

The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XIII, NO. 3

JULY • 1963

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

**"SOUNDS
OF
NATURE"**



recordings

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Dr. W. W. H. Gunn
for the**

**Federation of
Ontario Naturalists**

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THE KINGBIRD is published four times a year (January, May, July and October) by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. Publication office is 193 LaSalle Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. and Publication is sent free to all individual members of the Federation. Membership in the Federation is \$3.00 per year as of Jan. 1, 1962. Single copies: \$1.00.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Mrs. Donald Radke, Box 138, R. D. #1, East Chatham.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS is handled by the Treasurer, Kenneth D. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello. EXCHANGES, BACK COPIES, and REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED COPIES by Allan S. Klonick, 901 Sibley Tower Building Rochester 4, N. Y.

Controlled circulation postage paid at BUFFALO, N. Y.



The KINGBIRD

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

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YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

Attendance and enthusiasm of Federation members at the Annual Convention at Jamestown, April 26-28, Friday to Sunday, exceeded all expectations. On Friday night committee meetings were well attended and little gestures such as serving refreshments that evening showed a thoughtfulness on the part of the host club.

Large numbers of delegates were present for a very enthusiastic Saturday morning council meeting and an equally well-attended paper session under the guidance of the ever helpful Dr. Allen Benton was presented in the afternoon. The Saturday evening banquet was most enlivening with 263 in attendance and our beloved internationally known Roger T. Peterson as the guest speaker. The Federation owes much to the Jamestown Audubon Society for its flawless handling of this 1963 convention.

As to our very excellent and active Conservation Committee, the report was that every effort on the Federations part was successful in curbing the forces and keeping the Great Horned Owl and Golden Eagle on the protected list, and also preventing bounties on several birds and animals in New York State.

On pesticides, which one great authority says presents a problem of contamination even greater than fall-out regarding human and animal life, Roger T. Peterson had a great deal to say in his evening talk (see Conservation News in the last issue). The old adage "in union there is strength" rings a bell with the aligning of our western Long Island bird clubs with hunting and fishing clubs and conservation groups in trying to preserve Town of Hempstead wetlands or salt marshes. A broader scale of alignment — state wide if not nation wide — offers itself in the battle against indiscriminate use of pesticides. Even if the spread of all DDT and stronger pesticides were immediately stopped, there is still sufficient contamination in some areas to threaten our wildlife for some time to come.

Small airfields have been opened up in the forests on the Gaspé peninsula and in other Canadian provinces solely to spray the woodlands and thus spread the contamination further, unless used discriminately, moose, deer and other game feed on the sprayed vegetation and birds eat the affected insects and all these accumulate poisons. One famous salmon stream in Canada has lost its fish apparently through an over-accumulation of pesticides. A recent warning was sent to one of our legislators that already much of our fish and game is coming to the point of being dangerous to human consumption and here's where the alignment of our Federation clubs with gunning clubs comes in.

Over the years the prowess of the hunter and fisherman has been emphasized in our great gunning and fishing clubs. Thousands of acres are leased each year, millions of dollars are spent for expensive fishing equipment, guns and ammunition, supplies for trips into the forests and those of the Canadian provinces. Many thousands of dollars swell government funds in the furnishing of required hunting and fishing licenses. With con-

THE COMMON LOON IN NEW YORK STATE

ROBERT S. ARBIB JR.

For a number of years a committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has been planning a new *Birds of New York State* to succeed the monumental two volume work by E. H. Eaton, published by the State Museum a half century ago.

This new book is not envisioned as an all-encompassing state book in the classic tradition. The day is long past for lavish volumes, liberally illustrated, describing and portraying in detail the plumages, the habits, the life histories, and the economic importance of each species ever recorded in the state, just as if there were no other readily-available sources for this information.

The committee believes that what a present-day state book should do is to concentrate on what is specifically germane to the ornithology of the state. It should be an inventory of the state list, a census of the breeding species, an estimate of populations wherever possible, a guide to the seasonal calendar of the species found in New York, an atlas of breeding ranges and migration routes, and an accounting of the unusual species that have been recorded within our boundaries. It should additionally give an accounting of the species normally to be found in the various ecological associations of the state. All this to give as accurate as possible a picture, and historical record, of the bird life of the state as it exists just prior to publication. It should certainly record changes that have taken place over the years, when known, and might even venture a prediction or two about the future.

In order to stimulate interest in the contribution (and simple keeping) of records, information, and services to the state book, the author has prepared a sample species treatment as it is proposed to appear in the finished book. The species selected is ideal, because it is not only a migrant across the state, a winter visitant to the state, a breeding bird in the state, but also a non-breeding summer resident in certain areas. Thus, it will be accorded the fullest possible treatment, whereas many other species of more limited status may receive only part of this attention, and rarities recorded once or twice may be restricted to a few paragraphs. Finally, the species is the logical pioneer, for it is the first bird on the state (and North American) list, the Common Loon, *Gavia immer*.

The following treatment is then the result of a study of more than 300 books, ornithological journals, local news letters, and much personal correspondence. In addition, it is the result of a synthesis of information received when more than 285 questionnaires were sent to ornithologists and clubs throughout the state. It might be noted here that of the 285, only 65 were returned at all, and of these, only 35 had useful information, of which exactly eleven indicated any substantial knowledge of the habits and calendar of the loon in the respondent's area. Clearly, the bird watchers of New York State could put those millions of hours of field work to more purposeful use!

A second questionnaire, directed to Game Protectors of the New York

State Department of Conservation had far greater productivity, with a majority of those canvassed able to supply specific information. A request for breeding site information printed in *The Conservationist* resulted in a score of useful records, although somewhat disappointing in view of the large circulation of that journal among people who know the Adirondacks. Altogether, the present treatment reflects a far greater knowledge of the abundance, breeding, migration, and calendar of the loon in our state than ever before. But even with all the new information gathered, there are still many unanswered questions. How do loons breeding in New York State get to their breeding sites? What is the direction of migration in many areas? What is the total breeding population in the state? Is this population increasing, maintaining itself, or declining? What are specific breeding cycle dates for New York State? (The dates shown on the annual cycle chart for courtship, nest-building, eggs, hatch, etc., are largely extrapolated from data outside New York State.)

One final word on cost. If a state book is to be published, it will have to be financed, and a permanent editor subsidized for a minimum of two years. On this single species study, a rather formidable expenditure was required, for questionnaires and other printing, for maps and photostats, for correspondence, for postage, and even for travel. The cost of a new state book will be sizable, in both time and funds. Perhaps this sample treatment will help in our search for means.

NOTES ON THE SPECIES TREATMENT

Terminology used in the "Status" section is that adopted by the State Book Committee several years ago, and published in Audubon Field Notes 11:63-4, 1957. It is an attempt to bring uniformity and statistical meaning to hitherto vague and generalized terms. In addition to this standard nomenclature, maximum numbers for a day's observation may also be given. Regions are those in use in *The Kingbird*.

The circular annual cycle chart, adapted and simplified from James Fisher, seems to us the most expedient and compact way of presenting the annual calendar for a species in New York State. In any repetitive continuum, such as a year, only a circle can show the continuity of sequences without break, as they are in life. Around the rim of the chart are shown the months and weeks, with the last day of each week being dated. Various phases of the annual cycle of the species can be measured off by placing a straightedge along the various radii until they reach the outer rim. Dates are averages, not absolutes, for the entire state.

The mapping of migration across the state leaves much to be desired, and should be considered little more than tentative conclusions. Perhaps the publication of these maps will stimulate field work that will put definite arrows all over the state.

Since this is a sample treatment, and not the published book, there is still time for additions, corrections, and suggestions. Every reader is encouraged to communicate with the author if he can supply any or all of these.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the valuable advice and assistance to this project made by the following individuals: Harold Axtell, Allan H. Benton, Robert F. Deed, Stephen W. Eaton, Sally F. Hoyt, Gordon M. Meade, Harold D. Mitchell, Neil S. Moon, Ralph Palmer, Kenneth Parkes, Walton Sabin, Fritz Scheider, Walter R. Spofford, and William Webb, as active members of the State Book Committee, E. M. Reilly for handsomely preparing maps and chart, James Fisher for granting permission to use his year-cycle chart, Richard Doricchi and Douglas Boyd for graphics services, John L. Bull Jr., and Richard C. Rosche for special information, and to all those listed at the end of this paper, who contributed information through letters and questionnaires, outstanding among them John H. Mayer and Richard Emperor. Throughout the entire span of the project, Harold Mitchell has been the indispensable spark plug, expeditor, and inspiration.

Common Loon *Gavia immer* (Brunnich)

Status: Common regular spring and fall transient along major flight-lines and in staging areas, irregularly very common to abundant (to 1000 per day, Suffolk County, Lake Ontario, Rochester.) Elsewhere in state very rare to fairly common irregular to regular transient, least recorded in Susquehanna and Delaware-Hudson Regions. Fairly common to common summer resident in Adirondack area, along shores of Lake Champlain and upper St. Lawrence River. Irregular rare summer resident as non-breeder elsewhere. Common winter visitant to Marine Region (to 250 per day) occasionally very common in e. Suffolk County (to 300 per day.) Rare irregular winter visitant elsewhere in state (to 5 per day) as long as open water remains, more regular along Niagara Frontier.

Habitat: Requires deep waters with sufficient food fish supply at all seasons. In winter, frequents estuaries, creeks, bays, and open ocean, as well as ice-free waters of larger lakes and rivers. Breeding site requirements seem to include undisturbed islands or more remote shores of rivers, lakes, and ponds, sometimes marshy, more often wooded to edge. Many observers report the loon will desert waters regularly disturbed by boat traffic. In migration, may stop over at any body of water, occasionally landing on wet pavement in bad weather. Most lakes except largest support one, or at most two pairs widely separated. Will breed in ponds as small as 100 acres, but use surrounding lakes for feeding.

Annual cycle: See chart A. It will be noted that some stages of the loon's life cycle overlap, since all individuals do not migrate, pair, nest, or lay eggs simultaneously, and the spread is greater when averages are computed for many years. Length of breeding season includes replacement nesting, frequent in the species if first nesting fails. Dates shown on the chart are averages for the entire state. Little differences between different regions can be detected from the present data, although it would be suspected that migration dates for Long Island would be one or two days earlier in spring and later in autumn than for northern counties. Dates vary widely from year to year, depending on weather, but averages are derived from many observers over many years, and are therefore accurate.

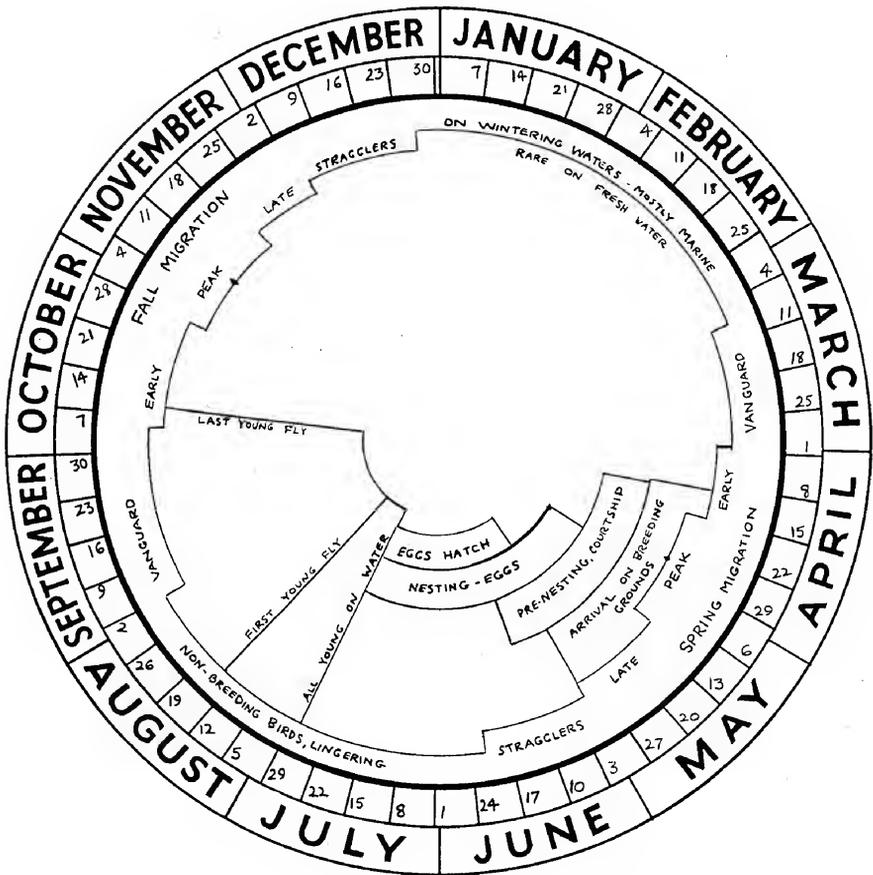
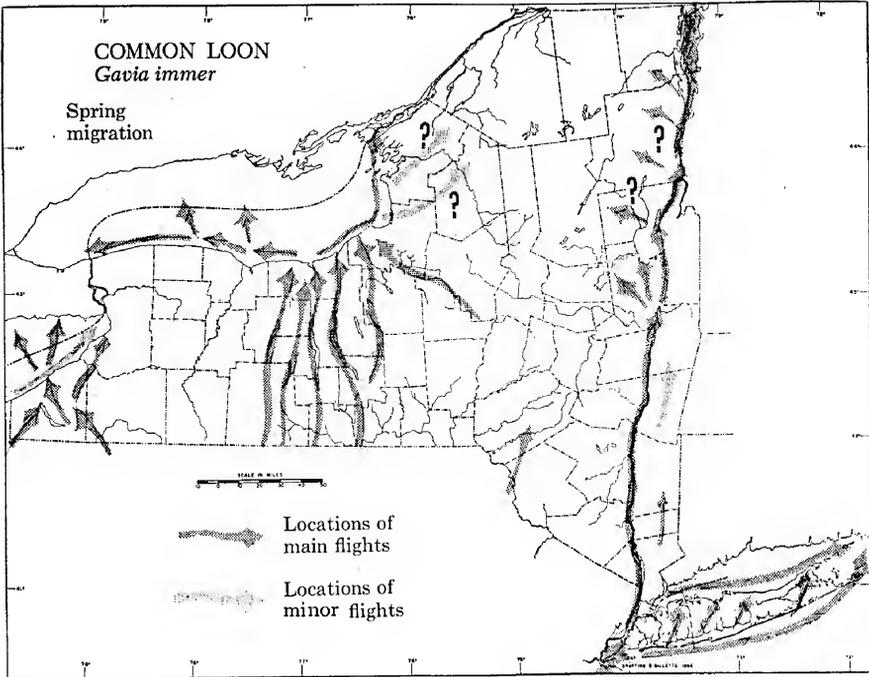
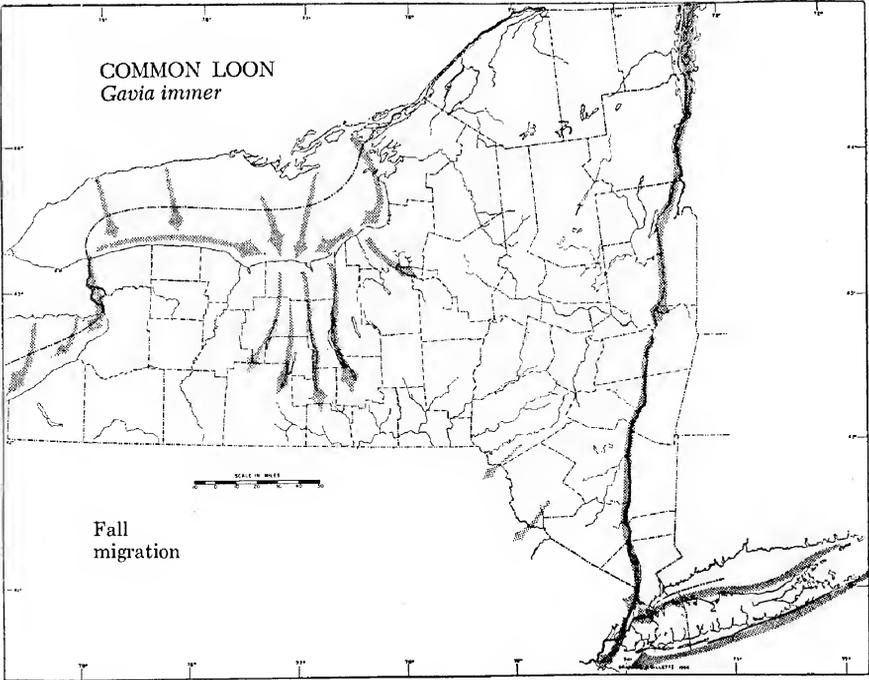


Chart A





Migration: Migration of the species across New York State presents a complex picture, not easily charted or summarized. From the evidence at hand, the following seems to be a reasonable interpretation, although there are certain contradictions. See Map 1 for migration pattern.

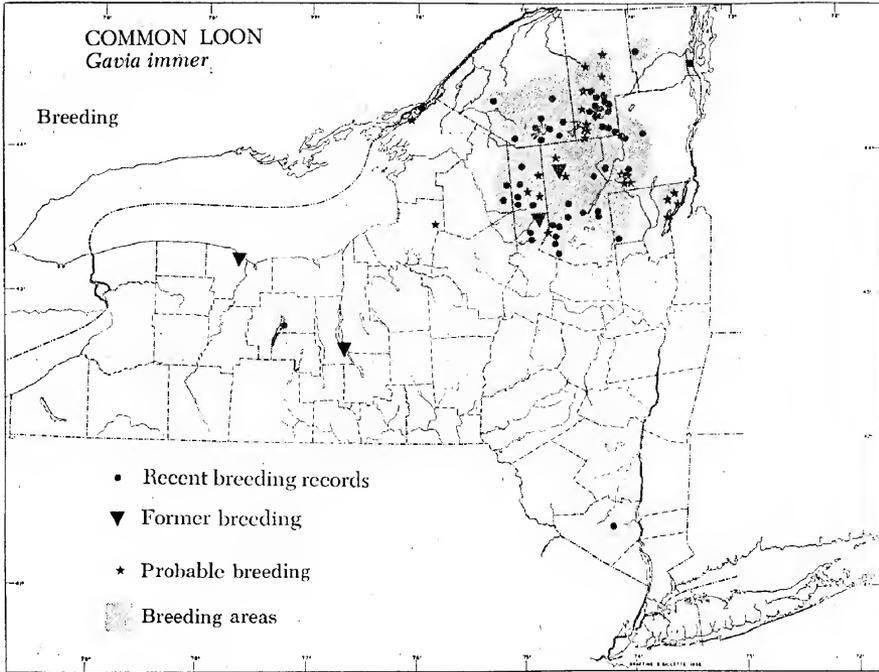
There are two distinct types, or stages, of migration of the loon across New York State. The first and best known is that of birds following recognized and relatively constricted flyways, or flightlines. Foremost of these flyways is the offshore route that takes loons along the outer shores of Long Island in their travels between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering waters. Probably all the birds travelling this route (and its lesser branch through Long Island Sound,) are birds which do not breed in New York State, and mostly do not winter here, but are purely transients. A second definite flyway, of uncertain magnitude, is the Hudson-Champlain valley. A third major flightline seems to take loons along the south shore of Lake Ontario, moving in both directions from gathering areas in the Rochester to Sandy Creek sector. Flyways also follow the Finger Lake valleys, the eastern shore of Lake Erie, and in autumn at least, along Appalachian ridgelines southwestward. Although many loons may utilize these flyways, loons are normally seen in large numbers only at their resting or staging areas along them, eastern Suffolk County (30-40 per mile of shoreline) on Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and Lake Oneida, when they may occasionally be recorded in numbers up to 1000 per day.

The second type of migration is distinct from flyway migration, although it may be merely its final stage. This is the specific, individually or pair-oriented flight which takes birds from their staging point on a flyway to the breeding site. This departure point may be the ocean off New Jersey or Long Island, or it may be coastal waters farther south. It may actually be a river or valley flyway far inland, since the loon is a migrant in some numbers throughout the eastern United States, in a widely dispersed, but probably flyway-directed, migration. The picture in New York State is further complicated by the fact that loons are using both types of migration across the state. It is probable in fact, that all flyway-type migration across New York State is of non-breeding birds, enroute to Canadian nesting grounds, and that all the large concentrations noted in spring are of birds not breeding here. The Adirondack population, our principal segment, may arrive at breeding sites directly from salt water non-stop. A loon, with a speed of 50-60 m.p.h. in quiet air, could reach any New York State breeding site from salt water in 7 hours. Contradicting this possibility are the reports of most downstate observers that loons migrating overland in spring are headed *northeastward*. So it may be that our breeding population derives from an overland migration of far greater extent, from the interior. Another interesting fact comes to light in the data: the entire local breeding population is in residence *before*, or at the latest coincidental with, the actual peak of migration across the state. This can only be accounted for if Canadian nesting birds linger in our waters, awaiting the thawing of their more northerly lakes, after local breeding birds have already occupied their breeding waters, indicating a double calendar of migration, with local breeding birds the earliest arrivals.

John Mayer describes the spring pre-migration activities of the loon in their staging waters along the south shore of Long Island as follows. "Coastal flights follow the shore line, extending from inlets and bays to several miles offshore. Most birds favor a route $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to 2 miles offshore. Overland flights are mostly favored on the western end of Long Island from Jones Inlet to Coney Island. Heaviest flights occur on windy, stormy days, with appreciable lulls in activity on calm, flat days. Either a stiff following wind or a steady headwind is preferred. Peak numbers of a flight day are in the early hours of the morning, and except on heavy flight days taper off sharply by 10 a.m. Calling birds are frequently heard as they pass overhead in spring. The fall overland flights are rarely detected as they are silent and usually very high. Sometimes barely discernable, usually single, rarely loose straggling flocks of up to 20 birds or more. Coastal flights are always more readily observed, the birds low over the water to less than one quarter of a mile high, usually travel in singles, pairs, or small bands up to 35 birds. Rarely flocks of 50 to 300 or more are seen travelling in loose formation. These large flocks are always rather higher and travelling in a direct line." See Map I for migration pattern.

Breeding, past: Undoubtedly the loon was far more widespread as a breeding bird in pre-Columbian and early colonial days, breeding far to the west in the state, and along the shores of Lake Ontario, for the state was then largely forested. Its withdrawal before the steady advance of the farmer, lumberman, summer cottage, and more recently the power boat and airplane, has been gradual but steady. By 1881 the loon was largely confined to its present range, and by 1910 Eaton reported it breeding only in the secluded ponds and lakes of the Adirondacks, most numerous in the western and southwestern parts of that region. Eaton found that a few were present in 1905 in Franklin, St. Lawrence, Herkimer, and Hamilton counties, and none in Essex. It may be, therefore, that the present far greater accounting represents a resurgence and recent expansion within the state, but it is more likely that the apparent increase is illusory, and the result of far more observers with far greater mobility. Since about 95% of all breeding loons now nest in waters within the Adirondack "Blue Line", the future seems fairly bright for a stable population, as long as the forest itself remains protected, and no chemical catastrophe occurs.

Breeding, present: (See Map II). The Common Loon is a regular breeding species throughout the Adirondack area, in Lakes George and Champlain, and in the Thousand Islands area of the St. Lawrence River. In addition, there are scattered sites on the Tug Hill Plateau, St. Lawrence County lowlands, sporadic reports from the Finger Lakes, and a possible site in Orange County. In the Adirondacks, the breeding area seems centered in central and southern Franklin County, southeastern St. Lawrence County, western Essex County, and widely dispersed through northern Herkimer and all of Hamilton counties, predominantly in altitudes above 1500 feet. With more than 90 locations and 120 pairs known, it is estimated that the total state breeding population has a maximum of 360 pairs. The number is more likely to be in order of 240 pairs. Published reports to the contrary, the breeding population has not been markedly lower than this in recent years, although there may have been years, such as 1958, when



Map 2

adverse conditions reduced the success of the season. In the site list below, dates are for the most recent year reported. When no date is noted, the year is 1962. Questioned records are unverified. *Cayuga County*: Cayuga Lake (1924) *Clinton County*: Upper Chateaugay Lake, Lake Champlain *Essex County*: Elk Lake (1961) Bay Pond? Upper Preston Pond, Lower Preston Pond, Moose Pond, Mink Pond, Frank Pond, Thumb Pond, Beaver Pond, Third Lake Essex Chain, Lake Champlain *Franklin County*: Spectacle Pond, Upper St. Regis Lake, St. Regis Pond, Little Clear Lake, Lake Clear, Fish Pond, Little Long Pond, Whey Pond, Black Pond, Ledge Pond, Rollins Pond, Floodwood Pond, Madawaska Flow, DeBar Pond, Forestmere Lake, Long Pond (Santa Clara), Lower Saranac Lake (1961) Middle Saranac Lake, Hoel Pond (1961) Colby Pond, Duck Hole, Ampersand Pond, Upper Saranac Lake, Windfall Pond, Duck Pond, Lake Titus (1961), Square Pond (1961), Stony Creek Ponds, Osgood Pond. *Hamilton County*: Spruce Lake, Cedar Lake, Mason Lake, Metcalf Lake, Wilmurt Lake, Durant Lake, Queer Lake (1940), Ferris Lake (1957), Raquette Lake, West Canada Lake, South Canada Lake, Rock Lake, Shanty Brandreth Lake, Lake Kora, Owl Pond, Little Tupper Lake. *Herkimer County*: Sunday Creek Reservoir, Soft Maple Flow ?, Moshier Flow ?, Beaver River Flow, Stillwater Reservoir, Little Moose Lake, Moose River, Big Woodhull Lake (1961) Middle Branch Lake, Big Moose Lake, South Lake (1955), Little Salmon River (1961), First Lake (1883). *Jefferson County*: Wesley Island,

(Lake of Isles), St. Lawrence River, Clayton. *Lewis County*: Francis Lake. *Oneida County*: "Statemade Pond?". *Ontario County*: Canandaigua Lake (1959), *Orange County*: Highland Reservoir? *Orleans County*: Hilton (1938). *Oswego County*: Redfield Reservoir, Lighthouse Hill Reservoir. *St. Lawrence County*: Silver Lake, Olmstead Pond, Dog Pond, Cranberry Lake, Grass Lake, Massawepie Lake, Long Pond (Colton), Trout Lake (1961), Hickory Lake, St. Lawrence River (Chippewa Bay), Pleasant Lake. *Warren County*: Lake George, Jabes Pond, Little Jabes Pond, Wilcox Lake.

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226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, N. Y. June 17, 1963

JOHN JACKSON ELLIOTT

June 17, 1896 - June 28, 1963

It is with a profound sense of shock and loss that I must report to the Federation the death of its President, John J. Elliott, of Seaford, Long Island. John Elliott died at home quite suddenly on June 28, of a heart failure culminating a period of recent ill health. Thus is ended all too soon a life dedicated to ornithology, to conservation, and to the service of his fellow man. Of few men can we so truly say, he was a wholly good man.

My first acquaintance with John came more than thirty years ago when I began to edit a weekly bulletin of the bird life of Long Island. One of its earliest and most faithful contributors, whose records were both thorough and unimpeachable, was a man respected before I had ever met him, John J. Elliott. One day in the middle of a salt marsh at Jones Beach we met, and since then have spent countless hours together in the field, in meetings, in correspondence, and in friendship. No one knew more about the bird life of Long Island, and no one was more tireless in the pursuit of this knowledge. (It was a rather terrifying initiation for a neophyte watcher to be assigned to John Elliott's party on a Christmas count; not only could he walk the legs off men one half his age, he was a relentless, if good-humored inquisitor when it came to accepting records.) To the end his standards were the highest; many a rare bird reaching John on New York's rare bird alert system stopped right there because John refused to give it credence. These high standards served him well as regional editor for the *Kingbird*. His seasonal summaries are models of accuracy and reliability.

With the coming of World War II, John agreed to assume temporary editorship of the *Long Island Bird Notes*. It was a favor that lasted seventeen years. Week after week, John gathered records from observers all over Long Island, wrote a wise and pertinent commentary, and became known to countless thousands of readers, to many of whom he introduced the joys of bird watching.

His work in the more serious aspects of ornithology show what an amateur, using only spare time crowded with family and community activities, can accomplish. He was the nation's leading authority on two different species on the North American list, the European Goldfinch and the Ipswich Sparrow, and his chapters on these species have already been prepared for the "Bent" series of volumes. His published articles ranged from the habits of Herring Gulls to the bird life of the Adirondacks. But Long Island, and in particular its marshes and shore line, was his lifelong home and first love.

We will miss John Elliott. We will miss his unflinching good humor, his gentle wit, his boyish enthusiasm, his serious interest in all who came to know him, his leadership in the coterie of Long Island bird watchers, and his fine stewardship of our Federation. It is a measure of the man that for all his devotion to birds, he was an active churchman—warden of his church

for 25 years, Chaplain of his American Legion post, and active in other community endeavors. To Nancy Elliott and the happy family he created we express the Federation's deepest sympathies. Though he was prematurely bowed by an affliction that brought no murmur of complaint from him, of him we can truly say, "this was an upright man."

Robert S. Arbib Jr.

NOTE: In having the acting presidency of the Federation pass to me in this untimely and unhappy way, with six month's of John Elliott's term of office still to run, I ask all those who now serve the Federation in any capacity to remain "in office", so that together we may pass over this difficult transition period as smoothly as possible. John leaves the Federation thriving and growing. Let us go forward from here.

R. S. A.

EDWARD J. WHELEN DIES

Edward J. Whelen, president of the Brooklyn Bird Club and long a leader and inspiration for birders in the New York area, died in February of a heart attack. He was taken ill at the dinner preceding a Brooklyn Bird Club monthly meeting.

The heart condition which he had had for several years did not seem to have deterred his birding enthusiasm or activity. In January, only a couple of weeks before his death, he had gone out to Montauk Point at the tip of Long Island, where he and his party had recorded a number of good wintering birds.

He was an enthusiastic member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and for many years had taken charge of the winter duck census for the New York region. This area sprawls over Manhattan up the Hudson River and also involves Brooklyn and ferry transportation to Staten Island.

Nothing could take second place to conservation for Ed Whalen. He was a member of the Federation Conservation Committee. He gave generously, eagerly — in fact, pages of it, all handwritten — of his enormous knowledge when asked for background information on issues in which the Federation was engaged — Great Horned Owl, Forest Preserve, etc.

He talked up conservation at almost every meeting of the Brooklyn Club. The club newsletters, which he wrote, snapped, crackled and sizzled with his comments and appeals. They were actually fun to read as well as being motivating.

In the December, 1962, issue of the newsletter, he pointedly referred the poison spray proponents to the dictionary, asserting that in their arguments, "Black becomes White and White is Black, and such words are dangerous, deadly and destructive, become dandy, delightful and diverting!"

Essentially Ed was a teacher and his conservation determination and his very personality, which could hold a room of persons spellbound, seemed to

well up from this quality. He wanted to impart information and to influence — which are the two characteristics that always stand out in a great teacher. He was entirely successful whether it was explaining the ecological reasons for preserving a forest, pointing out the deep-toothed lobes of some leaf in Brooklyn's Prospect Park (when birding was slow), examining a lichen under a microscope, pointing out a celestial nebula, or showing a beginner a Gannet diving into the winter Atlantic waters off Riis Park in Brooklyn.

Those who first saw or learned some star, plant or, particularly a bird, under Ed's guidance will never forget him — and the numbers of such persons are countless.

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

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OUR CLUBS — HOW OLD? LILLIAN C. STONER

This is definitely not an article about birds, but it is a research paper on our Clubs which, with officers, carry on the business of our organization called The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

The purpose of this paper is to better acquaint all of us with our 35 Clubs. Yes, it is now 35 Clubs as this morning two new Clubs were voted Club members at the Council Meeting.

I also thought that the individual members of all classes of membership which totaled 466 in 1962, might like to know more about the different Clubs since many of them are active in their home bird organizations. Perhaps other bird-minded people may consider starting a new Society when they learn how some Clubs started with only a few members. In fact, one Club had only eight members the first year. Then as the years went by, more friends began to wish to know more about birds and joined with these small groups until a larger and more sizable group was formed.

Many of us today may be surprised to learn which Club has the largest membership and which one is the oldest Club in the State and that some are 25 and 50 or more years old.

My attention was first aroused in this subject when I learned that some Clubs planned to celebrate their anniversary this year. So I thought that "Our Clubs — How Old?" might be of interest to others. To obtain these records, I mailed duplicate postals to the Presidents of all Clubs for the requested information on the following five points:

Please give: 1. Date of first meeting; 2. Name of first president; 3. Number of members first year; 4. Name of President this year; 5. Number of members in 1962.

The answers are now given in tabulated form. I had hoped to have all members whether delegates or not arise as I named their Club, but that would be too time consuming. So here are the tabulated five points about our Clubs which are given in alphabetical order—A-W.

See Table

Our congratulations are extended to the Linnaean Society of New York which is now in its 85th year. Also we wish to congratulate the two Rochester Clubs which have celebrated anniversaries this year; the 50th anniversary for the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the 25th anniversary for the Genesee Ornithological Society. May we also say congratulations to the largest club — Buffalo Audubon Society which had a membership of 643 in 1962. We notice with pride that three other Clubs have been going approximately 50 years; namely, the Schuyler County Bird Club — formerly the Watkins-Montour Bird Club — is in it's 49th year, the Elon Eton Bird Club is in its 50th year, and the Brooklyn Bird Club is in its 54th year. But I believe that we in this State Federation are proud of all Clubs, regardless of their age.

399 State Street, Albany 10, New York

Name of Club	Date of 1st Meeting	Name of First President	Members 1st Year	1963 President	1962 Mem- bers	Age of Club
Adirondack Bird Club	8/15/61	Dr. M. Kingsbury	25	Dr. M. Kingsbury	32	2
Alan Devoe Bird Club	4/4/57	Eleanor Radke	40-50	Dr. E. M. Riley	123	6
Baldwin Bird Club	6/5/38	E. D. Mogan	30	Cornelius J. Ward	150	25
Brooklyn Bird Club	1909	Dr. Vietor	10	H. J. Meyerdierks	100	54
Buffalo Audubon Society	5/10/09	Arthur H. Williams	40	Arthur H. Rosche	643	54
Buffalo Ornithological Society	11/13/29	Harold D. Mitchell	20	Frances M. Rew	158	34
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club	6/13/13	Wm. B. Hoot	25	Mrs. Frank A. Myers	300	50
Chemung Valley Audubon Society (Elmira Garden Club, Inc.)	3/50	Agnes Orbison	105	J. F. Campbell	97	13
Cortland County Bird Club	4/11/61	Mrs. Chase Wilkins	43	Dr. J. A. Gustafson	73	2
Elon Eaton Bird Club	3/26/13	John J. Dye	12	Mrs. John Dye	62	4
Elon Eton Bird Club	3/26/13	Glen F. Van Eseltine	53	Jayson A. Walker	30	50
Genesee Ornithological Society	5/9/38	Wm. L. G. Edson	10	Stephen B. Oresman	153	25
Greene County Bird Club	10/7/59	Elizabeth Feldhusen	13	Helen B. Gates	70	4
Jamestown Audubon Society	5/57	O. G. Burgeson	45	O. G. Burgeson	165	6
John Burroughs Natural History Soc.	11/8/50	Henry Dunbar	15	J. Sanford Cross	116	13
Keuka Park Conservation Club	Fall/34	Hazel Ellis (Loomis)	12	Rev. E. D. Van Dyke	69	29
Linnaean Society of New York	3/7/78	Dr. C. Hart Merriam	10	Emanuel Levine	360	85
Lyman Langdon Audubon Society	9/52	Mrs. Mary L. Bonnewell	10	Mrs. W. C. Dove	249	11
Naturalists Club of the Triple Cities	3/50	Mrs. Marcelle Schubert	25	Mrs. Newell Washburn	57	13
North County Bird Club	10/48	Mrs. Jas. A. Commons	14	Kenneth Mellon	70	15
Onondaga Audubon Society	4/50	Dr. Josiah Lowe	50	Herbert F. Ives	176	13
Queens County Bird Club	1932	Henry Kritzler	6-8	Dr. Klaus Kallman	77	31
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club	9/8/58	Raymond Connelly	101	Bradford Whiting	121	5
Rockland Audubon Society	5/24/47	Mrs. Frances Irving	12	Dr. Marjorie Hopper	137	16
Sassafras Bird Club	3/33	Walter Elwood	50	Mrs. W. B. Powell	110	30
Saw Mill River Audubon Society	2/27/53	Wm. G. Fennell	140	Leon D. Nettleton	296	10
Scarsdale Audubon Society	1946	Jack Wolff	30	Simon Breines	300	17
Schenectady Bird Club	Spring/39	Nelle G. Van Vorst	100	Walton B. Sabin	141	24
Sullivan County Audubon Society	5/15/51	Kenneth D. Niven	17	Edward McBride	28	12
Tioga Bird Club	6/9/59	Mrs. Ruth Williams	12	Mrs. Mildred White	40	4
Watkins-Montour Bird Club now Schuyler County Bird Club	1914	Bessie Hope	11	Mrs. Betty Strath	33	49
Cayuga Club	Ornithology Students at Cornell University					
Natural History Section of the Staten Island Inst. of Arts and Sciences						
			Total		Total	
New Member Club since January 1, 1963 (not yet one year old)			1098		4536	
Lake Erie Bird Club	3/18/63	Mrs. Stanley Buck	25	Mrs. Stanley Buck		
Huntington Audubon Society	Information not available at this time		130			

Minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting of the Council of
The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

The 16th Annual meeting of the council of The Federation was held in the Hotel Jamestown, Jamestown, New York, on Saturday, April 27, 1963. Mr. John J. Elliott, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A. M. 34 delegates representing 24 clubs answered the roll call.

The minutes of the 1962 council meeting were approved as read by the Secretary.

The report of Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner as Treasurer for the year 1962 was read by the present Treasurer, Kenneth D. Niven, is briefly summarized as follows:

Balance in General Funds Jan. 1, 1962 -----	\$ 183.50
Receipts -----	2,457.75
	\$2,641.25
Expenses -----	2,293.71
	\$ 347.54
Balance in General Funds Dec. 31, 1962 -----	\$ 347.54
Balance in Savings Account Jan. 1, 1962 -----	\$1,975.00
Receipts -----	444.87
	\$2,419.87
Expenses -----	79.87
	\$2,340.00
Balance in Savings Account Dec. 31, 1962 -----	\$2,340.00

Mr. Niven's, interim Treasurer's report showed a Balance in the General Funds of \$1,827.04 and a present balance in the Savings Account of \$2,488.17.

The Treasurer's reports were accepted as read.

Mrs. Stoner was thanked for her work in securing several additional life memberships.

Dr. Sally F. Hoyt, bibliography chairman reported — A summary list of all ornithological literature of New York State has been prepared through 1961 and that the 1962 list will be completed before the end of the year. All articles about birds even from neighboring states should be reported to Dr. Hoyt or her committee.

Mrs. Ulrich reported for Mr. John Mitchell on the mid-winter Waterfowl Count—1963. The report included 36 species with approx. 195,832 individual birds.

The following deaths during the year were reported and suitable resolutions were adopted to be sent to the families of each:

Mrs. Rosalie Edge
Mr. Charles Spiker
Mr. Edward J. Whelaen

A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Sally F. Hoyt and to Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. for the full page of information regarding the

Federation which was included in their new book on "Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York."

The elected Nominating Committee for 1964 consists of: Mr. Walton B. Sabin, Slingerlands, Ch.; Mr. Harold D. Mitchell, Buffalo; and Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen, Jamestown.

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., Conservation Ch. reported on the fine activities of his committee during the year in conservation matters, touching briefly on the Great Horned Owl and Bounty Bills which died in committee, the efforts to be made later to protect the Kingfisher, the total effort that was done by letter writing and contributions from clubs to obtain final passage of the Golden Eagle protection bill, of the efforts to get the Wilderness Bill reported out of the House Committee, which effort must still be carried on, and of his concerns for the continued survival of the forever wild clause in New York State so that further encroachments and improper uses are not made in the State Forest Preserve. He spoke particularly and at length of the efforts being expended on Long Island to save 10,000 acres of wetlands in the Town of Hempstead on the south shore of Long Island, and of the efforts being made to set aside a Fire Island National Seashore. Resolutions were presented and unanimously approved concerning the following:

1. For the preservation of the 10,000 acres of wetlands on Long Island.
2. For the passage of the Wilderness Bill.
3. To approve the establishment of a Fire Island National Seashore.
4. To send a letter to Senator Keating thanking him for his efforts in behalf of the Golden Eagle Bill.

Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich reporting as Editor of *The Kingbird* requested that the delegates ask their club members for articles and field notes about birds of their areas. Send those observations which are of special interest to all for field notes and those of a scientific nature for the longer articles. Mrs. Ulrich feels that *The Kingbird* is not being used to the fullest extent in the local clubs and welcomes any suggestion as to how it may be made better known to the club memberships.

Mrs. Ulrich was thanked for her efficient work in maintaining *The Kingbird* at such a high standard.

Mrs. Eleanor Radke, Membership chairman, proposed, for membership in the Federation, 54 new members from around the state and 12 additional individuals from Jamestown. The 66 persons proposed were on vote accepted into membership.

Also proposed by Mrs. Radke and accepted were two new clubs: the Lake Erie Bird Club and the Huntington Audubon Society.

There are now approx. 450 individual members and 35 clubs as members of the Federation. Mrs. Radke stated that the Eaton Bird Club had been reinstated as a member club.

Membership folders have been prepared by Mr. Albert Fudge with the help of Dr. Sally Hoyt and Mr. John Belknap. These were given to the delegates with the suggestion that they be distributed to all club members with the local club bulletins.

A vote of thanks was given Mr. Fudge for his excellent work in preparing this valuable folder.

The expense budget for the year 1964 was presented by Mr. Niven in the total amount of \$2,790.00. It was approved as presented.

Dr Steven Eaton, Publications and Research chairman suggested that as an aid to *The Kingbird*, the State Bird Book and for the information that it will give about the present populations of threatened species, that each club undertake at least one breeding bird census during this breeding season.

Mr. Robert E. Arbib, Editor of the State Bird Book reported; little progress during the past year; we still plan to publish a sample of a species write-up in *The Kingbird*; and are working on efforts to obtain a full time editor to do the necessary work. There should be no problem in publishing as soon as the manuscript is completed. Mr. Arbib is also making contacts to obtain the necessary funds for expenses required before publication. *Much information is still needed from birders throughout the entire state.*

A resolution that The Federation join the New York State Conservation Council was, after discussion, withdrawn, and it was voted that the clubs be polled as instructed at the 1962 meeting before any action to join the Council is taken.

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the year 1964 and they were elected by vote:

President, Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Mamaroneck; Vice-President, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Fredonia; Corr. Secretary, Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Albany; Rec. Secretary, Miss Margaret S. Rusk, Syracuse; and Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello.

Invitations were presented and accepted from the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club to hold the 1964 meeting in Poughkeepsie on a date in May to be determined, and from the Onondaga Audubon Society to hold the 1965 meeting in Syracuse.

A vote of commendation was extended to the present officers for the wonderful job done during this past year.

A special commendation of thanks was voted to the members of the local committee and the Jamestown Audubon Society for their excellent arrangements and planning for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 P. M.

Watson B. Hastings, Recording Secretary,
18 Appleton Place, Dobbs Ferry



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CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

A problem that greatly concerned our president, John J. Elliott, was that of insecticides. This concern is reflected in his message "Your President Says" which appears in this issue and which was completed only a few days before his passing. It was his ambition as president to see the Federation take a lead in freeing not only wildlife, but very possibly humans, from the insecticide threat.

From one of our members comes the suggestion that "One thing that bird clubs can do is to lay the FACTS before the public." I have taken the liberty of quoting this apt comment from a letter sent by Maude M. Brown of the Rockland Audubon Society, Inc. She was reporting on the Gypsy Moth airplane spray attack unleashed on Rockland County this spring only a week after the County Board of Supervisors was first advised of it — this according to one of the supervisors. He angrily demanded that the public should be made fully aware of any Federal or State spraying project far in advance so that objections could be raised and possibly settled.

One of the intriguing aspects of this pesticides phenomenon has been the seemingly 'bull in the closet' manner in which many of these spray outbursts have suddenly loomed in our lives — for instance, the possible subjection of all the fields, forests, farms, animals, birds, people within a multi-mile area to an airplane strewing insecticides which are not known for any partiality as to what they light on or affect.

A frenzied bull could not be any more shouted at for failure to heed warnings of shattered china than the determined spray program implementers could be criticized for their seemingly lack of restraint in the face of so many warnings from reputable authorities concerning insecticides. The Rockland County spray dosing with Sevin went right on even after President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee at the same time issued its report cautioning the nation against the indiscriminate use of insecticides. The Rockland County Audubon Society very rightly publicly opposed the spraying on the grounds that "there is a lack of information in regard to the effects of the widespread application of the material upon other forms of life."

It was a success story in Dutchess County where the letters and phone calls piled up on the responsible authorities as though a dam of public opinion had burst. Those protests, including those from members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, caused the Conservation Department to cancel a proposed DDT spraying for Gypsy Moth over some 2,500 acres. "We feel that this a great victory," wrote Mrs. Paul P. Haight, chairman of the Thompson Pond Committee of The Nature Conservancy, "and one that can be repeated in any area with the proper backing and perseverance.

The insecticides issue is one that is coming to the fore, especially as more of the public become concerned. I would like to suggest this as a valuable and interesting topic for a club program this year. If you cannot obtain a professor or scientist from some nearby college or experiment station, perhaps some members would volunteer to read "Silent Spring" by Rachel Car-

son and report on it in a panel discussion. Such a program could cover the gamut from the use of insecticides in your garden to the impact of massive control attempts.

Individuals who can have a lot to say about the future of New York State's woodlands, will be able to discuss these factors in an all-day forum Sept. 6, at the Ten Eyck Hotel in Albany. Registration forms (the cost being \$5.00) are available from the New York Forest Land Use Conference, C/O Room 904, 2 West 45th St., New York 36, N. Y. The five participating organizations are the Conservation Department; New York State Conservation Council; New York Forest Industries Committee; New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca; New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse. Keynoter will be Assemblyman R. Watson Pomeroy, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources.

As a representative of the Federation, I attended a symposium this June dealing with preservation of Fire Island. The program included a field trip, led by the world famous ornithologist, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, to the barrier strip and a visit to the beautiful Sunken Forest.

After trudging a quarter of a mile through the softer sand on a summer day when the sun seemed to be dripping down on us, it was a unique and fresh feeling to descend from a dune into the coolness of what effected to be a subterranean woods of Holly, Tupelo, Sassafras, Rum Cherry, Pitch Pine, Red Cedar, Red Maple, and oaks. Who would expect to find Canada Lilies, Solomon's Seal and even Skunk Cabbage while above the low, green roof you could hear the squeals of terns and gulls — a woodland here on a slender strip of sand jostled by the Atlantic surf on one side and nudged by the salt bay currents on the other.

During the symposium the well known conservationist Richard H. Pough struck a meaningful note when he pointed out that we were actually trying to save Fire Island for all America. It actually belongs to every American — to the family in Kansas whose members want to spend a vacation seeing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. They have a right, he said, to find a part of that beach in its beautiful natural state, which is how they could see it on so much of Fire Island.

The Federation is officially supporting Congressman John Lindsay's bill, H. R. 3693, "To Establish the Fire Island National Seashore." Letters to your congressmen urging a Fire Island National Seashore would be helpful in getting across to them the idea that voters throughout the state want such action.

The Federation certainly has a strong and wonderful momentum in the direction of conservation — something that has been passed on to us by our good leadership of previous years and added to everytime there is need by the interested and quick responses of our individual members and clubs. But at this time, I believe I can also say that a good deal of this conservation effort in the past year and a half has been that of John J. Elliott.

Even if many of us who have worked closely with John had been less motivated, we could not have helped but to have been activated by the earnestness of this man in his desire to save our wildlife and wildlands. He was so dedicated and so concerned that he inspired you to want to work hard to save the birds, animals, marshes, woods and all of the wild treasures that he loved so much.

These are not just words being thrown around. They are certainly inadequate words. But they are words struggling to retain something of the quality of this great man of nature.

What was in back of any anxious statement of his about conservation? This was in back of it. A man who would push through a myriad of weeds and bushes to better hear the Field Sparrow's gentle whistle and who would have a running commentary about why he wanted to hear it more clearly and what its singing had meant to him through the years. He was a man who would travel miles and spend a cold winter afternoon pursuing the glimpse of a Bohemian Waxwing. Yet, when he spotted a Yellow Warbler this spring and I started to move on he said, "let's wait a minute," because it was his first for the year and, as he so often put it about birds, he wanted "to feast his eyes on it."

Although I cannot now collect together the exact words from that so recent and yet now so far off past with John, I can in my mind see and hear him still talking about a Scarlet Tanager with that kind of mobile way he had of expressing his thoughts and the glitter and sharpness and joyousness of feeling that were in his eyes as he talked about this bird. He was a man who could tell you to stop the car by an obscure fence post on a back road and wait and soon the House Wrens that he knew had nested there for years would make their chattering appearance — over and over John could take you to these private homes of the birds.

It was in between such experiences while driving or even while observing and hearing the birds that we would talk of insecticides, bounties, housing developments — or talk would continue back at his home after a morning's birding, for he always insisted that you come in where Mrs. Elliott would have wide cups of coffee ready and a newly made cake in the offing. For all this too was a part of working and birding with John.

The talk would go to other things — maybe James Fenimore Cooper's use of birds, or about how an old Frank Chapman bird guide so carefully delineated between two species of flycatchers. John would move into his detailed monologue about these finite differences and details — technical talk, but even that with feeling, enthusiasm and knowledge that far from making you self conscious about your lesser knowledge, would involve you and spur you to enthusiasm and questions (based on what had just been learned from John). Or he would perhaps pull out from his library another old book, often one of the collection of animal stories by a certain, but now forgotten writer. John would tell how these stories of owls, bears, eagles, etc., had interested him in sharpening his observations of animal and bird behavior — a talent that showed up so well in John's own writings on the Ipswich Sparrow, Tree Swallows, or when discussing such phenomena as the "towering" of raptorial birds. In the front of this book, and on other blank pages were a young fellow's own penciled drawings of a moose, a thrush, and a pair of eagles soaring by a mountain ledge — John's drawings of years ago.

All this was what went back of anything he might say of Long Island's thrushes being depleted by insecticides, a housing development eradicating the habitat where for years he had found Grasshopper Sparrows or Upland Plover, or the threat to the ducks, sapsrows, and other wildlife through dredging of the salt marshes.

All that went behind this man, and with him, makes you want to save what he appreciated, for he could make you love it more. The intensity and joyousness of his interest and enthusiasm seemed somehow to pervade, color and make your own experiences in nature even more meaningful. It was this spirit that went with working and birding with John Elliott, a feeling that I won't forget in my conservation work and birding -- but I shall miss his being there.

333 Bidwell St., Freeport, L. I.

FIELD NOTES

Dutchess County's Singular Eastern-Western Meadowlark Successful Hybridization:

On June 18, 1962 word reporting the sighting of what was presumed to be a male Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) was received. The place of this first sighting for Eastern New York State was in the northeastern part of Dutchess County, approximately nine air miles from Connecticut. Naturally this news was received with interest by a number of Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club members in the area.

My personal introduction to the bird, so similar in appearance to our Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*), was on June 19. The weather was clear and hot, preceded by several such days and by an early dry spring.

The habitat in which this Western Meadowlark was found seemed a far cry from the prairie type environment one may visualize as its home domain. The singer's choice of topography was composed of fairly open rolling, sidehill hay and pasture fields, interspersed with small wooded areas. The observed range traversed by this bird was some two hundred and fifty yards in radius and the land elevation was between 850' and 950'.

Further study on June 20 revealed that the bird seemed to show a preference to sing from a specific area on a telephone line sixty feet away from a country cross road. Here, he frequently perched and gave forth his beautiful, quite flute-like varied songs and calls. Observations by this time indicated that this Western bird was attentive to a female Eastern Meadowlark and a mating may have ensued -- a rarity even where the two species' territory overlap and where they are commonly found in the same field.

At times, when the female returned to the singing area, the male flew to meet her repeating the short, guttural, 'chuck, chuck' and/or the gurgling, ralling calls of the Western Meadowlark. These distinctive calls were given intermittently through the day.

At no time was another Meadowlark of either species viewed in the immediate region. Several times observers heard notes similar to those of the Western Meadowlark, raising the question as to the possibility of more than one of that species being about. This, I feel, was not the case, having noted a starling nesting nearby, emitting like calls.

On June 23, attempts to locate the anticipated nest of this pair of Meadowlarks resulted in these observations. At intervals of ten to fifteen minutes, the female returned to the vicinity of the telephone line, circled about and lit on the ground 20' to 30' north of what later proved to be the nest. The female's trips through the short hay to the nest and the subsequent feeding took several minutes. Only on one occasion did the male appear to accompany here to the nest. After watching closely the point of the bird's departures, I made a direct approach to the spot. On the ground, in and under a roughly arched tuft of dry grass and lined with the same material, was the nest. The nest opening, about 2½" in diameter, revealed the presence of five young birds. Natal dawn was still attached to the ends of their partially sheathed feathers, and the brood all appeared in good health. Some spotting of breast feathers was discernable and also the yellow breast coloring as is present in the adults. During my brief period at the nest, the male made short flights from his perch and gave forth many of his 'chuck' and rolling calls. The

female returned in a few minutes from afield, approached and left the nest as previously. The male again resumed his songs and calls from his favored perch some 30 feet from the nest.

Dr. Wesley Lanyon, an assistant Curctor of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, has spent considerable time studying Meadowlarks and is still engaged in research of the two species. Dr. Lanyon had learned of this far ranging Western Meadowlark and viewed the bird a few days prior to June 26. On this date he arrived to trap the male bird, his mate and the brood.

The male was finally trapped late in the day by using another male Western Meadowlark as a decoy. Prior to capture, the Dutchess songster's identity had been confirmed by songs and calls. Now, further verification of its being a Western Meadowlark was aided by noting the paler coloring of the upper parts and the extension of the yellow color of the throat up on the bird's cheek.

The female Eastern Meadowlark was trapped at the nest and the young, ready to fledge, were also taken. The entire family was transported that night to the Museum's aviary on Long Island where Dr. Lanyon hopes to accomplish further breeding of the parents and the hybrid brood.

Recent correspondence regarding these Dutchess County birds informs us that all are in excellent plumage and healthy. The sex ratio of the young, worked out on the basis of wing measurements made from the fresh basic plumage of last fall, is four females and one male.

In conclusion, it should be stressed that there has been a gradual easterly spread of the Western Meadowlark over the past half century. Sightings have been made in the Western part of New York State. However, The Dutchess County incident is the most easterly nesting sighting of the species and the mating, plus the successful rearing of the hybrid young is most unusual. The future will doubtless disclose more such immigrants and it behooves us, when afield, to be alert to this possibility, and to make careful observations.

(Mrs.) Alice D. Jones, Knolls Rd., Poughkeepsie

Effects of unharvested corn on bird populations: Last fall (1962), on our farm near Binghamton, we were unable to harvest about two acres of corn, and it remained standing all winter. Snow was drifted deeply in the field all winter and the grain attracted only a few crows and raccoons.

This Spring (1963) the bird population seemed to be greatly enhanced by the attraction of the grain. The following figures for 1963 represent the highest numbers of birds counted at various times between April 1st and May 15. The figures for a comparable period in 1962 are from my day by day records for this immediate area.

	1963	1962
Rusty Blackbirds -----	9	none
Red-winged Blackbirds -----	150	50
Crows -----	40	5
Cowbirds -----	40 to 50	10
Starlings -----	60 to 80	50
Grackles -----	100 to 120	0 to 5
Mourning Doves -----	10	0 to 4
Mallard Duck -----	one pair	none
Black Duck -----	one pair	none
Bobolink -----	8 to 10	5
Meadow Lark -----	10 to 15	5

To add to the picture of the bionomics of this spot there have been the nestings of two avian predators in the immediate vicinity. A Great Horned Owl nested within a few hundred feet from the south end of the corn field and two owl fledglings finally left this nest on May 22. The other predators are a pair of Cooper's Hawks which are nesting within a few hundred feet from the north end of the field. The Black Ducks remained to nest at a nearby pond and the grackles are nesting in this area where they have not nested within my memory or at least my record keeping.

The Mourning Doves are still in the neighborhood though the corn has been plowed under. The Doves (two pairs at least) have shown signs of nesting activity.
Claude R. Howard Jr. R. D. #2, Binghamton

Chestnut-Collared Longspurs Sighted in Columbia County: On Thursday, February 14th, 1963 Mr. Henry Thurston of Claverack and Mr. Paul Erlenbach of Ghent, New York members of the Alan Devoe Bird Club, were in the field observing Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs. They were on the level river plains in the Township of Kinderhook when they saw two Chestnut-collared Longspurs in winter plumage with a flock of Lapland Longspurs. Mr. Thurston had previous field experience with the species and had little doubt of what he saw.

Mrs. Donald Radke, records chairman of the Alan Devoe Bird Club, notified Dr. E. M. Reilly as soon as possible. However, a week passed before he was able to get to the area. February 21st was clear (cloud cover about 1/10th) windy (10-15 mph) and cold (5°-6°F). The snow cover on the open fields was about 10-15 inches deep and crusted. Where the farmers had spread manure on top of the snow large flocks of the winter field birds had gathered. Thurston, Erlenbach and Reilly went to the spot where the rarities were first sighted but saw only two or three Lapland Longspurs with the Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

Cruising about the large area several large flocks of birds were seen including one flock which we estimated contained a minimum of 100 Lapland Longspurs. Since the New York State Museum did not have good specimens of winter Lapland Longspurs several unsuccessful attempts were made to collect one or two of these. The wind combined with the bright sun on the snow and skittish birds made proper stalking impossible and the cold prevented waiting in "ambush" any length of time.

On one such foray Reilly sighted two Chestnut-collared Longspurs with a flock of Laplands. The reddish brown of the shoulders and the prominent white patches on the tail separated them from the nearby Lapland Longspurs using 7 x 35 coated optic field glasses at a distance of about 70 yards. When flushed the distinctive "black triangle on a white wedge" tail field mark was observed. Reilly was never able to get closer than 50-60 yards to the birds, but twice more had good looks at the species he had never before seen in the field. Thurston and Erlenbach had remained near the car on this occasion. On another trip the following week Reilly failed to locate the birds.

The Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus* has been collected only three times in New York; all on Long Island: September 14, 1891, February 16, 1889 and April 27, 1923. There is at least one other sight record from the State, but details are lacking. This high prairie species of Longspur which winters south to central eastern Mexico, sometimes finds its way to the Atlantic coast in winter and has been thus recorded from New Brunswick to New Jersey. Its occurrence inland in New York, even although still in the Hudson River Valley is apparently an even rarer event.

Henry Thurston, Paul Erlenbach, E. M. Reilly, Jr.

Crow migration observed at Sodus Point, Lake Ontario: The pallor of a long winter held its frozen grip on Western New York in early March. Migrants were long overdue in the Rochester area, but the Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) ignored the weather, and followed their stringent migrational urge by the calendar.

On February 20, their erratic flights signaled the start of the spring migration. That Wednesday, approximately 250 Crows flew east along Lake Ontario via Sodus Point. From February 20 to May 9 daily counts were made at Sodus Point. The highest estimates occurred on March 9 & 26, and April 19 when roughly 12-14 thousand birds were counted each date. With a few exceptions, such as March 10 and March 25, when a probable 11,000 birds flew per day, and the exceptions listed below, only a couple hundred crows or less were seen per day.

March 2	Approx 6,000	March 18	Approx 1,000
March 16	Approx 8,000	March 24	Approx 1,000
March 17	Approx 5,000	April 4	Approx 2,500

It should also be noted that there were many days when counts numbered zero, especially during the last week of February and the first week of May.

In summation, my total estimate indicates that roughly 92,000 crows passed over Sodus Point from February 20-May 9. Whether this is above or below the annual norm for this species cannot be ascertained as no previous counts were available to me.

The flights of greatest magnitude occurred with the aid of brisk south or southwest winds. If the grand total appears too high for our loyal hawk lookout observers, they should be aware that Sodus Bay is many miles east of this observatory — a span which allows more northward winging crows to strike the lake before turning east towards Sodus Point.

Observations were made by the writer during the early morning hours, and at other hours of the day by Mr. Frederick Harrington, Sr. of Sodus Point. Estimates of totals for each day were derived from a combination and comparison of our notes, taking into account each day the hours of flight (which are dependent upon wind and weather conditions.)

Dwight R. Chamberlain, 60 Knollbrook Rd., Rochester 10

Lots of Blue Jays: The abundance of Blue Jays during the winter of 1962-63 was noted by many people. Allan Cruickshank in his summary of the 63rd. Christmas Bird Count (AFN Vol. 17 #2) says: "Many localities — mentioned an unusual number of Blue Jays. In New York the Bronx-Westchester Region listed 995, Elmira 483, Peekskill, 754." After reading this I was led to delve more deeply into the December incidence of this species as shown by the Christmas Bird Count.

Of the 44 counts published (63rd. census) for our state, all reported Blue Jays except the one taken at sea off Long Island. The total for the state is 7298, headed by the 995 Jays seen in the Bronx-Westchester Region. In order to ascertain the prevailing number of Jays in earlier years the previous four counts were tabulated giving an average of 4154. It should be noted that the number of counts for New York state during this period averaged 40.

Many of the larger counts came from the lower Hudson valley. In addition it appeared that most of them were from areas having numerous observers reflecting more complete coverage within the prescribed circle.

John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 - May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

A fuller tribute to John Elliott by those who knew him much better than I will be found elsewhere in this journal. The passing of this fine ornithologist and courageous gentleman has left a great gap and personally I shall miss the friendly messages that he wrote on the manuscripts of his regional reports.

The weather this spring alternated spring and winter in a way that was reflected by the monthly weather statistics which average out as near normal. There were severe frosts towards the end of May over much of the state. Most regions noted a rather poor landbird flight (an exception was the Long Island, lower Hudson valley area) and the mid to late May migrants arrived late. Drury and Keith (Ibis 104:449-489, 1962) have recently published an extensive paper on radar studies of bird migration in New England. Radar is a good tool for measuring the volume of migration although it gives little information on the identity of the species involved. One of the interesting facts that emerges is that most of the spring migration (60% or more) occurs on only four or five nights. Thus, considering that in addition the weather has to be suitable to concentrate the migrants and observers have to be present, it is not surprising that notable waves are comparatively rare .

Although Cattle Egrets were reported from seven regions the invasion was slight compared to that of 1962 except in region four. If the Audubon Christmas counts in Florida are a reliable index then the population in 1962/63 was lower than in 1961/62. It will be of great interest to observe what pattern of post-breeding dispersal finally emerges for this new arrival to the North American continent.

The hawk migration observed at different points along the shore of Lake Ontario correlated well. The principal movements of Broad-wings were noted April 19-21 and April 27-29; in both periods the peak counts were earlier in the west. Despite almost continuous coverage at the south-east corner of the lake the Broad-wing counts did not reach last year's total. This was probably due to less favorable weather for observation, however the counts were within the normal range. More Eagles, both Bald and Golden, were noted than usual; but Peregrines were scarce. Region eight reported a bad breeding season for hawks including the Red-tail but a good season for this species was reported in the Syracuse area and normal conditions were noted in the lower Hudson valley. The decline of the breeding population of the Marsh Hawk was noted in regions five and eight, in both areas all known nesting areas were deserted for the second successive year and the species was noted as scarce in other regions. It seems that this species is following the Bald Eagle, Osprey and Peregrine into a rapid decline as a breeding species.

There was a good flight of Red and Northern Phalaropes on Long Island although it did not reach the proportions of the 1958 flight. The Wilson's Phalarope, scarce in spring, was noted at Rochester and on Long Island. The Curlew Sandpiper was reported from Long Island.

The decrease of the Carolina Wren, from its position in the late fifties, has continued. Rosche reports that it "appears to have almost completely disappeared from all parts of the region", and there were no reports from regions two and five. The position of the Bluebird appears unaltered except for minor fluctuations. The first nesting of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher occurred on Long Island. Further gains of this species were noted in the lower Hudson valley and in the Oneida Lake basin.

There was, as usual, a sprinkling of rarities. An Arctic Loon, in breeding plumage, was reported from the Rochester area, the second spring record from Lake Ontario. Three Purple Gallinules were reported in May, one from Wyoming county and two (apparently separate birds) in Westchester county. Both Swainson's and Townsend's Warblers are listed by Reilly and Parkes (Preliminary Checklist of New York State Birds, 1959) as hypothetical. They list one sighting of Swainson's Warbler and two of Townsend's, there appear to have been no records since their checklist appeared. Both of these species were seen in the parks of New York City during the present period and another Swainson's may have occurred in region nine. What appears to me to be a good record of a House Finch comes from region four. I think that Leslie Bemont's idea of giving the facts and letting others judge as they will is an excellent way of dealing with difficult sight records.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

April weather alternated between winter, spring and early summer with a spring touch at the beginning and a sharp summer to winter reversal at the end. Temperature and precipitation were near normal; the amount of sunshine was above average. Ice was present in Lake Erie throughout the month. Frequent invasions of cold air retarded vegetation, cancelling to some extent the spurt in growth it had at the beginning of the month.

Up to an inch of snow, and in some places more, covered the Southern Tier counties on the first of May. Elsewhere, a dusting of snow occurred. May, in general, was cold with below normal amounts of precipitation. The Lake Erie ice field disappeared about May 10. A widespread, heavy frost occurred May 22, 23 and 24, causing considerable damage to agricultural crops, and retarding vegetation even more than it had been previous to this. At the end of the month, vegetation, especially in the higher areas of the Southern Tier, was considerably behind normal.

During April, bird migration was about normal, with only the usual expected fluctuations between earliness and lateness. However, this trend slowed down during May, so that by the last week, migration was noticeably behind. Nesting populations of the late May arrivals, i.e. Traill's Flycatcher, cuckoos, etc., were much below normal at month's end.

Highlights of the season include: Purple Gallinule, White-eyed Vireo and Worm-eating Warbler.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: ad. — adult; Alleg. — Allegany; BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; imm. — immature; Lk. — Lake; Nia. — Niagara; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Pk. — Park; Pt. — Point; ss — south shore; Wyo. — Wyoming.

Contributors: KPA — Kenneth P. Able; RFA — Robert F. Andrie; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; RCA — Rachel C. Axtell; AHB — Allen H. Benton; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; RB — Richard Brownstein; LB — Lois Buck; LHB — Lou H. Burton; AC — Arthur Clork; FD — Mrs. Fred Danner; SWE — Stephen W. Eaton; AF — Arthur Freitag; LK — Lewis Kibler; WBM — Whitney and Bonnie Mallam; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; CM — Carl Mrozek; BN — Bernard Nathon; NP — Nancy Peters; EP — Elizabeth Pillsbury; FMR — Frances M. Rew; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AS — Arthur Schaffner; JS — John Schmah; ELS — Edward L. Seeber; JFT — Joseph F. Thill; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

Loons-Ducks: Red-throated Loon: one, Apr. 27, Upper Silver Creek Reservoir, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — dead bird, skull retained. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 7, Irving, Chaut. Co. (RFA et al); one May 20, Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — both on ss Lk. Erie where reports are rather infrequent. Cattle Egret: no reports. Common Egret: one, Apr 26, Forsythe, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: two, Apr 28, near Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (HDM et al); three, May 3, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — few recent reports from inland localities such as these of this now uncommon heron. Least Bittern: one, Apr 27, Clay Ponds at Jamestown (RCR, EP et al) — early. Whistling Swan: unusually high numbers present through mid Apr; two still present, May 27, OOGMA (KPA et al). Gadwall: two, Apr 1, Bear Lake Outlet, Chaut. Co. (AS); two, Apr 4 and 10, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (RCR); three, Apr 16, OOGMA (RFA et al). Green-winged Teal: continue to increase as shown by record high count of 138 on Apr 7 BOS Count. European Widgeon: one male, Apr 6, "sinks" near Wolcottsville (RCR et al). Canvasback: one male, May 27, South Buffalo Harbor (KPA et al) — late. Oldsquaw: 1059, Apr 16, ss Lk. Erie between Athol Springs and Sturgeon Point (TLB) — peak of migration with many records of fewer individuals reported this date. King Eider: two (Basic plumage), Apr 17, ss Lake Erie at Sturgeon Pt. (TLB) — rare on Lk. Erie at any time. Common Scoter: five, Apr 17, ss Lk. Erie at Sturgeon Pt. (TLB) — uncommon in spring.

Hawks-Owls: Hawk migration: Between Apr 16 and 30, notable hawk movements were observed from a number of vantage points along the ss Lk. Erie (AC et al) as the birds passed overhead in a northeasterly direction. Good flights occurred Apr

16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 27, 29 and 30. On these days the Broad-winged Hawk was the most numerous, followed by the Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks. Broad-winged Hawk: 706, Apr 19 and 41, Apr 27, over ss Lk. Erie (AC et al) — highest counts. Bald Eagle: one imm., Apr 6, OOGMA (RCR et al); one, Apr 7, OOGMA (BN et al); one imm., Apr 13, over Somerset, Nia. Co. (RCR et al); one imm., Apr 18, "sinks" near Wolcottsville (RCA et al); one ad., Apr 27, Catt. Indian Reservation (KPA et al); one imm., May 10, Orchard Park, Erie Co. (TLB) — more reports this year during same period than in recent years. Peregrine Falcon: one, Apr 14 and May 19, Hamburg (TLB); one, Apr 17, over Lake View, Erie Co. (KPA). Pigeon Hawk: one, Apr 27, over Brocton, Chaut. Co. (JFT); one, Apr 30, South Dayton (GGW et al); one, May 4, Langford, Erie Co. (TLB). King Rail: One, May 17 (HHA et al) and two, May 27 (KPA), OOGMA. **Purple Gallinule**: one, May 7, Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge, Town of Java, Wyo. Co. (NP) — observed through May 17 (HDM et al) by numerous experienced field observers; the first well documented record for the region. American Golden Plover: 12, Apr 3, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (RCR) — early; few reports from ss Lk. Erie. Upland Plover: two, May 24, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. (LHB) — status of this bird and other relatively common species unknown in this county. Greater Yellowlegs: 52, Apr 27, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — unusually high spring concentration anywhere in region. Pectoral Sandpiper: unusually widespread flight with many reports from areas where it often does not occur; 74 Apr 6, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (AS); 12, Apr 8, Cassadaga, Chaut. Co. (LB et al); 25, Apr 10, Boston, Erie Co. (TLB); 150, Apr 15, "sinks" near Wolcottsville (CM et al); 20 Apr 16, Crystal Lk., Catt. Co. (GGW et al); 200, Apr 25, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (AC) — noteworthy locations and concentrations. Great Black-backed Gull: fewer than usual numbers reported from Great Lakes and Niagara River area — after unusually large winter numbers in these areas. Caspian Tern: six, Apr 26, Chaut. Lk. (EP) — noteworthy locality; several reports from ss Lk. Erie. Barn Owl: one, Apr 17, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (AF et al); one Apr 26, Lk. Erie State Pk (AS et al); one (dead), Apr 28, Lackawanna (JFT); one, Apr 30, Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk (AC); one, May 14 and 27, Hamburg (RB et al); four, May 19, Hamburg area (BOS Count) — the late Apr reports suggest a migratory movement into the region at this time. Short-eared Owl: one, Apr 7, north end Grand Island (WBM); one, Apr 12, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — only reports. Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 7, south end Grand Island (HDM et al) — only report.

Goatsuckers -Starling: Chimney Swift: one, Apr 19, over Dunkirk (RCR) — early. Belted Kingfisher: populations generally low throughout region; lowest count in ten years May 19 (BOS Count). "Since this is a fish-eating species it should be watched carefully in connection with the current controversy over the effect of pesticides on all fish-eaters" (FMR). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 163, over Lake View, Erie Co. (KPA et al); 300, Dunkirk to Portland (AC et al); 125, over Lk. Erie State Pk. (RCR) — Apr 17 — peak date of migration on ss Lk. Erie. Pileated Woodpecker: one, Apr 13, Somerset, Nia. Co. (RCR et al) — uncommon on Lk Ontario Plain; one, May 17, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — usually a rare bird in proximity to metropolitan Buffalo. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, May 17, OOGMA (HDM et al) — second report in two years (usually not regarded as a resident at OOGMA). Rough-winged Swallow: one, Apr 7, Randolph, Catt. Co. (AS et al) — very early. Tufted Titmouse: five, Apr 7, stations on ss Lk. Erie and Wellsville area where usually reported (BOS Count); one, Apr 9, Athol Springs, Erie Co. (TLB); one, Apr 27, Jamestown (RCR et al); one, Apr 30, Jerusalem Corners, Erie Co. (KPA); one, May 5, Angola (KPA); three, May 19, ss Lk. Erie and Wellsville area (BOS Count). Red-breasted Nuthatch: small numbers present with early warbler waves — generally uncommon. Carolina Wren: one, May 11, Hamburg, Erie Co., (TLB) — only report; first report since Aug 1962 — this bird appears to have almost completely disappeared from all parts of the region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, May 15, Lawtons, Erie Co. (TLB); two, May 27 and 31, near Alabama, Orleans Co. KPA, RFA et al); two May 29, Morton Corners, Erie Co. (WWB); one, May 31, near Barker, Nia. Co. (RFA). Mockingbird: one, Apr 22, Brocton, Chaut. Co. (LB et al); one, May 5, Town of Evans, Erie Co. (KPA); two, May 11-30, Hamburg (KPA et al); one, May 11, Springbrook, Erie Co. (FD); one, May 16, Derby, Erie Co. (TLB); one, May 17, OOGMA (HDM et al) — records suggest a May movement into region. Eastern Bluebird: populations continue to increase in general.

Warblers-Vireos: White-eyed Vireo: one, May 5, near Dunkirk (AHB et al). Warblers: 11 species reported during Apr, most of which appeared Apr 28-30. Prothonotary Warbler: one singing male carrying nesting material into tree cavity, May 19 and 27; Riverside Marsh near Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (LK et al) — this bird has occurred at Riverside irregularly in the past; it is the only known area where nesting is suspected outside of OOGMA in this region. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one, late May, near Red House, Catt. Co. (SWE). "Brewster's Warbler": one, May 10 and 27, Yorkshire, Catt. Co. (RB et al); one, May 21, Belmont, Alleg. Co. (LHB); one, May 25, Catt. Indian Reservation (FMR et al). Myrtle Warbler: one, Apr 7, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — early migrant. Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Apr 19, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — early. Pine Warbler: one, Apr 17, Pt. Gratoit, Dunkirk (AS et al); one, Apr 19, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM). Prairie Warbler: one, May 10, near Franklinville, Catt. Co. (ELS); one, May 30, near West Clarksville, Alleg. Co. (RCR); one, May 31, Alleg. State Pk. (RCR et al) — probably all migrants; this is an interesting inland movement with all three occurring in likely nesting habitats — in marked contrast to the ss Lk: Erie movement of 1962.

Blackbirds-Sparrows: Bobolink: one male, Apr 28, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (HDM et al) — early. Western Meadowlark: one, Apr 7-May 31, Town of Marilla, Erie Co. (NP et al) — probably the same individual that occurred in this locality in 1962. Orchard Oriole: one, May 8, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB); one singing male, May 14-28, Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk (RCR); three males, one female, May 25, Pt. Breeze, Orleans Co. (KPA et al); one, May 28, Lake View, Erie Co. (JS) — an unusual number of reports — all from the Lake Plains. Evening Grosbeak: five, Apr 1, Attica Center, Wyo. Co. (RCR); 32, Apr 7, Hamburg and Cherry Creek areas (BOS Count); two, Apr 11, Hamburg (TLB) — remnants of mild Mar flight. Pine Siskin: small numbers present through May 19, especially in southern tier counties.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15, New York

CORRIGENDA:

Corrections and additions pertaining to the Niagara Frontier Regional records as printed in **The Kingbird** Vol's (2-11) as compiled by Arthur Schaffner.

- Vol 2, No 3, p 66, l 14, 15: The Willet record is not a N.Y. State record. The record was: Willet: one, Aug 23, Erie Beach, Ont., Canada (A Schaffner).
- Vol 3, No 3, p 69, l 38: "A nest of ten Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . ." should read: "A nest of **the** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . ."
- Vol 4, No 4, p 102, l 25: Cormorant record: The Double-crested Cormorant at Wellsville, Oct 12, was deleted from the B.O.S. records due to error in transcription.
- Vol 5, No 1, p 14, l 17: "Standard" should read — Stannards Corners, Allegany County.
- Vol 5, No 4, p 102, l 11, 12: The White-eyed Vireo record should read — seen Nov 5, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo and was taken Nov 6 by H. D. Mitchell.
- Vol 6, No 3, p 91, l 20: this record should read — White-eyed Vireo: one, Jul 18, Tonawanda Indian Reservation, was collected by Robert Coggeshall.
- Vol 6, No 4, p 121, l 12, 13: The date of the occurrence of the Eared Grebe was Oct 20-27 **not** Sept 20-27.
- Vol 7, No 3, p 90, l 31, 32: Record should read — A Dickcissel was heard singing by John Klem near Alma for about a week, Jun 3-8.
- Vol 9, No 3, p 123, l 31: 'Not worthy' should read Noteworthy.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 157, l 38: Burnship Creek should be Burnt Ship Creek.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 157, l 54: Red Phalarope — from Oct 9 to 16 (was collected and is now in the B.S.N.S. collection.)
- Vol 9, No 4, p 159, l 5: marketly should read markedly.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 159, l 14, 15: Laughing Gull: one, Nov 29 not Nov 28.
- Vol 10, No 2, p 57, l 42, 43: A Goshawk was seen over Allegany Road, Town of Hanover, not at Angola.

- Vol 10, No 4, p 175, l 31, 32: female Common Eider; this specimen was classified as (*Somateria m. dresseri*), the first of this race taken in the Niagara Frontier Region. The previous specimens were classified as (*Somateria m. sedantaria*.)
- Vol 10, No 4, p 177, l 62: (North) should be qualified as (R. Norths, Jr.). On occasion George W. North of Hamilton, Ont. reports records to this region.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 38, l 1: November should be **December**.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 40, l 8: The Green-winged Teal on the Niagara River was seen on **Mar 11**, not on the 12th.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 41, l 39: Island Gull should be **Iceland Gull**.
49 Northumberland St., Buffalo

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for April were about normal but May averaged 2.4°F below normal and 8.0°F below those of last May. As late as May 24 a reading of 32°F was recorded. Rainfall for April was slightly above normal and that for May somewhat below average. One inch of snow on May 1 was the first measurable snowfall recorded in Rochester in May in 18 years.

The period was marked by outstanding individual birds rather than by outstanding waves. The area was frequently under the influence of C.P. air masses which brought clear, mild days and cool nights and not very many birds. Even the low pressure areas seemed to often bring cool, rainy weather and rather ordinary movements of birds.

Outstanding birds recorded during the period included Artic Loon, Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-headed and Little Gulls, Western Meadowlark and Lark Sparrow.

Initials of regular contributors: John W. Brown — JWB; R. Brownstein — RB; Dwight Chamberlain — DC; (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis — GD; John Foster — JF; (Mrs.) Jeanne Haller — JH; (Mrs.) Ester Hyde — H; Allen E. Kemnitzer — AEK; (Dr.) Gerhardt Leubner — GL; Walter C. Listman — WCL; Warren Lloyd — WL; Alfred Maley — AM; Joseph McNett — JM; (Mrs.) Thelma McNett — TM; (Mrs.) Laura Moon — LM; (Dr.) Neil Moon — NM; Stephen Oresman — SO; Alfred A. Starling — AAS; Joseph Taylor — JT; Thomas E. Tetlow — TET; C. M. Wadsworth — CMW; (Dr.) Paul Weld — PW.

Names of places used regularly in report: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP — Durand-Eastman Park; EL — East Lakeshore; HL — Hawk Lookout (East Manitou Road); HSP — Hamlin State Park; WP — Webster Park; WL — West Lakeshore.

Loons-Ducks: The peak of the spring flight of Common Loons was reached Apr 27 when 350 were along the EL (AEK). An Arctic Loon in summer plumage was carefully observed at Pultneyville May 5, (AEK). The observer has seen hundreds of this species in the northwest and in Alaska. The only previous record for our region was a bird reported at Point Breeze Apr 26, 1959. The spring flight of Red-throated Loons was light with maximum counts of eight along the EL on Apr 15 (AEK) and 27 in the same place on Apr 27 by the same observer. Five were still present in the same area May 5 (AEK). Forty-six Red-necked Grebes along the WL on Apr 14 (AEK) and seven along the EL the next day by the same observer were the above average counts for the species. A Common Egret over the HL on Apr 20 (JF & TET) was the only report of this species. A Cattle Egret was in Parma on May 12 (J & TM, SO), three were in the same place from May 13-16 (WCL & AAS) and one was seen a short distance away on May 19 (CMW). This was the last report. Last year the high count was 15 near Avon. An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Mendon Pond Park on May 19 (GL, LM & NM). A Glossy Ibis was at East Manitou on April 20 (WCL) and another of the same bird was in West Webster on May 21 (AEK). Six Whistling Swans remained at WP until May 5 (AEK) and two were in Webster on May 19 (WL et al). Among the more outstanding records of ducks were six Gadwall along the WL on Apr 17 (LM et al), 200 White-winged Scoters at the same place on May 11 (WCL), one Surf Scoter at HSP on Apr 29 (AM), two common Scoters on the EL on Apr 27 (AEK) and 14 Ruddy Ducks on BB Apr 17 (WCL).

Hawks-Owls: The two peak counts of Broad-winged Hawks were 2,500 at the HL on Apr 20 (AEK) and 3,000 at the same place Apr 29 (LM). A Golden Eagle was over Frisbee Hill Raad on May 4 (JF, AM & TET) and one went over Rochester on May 26 (JF). Two adult and one immature Bald Eagles went over the HL on Apr 29 (RB & LM) and single birds were at the HL on May 4 (WCL) and May 19 (GL, LM & NM). An immature bird was over DEP on May 26 (JM & TM). A Peregrine Falcon went through Parma on May 11 (WCL) and another was at the HL on May 19 (GL, LM & NM). Single Pigeon Hawks were in Webster Apr 28 (AEK), at the HL Apr 29 (RB) and BB May 4 (WCL).

Among the more outstanding records of a very ordinary spring shorebird flight were: Forty-seven Whimbrel at BB on May 28 (WCL), six Short-billed Dowitchers in Parma May 18 (WCL), 250 Semi-palmated Sandpipers at BB May 28 (WCL), and a Wilson's Phalarope in Clarkson May 5 (JF et al). A Glaucous Gull was at BB May 4 (WCL) and single Iceland Gulls were at WP Apr 17 (AEK) and at BB Apr 30 (WCL). A Black-headed Gull was at BB May 19 (JF & WCL) and single Little Gulls were at the same place Apr 22 and May 19 (WCL). A Barn Owl was in Pittsford from May 5-12 (JF, AM & TET).

Goatsuckers-Shrikes: A very early Eastern Kingbird was at BB Apr 20 (WCL). Two hundred fifty Horned Larks were at Shore Acres Apr 13 (JF, AM & TET). While the subspecies was not positively determined, it seems probable that they were mostly the northern subspecies *alpestris*. A very late Winter Wren was in Ellison Park May 19 (GD). The area is suitable for the nesting of this species. The Carolina Wren was unreported. A Mackingbird was reported irregularly from the Webster area (TM and Mary Sunderlain), and one was in the BB area on May 8-9 (Mrs. Dineen) and one was again reported in the same area May 19 (WCL). Swainson's Thrushes went through in at least average numbers, in contrast to last spring's scarcity. Eastern Bluebirds showed no signs of a comeback, with a maximum count of only four migrating along the lakeshore (AEK). A few scattered single pairs nested in our area. One hundred Golden-crowned Kinglets on the WL Apr 2 (JF, TET) probably indicates the peak of the spring flight. The same two observers saw a very early Ruby-crowned Kinglet the same day at Rose's Marsh.

Vireos-Warblers: Solitary Vireos seemed scarce. On the other hand, Philadelphia Vireos seemed somewhat more widely distributed than usual. The first reported was in Island Cottage Woods May 4 (SO et al). Several were reported between May 18-26. A Prothonotary Warbler was in DEP May 17 (WL). Single Blue-winged Warblers were at West Rush May 18 (JH), at Letchworth Park May 19 (WCL et al) and at Powder Mill Park May 26 (JM & TM). A Brewster's Warbler was at Powder Mill Park May 19 (GD). Parula and Cape May Warblers seemed scarce, especially the former. A Prairie Warbler was in DEP May 11-12 (PW). Fifty Palm Warblers were on the WL May 5 (G.O.S. hike). A Connecticut Warbler was netted and banded at Manitou on May 25 (GL).

Blackbirds-Sparrows: After a complete absence the previous year, singing Western Meadowlarks were in Kent Apr 29 (RB), in Webster May 5-31 (JM & TM), in Parma May 20-31 (WCL et al) and in Scottsville May 26 (JWB). Four Evening Grosbeaks were in Penfield up to Apr 3 (GD & Lucy Militz) and 15 were near Wayland until Apr 13 (WCL). Two thousand Am. Goldfinches were migrating past BB May 18 (WCL). A Lark Sparrow was netted and banded west of Manitou May 3 (GL & WCL). Excellent colored pictures were obtained of the bird in the hand. The bird was released the next morning in the presence of several members of the G.O.S. The bird was still present in the general area the next day. This is the area's first record of the Lark Sparrow since 1911 when a pair raised a brood of young in Monroe County (as reported by Eaton in *Birds of New York*). An Oregon Junco was in Webster Apr 29 (JM & TM). Thirty-five Fox Sparrows at the HL Apr 17 (LM et al) is a high count for the area. Lincoln's Sparrows seemed commoner than usual (or maybe they are being identified oftener) this spring with at least five on May 19.

53 Luella Street, Rochester 9, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Weather conditions paralleled those of the spring of 1956 — extremes of temperature, sometimes dropping 50° in 24 hours. There were late snows, on April 23 and May 1. On the 24th of May, a hard freeze occurred, 23° in Etna, and 32° on the 25th. This killed back the young leaves on many trees, notably oaks, mulberries and some maples, and damaged buds and early fruits. Foliage was still relatively sparse on May 31, and some nestings seemed delayed — those depending on dense shrubs. Precipitation was normal or slightly below in April, above in May.

As in 1956 the cold, wet May brought birds to feeders, or forced those to ground feeding, that normally remain elsewhere. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks gobbled sunflower seeds, Orioles came to suet.

There was an extremely heavy Goose migration — an estimated peak of 40,000-50,000 on Cayuga Lake, and 40,000 peak at the Montezuma Refuge (undoubtedly some duplication here). Extremely light land bird migration, except for White-crowned Sparrows. May 12 was a fairly good day for warblers, following a cold, wet day or two. The Purple Finch influx continued through April — more than 200 were banded at Etna. Inquiries seemed to indicate that Cayuga Lake marked the western border of the large influx, though places further west — Elmira, Hornell and Keuka — said "more than usual".

Abbreviations used: MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge. SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary. Cay L — Cayuga L. nr — near. yg. — young.

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Loons-Ducks: Common Loons: several flocks, 20-25, in Apr, over Ithaca. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 13, Dryden Lake, (PMK). Horned Grebe: good migration, Cay L and MFWR, April and first week in May. Pied-Billed Grebe: lacking on some marshes where usually present. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 11, Keuka Lake, uncommon visitor. (FG), one, May 18-20, s. end Cay L. Great Blue Heron: usual numbers. 2-4 on SWS pond daily through period where normally only one until late summer. Species reported scarce at Elmira. Cattle Egret: two, May 11, Rte 90 e. of MFWR, (JP). Common Egret: two, May 19, MFWR (census group); seven, May 31, MFWR. Least Bittern: two, first, May 18, MFWR (WEB). Glossy Ibis: no reports. Mute Swan: one, Apr 7, Cay L. Probably same bird as seen Feb.; one, Apr 10, still at Horseheads dump. Whistling Swan: five, Apr 7, Rte 31 w. of Montezuma village (WEB); four, May 20, Waterloo, (JW). Canada Goose: 40,000-50,000 est. on Cayuga in April. Morse reports largest concentration at MFWR in history of refuge: peak of 40,000 mid-Apr (Highest previous peak 25,000 in '56 & '62). Left first week of May. Snow Goose: peak, 100, MFWR; Blue Goose: peak, 210, MFWR. Ducks: numbers at MFWR somewhat lower than last year (2200 peak compared with 2420 in '62). Fewer seemed to pause on Cay L in migration likewise. Mallard: first broods, SWS, May 21. Buffleheads: more on Cay L. this year — scattered pairs and small groups on both sides in April and early May. "Most common duck of migration at Hornell, Apr 3 on, always one to three pairs." (WG). Old-squaw: half a dozen reports of small flocks on Cay L. in April and May. Two Apr 16, Dryden Lake (PAB).

Hawks-Owls: Turkey Vulture: one, Apr 5, Apr 8, SWS (first). one, Apr 21, n. of MFWR (JW). Seen regularly thereafter MFWR. Goshawk: one, Apr 14, Union Springs (JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one pair only, May, e. of Ithaca, (JB). Cooper's Hawk: pair, nesting s.w. corner Cay L., May. Red-tailed Hawk: nest on Rte. 13 nr Etna, broken up. Red-shouldered Hawk: 24, peak, Apr 19, (NS).

Broad-winged Hawk: flight minor, but unusual in Ithaca area, Apr 18-19, peak 94. Bald Eagle: one ad. Mar 24, one ad. Apr 26 over Cornell campus (NS); 2 imms and one ad. have been seen at MFWR, but no indication of nesting (JM). One imm. shows considerable white, other does not. Marsh Hawks: very scarce. Osprey: one, Apr 7, SWS, (first). Two records at MFWR in period. one bird, along Fall Creek n. e. of Ithaca during period. Peregrine: one, Apr 4, n. e. of Ithaca, Peruville Rd., (BG). One, May 5, Elmira, (RVD). Ruffed Grouse: on upswing in their cycle. Four drumming birds, SWS. Bobwhite: some reports; Keuka, Montour Falls, Ithaca. Rails: no reports at Keuka. Sora: one, Apr 20 — May 5 (uncommon) SWS, very tame, feeding on corn with Grackles and waterfowl, swimming like a phalarope. Coot: scarce. None at Elmira. Killdeer: normal numbers. Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Dulin and Short-billed Dowitcher, all seen at s. end of Cayuga, period May 17-22. Unusual in spring migration at this location, especially with lake level as high as it was. Snipe, Woodcock, Spotted and solitary Sandpipers and both Yellow-legs came in as expected. Black-bellied Plover: two, May 26, Big Flats (JC). On Keuka Lake, Pectorals were absent, Solitaries late (FG). Hudsonian Bonaparte's Gull: very few reports from Cay L. Present, MFWR, Godwit: two, Apr 18, MFWR, (VD) — most unusual in spring. Apr 18 - May 2, peak 22. Least Tern: one, May 19, Cay L. (NS). First in recent history on Cay L; first in Region 3 since Aug '55 when one appeared on Keuka Lake. Caspian Tern: one, Apr 22, MFWR, (FS); five, May 19, MFWR census. Uncommon in spring. Black Tern: 28, Apr 29 (first), MFWR, (WEB); 'hundreds', MFWR, May 11 (WEB), 800, May 16, MFWR (VD) in migration.

Horned Owl: one nest site of long standing deserted this year. Three others known successful. Barred Owl: two young, one out of nest, May 30, SWS (DGA). Barn Owl: one, Apr 14, Ithaca, (HM), caught in kite string. Died later. Screech Owl: scarce. Long-eared Owl: two, with nest, Apr 21, Monkey Run e. of Ithaca, (JB), Five yg. banded, left nest successfully around June 1.

Caprimulgids-Shrikes. Whip-poor-will: one, late Apr, Altay, (FG). Two Apr reports in Ithaca. Several: usual stations, White Church area, s. Ithaca, May. Chimney Swift: 40, Apr 19, Cornell campus, first (NS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: most dates (first) May 8-10. Usually May 10-14. Peak: 20, 35, in Stewart Park, May 15, Ithaca; One, May 12, Hornell, at 34°, feeding on wild cherry (WG). Flicker: 50, May 24 (peak) Geneva, (EM). Pileated Woodpecker: successful nesting, Stewart Park, Ithaca, in May, (FR). Increasing at north end Cay L. Basin: 4 new stations. (WEB). Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 reports, mid-May, Ithaca area, but not to be found there later. No gain around Ithaca in recent years. One, May 4-6, Graham farm nr Burdett.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, May 16, Cornell Fish Hatchery (NS); one, mid-May, Texas Hollow Sanctuary, (BS). Swallow migration (not peak) on Cay L, Apr 19. Titmice: no increase this year. Pair gone from Keuka campus, present at nearby Dresden. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no nesting pair found this year, but one remained in May at Lane feeder, SWS. Brown Creeper: two pairs nesting, SWS, May 31. House Wren: later than normal in returning, some not until mid-May, instead of first week May. Winter Wren: migration in umbers, Apr 27, Elmira (CVAS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: almost no report. Why is this species decreasing to greater extent than Long-billed? Mockingbird: three individual birds, Apr and May, Ithaca area; "a number" reported by CVAS; one, a mile n. of Hector in May; one, Esperanza, after absence of several months. Definitely on increase. Brown Thrasher: at least a dozen reports at Ithaca, more than usual. Robin: numbers better at Ithaca and Keuka. Thrush migration (25 Hermits, 12 Woods) May 1, in snow, Texas Hollow (BS). Wood Thrushes, Veeries reported scarce, Hornell (WG), no Olive-backs or Gray-cheeks at Keuka (FG). Bluebirds: three pairs noted at Hornell, one back at Reservoir where it used to be; increase of one or two pairs at Keuka, fewer at Watkins; fewer at Ithaca (JH). No Loggerhead Shrike reports in Cayuga Basin.

Vireos-Warblers: Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: more than last year at Waterloo (JW). Migration of Warbling Vireos, May 9, along Clyde River (WEB).

The Kingbird

Philadelphia Vireo: (rare), May 12, "Friend-Potter Woods," Keuka; one, May 16, Waterloo (JW); one, May 16, McLean Bog, n.e. Dryden, (DF). Prothonotary Warbler: none reported. Blue-winged Warbler (1 pair), Golden-winged Warbler (2 pairs), early May, "Friend-Potter Woods," Keuka. At Ithaca, Blue-winged, once extremely rare, has almost supplanted Golden-winger (fide RF). Brewster's Warbler: one, May 19, Italy Valley, (CRM); one, May 6, Crane Rd., Elmira (WH); several, mid-May, Varna RR tracks, (RF). Two records of the rarer Lawrence's hybrid: May 4, Elmira Heights, (NH); May 19, Geneva, (EM). Orange-crowned Warbler: (rare in spring): one, May 16, Cornell Fish Hatchery, (NS); one, May 12, E. Ithaca, (DM). Parula Warbler: often missed, one, May 11, Elmira. Cape May Warbler: migration noted on May 9. Ceruleans: absent this year at Stewart Park, Ithaca where they have been found for some years; more noted at Geneva, however. Yellow-throated Warbler: one, Apr 26, Collegetwon, Ithaca (CM). Prairie Warbler: May 5, Keuka, many observer. First record there since 1905 when nested north of Branchport (fide FG); one, Elmira, May 6. Yellow-breasted Chat: at one or two old stations, Ithaca, early May. One, May 25, Lindley, N. Y., (JL). Hooded Warbler: only report, mid-May, Geneva, (EM). Redstarts: continue scarce at Ithaca; reported missing from a woods where normally abundant, nr Clyde (WEB).

Blackbirds-Sparrows: Bobolinks: more than in '62 at Watkins. No change elsewhere. Meadowlark: slow in returning, usually here by early March, it was the first of April before many were seen. Western Meadowlark: one, through May, Preemption Rd., Keuka (FG); two, end of May, near Sheldrake, west shore of Cayuga. Red-winged Blackbird: still somewhat down at Geneva, though all other blackbirds up as in rest of region. Baltimore Oriole: definitely more abundant this year — perhaps two pairs for every one of last few years. Many reports of Orioles coming to suet. Scarlet Tanager: judging from number of calls coming to Laboratory of Ornithology, they are more abundant this year than last. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: also more abundant, with many reports of these on feeders, eating sunflower seeds. Few early nests were successful, however. Indigo Bunting: "abundant" at Hornell (WG). Dickcissel: singing bird at Chemung County airport, May 31 (DM). Evening Grosbeak: left quite suddenly, April 18-23, except four still at feeder, Coddington Road, Ithaca, May 3. Purple Finch: the large flocks, reported in last issue, pulled out by May 1 (over 200 banded at Etna before they left), but more pairs than usual remained to nest; for example, I have eight individuals in my yard at Etna, usually one pair. Red Crossbill: one, May 23, Monkey Run (RF). White-winged Crossbill: rare at any time, none all winter, one, netted and banded, Apr 25, Cornell campus, (KC). Green-tailed Towhee: the individual which has wintered on West Hill, Ithaca, last reported on Apr 25. Vesper Sparrow: numbers apparently migrating at Hornell, May 1. Tree Sparrow: two, May 12 (last date, late), Montezuma, (WEB). Chipping Sparrow: flight noticed (50-100 birds) Apr 29, Ithaca and Clyde, (DM, WEB), and May 1, Hornell (WG). Clay-colored sparrow: discovered just after end of reporting period, ¼ mile from station of former years in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, so probably had been there in May (RL, DM). White-crowned Sparrow: unusually heavy migration this year, noted by many. Present from May 6 through 14 in numbers at Ithaca. 100, May 12, Waterloo, (JW). 50 banded, Penn Yan, (ML). Outnumbered White-throats at Hornell, but no unusual numbers there. Fox Sparrow: plentiful, Mar 28-Apr 28, Burdett, peak, 8, Apr 7. Peak, 12, SWS, Apr 23.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

On the average April was warm, sunny and dry. The 2nd and 3rd brought record breaking temperatures, in the 80's, and there was another warm period around the 17th, but the 10th and 23rd brought lower than normal temperatures. May, almost the reverse of April, averaged cool and wet. On May 9 temperatures again reached the 80's but only two days later, May 11 matched all but the very worst March weather. Another cold spell, including the last frost, came the 23rd and 24th. April 11 saw the last appreciable snow cover of any duration.

As one might predict from this kind of weather pattern bird records show a curious mixture of early arrivals and late departures that makes a short concise summary rather difficult or even impossible. Some examples of the former are Green Heron, Least Sandpiper, Traill's Flycatches, Bay-breasted Warbler and Chipping Sparrow. Some of the late departures were Whistling Swans, Canada Geese, Green-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Parula Warbler, Rusty Blackbird and Fox Sparrow.

The waterfowl and shorebird flights were interesting for both volume and diversity, bearing in mind the nature of the region. The most notable aspect of the small land bird migration was the dearth of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

The number of Cattle Egrets reported is of especial interest but in referring to them, it should be borne in mind that we have yet to receive our first report of the species in the region that is accompanied by completely satisfactory observational details. Also included is a House Finch record that has already proven controversial, primarily because the literature is not of one mind about the best diagnostic characteristics. It is included here so that those interested may judge for themselves on the basis of the evidence at hand.

Regular contributors: LB — L. Bemont; DB — D. Bendle; WB — W. Briedinger; BB — B. Burgher; GC — G. Corderman; WC — W. Corderman; C, JD — C & J Davis; M, AD — M & A Davis; LD — L. Dean; AE — A. Evelein; CG — C. Gerould; JG — J. Gustafson; CH — C. Howard; GK — G. Kirk; FL — F. Linaberry; SL — S. Lincoln; ML — M. Lynch; M, DL — M & D Lynch; HM — H. Marsi; RP. — R. Pantle; R, JS — R & J Saunders; MS — M. Sheffield; RS — R. Sheffield; WS — W. Spofford; AS — A. Stratton; HT — H. Thomas; TBC — Tioga Bird Club Field Trip.

Abbreviation: first — first observation of the species reported for the season. Last — last observation of the species reported for the season. max-maximum.

Loon - Ducks: Common Loon: Apr 10 (first), Whitney Point (F. Linaberry, H. Marsi); 26 (migrating) Apr 24, Owego (W. Spofford, R. Williams); also observed at Norwich, Oxford and Candor May 30 (D. Weber). Red-throated Loon: One, May 11, Norwich (R & S White), identified by slender bill and also noted to be slightly smaller than a White-winged Scoter observed with it. Red-necked Grebe: three, Apr 25, Norwich (R, SW), identified by profile and white and red markings. Horned Grebe: Apr 27, (last), Whitney Point (M. Sheffield); 50 or more (max), Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS) (relatively heavy migration for this region). Pie-billed Grebe: reported more frequently in the Triple Cities area than in most recent years. Great Blue Heron: two rookeries and possibly a third in the Owego area; two rookeries, one made up of 17 nests, in the Cortland area; and one rookery is in the Whitney Point area. Green Heron: Apr 13 (first), Owego (RW). Cattle Egret: 23, May 7, Afton (Mrs. D. Whitson); 24, May 10, Owego (Mrs. F. Allen); two May 11, Owego (Tioga Bird Club Field Trip); May 12, Binghamton (Carpenter); four May 14, Owego (Mrs. F. Allen, fide M. White, C. Gerould); May 21 and 23, Homer (J. Gustafson). American Bittern: Apr 21, Vestal (HM); our first.

Whistling Swan: five, May 19 thru 25, Halsey Valley (Mrs. D. Becon). Canada Goose: one, May 19, Candor (G. Kirk), the last of several May records; the last flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen Apr 29. Pintail: three, Apr 27 (last), Whitney Point (MS). Green-winged Teal: May 19, Whitney Point (MS), the last of three May records. American Widgeon: 15 or more, Apr 27 (last), Whitney Point (MS). Shoveller: two Apr 20, Norwich (R, SW). Redhead: Apr 13 (last) Whitney Point (MS) (better than normal migration). Ring-necked Duck: 10 or more, May 4 (last) Whitney Point (MS). Canvasback: one, Apr 20 (last), Whitney Point (MS), (better than normal migration). Scaup: 500 (max), Apr 12, Whitney Point (S. Lincoln), Apr 24, Owego (RW), the last Greater; Apr 27, Whitney Point (MS), the last Lesser. Common Goldeneye: Apr 18, Owego (GK), the last. Buffle head: six, Apr 27, Whitney Point (MS), the last spring record; 18 (peak) Apr 20, Norwich (R, SW), 15 or more at Whitney Point (MS) and also at Owego (CG, MW). Old Squaw: three, Apr 17, 18 and 26, Norwich (R, SW); 67, Apr 18, Owego (GK); and 60 or more, Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS); no other reports. White-winged Scoter: one, May 11, Norwich (R, SW), white speculum well observed when wings lifted. Ruddy Duck: one, Apr 24, Owego (WS, RW). Hooded Merganser: four females, Apr 21, (last) Whitney Point (MS), (fairly light migration). Common

Merganser: two (last) Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS). Red-breasted Merganser: one, Apr 6 and 9, Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS); two, May 20, Owego (RW), seems very late.

Hawks—Owls: Turkey Vulture: Apr 12, Kirkwood (SL); 12, Apr 20, Hancock (G. Corderman); Apr 29, Owego (RW); one, May 3, Chenango Bridge (M. & A. Davis); May 12, Newark Valley (L. Dean); May 19, South Owego (D. Bendle); the first year with such widely dispersed records in the region. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr 20, 7 over Cortland (JG), two at Whitney Point and one at Choconut Center (MS) and one at Chenango Forks (M, AD); Apr 21, 26 counted in two hours flying over near Owego and Apr 29, 20 counted in same length of time (RW); smaller numbers seen regularly to May 25. Rough-legged Hawk: one (late) Apr 2, Owego (DB). Bald Eagle: seen four times during May at Berkshire (M. Lynch). Marsh Hawk: this year and last show improvement in numbers over previous few years, but still not common. Osprey: most reports between Apr 20 and May 11; the last one May 19, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Peregrine Falcon: one, Apr 29, Owego (RW), in flight.

Bobwhite: Apr 1, Owego (A. Evelien); Apr 4, Candor (DW). Turkey: Apr 17, Owego (MW); May 30, Drybrook in Tioga Co. (R. Middleton). Sora: heard several times in marsh near Apalachin during May (SL, L. Bemont), but otherwise unreported. Common Gallinule: Apr 26, Vestal (HM, GC, W. Corderman); one, Apr 28, found along road near Kirkwood injured, apparently by a car (L. Loomis), being nursed back to health. Coot: Apr 25, Kattelville (H. Thomas); still there Apr 28 (MS); May 19, Tracy Swamp in Owego area (MW, CG). Semi-palmated Plover: 30 or more, May 26, scattered around Triple Cities area (LB, R. Pantle); similar numbers at Whitney Point, May 30 (MS). Killdeer: young observed May 11, Homer (JG). Golden Plover: three, May 26, on Harpur College athletic field near Binghamton and Black-bellied Plover: one, at the same place and same time (LB, RP), making a direct comparison of back colors possible and making appreciably larger size of the latter species evident. Six or more Black-bellied Plovers were at Whitney Point May 30 (MS). Woodcock: quite numerous reports. Common Snipe: May 19, Endicott (LB, SL), by "winnowing sound" made by tail feather, over small marsh. Upland Plovers: two, May 13, Center Lisle (MS); May 17, Homer (JG). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 9, Newark Valley (LD), first report by 10 days. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 21, (first), Whitney Point (MS); May 19, (last). Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 20, (first), Whitney Point (MS), still present May 30. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 21, Lounsberry (MW), Vestal (HM) and Whitney Point (MS); last report in the Triple Cities area May 19: we are wondering about the correct nomenclature for one seen May 14 that was missing one leg. Pectoral Sandpiper: Apr 28, Vestal (HM, GC, WC); one, May 11, Whitney Point (MS). Least Sandpiper: Apr 25, Vestal (HM, GC, WC), very early; still present May 30. Dunlin: May 26, Endwell (RP, LB); May 30, 15 or more, Whitney Point (MS). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: May 19, Vestal (LB, SL); 18 or more, May 30, Whitney Point (MS). Sanderling: one, May 30, Whitney Point, (MS).

Herring Gull: few reports after Apr 4 and only one May report; one, May 26, Endwell (LB, RP). Ring-billed Gull: several medium sized flocks throughout the period; 30 or more, May 26, (last), Endwell (RP, LB). Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 19 (first), Endwell (HM, GC). 50 or more, Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS). Common Tern: Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS) and Homer (JG); eight (max) or more May 11, Whitney Point (MS) May 19, (last), Whitney Point (MS). Black Tern: one, May 4, Whitney Point (MS); 20, (max), May 19, (last), Owego MW, CG. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 9, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Black-billed Cuckoo: May 9, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and Berkshire (ML). Both cuckoos reported frequently. Screech Owl: reported only from Cortland area during the period. Barred Owl: two, Oxford (A. Stratton); one, May 13, Chenango Forks (M, AD); May 30, Castle Creek (MS); one, record in a period has been unusual in the past.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: May 3, Hinman's Corners, north of Binghamton (R. & J. Saunders), the only one reported. Nighthawk: May 16, Binghamton (LB). Chimney Swift: Apr 20, Castle Creek (B. Burgher) and Owego (RW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: three Binghamton records and one Owego,

May 11, (first). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, May 5, on Ingraham Hill, south of Binghamton (C. Howard); May 10, Homer (JG); May 12, Sherburne (R, SW) at same place as last year; May 18, McGraw (JG); and at Berkshire sometime in the last third of May (ML). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two, Apr 2, Ingraham Hill (CH); same date, Greene (C. & J. Davis); frequent reports in Apr, thinning out in May. Eastern Kingbird: one, Apr 29, Ingraham Hill (CH); same date, Vestal (HM, FL). Great-crested Flycatcher: May 2, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one, May 17, Endwell (LB); May 18, Cortland (W. Briedinger); also at Vestal, Owego and Ingraham Hill. Traill's Flycatcher: two, May 9, Ingraham Hill (CH); quite common around the Triple Cities and Newark Valley. Least Flycatcher: May 4, (first), at Cortland, Owego and Ingraham Hill. Wood Pewee: one, May 13, Endwell (LB). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 21 and 24, Ingraham Hill (CH), the only records. Bank Swallow: Apr 13, Owego (RW), the first record by 8 days. Rough-winged Swallow: three, Apr 21, Norwich (R, SW); one, Apr 21, Ingraham Hill (CH). Barn Swallow: Apr 13, Owego (RW), the first report after one Mar record. Cliff Swallow: Apr 20, Whitney Point (MS). Purple Martin: after a Mar 30 record, Apr 8, Cortland (JG); Apr 19, Binghamton (HM); regular from Apr 28.

Tufted Titmouse: reported fairly frequently in the Triple Cities area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: May 20, Berkshire (ML), the last spring record. Brown Creeper: reported particularly frequently during Apr, fewer May records but heard singing and still present May 30. House Wren: Apr 28, Westover (RP, LB). Winter Wren: more reports than most years, still present May 19, Carolina Wren: May 19, (only record), Berkshire (ML). Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 19, (only record), Vestal (LB, SL). Mockingbird: Apr 25, Kattelville (HT); one, Apr 29, Ingraham Hill (CH); May 19, Owego (Mr. & Mrs. Cole). Catbird: May 2, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Brown Thrasher: Apr 14, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Wood Thrush: May 3, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Hermit Thrush: scattered reports of migrating birds through May 1; May 19, Castle Creek (LB, SL), May 31, French Tract, south of Binghamton (CH); May 31, Candor (DW) and May 31, Newark Valley (LD) probably all on territory. Swainson's Thrush: May 8, (first), Owego (RW, MW); May 17, (last), Endwell (LB), only two reports between. Gray-cheeked Thrush; none. Veery: May 4, Vestal (SL) and Owego (MW, CG). Bluebird: some local areas show a decrease from last year but the overall picture looks encouraging. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: eight or more, Apr 26 and 27, Chenango Forks (M, AD); May 18, Berkshire (ML) and Freetawn in Cortland Co. (C. Wilkins); also reported from several other localities in the Triple Cities area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: May 10, (last), Chenango Forks (M, AD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May 15, (last), Binghamton (MS), a seemingly early departure. Water Pipit: 20 or more (max), May 4, West Chenango, a few miles north of Binghamton (MS); May 10 (last), Berkshire (MS); also reported from Candor (DW), Cortland (JG, WB). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Apr 7, between Oxford and Coventryville (H. Nodecker).

Vireos—Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 5, Owego (RW). Solitary Vireo: one, Apr 22, Ingraham Hill (CH). Red-eyed Vireo: one, May 5, Oxford (AS). Philadelphia Vireo: May 14, Binghamton area (HM, FL); May 19, Diamond Valley in Tioga Co. (RW). Warbling Vireo: May 4, Westover (RP, LB) and Homer (JG). Warblers: Black and White: May 3, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Worm-eating: May 19, Endwell (LB, SL) and Binghamton (HM), both at stations where they have located regularly in recent years. Golden-winged: May 5, Binghamton (MS); reported only in the Triple Cities area, but quite frequently there. Brewster's: May 19, Hinman's Corners (R, JS). Blue-winged: May 4, Homer (WB), also at Owego (RW) and three different localities around the Triple Cities. Tennessee: one May 14, Castle Creek (MS); to May 26. Nashville: May 4, Owego (MW, CG), Homer (WB), Ingraham Hill (CH) and Chenango Forks (M, AD). Parula: May 9, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and Endwell (N. Washburn); more reports than usual and still present May 30. Yellow: Apr 26, Homer (JG); regular after May 4. Magnolia: May 5, Newark Valley (LD). Cape May: May 8, Chenango Forks (M, AD); May 20 (last,) Homer (WB). Black-thorated Blue: May 4, Homer (WB) and Castle Creek (MS); some still present May 31. Myrtle: Apr 24, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and Owego (WS, RW); last report May 21. Black-throated Green: one Apr 27, Ingraham Hill

(CH); major portion of reports were between May 1 and 17, but a few were still present May 31. Cerulean: May 23, Cortland (CW); the only report. Blackburnian Warbler: one May 2, Norwich (R, SW) and one Endwell (E. & N. Washburn) and Chenango Forks (M, AD); frequent reports until May 20 and a few still present May 31. Chestnut-sided: one, May 5, Norwich (R, SW), Owego (MW, CG), Newark Valley (LD). Bay-breasted: one, May 4, Ingraham Hill (CH), first report by eight days; most reports from May 14 to 20 with a few to May 26. Blackpoll: May 19, Newark Valley (LD) and Binghamton; still present May 31. Palm: one, Apr 24, Chenango Forks (M, AD); last report May 23, Berkshire (M. & D. Lynch) with more than the usual number of reports between. Prairie: May 8 and 15, Chenango Forks (M, AD), an infrequently reported species here. Ovenbird: May 4, Owego (TBC), Newark Valley (LD) and two at Ingraham Hill (CH). Northern Waterthrush: one, Apr 29, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 20, Binghamton (HM). Mourning: May 10, Cortland (JG); May 12, Binghamton (HM) and Berkshire (LD); May 14, Berkshire (M, DL); one, May 16 and one, May 17, Endwell (LB, RP); May 19, Binghamton; May 31, Candor (DW); those on the 16th and 17th were adult males taken from mist nets that had given no hint of their presence with a sound before being caught demonstrating why so few are detected in migration most years. Yellowthroat: May 4, Owego (RW). Yellow-breasted Chat: May 10, Berkshire (M, DL); May 16 and 19, Hinman's Corners (MS); the only reports. Wilson's: May 9 Owego (RW); another relatively heavy migration this year, mostly after May 17 and continuing to at least May 30; May 22, Choconut Center (R. Sheffield), and actual "wave". Canada: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD); most reports between May 9 and 17 with reduction to about the normal summer population thereafter. Redstart: May 4, Homer (WB), Chenango Forks (M, AD), Vestal (SL).

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: one, May 4, Ingraham Hill (CH); "many this year" at Newark Valley (LD). Baltimore Oriole: Apr 30, Chenango Forks (M, AD); regular after May 3. Rusty Blackbird: more reports than in most years scattered through Apr and until May 14, (last) Binghamton (HM, FL). Common Grackle: have seemed particularly numerous this spring. Scarlet Tanager: May 4, Owego (TBC); regular after May 8.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1, Homer (WB) and Binghamton (HM). Indigo Bunting: May 6, Owego (AE). Evening Grosbeak: remained fairly common until about Apr 21 and a few were reported until May 20 (last) Sidney (F. Quick). Purple Finch: remained quite common until mid-May and more than normal number stayed around later and showed signs of nesting. House Finch: one, Apr 22, 26 and 27, Endwell (E, NW), a male with a flock of purple finches, identified by much lighter raspberry red color, as compared to purple finches, confined to head, breast and rump; flanks with brown strikes on light background, lack of prominent crown and crest raising, and slimmer body held in more horizontal position; the shape of the end of the tail and of the bill were not noted; a color picture was taken but the diagnostic characteristics do not show very well. Pine Siskin: quite common until mid Apr and then gradually becoming less common with only scattered reports after May 15, the last of these May 24, Endwell (E, NW). Red Crossbill: May 6, Cortland (R. Peterson), the only record this year. Rufous-sided Towhee: migrants arrived about Apr 8.

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 4, Westover (RP). Grasshopper: May 4, West Chenango (MS). Henslow's: Apr 27, Choconut Center (MS); quite scarce all spring. Vesper: 50 or more (max), Apr 5, Ingraham Hill (CH); smaller flocks noted from then to Apr 8. Slate-colored Junco: largest flocks came around Apr 13 and 14; plenty around until about May 8 with only the few that probably nest in the area thereafter. Oregon Junco: one, Apr 9 to 16, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Tree: common until about Apr 16; Apr 29 (last), Castle Creek (BB). Chipping: Apr 5, Owego (RW); one, Apr 7, Gilbert State Park (R, SW); not common until Apr 18. Field: arrived in numbers about Apr 1. White-crowned: May 4 (first), five different reports; frequent reports until May 19; the only later report May 24, Ingraham Hill (CH). White-throated: Apr 9, Newark Valley (LD), first migrants; frequent reports until May 19, with small numbers still present and being reported regularly

May 31. Fax: two, May 1, Oxfard (AS), the last of a remarkably heavy migration of long duration (since Mar 25) for the species. Lincoln's: one, May 8, Ingraham Hill (CH); also May 12, Newark Valley (LD) and 13 more Triple Cities area records, the last one May 22 for an unprecedented total of 15 reports in the period; probably more a matter of observer education than species multiplication. Swamp: Apr 6. Whitney Point (MS); more than the usual number of reports.

Correction: With additional information available Dr. Gustafson writes that he is convinced the Scarlet Tanager report in the last issue was in error. Dr. Sally Hoyt has written him that she had a captive male bird that didn't molt to red until well into April.

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

The warm spell of late March and early April brought in a number of the early- and mid-April migrants before their usual arrival dates. In general, the late April-early May migrants were tardy and some mid-May ones exceptionally late. Moderate movements of land birds were noted on April 28 and during May 4-9 and 14-17. A heavy movement occurred May 25-27.

The almost daily hawk migrant watch along the shore of Lake Ontario was continued. The totals are given below; of particular note are a Gyrfalcon (first modern regional record) a Golden Eagle and a larger number of Goshawks than had been expected from previous observation.

Abbreviations: arr — arrived, arrival; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; imm — immature; L — Lake; nr — near; Oakwood — cemetery, Syracuse; Onan — Onandaga; Pr — Pair; Pd — Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shares State Park; SP — Sandy Pond; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; MB — Maude Bitz; BB — Ben Burt; EC — Emelie Curtis; EE — Emma Evans; HN — Harman Nadecker; JP — Jean Prapst; MR — Margaret Rusk; FS — Fritz Scheider; WS — Walter Spafford.

CORRIGENRA: Kingbird, May 1963, "Region 5 — Oneida Lake Basin" p. 114, the following species accounts should read: Red-tailed: 538; max 126 Mar 17. Osprey: one Mar 29, record early date. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Seneca flats Mar 29. Iceland Gull; max five Oswego R Jan 20.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: first, Beaver L Apr 5; no major flight reported; max 40 SSSP May 17. No Red-throated Loon nor Red-necked Grebe reported. Horned Grebe: spring max 14 (very low) Oneida L Apr 5; last, L. Ontario May 8.

Common Egret: one Cicera Swamp Apr 13, one Scatt Swamp Apr 20, one nr Skan May 11, and up to four at HIGMA. Cattle Egret: reports of five small white herons with cattle nr Brewerton in early May (fide EC) and one nr Canastota (fide BB) probably refer to this species. American Bittern: although reported Mar 31, did not arrive generally until the last week of Apr. Least Bittern: first report Clay Swamp May 25 (FS).

Whistling Swan: three SSSP Apr 4 and 7 (EC); one Lee Center Apr 6 (DA). The dabbling duck flight was generally poor, with numbers of Black and Widgeon especially low. Mallard: max 500 HIGMA mid-Apr (R. Nevinger). Gadwall: pr Scott Swamp Apr 23 (FS) two Onan L May 11 (MR) and pr Stevens' Pd May 14 (WS) is an unusual collection of records as the species is regular only at HIGMA. Pintail: max 700 Seneca flats Apr 6. Green-winged Teal: max 30/day early Apr; mid-to late May reports from Stevens' Pd, nr Baldwinville, and Clay Swamp are of interest as indicating possible breeding. Blue-winged Teal: max 20/day mid-Apr. American Widgeon: max 50/day early Apr. Last dates for diving ducks: Goldeneye May 8 L Ontario. Bufflehead May 18 SP, Red-breasted Merganser May 24 SP, Common Merganser May 18 Oneida L.

Hawks—Owls: John Haugh's hawk watch on Derby Hill, SE corner of L Ontario, continued until May 8. Observations were made on 21 days in April, the only serious gap being 22-24th. For ease of reference totals are given for the entire migration (45 days of observation, Mar 7-May 8) but maxima are cited only if they

occurred during the period. Turkey Vulture: 32; max nine, Apr 6. Cooper's Hawk: 117; max 13, Mar 26 & Apr 17. Sharp-shinned: 1,316; best counts 288 Apr 30 and 232 Apr 17. Goshawk: 82, last, Apr 30; this regular watch has shown that this species is not as scarce as previously thought. Red-tailed: 979; best counts 126 Mar 17 and 120 Apr 17. Red-shouldered: 870; last, Apr. 25. Broad-winged: 7,289; best counts 2,878 Apr 30, 1, 651 Apr 21, and 1,050 Apr 29. Bald Eagle: none during period. Golden Eagle: an imm Apr 26 (FS). Harrier: 238. Osprey: 53 max eight, Apr 20. Gyrfalcon: a light-phase bird seen at range of 200 ft. on Apr 7 (J. Haugh, E. Willoughby — Willoughby has studied the species in Alaska). Peregrine: none observed. Merlin: singles Apr 7, 17, & 25. Kestrel: 226.

Goshawk: two nests found in the Sandy Pond area (fide BB). In one nest two young were reared and in the other at least one. The sites of these nests are of interest since both were in the L Ontario coastal plain. Another nest was found in n. Herkimer Co (Bowes). Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest found nr Marcellus (WS); present at Oneida (M. Felle). Red-tailed: successful nesting season reported by BB; young were raised in 18 of the 19 nests where activity was noted in the spring. Bald Eagle: an imm Scott Swamp Apr 28 and May 4 (JP); an adult nr Amber May 20 (R. Post). Osprey: last, May 19 HIGMA (WS). Merlin: one HIGMA Apr 26 (FS).

The flight of shorebirds was poor to moderate. Ringed Plover: arr May 19 HIGMA; max nine E. Syr May 25. Turnstone: arr May 18 SP; max five SP May 25. Black-bellied Plover: five SP May 25 is only record. Upland Sandpiper: arr Apr 24 Verona. Spotted: arr Apr 21 Onon L. Greater Yellowlegs: max 20, Apr 26; last, May 26 Onon L. Lesser Yellowlegs: late and scarce date range Apr 25-May 13, max three. Knot: four SP May 24; (JP, B. Starr); two SP May 25 (MR, FS). Pectoral: arr Apr 20, late, Stevens' Pd; max nine Phoenix May 4; last, May 18. Least: date range May 4-24; max 40 HIGMA May 19. Dunlin: max 40 SP May 18. Short-billed Dowitcher: one SP May 18 (MR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr May 18 SP; max 18 Onon L May 28. Sanderling: one SP May 24 & 25.

Iceland Gull: a second-year bird, Onon L May 26 (FS) is some five weeks later than any previous date. Bonaparte's Gull: Max 15 Oneida Apr 24; last, May 11. Common Tern: arr Apr 21. Caspian Tern: two-four L Ontario Apr 26-May 25. Black Tern: arr May 7.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 9 Oneida. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 7 HIGMA. Barred Owl: one or two pairs heard HIGMA, but calling was not heard at several other areas that were checked — Constantia, Labrador Pd, Plainville, and Pleasant L — where this species has been previously found. Saw-whet: adult mist-netted at Solvay May 11 (N. Thomas).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Nighthawk: arr Syr May 19, late. Chimney Swift: three migrants Derby Hill May 20, early; not at Kenwood colony until May 3. Hummingbird: arr Syr May 9. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Munnsville first week of Apr (fide BB) is early if a migrant; a migrant Oakwood May 15 (R&M Burdick); reported from three Oneida locations and Georgetown (HN) and from Skan (R. Seaman) in May. Sapsucker: male SSSP Mar 30, early.

Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher: arr May 5 Utica and Plainville respectively, both late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: flight May 18-27 with max seven, high, SSSP May 25 (FS). Alder and Least Flycatcher and Wood Pewee: arr May 20, 5, and 18, respectively, all late by several days. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only migrants singles May 22 & 25 SSSP; four at Pine L in Herkimer Co May 25. Swallow arrival dates were approximately normal: Tree Mar 23 one Central Square; Bank Apr 20, 200 Derby Hill; Rough-winged Apr 20, 12 Derby Hill; Barn Apr 14, 12 Derby Hill; Cliff Apr 14, one Derby Hill; Martin Apr 5, one female Oneida L.

Blue Jay: migrants still passing through SSSP at a rate of 50/½ hr at 8 AM in the May 25 wave. Tufted Titmouse: one Skan Apr 21 (R. Seaman), the first report from their areas in three years. Red-breasted Nuthatch: flight was nil — only reports after wintering birds left (Kenwood Apr 24, last date) are of singles and twos from probable breeding areas. Brown Creeper: good flight Utica and L

Ontario with max 20 SSSP Apr 26. House Wren: first three Oakwood Apr 6, very early (E. Farnham). Mockingbird: three separate reports of singles in Syr and environs in early May (fide BB). Catbird: arr May 6, late, Plainville. Brown Thrasher: first migrant Apr 22, Oakwood. Wood Thrush and Veery: arr late, May 5 and 6 respectively. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr May 14 and 24, both Oakwood, good flight with max 40 and three respectively May 25 SSSP.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one nr North Bay at the NE corner of Oneida L Apr 27 (A. Jones), an unusual location and ten days earlier than first report of breeding Gnatcatchers on location (HIGMA). Very light flight of both kinglets: 20 Golden-crowned Apr 9 Oakwood are the first migrants and peak count, and no migrants were noted in May; migrant Ruby-crowned Apr 20-May 23 with max 20 on May 9 Oakwood. Pipit: not found until Apr 13, 23 nr Clay (JP); only other flock 12 on May 5 Plainville (MB); last one May 18 Sandy Creek (MR). Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 27-May 8 Texas (JP); only other one Apr 7 Redfield (EC).

Vireos—Warblers: Philadelphia Vireo: date range May 21-28; max three May 25 SSSP (FS). In general the warbler migration showed poor numbers and somewhat late arrivals. The exceptions are noted below. Nearly all migrants had left by the last two or three days of May. Prothonotary: not until May 13, rather late, one on location Short Point Bay, Oneida L. Blue-winged: first one May 9 SSSP (EE), first spring record from that vicinity. Orange-crowned: three reports, of singles, May 8 SSSP (JP), May 26 Camillus (FS), and May 27 SSSP (EE). Nashville: heavy flight Apr 29-May 25, with maxima 20 in an hour May 8 and 9 Oakwood. Parula: arr, one, May 8 Oakwood. Yellow: two arr May 3, a few days late, Oakwood, max 150 May 11 HIGMA. Cape May: six arr May 9, a bit late, Oakwood. Black-throated Blue: two arr May 5, late, Brookfield. Myrtle: fair flight, with max 150 May 8 SSSP but no other counts over 100. Black-throated Green, Cerulean, Blackburnian: arr May 3 Oneida, May 11 HIGMA (two), and May 9 Oneida, respectively, all a few days late. Black-poll: eight arr May 24 about a week late, SP.

Pine: one arr Apr 16, rather early, at SSSP location. Prairie: one, Apr 30, HIGMA (R. Ficken). Palm: brief but outstanding flight Syr and L Ontario Apr 22-May 9, with a record-breaking (for spring) maximum of 36 in an hour May 4 Derby Hill. Ovenbird: three arr May 5, about normal, Brookfield. Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush: both found May 4, very late, Plainville and Ilion respectively. Yellowthroat: arr May 5, late, Jamesville. Yellow-breasted Chat: first is a migrant May 12 Fair Haven — enroute to where? (fide E. Farnham); one Canastota May 25 (DA); Camillus pairs noted until May 26. Hooded Warbler: first report May 18, one on location SSSP. Wilson's: a near-record flight, widely reported, max 21 SSSP and SP May 25.

Blackbird—Sparrows: Tropics-wintering Icterids, Tanager, finches arr late, except Indigo Bunting, first noted Apr 28, early, Syr; other arrivals — Bobolink May 7 Utica, Baltimore Oriole May 5 Kenwood, Scarlet Tanager May 8 SSSP, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak May 5 Plainville. Orchard Oriole: one HIGMA May 26 (fide S. Hoyt) — cf. Jun 1961 there.

Evening Grosbeak: no major spring flight and not widespread; last one Apr 19, early compared with flight years, Kenwood. Purple Finch: high numbers remained from the major late-winter incursion, e.g. max for Oakwood, where a few remain to breed, 30 on Apr 19. Pine Siskin: moderate numbers with max at Syr 30 on Apr 25; last singles Oneida May 21 and Syr May 22. Crossbills: one report, of a female and an immature male Red, Kenwood May 22 (HN). Oregon Junco: one Manlius Apr 2 (fide BB & MR).

Towhee: first migrant Apr 6, early, Oakwood. Savannah Sparrow: one Mar 24, early, Chittenango. In contrast, Grasshopper and Henslow's were not found until May 15, Phoenix, although searched for several times there and in other known locations. Chipping and Field Sparrows: arr Apr 14 Derby Hill and Apr 1 Utica, respectively, two each. White-crowned and White-throated: light flights, with migrants respectively May 4-25 (max only eight, May 17 & 18) and Apr 17-

May 25 (max 50 Apr 19 Oakwood). Fox: better-than-average flight Syr, L Ontario, and Oneida, Mar 16-Apr 24 with max seven on Apr 9 Kenwood. Lincoln's: only reports two May 7 Plainville (MB), one banded May 16 Kenwood (HN), and two in May 25 wave SP (FS). Swamp: first heard singing Apr 6 Scott Swamp. Song: first influx of migrants about Mar 24; major late-Mar flight with 100-150/day Mar 27-31. No Longspur nor Snow Bunting in the period.
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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The snow of last winter melted sooner than was expected, and with less flooding than many feared. May was cool and wet. Few shore birds were seen. The warbler migration seemed to be spread over a longer period of time than usual.

PRGMA is used for the Perch River flats and the Perch Lake Game Management Area.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: Stony Pt. May 11. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 2. Double-crested Cormorant: nesting colony on Gull and Bass Islands about the same as last year. Great Blue Heron: 12 nests at PRGMA. They probably have nested there before, but this spring their nests were found to be in the swamp. It is reported that cottages are to be built on an island in the St. Lawrence River where these birds have been breeding for several years. Black-crowned Night Heron: 80 active nests on Little Galloo Is. May 30. American Widgeon: probably breeding again at Wilson Hill. Shoveler: two pairs at Sulphur Springs Apr 1. Ringed-necked Duck: pair at PRGMA May 9 possibly breeding there.

Hawks—Owls: Turkey Vulture: two at Millsite Lake Apr 6, others seen a short distance away from there in May. Goshawk: pair in Tug Hill section of Lewis County in late May and perhaps nesting there. Red-tailed Hawk: several adults seen, but only one nest known to have young. Broad-winged Hawk: two at South Edwards May 26. Rough-legged Hawk: Last Apr 10. Bald Eagle: two adults at El Dorado late May and an immature May 30. Woodcock: nest with four eggs near South Edwards May 19 and still incubating May 30. Common Snipe: Knot: two at El Dorado, May 30. The spring flight was very poor, and few seen even at El Dorado. Herring Gull: the nesting colony on Little Galloo Island covers about two acres, about the same as last year. Ring-billed Gull: nesting colony on Little Galloo continues to grow, estimated 75,000 nests covering 35 acres (Belknap). It is much larger than in 1961 and has tripled in size in 15 years.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Flicker: spring migration seemed heavier than usual. Red-headed Woodpecker: Apr 2 at Evans Mills, early. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 20 at Lake Bonaparte probably have a nest in the tree they used last year. Kingbird: flock of a dozen or more in southern Jefferson Co, probably in migration. Wood Thrush: Apr 18 Watertown. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Apr 28 South Edwards. Veery: May 12. Bluebird: perhaps seen a little more often this year, 3 at Harrisville Apr 20, 2 at Stony Pt May 11 and nesting at Gouverneur. Water Pipit: four at Stony Pt May 11.

Vireos—Sparrows: Solitary Vireo: May 5 South Edwards. Red-eyed Vireo: May 19 South Edwards. Warbling Vireo: May 10 Black River. Black-and-white Warbler: May 5. Nashville Warbler: May 5 South Edwards. Yellow Warbler: May 8. Magnolia Warbler: May 9 PRGMA. Black-throated Blue: May 12. Myrtle Warbler: first Apr 28 South Edwards, peak May 11-12. Black-throated Green: May 5. Blackburnian: May 5. Chestnut-sided: May 12. Black-poll Warbler: May 26 South Edwards. Pine Warbler: May 18, PRGMA. Ovenbird: May 5. Northern Waterthrush: May 5. Connecticut Warbler: May 20 near Clayton (Blake). Yellowthroat: May 8 PRGMA. Canada Warbler: May 23 El Dorado. Scarlet Tanager: May 11, southern Jefferson Co.

Evening Grosbeak: left very early. The numbers at feeders diminished rapidly after Apr 12. None seen after Apr 25. The last at the Allens' feeder was Apr 21; in 1962 it was May 21. Purple Finch: many at feeders in early Apr, numbers decreasing rapidly after about Apr 20, but a few during all of May. Slate-colored Junco: seen around Watertown to May 12, breeding at Wanakena. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 16. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr 23 to May 19. Pine Siskin: continued at feeders in early Apr, few after Apr 15, last Apr 28.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

After the long winter, spring with its mid-summer temperatures burst forth upon us and just seemed to make the foliage ooze out all at once. Since then and until now there has been adequate rainfall and cooler temperatures, and the season has passed normally. (T.L.)

After such a hard winter an amazing number of species arrived early. Warblers seemed decidedly fewer in number in the Saranac Lake area and also in the nearby Montreal area. Both Veery and Wood Thrush have been seen here in good numbers but they have not been heard singing as much as usual. Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Bluebird have stayed with us. (H.D.)

Abbreviations: ELA — Elizabeth L. Anderson; HD — Harriet Delafield; D — J. Delahanty; K — J. Keji; TL — Thomas Lesperance; L — Lake; Am — American; R — River; nos — numbers; Rd — Road.

All birds reported by Harriet L. Delafield were seen within a ten-mile radius of Saranac Lake unless otherwise stated. Likewise, records by J. Keji are from Ray Brook area and records from J. Delahanty are from the Tupper Lake area.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: quite common throughout the area in suitable habitats. Pied-billed Grebe: one Apr 1, (D). Holboell's Grebe (see note at end of report): one May 12, (D). Great Blue Heron: one May 2 (K); one May 9 (D). Am Bittern: two Apr 19, (D); heard May 6 (K). Little Green Heron: one May 6, and a pair May 14 (D). Canada Goose: Apr 3 (first) (D); 16 May 6 (K). Black Duck: seven Apr 4 and six Apr 5 (HD); Apr 14 (D). Pintail: Apr 26 (D). Blue-winged Teal: May 13 (D). Green-winged Teal: Apr 28 (K). Wood Duck: May 13 (D). Green-winged Teal: Apr 28 (K). Wood Duck: May 13 (D). Ring-necked Duck: Apr 11 (D); two pair on Jones Pond May 4, 9, & 11 (HD). Canvasback: May 5 (stayed about two weeks) (D and many others). Scaup: May 12 (D). Common Goldeneye: Apr 11, (D). Bufflehead: Apr 17 (D). Hooded Merganser: Apr 16 (K); one May 5 Raquette R (HD); a pair May 9, Mt. Pond (HD). Common Merganser: a pair on Saranac R near Ausable Forks, Apr 27 (HD).

Hawks—Owls: Cooper's: Apr 16 (K). Red-shouldered: a pair May 4, Mt. Pond (HD). Broad-winged: Apr 29 (K); one May 4 (HD). Bald Eagle: Apr 5 (K); eagle activity is not reported as common or frequent in the Tupper area this year. Marsh Hawk: one Apr 7 & 10 (HD). Osprey: one May 3 (K); one Apr 12 (K); Joe Hart reports one killed, we have not seen the one over the Saranac R near our house (HD). Peregrine Falcon: Apr 3, Cranberry L. (W. Brockner). Sparrow Hawk: Apr 2 (K); Apr 5 (HD). Ruffed Grouse: normal, (HD). Spruce Grouse: one May 16, Santa Clara Rd (Joseph W. Hart, rep. HD).

Killdeer: Apr 9 (D); until Apr 19 (HD); one May 19, Moira (HD). Am Woodcock: two May 2 (ELA); 10 May 3 and 12 May 6, apparently normal (HD). Common Snipe: two heard, May 6 (HD); Apr 22 (D). Spotted Sandpiper: May 13 (D); May 7, Keeseville on shore of Ausable R along with a Solitary Sandpiper (TL).

Herring Gull: in nos around Ausable Forks Apr 27; three over our river early in May (HD). Common Tern: often seen at Rouses Pt. Black Tern: two May 13 and one May 21 (uncommon) Rouses Pt. (D).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chimney Swift: May 13 (first) (HD). Belted Kingfisher: from Apr 15 on, occasional (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 17 (first) (HD); Apr 17 (D). Pileated Woodpecker: Apr 23 to May 2 (K). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 23 (K); one May 9 (HD); May 12 (D). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: normal (HD); low in numbers (D). Eastern Kingbird: May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K); May 19, Santa Clara Rd (HD). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K). Eastern Phoebe: Apr 14 (first) (HD); May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K). Traill's Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K). Least Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K); eight May 16 on, (HD). Eastern Wood Pewee: May 7-29 (K); May 27 (HD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K); good nos from May 16 on (HD).

Tree Swallow: Apr 15 (first), three at nest house Apr 21, pair nesting early May (HD). Bank Swallow: May 3 (K); normal nesting numbers on Bloomingdale

Rd (HD). Barn Swallow: Apr 20 (first) (HD). Blue Jay: three at feeder Apr 11, pair from then on (HD). Gray Jay: two May 19 Santa Clara Rd (HD). Common Crow: normal (HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal (HD). White and Red-breasted Nuthatch: feeder people worried because of lack at feeders—perhaps, a good food supply in the woods is the answer, there seems to be good nos in the woods. Brown Creeper: one Apr 11 and one May 4 (HD); normal throughout the area (D). Winter Wren: one Apr 29 (K); two May 4 and one May 5 (HD). Marsh Wren: Apr 29-May 13 (D). Catbird: Apr 27-May 13 (D). Brown Thrasher: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); May 16 one for remainder of period (more thrashers and catbirds in the area than in last five years) (HD).

Robin: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); good nos (HD). Wood Thrush: May 2-31 (K); May 2 (HD). Hermit Thrush: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); May (HD). Swainson's Thrush: two May 2, some from then on, (HD). Veery: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); one May 17 (good nos from then on) (HD). Eastern Bluebird: May 2-31 (K); two May 27 (continued through period) (HD). Water Pipit: May 2 Gabriels (David Young, rep. HD); four May 9 and 15 May 10 (HD). Cedar Waxwing: one Apr 27 (HD). Starling: normal (HD). Solitary Vireo: one May 4 (K); one May 9 (ELA, HD). Red-eyed Vireo: May 20 (K). Warblers: Black and White: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); back May 9 (HD). Nashville: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 19-May 31 (K). Parula: Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 27 (HD). Yellow: Apr 27-May 31 (D). Magnolia: Apr 29-May 31 (K); two May 16 and two May 24 (HD). Black-throated Blue: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); normal nos heard, none seen (HD). Myrtle: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); six May 4 (HD). Black-throated Green: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); three May 9, good nos from then on (HD). Blackburnian: Apr 27-May 31 (D); one May 9 and a pair May 24 (HD). Chestnut-sided: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); one May 15 (HD). Blackpoll: Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 24 (first and only one) (HD). Palm: Apr 27-May 31 (D). Ovenbird: Apr 29-May 31 (K); six May 16, fair nos thereafter (HD). Northern Waterthrush: Apr 27-May 31 (D); one seen and heard May 16 (good nos thereafter) (HD). Yellowthroat: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 19 Santa Clara Rd (HD); May 23, good nos to end of period (HD). Wilson's: one May 24 (HD). Canada: Apr 29-May 31 (K); one May 24 (HD). Am Redstart: Apr 29-May 31 (K); one Apr 16, good nos since (HD). House Sparrow: normal, (HD).

Bobolink: one May 13 and nine May 16, good nos since, (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: back by Apr 5, first song Apr 13 (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: 25 Apr 8, last large no at feeder May 1, eight males and 15 females (HD). Baltimore Oriole: one May 19, Town of Santa Clara; pair May 20 Denny Park — female gathering nesting material (HD). Common Grackle: normal (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: 100+ Apr 6, an albino in this flock; up to 30 on lawn through May 1 (HD). Scarlet Tanager: May 7-31 (K); May 23 (picked up a dead one), good nos since (HD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 7-31 (K); one Santa Clara Rd and a pair May 26 on Maryland Ave (HD). Indigo Bunting: Apr 5-May 31 (D). Evening Grosbeak: 31 Apr 2, 30 Apr 23, 10 May 1 and five pairs May 7, and thereafter (HD); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Purple Finch: Apr 5 on, (D); May 7-31 (K); small nos through Apr and May (HD). Pinesiskins: Apr 5-May 31 (D); 15 May 4 (last) (HD). Am Goldfinch: Apr 5-May 31 (D); May 7-31 (K); May 16 and since (with us all year) (HD). Red Crossbill: May 7-31 (K). Rufous-sided Towhee: May 7-31 (K).

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Back by Apr 5 (HD). Vesper: Apr 1-May 31 (K); back by Apr 4 (HD); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Slate-colored Junco: nos way off, no large flocks seen by or reported to me (HD). Tree: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 1-May 31 (K); fewer than spring of '62, two to four seen regularly through Apr and one May 6 (HD). Chipping: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 1-May 31 (K); back by May 8 (HD). Field: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May (D); one May 3 (one or more since) (HD). White-crowned: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D); one May 6, eight May 8, six May 16, one May 24 (last) (HD). White-throated: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 19, seven May 2, nine May 3, six May 12 and ten May 16 (HD). Fox: one Apr 1 and one Apr 5 (HD); Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Lincoln's: Apr 1-May 31 (K). Swamp: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Sing: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D); normal (HD).

Re: Holboell's Grebe . . . Quotes

"The bird was seen through 7x35 glasses at distances of 75-125 feet by Mrs. Chas. Chapman and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Martin. It was described in detail, as the observers had ample time to study it. Dr. Kingsbury, Agnes Amstutz and I returned to the same spot next day but were unable to find it. The Chapmans and the Martins are reliable observers, I consider this an authentic sighting (D).
Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

April was a very dry month, with only 1.14 inches of precipitation at Albany during the month — less than that of any April of the previous 20 years. Temperatures averaged less than a half-degree from normal, with a high of 70° on Apr 20 and a low of 23° on Apr 1 and Apr 9. The month was also unusually windy, which completed the drying process. May was also extremely dry. Precipitation totalled 1.90 inches at Albany, 1.57 inches below average. Temperatures averaged 56.6°, or 1.3° below normal. There was a late freeze on May 24, when many plants and trees were set back, losing some or all of their new leaves.

Landbird migration proceeded fairly normally through the first part of April, but the cooler weather towards the end of the month slowed the appearance of most species. During May it seemed most species appeared in numbers 4-7 days behind usual. Because of the lack of stormy and rainy weather, there were only three noticeable "waves". The first of these occurred April 20, following a particularly warm night with southerly winds. Many waterfowl (e.g., Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Canvasback, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Bonaparte's Gull) were first reported, or increased greatly in numbers, following this weather pattern. A number of other birds (e.g. Osprey, Virginia Rail, Myrtle Warbler, Palm Warbler, various swallows) also appeared.

The major landbird "wave" of the season occurred May 4-5, when many warblers, thrushes, vireos, and other migrants were first noted, or first appeared in numbers. The temperatures for May 4-5 averaged about 5° above normal, and winds averaged below 10 m.p.h., being generally westerly. The preceding five days had been quite windy and slightly colder than average. Another, less-noted wave occurred May 20-21, with numbers of later migrants appearing. More than the usual number of shorebird reports were received, due no doubt to the prolonged drought which had exposed feeding and loitering areas for these birds.

Hawks are being reported in very low numbers for the second successive year in our area. There seems evidence of a drastic decline in the population of both migrating and breeding hawks encompassing all species excepting Sparrow Hawks and possibly Broad-winged Hawks in Region 8. This may be related to reported difficulties encountered by Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Comments on this subject from other observers would be appreciated.

Rare or unusual species reported during the period included Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Snow Goose, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, Goshawk, Black Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Caspian Tern, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; arr — arrived; BCM — Black Creek Marsh; br — breasted; ck — creek; com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; max — maximum; nr — near; pr — pair; Res — Reservoir; R — River; Nisk WW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; Sar — Saratoga; Sta — Station; thr — throated; W Res — Watervleit Reservoir; w — winged; Visch Fy — Vischer Ferry; Tomh — Tomhannock.

Observers: GB — Guy Bartlett; JHB, BB — James & Barbara Bush; JC — Juanita Cook; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; MFW — Mabel French; MK — Marcia Kent; HK — Mrs. Harry Ketcham; HM, MM — WN — W. Niefus; ER — Eleanor Radke; EMR — Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; ERus — Emmy Rusack; WBS — Walton Sabin; BRS — Benton Seguin; RS, MLS — Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; FS, MS — Fred & Myra Smilow; WS — Walter Smith; CT — Catherine Thorne; DJT — Donald Tucker; BW — Beverly Waite; PPW — Peter Wickham; TZ, MZ — T. & M. Zaph.

Loons—Ducks: Loon: arr Apr 13 at Sar L (SBC) and migrants were recorded through May 20 (BRS). Red-necked Grebe: an excellent migration, with at least seven records, Apr 7-27 (BRS). Horned Grebe: arr Apr 4 (BRS) and appeared in large numbers about Apr 20, max 70, Apr 22, Sar L (BRS); also 32, Apr 20, W Res (PPW, RS, MLS) and 25, Apr 21, Alcove Res (WBS); last May 12, Sar L (BRS). Pied-billed Grebe: reported passing through in small numbers. There are no definite reports of breeding birds for the second successive year. Double-crested Cormorant: Seven were at Sar L May 5 (BRS, GB). Common Egret: two at Stockport Sta May 13-14 (WN) the lone record. Cattle Egret: one was at Round L May 18 (SBC) but there was no major influx as occurred in 1962. Green Heron: appeared generally in late Apr and early May, first Apr 27 (HK). Bittern: followed a pattern similar to Green Heron, first Apr 20, BCM (WBS). There were no reports of Night-herons or Least Bitterns during the period. Canada Goose: good numbers moved through Region 8 until May 21 (ADBC). Brant: a flock of 700 nr Catskill May 16 (JHB) was decidedly unusual. Snow Goose: ten Apr 3, Nisk WW (PPW) the only report. Gadwall: two at W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) were unusual. American Widgeon: a few were reported through Apr, last Apr 27 (BRS). Pintail: reported until May 5 (GB, BRS). Green-winged Teal: last report May 19, BCM (WBS). Blue-winged Teal: first Apr 6, Stockport Sta (ADBC). Shoveller: two May 7, Stony Ck Res (BRS) the only record. Redhead: two records — four at Stony Ck Res Apr 13 (BRS) and six at Sar L May 12 (BRS). Ring-necked Duck: very common, max 80, Apr 7, Stony Ck Res (BRS), last May 5 (GB). Canvasback: more reports than usual, from Apr 4-24, max 30, Sar L, Apr 20 (BRS). Scaup: a late flock of six was at Sar L May 12 (BRS). Bufflehead: widely recorded during Apr, max 70, Apr 27, Sar L (BRS), last May 5 (GB, BRS). Oldsquaw: Apr 20 (PPW, BW) May 5 (GB, BRS). White-w. Scoter: one was at W Res Apr 20 (MLS, RS, PPW) and a flock was at Sar L May 5-18 (very late), max 10 May 15 (GB, BRS). Ruddy Duck: prs were observed at W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) and at Round L Apr 26-27 (GB, BRS); a group of six at Sar L May 12 (BRS) were also noted. Hooded Merganser: last May 18 (SBC). Common Merganser: common throughout Apr and early May, last May 15, Sar L (BRS). Red-br Merganser: Last May 5 (GB, BRS).

Hawks—Owls: all of the birds of prey, with the possible exception of Sparrow Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks, seemed unusually scarce. Turkey Vulture: only seven reports, six from Columbia Co. (ADBC). Goshawk: one was at Castleton on the late date of May 18 (JC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only three records, Apr 14-May 8. Cooper's Hawk: one record, BCM, May 4 (SBC). Red-Tailed Hawk: very few birds reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: only three known breeding prs, and no other records. Broad-w Hawk: widely reported after Apr 21 (WBS, GB, BRS). Rough-legged Hawk: an unusual concentration of at least 12 sitting in trees or on the ground as well as flying around was noted **within one mile** nr Argyle, Wash Co., Apr 13 (WBS). There were no other reports during the period. Marsh Hawk: only one record for May: it appears that the species will not nest in formerly usual breeding areas for the second successive year. Osprey: many appeared about Apr 20 and thereafter, last May 12 (GB, BRS). Peregrine Falcon: one Apr 19 nr Altamont (BW, MLS) the only record. Virginia Rail: first Apr 20, BCM (PPW, WBS); also recorded from Old Chatham and Hudson R marshes. Sora: only two records, both May 18 (SBC) for this formerly fairly common rail. Black Rail: one was seen May 18 at very close range at Vly Marsh, Catskill, and described quite convincingly (JHB). Com Gallinule: first Apr 21, Vosburgh (GCBC) and Apr 24 Nisk WW (PPW). Coot: no reports. Semipalmated Plover: one May 18, Nisk WW, (SBC) and one May 24, nr Troy (PPW et al). Black-bellied Plover: one May 19 on a golf course nr Voorheesville the only record (RS, MLS). Upland Plover: first Apr 21 nr Slingerlands (WBS); found in at least 4 other areas in May. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 22 (BRS) and widely the following week. Solitary Sandpiper: May 1 (JHB, BB) May 19 (WBS, PPW, DJT). Greater Yellow-legs: one Apr 13, very early, nr Argyle (WBS); others Apr 28-May 18 (SBC). Lesser Yellow-legs: one May 9 at Old Chatham (EMR). Pectoral Sandpiper: only one record-one; May 18, Kiskatom (GCBC). Least Sandpiper: many records, May 11-25. Dunlin: two May 18 (SBC) were unusual during the spring migration. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one May 13 (GB) the lone record. Great Black-backed Gull: appeared in large numbers,

especially of immature birds, until May 18 (SBC). Bonaparte's Gull: a brief stopover, Apr 20-27, max 8 W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) and 15 Sar L Apr 27 (BRS), with several other records during the week at reservoirs and larger ponds. Com Tern: first Apr 24 Nisk WW (PPW) and Apr 27, Sar L (BRS), max 17 May 11, Lock 7 (DJT, GB, BRS); last May 16 (BRS). Black Tern: May 5-16, max 10 May 12, Round L (BRS). Caspian Tern: one was at Basic Res. May 28 (RS, MLS). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: first May 5, Catskill (BB). Black-billed Cuckoo: first May 8 (JC, JHB). Both species of cuckoo seemed quite common, especially about May 15-20. Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls were recorded regularly. Barred Owl: reported from nr Schenectady (BRS), Altamont (BW), and Westerlo (MK) as well as in previously known locations. Saw-Whet Owl: one May 18, Old Chatham (EMR) was unusual.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: first May 2, Kiskatom (WS). Night-hawk: first May 18 (SBC); most birds appeared very late, and were still appearing in their usual haunts past the end of May. Chimney Swift: first Apr 19, Catskill (E Rus), but most appeared suddenly two to three weeks later. Ruby-thr Hummingbird: first May 4 (FS, MS) with a decided influx May 9-17. Red-headed Woodpecker: only one record; May 31, Athens (JHB, BB). Sapsucker: migrants reported to May 18 (SBC). Eastern Kingbird: first migrants appeared May 4, BCM (SBC) and May 5 (ADBC). Crested Flycatcher: first at Ghent May 5 (PE, GE) and at Loudonville May 7 (MWF). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one record, May 12, Burnt Hills (BRS). Traill's Flycatcher: first appeared May 12 in Greene Co (JHB) and May 19, Albany Co (WBS et al.). Least Flycatcher: first May 1, Catskill (JHB, BB) and May 2, Ghent (PE, GE). Wood Pewee: first May 18 (SBC) and many thereafter. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 11, Lisha Kill (BRS) was early; several others passed through May 22-30 (BRS, PPW). Bank Swallow: first Apr 20, BCM (PPW, WBS). Rough-w Swallow: first Apr 26 (GB). Barn Swallow: first Apr 14, Catskill (JHB) and Apr 16, Tomh Res (PPW). Cliff Swallow: first Apr 21, Alcove Res (WBS). Purple Martin: first Apr 19, Nick WW (BRS). Tufted Titmouse: widely reported well into May. It appears this species will be more common and more widespread this summer. Red-br Nuthatch: last migrants May 18 (SBC). Brown Creeper: last migrant May 19 (PPW). House Wren: first Apr 25 nr Voorheesville (RS, MLS); it appeared widely later in the month. Winter Wren: migrants Apr 3 (RS, MLS) May 4 (SBC); some birds breeding at higher elevations. Carolina Wren: one, singing persistently, at Old Chatham May 5 (PPW) the only record. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: late in appearing, first May 4, Catskill (CT) and May 12, BCM (GB, BRS). Short-billed Marsh-Wren: individuals were reported at Catskill May 18 (JHB) and at BCM May 18-19 (SBC). Mockingbird: reported from Hudson, Ghent, and Guilderland. Catbird: first Apr 21, Livingston (HM, MM), but appeared in most localities May 4-5 in a marked wave. Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18 at New Concord (ER) and Apr 20, Voorheesville (PPW). Wood Thrush: first Apr 28, Westerlo (MK) and Apr 30, Ghent (PE, GE). Hermit Thrush: first Apr 14, Old Chatham (ADBC). Swainson's Thrush: May 11 (SBC)-May 24 (MWF). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one May 12 at Sar L (BRS) the only record. Veery: first May 4, Catskill (BB) and May 5 (GB, BRS), somewhat later than usual. Bluebirds: about as common (or uncommon) as last year. Golden-cr Kinglet: last May 18 (SBC), quite late. Ruby-cr Kinglet: first Apr 6, Stockport Sta (SBC) and Apr 9, Nisk (PPW); most appeared Apr 19-May 13. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one was seen May 4 at BCM (SBC) and another (perhaps the same individual) less than a mile away May 5 (DJT). A pr was in Catskill May 5 and also May 18 (JHB, BB). It is not known whether these are nesting in the area. Pipit: a flock of 75-200 remained throughout Apr at Ghent (PE, GE) and the last birds were seen May 22. Cedar Waxing: a marked influx occurred May 4-5, and the species was seen throughout the region after these dates in abundance.

Vireo—Warblers: Yellow-thr Vireo: one Apr 29, nr Voorheesville (MLS) early. Solitary Vireo: first May 4 (SBC); migrants were observed through May 19 (PPW, WBS). Red-eyed Vireo: first Apr 29 (FS, MS) but most appeared after May 10. Philadelphia Vireo: one record, at Hannacroix May 18 (TZ, MZ). Warbling Vireo: first May 3 (ADBC); several were reported during the next few days. Spring arrivals of the warblers were as follows: Black and White: Apr 28, Ghent (PE, GE) and Apr

29, Voorheesville (RS, MLS). Worm-eating: very late, first May 16 (BW) nr Altamont. Many were still not on breeding grounds May 19, but did appear there by June 1 (PPW). Golden-winged: first May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT); many arrived later that week. Blue-winged: first May 6 (ADBC) with more than the usual number of reports from several different areas. Both Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids reported. Tennessee: May 12-22, many records. Orange-cr: one reported at Loudonville May 11 (MWF). The species is uncommon to rare in this region in spring. Nashville: first May 3, Rensselaer (PPW) was followed by a wave on May 4-5. Parula: only two records, May 6 at Voorheesville (BW) and May 13 at Slingerlands (WBS). Yellow: Apr 20, Ghent (PE,GE) and Rensselaer (PPW). Magnolia: May 5 East Nassau (PPW) and Columbia Co. (ADBC). Cape May: May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT) and in Columbia Co. (ADBC). Black-thr Blue: a marked wave May 3-5 reported by many observers. Myrtle: Apr 20, BCM (WBS, PPW). This species was widely observed Apr 21 and was especially abundant May 4, when over 200 were estimated in one small pine plantation nr Voorheesville (SBC). Last migrants May 19. Black-thr Green: first May 4, nr Voorheesville and E. Greenbush (SBC) and widely reported May 5. Blackburnian: relatively few reports, first May 5 (several observers). Cerulean: no migrants reported. The species had returned to a nesting area in Gollupville by May 18 (SBC). Chestnut-sided: arr in a marked wave May 4-5. Bay-breasted: May 5, Columbia Co (ADBC) early. Most passed through May 18-25.

Blackpoll: May 18 (GCBC), still passing through at end of May. Pine: Apr 20, Conaon (ADBC); many migrants observed May 5. Prairie: May 5, Greenville (HK). Palm: Apr 17, Catskill (JHB)-May 12, BCM (WBS). Ovenbird: several areas May 5. Northern Water-thrush Apr 27, Ghent (PE, GE)-May 19, BCM (PPW, WBS, DJT). In addition, one was singing May 30 nr Toborton, Renss Co (PPW). Louisiana Water-9-12 many arrived. Orchard Oriole: one, May 22, Catskill (JHB, BB); two, May 19, (PE, GE) where it has appeared several years in succession. Mourning: one May 13, Slingerlands (WBS). Common Yellowthroat: May 5, E. Nassau (PPW), several. Yellow-br Chat: a pr was at BCM May 12-19 (WBS et al.). Wilson's: May 5, Columbia Co (ADBC)-May 13 (GB), few records. Canada May 5 (ADBC), appeared widely May 10-13. Redstart May 4, BCM (SBC) and May 5 in many areas.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: first May 4, New Concord (ER). Baltimore Oriole: first Apr 29, Catskill (JHB) with a marked influx May 3-5. Rusty Blackbird: reported until May 4, BCM (SBC) with one late injured individual, Visch Fy, May 11 (GR, BRS). Scarlet Tanager: late, first May 6, Kiskatom (WS); during May 9-12 many arrived. Orchard Oriole one: May 22, Catskill (JHB, BB); two, May 19, BCM (WBS). Rose-br Grosbeak arr first week in May, first May 1, Ghent (PE, GE). Evening Grosbeak several lingered into May, last May 15, New Concord (ER). Purple Finch: quite common throughout period. Pine Siskin: common in Apr, lingering well into May, last May 18 (SBC). Red Crossbill a flock of at least 40 was observed at close range Apr 16 at Tomh Res (PPW). Towhee: appeared gradually through area during Apr, first Apr 1, Catskill (JHB). Grasshopper Sparrow: first May 9, Old Chatham (EMR). Henslow's Sparrow: first Apr 26, BCM (GB). Vesper Sparrow: heavy migration first week in Apr; a flock of 35 in northern Green Co, Apr 6 (WBS) outstanding. Slate-colored Junco: many noted, especially during Apr. Tree Sparrow last May 1, Castleton (JC). Chipping Sparrow: early, first Apr 4 (BRS) and Apr 6 (SBC). Field Sparrow: appeared widely about mid-Apr. White-cr Sparrow: very common, May 5-26, max 40 May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT). Another observer reported seeing seven in one brush-pile (WBS). White-thr Sparrow much less common than usual, first migrants Apr 5 (BRS) and recorded generally, but in low numbers the third and fourth weeks of Apr and into May. Fox Sparrow: several recorded, early Apr, no late date. Lincoln's Sparrow three reliable records: May 9, Wolf Hollow (BRS); May 12, BCM (WBS); and May 13, Loudonville (MWF).

Box 465A, R.D. 4, Troy

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The spring of 1963 was characterized by extreme dryness; one of the driest in the history of the weather bureau. Temperatures remained relatively normal with April being slightly on the cool side. Birdwise, the season, although not among the best, was far from some of the lean years we have been having. There were several warbler flights; the first (a small one) occurred on Apr 28-29, another occurred on May 4, and there was an excellent show on May 11 and 12. The last movement was recorded in Dutchess County on May 19.

This report will seem unbalanced for two reasons: one, the voluminous reports received from our Westchester and Dutchess County reporters, and two, the fact that two of our contributors from eastern Orange, upon whom your writer depends greatly, were unable to come thru this time.

Abbreviations used: First four letters of each county — ex. Rock — Rockland County; Mearns Bird Club — MBC; Sullivan Audubon Society — SAS; Waterman Bird Club — WBC; Maximum — max; Arrived — arr.

Contributors: Ba — Bob Augustine; RB — Robert Bowler; JB — Julius Breier; MB — Mable Brewster; EB — Elsie Brown; EBr — Eugene Brown; PC — Pauline Chernick; RD — Rosamond Davis; ID — Iris Dean; GD — G. Decker; RFD — Robert F. Deed; FG — Florence Germond; RG — Ruth Grierson; SOG — Stanley O. Grierson; TH — Thelma Haight; LH — L. Holmes; Dr.MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper; FH — Fred Hough; RJ — Ronald James; AJ — Alice Jones; J,MK — Jim & Mary Key; ML — Mable Little; DL — Dorothy Lloyd; JMa — Joseph Malone; HM — Helen Manson; JM — J. Mattson; PM — Peg Moon; BN — Bruce North; DN — Dorothy Nyce; RO — Ralph Odell; LP — L. Palmatier; VP — Vivian Parkhurst; EP — E. Pink; AP — Ann Piper; DR — D. Reid; WR — William Russell; HS — Herb Saltford; MS — Mike Shannon; DS — Dan Smiley; JS — James Southward; PS — Paul Spofford; RS — Ruth Steffens; W,DS — William & Dixie Straus; CT C. Terhune; MV — M. VanWagner; OW — Otis Waterman.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: Reported from most regions, first appeared on Highland Res Middletown on Apr 6, and is still resident and calling at the close of the period. The possibility of breeding is under investigation (BN). Pied-billed Grebe: Arr on schedule and in usual numbers. Great Blue Heron: Population appears to be normal. Green Heron: Arr Apr 21 in Sull (SAS), Apr 27 in West, (SOG), and Apr 29 in Dutch (AJ). **Cattle Egret:** One Apr 27 at Pine Plains, Dutch (LP). Common Egret: One at Katonah, West on May 8 (rare spring event) (RG). Black-crowned Night Heron: Uncommonly reported in the region, one Dutch May 11 (EP). Least Bittern: one May 11 Crugers Is, Dutch (only report) (AJ, MV). American Bittern: Three reports; one Apr 7, East Park, Dutch (JM); one Apr 18, Briarcliff, West (LH); one May 11 Basher Kill, Sull (MBC). Ducks: Reported as "meager" in Ulst and "conspicuous by their absence" in West. Mute Swan: Regular but local nesters in West and Rock; a pair, Apr 28, Wappingers Falls, Dutch (J, MK). Canada Goose: Nesting at Swift Pond, Dover Plains, Dutch. Again this year your reporter received records of large May flights of this species, and being a year older and much sassier, he feels that he must call them Brant which made a good showing this year. Strangely enough none came from Rock, but there were many reports from West, Dutch, and Ulst from mid-May on. Flocks were small compared with some years, with max flock about 1,000. Snow Goose: A flock of undetermined size heard over Hawthorne, West on the night of Apr 2 (BA); about 200 observed at Swift Pond, Dover Plains, Apr 3 (GD); one May 22 (late) at Pine Plains, Dutch (VP). Mallard, Black and Wood Duck: maintaining good numbers. Teal: Stragglers of both species remained in Dutch till the close of the period. Nesting never proved. American Widgeon: two males and one female wintered in Hawthorne, last seen May 11 (BA). Bufflehead: eight Byram Lake, Mt. Kisco, Apr 26, and 12 at Tarrytown May 11 (vary late) (RO). Scoter: Basher Kill Apr 14 (SAS). Numbers and species not mentioned, but probably were White-winged. Mergansers: Late dates in Dutch for both the Hooded and Common; the former, a female, May 4; and the latter, two birds May 11 (EP).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Population normal to good throughout the region. Accipiters: Only two Sharp-shinned reported Apr 13, Pleasantville, West (BA). Red-tailed Hawk: One nesting at North Salem, West Apr 16 (MS). Population normal throughout region. Red-shouldered Hawk: very few reports. Two in the vicinity of Crugers Is, Dutch during May, and another pair at Amowalk, West May 19 (BA). Broad-winged Hawk: Considerable movement between Apr 17 and 20. Resident population normal. Rough-legged Hawk: Last recorded at Pleasant Valley, Dutch on Apr 17 (AJ). Marsh Hawk: Very scarce, only four records, all from Dutch. Osprey: Sparingly reported, first over Kensico Res West, Mar 29. Pigeon Hawk: One, over Hawthorne Apr 20 (BA). Sapsucker Hawk: Reported in usual abundance in Dutch, but down in numbers in West. None reported from the latter county on their "big day". Ruffed Grouse: No noticeable change in population, numbers are good. Bobwhite: Two chicks were noted just after the close of the spring period on June 3 in Katonah, West on the property of Mrs. R. T. Barrett. Ring-necked Pheasant: Usual population throughout region. Virginia and Sora Rail: Appear more plentiful, widely reported throughout region. **Purple Gallinule:** A most unusual record of this bird at the home of Mrs. Carl Breuninger in Pound Ridge, West from May 13 to the end of the period. Common Gallinule: Widely reported throughout region. More reports than usual, probably due to better coverage with more people than ever in the field. Coot: No reports this spring. Killdeer: Usual population. Woodcock: Seem to be up in numbers over last year. Common Snipe: A flock of 12 at Mabbettville, Dutch on Apr 6 is an unusually high number (WBC); one was heard in courtship during the last two weeks of Apr at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SOG). Spotted Sandpiper: Arr Apr 28 at Tarrytown, West, but reported much later in Dutch. Solitary Sandpiper: Found in normal numbers on migration, but generally arr late throughout region. Yellow-legs: No change from previous years; the usual reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: A rare transient in spring, two reported from Dutch; one at Millbrook on Apr 29, and another on May 11 (EB, OW). Great Black-backed Gull: Now an uncommon summer resident on the lower Hudson; last reported from the mid-Hudson region of Dutch May 4 (WBC). Laughing Gull: commonly found on the lower Hudson in spring and summer, like the previous species is not common to the mid-Hudson area of Dutch; one May 4, Crugers Is (WBC); one May 11 Lithgow (HM). Black Tern: rarely reported in migration, and then mostly in the fall; one at Pleasant Valley, Dutch May 12 (J,MK) where it had been reported both in 1961 and 1962. Mourning Dove: Population reported normal throughout most of the region, but appears to be up in Putn. Cuckoos: Numbers of both species much higher than usual, especially the Yellow-billed; arr early in most areas. Owls: No particular changes in numbers for all species.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: New early date of Apr 3 for Rock (JB). Nighthawk: Few reports. Late in West, May 19 at Hawthorne (BA). Early in Dutch, two May 6 (HS). Chimney Swift: six, Dutch Apr 19 (earliest date ever). Hummingbird: Fewer than usual in West but populations seem normal elsewhere. Dutch had an interesting early date of a "beautiful male" at the home of Mrs. James Key's sister in Poughkeepsie on Apr 19. Although this is extra-ordinarily early, the species can hardly be mistaken. Kingfisher: No apparent change in population. Flicker: Usual numbers. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** A female in Standfordville, Dutch all winter, remained until May 2 (WBC); another of this species, Basher Kill, Sull Apr 2 through May 11 (MBC). Red-headed Woodpecker: Single birds reported from Salt Point, Dutch May 11 (CT, RD) and Lake Mohonk, Ulst May 15 (DS). Sapsucker: Scarce all season. Flycatcher: Most species seemed to be late in the West area, but were reported up in numbers throughout the region. Kingbird: Arr about on schedule the first week of May. Crested Flycatcher: Arr May 4 in Dutch and May 5 in West; majority arr after mid-May. Phoebe: Bob Deed reports them missing from many areas of Rock, but Otis Waterman reports the usual number in Dutch; early arrival date of Mar 9 at Purchase, West (PS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Always rare; one May 16 at Amawalk, West (RO); one May 19 at Thompson's Pond, Dutch (EP); one May 25 at Tamarack Swamp, Lithgow, Dutch (MV). Acadian Flycatcher: another rarity, one May 16 Amawalk (RO). Traill's Flycatcher: two May 12 at Crugers Is (RB), nests there annually; one May 30 Hawthorne (only other report) (BA). Olive-sided Flycatcher: unusual in any numbers in spring. This year there are four reports; a new early date for Oran of May 11 at

Fort Montgomery (Dr.MH); two in Harriman State Park on May 24 (Dr.MH); one at Elmsford, West on May 27 (JMa). Horned Lark: Apr 21. (late for Sull) at Divine Corners (SAS), could have been resident birds rather than migrants. Swallows: Heavy migration on May 11 for all species. Rough-winged: Arr Apr 13 Hawthorne (BA). Martin: reported as scarce in the Dutch region (WBC), normal elsewhere. Titmouse: Population continues to increase in the northern part of the region, where breeding occurred only in recent years. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two observed along the Hudson at Vandebaugh's Cove, Dutch from May 5 thru 16. A possibility of nesting, but no proof (WBC). Brown Creeper: A number of reports continuing into late May. The nesting occurrence of this species is probably much larger than heretofore expected. House Wren: Arr, late in most quarters; but early in Dutch; one Apr 21 (J,MK). Population better than in recent years. Winter Wren: one singing at Pine Swamp, Palisades Interstate Park May 24 (EBr); one Apr 13 Wappingers Falls, Dutch (OW); one May 11, nesting near Thompson's Pond, Dutch (WBC). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Late in arriving but numbers seem to be normal. Mockingbird: continues to increase in the region, but slowly. Occasionally, some birds are lost to certain areas, for example, the bird which has been at Hawthorne since Aug 23, 1962 has not been seen since Apr 16. An interesting report comes from Iris Dean of two birds establishing at Mt. Hope, Oran on Apr 18. The male was killed by a Red Squirrel whereupon the female disappeared for a day, only to reappear with another male. They remained only a short time and then moved elsewhere. This species appeared in at least three new locations in Dutch this year with breeding in two of them (WBC). Brown Thrasher: More numerous in Putn (ML); normal in numbers in Dutch (WBC). Earliest arrival Apr 18 in Dutch at Millbrook (EB). Robin: Lower in numbers in Putn, but generally normal elsewhere. Wood Thrush: normal arrival dates and numbers. Hermit Thrush: one, singing at Pine Swamp on May 24 (EBr). Swainson's Thrush: one, singing at dawn in South Nyack June 1 (RFD). Movement described as heavy through Dutch (WBC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one May 4, Amenia, Dutch (only report) (W, TS). Eastern Bluebird: Sam Phelps Jr. of Walden reports that disaster has struck all of the nine nests started in boxes, he provided near his home. Perhaps we can prevail upon him for an elaboration in a future edition's "Field Notes". WBC reports several houses in use which they provided. Species continues scarce. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: another southern invader which is making gains; reported from West May 11 (BA); a nesting pair May 11 at Pomona, Rock (RS); a pair near Blauvelt, Rock May 14; two pair Apr 17 Basher Kill, Sull (ID), it was previously reported there on Apr 14 by the SAS; May 4 saw two pair, one of which was building, in the Weyant's Pond area of the USMA at West Point, Oran (MBC); Dutch had one and possibly a pair at Crugers Is. from Apr 28 thru May 16 (WBC). Kinglets: Normal numbers and dates. Pipit: 50 Apr 5 at Moore's Mills, Dutch, (HM); one May 13 at Millbrook, Dutch (RD). Northern Shrike: Last autumn produced the earliest date on record, and this spring produced the latest with a bird at Divine Corners, Sull on Apr 12 (PC).

Vireos—Warblers: Mabel Little of Putn says that she is "encouraged by the increase in vireos over what seemed to be a down run lost year." Reports from Bob Deed in Rock and Otis Waterman in Dutch do not agree with this increase in their areas. Most species of vireos were late arriving in any numbers, and then they were generally lower. Philadelphia Vireo: Two reported from Dutch; one May 11 (WBC), and the other at Barrytown May 12 (RB). **Prothonotary Warbler:** one May 11 at Vassar College (J. MK). **Swainson's Warbler:** one reported by Mrs. Stanley Conyes of Croton Dam Rd. Ossining, but not verified. Golden-winged Warbler: arrival Apr 29, at Basher Kill, Sull (ID). Lawrence's Warblers: well reported in West. Two breeding localities known there (BA). Reported once from Dutch May 12 at Statsburg (DN, MB). Tennessee Warbler: more common this year. First May 7 at Hawthorne (BA). Orange-crowned Warbler: one May 12 at Barrytown, Dutch (RB); and another in Dutch the same day (DN, MB). Nashville Warbler: four in Palisades Interstate Park May 24 (Dr. MH); rather late if they were migrants. Cape May Warbler: unusually numerous. First reported by (MBC) in the Basher Kill area of Sull on May 11. Cerulean Warbler: five or six known nesting pairs in Dutch and the species were reported twice in West, and twice in Oran. This is more than usual. Blackpoll Warbler: first date May 5 at Harmon, West (JMa).

Pine Warbler: only report of this rare m'grant one at Armonk, West Apr 6 (DR).
Prairie Warbler: quite early date of Apr 29 in West. More reported this year than last. Northern Waterthrush: reports are down in numbers, one in Oran and two in Dutch. Kentucky Warbler: one May 6, Basher Kill (ID). Connecticut Warbler: two birds, one at Basher Kill, May 12 (PM); one observed by the students and brothers at St. Joseph's School, Barrytown on the same date. Mourning Warbler: one at Huguenot Swamp, Oran (no date given — ID); one at Statsburg, Dutch from May 18 to 23 (DN, MB); one at Katonah, West May 25 (WR). Chat: several reports; two nesting pairs in Dutch; one male at Cruger's Is. has a bright orange breast instead of yellow. Redstart: very plentiful.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: all records mid-May, less than last year in West, but normal elsewhere. **Orchard Oriole:** sparingly reported. Two pairs nesting in Ulst, one at Stone Ridge, and the other east of High Falls (FH). One pair nesting at New Hempstead, Rock (Dr. MH); and two individuals observed in Dutch, one Apr 30 at Poughquag (EB), and another by the boys at St. Joseph's School, Barrytown on May 12. Baltimore Oriole: seem to be more plentiful than ever. Grackle: numbers up even more than last year. Cowbird: same as former species, if that's possible. Scarlet Tanager: Mabel Little has recorded the arrival date of this species as May 5 in the Carmel area of Putn for the past ten years. This year the arrival date was May 7. Population seems to be normal throughout the region. Indigo Bunting: early arrival date of May 5 at Cross River, West (RG). Dickcissel: only one report of this rare accidental; that of a bird in Upper Nyack at the home of Dr. Marjorie Hopper throughout the day of May 9. Evening Grosbeak: no "possible breeding" reports this year so far. Late dates of May 6 at Monticello (PC), and May 16 at Katonah (AP). Purple Finch: a few undoubtedly nesting, usually reported throughout spring and summer. House Finch: fairly well established at Hawthorne, West, but merely visitors elsewhere. One resident in Rock from Nov 5-May 10 at the home of Dr. Marjorie Hopper in Upper Nyack. Three reports in Dutch; one Apr 12 at Rockdale (DL) and two males Apr 1 at Red Oaks Mill (J, MK). Pine Siskin: two May 11 (very late) at Stissing, Dutch (TH); and an extremely late date of May 18 for two at Katonah, West (AP). Rufus-sided Towhee: as common as ever. Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 11 (early) in the Neversink area, Sull (PC). As many as seven birds on the WBC census in Dutch on May 11. Vesper: late bird on May 24 at Long Mt. Circle, Bear Mt Park where it is not resident. A good spring population reported from Dutch. Slate-colored Junco: late birds reported from both Dutch and Sull, the former till May 11 at Pine Plains (LP); and the latter till May 22 at Neversink (PC). Tree: a most unusual record of two birds **May 11** in Dutch (JS). The find was not verified, but the observer was sure of himself. Chipping: arr May 4 (bit early) in Dutch and May 5 (early) in West. White-crowned: one observed at Poughkeepsie on Apr 7 may have been a wintering bird (HS). An early migrant was reported from the Neversink area of Sull Apr 18 (PC). White-throated: peak migration in Dutch not until the late date of May 21 (WBC). Fox: movement through the region was good; five Apr 19 (last) in Dutch (FG). Lincoln: unusually common in West; BA reports as many as six from May 9 to 12. Only other reports are of two birds from Dutch during the same period.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

Corrigendum: In the past your reporter has referred to the Basher Kill area as being in Orange County. It has been recently brought to his attention that it is on the Orange-Sullivan County line, with most of the area in Sullivan County. Records previously attributed to Orange County would more accurately be attributed to Basher Kill, Sullivan County.

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Several warm days in April started budding vegetation into leaf. There was little or no rain and several fires broke out in Staten Island and on Long Island, especially in the pine barrens, burning up hundreds of acres of pitch pines and scrub oaks, home of the Grouse, Pine and Prairie Warblers and other thicket-resorting birds. May came in warm; wet weather later took the threat of fire out of the parched woodlands and warm southerly winds prevailed. May 23 set an all time record for low temperatures and May 24 a near record. The month ended up pleasantly. Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles were present from the beginning of the period, and Grackles were gobbling young Robins at the end of the period in Seaford.

Large flights of Double-crested Cormorants flew east along the ocean front in late April and early May. Cattle Egret was comparatively rare this spring compared to 50 or more last year. There was a big flight of Northern and Red Phalaropes in the eastern bays and around Shinnecock Inlet estimated at 213 Red and 113 Northern, April 30 (D. Puleston, G. Raynor). Bluebirds are still scarce on eastern Long Island. There was a fair number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported this spring and spectacular news from Gilbert Raynor of the first Gnatcatcher nest for Long Island at Manorville, May 23, establishing this species as a resident here; also a nest was found May 24 at Noyack woods, north of Southampton (DP, GR).

Among warblers there was an abundance of the usually uncommon Bay-breasted on Long Island in some places dozens were seen May 19 and 21. Good warbler flights were noted May 11, 14, 19 and 21 on Long Island.

At Inwood (upper New York city) William Norse reported principal movement days as April 18, 22; May 4, 8-11, 14-15, 19, and 29-31. Completing migration reports, the spring sparrow migration was very poor, especially on Western Long Island. As to breeding: apparently the Brown Creeper has established itself, at least as an irregular Long Island nester, since the first nest was discovered nearly a decade ago near Smithtown by John T. Nichols, with a pair breeding this year at Yaphank, April 24 (nest not completed) and another pair carrying food at Sayville in mid-May (D. Puleston). Rarities included Purple Gallinule, Lower Westchester Co. in May (late); Swainson's Warbler, Bronx Park, N. Y. City, May 6 (G. Carleton) and Townsend's Warbler, Central Park, N. Y. City May 4 (I. Cantor).

Observers: AD — A. Dignan; JE — J. Elliott; EL — E. Levine; LLAS — Lyman Langdon Aud. Soc.; EM — E. Mudge; WN — W. Norse; DP — D. Puleston; GR — G. Raynor; CW — C. Ward; MW — M. Wheat.
Abbreviations: Jam B — Jamaica Bay.

Loons—Ducks: Loons: regular in migration, one or two reports of Red-necked Grebe; Cormorant flights regular; Gannets passed through rapidly. White Heron appeared very early with March and April records and Common and Snowies were on Jones Beach nesting ground in late April up to the end of the period. Several April Little Blue Herons reported; Louisiana Heron regular now in April, with one or two records from the middle of the month. Cattle Egret scarce, maximum two at Jam B, May 5 (WN), singles at Hewlett, May 12 (R. Sloss); same date Sayville (DP). The high count of Glossy Ibis was 29 at Jam B May 4 (WN, R. Fisher); four over Freeport, May 27 (CW). Ducks were down a bit in migration from other years. Gadwall apparently breeding at Jones Beach Sanctuary pond; there was a fair flight of ducks at Jam B with some to be reported later as nesting. European Widgeon and Common Teal, which were rather regular some two decades ago, are now apparently non-existent.

The Wood Duck is apparently breeding at Yaphank and Mill Neck. The large Scoter flocks usually seen in huge rafts in April at Jones Beach were missing.

Hawks—Owls: Rather rare were Accipiters among the Buteos, Broad-winged Hawk scarce in North Shore woods where plentiful a decade ago. Red-tailed Hawk: Hempstead, May 14 (CW); Red-shouldered at Wading River, May 11 (GR). There were a couple of records of Peregrine Falcon on western L.I.; Pigeon Hawk scarce;

Sparrow Hawk regularly resident. King Rail: Pelham, May 12 (WN); Sora, Jones Beach, May 5 (AD). No record of Black or Yellow Rails. Oystercatcher: Moriches, five, latter part of May (DP); three eggs May 26 (GR); chick out May 30 (DP). Golden Plover: two May 19 Northport (Mrs. E. McMullen). Upland Plover: seven on dairy farm, Apr 28 N. Sayville (DP, GR). Hudsonian Curlew: two at Moriches, Apr 27 (GR). Willett: Shinnecock, 20 on Apr 30 (GR). Besides the large flight of Phalaropes mentioned above there were several small flocks at Jam B (LLAS); 26 Northern Phalaropes and one Curlew Sandpiper, May 18, Short Beach, (EL); Wilson's Phalarope, in breeding plumage, Apr 27 and one or two other reports. Glaucous Gull: at Jam B, May 30 (WN, H. Johnson). Herring Gull: estimated at about 1,500 nesting at Captree, near Oak Beach. Laughing Gull: regular. Common Tern: appeared on time as did Least Terns, both were on nesting grounds at Jones Beach at end of period. Black Tern: one at Inwood, May 15, rare there (WN). Both Cuckoos fairly regular in north shore woods; one or two Barn Owls and Screech Owls resident. Great Horned Owl: several records, Upton, Noyack, three young seen (GR).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chimney Swift common this spring; Nighthawk rare on Long Island, one or two regular at Eastchester (Westchester Co.), late May (J. Elliott, Jr.). Among Woodpeckers there was a Red-bellied at Brookhaven, Apr 24-25 (DP). Red-headed Woodpecker: Jones Beach May 12 (CW). Crested Flycatcher: Seaford, May 15 (JE). Acadian Flycatcher: singing in Inwood, May 8 (WN). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Inwood May 18 (WN); Northport, May 26 (GR); Northport, May 15 (EM); Roosevelt, May 19 (CW).

Barn and Rough-winged Swallows arrived by mid-to late April and the first Purple Martin arrived at Manorville colony, Apr 13. Tufted Titmouse: several still present. Red-breasted Nuthatch very scarce. There was a late Winter Wren at Inwood, May 15 (WN). There were about a half-dozen Mockingbird reports over Western and Central L.I. The Veery was fairly common and now breeding on north shore. Bluebird continued scarce, with one at Manorville, Apr 5 and one at Upton, Apr 25. Besides the above mentioned nesting of Gnatcatchers, several were seen at Sayville in early to mid-May.

Vireo—Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: Oyster Bay, latter part of period (JE, MW). Several reports of Philadelphia Vireo. Warbling at Sayville and Huntington. Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers scarce. Worm-eating Warbler: one at Yaphank and one at Sayville (GR) May 11, one at Hempstead (CW) also on May 14 (AD). Golden-winged Warbler: two birds May 10, Sayville (DP), was the maximum; also an Orange-crowned at Yaphank, May 24, (DP). Cerulean Warbler: Sayville, May 16, four (max); male singing at Noyack May 24 (DP). Practically all the common warblers came through in good abundance, including Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Cape May and even the Tennessee, which was very gratifying compared to recent years. Yellow-breasted Chat: 10 at Northport, May 30 (EM). Kentucky Warbler, singing male at Inwood, May 14-15 (WN). Hooded Warbler: records from Sayville (DP), Hempstead, Massapequa (JE), Roosevelt (CW), all around mid-May.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Orchard Oriole, singles, Brookhaven, Apr 22 and Apr 26, also May 14 & 28 (DP, GR); Seaford, May 8 (JE). There was a fair flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and lingering Evening Grosbeaks to May 12 at Manorville. One speculates as to the effect of insecticides around our wastelands and the agricultural areas where wintering sparrows do much feeding. Could there be some relationship between this and the scarcity of our spring migrants which some years ago flooded the countryside, as last fall Roy Latham of Orient reported many dead Savannah Sparrows bordering fields which had been sprayed for aphids on brussels sprouts.

Late Tree Sparrow, May 5, Jones Beach (AD); a Lincoln's Sparrow, May 12 was reported at Hewlett (B. Berliner).

3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island

Note: All contributors in Region 10 will please, in the future, send their reports to Mr. Peter W. Post, 575 West 183d Street, New York 33. Mr. Post together with Mr. Guy Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, New York 25, will compile the seasonal regional report for The Kingbird.

Alice E. Ulrich



ELIZABETH INGLES, a frequent contributor to *Audubon Magazine*, was born in San Francisco, Calif. and reared on a ranch in the Sacramento Valley where, under the tutelage of parents interested in wildlife, she began to identify the many birds of the area and to study their habits. Majoring in biology at Chico State College, Mrs. Ingles became fascinated with the study of ecology, later writing a master's thesis in this field for an M. A. degree at Fresno State College. With her mammalogist husband and young son, she has traveled all over the United States, and to remote places in Mexico, Central America, and Canada and, last year, throughout the length of Africa to study the habits of the many interesting birds and mammals. Her hobbies, in addition to travel and the study of animal behavior, include hiking, camping, and writing nature articles. Formerly a high school biology teacher, Mrs. Ingles is currently dean of girls at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Fresno, California.

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