SL (BS); one May 15 Hudson R near Germantown (JC). Great Blue Heron: heronry found Apr 14 (Warren White) and observed Apr 20 (WBS,RPY) north of Galway in a beech-hemlock forest, at least 19 nests and 18 individuals noted. Common Egret: three Apr 30 NWW (GA, mob), and three, probably the same birds, May 5-7 at VFG (mob). CATTLE EGRET: three reports of single individuals—Apr 26 Col Co (ADBC), May 5 VFG (C. W. Huntley *et al*), May 17 Col Co (MM). Green Heron: early report Apr 2 near Castleton (JC); second report Apr 28 NWW (HHS). American Bittern: arr Apr 6 BCM (R&MS). Least Bittern: heard at VFG—two May 18 and one May 25 (RPY). GLOSSY IBIS: two near West Ghent (M&AG)—third record for Region. Mute Swan: one May 18 SL (bsh). Canada Goose: max 500 Apr 18 (J&BB); few May 18, the last. Snow Goose: three Apr reports—max 15 Apr 18 Emb (J&BB); also, 53 May 12 Feura Bush Area (MK).

American Widgeon: last, four Apr 20 NWW (HHS), with the exception of singles May 12 Lock 6 (BS) and May 15 SS (PPW). Pintail: only three reports—five Apr 1 Meadowdale (GA), two NWW Apr 7 (HHS), and one very late—May 18 (John Fuller). Green-winged Teal: late report, two May 18 EG (MDG, WG,PPW). Shoveler: three Apr reports, max five Apr 7 SL (SBC); two May 4 reports—four NWW (PPW), two SCR (BS). Redhead: five Apr 7 SL (SBC); one May 6 Round L (GA). Ring-necked Duck: last Apr 20, with exception of two May reports—May 4 (CK) and May 5 (HFB,PMcG). Canvasback: last, three Apr 20 NWW (HHS). Scaup: last, May 18 (SBC). Common Goldeneye: none after Apr 13, when there

were three reports. Bufflehead: last report, two May 18 SL (HFB,PMcG). Oldsquaw: very scarce; only one report—ten May 6 Round L (GA). White-winged Scoter: one male Apr 12 SL (PPW). Surf Scoter: one female Apr 20 (SBC). Common Scoter: one Apr 28 SL (BS). Hooded Merganser: a few seen to Apr 20 (SBC); one female May 5 VFG and one male SCR May 18, probably nesting (HFB,PMcG). Common Merganser: several reports through Apr 20; one May 15 Castleton (JC). Red-breasted Merganser: four Apr reports; last—16 on Apr 21 (EH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: several reports in areas farther north than usual, including six May 25 Thacher Pk (SBC). Goshawk: one in a woods two miles northwest of Jenny L, actions indicating probable nesting, May 18 (bsh). Sharpshinned Hawk: two Apr reports and two in May. Cooper's Hawk: six reports from Apr 21 to May 18. Red-shouldered Hawk: one pair nesting in Apr, Gr (CK); one May 5 (EH,RMcC), and one May 18 (bsh). Broad-winged Hawk: last report, two May 26 (SBC). Rough-legged Hawk: one Apr 2 NWW (GA); one Apr 16 Spencertown (H&MW); one near SCR May 7 (EH). Bald Eagle: one Catskill area May 10 and 14 (J&BB). Marsh Hawk: several reports, all except one from southern areas of Region. Osprey: from Apr 13 (EH *et al*) to May 11 (GCBC). Peregrine Falcon: three reports—Apr 3 W. Glenville (EH), Apr 20 (SBC) and May 10 Alcove Reservoir (WBS). Bobwhite: reported from two areas in May. Virginia Rail: early report, two Apr 9 EG (PC); others from Apr 23 on. Sora: three May 5 EG (PC); May 11 and 18 BCM (SBC). Common Gallinule: arr Apr 28 Col Co (MM). American Coot: few reports—from one Apr 7 NWW (HHS) to May 18 (ADBC,SBC).

Semipalmated Plover: two May 12 EG (PC), and four May 14 EG (PPW). **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER**: a rare spring appearance—one May 18 EG (MDG, WG,PPW). Upland Plover: arr Apr 13 (RPY)—reports during period from six different areas. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 27 NWW (HHS). Solitary Sandpiper: a very early report, Mar 28 Chatham (MM); others, Apr 28 to May 25. Greater Yellowlegs: second spring report (first Mar 31)—six Apr 27 NWW (HHS); last, May 18 (SBC). Lesser Yellowlegs: six reports—from one Apr 30 NWW (GA) to May 18 (ADBC). Pectoral Sandpiper: three reports—seven Apr 28 EG (PC), one May 4 NWW (PPW), and five May 26 EG (PPW). White-rumped Sandpiper: one May 18 NWW (HFB,PMcG). Least Sandpiper: five May 12 NWW (BS) to May 18 when there were several reports. Dunlin: an unusually large flock of 40 May 12 SS (SM,WBS); three May 18 EG (MDG,WG,PPW); and two May 25 Castleton (JC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only one, May 18 (ADBC). Great Black-backed Gull: last May 5 (EH). Bonaparte's Gull: 11 reports—from six Apr 6 SL (PPW) to one May 26 NWW (BRS), max 13 May 6 Lock 7 (GA). Common Tern: four reports May 4 to May 23, max five May 17 Lock 7 (GA). Black Tern: a few reports of one to three, May 6–19. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: four reports May 18 (SBC), and one May 19 (Eleanor Byrne). Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 8 EG (PPW). Screech Owl: reported from EG several times (MDG); one found dead May 11 Meadowdale (MDG). Great Horned Owl: reported from five areas; one adult and two young May 2 Lisha Kill (GA). **SNOWY OWL**: an extremely late date—May 5 and 6 Valatie (ADBC). Barred Owl: two heard at Jenny L May 18 (bsh), and one seen May 18 IL (WBS *et al*).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first heard May 3 Greene Co (E&LL). Nighthawk: first reports May 13 (*fide* Lillian Stoner), and Greene Co (Marianne Werner). Chimney Swift: one very early report—Apr 9 (PM); second report, Apr 18 (P&GE); many from Apr 27 on. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two very early reports in Gr Apr 17, 20 (C&CK); many from May 18 on. Belted Kingfisher: seemed scarce. Red-headed Woodpecker: one female May 17 near New Salem (WBS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only nine reports—from Apr 13 (EH) to May 19 (J&BB). Eastern Kingbird: appeared in two pronounced waves—May 4 and 5, and May 10–12. Great Crested Flycatcher: general influx May 10–12; early report

May 2 Castleton (JC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one—May 18 SL (HFB, PMcG). Traill's Flycatcher: several reports May 18, and thereafter. Least Flycatcher: first Apr 29 Gr (CK); several reports within the next few days. Wood Pewee: early report May 5 (HHS); many beginning May 17. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only two reports—one May 18 (WBS *et al*), and May 23 Gr (CK).

Tree Swallow: arrived early (last week in Mar), and nested early, between two to three weeks ahead of last year, with the yield of eggs per nest up to 5.5—the highest in three years, and with some clutches not yet complete VFG (RPY). Bank Swallow: a colony active Apr 21 near Alplaus (HFB); a colony of 120 reported active in May (HHS); a large colony at Glenville Landfill apparently doomed as landfill changes shape, and will yield little this year (RPY). Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 21 (SBC). Barn Swallow: early reports Apr 14 Col Co (NS) and Apr 15 (GCBC); many from Apr 27. Cliff Swallow: first Apr 27 Basic Reservoir (CK). Purple Martin: observed Apr 22 (J&BB); colony of 12 returned Apr 24 to W. Glenville (RMcC). Blue Jay: large migrating flocks noted by several observers during entire month of May. Brown Creeper: appeared in about the usual numbers. House Wren: first Apr 25 (CK, Lillian Halloran); many from Apr 28. Winter Wren: six reports; first Apr 6 SL (PPW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 5 NWW (HHS), and Meadowdale (GA).

Catbird: waves apparent May 4–5, and May 8–11. Brown Thrasher: one very early Apr 3 Spencertown (H&MW); next reports Apr 13, 20, and thereafter. Wood Thrush: early report Apr 16 Ghent (P&GE); general influx May 3–5. Hermit Thrush: first migrant Apr 7 (EH); several reports, to Apr 28 Nisk (RPY); May reports of nesting birds in local areas. Swainson's Thrush: seven reports May 18; several seen in yard Nisk May 22 and banded to May 29 Nisk (RPY); ten (approx.) heard flying over at night May 30 (PPW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one May 8 West Mountain near Berne (MK). Veery: two May 8 Berne (MK); many reports May 10–11. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: only four reports—from May 1 Catskill (E&LL). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two late reports May 18 (SBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: continued to migrate during Apr and May; influx Apr 14, yet greater Apr 27, common to Apr 30 (RPY); last May 24 EG (MDG). Water Pipit: only one report—six May 12 Ghent (PPW). Cedar Waxwing: several reports in Apr, max 20 (RPY); numerous reports in May, usually in small flocks up to ten; one flock of 30 May 2 (EH). Shrike: one Apr 7 (SBC), species undetermined.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: first two reports May 4—Emb (J&BB) and Lock 7 (SBC). Solitary: one TR Apr 21 (SBC); five May reports, including two May 18, last date. Red-eyed: first May 7 Schodack Center (PC); observed by ten groups out of a possible 13 groups May 18. Warbling: early report Apr 25 Gr (CK); many from May 5 on.

Warblers: Black-and-white: six May 4 Greene Co (J&BB,SBC); throughout May. Worm-eating: located May 18 in usual nesting area IL (SBC), one bird observed putting leaves singly into a hole in the ground under roots of a tree. Golden-winged: first May 12 Canaan (J&EP). Blue-winged: first May 10 Canaan (J&EP). Brewster's: one May 26 W. Glenville (SBC). Tennessee: first reports—by six groups May 18; one in complete fall plumage May 18 (RPY); two reports May 22 the last ones. *ORANGE-CROWNED*: one observed at close range May 11 (SBC). Nashville: several appeared May 3–5; last, May 25. Parula: three May 4 Greene Co (J&BB,SBC); one May 13 Central Pk (HFB); three reports May 18, the last. Yellow: seen frequently from arr date May 3. Magnolia: first observed May 18, by six groups; last, May 28 (PPW). Cape May: ten reports—from May 5 Schodack (L&VB) to one May 25 IL (SBC). Black-throated Blue: appeared May 11 (late) Gr (C&CK); last May 25 VFG (RPY); scarce. Myrtle: one very early report Apr 5 EG (PPW); second, Apr 21 TR (SBC); many thereafter, max 30 May 4 Greene Co (SBC); last, May 22 Nisk (RPY). Black-throated Green: first Apr 14 Emb (J&BB);

several May 4-5; throughout month. Blackburnian: first May 10 (PPW). Cerulean: one in usual nesting area on Schodack Island May 22 (PPW). Chestnut-sided: first May 5 Col Co (ADBC); one in full fall plumage banded VFG May 18 (RPY). Bay-breasted: reported by five groups May 18; only one other report—one May 25 IL (SBC). Blackpoll: first May 13 Chatham (MM); several remainder of May, with max numbers May 30-31. Pine: two Jenny L and Black Pond Rd May 18 (bsh). Prairie: only five reports, first May 11 Gr (CK). Palm: only four reports—from Apr 14 Gr (CK) to May 4, when three were seen. Ovenbird: first May 5 Chatham (MM). Northern Waterthrush: first May 3 VFG (RPY). Louisiana Waterthrush: one very early heard near Duaneburg Apr 28 (SBC); eight additional reports May 16-27. *CONNECTICUT*: one observed at very close range May 18 W. Ghent (PE). Mourning: missed entirely in May; one imm male singing June 1 Wolf Hollow (WBS). Yellow-throat: early report Apr 18 Catskill (J&BB); common from May 5 on. Yellow-breasted Chat: four groups reported this species May 18—only date. Wilson's: six reports May 18 (SBC); last, May 25 VFG (RPY). Canada: first two May 16, with especially numerous reports May 25-26. Redstart: first May 5 Vischer Ferry (HFB,PMcG); most from May 11.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: first May 5 Gr (CK); general influx May 9-11. Orchard Oriole: three reports—May 11 Castleton (JC), one imm May 14 Slingerlands (WBS), and May 31 Schodack (L&VB). Baltimore Oriole: one Apr 14 Westmere (MK); second, Apr 25 Castleton (JC). Rusty Blackbird: several reports, the last May 18 Chatham (MM). Scarlet Tanager: early report—Apr 25, 26 Ghent (P&GE); numerous after May 8. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first May 2 (GA), many from May 6. Indigo Bunting: commonly reported May 11 on. Evening Grosbeak: most had disappeared by end of April; max 34 Apr 22 Berne (MK). Purple Finch: many migrants in mid-Apr, passing rapidly in moderate numbers and then becoming much reduced, migration peaking Apr 19-20 (RPY). House Finch: slight increase in numbers over previous spring, but lingering for only one to four days; five reports—one female at feeder Apr 12 Alplaus (HFB); one male Apr 13 Chatham (Gertrude and Cecil Mapes); Apr 30-May 3, two males and three females in yard, singing, Catskill (Alice Freeman); one pair at feeder Nisk May 1 (RPY); one pair at feeder May 28-29 Nisk (GA). Pine Siskin: only two reports—six Apr 20 near Galway (WBS,RPY); three seen and one heard May 18 (bsh). Red Crossbill: one flock of 14 Apr 9 TR (PC). Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Apr 2 Schodack (Rena Dodd).

Sparrows: Savannah: first Apr 3 Gr (CK); widely reported Apr 12 on. Grasshopper: found in at least three areas—Emb (J&BB), BCM (SBC), and Chatham (MM). Henslow's: only one area—BCM May 18. Slate-colored Junco: according to banding data, migration peaked Mar 30-Apr 10, about two weeks earlier than usual (RPY). Tree: last Apr 25 (EH). Chipping: one unusually early, Apr 7, at feeder Jenny L (Barrington Havens). *HARRIS'*: one adult male appeared in the company of two White-crowns May 7 one mile south of Catskill, and was seen again on May 8; also, one imm May 28 (J&BB). White-crowned: very early appearance Apr 4 Hillsdale (NS); many from Apr 20; last May 24 Gr (CK). White-throated: Apr 27 a most unusual flight observed in yard in Nisk (RPY)—about 25 of this species were seen early in the morning, and also about 85 passing north through the same yard within ten to 15 min. in the evening; May reports were fewer than those of Apr. Fox: reported three times during April; last Apr 22 (EH). Lincoln's: three banded May 17 and three May 18 VFG (RPY), and one seen May 18 Ghent (P&GE).

Thanks are due two area compilers: Rena Dodd and Clarissa Ketcham.

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CORRIGENDUM: the report of Nighthawk Mar 27 in last report [*Kingbird* 18(2): 110, May 1968] should be deleted.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

One might think that the only reason this spring season seemed to advance as rapidly as it did was because of continued comparison with the abnormally cold spring of 1967. But it actually was a rapidly advancing season. Early May saw the foliage anywhere from two to three weeks ahead of schedule. March and April temperatures must have been among the warmest ever with May being more normal. Precipitation was normal to above for March and April, but May was extremely wet, approaching double the average rainfall for the month.

Most birders looked forward to a good migration with an eagerness in direct proportion to the favorable weather they hoped would bring it on. They were only to have their hopes dashed by a slow uneventful progression of species across the land. There were no visible waves; only a few good days afield, and very few at that.

Many species of waterfowl remained remarkably late, especially the diving ducks. Some species of vireos, warblers and swallows, usually common, were very scarce throughout the entire Region. Other species of birds were only down locally, their scarcity not representative of the whole region. The period did have its few rarities as the report will show.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; Putn—Putnam Co; West—Westchester Co; Rock—Rockland Co; MBC—Mearns Bird Club; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; USMA—United States Military Academy.

Contributors: RD—Robert F. Deed; JD—James Demes; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; J,MK—James and Mary Key; ML—Mabel Little; HM—Helen Manson; JM—John Marsh; A,BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pink; JS—Jim Southward; F,RS—Frank & Ruth Steffens; W&TS—William & Trixie Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; ET—Ed Treacy; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two, Apr 13 Cornwall Bay (A,BM), increasing to six Apr 14 (ET); one, same date, Conn's Hook, Hudson R (ET); two in Dutch during May—one each May 11 and 21. Horned Grebe: Mar movement continued thru first week of Apr; last, four Apr 9 New Hamburg. Pied-billed Grebe: although it breeds in Northwest portion, it is not commonly found elsewhere in late spring and summer; one, May 13 Nauraushaun Res.—rather late for Rock. Double-crested Cormorant: another rare spring record—three, May 21 Hyde Pk (mob). Great Blue Heron: more spring records than in recent years; nine active nests at Tamarack Swamp near Millbrook, Dutch. *CATTLE EGRET*: first Ulst record Apr 8 at Kripplebush (FH); subsequent sightings by Valerie Freer in early May near Kerhonkson; one appeared in the same pasture near New City, Rock on May 14 as it has on that date for the past four years (RD); two at Upton L May 18, (Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Sheldon). *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: second record in Dutch—one, Apr 27 Crugers Is. (Margaret Bowman). Least Bittern: usual few reports from localities in Oran, Dutch, and Sull. American Bittern: more reports than usual. *GLOSSY IBIS*: one, Tri-Loba Hill Sanct., Katonah Apr 5 (SG); four, May 19 over Piermont Pier and Marsh (RD and family); first record for both counties.

Mute Swan: one, Cornwall Bay Apr 2-7; large population in West and Rock for past several years, refuses to spread northward. Canada Goose: excellent migration continued thru Apr, some flocks sizeable—300 over Cornwall, Apr 13, (MBC); WBC reports at least 12 pair nesting in Dutch; many more nesting thru lake regions of Bear Mt. Pk and USMS, West Point—appears to be best nesting season in recent years. Brant: peak movement May 19—from 7:15 pm till dark 16 flocks counted over Hudson at Cornwall, some with as few as 150 and others with as many as 600; con-

servative est. about 6,100 birds; flights also reported from Dutch from May 19 thru 26. Snow Goose: 45, Apr 6 Thompson Pond, Dutch; 150, Apr 7 Stissing (TH,VP); one Apr 14 Swift Pond near Amenia (J,MK).

Mallard and Black Duck: normal. Gadwall: Apr 12 near Millbrook (JS). Pintail: three, Apr 7, and two, Apr 10, near L Walton, Dutch (JS). Green-winged Teal: more scarce than usual. Blue-winged Teal: normal; observed with young on Nauraushaun Res. May 13 (RD). Am. Widgeon: scarce thru Region; WBC reports one pair in Dutch. Shoveler: always rare—one male, ninth record for Rock, on Nauraushaun Res Mar 30—all previous records Rock L since 1963 (RD); two males and one female photographed near Poughkeepsie Apr 1 & 2. Wood Duck: mother led eight young from nesting box near Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah, May 17 (SG); normal numbers thru Region. Ring-necked Duck: fewer than usual; last Apr 30, Dutch (WBC). Scaup: Lingered very late but in low numbers; last May 18, Sylvan L (OW). Common Goldeneye: one pair May 11 Crugers Is. (OW)—very late. Bufflehead: a female at Piermont Pier till May 19, a new late date for Rock (RD); 17 on May 4 at Crugers Is and Rhinecliff was a very late date for Dutch. Oldsquaw: only report, one, Apr 25 Morgan L Dutch (AJ,J&MK). *WHITE-WINGED SCOTER*: one, Apr 14, Millbrook (CT); two, May 4, Rhinecliff (OW *et al*); one May 18, Peekskill (ET,PJ). *SURF SCOTER*: three, May 17 Rhinecliff (AJ,MK). *COMMON SCOTER*: three, May 19, and three more May 25 at Rhinecliff (EP,FG). All scoter species are rare. Ruddy Duck: seven Piermont Pier May 19 (RD). Hooded Merganser: unusually scarce this season, only four found in Dutch. Common Merganser: last two May 4 Crugers Is. Red-breasted Merganser: usually reported only in Mar; good movement of last Mar continued into Apr with five Apr 7 and six Apr 8 Crugers Is. (Robert Wright, Don Davis).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Normal. **GOSHAWK**: nesting pair discovered near Grahamsville, Sull Apr 6 by Jerome Kerner, later photographed by Ken Niven and Marty Borko. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Coopers Hawks: none reported: Red-tailed Hawk: usual to better nesting numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: WBC reports two pair regularly observed in Dutch—nesting not proven. Broad-winged Hawk: arr in good numbers Apr 21, nesting normal. Rough-legged Hawk: all Apr records were from Dutch—six in Apr, last on 20th at Pine Plains. Bald Eagle: one imm near Chester Apr 27 (MBC); one adult May 18 USMA, West Pt (ET,PJ,F&RS). Marsh Hawk: very few spring reports; four during Apr in Dutch, last Apr 30; one Rock May 13(RD). Osprey: numbers normal, first Apr 9 in Dutch; reported from several areas Apr 13. Sparrow Hawk: low in some locations but normal elsewhere. Full day of birding by RD in Rock May 13 produced none. Another full day of birding across the whole of Oran May 18 produced none. Ruffed Grouse: numbers normal, but lower than last year; appears scarce in the Carmel area of Putn (ML). Bobwhite: a few birds in vicinity of Mt. Kisko; WBC reports about 20 or more thru season; small numbers holding their own in Oran. **KING RAIL**: one, Iona Is. May 18 observed from auto at about 20 ft. for 15 min., all marks noted (ET,PJ). Virginia and Sora Rails: no significant change in numbers. Coot: less than normal.

Semipalmated Plover: always rare in spring—two, May 12–26 north of Poughkeepsie (EP); one, May 18–22, Lagrangeville (OW); one, May 18 Howells, Oran (Peg Moon). American Woodcock: good numbers Common Snipe: good numbers, breeding usual locations. Upland Plover: eight at VanHaster Farm, Hamptonburgh, by Apr 20. Yellowlegs: good flight for both species—more than 50 Greater, and 16 Lesser in Dutch during May. Pectoral Sandpiper: largest spring movement on record; 14 on Apr 18 at Stormville (HM *et al*); six at Hamptonburgh on Apr 20 increasing to two or three dozen by end of following week; last, 27, May 24, Poughkeepsie (AJ). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: usual spring numbers. **DUNLIN**: one adult in spring plumage, May 10–13 Poughkeepsie (mob); four at Piermont Pier May 14 (RD)—sixth record for Rock since 1957. Gulls: resident species

normal. *GLAUCOUS GULL*: one, Apr 7, Crugers Is. (JM), well described. Laughing Gull: arr Cornwall Bay May 10, two May 12-18 (A,BM). Bonaparte's Gull: one, Nauraushaun Res Apr 6 (JD); more than 60 in varying plumages at Crugers Is (no date given) (EP,OW *et al*). Common Tern: Hudson R at Cornwall, one Apr 28, very early date for entire Region—observed standing and flying at 100 yds, with 25× scope (ET); four, May 17 Rhinecliff (AJ,MK); two, May 19 Rhinecliff (EP,FG). Black Tern: one, May 11 Pine Plains (TH,W&TS). Cuckoo: both species rather scarce. Owls: residents normal.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: unreported from most areas; one, May 10 Pine Plains, only record. Common Nighthawk: good flight; six, May 19 Cornwall (A,BM); excellent flight over Dutch May 15-30, peak, May 23. Chimney Swift: first Apr 23 in Dutch; normal that county, low in Putn and N West. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very few reported; only six Dutch records during May, first May 11. Belted Kingfisher: normal. *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: more reports than usual; a pair at Nauraushaun from Apr 6-May 18—seventh spring record in Rock since 1957; one, heard and seen on several occasions Apr 14-May 18 at Dunderberg Mt., Rock (ET); one west of New Paltz in May (Heinz Meng). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: unreported for past several years in Rock, but normal to less elsewhere. Hairy Woodpecker: scarce in Cornwall area (A,BM), though not elsewhere. Flycatchers: low in Putn, but normal elsewhere. Kingbird: normal to better, Great Crested Flycatcher: first, May 6; numbers less than usual but not abnormal. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three reports all Dutch—first, May 17; last, May 22. Traill's Flycatcher: only two reports—singles May 18, Iona Is. (ET) and May 22 Poughkeepsie (AJ). Least Flycatcher: normal. Wood Pewee: first, from several locations May 18; only five in Dutch for whole month of May. Horned Lark: 13, May 11, Dutch (WBC). Most species of swallows normal. Tree Swallow very late and very limited in numbers when compared to usual. Purple Martin: unreported most areas after severe kills of last two springs; only one colony active in Oran, that at Middlehope (Carrie Carnright).

Blue Jay: normal; a strange late May migration taking place from May 20—June 1. Fish Crow: four reports from Dutch; one Apr 30 Cornwall, Oran. Black-capped Chickadee: unusually scarce some areas, normal others. Tufted Titmouse: normal. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Dutch Apr 6, one Apr 19; found nesting at L Mohonk—long suspected, now proven (Dan Smiley). Brown Creeper: normal; one, May 18, Mine Rd, USMA, West Pt (F,RS). Winter Wren: three May reports, Thompson Pond Roosevelt estate, Dutch. Carolina Wren: one, May 16 Standfordville (FG); one, May 4-11 Crugers Is. (OW *et al*). Mockingbird: at least four at Cornwall; rapid increase of last few years seems to have tapered off. Hermit Thrush: normal. Swainson's Thrush: very poor numbers—late, and few. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one, May 11, only report. Veery: very low in Putn, N. West, and Dutch, normal elsewhere. Eastern Bluebird: good nesting, continues to hold. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: good numbers, nesting in usual locations. Both species of kinglet very low. Iris Dean, a very active birder, had only one Ruby-crowned the entire season. Water Pipit: more than 100 Apr 20, Millbrook (OW); 25, May 4 Moore's Mills (EP); two May 13, E. Park (Tom Gilbert). Cedar Waxwing: remains scarce throughout Region. Loggerhead Shrike: only one, Apr 1 at Amenia (W,TS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: more than usual in S. Oran—at least three singing on Mine Rd. USMA near Weyant's Pond thru late May. Yellow-throated Vireo: very scarce; WBC reports only 15 May records. Solitary Vireo: as usual only a few reported, all normal Apr dates. Red-eyed Vireo: arr very late, completely missed on WBC census May 11; only 11 reported thru month of May in Dutch. Warbling Vireo: better than usual; actually outnumbered Red-eyed Vireo on May 13 in Rock; WBC reports this species as the only normal one.

Warblers: *PROTHONOTARY*: one, Napanoch Apr 23 (Chandler Young). Worm-

eating: nesting usual location Dunderberg Mt., Rock. Golden-winged: especially numerous in Ulst. Brewster's: one, courted by Golden-wing, Basha Kill May 11 (MBC). Parula: scarce; Mabel Little found none all season in Putn and N. West. Magnolia: most late, and very few at that. Cerulean: more than ever before—mid May yielded 3 or 4 per trip; a male courting a female at Weyant's Pond, USMA May 18, no proven nesting however; persisted in good numbers thru end of season. Blackburnian: very few reported. Blackpoll: arr as expected in late May, but numbers very low. Pine: most records in the past during Apr; this year only two—one May 18, (AJ) and one May 21 (MK), both Dutch. Prairie: absent from most of its usual haunts, numbers unusually low. Louisiana Waterthrush: one, Dunderberg Mt. Apr 14, very early. Hooded: fewer reported than usual, but nesting in usual locations. Wilson's: unreported from most areas, numbers unusually low. Canada: another species missed completely by some active birders, very poor for this normally abundant species. Am. Redstart: very late, but numbers good in late May; only one reported on WBC census on May 11.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Icterids: most species normal to better except Rusty Blackbird which has been below normal all year. Bobolink: especially good numbers. Red-winged Blackbird: flock of more than 1,000 males reported at New Hamburg, Dutch May 22, unusually late for migrants (OW). Orchard Oriole: a few more than usual, most nesting birds on location. Baltimore Oriole: down from previous years, but still good. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: far below normal numbers, and arr generally late. Indigo Bunting: late, first May 14; numbers normal in late May. Evening Grosbeak: two, Apr 10 at Cornwall (A,BM); 36 through month of Apr Millbrook, Dutch; four, May 16 Stanfordville, Dutch. Purple Finch: much better numbers than in recent years. House Finch: continues to increase; male and female feeding an imm at Cornwall, first nesting for that area; Dutch had about 30 dur Apr and May mostly in the Poughkeepsie area. *EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:* one, in flock of Am. Goldfinches at a feeder in New City Park Apr 3 & 4 was reported by Ruth Steffens who knows the species well from her stay in Bermuda; same bird also reported by a non-birder at a feeder nearby on Mar 30, 31—a new species for Rock. Pine Siskin: unreported. Savannah Sparrow: WBC reported 61 on May 11 census, very high. Grasshopper Sparrow: first Rock report since fall of 1954—one May 21 at Naurashaun (JD); scarce in Dutch—only two, May 13. Slate-colored Junco: last, four May 8—late. Tree Sparrow: last report Apr 12–18 in Dutch. Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 5, early; normal after mid-Apr thru most of season; numbers down in S Putn. and N West (ML). *HARRIS' SPARROW:* bird of last winter at Dover Plains, lingered til May 2, went into fine adult plumage before leaving. White-crowned Sparrow: less than usual; first, two, May 5; peak, May 17. White-throated Sparrow: poor flight compared to most years. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report, one found dead at Plutarch, Ulst on May 18 (Heinz Meng). Song Sparrow: usual good numbers.

Summer reports due Sept 1.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928.

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM POST

It is difficult to summarize continually poor seasons. All active observers agreed that this one was just short of being really dismal.

What are the reasons for these poor seasons? Are bird populations declining? This could be a reality—a long drought followed by last summer's wet, stormy weather, habitat destruction, the ubiquitous insecticides do little good. However, radar studies show that large migrations of birds pass unseen unless the proper weather conditions

prevail. (See Nisbet and Drury, 1967, "Scanning the Sky-Birds on Radar" and "Weather and Migration" *Mass. Audubon*, summer and autumn issues.)

Ideal meteorological barriers to migration produced two good days this spring—May 3 and May 17, both Fridays. On the 3rd a strong flow of tropical air met cold air and rain formed from Washington northeast to Boston. These conditions produced a large arrival of terns and also the earliest-recorded Olive-sided Flycatcher. On the 17th, moderate southwest winds brought warm air from the Gulf of Mexico into New York along the east side of a cold front extending along the Appalachians. Birds reaching our area on the dawn of the 17th found their passage blocked by a second cold front lying across Long Island. Richard Cohen, who was mist-netting migrants daily at his home in Atlantic Beach, recorded his highest total this spring on the 17th. His total was 145 birds, of which 100 were warblers. The top three species were: 34 Yellowthroats, 21 Catbirds, and 13 Redstarts. He also banded all five species of *Hylocichla* and a Worm-eating Warbler, a rare coastal migrant.

Like last year, this spring ended on a sad note. It began raining on May 28, and by the morning of the 29th, 4.88 inches had fallen. On the afternoon of the 29th, Frank Enders and Will Post found two washed-out Virginia Rail nests (one contained four just-hatched young and four eggs, all drowned); also inundated: two Red-winged Blackbird and two Seaside Sparrow nests. On an early June 1st visit to Lawrence Marsh, Davis found several washed-out Clapper Rail nests and there was evidence that the heron rookery had suffered damage. Higher-nesting passerines such as the Tree Swallows at Tobay appear to have suffered no damage.

May temperatures were 2.8 degrees below average. The temperature was above normal on only four days. Rainfall in May was 7.06 inches, 3.5 inches above normal.

There were few rarities this spring, but a pair of Saw-whet Owls nested in a bird box at Tobay. A Saw-whet nest was last found in the Region in 1879. Intensive field work at Oak Beach by Post and Enders revealed the presence of Black Rails. This species has been recorded breeding in our Region only three times, once at Oak Beach in 1937.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; AtlB—Atlantic Beach. Only the first word is used for Captree State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Contributors frequently cited: LBT—Linnaean Boat Trip (R.Harrison, R.Grant, T.Davis *et al*) off Jones Beach; FE—Frank Enders; TD—Thomas Davis; GR—Gilbert Raynor; RC—Richard Cohen; WP—William Post; BC—Barbara Connolly; AD—Aline Dove; OD—Orville Dunning.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two, Jun 2 (LBT)—late migrants. Red-throated Loon: two, Jun 2 (LBT)—late migrants. Sooty Shearwater: five, Jun 2 (LBT). Wilson's Petrel: 20, Jun 2 (LBT). Gannet: adult, Jun 2 (LBT)—late for adult. Glossy Ibis: appeared everywhere in large numbers; max counts—185, early May, Rockaway and Brookville Blvds., Queens Co. (H.Hirschbein, B.Berliner *et al*)—highest Regional count; 95, May 6, Oak Beach marshes (WP). European Widgeon: drake, Apr 20—thru period, JBWR (mob)—latest Regional record. King Eider: hen, Jun 1, JBWR (M.Kleinbaum *et al*)—a straggler at this season, perhaps blown inshore by the May 29 storm.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Apr 1, Far Rockaway (J.Bull); Apr 3, JBWR (J.Bull). Broad-winged Hawk: territorial pair, May 26, Brookville (BC). Virginia Rail: at least ten pairs are breeding at Oak Beach in a salt marsh; six nests have been found (FE,WP). Sora Rail: one trapped and banded at Oak Beach May 4. Black Rail: the "kik-kik-kerrr" call of this species was first heard at Oak Beach on Apr 30 (WP,FE). (This call is not to be confused with the "tic-tic-tic-McGreer" call of the Virginia Rail). On May 4 a Black Rail was netted and banded at Oak Beach (FE,TD). Clapper Rail: a nest with ten eggs on May 30 survived the high waters of May 28–29 at Oak Beach. An estimated ten-twelve pairs were heard call-

ing from the dike at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—“Although I remained until 9:15 p.m., this was the only rail species heard.” American Oystercatcher: pair May 22, JBWR (E.Janvrin, H.Isham *et al*)—late migrants? Piping Plover: nest with two eggs, Apr 18, Jones (D.Cooper)—earliest Regional egg date by six days. Am. Woodcock: four broods were raised at JBWR (H.Johnson); a singing male was heard near the dike at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—a local breeder in our area, especially near the coast. Stilt Sandpiper: Apr 23, Oak Beach (WP)—always rare in spring, and this one very early. Earliest in Bull are Apr 13 and 26. Upland Plover: arr Apr 14 at Mitchell Field; by May 4, population was 16, including seven pair (R.Cioffi). Willet: Apr 16, Lawrence Marsh (D.Cooper)—earliest Regional record. Northern Phalarope: three, Jun 2, LBT.

Pomarine Jaeger: light-phase bird, Jun 2, LBT. Great Black-backed Gull: at Captree, birds began laying eggs on Apr 26; individuals were still laying as late as Jun 8 (TD). Herring Gull: at Captree birds began laying eggs on Apr 27 (TD)—earliest Regional egg date. Glaucous Gull: May 15-Jun 3, JBWR (mob). Common Tern: breeding birds returned to the Jones Beach-Captree strip on May 3 (TD). Caspian Tern: May 11, Mecox (GR)—rare spring migrant. Great Horned Owl: three pairs nested in the Glen Cove-Oyster Bay area (O.Heck). Short-eared Owl: May 15, Moriches Inlet (GR)—late. Saw-whet Owl: nested in a bird box at Tobay (R.Barth, F.Schaeffer *et al*)—see Field Note in this issue.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: May 15, Cutchogue, “present for 4-5 days previously” (P.Stoutenburgh *fade* GR)—the only report received. Red-headed Woodpecker: May 5, Tobay (T.Lauro, B.Reeves). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 4, Prospect Pk (J.Yrizarry)—earliest Regional record. Tree Swallow: Jun 2, LBT—seen 14 miles from nearest land. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jun 4, Lloyd Neck (AD,BC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: Apr 21, Freeport (C.Ward, H. Hirschbein)—earliest Regional record. Philadelphia: singles banded at AtIB on May 18 and 23 (RC). Warbling: Apr 29, Van Cortlandt Pk (W.Norse)—early.

Warblers: Prothonotary: female, May 21, Belmont L State Pk (K.Malone). Golden-winged: singing male, May 26, Sagamore Hill (BC,AD,OD)—rare on L.I., has never bred. Cerulean: May 19, Lattington (RC). Yellow-throated: Apr 21, Bronx Botanical Gardens (S.Ozard, E.MacGuire, D.Rafferty). Kentucky: May 17, Rye (R.Arbib); May 28, Alley Pond Pk (OD). Mourning: female banded at AtIB on May 31 (RC)—rare on coast in spring. Hooded: male banded at AtIB on May 6 (RC)—rare coastal migrant.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: a sub-adult male and a female, May 4, Yaphank (GR). Boat-tailed Grackle: the bird mentioned in the winter report remained in Far Rockaway thru the period (Mrs.J.Sorman). Summer Tanager: three reports—May 3, Alley Pond Pk (R.Robertson); male, May 5, Central Pk (C. Austin); sub-adult male, May 11, Central Pk (H.Tetrault, P.Tozzi *et al*). Ipswich Sparrow: Apr 13, Moriches Inlet (GR)—very late. White-throated Sparrow: an uninjured, banded bird remained at AtIB to Jun 1, at least (RC). Lincoln's Sparrow: banded at AtIB on Jun 1 (RC)—extremely late but perhaps an overlooked species during late May; Cohen also has records for May 27, 1966 and May 28, 1967 (two birds). Swamp Sparrow: a singing male, maybe territorial, was heard at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—rare coastal breeder. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows: mist-netting at Oak Beach showed that the first heavy movement of Seasides into the region took place Apr 30-May 1, of Sharp-tails May 3-May 4. Overwintering Seasides were singing as early as Mar 27. An egg was found in the oviduct of a Seaside netted on May 4 (WP,FE).

Note: Please have summer reports in by Aug 22.

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