

# The **KINGBIRD**



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# The KINGBIRD

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

With the announcement of the selection of John L. Bull of Far Rockaway as permanent editor-author of the Birds of New York State, our state book project takes another important step forward. In John Bull the Federation has an eminently qualified author, an ornithologist of national repute who is the leading authority on the birds of the downstate area, one who has a solid grounding in taxonomy, distribution, and other pertinent areas, one who is familiar with the state as a life-long resident, and one who is an expert in the field identification of birds. Only one further preliminary step remains, albeit an all-important one, the raising of funds to provide the author with a two or three year fellowship while the work is in progress. The book committee is engaged in this effort at this time.

The appointment of an author does, however, signal the beginning of a fundamental and crucial task on the part of each of the member clubs of the Federation. For if the book is to be truly complete and authoritative, the author must have access to all the data available everywhere in the state, and it is to our member clubs that he must turn primarily for help. This is only logical, since our Federation was formed when organizations around the state banded together for the express purpose of gathering and exchanging information on the birds of our state, with the state book as one of our major objectives.

At this time, then, your President asks each club to begin (in many clubs it is well in hand) to implement ways in which information gathered locally may be made available to the author. In some areas this will be relatively simple: for the New York City area John Bull himself has just completed a comprehensive 600-page book incorporating all but the most recent information. In Buffalo, Harold D. Mitchell has nearly completed an up-to-date survey of the birds of the Niagara Frontier. Dr. Gordon M. Meade is in the latter stages of a study of the birds of the Adirondacks. These and other detailed area studies will be of enormous value in preparing our state book. But many other areas are presently lacking in such studies, and it is the local clubs on which the author must depend. Your President asks each club to review the following questions and suggests highest priority club action where the answers are negative.

1. Is there an up-to-date annotated list for the county or region covered by your club in its field work? Does it include maximum numbers, dates, observers, locations, and other vital data?

2. Has this list recently been published? Is it available to the author?

3. Is there a committee or member of your club responsible for maintaining such a list? Keeping it up to date? Publishing it?

4. Does your club have a Records Committee responsible for the verification and validation of all field reports submitted in your area?

5. Is there a State Book Committee appointed and active in your club to act as liaison state book with the author, to supply him with information as requested, data, lists, maps, censuses, etc. (See Arbib "The Common Loon in New York State" *Kingbird*, XIII, 3:134-140, (July 1963) for the types of data wanted for each species.)

6. Is your club at present engaged in that most wanted item of New York State bird knowledge, the breeding bird census of tracts of uniform habitat in your area?

In the many areas of the state not currently being covered by organized clubs, but in some cases by informal groups or by individuals, some of whom are individual members of the Federation, efforts should be made to initiate similar lists and surveys, so that every part of the state will contribute information to the final compilation.

In other words, we have a project, we have an author, we all have a job to do, and the time has come to get things rolling.

*Robert S. Arbib, Jr.*

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## WHAT CONSTITUTES BREEDING?

JOHN L. BULL

One of the most important aspects of the future New York State Bird book is the proper evaluation of data for breeding species. Although it may appear to be elementary to discuss criteria for breeding at this time, there has been an alarming trend to treat certain peripheral species as probable, or as definite breeders, even though an element of doubt exists in such cases. For example, there are a number of species which are expanding their ranges into "new" territory as breeding birds from the south, north, and west. Other species, common enough as breeders within their long-established range, are reported to breed in some instances well outside this range. Still others definitely established as breeders *once* in a given locality, are automatically assumed to be breeding on subsequent occasions when, in fact, actual proof is lacking. Most unfortunately these alleged breeding "records" are published as gospel truth, thus misleading the reader, the compiler, and the investigator. In many instances breeding is implied but not proved.

It is not identification of the species that is in question, but rather the evidence for breeding. Certain criteria must be adhered to, if we are to document breeding records properly. The following are criteria acceptable and unacceptable for breeding purposes.

ACCEPTABLE—(breeding proved, whether successful or not is immaterial)

1. Nest under construction or newly completed
2. Nest with eggs
3. Nest with young (altricial species)
4. Downy young out of nest (precocial species)
5. Newly fledged young being fed by parents

UNACCEPTABLE—(breeding not proved)

1. Singing male on "territory" (unmated bird)
2. Adult with enlarged gonads
3. Summering nonbreeders

The unacceptable category most frequently used as "breeding evidence" is number 3 — summering nonbreeders. In southeastern New York (Kingbird regions 9 and 10), the area most familiar to the writer, many species of water birds and not a few land birds remain through the summer, or spend a portion of it, without actually breeding. This category is too often

misinterpreted as a "breeding record". The following species, reported as having bred or probably bred in southeastern New York within the last two years (1962-1963) and published in the Kingbird and elsewhere, merely summered, or were reported on what was believed to be "unusually" early or late dates. These species most definitely were *not* proved to breed: Common Loon, (Orange Co.), Louisiana Heron, (Long Island), Red-bellied Woodpecker, (Putnam Co.), Olive-sided Flycatcher, (Westchester Co.), Red-breasted Nuthatch, (Westchester Co.), Cerulean Warbler, (Long Island), and Slate-colored Junco, (Westchester Co.). Note that all of these are peripheral nesting species in southeastern New York. Careful records should be kept for these and other species. Actual breeding must be proved, not implied.

In sum — it is of vital importance that breeding be proved. The presence of any species outside its usual breeding range in summer is not *per se* evidence of breeding, and is too often misinterpreted as such. It is the responsibility of the observer to report the actual facts, and not to assume breeding unless actually proved in the form of the criteria set forth. It is the duty of the regional compiler to ascertain the true and complete facts and to question dubious reports. Speculation as to probable or even possible breeding may be misleading to the reader and often leads to serious errors in print which become perpetuated. The evidence for breeding is directly proportionate to the rarity of a species — the rarer a bird, the more evidence required.

Finally, if the new State Bird Book is to present an accurate picture of breeding distribution and faunal changes, then a rigid policy of acceptance must be maintained.

*The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, New York 24*

NOTE: This paper delivered before the Federation meeting at Poughkeepsie on May 23, 1964.

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# THE OCCURRENCE AND FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF SMALL "BLACK AND WHITE SHEARWATERS" IN NEW YORK

PETER W. POST

The group of birds referred to here as the small "black and white shearwaters" consist of a number of geographical forms which are taxonomically extremely complex. Currently, most authorities recognize three species: the Manx or Common Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), the Allied or Little Shearwater (*P. assimilis*), and the Dusky or Audubon's Shearwater (*P. lherminieri*). All three are in turn divided subspecifically, although only one form of each species has been recorded in eastern North America: *P. puffinus puffinus*, *P. assimilis baroli*, and *P. lherminieri lherminieri*.

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957) records *P. lherminieri lherminieri* as being "casual on the Atlantic coast of Florida (from Cape Florida northward), South Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts (Martha's Vineyard)"; lists two North American records for *P. assimilis baroli*; and aside from the statement that *P. puffinus puffinus* breeds on Bermuda, only three North American records are listed: New York (Long Island), Newfoundland (St. Anthony; 60 miles east of Cape Race), and Greenland (Umanak).

In the past few years there have been a number of sight records and additional specimens of small "black and white shearwaters" from New York. This paper is an attempt to call attention to these records and to discuss the field identification of these birds.

The major difficulties that arise from the evaluation of sight reports results mainly from misleading statements in field guides [at least two recent reports of Audubon's from New Jersey, (Cutler, 1953; Russell, 1963) mention dark legs], the lack of experience of American observers with *any* of the three species, and probably, to a certain extent, from preconceived ideas of what should occur.

Because such authorities as Griscom and Snyder (1955:23) take the extreme position that "... in no case can sight records or photographs prove the species of so critical a group as the smaller shearwaters," many observers are reluctant to report these birds, and those that are reported are seldom published.

## Records of Small "Black and White Shearwaters" from New York:

- 1887, August 1. Great South Bay (opposite Bellport), Suffolk Co. Audubon's Shearwater. Captured alive by Capt. Joshua Ketcham (Dutcher, 1888). AMNH 64, 714.
- 1917, August 30. Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Suffolk Co. Manx Shearwater. Found dead by Henry Thurston (Dwight, 1923), AMNH 349, 273.
- 1938, July 24. Long Beach (near Point Lookout), Nassau Co. Audubon's Shearwater. Found dead, "after an extremely rainy week accompanied by southerly winds," by Ralph Lind and Robert Rorden (Lind, 1939). AMNH skeletal collection no. 4, 110. Although the date is listed as 24 July in the *Auk*, the date on the specimen label is 25 July.
- 1950, ca. September 5. Short Beach, Nassau Co. (Richard Ryan).
- 1951, July 31. Dix Hills, Suffolk Co. Audubon's Shearwater. Found dead along the Northern State Parkway by E. H. Costich. Tackapausha Museum alcohol collection.
- 1951, September 4. Cedar Beach, Suffolk Co. Audubon's Shearwater. Found dead by E. H. Costich. Tackapausha Museum skeletal collection.

- 1952, July 9. Gardiner's Bay (about one-half mile off Orient Beach) Suffolk Co. Flock of nine birds. (Alperin, 1953).
- 1955, ca. August 14. Marine Park, Staten Island (Richmond Co.). Audubon's Shearwater. "An exhausted individual sitting on the water just off the beach" after hurricane "Connie" (Casimir Redjives). Photographed in color (figure 1).
- 1957, May 25. Rockaway Beach, Queens Co. (Geoffrey Carleton and Pauline Messing).
- 1957, June 1. Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co. (Paul Buckley and Neal Smith).
- 1957, June 14-20. Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co. (Paul Buckley, Christopher McKeever, et al).
- 1958, ca. August 10. Jones Beach, Nassau Co. (Walter Sedwitz).
- 1959, ca. May 31. In the vicinity of Ambrose Lightship (Henry Ryan).
- 1962, May 27. Five miles southeast of the Jones Beach tower, Suffolk Co. Manx Shearwater. Photographed in color by Peter Post and Norman G. Levine (figures 2 and 3).

Of the fourteen records listed above, five are specimens (one Manx and four Audubon's), two are photographic records (one Manx and one Audubon's), and seven are sight records. Because of the difficulties, already mentioned, in the evaluation of sight reports, most descriptions are useless. Further, in many cases there is virtually no description other than that which identifies the bird as a small "black and white shearwater."

The birds seen by Alperin and H. Ryan were not identified as to species. Alperin, however, writes: "the flight . . . was not typical of the larger species; [there was] frequent flapping."

The bird observed by Carleton and Messing, originally reported as a Manx (Nichols, 1957:328) was later retracted as not being positive (Anon., 1959). Recently, however, Carleton became convinced that the bird was indeed a Manx. He distinctly remembered the extensive amount of black on the cheeks, but was not aware that this was a distinctive point until demonstrated on museum specimens. Post et al also observed this same point: "the black cap blended into the white cheeks." Buckley, R. Ryan, and Sedwitz (who has had previous experience with Audubon's) also believed the birds they saw to be Manx Shearwaters

Both Buckley and Post reported the size to be about two-thirds that of the accompanying Sooty Shearwaters (*P. griseus*). The bird seen by Sedwitz was smaller than the Sooty it was with, or about two-thirds the size of a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

All the observers believing the bird(s) they saw to be Manx mentioned that the flight was as in the larger shearwaters: "sail and bow like the large shearwaters, then several flaps. Fast" (Carleton); "similar wing beat as Sooty . . . had the flap and sail of the larger shearwaters" (Sedwitz); "flew like the Greater Shearwater (*P. gravis*) although it flapped more often" (Buckley; the Mecox bird); "regular pattern of flapping and sailing . . . several shallow, stiff winged flaps and a sail. Extremely fast. Wide ranging" (Post).

Buckley (the Mecox birds) and R. Ryan reported bright pink legs and feet. Post observed that the individual he saw had flesh colored legs (as in a Herring Gull), while the webs were bright pink.



The Shinnecock bird, observed by Buckley, was "wholly black above." Carleton reported essentially the same: "almost black above." The bird seen by Buckley, at Mecox, and the one seen by Post, off Jones Beach, however, were under observation for a considerable period of time, at extremely close range, and in bright sunlight. At a distance they appeared very black and white, but at close range the upperparts appeared "tinged" with brown.

Buckley reported that the undertail coverts of the Mecox individual were white, while in the Shinnecock bird they appeared dark. The Mecox bird was noted to be proportionately long winged.

It should be noted that four of the sight records fall within the period 27 May to 20 June. An analysis of all specimen records of Manx and Audubon's Shearwaters, from the western North Atlantic (Post, in preparation) strongly suggests that any small "black and white shearwater" occurring in the northeastern United States before July is almost certainly a Manx. The latter species is now apparently of rare, but regular occurrence in New England waters. Six "black and white shearwaters" collected in Massachusetts, during August and September, between 1950 and 1957, were all Manx (Snyder, 1958).

#### FIELD IDENTIFICATION:

The following is based largely on Murphy (1936), Witherby (1940), Palmer (1962), an examination of specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, the writers experience with *P. puffinus puffinus* in life, and various photographs. Warham (1958) published an excellent series of photographs of the western Australian subspecies of the Little Shearwater (*P. assimilis tunneyi*), including a flight shot. A photograph of the Madeiran form, as well as excellent photographs of the Manx Shearwater, can be found in Lockley (1947). A photograph of an Audubon's Shearwater appears in Bent (1922).

Although the Little Shearwater is not known to have occurred in New York, it has occurred twice in North America — South Carolina, and Nova Scotia. Because of this and the distinct possibility that this species may occur in state waters, any discussion must take this form into account.

Only those races that have actually occurred in North America are described. The brown-backed, dark under tail covered Belearic race of the Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus mauretanicus*) travels through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic and up European coasts into the North Sea in late summer, and is a possibility in American waters. A discussion of the field identification of this form (including a sketch) is given by Nicholson (1952).

*Manner of Flight:* The flight of each of the "black and white shearwaters" is distinctive and probably constitutes the best way to tell them apart in the field. It is extremely difficult to visualize differences in flight, however, from verbal descriptions, unless one is familiar with the species in life. Judging by flight alone, upon seeing an unfamiliar petrel for the first

time one frequently cannot be sure which species is involved, unless one has had some previous experience with its similarly patterned counterpart.

The flight of all the species of shearwaters found in the North Atlantic is a function of size; the smaller the bird, the more flapping or fluttering, and the more rapid the wing beat. Statements such as those found in Peterson (1947:246) that the Manx flies more like the larger shearwaters while the Audubon's flaps much more, although true, are misleading, as the former species has a much more rapid beat than the larger shearwaters occurring in the North Atlantic.



**Figure 1**

**Audubon's Shearwater.** Marine Park, Staten Island, New York. ca. 14 August 1955. Note the large amount of white on the head and in front of the eye, relatively long and massive bill, and short wing. (reproduced from an ektachrome transparency).



**Figure 2**

**Manx Shearwater.** Five miles southeast of the Jones Beach tower, Suffolk, Co., New York. 27 May 1962. Note the relative long wings and short tail, almost pure white underwing, breast and belly, largely white flanks and under tail coverts, and light colored legs. (reproduced from an ektachrome transparency).



Figure 3

The same bird pictured in figure 2. Note the great extent of black on the head, and the large bill. (reproduced from an ektachrome transparency).

long wings, short tail

dark extends well below eye

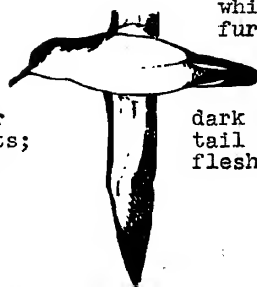


white under tail coverts; flesh feet

sharply black & white

MANX

short wings long tail



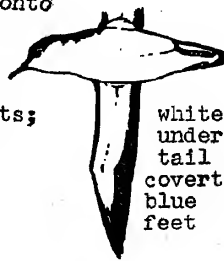
white extends further onto head

dark under tail coverts; flesh feet

upperparts browner than other two--not as clean cut in appearance

AUDUBON'S

short wings short tail



white under tail coverts; blue feet

sharply black & white

LITTLE

Figure 4

Drawing of *P. p. puffinus*, *P. l. herminieri*, and *P. a. baroli*; illustrating their distinctive differences in the field.

The flight of the Manx Shearwater may be described as rapid gliding on rigid wings, held straight or slightly bent, alternately flashing black above and white below as the bird careens "... from side to side, now skimming the water for fifty yards with one wing-tip; then rising to about ten feet above the surface, beating its wings once or twice or thrice to gather momentum, then skimming the sea for a similar distance with the other wing down" (Lockley, 1947:15, and other sources). Their flight is more mobile than the larger shearwaters (Bourne in Palmer, 1962:189).

The flight of the Audubon's Shearwater has been most aptly described by the person whose name the species bears: "... they flap their wings six or seven times in succession, and then sail for three or four seconds . . . On approaching a mass of weeds, they raise their wings obliquely, drop their legs and feet, run as it were on the water, and at length alight on the sea . . ." (Audubon, 1835:620). Their wings are flapped very rapidly in flight and there is "... much wheeling and fluttering in calm air . . ." (Bourne *in* Palmer, 1962:199).

During flight the Little Shearwater's "... wings beat very rapidly, almost whirr, during flutter so that it hurtles through [the] air almost like a small auk" (Bourne *in* Palmer, 1962:195), the "... impression given being one of great haste, but little speed . . ." (Lowe *in* Witherby, 1940:48). As in the Audubon's this bird sometimes drops its feet and "runs" on the water (Tucker *in* Witherby, 1940:49).

The flapping or fluttering of these birds varies to a certain extent with weather conditions. In calm air the Manx Shearwater has a "rather fluttering flight." Under stormy conditions the Audubon's and Little Shearwaters may bank and glide as the large shearwaters; but their wings beat much more often.

*Color of Plumage and Soft Parts:* In flight, the Manx and Little Shearwaters appear very black and white. Audubon's Shearwater shows less contrast as the upperparts are a "rich dark brown." With wear, however, the upperparts of the Manx and Little Shearwaters take on a brownish hue; this is never as marked as in Audubon's and in the field shows only in good light and at close range.

The inner webs of the primaries in the Little Shearwater are white, and according to Bourne (*in litt.*) this character shows in flight. In the Manx and Little Shearwater the primaries are fully dark.

In general the under tail coverts of the Manx and Little Shearwaters are white and extend almost to the tip of the tail. The under tail coverts of Audubon's Shearwater are brown; in flight the whole underside of the tail, therefore, appears black, and the white below appears nearly restricted to the belly.

In the Manx Shearwater the dark of the cap extends well below the eye, blending into white at the level of the gape (in the field, however, this may appear sharply demarcated). In the Audubon's and Little Shearwaters the amount of white on the face is much more extensive; the dividing line with the dark cap passes through the eye.

The outer side of the tarsus and outer toe, on all these birds, is black. The remainder of the leg and foot in the Manx Shearwater is "whitish flesh"; "flesh" in Audubon's; and "lavender" in the Little Shearwater (following the color standard in the *Handbook of North American Birds*). The statement in Peterson (1947:246) and in Peterson, Mountfort, and Hollom (1954:292) that the foot color of the Audubon's Shearwater is "dark" and not "pink" is an error. This error is also found in Pough (1951:15). He gives the foot color of the Audubon's as "slate-blue." Eckelberry's plate of this species, however, in the same book, depicts the foot color correctly.

It is important to emphasize the amount of individual variation in this group of birds which makes the use of plumage characteristics uncertain. This is probably the basis for Gordon's statement that an examination of specimens "... indicates that the color of the under tail coverts is not a reliable character for distinguishing these species from one another" (1955:140). *P. puffinus puffinus* also shows much individual variation in the amount of mottling on the cheeks and underparts. In general, however, the plumage characters are useful, especially when taken in combination with flight, proportions, etc.

*Size and Proportions:* In flight, the Manx Shearwater appears about two-thirds the size of a Sooty Shearwater; Audubon's Shearwater about one-half the size of a Sooty; and the Little Shearwater slightly larger than a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*).

The Manx Shearwater is a proportionately long winged and short tailed bird; Audubon's Shearwater is proportionately shorter winged and longer tailed; and the Little Shearwater is proportionately short winged and short tailed.

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS

At a meeting held in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, in July 1962, W.R.P. Bourne, R. A. Falla, R. C. Murphy, and D. L. Serventy, four of the world's experts on oceanic birds, examined the photographs presented herein. They all agreed that figure 1 is an Audubon's Shearwater, and that figures 2 and 3 are a Manx Shearwater. Recently, Bourne has kindly re-examined the photographs at my request. His comments follow below.

It will be useful at this point to say a few words on the taxonomy of these forms. The small "black and white shearwaters" fall into two groups, which, depending on one's taste, can be treated as a single species or as a superspecies. Currently, most authorities treat the big ones as a single species and the small ones as two. This is the arrangement followed in the *Handbook of North American Birds*. Because they show exact parallel types of variation, Bourne (*in litt.*) now feels "inclined to regard each group as a single species with two well marked groups of races." Further:

"I would now urge that the Little and Audubon's Shearwaters should be combined under the name "**assimilis**" instead of being treated as two species. Both the big Manx Shearwaters **P. puffinus** and the small Little Shearwaters **P. assimilis** can then be treated as having two distinct groups of small, black-backed, very white bellied cool-water races **P.p. puffinus** and its allies, and **P.a. assimilis** and its allies; and large, brown-backed, less white-bellied warm-water races **P.p. opisthomelas** and its allies and **P.a. lherminieri** and its allies."

With this in mind Bourne proceeds to identify the flight shots. The "rather long bill" rules out the small black-backed, white bellied members of the *P. assimilis* group, while the relatively long wings and general proportions place it in the *P. puffinus* group. The "... almost pure white underwing, breast and belly, and largely white flanks and under-tail-coverts ..." suggest one of the black-backed, white bellied members of the group. "In the North Atlantic presumably the typical Manx Shearwater *P.p. puffinus* itself, since the Mediterranean races should show more marking on the flanks and under tail coverts. This agrees pretty well with the geographical probability in any case."



Similarly, Bourne identifies the photograph of the sitting bird. The amount of white on the side of the head and in front of the eye and a "shorter wing than is usual in the big Manx Shearwaters" place it in the Little Shearwater group. The "bill . . . is relatively long and massive for the small, black-backed northern races . . . which suggests it may be one of the big, brown-backed tropical populations of the group. In the North Atlantic this presumably means 'Audubon's Shearwater' *P. (assimilis?) lherminieri*, which again agrees with the geographical probability."

Bourne concludes by stating:

"It is of course difficult to be completely certain about this sort of record if proper notes of the bird were not made at the time; but, if these notes are available I should think that these identifications while no means perfect (they seldom are at sea) could be regarded as **established beyond reasonable doubt**" (emphasis mine).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to thank Casimir Redjives, for figure 1, Norman G. Levine, for figures 2 and 3, Guy A. Tudor, for figure 4, and John L. Bull, for drawing my attention to the two Audubon's Shearwaters in the Tackapausha museum. W.R.P. Bourne was especially helpful. In addition to identifying the photographs he made several suggestions some of which I incorporated into the final draft. Last but not least, Dean Amadon, of the American Museum of Natural History permitted me to examine specimens in his care. Finally, I wish to thank all the observers who contributed their observations.

575 West 183 Street, New York 10033

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## ARTIFICIAL NESTS FOR CLIFF SWALLOWS

CARLETON A. STURDEVANT

One May morning in 1939, as I came from the barn to the house, I heard a peculiar grating and squeaking noise. Following this sound, I found a pair of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) just starting to build a nest not more than fifteen feet from the ground under the eaves of the woodhouse.

As I had not seen any of these birds locally for nearly twenty years, I watched them building a nest. Because of the new paint on the house, the mud did not stick and on the second day the nest, now one-third finished, cracked loose and fell to the ground. The birds immediately started rebuilding and out of pity I drove three nails into the house for nest support. This proved successful and by late July the young had been raised and left the nest.

In the spring of 1940, five pairs of swallows returned and with the aid of more nails, these birds built nests and had a successful nesting season. At this point I thought of the idea of making artificial nests for Cliff Swallows. I talked to Mr. Charles Spiker and Mr. Verdi Burch. Both of these men, now deceased, were skeptical but thought the experiment worth trying.

From carefully removed mud nests, I made many measurements as to size of entrance opening, depth and width of nest cavity and general form. Attempts at making removable molds failed regularly, for in spite of greasing and oiling, the woodfiber plaster would stick to the wood forms and during attempted removal of the cores, the nests broke. At this point, as I nearly gave up, the idea came to my mind of using sponge rubber for a core and covering the outside with woodfiber plaster applied with a putty knife.

After fashioning a form to make the indentation for the wood cover and placing this form on top of the rubber core, I inverted everything, placed it on a board, made two ears out of a metal strap for holding the finished nest up to the eaves, fastened these to the base board in such a way that their ends would be imbedded in the plaster. Then I proceeded to cover the core with about one-half inch of plaster, smoothing this off with the putty knife. When the plaster was dry I removed the screws holding the metal ears to the board. This allowed me to pick up the nest, remove the wood form that made the indentation for the wood cover, and pull out the sponge

rubber core. I then held in my hands the first artificial Cliff Swallow nest. All had gone well with the exception that the plaster had gone into the sponge rubber and when the core came out some of the rubber was torn off. After that I put a paper napkin over the rubber core. This kept the plaster out of the sponge rubber and also made the inside of the nest smooth.



**Sections of Artificial Cliff Swallow Nests**

All this experimentation in the manufacture of the nests had taken up considerable time, winter was over and spring had arrived. The Cliff Swallows were back and starting to build again. I made twelve nests as fast as the plaster would dry. Then one morning I knocked down the partly finished mud nests and put up the plaster nests. The swallows were greatly excited by my actions. To my great surprise and joy in a few minutes, the swallows were going in and out of the nests just as if they had been using them for years. It was complete acceptance. No further attempts were made to rebuild the mud nests as long as there were enough of the plaster nests to go around. I then made up twelve more of the nests. This made twenty-four in all that I had under the eaves of the woodhouse. I made up another twelve nests and put these under the eaves of the barn. The next year all nests were inhabited. By this time the war was on and I found less and less time to build nests. But the colony of Cliff Swallows kept growing and as it grew, more and more mud nests began to appear. The best I could do was to put up wood strips under the eaves of the barn to give the swallows a better support for their nests. I also supplied them with a good mud-puddle near the barn to furnish a ready supply of clay and water.

Under my banding permit since 1941, I have banded more than 3000 of these birds. With the use of the plaster nests it has been very easy to make many very interesting observations that otherwise would have been

very difficult to make. Parasite control is much easier for the plaster nests are quite smooth. The nests may be taken down each spring and cleaned before the swallows arrive.

This experiment gave me the opportunity to study the life of these birds from the egg to the time the young leave the nest. All I had to do at any time was loosen two screws turn the nest a little, take it down, lift the lid and look in. I could then see the type and amount of material on which the eggs were resting, watch the rate of growth of the young birds, see the plumage develop etc. With the help of my good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Lerch of Penn Yan, R D #5 and the use of their mist nets I have been able to come to some conclusions as to the longevity of these birds. Two were netted last year that I banded eight years ago. The use of the mist nets gave me some idea as to the number of birds that return to their old nesting place. Most of the returns have been local in nature. Two, however, were of great interest to me; one nestling Cliff Swallow which I banded June 25, 1950 was found entangled in telegraph wires at Bon Retiro, Santa Caterina, Brazil, South America on January 20, 1951 and the other nestling I banded June 19, 1955 was found dead January 13, 1961 at Municipio de Salesopolis, Casa Grande, Estacao Biologica de Boraceia, Poco Preto, Estade de Sao Paulo, Brazil. These returns lead me to believe these birds move around a bit.

Over the years, as my colony has increased in numbers, other small colonies have started in the neighboring countryside. The growth of these colonies is greatly dependent upon the amount of protection and help given them. House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) are their worst enemies. All in all, I think it has been a very interesting and successful experiment and is another example of how birds are willing to cooperate with man, if proper protection and encouragement is offered. Prattsburg



**Artificial Cliff Swallow nests under the eaves of the woodhouse**

A NEW HISTORIC LANDMARK  
LILLIAN C. STONER



**John Burroughs — The Naturalist**

A new historic landmark is of interest to all of us in the State of New York because it honors the memory of one of our well-known naturalists: namely, John Burroughs.

While we have two clubs in the Federation which include the name Burroughs in their name, perhaps other members of the Federation have neither known about nor read any of the 27 books which were written by this famous naturalist who lived for 84 years from April 3, 1837 to March 29, 1921.

Woodchuck Lodge is the name of the farm house where John Burroughs was born and died. It is located two miles from Roxbury, New York in Delaware County and some 45 miles west and south of the town of Catskill.

The Roxbury Club, that has over 60 members and which as yet is not one of our member clubs, issued invitations for a one-thirty afternoon meeting on Saturday, September 28, 1963. The purpose of this meeting was the formal presenting ceremony in which Woodchuck Lodge was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Some 200 of us, from widely scattered areas, who attended this eventful and historic outdoor meeting, either stood about or sat on the few chairs in the yard facing the house. Here, we could hear, by means of a loud speaker the program which was presented from the little front porch of Woodchuck Lodge.

The presiding officer Herbert Van Valkenburgh, President of Roxbury Burroughs Club, first called on Elizabeth Burroughs Kelley, an author, who gave reminiscent stories about her Grandfather. She also spoke of some of



the difficulties he had in driving the Ford car which Henry Ford had given him. While he had no bad accidents, he blamed the car when it wandered to the side of the road toward the ditch as he paid more attention to the natural history of the surrounding area than to his driving.

Biographers tell more of his other famous friends: namely, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt.

The next speaker, the late Dr. Albert B. Corey, State Historian from Albany, called attention to the Bronze Plaque that had been placed at the entrance to Woodchuck Lodge.

Dr. Sydney Bradford, National Public Service Representative from Washington, D. C. presented the certificate signed by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and C. L. Worth, Director of National Park Service.

Both Plaque and certificate have similar wording: —

“WOODCHUCK LODGE  
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A  
REGISTERED NATIONAL  
HISTORIC LANDMARK  
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
HISTORIC SITES ACT OF AUGUST 21, 1935  
THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE  
IN COMMEMORATING AND ILLUSTRATING  
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1963”

E. Wilson Burroughs, John Burrough's grandnephew and the present owner of Woodchuck Lodge, accepted the plaque and the certificate.

Among the people introduced from the audience was William G. Fennell, President of John Burroughs Memorial Association. This organization with headquarters in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City received the property known as the John Burroughs Memorial Field, on July 28, 1947 from Clara Ford, the widow of Henry Ford. They had maintained this 3.45 acres, that includes the Naturalists' grave, which is in a walled-in area near the big rock called John Burroughs' Boyhood Rock, but does not include Woodchuck Lodge.

After the program guests walked up the hill for a brief service at John Burroughs' burial plot. The tree covered Catskill hills and hollows as seen from either the hilltop or Woodchuck Lodge was an especially colorful sight in the fall season.

A 1964 bill about the transfer of ownership of the John Burroughs Memorial Field in the New York State Legislation, had a favorable reception in The Senate, The House and the Committee on Finance and with the official signature of Governor Rockefeller, it was released on April 23, 1964. This means that the Memorial Field of 3.45 acres is to become the property of the State of New York for historical and educational purposes. It is a gift from the above named John Burroughs Memorial Association and it is to be

administered by the Historic Sites Division of the State Education Department.

Much credit for completion of many years of work on this project goes to Mrs. T. Howard Smith, one of our Federation members who was the first president of the Roxbury Burroughs Club and now is their Corresponding Secretary.

Visitors who have registered in recent years numbered over 1000 for each year and have come from many states and some foreign countries.

Perhaps some of our members would be interested in attending the meeting this fall on September 26 at Woodchuck Lodge. Other visiting dates can be arranged with Mrs. Blanche Burroughs, Prattsville, N. Y. They then could see the tables and rocking chair made by the naturalist as well as the woodchuck rug on the floor and the many clippings and pictures on the walls. The following brief directions may help in locating the place. The town Grand Gorge at the junction of routes 23 and 30 is 38 miles west of the town of Catskill and six miles north of a side road which takes you 2½ miles west to Woodchuck Lodge and John Burroughs Memorial Field.

So we see that this eventful meeting of September 28, 1963 and the new 1964 signed bill has resulted in the new historic landmark at the summer home of John Burroughs and for permanent protection for his last resting place.

It seems worthy to note to have a Naturalist's home and burial place receive State and National recognition. I believe this is the first or at least one of the first to be so recognized in our state. We, Federation of New York State Bird Club members, can be proud that one of our outstanding Naturalists in New York State has been so honored, and that Woodchuck Lodge as noted on the plaque, "possesses exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States."

399 State Street, Albany

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#### MINUTES OF THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

The 17th annual meeting of the Council of the Federation, held at the Poughkeepsie Inn at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was called to order at 9 A.M. on May 23, 1964 by the President, Mr. Robert Arbib. 36 delegates representing 27 clubs answered the roll call.

A welcome to Poughkeepsie by Mrs. Homer Germond, President of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, was heard.

Minutes of the 1963 Council meeting were approved as read. The report of the Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, was approved. The President read the report of Mr. Jerome Kerner and Mr. Edward R. McBride, Auditors; it was approved. The Treasurer's interim report to date was read.

Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Corresponding Secretary, reported that the annual letter announcing the Federation meeting had been sent to members in accordance with the by-laws.

Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich, *Kingbird* Editor, said that she had no report, that she would let the *Kingbird* speak for itself. She asked for more reports from areas in the State where there are no clubs. Also she requested receipt of

correct addresses of individual members and club officers by the 20th of June, for printing in the *Kingbird*. President Arbib commented on the fine regional-report coverage in *Kingbird*. Mrs. Ulrich was given a vote of thanks, as was Mr. Allen S. Klonick, Business Manager of the *Kingbird*.

Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., Chairman of the Publications and Research Committee, reported the completion by Guy Bartlett of his *Ten-Year Index* to the *Kingbird*. Copies of the index at \$1.00 can be ordered through Dr. Reilly at the State Museum in Albany.

The State Book Committee report was given for Dr. Gordon Meade, Chairman, by Mr. Arbib, Acting Chairman. A sample species writeup (Common Loon) appeared in the July 1963 *Kingbird*. The Committee voted to approve the appointment of John Bull of Long Island as editor of the State Book. Mr. Bull's qualifications include numerous publications, among them *The Birds of the New York Area*, soon to be published by Harper and Row. Lists of possible sources of funds for financing the State Book have been compiled.

Of the *Kingbird* Finance Committee there was no report. It was announced that Mr. Monte Ghertler, Chairman, had obtained three new advertisers for the *Kingbird*.

The Bulletin Exchange Committee plans to send the member clubs a questionnaire about their bulletins and possible interest in exchange, Miss Elizabeth Manning, Chairman, reported.

In lieu of a formal report, Dr. Sally Hoyt, Chairman of the Bibliography Committee, described the work of this committee. It attempts to assemble lists of any publications referring to New York State ornithology. Each year, this bibliography, for the preceding year, is published in the *Kingbird*.

Mrs. Ulrich reported for Mr. John Mitchell, Chairman of the Waterfowl Count Committee, on the waterfowl census of 1964. 255,138 individuals were tallied by the ground count, and 202,670 by the aerial count. The aerial count confirmed the ground count as to species, except that the former did not list the Black x Mallard hybrid.

In his President's report, Mr. Arbib thanked the officers and committee chairman for all their work. He noted, because of his sudden and sad taking over of the office, that there should be "standard operating procedures" worked out for each officer's and chairmans' job, and made the specific request that this be done. 27 clubs represented at the meeting is excellent, Mr. Arbib commented. He reported that the goal of more individual members is being worked toward. He announced that the John J. Elliott Memorial Committee had been organized at the President's behest, and would be reported on later. With the State Book coming along, many more breeding bird counts are needed, he observed. Finally, the President announced that he had Federation stationery available for any officer or committee chairman with a legitimate need of it.

A motion was passed that Guy Bartlett be commended on the *Kingbird* index. Mr. Klonick observed at this point that there should be more work on getting the *Kingbird* into county library systems as well as into more college-level libraries.

After a coffee break, new business was taken up.

Mr. Walton Sabin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1965: President, Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Mamaroneck; Vice-President, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Fredonia; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frederick Marsi, Binghamton; Recording Secretary, Miss Margaret S. Rusk, Syracuse; and Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello. This slate was elected.

The Nominating Committee extended its appreciation to Mrs. Stoner, outgoing Corresponding Secretary. The President expressed regrets that Mrs. Stoner would no longer be an officer but felt sure that she would continue to serve the Federation in many ways. Mrs. Stoner was given a vote of thanks.

The Membership Committee report was given by Mr. Dwight Chamberlain for Mr. Alfred Starling. The list of proposed members was read, and they were elected by the Council.

The report of the Finance Committee was made by Mr. Samuel R. Madison, Chairman. He presented the 1965 Budget which totals \$2620.00, noting that it is a cut from the 1964 budget but is nevertheless a deficit budget. The Federation has kept afloat only because many officers do not submit expenses. It is hoped that savings account interest and memberships will increase, but the picture is far from rosy, Mr. Madison stated. The Committee therefore strongly recommended increasing the individual membership dues to \$5 next year, this to be done by means of a change in the by-laws, which then must be submitted to the member clubs. The Council approved the proposed 1965 budget, and then voted that the by-laws committee consider raising the individual-member dues to \$5, however keeping student membership at \$3, raising club-membership dues from 10c per club member, and making appropriate adjustments in the other dues categories.

Mr. Cornelius Ward, Acting Chairman, reported on the work of the John J. Elliott Memorial Committee. A capital fund is being raised, whose interest would be used for an annual award for the best *Kingbird* article. A little over \$600 is collected to date. Club as well as individuals may consider making donations to this fund.

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., Conservation Committee Chairman, proposed the following resolutions, which were approved by the Council: 1, that the New York State Conservation Dept. purchase the Barry Town area along the Hudson River to preserve it as a wildlife area; 2, that the State of Pennsylvania be petitioned not to further develop Presque Isle; 3, that Buckhorn State Park be kept as a wildlife refuge and that a proposed music festival be located elsewhere; 4, that the Federation take cognizance of the work of Nature Conservancy in setting aside for preservation various areas in the state; 5, that the Federation go on record against the use of motorized vehicles in the Forest Preserve except for emergency purposes, and that the Federation commend Chairman Watson Pomeroy of the Joint Legislation Committee on Natural Resources for his work on this matter; 6, that the Federation support efforts to persuade the U. S. government not to use Mikura Jima off Japan as a bomb-test site; 7-10, that the Federation go on record in support of the Wilderness Bill, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill, establishment of National Seashores, and preservation of the Hempstead Wetlands as a wildlife refuge; 11, that the Federation go on record as



opposed to the bounty system; and 12, that the Federation stands opposed to the indiscriminate use of pesticides and poison sprays. A resolution in favor of permissive legislation by the state for control, by localities, of pigeons failed to pass.

The following Nominating Committee for 1965 was elected: Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Albany, Chairman, with Mr. Allen S. Klonick, Rochester, and Dr. David Peakall, Syracuse.

The Auditing Committee of Mr. Edward R. McBride and Mr. Jerome Kerner was re-elected for 1965.

The following deaths during the year were reported: Mr. John J. Elliott, Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Mrs. Hazel Ellis Loomis. Suitable resolutions were adopted to be sent to the families of each.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, host to the 1964 Federation meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P. M.

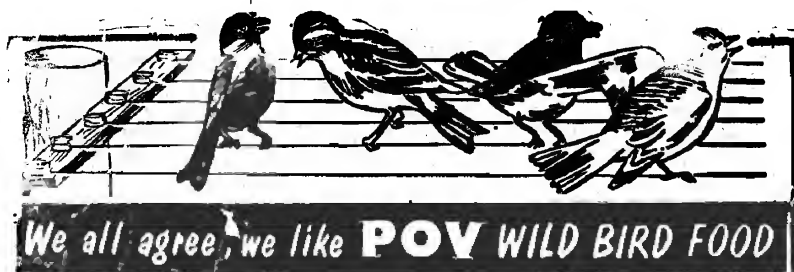
*Margaret S. Rusk, Recording Secretary, 805 Comstock Ave., Syracuse 10*

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT

TEN-YEAR INDICES of volumes 1-10 of *The Kingbird* are available from Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr., Curator of Zoology, New York Museum, Albany 1, New York at one dollar (\$1.00) per copy. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Kenneth Niven.

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Available at: A. & P., Wegmans, Quality Cash, Service Stores, Grand Union, Chicago Markets, Chanatry Markets, Bohacks, Daitch Shopwell, Gristede Bros., Waldbaum — no doubt there is one of these fine markets near your residence.

Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson

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## CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

At its annual meeting in Poughkeepsie the Federation endorsed resolutions that aligned it in the forefront of several crucial conservation efforts. It urged "caution" and "restraint" in the use of pesticides. The delegates called for an end to bounty payments by counties. They adopted a hold-the-line attitude against the intrusion of the Forest Preserve and wilderness areas in the nation by damaging motorized equipment, a problem aggravated by the population explosion of four-wheel driven vehicles, specially geared two-wheel scooters, endless-tracked sleds or snowmobiles, motor boats and airplanes.

Alarmed at the apparent decrease of the Osprey, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Great Blue Heron and other species in New York State, the Federation has added its alarm to that of the late Rachel Carson and others over the wildlife destruction being caused by pesticides and poison sprays. The Federation's voice was "heard" in *The New York Times* (a paragraph) and the *Scarsdale Inquirer* which reproduced the four page mimeographed resolution in full — thanks to Mrs. Wallace L. Cornwell of Scarsdale who brought it to the paper's attention.

"Since pesticides have been shown to cause wildlife destruction," the Federation declared, "and residues have been found hundreds of miles and several years from the site and time of application, then it is time to question the almost single-minded reliance on these devices and to look most urgently for non-lethal approaches to blemish-free apples and mosquito-free residential areas."

It was to the latter, non-agricultural type of spraying, that the Federation's attention was particularly directed. All too often such spraying is entirely unnecessary except for convenience or comfort. "What is the comparison," the resolution asked, "between a few less mosquitoes in the back yard and dead fish piled on a nearby shore — or even the extinction (in some areas at least) of the Bald Eagle?"

"The Bald Eagle, symbol of our nation, may already have disappeared as a breeding bird in New York State," the Federation declared. "In the early 1950's there were an estimated 12 pairs nesting. During the last three years no eagle nest is known to have been active in the state." Eagles are believed to be affected by the pesticides ingested from dead fish upon which they feed and which have concentrated within their bodies residues of long lasting pesticides (those that, like DDT and its derivatives, require a long time to break down chemically).

Osprey are believed to be similarly endangered. Unhatched osprey eggs in Connecticut have had concentrations of DDT. Last year, eastern Long Island, once the site of one of the world's largest Osprey colonies (so numerous that some even had nests on the ground — unusual for the Osprey which usually prefers a penthouse view from a tree or pole) had about 200 nests. Once there were some 500 nests.

Leroy Wilcox, who has been keeping records for three decades, noticed the decline setting in about ten years ago. In 1962 he made a check of all nests on Gardiners Island in early June and again in early July. By the

latter time the young should have been four to five weeks old. Instead, only 20 per cent of the eggs had hatched. There were many unhatched and rotting eggs in the nests.

At the meeting Dr. Walter Spofford expressed concern for the Osprey population in the Adirondacks from DDT spraying by hotels and resorts for their guests' comfort — particularly from black flies. The resolution included opposition to this spraying. He also reported that in the state the Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk had not been seen as numerous as before. He expressed concern for the Peregrine Falcon.

Drops in heronry populations have been reported from both ends of the state. Mr. Wilcox says the Black-crowned Night Heron has become scarce on eastern Long Island. Harold Mitchell, former Federation president, says that numbers in three Great Blue Heron colonies in the Buffalo area have declined. Pesticides are suspected in all these cases.

The Federation endorsed passage by Congress of S. 1251 by Sen. Maurine Neuberger which would increase investigation of pesticide-wildlife relationships. By July 1 this bill had passed the Senate. The Federation also endorsed S. 1250 by Sen. Neuberger that would require Federal agencies to consult the Fish and Wildlife Service before starting large scale spraying operations. Also supported was S. 2792 by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff permitting government inspection of pesticide plants and other regulatory practices.

Besides trying to curb the inadvertent destruction of wildlife by pesticides, the delegates called for a halt to the planned destruction of wild creatures. Payment of bounties by county governments was opposed. In taking this action the Federation was backing up a recommendation made in the "Leopold Report" by the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on Wildlife Management. This was a dramatic statement calling for a reevaluation of the worth of predator control programs including those conducted within the Interior Department through its predator control service. This significant report can be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. The Federation urged Congressional passage of H. R. 9037 by Rep. John Dingell that would phase out the Federal control program employing 600 to 700 professional hunters and that would substitute a staff of six regional experts to advise and assist states in setting up trapper-instructor services.

Destruction of the natural growth in the Forest Preserve and the nation's wilderness areas by mechanized vehicles was condemned. Thus, the Federation lent its backing to the fight being taken up by the National Committee for the Protection of Trail Country, an organization closely linked with the Scarsdale Audubon Society. The Federation urged a prohibition of these vehicles except for emergency purposes. It further passed a special resolution commending Assemblyman R. Watson Pomeroy, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, for his efforts in trying to have snowmobiles banned after they were dropped from the list of vehicles prohibited by the Conservation Department.

In other actions the Federation reaffirmed its support for preservation of 10,000 acres of salt wetlands on Long Island's south shore and for the

32-mile long proposed Fire Island National Seashore. The Fire Island bill by Rep. Otis G. Pike of Suffolk County was approved by the House National Parks Subcommittee. Action was scheduled in July by the House Interior Committee.

The Wilderness Bill was again endorsed, the one passed by the U. S. Senate. However, the one reported to the House floor in June was considerably weakened. For instance, S 4 provided that primitive areas and roadless areas in National Parks and Wildlife Refuges could be brought into the Wilderness System by presidential recommendation unless Congress objects. H. R. 9070 would have Congress positively approve acceptance after review by the Secretary of the Interior. This would make it more difficult to add areas to the Wilderness System.

Delegates urged congressional passage of H. R. 3846, the Land and Water Conservation for the development of outdoor recreational areas on a financially matching basis.

The Federation extended hands across the sea in urging protection of the eight-square mile Japanese Island, Mikura Jima, with rare flora and fauna. However, this very much concerned the effect on wild life and terrain our government can have in establishing facilities on foreign territory — in this case a test bomb site which has been proposed for this island. The feeling was that our defense agencies could well use consultants in the natural sciences to warn of the effect of such decisions — especially when alternatives might be possible.

With regard to areas in New York State, the Federation urged that Buckhorn Island State Park near Buffalo be used as a wildlife refuge. A bill in the Legislature last year provided for using this state park as a site for a musical festival. This would probably involve spraying for mosquitoes, affecting an important wetlands area utilized by wildlife. The Federation also endorsed the host club's (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club) for preservation of Cruger's Island (where Federation members had good views of the Cerulean Warbler). This action received a front page story on the front page of the Sunday newspaper in Poughkeepsie.

For the first time at the annual meeting the Friday evening meeting of the Conservation Committee was opened to all members of the Federation. Some 60 persons attended and participated in the discussions on the resolutions to be presented to the Council and delegates. This response was very gratifying.

Two new members have been appointed to the Conservation Committee: Mrs. Ruth Rubenstein, a Federation life-member and conservation chairman of the Brooklyn Bird Club, and Mrs. Beverly Waite, nature columnist for the Knickerbocker News in Albany.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, L. I.

## FIELD NOTES

**House Finch in the Schenectady Area:** The first record of a House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in the Schenectady area was on April 29, 1964. The bird, an adult male, came to the writer's feeder with a pair of Purple Finches, at about 5:30 P.M. It was observed from 25 feet and resembled a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) except that its rump and breast were brighter colored and it lacked the brightness about the head of a male Purple Finch. I also noted the striped flank.

On May 5, the bird appeared again at our feeder, and with a 10 x 50 binocular I observed the breast, rump and striped flanks. Peter Wickham, the records chairman of the area who knew the species from Long Island, was able to provide additional points of identification. Attempts to catch the bird by netting were eventually successful, and eleven Club members observed it before its release. Measurements were taken, as follows: Total length: 155 mm; Wing 82 mm; Tail 67 mm; bill 11 mm; tarsus, 16.5 mm, weight 24.2 grams. While being handled, the bird gave the House-Sparrow like "cheep" call. It was banded with F. and W. band #101-103007 on its right leg.

Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady 12309

Ed. Comment: Attention is called to the article in the July 1962 KING-BIRD by Gilbert Cant, which summarizes the history of the House Finch in the state, and gives useful tips on identifying the bird in the field.

**Franklin's Gulls in Central New York.** A group of six small gulls with black heads was observed on April 11, 1964 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farnham and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Ives on flooded land just east of the Seneca River near Montezuma. The gulls roared high in the water and occasionally fed like dabbling ducks; from time to time flew up, circled round and returned. When in flight the distinctive pattern of the wing, the white space separating the grey of the wing from the black near the ends, was obvious. With the white spots at the very tip the pattern was thus white-black-white-grey. We are convinced that these birds were Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*).

Although there are a few upstate records of the Franklin's Gull, a group of six in breeding plumage appears to be unprecedented.

Hubert F. Ives, 5039 Skyline Drive, Syracuse 15

**Wintering Baltimore Oriole:** For two winter seasons, I have had a female Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*) at one of my backyard feeders on Long Island's north shore. This is unusual for several reasons, chief of which is we have no orioles nesting nearby during the spring and summer.

The first winter the oriole came to the feeder, which is a large glass one on a tall pole, she was bedraggled and her tail feathers were scanty. She fought for food. (I put suet, corn bread and doughnuts out for her mixed with seed for my other visitors). She showed no fear of our banging kitchen door or of belligerent Bluejays and Starlings.

After a particularly bad ice storm, when the trees were stiff with sleet, the oriole was noted to have an injured foot. She could fly but had difficulty alighting on the feeder perch. She found a very clever solution to what could have been a fatal problem. Branch by branch, she laboriously hopped up a tall arborvitae which stands next to the feeder. When she was slightly higher than the feeder, she would drop, not fly, right down into the food tray. The distance was just short enough to make the maneuver successful.

On very cold days, when the temperature was five to ten above zero, the oriole sat huddled in the feeder long after eating. The glass sides and back provided concentrated sunrays and perfect protection from wind. She survived the winter and left in the spring.

The second winter, what was apparently the female oriole came again (the scant tail feathers identified her for me). But this time there was a



male with her. He was beautifully feathered and not physically handicapped in any way. They stayed all winter, feeding alternately, until January. Then, a strange thing happened. Suddenly, one day, the female oriole attacked the male, pinning him to the ground and pecking him so savagely that I almost intervened. Finally, he flew off with the female chasing. I never saw him again. The female came daily after that and left as before in early spring.

Alice Vee Sweeny, 25 Meadow Lane, Syosset

**Varied Thrush at Bellport, Long Island:** On December 19, 1963 Dr. Clarke Williams, an associate of mine at Brookhaven National Laboratory, reported to me an unusual bird that had come to his feeder for several mornings past. Next morning I went to his home in Bellport, on the south shore of Long Island, at about 7:30 A.M., and within a few minutes the bird arrived and began feeding. It was a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*); it appeared to be a young bird, as the dark edges of the lower flank feathers were very pronounced, and the breast band somewhat blurred at the edges instead of being sharply defined. It was obviously in excellent condition and fed well; on all occasions I watched it during its appearances at the Williams' home it appeared to prefer cracked corn to the other mixed seeds that were scattered around. It did not go to any of the elevated feeders but remained on the ground. It did not associate with any other birds, but was not bothered by them.

At this time of year, the weather was generally bad, with northerly winds, temperatures remaining below the twenties, and some light to moderate snowfalls. Since, however, the Williams' house faces to the south, the thrush was able to feed in a relatively sheltered area, and after a leisurely feeding, generally lasting ten-fifteen minutes, it would often sun itself for a while in the lee of a small evergreen, or fly off to rest in one of the pitch pines bordering the garden.

The bird continued to come regularly to this location to feed many times almost every day, in spite of snowstorms and other adverse conditions, until January 17, 1964, when it disappeared quite abruptly. Since it had survived the worst snowstorm to date on January 13, its disappearance might be blamed on one of the many cats prowling in this neighborhood.

During the month that it frequented the Williams' home, a number of ornithologists were privileged to observe this rare visitant, thanks to the generosity and interest of Dr. and Mrs. Williams.

Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven

Ed. note: See *Kingbird* 9:22 for an account of this species at Watertown in 1958 and a summary of previous reports.

**Varied Thrush at Orient, Long Island:** On April 17, 1964, a Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, was recorded in Orient, Long Island walking in a secluded section of a yard at a distance of fifteen to twenty-five feet from the observer, before six A.M. In this area where the bird was searching for food, bird food had been spread on the ground daily since December. The bird was under observation at this close range for three hours. The dark band on the breast was prominent. While on the ground the bird was very robin-like in its behavior. In time the bird crossed a driveway and wandered onto the freshly plowed ground of a newly planted potato field.

A search through the literature indicates that along the eastern seaboard practically all of the few records for this accidental species from the north-west have been in the autumn or early winter. The winter of 1963-1964 was comparably mild with no extremely cold temperatures or deep snow-cover on the ground.

This thrush showed up on the first morning in April on which any noticeable movement occurred with the immediate spring species in 1964. It definitely had not wintered in Orient.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island

Ed. note: Bellport is more than thirty miles from Orient, where the preceding record was obtained.



**Fulvous Tree-duck in Cayuga County:** While traveling on the New York Thruway we saw briefly a strange bird in a flooded field just east of the Seneca River near Montezuma. Our impression was of a small goose or a long-necked duck of a general buffy coloration.

On the following day, May 18, 1964, the area was re-visited and the identification of Fulvous Tree-duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) confirmed. At a range of 200 ft. the darker upperparts separated from the buffy underparts by a white line along the flanks was clearly seen. The head and neck were buffy and the undertail coverts white. One of us (C.M.A.) has had considerable experience of this species in Africa.

This appears to be first New York State record outside of Long Island; although in view of the recent tendency of this species to occur in the northeast (Baird, Audubon Field Notes 17:6-8) it is not all together surprising. However the date is unusual since most records have been in the late summer or fall.

C.M. Acland and D. B. Peakall, Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse

**Crow migration observed along the southeast corner of Lake Ontario:** During the springs of 1963 and 1964 a hawk watch was maintained on the southeast corner of Lake Ontario at Derby Hill as part of a study on the migratory habits of these birds. In 1964 notes were also kept on other migrants which passed over the study area. The crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were one of the most commonly observed birds.

Observations were made on sixty-six days between February 17 and May 4 (1964) and a total of 45,000 crows was noted. Although an occasional crow was observed during the middle of February, no significant migration was observed until February 28 when 102 crows flew by. Large numbers of crows continued to be observed during March and much of the month of April. However, the coverage was not as good during April since large numbers of hawks were passing at this time and it was not always possible to count the crows and hawks at the same time.

The highest estimate of migrating crows occurred on March 24 with over 15,000 being observed. Other large estimates were March 5 (3,500), March 7 (11,300), March 14 (5,000), March 21 (1,700), March 28 (1,000), and April 12 (600).

Large flights of crows were associated with winds in a direction south of an east to west line, rising temperatures, and falling barometric pressure; conditions which occur on the west side of a high pressure area or on the east side of an approaching low pressure area. The wind velocity appeared to have little effect on the number of crows migrating providing it was not excessive (over 30-40 miles per hour). On days with relatively strong southeasterly winds the crows often flew low, sometimes passing over the lookout at an elevation of less than five feet above the top of the hill. The crows tended to fly higher when winds were light or when winds were from a westerly direction. Westerly winds are tail winds for birds flying east along the southern shore of the lake.

Usually the crows began flying shortly after dawn and continued until late in the afternoon. The largest movements occurred usually between 1000 and 1200 hours.

It is interesting that fewer crows appear to pass the observation point on the southeast corner of the lake than further to the west at Sodus Bay (Chamberlain. *Kingbird* 13:154-155). A possible explanation may be that the crows move on a broader front near the southeast corner of the lake in order to take advantage of favorable feeding areas inland from our point of observation. Large numbers of crows frequently have been observed to stop and feed in open fields located from one fourth mile to one mile from the shore of the lake. A second possibility is that fewer crows used the flyway along the southern shore of the lake in 1964 than in 1963.

John R. Haugh, Dept. of Zoology, Syracuse University, Syracuse

**Some External Parasites Collected from Birds in Southeastern New York:**  
The following is a list of external parasites that the writer has collected, since 1960, from birds that he has banded, or found dead or injured.

| <b>MALLOPHAGA</b>  |               |                                  |   |
|--|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Host Species   | Date Coll.    | Location Coll.                   | Parasite Species  |
| American Coot<br>( <i>Fulica americana</i> )                 | 9 Sept. 1961  | Jamaica Bay,<br>Queens Co.       | <b>Fulicoffula longipila</b><br>(Kellog)<br><b>Laemobothrion atrum</b><br>(Nitzsch)<br><b>Pseudomenopon pacificum</b><br>(Kell) |
| Semipalmated Plover<br>( <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> )    | 20 Aug 1960   | Moriches Bay,<br>Suffolk Co.     | <b>Quadriceps birostratus</b><br>(Giebel)<br><b>Q. opacus</b><br>(Kell & Chapman)   |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper<br>( <i>Ereunetes pusillus</i> )      | 2 Sept. 1961  | Moriches Bay,<br>Suffolk Co.     | <b>Rallicola advenus</b> (Kell)<br><b>Carduiceps complexius</b><br>(Kell & Chapman)   |
| Sooty Tern<br>( <i>Sterna fuscata</i> )                      | 13 Sept. 1960 | Tobay Beach,<br>Nassau Co.       | <b>Saemundssonina petersi</b><br>(Ward)   |
| Saw-whet Owl<br>( <i>Aegolius acadicus</i> )                 | 30 Oct. 1960  | Long Beach,<br>Nassau Co.        | <b>Strigiphilus cursor</b><br>(Nitzsch)   |
| <b>MITES</b>   |               |                                  |   |
| Rough-winged Swallow<br>( <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i> ) | 19 July 1963  | Van Cortlandt<br>Park, Bronx Co. | <b>Ornithonyssus sylviarum</b><br>(C. & F.)<br>Family Dermanyssidae   |

The Mallophaga were kindly identified by Richard O. Malcomson of Central Michigan University. The Mites were identified by Edward W. Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York 10033

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak Winters in West Ghent:** During a snow storm about the fifteenth of December, 1963, Mrs. Herbert Engle of West Ghent had an unusual winter visitor at her feeder. She noticed the bird's chunky beak and its striped markings and knew at once that it was not the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). After consulting her bird book, she thought it must be a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). However, not being too familiar with the bird's habits she came to me for help.

When I first saw it at her feeder during a severe snow storm, it was eating suet. It was either a female or an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak. When it flew there was a touch of pinkish orange beneath the wings. The bird established regular feeding habits at the sunflower feeder and on April 17th Eleanor Radke came with me to confirm the identification — a wintering Rose-breasted Grosbeak in excellent condition. Georgia Erlenbach, Ghent, R.D.

Ed. note: There are only a few previous recorded instances of the species *Pheucticus ludovicianus* in New York State in winter.

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

DAVID B. PEAKALL

April did not produce any conditions favorable to the observation of waves of migrants. The numbers of Canada Geese observed were good as has been true for the last few years but, in a number of areas, the counts of dabbling ducks were low.

In late April and for the first few days of May a cold rainy spell, centered to the south of our area, slowed down migration. A warm spell starting May 6 brought about a widespread movement. Post and Tudor comment "the dam broke, the great bulk of migrants passing through May 7-12, practically every May migrant arrived on the 7th"; Treacy states that "warbler waves on May 7, 8 and 9 in Orange county coincided with those reported in Dutchess and Rockland"; Wickham says "The bulk of landbirds did not appear until May 6-10"; Rusk comments "the first warm spell of May coincided with some major movements of landbirds" and Hoyt that "the best warbler flights were on May 7 and 17 in the Ithaca area". Subsequent movements were much more local. Most of the ups and downs of numbers reported were local but reports give the impression that the Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue and Cape May Warblers were scarce over a wide area. Deed, in Rockland county, comments on the depletion or absence of many fish-eating species and believes this is due to the cumulative effect of insecticides. I hope that sufficient information on the status of these species will be available in the summer reports to cover this subject in the next summary.

There was a fine hawk flight along the southern shore of Lake Ontario and good correlation was obtained between the counts nr Rochester and nr Mexico at the south-east corner of the lake. Peak counts of Broadwings at Rochester occurred on April 22 and May 2 and at Mexico on April 23, 25 and May 2. Record high counts of Ospreys were made at Rochester on May 2 and Mexico on May 3.

The occurrence of the first House Finch in region 8 and the second in region 4 probably represents an early stage of the further spread of this species. The early history of the House Finch in the east has been given by Arbib and Elliott in 1963 (Auk 70:31-37). At this time they estimated the total population at 280 individuals. The increase since that time can be shown by the number recorded merely on the Long Island Christmas counts. These are given in the following table

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 |
| 801  | 665  | 258  | 299  | 164  | 208  | 131  | 76   | 27   | 27   | 9    |

The total number reported in the eastern United States on the 1963 counts was over 1800, a fifty percent increase over 1962. The species has expanded its range into the lower Hudson Valley in the last few years. This increase has been fully documented in Treacy's regional reports. Birders, especially those with feeders, should be alert to the possibility of the occurrence of this species.

Following the large-scale invasion last winter Red Crossbills were found in every region well into May. The only successful nesting was at Lancaster

in region 1 where one of several nests produced young. The species also attempted to nest in the New York City area (first time this century) and courtship feeding was noted near Ithaca.

Central New York provided two interesting records of rare ducks. An unusual duck, subsequently indentified as a Sheld-duck, was seen at Montezuma. This appears to be the second record for North America and the first for the state. While the record is acceptable to me, I imagine that in the absence of a second observer, photograph or specimen that the record will be listed as hypothetical. The Fulvous Tree-duck, the validity of which I feel that I should not comment on, is the first upstate record and the first spring record for the state. However it is not all together surprising in view of occurrences in Ohio and Ontario and the spectacular increase in the range of this species in the last few years (Baird, Audubon Field Notes 17:6-8, 1963).

Other rarities included Harris' Sparrow near Rochester, Magpies in regions 1 and 10 (perhaps escapes were involved) and in region 10 Cinnamon Teal, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush and yet another Townsend's Warbler.

*Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse*

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

This spring was no exception to the variable weather the region usually experiences in the season. A cloudy and showery April with no severe storms was followed by a sunny, generally warm and windy May with a fairly cool period at its end. Both months had near normal precipitation and average temperatures somewhat above the normals. Vegetation was well advanced by late April and only briefly retarded by short cooler periods in May. The strong winds of the latter month (highest velocity recorded — 65 mph on the 9th) caused damage to trees and their new leaf growth. Lake Erie ice was heavy until mid-April; thereafter it rapidly broke up until only small floes were present during the last week. Snow cover dissipated rapidly with the last measurable fall on the 9th at Buffalo. Light frosts occurred in some rural areas on May 15 and 21.

Bird migration at the beginning of April was delayed by the cool weather, but after the first week and a half it was well advanced as warmer temperatures prevailed. The absence of storms and the generally warm latter half of April contributed toward the arrival in good numbers of many migrants and an early occurrence of flycatchers and warblers before the month's end. Canada Geese continued to be in high numbers in the Oak Orchard and Lake Ontario areas in early April, and the flock of about 40 Blue Geese remaining in the former place from late March was the largest this editor can recall in the region in spring. Surface-feeding ducks appeared to be below normal in abundance. Pectoral Sandpipers occurred in large flocks in two localities. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks continued coming to feeders in April and early May. Groups of Red Crossbills also remained through April and were still present at the end of May. They made several attempts to nest in Como Park, Lancaster, but only one pair appeared to have been successful in fledging young. The crossbills visited many feeders in quest of sunflower seeds, a very unusual occurrence in this region. The migration of small passerines during May was marked by two or three days when "waves" occurred, one of the most noticeable taking place during a rather strong weather disturbance on May 13 and 14.

Highlights of the season include: Cattle Egret, European Widgeon, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler and Kentucky Warbler.



Abbreviations used below are: BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; JAS — Jamestown Audubon Society; 1st four letters for the county.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; AHB — Allen H. Benton; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; EB — Elma Bowen; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; RB — Richard Brownstein; CB — Mrs. Carl L. Burdick; LHB — Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Burton; RBy — Richard Byron; JC — Mrs. James A. Creighton; FE — Mrs. Flora Elderkin; AF — Arthur Freitag; WK — Walter Klabunde; HK — Harriette Klabunde; OM — Oliver Meddaugh; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; CM — Carl Mrozek; EP — Elizabeth Pillsbury; LR — Mrs. Lynn Rochester; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; DS — Daniel Salisbury; KS — Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Swanson; LT — Lena Turner; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons had a poor flight through the region this season. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 11, Hamburg (TLB). Common Egret: one, Apr 12, Oak Orchard area (WK, HK); one, Apr 12, Allegany Co. (CB et al); one, May 21, Evangola State Park (TLB). Cattle Egrets were reported at Kiantone (Chau); three, May 3 (FE et al) and at Belmont (Alleg) May 16 (LHB). One also appeared in May at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge near Alabama, N. Y. Black-crowned Night Herons continue to be scarce, the only large group (about 60) being the nesting colony at Niagara Falls. Whistling Swans were reported in generally small numbers from widely scattered localities, the last noted (one) Apr 29, Niagara Falls (HDM). Canada Goose: maximum 48,974 observed mostly in the region on the BOS Count Apr 12. Up to seven Snow Geese were present in early Apr in the Oak Orchard area, with the last noted (one) May 1 (RFA, HDM). The only Gadwall noted were two, Apr 15, Eden (TLB) and one, Apr 24, 25, North Cuba Marsh (RCR et al). European Widgeon: one Apr 7, at Kiantone (KS). Shovelers were observed in widespread parts of the region through Apr and in the Oak Orchard area through May. Wood Ducks continue to be common. There were four White-winged Scoters off Hamburg Town Park May 28 (TLB).

**Hawks — Owls:** A noticeable movement of Turkey Vultures occurred with 16 reported Apr 11, Hanover (RB); 15, Apr 13, Athol Springs (RFA, RB); and 12, Apr 13, Alma Hill (RCR et al). Observed hawk movements were light between Apr 11 and 26, with usually less than 50 individuals seen in a day. Bald Eagle: one, (immature) May 3, Hamburg (TLB). Peregrine Falcon: one, Apr 7, Springbrook (GGW) and one, Apr 12, Allegany State Park (EB,LT). An interesting observation was four Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*) on May 1 in fields south of the OOGMA (OM, HDM, RFA et al). They possessed very ragged primaries but flew well. A local resident said that he had seen them on the two previous days. Colored slides and motion pictures were secured. No cranes of this species are known to be missing from zoos in the immediate area. A Turkey appeared Apr 4 within the village of Hamburg (LR et al), one of the northernmost points at which the species has been observed in the region. There was a fair shorebird flight this spring. American Golden Plover: one, Apr 12, Cherry Creek area (JAS). Pectorial Sandpiper: maximum 480, Apr 16, Hanover Center (RB) and about 325, Apr 18, 19 Wolcottsville Sinks (several observers). Glaucous Gulls were seen on Apr 9, 10 and 14, Hamburg Town Park, and Sturgeon Point (TLB). Iceland Gull: five, Apr 12, BOS Count. Common Terns arrived in good numbers by Apr 12, 1,088 being noted on the BOS Count that day. A Caspian Tern, Apr 24, at Rushford Lake, Alle (RCR) was an interesting inland observation. Black-billed Cuckoo: one, Apr 30, Como Park (RFA, RBy) — an early date. Barn Owl: one, May 4, Hamburg (TLB); one, nest and four eggs, May 14, near Hamburg (RFA, RBy). Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 12, BOS Territory 14 (Hamburg) (JC et al).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Chimney Swift: one, Apr 12 (very early), Cherry Creek area (JAS). Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared in late Apr but did not become as common as in some previous years. The 655 Yellow-shafted Flickers on the Apr 12 BOS Count was a high number. An early



arrival was an Eastern Kingbird: Apr 25, Kimball Stand (FE), and also a Great Crested Flycatcher: Apr 29, Point Gratiot (RB, AHB). The first Rough-winged Swallows (three) were noted on the BOS Count Apr 12 and the first Cliff Swallow Apr 18, North Cuba Marsh (RCR). Unusual was the Black-billed Magpie in Delaware Park, Buffalo, May 17, (RB, DS). It was found dead later in the day. Subsequent investigation found the bird to be an escape. Boreal Chickadee: one, Apr 12, Como Park, Lancaster (CM). Few Tufted Titmice were found in the region this spring and Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in small numbers in scattered localities to mid-May. Carolina Wrens are still scarce. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, May 9, Langford (TLB) and one, May 23, Wolcottville Sinks (RB et al). Mockingbird: one, Apr 5, Amherst (RCR et al); one, Apr 26, near Olcott (WK, HK); one, May 4, Eden and one, May 13 Hamburg (TLB). Hermit Thrushes remain in low numbers, although they have shown some increase in abundance. Bluebirds continue to show an increase, especially in the southern parts of the region. 94 were reported Apr 12 on the BOS Count. An early arrival was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr 17, Jamestown (FE). Loggerhead Shrikes remain very low in numbers, the only reports being one, Apr 5, Royalton (RB et al); one, Apr 5, Cambria (WK, HK); and seven on the Apr 12 BOS Count.

**Vireos — Warblers:** White-eyed Vireo: one, Apr 27, 29, Dunkirk (RB). Early warbler arrivals were, Black-and-white Warbler: one, Apr 28, Lewiston (WK, HK); Blue-winged Warbler: one, Apr 28, Lewiston (WK, HK); Nashville Warbler: one, Apr 28, Hamburg (TLB); Yellow Warbler: two-three, Apr 25, near Dunkirk (EP, FE et al); Magnolia Warbler: one, Apr 29, Dunkirk (RB); Black-throated Blue Warbler: one, Dunkirk (RB); Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Apr 26, Hamburg (TLB); Blackburnian Warbler: three, Apr 29, Point Gratiot (RB, AHB); Chestnut-sided Warbler: one, Apr 28, Jamestown (FE); Palm Warbler one, Apr 26, Hamburg (TLB). Noteworthy were the Worm-eating Warbler Apr 29 at Point Gratiot (Dunkirk) (RB, AHB) and a Kentucky Warbler May 10, Hamburg (TLB). Pine Warbler: one, Apr 25, Alma Pond (Alle) (RCR). Two other early arrivals were Yellow-breasted Chat: one, May 5 Tiff Street, Buffalo (RFA) and Wilson's Warbler: one, May 6, Buffalo (AF).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Orchard Oriole: one, May 7, Hamburg (TLB). Common Grackles continue to be numerous and Indigo Bunting seem to be unusually common this year. Evening Grosbeaks were present in scattered flocks through Apr; they soon disappeared in May, the last reported six, May 9, Point Gratiot (RB et al). The last Pine Siskins: 108, May 13, (last), Allegany State Park (WWB). With the warm weather in late Apr the first Grasshopper Sparrow was recorded Apr 21, Langford (TLB) and the first Henslow's Sparrow Apr 24, Friendship (RCR).

Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo 14211

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the first month of the period averaged two degrees above normal while for the last half they were about three degrees above average. Precipitation for the two months was about three-quarters of an inch above normal, the excess occurring entirely during April. Gale force winds on May 9 did heavy local damage.

Among the most outstanding birds recorded during the period were Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Northern Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and Harris Sparrow.

Names of regular reporting observers: RB — Richard Brownstein; DC — Dwight Chamberlain; GLD — Mrs. Gertrude L. Davis; JF — John Foster; AEK — Allen E. Kamnitzer; DL — Dawson List; WCL — Walter C. Listman; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph

McNett; TM — Mrs. Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; FS — Frank Schmanke; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; BS — Mrs. Betty Starr; MS — Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlain; ST — Steven Taylor; FT — Frank Templeton; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow.

Initials of places regularly used in the text: B—Bay; Cr — Creek; DEP — Durand-Eastman Park; e — east; Lk — lookout; Ls — lakeshore; M — marsh; P — park; S — shore; w — west.

**Loons — Ducks:** The peak of the spring loon flight was reached Apr 25, when 1200 Common and 282 Red-throated Loons were seen migrating along the e Ls (AEK). High count on the Red-necked Grebe was four birds at Webster P Apr 19 (AEK), and the high count for the Horned Grebe was 75 along the w Ls Apr 18 (AEK). Double-crested Cormorants were relatively scarce, although single birds were occasionally reported along the lakeshore during May.

Two to three Cattle Egrets were seen along the Hamlin Parkway May 13-16 (Boyd, WCL, Michael, Richard O'Hara, et al) and one was in Parma May 17 (JF, WCL, et al). This species seems to have decreased, at least locally, since two years ago. Single Common Egrets were seen at w Manitou Apr 2 (AEK, AM); Oak Orchard Cr Apr 7 (G.F. Lynch); at the Hawk Lk May 10 (GOS hike); and on the Hamlin Parkway May 16 (several). A Snowy Egret was seen near Shore Acres May 16 (WCL). In spite of the above records, herons in general were scarce, only the Green Heron of our four commoner species occurring in anywhere near normal numbers. Seven Snow Geese were seen at Groveland on Apr 11 (DC, Orwin, FT). Gadwell and Shoveler seemed up in numbers, especially the former with a high count of 12 at Braddock's B Apr 25 (HSM, AAS). A count of seven Common Goldeneyes at Payne Beach May 17 (several) is a late date for that number. A changing male King Eider was seen at Sodus B Apr 18 (D. B. Peakall). The spring scoter flight was rather light, with the two rarer species unreported.

**Hawks — Owls:** The peak count of Turkey Vultures was 24 at the Hawk Lk Apr 10 (MS, FT). Broad-winged Hawks: 3935 Apr 22 at the Hawk Lk (ST) and 2458 May 2 at Sodus B (RB, WCL, MS), both peak counts. The latter flight included a much better number of other species. A mature Golden Eagle was seen at Manitou May 2 (AM, TET) and two immatures were seen at Sodus B the same day (RB, WCL, MS). Single Bald Eagles were seen Apr 8 on the w Ls (FS); Apr 25-26 at Rose's M (JF, AAS, et al) and May 7 (TET), May 17 (AEK) and May 21-23 (AEK, WCL), all at Braddock's B. An unprecedented count of 65 Ospreys was made at Sodus B May 2 (RB, WCL, MS). Peregrine Falcon: one May 7 (TET) and another May 21-23 (WCL, HSM, AAS) both at Braddock's B. A rather early Pigeon Hawk was seen at w Manitou Apr 12 (AEK). Because of the low level of Lake Ontario and the connecting bays and ponds, there was an abundance of suitable feeding areas for shorebirds and the spring shorebird flight was the best in years. Sixty Ruddy Turnstones seen on the w Ls May 27 (WCL) was the high count for this species. Two Whimbrel were seen May 21 (WCL) and a single bird was seen May 23 (AEK, WCL), both at Braddock's B. Two were seen at the w Spit May 27 (WCL) and one was seen at Webster P the same day (AEK). Pectoral Sandpipers were common with a high count of 175 along the w Ls Apr 18 (WCL et al).

Three early Dunlin were seen at Salmon Cr Apr 18 (WCL et al) and the high count was 500 at the w Spit May 25 (WCL). Twenty-two Short-billed Dowitchers at the e Spit May 16 (AEK) was a good spring count for this species. An early Sanderling was seen at the w Spit Apr 18 (AM) and the species was more common than usual during the month of May. Two Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Payne Beach Road May 23 (WCL) and six Northern Phalaropes in full breeding plumage were seen at Parma May 30 (HSM, AAS). An adult Laughing Gull was seen at Webster P May 26 (AEK) and probably the same bird was seen the next day at Braddock's B (WCL). This species is always rare locally. Thirty Caspian Terns were at the w Spit Apr 18 (WCL). A Barn Owl was seen in Island Cottage Woods

Apr 18 (RB, WCL) and another was seen near Pittsford May 17 (Joseph Taylor et al). For some unknown reason Screech Owls seemed scarce. Two Long-eared Owls were seen in Island Cottage Woods Apr 18 (WCL, HSM). A Saw-whet Owl was seen near the Ls Golf Club property in Greece during the first week of Apr (FS) and another was seen west of Manitou Apr 28 (WCL).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near Canadice Lake May 22 (AM) and another at Manitou May 24 (WCL & HSM). There was a heavy flight of various swallows at the e Spit May 2 which included at least 125 Cliff Swallows (AEK). This is a high count locally. The Carolina Wren was again unreported in the local area. There were numerous reports of Mockingbirds with three seen at Manitou May 24, Margaret Foley et al). The species nested in Irondequoit and successfully fledged two young birds (TM). It probably nested near Scottsville and in Webster. The Eastern Bluebird appeared more commonly in migration along Lake Ontario than for some time, with a maximum of 20 at w Manitou May 23 (AEK & WCL). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to increase with a high count of 15 along the lakeshore May 9 (GOS field trip).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Generally speaking, the spring warbler flight lacked luster. Especially down in numbers were the Nashville, Parula, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers and the Oven-bird. Among the more uncommon warblers, an Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in DEP May 2 (JM & TM). Another was netted and banded west of Manitou May 16 (RM). A Pine Warbler was seen in DEP Apr 12 (GD). A singing Prairie Warbler was seen on the U. of R. campus May 6 (AM). A rather early Louisiana Waterthrush was seen at Manitou Apr 12 (WCL). This species is always rare along Lake Ontario. A very early Hooded Warbler was seen in Salmon Cr Woods on Apr 27 (AM).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A singing Western Meadowlark was in Parma May 17 (JF et al) and was still present May 23 (AAS et al). An immature male Orchard Oriole was at the e Spit Apr 18 (WCL & AM). There was a good May flight of Evening Grosbeaks with 300 at Manitou May 6 (RM). A late Red Crossbill was on the U. of R. campus May 23 (AM). Oregon Junco: one at the Sunderlain feeder Apr 3; one in Ellison Park Apr 11 (ST) and one around the Kemnitzer feeder in Webster for some time early in April. An unidentified sparrow appeared at the Jerome Hartke feeder in Webster early in the winter and was later identified as a Harris Sparrow. It was carefully studied May 3 by HSM & AAS and was seen two days later by AEK. Eight Lincoln's Sparrows were netted and banded at Manitou during May (RM), with four taken on May 16. A single Lapland Longspur was seen at Sodus B on the late date of May 2 (WCL et al).

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### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES SALLY F. HOYT

While temperatures averaged normal, there were spells of extreme cold, with freezes into the last week of May. Rainfall, too, was normal, but during the height of migration, prolonged cool spells, accompanied by wind and some rain, halted waves of birds, with the result that some areas reported excellent flights of Warblers and Thrushes, others reported none. Best Warbler flights were on May 7 and May 17, in the Ithaca area; — the latter being our census day, we rolled up a total of 181 species.

Noteworthy finds included the following: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Northern (Ladder-backed) Woodpecker (only second record of this species), Lawrence's Warbler and the first record of the Fulvous Tree Duck and Shelduck. (See body of report.)

Raptors continue to be scarce, except possibly the Kestrel. Robins, Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Savannah Sparrows, seem to have increased somewhat. Black-throated Green Warblers are absent from several former locations.



Pine Siskins, Goldfinches and Purple Finches were abundant in May, and Red Crossbills continued to appear in small flocks throughout the month. No evidence of breeding, however.

Shrubs sported the heaviest bloom in the last decade or longer. If weather conditions are right, the fruit crop should be excellent.

Places mentioned: MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake.

Contributors: WEB — Walter E. Benning; JB — Jack Brubaker; PAB — Paul A. Buckley; LC — Lewis Cowardin; EAF — Elizabeth A. Ferguson; WG — William Groesbeck; OHH — Oliver H. Hewitt; SFH — Sally F. Hoyt; PK — Paul Kelsey; JL — James Lundgren; EM — Eugene Morton; FO — Francis Orcutt; JP — James Patterson; FR — Fred Ranson; FS — Fritz Scheider; NS — Noel Snyder; WES — William E. Southern; Sts — Mark and Tom Stevenson; RS — Robert Stein; BS — Betty Strath; JW — Jayson Walker; JWe — John Weske.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: Few at Hornell, good numbers (20-40 a day) in April on Cay L. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 5, Sen L (JW). Double-crested Cormorant: (often missed), one Mar 30, Cay L Inlet, (Sts); one Apr 25, MNWR (FS). Great Blue Herons: 16 (high count) over Clyde, Apr 1 (WEB). Little Blue Heron: one, Apr 4, Dryden Lake (RS); Rare here, especially in spring. Cattle Egret: two at south end Cay L; one Apr 25, one May 16, one and possibly two birds, MNWR, May 20. Common Egret: Apr 12, MNWR, first date. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** last week April, MNWR, Refuge personnel. Second record for Cay Basin. Glossy Ibis: one, May 28, MNWR. Whistling Swans: one, Apr 11, Marl Beds Pond, Wayland, Steuben Co. (WG). Canada Goose: from March peak of 46,000 at MNWR, dropped to 40,000 on Apr 9, 20,000 on May 5, 10,000 on May 7; majority left on May 9, 500 still the following week. First Goslings May 3 (early), 31 broods by May 31. Snow Geese: May peak of 125, Blue Geese May peak, 375 (MNWR). **Fulvous Tree Duck:** one, May 17-18, near Montezuma, Cay Co. (C.M. Acland and D.B. Peakall). Carefully observed, verification report filed. See field note in this issue. **Sheld-duck:** this bird was seen May 10 and again May 12, at MNWR, by Walter Benning. He was unable to identify it on first sight, and made sketches in his field notebook. From these sketches, and his careful notes, it is evident that his bird was unmistakably a Sheld-duck. Unfortunately he was unable to find anyone else to show it to at the time, and it then disappeared. He has studied pictures of the Sheld-duck since then, and says there is no doubt in his own mind of the identity of the bird. Pintail: 1,000 (high count), Apr 3, in field with geese, n. end Cay L (Sts). European Widgeon: one, Apr 18, MNWR (Ref. Personnel). Shoveler: pair on Demmon's Pond in Howard (Steuben Co.) represented 2nd record for the Hornell area, first being 1955 (WG). Wood Duck: first brood at SWS was May 19; 18 ducklings observed and photographed as left nest box, high count, perhaps 2 broods in one nest. White-winged Scoter, and Surf Scoter, on May 2 and May 17 respectively, at MNWR, are unusual records for the relatively shallow Refuge. Hooded Merganser: up to 14 on SWS pond in April. Brought off 11 young from one nest, May 22, for first definite record at the Sancturay. Only three or four previous nesting records in Ithaca area (unsuccessful as eggs were taken). Common Mergansers: completely absent at Hornell this year, where usually present (WG).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture, first, Apr 3, MNWR (WEB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: no nesting reports this year. Bald Eagle: one report of adult at MNWR, May 2 (LC). Osprey: one, SWS, most of April and half of May; one occasionally at Stewart Park, Ithaca (possible the SWS bird); one Apr 13, Lindley, (JL). Peregrine: one, Apr 21, Etna, Tompkins Co. (SFH) chasing pigeons along Fall Creek. Common Gallinule: Apr 19 (first), MNWR (WEB).

Golden Plover: unusual in spring. **Nine** (9), Apr 25, e. of MNWR (FS). Ruddy Turnstone: rare in spring, one May 30, MNWR

(WEB). Whimbrel: May 17, MNWR (WEB et al). Willet: rare in area, one, May 2-5, Montour Falls airport (Schuyler Co.) J. Brubaker and others. Yellowlegs: Greater and Lesser: Apr 19, MNWR (WEB). Short-billed Dowitcher: one, May 17, w. of Rushville (FO). Western Sandpiper: one, May 17, w. of Rushville (FO). These two species are uncommon in this area, esp. in spring. Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 14 (first) MNWR, 20-30 on Cay L, Apr 25, peak (OHH). Black Tern: Apr 25 (first), MNWR (FS). Screech Owls: scarce. Great Horned Owl: two young reared in nest on Rte 13 near Etna, Tompkins Co. Barred Owl: two young reared in nest, SWS, left nest May 21.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: three heard near Keuka in May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: most observers reported an arrival date about five days earlier than usual — in first week of May. Pileated Woodpecker: new male appeared in Stewart Park, Ithaca, as replacement for one that was shot last fall. Pair nested successfully, close to path. Young still in nest May 31.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from: W. Dryden Rd near Freeville, early May; Cornell Golf Course, Ithaca; one mile south of Route 20 at Naples, on May 13; and near Camp Comstock, west shore Cay L, May 9. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: heavy migration Apr 11-13. This species is remarkably consistent in its arrival dates.

**Northern 3-toed Woodpecker (Ladder-backed):** (only one previous record for the Region). Female, May 16, "Monkey Run" e. of Ithaca (JWe), again, May 20, one mile west (JP); male at "Monkey Run", May 21 (NS). Another, unconfirmed report, of the species, May 17, near Watkins Glen. Acadian Flycatcher: often not reported, two, May 17, near Watkins (Bishop, Rathbun). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 10, Waterloo, early date (JW). At least three in Ithaca area in mid-May. Often missed in spring. Bank Swallow: thousands in migration, May 10, Montezuma. The colony at Myers Pt. on Cay L is very large this year — several hundred. New colony, near Brooktondale. Several other local small colonies, gone. Cliff Swallows: first, Apr 7, Sweetlands barn, s. of Dryden; unusually early. Carolina Wren: only Ithaca report, Camp Barton, n. of Taughannock Falls, Apr 26 (PK). Marsh Wrens: both species scarce throughout region. Mockingbird: three, May, Esperanza, where nested in years prior to '63; one, near Hector. At least four and possibly six individuals in Ithaca area, but no indication of nesting.

Robins: all reports stated this species in better numbers this year than last five. Poor migration, seemingly, of the two 'gray-backed' Thrushes. E. Bluebird: all reports — club and individual — have stated that a few more are around this year than in last several years; some have returned to old stations, several reported at new locations. Gnatcatchers: continue their slight increase throughout Region. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: poorest migration in years — almost none heard or seen on any of my own field trips. Logger-head Shrike: only one record. What has happened to this species?

**Vireos — Warblers:** White-eyed Vireo: rare in Region, no reports in last several years: one, May 7, Watkins Glen, (JB); one, May 16, Sapsucker Woods Road (WES); three, May 22, n. of Tompkins Co. airport (EM) — two of these were singing, and were tape-recorded. Red-eyed Vireos: still far scarcer than six or eight years ago. Philadelphia Vireo: often missed in spring: at least four reports near Ithaca, first on May 8 (PAB).

The following Warblers of those normally seen in migration or as residents were hard to find, and few reported: Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll. No reports, or only one or two, of Orange-crowned, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Hooded, Wilson's. Brewster's reported from Texas Hollow Sanctuary, and from "Monkey Run" area. The rarer Lawrence's form was seen, May 21, Monkey Run. May 10 saw an influx of 100's of Myrtles (FR), and large numbers of Magnolias also.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: some increase over last year noted at Keuka Park, and around Ithaca. Baltimore Orioles: arrived, in good



numbers, shortly after May 1, but an oddly marked male (yellow line over eye, yellow marks extending up side of face) appeared at my feeder in Etna on Apr 14, and remained for two days, eating, of all things, peanuts. It was photographed and observed by two others, J. Weske and D. Mellroy. However, it remains a question whether this was a possible Bullock's-Baltimore hybrid. Orchard Oriole: two, May 29, Trumansburg, and Interlaken (EAF). Grackles, Cowbirds and Redwings: enormously abundant everywhere. Scarlet Tanagers: noted more commonly than some years. Indigo Buntings: abundant. Dickcissel: two Apr 29, near Odessa (BS). One, during April, at feeder in Ithaca. Evening Grosbeaks: most left last week in April. Purple Finch: abundant everywhere in May. Pine Siskins: abundant at feeders, after May 8. Goldfinches: continued abundant at feeders, as in winter. Red Crossbills: not yet found breeding, but several cases of courtship feeding were noted, and small numbers were seen in several areas of Region until late May. Henslow's Sparrow: one, Apr 15, Moravia, found injured, died shortly. Specimen brought to Cornell. Extremely early record for species — followed strong south winds. No conspicuous White-throat and White-crown migration around Ithaca.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April average close to normal with respect to temperature but was decidedly wet while May was warm and dry. Weatherwise this must be counted as an early spring. The last officially recorded freezing temperature of the period came April 16 and the last snow of any consequence April 4. The heaviest rainfall of the period came April 30, so although May rainfall was only about one-third of normal the dryness had had no untoward effects by the end of the month.

The higher level of water behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam seems to have attracted the largest number and best variety of water fowl ever in the region, and also the longest stay ever for some diving species, notably Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser. It is perhaps premature to credit the higher water level at one place with all this since it also proved to be highly attractive to bird watchers, resulting in a substantial decrease in the coverage of other areas in the region. Regular coverage of these other areas might have shown this to have been a generally better than normal waterfowl spring. It will be interesting to see what other regions have to report along these lines.

The land bird migration ran a little ahead of last year, with most species arriving one to four days earlier, but there were also a few species that returned a little late. There was one second hand report of "a million swallows" at Whitney Point April 20 that was picked up while nearly a thousand were in sight in the same place five days later. With little really adverse weather to dam them up, warblers came through in a relatively steady stream with no pronounced waves.

Our first Wilson's Phalaropes and our second House Finch and Red-bellied Woodpecker appear to top the list of rarities, but a possible Golden Eagle deserves mention. Several reports of Turkeys and Bobwhites give hope that their respective stocking programs may yet succeed.

Contributors: LB — L. Bemont; WB — William Breidinger; BB — Bradford Burgher; NC — Naturalists' Club; TBC — Tioga Bird Club; GC — Gail Corderman; C, JD — Carleton and J. Davis; M, AD — Marilyn and Anna Davis; LD — Louise Dean; RD — Robert Dirig; AE — Anna Evelin; CG — Clinton Gerould; JG — John Gustafson; CH — Claude Howard; P, PK — Paul, Sr. and Paul, Jr. Kalka; FL — Florence Linaberry; SL — Stanley Lincoln; HM — Harriet Marsi; RP — Robert Pantle; FQ — Fern Quick; RS — Robert Saunders; JS — Jean Saunders; MS — Mary Sheffield; AS —

Anne Stratton; DW — Don Weber; MW — Mildred White; R, SW — Ruth and Sally White; EW — Mrs. E. Williams; RW — Ruth Williams; SW — Stuart Wilson; HW — Herbert Wisner; WPR — Whitney Point Reservoir; Max — maximum.

**Loon — Ducks:** Common Loon: three, Apr 3, Norwich (R, SW); 21 flying over Skyline in Tioga Co the same day and lesser numbers several other days in Apr (RW); Skyline May 1 (last) (RW); still at WPR May 31 (MS). Red-necked Grebe: Apr 12, WPR (MS, RS, BB); two, Apr 19 and three, Apr 25, also at WPR (MS); only reports. Horned Grebe: Apr 1, Owego (TBC) to May 17 in Triple Cities area (NC); 12, (Max.) Apr 11 at WPR (MS). Pied-billed Grebe: fairly regular reports from Apr 9 to 26 (last). Great Blue Heron: two, heronries in Owego area active (RW); also one at Scott in Cort Co with 17 nests (JG). Green Heron: one, Apr 11, Sherburne (R, SW), early; common after May 4. Common Egret: two, May 27, Endwell (LB), only report. Least Bittern: three, Apr 21, Binghamton (CH) and again Apr 30; an infrequently reported species in the region. American Bittern: one, Apr 16, Ingraham Hill (CH), the first.

Canada Goose: heavy flights continued all through Apr with the last substantial numbers recorded May 7; stragglers still present at WPR May 30 and Owego May 31. Gadwall: two, Apr 25, WPR (MS). Pintail: Apr 9, WPR (HM, FL), the last. Green-winged Teal: regular reports to Apr 30, then only May 17, WPR (NC). Blue-winged Teal: regular to Apr 30; infrequent May reports. European Widgeon: one, Apr 4, WPR (MS), presumably the same bird that was reported in the last issue. American Widgeon: regular reports to Apr 25; later report May 17 (NC). Shoveler: Apr 23, three, at WPR (HM, FL), four at Owego (SL) and two at Owego, probably part of the group of four (MW, CG). Wood Duck: two adults with 10 young, May 30, Chenango Forks (M, AD); also reported nesting in Cort Co. Red-head: six, Apr 11 (last), WPR (MS). Ring-necked Duck: up to 200 reported at WPR much of Apr; two there May 2 (MS), the last except for one on a small pond near Owego for the last 10 days of May. Canvasback: two, Apr 5 (last), WPR (MS). Lesser Scaup: at WPR through May 2; the only later report May 17 (NC). Common Goldeneye: regular in small numbers at WPR through May 2; the only later report May 17 (NC). Bufflehead: regular at WPR through Apr to May 2; "most I've ever seen at Whitney Point", Apr 25 and 26 (MS); May 6, Candor (DW), the last. Old Squaw: small numbers at WPR through Apr to May 2; also reported at Norwich and Owego. White-winged Scoter: 10, Apr 18, WPR (NC); May 17, WPR (NC); only reports. Hooded Merganser: a few at WPR through Apr 24; two, females or immatures May 24 (last), WPR (MS). Common Merganser: regular through Apr 26; May 17 (NC), the only later report. Red-breasted Merganser: a few at WPR through Apr 18; also six, Apr 3, Norwich (R, SW); two, still at WPR, May 30.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: Apr 5 and 13, WPR (RW, CG, MW); one, Apr 12, Oxford (H. Nodacker); also regular at Deposit (SW) and Hancock (RD). Goshawk: May 10, Pharsalia (TBC). Broad-winged Hawk: one, Apr 4, Oxford (AS), very early, no details; regular reports from Apr 16; nest building at Binghamton, May 20 (CH). Rough-legged Hawk: Apr 26 (last), Johnson City (FL). Bald Eagle: May 17, Cortland (WB). Golden Eagle: Apr 5, WPR (CG, MW, RW), "large bird — had white on tail, but not as far up rump as rough-leg, — a very good look with 7 x 50 binoculars." Marsh Hawk: reasonably frequent reports until May 17 (last), then no more. Osprey: one, Apr 9, Hancock (RD); peak numbers Apr 23 to 27; May 9 (last), WPR and Choconut Center (MS). Bobwhite: one, May 9, near Sherburne Game Farm (R, SW); also reported at Marathon and East Homer in Cort Co. Turkey: one, Apr 9, two miles east of Apalachin (SL), check for domesticated turkeys in area revealed none; Apr 13, Owego (Mrs. V. Hudson); Apr 14, west of Owego (Mary Middaugh); Apr 14, South Owego (EW); May 12, Candor (DW). Sora: May 17, Apalachin (SL, LB). Common Gallinule: May 17, Triple Cities area (NC), only report. American Coot: two, Apr 11, WPR (MS); regular reports through May 30 but never in large numbers.

Semi-palmated Plover: May 17, Triple Cities area (NC), to end of period. Black-bellied Plover: May 17, Triple Cities area (NC); still at WPR May 30 and 31 (MS). Woodcock: common; one, adult with four chicks, May 3, Endwell (RP, GC), banded. Common Snipe: reported at Sherburne (R, SW), Newark Valley (LD), Cortland (WB) and in the Triple Cities area. Upland Plover: May 17, Homer (JG), only report. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 11, Candor (DW); no more until Apr 18. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 19, Vestal (HM) then none until May 3. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 25, WPR (MS); scattered reports to May 24. Lesser Yellowlegs: four, Apr 18, WPR (NC) and regular there until Apr 30; no more until May 16 at Homer (JG) and Candor (DW) and May 17 in the Triple Cities area (NC). Pectoral Sandpiper: eight, Apr 18, WPR (NC) and May 17, WPR (NC); only reports. Least Sandpiper: May 15, Owego (MW, RW); at Cortland and in Triple Cities area to end of month. Dunlin: May 17, WPR (MS), to end of month. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: May 17, Triple Cities area (NC); only report. Wilson's Phalarope: a pair, May 17, Binghamton (LB), at approximately 15 foot range, close enough to hear soft little grunting noise that came only infrequently — jet black glossy legs and bill, female had white on top of head and neck and on under parts separated by black eye line or cheek patch blending into chestnut neck stripe — back, wings and tail dark pearly gray with patches of chestnut on back, male much duller, almost non-descript in comparison — observed for about 15 minutes and then for another 10 minutes after about 45 minutes — foraging along a small shallow stream through bulldozed ground — did not swim.

Herring Gull: only very scattered reports since Apr 1. Ring-billed Gull: present in moderate numbers around most water all during the period — 70 (max.), May 9, WPR (MS). Bonaparte's Gull: one, Apr 6, Endwell (LB) to May 17, Triple Cities area (NC); 50 or more, Apr 23, Owego (MW, CG), the largest concentration. Common Tern: Apr 23, WPR (HM, FL) to May 31, WPR (MS); only two reports between. Black Tern: Apr 24, Owego (RW); May 17, Triple Cities area (NC); only reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one, May 12, Oxford (AS) and one, May 12, Ingraham Hill (CH); "very common this year throughout county", Cortland (JG); fairly common elsewhere, too. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 10, Binghamton (MS); also common. Screech Owl: not many. Barred Owl: Apr 17, 18, 23 and May 6, Hancock (RD); one, May 11, Chenango Forks (M, AD).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: one, May 10 to 21 then two, May 22 and 29, Hinman's Corners (RS, JS); May 16, East Homer, (Janet Greenfield); May 30, Owego (AE). Nighthawk: one, May 13, Binghamton (Elinor Whitson); also reported at Owego, Cortland and Unadilla. Chimney Swift: Apr 19, Unadilla (HW) and Conklin Forks (P, PK); Apr 24, Binghamton, large flock going to roost in a chimney (Marilyn Davis). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 1, early, Owego (AE), one, May 7, Oxford (AS). Belted Kingfisher: more common after Apr 3. Yellow-shafted Flicker: regular after Apr 2; common after Apr 7. Pileated Woodpecker: fairly frequent reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, May 3, Buckhorn Lake in Otsego Co (HW). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Apr 23, Ingraham Hill (CH); May 1, Owego (AE); one, May 17, Sherburne (R, SW), in same area where present for the last few years; May 17, Whitney Point (MS); May 18, Endwell (FL), another area where reported in the last few years. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, Apr 8, Hancock (RD), second report this spring; common from Apr 12 to Apr 26; fairly frequent but more scattered May reports.

Kingbird: Apr 23, Owego (Patty Williams), early, no details: next reported May 5, Hancock (RD) and Greene (C, JD). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD), Hinman's Corners (RS, JS) and Ingraham Hill (CH); common. Eastern Phoebe: generally in reasonably good numbers but at Unadilla "not at all common" (HW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one, May 12, Binghamton (CH); three other reports. Traill's Flycatcher: May 16, Homer (JG); also in Triple Cities area. Least Flycatcher: May 2, WPR and Choconut Center (MS). Wood Pewee: May 10,



Binghamton (MS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 30, Whitney Point (MS, R, SW). Tree Swallow: common after Apr 11. Bank Swallow: Apr 19, Owego (RW, EW). Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 25, WPR (MS) and Chenango Forks (M, AD). Barn Swallow: one, Apr 11, WPR (MS); regular from Apr 16; May 4, Hancock (RD), gathering mud from puddles for nests. Cliff Swallow: Apr 23, WPR (HW, FL). Purple Martin: another report of 10 to 15, Mar 25 at Hillcrest, also followed by cold weather casualties — one found in very weakened condition, was fed angleworms and eggs, and kept indoors each night and released each morning for about a week when it finally seemed to regain its strength (Fred Fargo). Blue Jay: May 2, Endwell (NC), numerous small flocks of migrants observed flying over. Boreal Chickadee: May 2, Owego (Mrs. Harold Colby), last report of bird present at feeder since Feb. 25. Tufted Titmouse: throughout period at Chenango Forks (M, AD); Apr 28, Endwell (FL); one, May 22, Norwich (AS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: May 17, Triple Cities area (NC), the last of fairly numerous reports. Brown Creeper: rather frequent reports for such an inconspicuous species; reported singing in several localities and still present at the end of the period. House Wren: Apr 18, Binghamton (HM); numbers continue to improve a little each year. Winter Wren: two, Apr 10, Ingraham Hill (CH); best numbers in several years; a nesting record at Hancock (RD). Long-billed Marsh Wren: six, May 24, Sherburne (R, SW), the only report and not remotely indicative of the late arrival date. Mockingbird: Apr 19, Castle Creek (MS); one, May 3, Buckhorn Lake (HW) in area since Jan; May 5, two different Owego locations (Louise Cole, Dewey Bendle). Catbird: Apr 27, Owego (RW); the next ones May 1. Brown Thrasher: one, Apr 8 and 9, Oxford (AS); next ones Apr 17; "fewer than usual, it seems", Cort Co (JG). Wood Thrush: two, Apr 22, Oxford (MS); next one Apr 27. Hermit Thrush: one, Apr 13, Ingraham Hill (CH); reasonably frequent reports to May 17; still at Whitney Point May 31. Swainson's Thrush: one, May 12, Ingraham Hill (CH); only report! Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 7, Chenango Bridge (S. Gorton); May 16, Owego (EW); May 17, Triple Cities area, two reports (NC). Veery: one, Ingraham Hill (CH) and one, Owego (MW, CG) May 3. Bluebird: 15 known nesting pairs in Cort Co (JG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr 19, Hinman's Corners (RS, JS), early; then from Apr 27 to May 16, reports from Owego (RW), Candor (DW), Buckhorn Lake (HW), Cortland (WB, Connie Wilkins) and several localities in the Triple Cities area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: last reported May 1, Owego (AE). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 12, Owego (EW) to May 15, Endwell (LB). Water Pipit: Apr 26, Candor (DW) and May 4, Owego (MW, CG); both times in very large numbers but no other reports.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireo: one, Unadilla (HW) and one, Binghamton (CH) May 4. Solitary Vireo: one, Apr 17, Ingraham Hill (CH). Red-eyed Vireo: May 4, Owego (RW). Philadelphia Vireo: May 8, Chenango Forks (M, AD); May 15, Newark Valley (LD). Warbling Vireo: May 1, Owego, (RW); less common than in previous years in Unadilla (HW) and in the Triple Cities area (LB). Warblers: Black and White Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and Hinman's Corners (RS, JS). Worm-eating: May 5, Owego, (RW), only report. Golden-winged: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD), fairly numerous reports. Brewster's, one May 21, Ingraham Hill (CH), the only one. Blue-winged: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD), seemingly more than in previous years but nowhere near as numerous as golden-wings. Tennessee: one, May 5, Binghamton (CH); May 23 (last). Orange-crowned: May 3, Owego (MW, CG), the only one. Nashville: one, May 1, Ingraham Hill (CH). Parula: May 7, Chenango Forks (M, AD); May 10 quite a few reported moving through tree tops at Norwich (R, SW); May 17 (last), Triple Cities area. Yellow: one, Apr 23, Binghamton (Ray Short), earliest report; common after May 2. Magnolia: one May 4, Binghamton (CH); quite a few until May 22. Cape May: May 7, Chenango Forks (M, AD); not too many, May 17 (last). Black-throated Blue: one, May 4, Binghamton (CH); fairly numerous until May 11, then only scattered reports, but still present at Whitney Point May 31 (MS). Myrtle: one, Apr 18, WPR (NC), first migrant; May 19 (last), Chenango Forks (M, AD);

common but not overwhelmingly so, as they are some years. Black-throated Green: Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M, AD); most migrants passed through between May 1 and 21; those reported at Hancock (RD) and Whitney Point (MS) in the last three days of May are probably summer residents. Blackburnian: May 2, Owego (AE) and Sidney (FQ); migrants mostly gone after May 17; presumably residents at Whitney Point May 30 (MS). Chestnut-sided: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and two, same day, Ingraham Hill (CH). Bay-breasted: five, May 9, Binghamton and Ingraham Hill (CH); Mar 17 (last). Blackpoll: May 4, Owego (RW), seems very early; next reported May 16. Pine: Apr 29, Owego (RW); one, May 1, Binghamton (CH); only reports. Prairie: May 4, heard at Deposit (SW); only report. Palm: Apr 27 and 28, Chenango Forks (M, AD); only reports. Ovenbird: one, May 1, Ingraham Hill (CH). Northern Waterthrush: Apr 26, Owego (Bendle); quite a few other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 19, Conklin Forks (P, PK); not too many and none, so far, after May 16. Mourning Warbler: May 15, Endwell (LB); several other reports, but not many. Yellowthroat: two, Hancock (RD) and Endwell (LB) May 6. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 16, Endwell (LB); regular at one station but no other report in the region. Wilson's Warbler: one, May 8, Endwell (LB); May 23 (last). Canada Warbler: May 7, Owego (RW). American Redstart: two, Hancock (RD) and Owego (MW) May 5.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: May 4, Candor (DW); at Cortland "numerous, even in lowland fields occasionally" (JG). Baltimore Oriole: May 1, Owego (AE); common after May 4. Scarlet Tanager: May 2, Owego (Sada Turner, James Shuler); common after May 9. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one, May 3, Endwell (GC). Indigo Bunting: May 5, Chenango Forks (M, AD); common after May 9. Dickcissel: Apr 4 and 5, Chenango Bridge (S. Gorton); a male, Apr 18, 19 and 20, then a female, Apr 23, Hancock (Estelle and Ed Standfast). Evening Grosbeak: almost all gone after May 10; last straggler May 24, Deposit (SW). Purple Finch: became common in the Triple Cities area about Apr 13 after being almost absent since Mar 19; at Deposit "a swarm arrived Apr 19" (SW); "a common nester this year in Cort Co (JG). House Finch: one, Apr 7, Deposit (SW), a female or immature male, "like a purple finch, but slimmer, olive streaks on sides and belly wavy and fine, not heavy broken lines of triangular spots as on purple finch, no pronounced facial striping, no light stripe over eye or dark patch behind eye as in female purple finch. Dark horn color bill, a few brick red feathers on rump, otherwise olive gray. Grayish edges to feathers on back and wings. Tail forked, iris brown, legs brown. I went to the Museum of Natural History and studied the trays of House and Purple Finch skins. — photos bad, but John Bull says they appear to be female or immature male House Finch. Haven't seen it since". Pine Siskin: to May 12, Binghamton (CH). Red Crossbill: two, May 15, Owego (AE); only report since Jan. White-winged Crossbill: May 9, Binghamton (MS); two, one singing, May 10, Gilbert State Park in Otse Co (R, SW), the only reports since early Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 14, Owego (RW); common after Apr 19. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 3, WPR (HM, GC); "many noted", Cort Co (JG). Grasshopper Sparrow: one, heard, Apr 28 (first), Endwell (LB). Henslow's Sparrow: one, Apr 30, Binghamton (CH). Vesper Sparrow: Apr 7, Binghamton (HM). Slate-colored Junco: abundant until Apr 30; "found nesting here in Apr", still coming to feeders at end of May, Deposit (SW); "nest containing 3 eggs", May 10, Hancock (RD). Oregon Junco: Apr 4 to 14, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Tree Sparrow: common to Apr 25; two, Apr 30 (last) Binghamton (Ray Short). Chipping Sparrow: Apr 16, Owego (RW). Field Sparrow: common from Apr 8. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr 15, Owego (AE); Apr 20, Endwell (FL); most common May 3 to 18 (last). White-throated Sparrow: most common from Apr 15 to May 15; May 18 (last). Fox Sparrow: about gone after Apr 21; 40 (Max), Apr 8, Hancock (RD). Lincoln's Sparrow: two, May 15, Triple Cities (GC, LB) and one, the same day and another May 17, Deposit (SW), all banded; May 17, Triple Cities (NC), the only sight record.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

April was near normal as regards both temperature and rainfall. In May the rainfall was near normal but the temperatures were well above average. April passerine migrants arrived about on time. The first May warm spell, the 6th to 9th, coincided with some major movements of land-birds.

There was a distinct lack of flooded land, which accounts in part at least for the poor showing of dabbling ducks.

The hawk watch at Derby Hill on the southeast corner of Lake Ontario near Mexico was continued and intensified this year. Several eagles of both species were recorded and high counts were obtained for several species of raptors as well as for some of the passerine migrants.

Rarities included Barrow's Goldeneye, Franklin's Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Raven, Connecticut Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: GLSP — Green Lakes State Park; HIGMA — Howlands Island Game Management Area; Oakwood — cemetery, Syracuse; Onon — Onondaga; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; max — maximum; L — Lake; arr — arrived; N — north.

Regular observers: CA — Clemence Acland; DA — Dorothy Ackley; JB — Jon Bart; GC — Gerald Church; ME — Meredith Estoff; EE — Emma Evans; JH — John Haugh; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; MR — Margaret Rusk; FS — Fritz Scheider; CS — Christian Spies; BS — Betty Starr.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: despite good coverage at Derby Hill, no major flight was observed. Red-throated Loon: one, Derby Hill Apr 18 (CA); one, Oneida L Apr 24 (FS). Red-necked Grebe: one-four, Oneida L Apr 19-25. Horned Grebe: max 100, Oneida L Apr 19. Great Blue Heron: arr at nests at Scott Swamp near Phoenix between Apr 2 and 5. Green Heron: first date Apr 4, TRGMA. Black-crowned Night Heron: one near Skaneateles May 5 (W. Spofford); up to three HIGMA during May (G. Gage). Am. Bittern: Apr 11 (first), Clay Swamp. Least Bittern: first report May 16, Clay Swamp. Glossy Ibis: one, May 12 Derby Hill (P. Kaplan).

Whistling Swan: one, Derby Hill Apr 25-26. Snow and Blue Geese: two and eight respectively Beaver L Apr 4 (JP). Counts of dabbling ducks were very low, partially at least due to lack of flooded land. Counts of Mallard and Black were 25/day and both Teal only ten/day. Gadwall: few records away from HIGMA. Am. Widgeon: max 75, Oneida L Apr 25. Ring-necked: max 200, Oneida L Apr 20 and 24. Barrow's Goldeneye: a male, Oneida L Apr 4-5 (MR, DP). Bufflehead: one May 16, (last), SP. Red-breasted Merganser: max 700, Derby Hill Apr 24.

**Hawks — Owls:** The hawk lookout at Derby Hill near Mexico was manned daily from Feb 28-May 7. Since no previous coverage approaches this in completeness, the counts will be given in some detail; for the same reason comparison with previous observations is difficult. The term "main flight" refers to 90% of the total unless otherwise stated. Turkey Vulture: total 82; best days Apr 13 with 15, Apr 23 with 13, and Apr 10 with 12; first, Apr 2; main flight Apr 10-27. Goshawk: total 53 — two in Feb, 30 in Mar, 21 in Apr (last, Apr 21) — numbers lower than last year but confirm that this species passes in fair numbers. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 2351; best days Apr 12 with 400 and Apr 13, 363; total migration period Mar 7-May 16; main flight Apr 12-May 4. Cooper's Hawk: total 134; max 27 on Mar 28; total period Mar 7-May 5; main flight Mar 21-Apr 27. Red-tailed: total 1143; best days Apr 12 with 205, Apr 13 with 167, Apr 7 with 117; recorded throughout the watch, but 50 plus/day confined to Mar 25-Apr 17. Red-shouldered: total

493; best days Mar 28 with 198, Mar 24 with 130; total flight Mar 3-May 12, but ten plus/day confined to Mar 21-Apr 2; the count is little over half of last year's despite increased coverage. Broad-winged Hawk: total 21,983; best days Apr 23 with 8097, Apr 25, 6711 and May 2, 2275, the two highest counts exceeding the previous best; total flight Apr 10-May 19; 95% of total Apr 23-May 3. Careful counts of high-flying birds contributed to the Apr 23 total. Numbers of birds involved were probably comparable to the 1962 count. Rough-legged: total 119; best days Mar 28 with 16 and Mar 7 with 15; total period Mar 1-May 12; 71 in Mar, 47 in Apr, one in May.

Golden Eagle: one each, Mar 24, Apr 2, 23, and 26, and May 2; two Apr 27 and May 6. Bald Eagle: one each, Mar 7 and 9, Apr 2, 8, 23, 25, and 26, and May 2 and 6; two Apr 7 and May 16. Marsh Hawk: total 371; best days Apr 7 with 71 and Mar 28 with 59; total period Mar 4-May 16; main flight Mar 21-Apr 27. Osprey: total 237, much higher than previous year; max 49 May 3 (record high count); total flight Apr 8-May 22; main flight Apr 13-May 6. Peregrine Falcon: one Apr 5 and 27; two Apr 26. Pigeon Hawk: 19 during the period Apr 2-26. Sparrow Hawk: total 507; best days Apr 7 with 117, Apr 13 with 66, and Apr 12 with 63; total period Mar 7-May 22; main flight Mar 24-Apr 26; counts considerably higher than last year; previous best daily count was 45.

Numbers (approx 50/day) of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were noted in late Apr passing over Big Moose (C. V. Bowes); neither species had previously been seen in such numbers on migration in this area. Of Osprey, more records than usual from Skaneateles (R. Seaman) and Beaver Lakes.

Gallinule: one found dead, Derby Hill Apr 12 (MR), early date. Semipalmated Plover: first, May 10 Onon L; max ten May 26 Onon L. Black-bellied Plover: one near Phoenix and two Onon L May 16. Ruddy Turnstone: one May 16 and two May 23 SP. Solitary Sandpiper: date range Apr 27-May 17. Lesser Yellowlegs: extremely scarce, only a few records, of single birds. Knot: ten SP May 23. Pectoral Sandpiper: first, Apr 19 Kirkville. White-rumped Sandpiper: one, SP May 16 (MR). Least Sandpiper: first, May 16 SP; max 19 HIGMA May 17. Dunlin: first, May 16 SP; max 100 SP May 23. Short-billed Dowitcher: one SP May 16; 12 HIGMA May 17. Semipalmated Sandpiper: three SP May 16, 150 SP May 23, and 110 SP May 31.

Franklin's Gull: party of six, east of Seneca R near Montezuma, Apr 11 (Farnham, Ives); for details see Field Notes section. Common Tern: first, Apr 20 Oneida L. Black Tern: first, Apr 23 Sage Creek near Derby Hill. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: first, May 11 Eaton; seemed the scarcer of the two coucouos. Black-billed: first, May 7 Liverpool.

**Goatsuckers — Vireos:** Whip-poor-will: arr Apr 26 Cicero Bog, slightly early. Chimney Swift: migrants at Derby Hill and arrivals at the Mansion House, Kenwood, Oneida, colony both Apr 23, early. Hummingbird: arr May 7 L Ontario; good max of seven there May 16. Yel-shafted Flicker: max count made at Derby Hill Apr 26 when 100 passed from 9-9:30 AM; continued at a somewhat lower rate, to total 750 by 3 PM. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a female in Apr at the D. Beebe's feeder in Camillus where there was a male during the winter; a male near Phoenix Apr 11 (MR) and a bird sighted in flight at Peru Apr 19 (FS) — both new locations but in the Seneca-Oneida axis. Red-headed Woodpecker: often several in a day passing Derby Hill in May (4th-19th) with a max of eight May 12, may indicate more breeding locations along L Ontario than are currently known; two Liverpool May 29 (CA). Yel-bellied Sapsucker: widespread arrival Apr 12. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one working on a dead pine at Camp Twelve Pines, Amboy, Oswego Co, on the surprising date of Apr 11 (J. Weeks).

Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher: one each, Apr 26, Liverpool and Derby Hill respectively, both early. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: four reports, May 16-25. Alder: two, arr May 15 Oneida. Least Flycatcher: two, arr Apr 28

Plainville. Wood Pewee: arr May 3 RSP (DA) quite early. Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles May 20 SSSP (EE) and May 22 Oakwood (MR).

Major influx of swallows at Derby Hill Apr 18, with the first Bank, Rough-winged, and Cliff. Peak counts there Apr 23: 8000 Tree, 4000 Bank, 35 Rough-winged, 20 Barn, six Cliff, and 30 Martin. The following Derby Hill Blue Jay counts confirm the occurrence of a massive late-May migration: 1275 May 12, 2100 May 16, 1003 May 22 (JH). Raven: two Derby Hill sightings, Apr 17 migrating with Crows, carefully observed by JH, and Apr 27 (JH et al).

Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: highest migration counts 120 and 65 respectively Apr 26 at Derby Hill; Chickadees still passing there May 16 with 55 that day. Red-breasted Nuthatch: widely reported but no migrant waves — never more than two in a day. The only large wave of Brown Creeper noted was 40 along L Ontario the morning of Apr 18. Winter Wren: scarce — few reports of migrants, singles and twos only, Apr 13-24. Long-billed Marsh Wren: not found at Clay Swamp, where they are common breeders, until May 9. Short-billed Marsh Wren: only report, one May 19 Clay Swamp (JB), not found subsequently. Mockingbird: one Syracuse for two days in late Apr (D. Dawley); first half of May, one N. Syracuse (R. Guilfoyle), one Skaneateles (Mrs. C. L. Miller), and one Jamesville (Mrs. T. S. Harmon) — fide B. Burt; one May 20 Camillus and one May 21 near Utica (both E. Beebe). Catbird and Brown Thrasher arr Apr 29 Oakwood and Apr 14 Sandy Creek, respectively, both a bit early.

Wood Thrush: arr Apr 27, early, Onon L; several records during the first half of May of about ten in an hour in a limited area. In contrast, Hermit, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked were very scarce: only four reports of migrant Hermit, Apr 17-25, with never more than two at a time; Swainson's May 9-22, never more than two per trip; single Gray-cheeked May 16 SSSP, May 22 Oakwood, and May 31 SP. Bluebird nestings at Taberg (three), Rome, New Hartford, Remsen, Sherrill, Richland, Camillus, and Lafayette.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: in addition to the regular Camillus colony; one, Cicero Swamp, Apr 29, early, (CS); Nedrow during May (Farnhams); Kenwood (one May 10, H. Nodecker), and Scott Swamp in late May (JP, MR). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Apr 13, Eaton (GC) the migration peaked quickly to a moderate max of 50 Apr 19 and terminated early, May 12. Pipit: none recorded despite searches for them in the areas where usually found. Loggerhead Shrike: one Apr 5 Phoenix (MR) and one Apr 7 Derby Hill (JP). Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos: arr May 5 Pompey and May 3, early, Liverpool (CS) respectively. Solitary Vireo: only three reports, singles Oakwood Apr 29, Camillus May 10, and Oakwood May 12. Philadelphia: one Syracuse May 2 (M. Bitz), one Oakwood May 13 (MR), one each L Ontario (JB) and Oakwood (H. Ives) May 16, and two Oakwood May 22 (JP). Warbling Vireo: increase noted at Rome (H. Aspinwall) and Pulaski (EE).

Warblers: In the vicinity of Syracuse and along L Ontario the first half of May brought the most interesting warbler migration in several years. May 4th, 6th, 9th, and 13th were the best days in numbers of new species arriving and in high counts. The 15th brought one of the largest waves at Rome; in Syracuse it was the last date for migrant Black-throated Blues and Greens, and the 22nd was the last date for migrant Magnolias, Myrtles, Blackburnians, and Bay-breasteds. The last quarter of the month produced no outstanding waves.

Most species arrived on time, e.g.: Parula May 8; Yellow Apr 25; Cerulean, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided May 5; Ovenbird May 3; Redstart May 5. Verly early is a Black-and-white Apr 19, Oakwood (ME) and somewhat early are a Canada May 6, Morrisville Swamp (DA) and Hooded May 9, Martisco (ME). Late are Black-throated Blue May 5, Black-throated Green May 2, and Yellowthroat May 6 — in the case of the first two, is the late first record due to their scarcity in migration?



Despite fine variety, numbers were not outstandingly high. Some of the larger counts are as follows: Tennessee max 20 in an hour Oakwood May 13 and 20; 100 Yellow May 9 Camillus and HIGMA May 17 (largely resident birds); 50 Myrtle May 10 Iliion; 25 Cerulean May 17 HIGMA (mostly residents — surprisingly high); 12 Blackburnian in an hour Oakwood May 11; ten Chestnut-sided in an hour Oakwood May 10 and 70 in the Tug Hill (mainly residents) May 16; 25 Redstarts in an hour Oakwood May 20. Numbers of Bay-breasted (max six Oakwood May 10) and Palm (only five reports, Apr 26 to May 16, with max of six along L Ontario the last day) quite low. An increase in Golden-winged around Pulaski was noted by EE with a max of six on May 23, probably mostly residents at that date.

Uncommon Warblers include — Worm-eating: one Oswego in May (T. Georgia) and another singing near Baldwinsville May 9 (MR). Blue-winged: only one, Pompey May 13 (JB). Orange-crowned: one Oakwood May 6 (MR) and May 8 (JP). Cape May: singles Oakwood May 6 and 13, Syracuse May 15 and 16, and SSSP May 8. Connecticut: one May 11 SSSP (EE).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: more common this spring, according to three observers (Pulaski, Richland, and Rome). Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Apr 23 Syracuse (Mrs. Henry Brown, fide B. Burtt). Baltimore Oriole: max of 53 on May 12, Derby Hill. Rusty Blackbird: highest count at Derby Hill 250 Apr 24; last migrants May 16 New Haven. A singing Cardinal is now a regular spring sound at Derby Hill and in Pulaski. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 5, somewhat late, Pompey; max 15 Derby Hill May 12. Indigo Bunting: arr May 4, early, Eaton, but not in numbers until May 12 when 16 passed Derby Hill.

Many winter finches remained long into spring, as might be expected in view of the high numbers this winter. Evening Grosbeak: high of migrants at Derby Hill 85 Apr 26; 30 still at Eaton Apr 29; last — 18 passing Derby Hill May 12, and two there and one Oakwood May 16. Purple Finch: good numbers — max ten Oakwood Apr 29 and May 12. Pine Grosbeak: none during the period. Redpoll: a very high count of 400 passing Derby Hill Apr 7; down to 30 there the last day noted, Apr 27. Siskin: from 150 Apr 7 down to 20 Apr 27 at Derby Hill; flocks of up to 60 feeding on dandelion seeds and in trees in Camillus and Syracuse in May; last, May 17 Syracuse. Goldfinch: 345 passed Derby Hill May 12. Red Crossbill: lingered at feeders in Kenwood through Apr and to May 17; five repeats out of 23 banded there by H. Nodecker shows that the flock was at least partly of the same composition; still present at Utica and one at Derby Hill May 15; last two May 22 Syracuse (BS). White-winged Crossbill: not as widespread as the Red — only reports are ten Eaton Apr 15 (GC), a few in Apr at Kenwood with Reds at feeder, and the last two with four Reds at Kenwood May 21 (M. Jones).

Many sparrow species arrived late — e.g., Savannah Apr 12 at Oneida and Baldwinsville; Henslow's not until May 12 at Clay (searched for unsuccessfully earlier); Vesper Apr 5 near Phoenix. Slate-colored Junco: moderate max of 200 Oakwood Apr 14, a little late for the peak. Last Tree Sparrow Oakwood Apr 24. Chipping arr Apr 11, early, Jamesville (BS). Field Sparrow: not present in numbers until the 2nd half of Apr, late. White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows: low numbers of both — White-crowned Apr 4 Kenwood to May 16 when the max of five occurred along L Ontario, and migrant White-throated Apr 19 to May 15 with max of 50 Oakwood May 13-15. Fox Sparrow: moderate max of six Apr 12 Oneida; last reports Apr 19 GLSP and New Haven. Lincoln's Sparrow: only one, May 13 Oakwood (MR). Swamp Sparrow: not generally reported until Apr 18, late. No Apr reports of Snow Buntings from the Derby Hill migration-watch or elsewhere — cf. the low winter numbers.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The April weather was generally fair with temperatures above normal and this continued well into May. Birds arrived in this region at their usual time or in some cases a little earlier. Temperatures for the last half of May dropped below normal and there were frequent rains.

The biggest surprise was the number of Cerulean Warblers seen, and the probability that they are nesting here. Several Red Crossbills visited Allen's feeder frequently in late April and early May.

PRGMA is used for the Perch Lake Game Management Area in Jefferson County.

**Loons — Ducks:** Double-crested Cormorant: as numerous as last year, about 19 active nests noted May 21. Great Blue Heron: more nests this year at PRGMA. Cattle Egret: only one reported, near PRGMA May 11. Black-crowned Night Heron: colonies larger on all islands visited (Allen). Canada Goose: A very good flight. Largest count at PRGMA was 5,000 Apr 6. Geese were reported to be damaging the grass or grain crops along the banks of Black River in Lewis County in April. Several were heard flying as late as May 17. May be nesting at El Dorado, Bass Island and again at PRGMA. Mallard: Nests on Bass and Gull Is. Pintail: 30 at PRGMA Apr 4 and a pair nesting there. Redhead: at PRGMA in early May. Ringed-necked Duck: 20 at PRGMA Apr 18 and a pair there as late as May 24.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: one in road near Edwards eating a dead woodchuck May 10, four near Redwood May 23. Goshawk: nesting again in Lewis County (Walker). Broad-winged Hawk: pair in woods near South Edwards May 10. Bald Eagle: adult at El Dorado May 2. Osprey: pair at PRGMA in late Apr, one at Natural Bridge May 10 and a nest at Grass Lake. Bobwhite: seen around Watertown, but these are probably birds that escaped this spring. Turkey: seen on Wellesley Is. Black-bellied Plover: six at El Dorado May 30. Ruddy Turnstone: many at El Dorado May 30. Common Snipe: Apr 12. Upland Plover: five near Henderson Apr 19, early. Spotted Sandpiper: May 9, PRGMA. Solitary Sandpiper: May 16, Sulphur Springs. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 18, PRGMA. White-rumped Sandpiper: one at El Dorado May 21. Dunlin: six at PRGMA May 12. Short-billed Dowitcher: at El Dorado May 21-30. Sanderling: El Dorado May 21. Herring Gull: nesting colonies are about the same size as last year. Ring-billed Gull: nesting colonies increasing in size each year. Caspian Tern: two at El Dorado May 21, not surprising now that we know they are breeding on Pigeon Island, a Canadian Island in Lake Ontario. Mourning Dove: seem to be more numerous each year. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 13, Burrville. Black-billed Cuckoo: about as numerous as other years.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** Red-headed Woodpecker: first May 8, several seen including two in Lewis Co. Kingbird: May 9. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 8. Rough-winged Swallow: May 2. Bluebird: an increase in the number of these birds reported, largely due to people who have read of the scarcity of this species. Nests in boxes at Black River and Brownville. Warbling Vireo: May 3.

Black-and-white Warbler: Apr 19, Watertown. Golden-winged Warbler: May 24 (Belknap). Orange-crowned Warbler: one seen. Parula Warbler: seen by three observers. Cape May Warbler: May 5. Cerulean Warbler: first May 9 at PRGMA, later at three more places in the vicinity of Watertown. Some of the Cerulean Warblers were found in the same places several days later so they may be nesting. Black-poll Warbler: May 17. Ovenbird: May 10. Redstart: May 8. Scarlet Tanager: May 7.

Evening Grosbeak: seen in fairly good numbers at feeders until late Apr, but only a few in May, last at Allen's feeder May 15. Redpoll: 200 at



PRGMA Apr 4. Red Crossbill: 18 at Allen's feeder Apr 22 to May 28. Tree Sparrow: last at Allen's feeder Apr 21, but reported by others in early May. 173 Haley St., Watertown

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

Mr Kampf of the Ray Brook weather station tells us that temperatures ranged widely in April 1964. A record low of  $-5^{\circ}$  on April 5 was preceded by 8 inches of new snow on April 3 and three inches more on April 4. Most of this snow was gone by April 8. Temperature high was  $71^{\circ}$  on April 28 and 29. Precipitation and wind were about average for the month.

May temperatures were close to normal with light frost on the 15th and moderate frost on the 21st. Temperature high was  $83^{\circ}$  on May 25. Precipitation was above normal; 1.35 inches of rain fell overnight on the 15th. Winds were considerably stronger than normal; gusts up to 60 mph on the 9th and 30 mph on the 10th and 20th.

Two records of Snow Geese are unusual in the Saranac Lake area. We were extremely disappointed at not finding an active Goshawk nest. The lack of at least one Bald Eagle at Tupper Lake is also something to be alarmed about.

Mrs. McIlroy's observations at Piseco Lake were made between May 28 and 31. She notes: "Spraying the shore of Piseco Lake has certainly cut the insect population to a small fraction of its former numbers, so that even assuming that the spray itself did not affect the birds, the insect population would not support the numbers of breeding birds that used to be present."

Observers and initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; EA — Elizabeth Anderson; ED — Ethel Dyer; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; MK — Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; DMcI — Dorothy McIlroy.

Abbreviations used: B — Brook; L — Lake; P — Pond; R — River.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: pair Rainbow L and Duck P (JH); L Colby May 28 (HD); four Tupper L Apr 18 (AA, MK); two May 3 Rollins P (AA). Pied-billed Grebe: seen Apr 26, May 8 & 12 Tupper L (MK); two May 11 Tupper L (AA). Great Blue Heron: one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); one Apr 25 thru May 3 Tupper L "scarce" (AA); one May 7 Saranac L (HD). Green Heron: one May 13 Tupper L (AA, MK). American Bittern: one Apr 26, four May 8, two May 12 Tupper L (MK); one May 18 Saranac R (HD). Canada Goose: 65 Apr 27 Ray B (JK); JD reports small flocks at Tupper L from Apr 2 to May 26; at least one pair put out by the Conservation Dept in 1963 on the Raquette R has nested and brought off a brood; 50 Apr 12 L Flower (JH, HD); 73 Apr 20 Debar (JH); 12 L Champlain May 11 (JH). **Snow Goose:** two L Flower Apr 12 (JH, HD); six immatures in a rye field Gabriels May 20 (EA, HD, D Young). Mallard: pair Apr 30 Saranac R (EA, HD); pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Black Duck: reported in small numbers from Ray B, Tupper L and Saranac L; six pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Pintail: four Apr 25 Tupper L (JD). Green-winged Teal: pair Apr 30 Ray B (JK). Blue-winged Teal: pair nesting Saranac R (EA, HD). Wood Duck: four Apr 19 Tupper L (MK); two May 2 Tupper L (AA); five May 11 L Alice (JH). Ring-necked Duck: ten Apr 17 Tupper L (MK); 13 pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Lesser Scaup: 30 Tupper L Apr 17 thru 20 (AA, MK); four Apr 21 L Colby (HD). Common Goldeneye: small numbers seen by MK Apr 4 thru 26 Tupper L; one female May 10 St Regis Falls (EA, HD). Bufflehead: 30 Tupper L Apr 25 and 26 (AA, MK); three pair L Flower Apr 25 (EA, HD). Hooded Merganser: small numbers, Tupper L after Apr 12; pair, L Clear Apr 21 (HD). Common Merganser: one to nine Apr 4 thru 19 Tupper L (MK); one male, Rocky B, Upper Chateaugay (JH); Piseco L, late May (DMcI).

**Hawks — Owls:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: Apr 30, one carefully identified Forestdale Rd, NE of Franklin Falls (EA, HD). Broad-winged Hawk: reported from Tupper L, Saranac L and Ray B; nest in Birch tree Ray B, May 21 (JK). Golden Eagles: one May 20, site undisclosed for conservation reasons (JH). Bald Eagle: no reports, JD says "this is the first year in several that I haven't seen the Bald Eagle". Marsh Hawk: one Apr 6 West Chazy (HD); one Apr 18 Tupper L (JD); one May 1 Ray B (JK); pair over Saranac R May 4 (HD). Osprey: one or two, Tupper L, Apr 12 thru 26 (AA, JD, MK); one May 12 Ray B (JK); encouraging numbers around Saranac L, at nest near Rainbow L May 20 (EA, HD). Sparrow Hawk: sparse reports early April, Tupper L, West Chazy and Saranac L. Ruffed Grouse: heard drumming Apr 15 thru May 17 Ray B (JK); two May 2 Tupper L (MK). Killdeer: one May 11 Tupper L (AA); one Apr 3 and May 12 Saranac L (HD). American Woodcock: two May 3 Tupper L (MK); singing ground survey seems to show normal numbers around Saranac L and Franklin Falls (EA, HD, JH). Common Snipe: one to five seen off and on from Apr 18 to May 12, Tupper L (AA, MK); heard May 1 Ray B (JK); one May 18 Saranac R (HD). Spotted Sandpiper: one May 12 Rocky B, Upper Chateaugay (JH). Solitary Sandpiper: one May 10 (AA) and one May 13 (MK) both at Tupper L. Herring Gull: seem less numerous this year, Tupper L (JD); one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); 15 Apr 9, Cadyville (HD). Black Tern: three May 26 Tupper L (JD). Mourning Dove: two Apr 6 Tupper L (AA); one Norman's Ridge May 12 (EA, HD).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: one Apr 27 thru month of May, Tupper L (AA). Common Nighthawk: two May 15, Tupper L (JD); one May 24, Saranac L (JK). Chimney Swift: back to Ray B (JK) and Saranac L (HD) by May 6; May 8, Tupper L (MK); Piseco L, late May (DMcI). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 16, courtship flight May 26, Ray B (JK); good numbers reported in Saranac L area after May 12 (ED). Belted Kingfisher: two Apr 17 Tupper L (MK); one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); four Apr 30 Saranac L (HD); late May, Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 15 seems to have been day of return in Ray B area (JK); Saranac L (HD); Tupper L (JD) late May Piseco L (DMcI). Pileated Woodpecker: one May 8 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 15 Ray B (JK); Apr 18 Tupper L (MK); Apr 24 Saranac L (HD) Piseco L (DMcI). Hairy Woodpecker: seems normal in all areas. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Apr 23 Azure Mt.; one May 4 Debar (JH). Eastern Kingbird: May 12 Saranac L (HD); May 22 Ray B (JK); no reports from Tupper L though this bird seems more numerous this year in Saranac L area and north (HD). Great Crested Flycatcher: one May 8 Ray B (JK); one May 15 Tupper L (AA); one May 17 Saranac L (EA); May 24 Jay (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Eastern Phoebe: one Saranac L (HD) and Ray B (JK) Apr 15; two Tupper L May 3 (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Trail's Flycatcher: two May 24 near Jay (EA, HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Least Flycatcher: common in all areas after May 3. Eastern Wood Pewee: May 28 Ray B (JK); two May 30 Tupper L (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 18, Tupper L (AA); Ray B (JK) and Piseco L (DMcI). Tree Swallow: one Apr 10 Tupper L (AA); four Apr 15 Saranac L (HD); Apr 27 Ray B (JK); Piseco L (DMcI). Bank Swallow: Apr 29 Ray B (JK); 40 May 3 Tupper L (AA); 20 May 6 Saranac L (HD). Rough-winged Swallow: May 3 thru 26 Ray B (JK). Barn Swallow: Ray B Apr 19 on, "our commonest swallow" (JK); five Apr 25 Tupper L (AA); two Apr 26 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Cliff Swallow: 30 May 3 Tupper L (AA); May 6 & 7 Ray B (JK). Gray Jay: one May 10 Tupper L (AA). Blue Jay: normal all areas. Common Crow: no very large numbers reported but noted in all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: normal throughout region, nest Apr 17 Ray B (JK). Boreal Chickadee: Apr 4 & 5 Ray B (JK). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal throughout region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: normal. Brown Creeper: one Apr 18 Tupper L (AA, MK); one Apr 21 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). House Wren: one May 3 Tupper L "few this year" (AA); no reports from other areas. Winter Wren: one Apr 22 thru May 8 Tupper L (AA, MK); one May 7 Saranac L

(HD). Catbird: normal in all areas after May 12. Brown Thrasher: May 3 Ray B (JK); May 5 Tupper L (AA); pair Saranac L after May 7 (HD). Robin: good numbers reported in all areas. Wood Thrush: seem down in numbers. Hermit Thrush: also down in numbers. Swainson's Thrush: one May 29 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Veery: most numerous thrush of this period, back May 8 Tupper L (AA) and Saranac L (HD); May 18 Ray B (JK). Eastern Bluebird: pair nesting, Tupper L Apr 10 (AA); one May 26 Saranac L (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: small numbers Apr 18 thru 25 Tupper L (AA, MK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Apr 18 to May 12 Tupper L (AA, MK); Apr 23 Ray B (JK). Water Pipit: late April and early May at Gabriels "flocks smaller than in past four years — 30 as compared to 100 or more" (David Young); two Horseshoe Pond May 15 (AA). Cedar Waxwing: May 23 Ray B (JK); six May 28 Saranac L (M Muncil); Piseco L (DMcI). Starling: normal.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: one Apr 28, nest May 7 Ray B (JK); two May 8 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Red-eyed Vireo: back early May all areas. Warbling Vireo: one May 8 Tupper L (AA, MK). Black-and-white Warbler: May 3 Ray B (JK); one May 8 Tupper L (MK); none heard at Piseco L (DMcI). Nashville Warbler: good numbers. Parula Warbler: excellent numbers; abundant Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow Warbler: reported from all areas. Magnolia Warbler: a few through May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: good numbers. Myrtle Warbler: "not so common this year" Ray B (JK); April 26 Tupper L (MK); normal throughout Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Black-throated Green Warbler: good numbers thru May. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Saranac L (HD); May 11 Ray B (JK); May 12 Upper Chateaugay (JH); May 18 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Chestnut-sided Warbler: good numbers from May 6. Bay-breasted Warbler: one May 16 Osgood R (EA, HD). Ovenbird: fair numbers after May 6; Piseco L (DMcI). Northern Waterthrush: May 2 Saranac L (HD); May 12 Tupper L (MK). Mourning Warbler: one early May Tupper L (AA). Yellowthroat: good numbers after May 6. Wilson's Warbler: one May 12 Tupper L (MK); one May 26 Ray B (JK). Canada Warbler: back by May 12. American Restart: back by May 10.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Tupper L May 12 (AA); Ray B May 17 (JK); Saranac L May 27 (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: two Apr 5 Ray B (JK); four Apr 6 Saranac L (HD); six Apr 10 Tupper L (JD). Red-winged Blackbird: normal throughout region. Baltimore Oriole: May 3, good numbers Tupper L (AA); May 11 Saranac L (HD); May 21 Ray B (JK). Common Grackle: common. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Apr 4 some through May Saranac L (HD); all period Ray B (JK). Scarlet Tanager: May 3 Tupper L (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one May 6 Ray B (JK); May 8 Tupper L (MK); two May 11 Saranac L (ED); Piseco L (DMcI). Indigo Bunting: May 17 Ray B (JK); early May Tupper L (AA). Evening Grosbeak: small flocks throughout period in all areas. Purple Finch: few in tri-lakes area all period; "abundant" Piseco L (DMcI). Common Redpoll: four Apr 4 Saranac L (ED). Pine Siskin: May 28 Tupper L (AA); Apr 18 Ray B (JK); Apr 11 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). American Goldfinch: a few reported from all areas except Piseco L. Red Crossbill: Apr 8, 17 & 29 (no numbers given) Ray B (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Apr 27 Saranac L, this bird was convincingly described to me by Mrs. J Schmidt (HD); one May 6 Ray B (JK); one May 15 Tupper L (AA). Savannah Sparrow: three Apr 20, eight May 3 Ray B (JK); two Apr 26 Tupper L (MK); one May four Saranac L (HD). Vesper Sparrow: six Apr 18 Tupper L (AA); Apr 19 Ray B (JK); Apr 27 Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: no large number reported from any area. Tree Sparrow: two Apr 18 Tupper L (AA, MK); 15 Apr 27 Saranac L (ED). Chipping Sparrow: one Apr 15 Saranac L (HD); one Apr 18 Tupper L (MK); Apr 28 Ray B (JK). Field Sparrow: one Apr 11 Tupper L (JD); three Apr 16 Ray B (JK); one Apr 21 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers Tupper L May 10 thru 18 (AA); small numbers May 5 thru 21 Ray B (JK); one to four May 4-11, Saranac L (HD). White-throated Sparrow: one Apr



16 Saranac L (HD); ten Apr 18 Tupper L (AA); Apr 15 Ray B "not as common as last year" (JK); Piseco L (DMcI). Fox Sparrow: Apr 8 thru 16 Ray B (JK); one May 1 Tupper L (AA); gone from Saranac L May 4 (ED). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 8 & 12 Ray B (JK). Swamp Sparrow: Tupper L, Saranac L and Ray B after Apr 18. Song Sparrow: one Apr 2 Saranac L (EA); throughout period Ray B (JK); one Apr 11 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Snow Bunting: flock of 20 Apr 6 Tupper L (AA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This spring was once again quite dry. Precipitation at Albany totaled 2.17 in. during Apr and 1.31 in. for May, 0.60 and 2.16 in. below normal, respectively. Although Apr, with an average of 45.7°, was very close to the normal in temperature. May was a warm month, with temperatures averaging 61.7°, 3.8° above normal.

Ducks and geese were observed in average numbers early in the period. An unusual number of species were recorded well into May, although some observers felt the bulk of the waterfowl left a little earlier than usual. The very dry conditions prevailing in May made the spring shorebird flight in Region 8 an outstanding one.

Despite a series of pleasant days at the end of Apr and the beginning of May, the bulk of the landbirds did not appear until May 6-10. Observers reported good numbers of many species on May 9 and 10 especially. It seems likely that a storm passing south of the Region at the beginning of May held back many migrants for a few days, as birds usually appearing first in very early May were reported generally 3-4 days later this year. Few "waves" were noted after that culmination on May 9-10, as days continued to be sunny and pleasant, and the birds were not detained.

The spring migration of warblers was generally disappointing. Despite the wide variety of species reported, most observers saw few individuals, even of some rather common species. Although this was very likely due partly to the lack of rain or even cloud cover on many nights, still even nesting warblers seemed less common in a number of local areas.

An interesting result of the influx of finches over the past winter was the number of late records of these birds; especially noteworthy were the many reports of lingering Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included Red-thr Loon, Cattle Egret, Brant, Snow Goose, Shoveller, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, King Rail, Iceland Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Dickcissel. In addition, a House Finch was recorded in the Region for the first time, and two sandpipers which were probably Baird's Sandpipers were reported.

Abbreviations used: arr — arrived; BCM — Black Creek Marshes; br — breasted; Co — County; Colu — Columbia; com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; LK — Lisha Kill; max — maximum count; n — necked; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; NWW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; pr — pair; R — River; Res — Reservoir; SCR — Stony Creek Reservoir; SL — Saratoga Lake; Tomh — Tomhannock; thr — throated; w — winged; WR — Waterliet Reservoir.

Observers: ADBC — Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC — Greene County Bird Club; SBC — Schenectady Bird Club; GA — Gus Angst; GB — Guy Bartlett; TB, AB — Tom & Arlene Brown; LB, VB — Lee & Virginia



Burland; JHB, BB — James & Barbara Bush; JC — Juanita Cooke; HE — Hazel Eddy; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; JF — John Fuller; AG — Aden Gokay; EH — Esly Hallenbeck; BH — Barrington Havens; MK — Marcia Kent; CK — Clarissa Ketcham; JP, EP — John & Eloise Payne; SP — Stephanie Podrazik; ER — Eleanor Radke; EMR — Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS — Walton B. Sabin; BRS — Benton Seguin; RS, MLS — Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; FS, MS — Fred & Myra Smilow; HT — Henry Thurston; DJT — Dr. Donald Tucker; BW — Beverly Waite; RW — Robert Wernick; PPW — Peter Wickham; RPY — Robert Yunick; NZ — Naomi Zimmer; also, B-S-H, Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin & Barringer Havens.

**Loons — Ducks:** Com Loon: reported throughout period to May 16, SL (WBS, PPW). **Red-thr Loon:** one, SL, Apr 25 (B-S-H). **Red-n Grebe:** four reported Apr 19-25 (B-S-H) and one very late one at SL May 16 (WBS, PPW). **Horned Grebe:** Last May 1, SL (BRS), max 60, SL, Apr 25 (B-S-H). **Pied-billed Grebe:** more than last year, max 28 Apr 5 (GB, BH). **Great Blue Heron:** very few seen. **Com Egret:** one reported at Claverack Apr 16 (HT); another at Chatham Apr 22 (EMR) and a third at Basic Res Apr 26 (WBS); a fourth was at SCR May 16-17 (SP). **Cattle Egret:** a flock of 15-20 appeared on a farm nr Broadalbin May 6 and were photographed (*vide* L. Stoner). This was the only report. **Green Heron:** arr late; one in Canaan Apr 18 (JP, EP), but others arr in a marked wave Apr 28-30. **American Bittern:** one reported Apr 12, Round L (B-S-H), but most arr Apr 24 and thereafter. **Canada Goose:** many flocks observed, last May 24 (TB, AB, JC). **Brant:** two flocks observed flying over and one on the water in Greene Co, May 16-18 (JHB, BB); a flock flew over Slingerlands May 16 (WBS, DJT). **Snow Goose:** one flew over Meadowdale with a flock of Canada Geese Apr 17 (MLS) only observation. **Gadwall:** a pr was at SCR Apr 8-12 (EH, HE). **American Widgeon:** most left by mid-Apr, but two were at SCR through May 16 (PPW, WBS). **Pintail:** good numbers, last Apr 23 (GB, BH). **Green-w Teal:** last May 7, SCR (B-S-H). **Blue-w Teal:** large influx about Apr 10; few appeared to remain in the area to breed. **Shoveller:** one male seen Apr 11, SL (SBC). **Redhead:** one pr was at SCR Apr 2-5 (B-S-H), (EH), and another pr was at NWW May 16 (DJT, PPW, WBS). **Ring-n Duck:** appeared in good numbers to May 3 (B-S-H). **Canvasback:** several reports, early Apr, max 40 SL Apr 2 (BRS); last SCR Apr 26 (GA). **Scaup:** seen regularly through May 16 (SBC). **Com Goldeneye:** seen up to May 3, SL (B-S-H). **Bufflehead:** relatively few reported, last May 1 (BRS). **Oldsquaw:** a brief appearance; fourteen were at SL Apr 22 (B-S-H), six were there Apr 23 (GB, BH) and one was at Alcove Res Apr 26 (WBS). **White-w Scoter:** one was at Lock 7, Mohawk R, Apr 22 (BRS). **Ruddy Duck:** one, SL Apr 22 (BRS). **Hooded Merganser:** a number of reports, last May 16 (GA). **Com Merganser:** seen well into May, last May 16, WR, (WBS, PPW) and May 23, NWW (PPW). **Red-br Merganser:** reported up to May 16, WR and SL (B-S-H).

**Hawks — Owls: Goshawk:** two late records — one Apr 18, Old Chatham (ADBC) and one Apr 26, Meadowdale (GB, BRS). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** only five reports, three Apr 24-28 (B-S-H). **Cooper's Hawk:** two reports, one Alcove Res Apr 12 (WBS) and one nr Albany Airport Apr 27 (RW). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** ten reports, mostly singles, scattered through period. **Red-tailed Hawk:** seems somewhat more com this year than last. **Broad-w Hawk:** some migrants noted Apr 18-May 10, no large flocks. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one, Kinderhook, Apr 1 (last) (ER) and one Apr 5 (GB, BH). **Bald Eagle:** two reports — one at WR Apr 25 (JF) and one at SCR (BRS et al.) May 7-16, both adults. **Marsh Hawk:** eleven reports to mid-May. **Osprey:** early report Apr 4, Emboght (GCBC); appeared in several areas Apr 12-14 and then reported to May 16, SCR (B-S-H). **Peregrine Falcon:** one seen over Wolf Hollow May 10 (SBC) lone report. **Bob-white:** reports received from Canaan, Emboght, Meadowdale and Nisk. **King Rail:** one was seen well at BCM May 17 (L. Thomas). **Virginia Rail:** first, BCM Apr 18 (EH); few reports. **Sora:** reported from BCM Apr 22 (BRS) — May 16 (SBC); also reported from Greene and Colu Co May 16 (GCBC, ADBC). **Com Gallinule:** few reports, first Apr 4, BCM (EH) and Apr 5, Coxsackie (C. Thorne), very

early; next reports were after Apr 20. American Coot: only two reports — one Apr 24, SCR (WBS) and one May 16, Green Co (GCBC). Semipalmated Plover: more than fifteen reported from May 16, Vly Creek Res (HE, JF, B. Hicks) through end of period. Upland Plover: few reports, first May 16 (SBC). Spotted Sandpiper: arr in marked wave last week of Apr, first Apr 23 (GB, BH). Solitary Sandpiper: first, May 8 (late), SL (B-S-H) and Defreestville (PPW). Greater Yellow-legs: reports sprinkled throughout period from Apr 4, Emboght (GCBC) — May 24, Meadowdale (B-S-H). Lesser Yellow-legs: at least five reports from May 16 (SBC) — May 31 (RPY). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1-4 reported at Meadowdale, Apr 24-May 1 (HE et al); also at Nisk May 16 (HE, JF, B. Hicks). Least Sandpiper: reported May 16 (many areas) to end of period, max 40 May 18 (BRS). Banding of 44 of these nr Scotia on six dates produced only three repeats on dates other than that of capture, even though large numbers of the species were maintained throughout the latter half of May at the locality, showing a rapid, continuous movement through the area (RPY). A similar pattern was shown by banding results with Semipalmated Plover. Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Spotted Sandpiper. Dunlin: three were observed nr Scotia May 28; one was banded and remained through May 31 (RPY). Semipalmated Sandpiper: mostly 1-2 reported, May 16, Nisk (HE, JF, B. Hicks) — May 29 (RPY), but 23 were banded the evening of May 28 (RPY). **Baird's Sandpiper**: two birds, probably of this species, were observed in the company of Pectoral and Least Sandpipers at Nick May 16 (H. Arnold, B. Hicks et al.). Unfortunately others were not able to find the birds later. **Iceland Gull**: one was at SL Apr 23 (GB, BH). Great Black-backed Gull: a few were reported, last May 7 (B-S-H). Bonaparte's Gull: reported from Apr 12-May 7, SL (B-S-H) in small numbers; most reports Apr 18-26. Com Tern: first reported at Queechy and SL Apr 22 (AG, BRS); several other reports in late Apr, early May, last May 24, NWW (GB, BH). Black Tern: three reports, all SL, May 9-16, max 8 (PPW et al.). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 7, Meadowdale (RS, MLS); seen in good numbers. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 8, Catskill (JHB, BB) and BCM (B-S-H). No unusual owls were reported.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes**: Whip-poor-will: a very early first report, Apr 9, Palenville (Jean Hervey); several reported late Apr and afterwards. Nighthawk: two early reports: one Apr 29, Chatham Center (David & Esther Knoll) and one May 2, South Schodack (JC); most arr after May 15. Chimney Swift: first Apr 24, Catskill (BB) and Apr 27, Chatham (ER). Ruby-thr Hummingbird: first May 6, Scotia (RPY); a large influx late in May. Pileated Woodpecker: good numbers reported from all sections. Red-headed Woodpecker: several reports: one, Meadowdale, May 10-11 (BW, RS, MLS); one, Chatham Center, May 10 (fide PPW); one, Washington Park, Albany, May 16 (B. Hipple et al.); and one, Kiskatom, May 16 (JHB, BB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Apr 2, Colu Co (ADBC), with several observed Apr 11-12; last migrant May 16, Gallupville (HE, NZ, EH). **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**: This species was reported at Karner May 8 (H. Winn et al.) and at Nisk May 9 (HE et al.); the localities are about 10 miles apart, so that both observation could refer to the same individual. Kingbird: first observed May 1, BCM (BRS), but most arr from May 7 on. Crested Flycatcher: first May 3 (SBC) with many reports over the next few days. Traill's Flycatcher: first May 16, BCM (SBC) and thereafter. Least Flycatcher: first Apr 23, Ghent (PE, GE) and Apr 27, Greenville (CK), but most appeared in early May. Wood Pewee: first May 10, Colu Co (ADBC) and May 16 elsewhere in Region 8; relatively few were reported. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only one reported during period — May 16, Colu Co (ADBC). Tree Swallow: numbers rapidly built up Apr 5-11, and remained high throughout period. Bank Swallow: first Apr 17 (WBS, BH, GB), widely seen by end of Apr. At one especially large colony nr Scotia, 606 nest holes were counted on May 23, and a careful estimation based on banded swallows indicated about 1175 adults present (RPY). Rough-w Swallow: first Apr 17, Catskill (JHB) and widely the following week. Barn Swallow: first Apr 11, Canaan (JP, EP) and Apr 14, Rotterdam Jc (RPY), with many reports the following week. Cliff Swallow: first Apr 25, BCM (SBC); few

reports. Purple Martin: first reported at Linlithgo quite early, Apr 6 (TB, AB); reported later at Nisk Apr 25 (B-S-H) and Corinth (GB). **Boreal Chickadee**: one was seen and heard at Tomh Apr 17 (WBS et al.). Tufted Titmouse: nesting in several areas, although not common. Adults were observed feeding young at LK May 3 (SBC). Red-br Nuthatch: few migrants observed, although present in the usual breeding areas. Brown Creeper: a fairly heavy flight was noted by several observers over the latter half of Apr. House Wren: first Apr 24, Nisk (HE); widespread by May 1. Winter Wren: only two migrants reported, in mid-Apr. **Carolina Wren**: one was seen May 12 at Catskill (BB) in a locality where the species has bred previously, but it did not return. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: appeared very late and in low numbers in all reporting areas, first May 10, Castleton (JC). **Short-billed Marsh-Wren**: a singing individual was seen at BCM May 16 (SBC) for the only record. Mockingbird: reported from New Concord, South Schodack, Catskill, Greenville and Athens, but no reports of individuals much north of Colu and Greene Co during the period have reached me. Catbird: first May 2, several areas, widely by May 7. Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18, Palenville (GCBC) and Apr 23, Westerlo (MK) with a marked influx the last week of Apr. Wood Thrush: first Apr 28, Catskill (JHB, BB) and Scotia (RPY), many reported May 1-4. Hermit Thrush: few migrants observed, first Apr 5 (GB, BH), most Apr 19-May 10. Swainson's Thrush: several reports, May 7 (BRS) — May 22 (RW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reported, May 7 (BRS) — May 16 (PPW, WBS, DJT). Veery: reported very early — Apr 25 — at Colonie (JF et al.) but most appeared from May 6 on. Bluebird: may be slowly increasing in area or at least holding its own. Golden-cr Kinglet: very few reports, Apr 19-26 (B-S-H); most observers reported none. Ruby-cr Kinglet: a good flight Apr 14 (EH) — May 16 (several reports), max 45 Apr 25 (PPW). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: an unprecedented flight, at least nine reported, first reports May 6. Two pr were reported nesting nr Voorheesville (SBC); the nest of one of these was found. Another pr was at Kiskatom May 16 and thereafter (JHB, BB) and still another pr was observed May 13 along Rte 30, Schoharie Co (HE, NZ, EH). Another (single) was observed May 17, Central Park, Schenectady (BRS). Water Pipit: three reports: a small flock, Apr 26, BCM (BRS, GB); 40, May 16, Kiskatom (JHB, BB); and a flock remained at Ghent through May 16 (PE, GE). Migrant Shrike: one was observed singing nr Catskill Apr 11 (JHB). The individual which wintered nr Round L was still present there on May 16 (B-S-H). A third shrike (sp?) was observed May 16, Colu Co (ADBC).

**Vireos — Warblers**: Yellow-thr Vireo: first May 7, several localities. Solitary Vireo: first Apr 29, Red Rock (FS, MS); a marked wave May 7-10. Red-eyed Vireo: first May 4, Schodack Center (LB, VB), widespread by May 10. Philadelphia Vireo: only two reports, both May 16 (SBC). Warbling Vireo: one was singing, Nisk, Apr 29 (PPW); a marked influx occurred on May 4-5, several areas. Black and White Warbler: relatively few observed, first Apr 27, Meadowdale (MLS) and Greenville (CK). **Prothonotary Warbler**: one was observed May 16 at Old Chatham (EMR), the first record for this region in several years. Worm-eating Warbler: reported at Indian Ladder as usual, May 16 on (SBC) and also from Ghent May 11 (PE, GE) and at Kiskatom May 16 (BB). Golden-w Warbler: first May 4, New Concord (ER) with many reported May 7-9. Blue-w Warbler: seen May 7, Troy (PPW) and New Concord (ER) and in more localities than usual May 8-10. **Brewster's Warbler**: one was seen nr LK, May 13 and again May 16 (SBC). No other reports of hybrids. Tennessee Warbler: first May 8, Vischer Ferry (B-S-H) with a marked wave May 9-10, last May 17 (B-S-H). **Orange-cr Warbler**: a singing bird was reported at the ADBC Sanctuary, Old Chatham, May 9 (ER, AG, LB, VB). Nashville Warbler: first May 1, Ghent (ADBC) and May 3, LK (SBC). Parula Warbler: more reported than usual, first May 6, Schenectady (B-H-S). Yellow Warbler: first Apr 25, Ghent (PE, GE) and in several localities Apr 26-29. Magnolia Warbler: May 5, Schenectady — May 24, Indian Ladder (B-S-H), few reported. Cape May Warbler: May 7 (several observers) — May 16 (SBC). Black-thr Blue Warbler: first May 4, Schenectady (BRS), very few reported. Myrtle Warbler: first



Apr 11, SL (SBC), early. This bird was in female or imm. plumage and may have wintered nearby. Later reports from Apr 18, Castleton (JC) — May 24 (B-S-H), below usual numbers. Black-thr Green Warbler: first Apr 26, Tomh (PPW), but most appeared May 3-4 and later. Appeared very low in numbers, and absent from some areas where it previously bred. Blackburnian Warbler: first May 2, LK (B-S-H) and May 4, Meadowdale (RS, MLS). Cerulean Warbler: observed May 13, Gallupville (NZ, HE, EH), but the species is apparently not breeding in this area where it has bred for the last several years. Chestnut-sided Warbler: first May 2, Nisk (B-S-H), generally reported May 7-9. Bay-br Warbler: only five reports, from May 11, Ghent (PE, GE) — May 31, Nisk (SBC). Blackpoll Warbler: first May 11, Ghent (PE, GE) — end of period. Pine Warbler: first May 6, LK (RW), only four reports. Prairie Warbler: first May 9 (ER), New Concord, with other reports from Catskill (BB) and Karner (SBC). Palm Warbler: only five reports, all single; four were reported Apr 22-26, and one was reported May 16 (SP). Ovenbird: first May 4, Catskill (BB) and in other areas May 6-8. Northern Water-thrush: few reports, May 1-16. Louisiana Water-thrush: first Apr 23, Red Rock (FS, MS); few observed. **Kentucky Warbler:** reported again at Ghent, May 16-17 (PE, GE) — the lone report. Mourning Warbler: no migrants observed; however, the species is present in nesting habitat at Jenny L (GB). Northern Yellow-throat: first May 4, Catskill (BB) and May 6, BCM (B-S-H). Yellow-br Chat: several reports — one, BCM, May 9 and 16 (PPW et al.); one, Vischer Ferry, May 10 (B-S-H); one, nr Albany Airport, May 16 (RW); one nr Catskill May 16 (JHB, BB); and at least two nr Altamont May 16 (PPW, WBS, DJT). Wilson's Warbler: several reports, May 8, Schenectady (B-S-H); May 16 (several localities). Canada Warbler: first May 7, BCM (B-S-H); generally reported May 9 and afterwards. Redstart: first May 6, LK (RW) and May 7, Troy (PPW), and generally in the succeeding days.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: first May 6 (B-S-H); widely observed May 8-9. Baltimore Oriole: first May 3, Colu Co (ADBC) and in other areas in a marked wave May 4-5. **Orchard Oriole:** May 8, Catskill (JHB), May 10, Ghent (PE, GE) and May 22, Nisk (PPW). Two pr reported nesting at Castleton (JC). Rusty Blackbird: a number of Apr reports, last Apr 28, BCM (MLS). One May 16 (HE, B. Hicks, JF). Scarlet Tanager: first May 8, LK (B-S-H) and widely May 11-12. Rose-br Grosbeak: several early, first Apr 25, Nisk (HE) and Apr 26, Castleton (JC). Indigo Bunting: a very early individual was reported at Castleton Apr 18 (JC); next report May 7 Catskill (JHB, BB); most birds appearing from May 10 on. **Dickcissel:** one was observed at a feeder in Canaan Apr 18 by observers familiar with the species (JP, EP). Evening Grosbeak: lingered late in good numbers, last May 16 (SBC). Purple Finch: very few observed until about Apr 20, when a noticeable influx occurred. The species was frequently reported throughout May. **House Finch:** one was seen at a feeder in Nisk Apr 29. On May 5, this male was trapped, photographed and viewed by a large number of observers (RPY et al.). To my knowledge, this is the first record of the species for Region 8, and may portend a northward extension of its range into the region. Redpoll: one very late individual was seen in a flock of Pine Siskins at Meadowdale May 16 (HE, JF, B. Hicks). Pine Siskin: a number were seen up to mid-May, last May 21, Catskill (JHB). Red Crossbill: these were observed in numbers, both at feeders and elsewhere, throughout Apr and well into May; last report May 16, Guilderland (H. Jonson). Towhee: a gradual influx from Apr 17 on, with good numbers in most areas by Apr 26. Savannah Sparrow: first Apr 12, Schodack (LB, VB) and from several areas following week. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr late, first May 6, Catskill (BB). Henslow's Sparrow: few reports, first May 7, Meadowdale (B-S-H). Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 11, several areas (SBC). Slate-colored Junco: migrants were passing through well into May, last May 29 (very late), Muitzeskill (JC). Tree Sparrow: last Apr 27, Westerlo (MK). Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 10, Nisk (HE); a marked wave occurred Apr 20-25. Field Sparrow: first Apr 7 (BB, ADBC). White-cr Sparrow: two were still at feeders in Colu Co in Apr; first migrant observed Apr 23 (EH); a marked



wave occurred May 9-11, when some observers reported seeing 10-20 individuals. White-thr Sparrow: reported throughout period, marked influx May 5-11. Fox Sparrow: many reports early Apr, last Apr 12, SL (B-S-H). Lincoln's Sparrow: only report from Colu Co May 16 (ADBC). Swamp Sparrow: quite late in appearance, first Apr 15, BCM (EH). Snow Bunting: observed at Altamont Apr 22 (late) (HE).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The migration, like the weather, was a gradual process with tempered flights and largely unspectacular conditions. April was normal with a fair amount of rain to break the drought that plagued the east for many months; but May brought cool temperatures and no rain until the fourteenth, when about two inches dropped in one storm. Bob Deed remarks that in Rockland County the outstanding features of the season were the influx of southern species, and the depletion (and in some instances total absence) of many insect and fish-eating species. He relates that the wood warblers are seriously down in numbers throughout Rockland County; especially the Redstart, Chestnut-sided and Hooded; and the Waterthrushes are virtually absent. This spring, having spent more hours in the field than in any of his previous thirty-six years that he has been birding, he failed to record a single Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Am. Bittern, Belted Kingfisher or Osprey. He feels strongly that the reason may be the cumulative effect of insecticides.

Contributors: MBC — Mearns Bird Club; WBC — Waterman Bird Club; BA — Bob Augustine; JB — Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman; GB — Gene Brown; TB — Trudy Brown; PC — Pauline Chernik; MC — Margaret Cornwell; BD — Brother Damain; ID — Iris Dean; SD — Scott Dearolf; GD — George Decker; RD — Robert F. Deed; M, JD — Margaret and John Dye; PG — Pat Garthwaite; RG — Ruth Grierson; JG — Joe Grossman; TH — Thelma Haight; WH — Mrs. Wallace R. Harper Jr.; FH — Fred Hough; RJ — Rev. Ronald James; PJ — Paul Jeheber; HK — Homer Kelsey; EM — E. McBride; WM — William McEntee; JM — Joe Malone; B, AM — B. and A. Merritt; HM — Helen Manson; KN — Ken Niven; TO — T. O'Hara; VP — Vivian Parkhurst; EP — Eleanor Pink; RP — Dr. Robert Pyle; JS — James Southward; W, TS — William and Trixie Strauss; ET — Edward D. Treacy; MV — Marion VanWagner; OW — Otis Waterman; BW — Barbara Whitecomb.

Abbreviations used: AM — American; arr — arrived; Imm — immature; Is — island; lk — lake; max — maximum; Res — reservoir; Sw — swamp.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: very few reported; one Tarrytown Res, Apr 18 (BA); one Stillwell Lk, Oran Apr 4; one Tomahawk Lk from Apr 1-14 (MBC). Horned Grebe: Extremely low in numbers; two, vicinity of Newburg Apr 3, 4 (M, JD); one May 4 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). Pied-billed Grebe: usual migrants. Double-crested Cormorant one Apr 23 Barrytown (BD). Great Blue Heron: numbers severely down; seven (max) at Tamarack Sw rookery near Millbrook, Dutch (WBC). Green Heron: Apr 19 (earliest) in Sull and Dutch; numbers normal. Cattle Egret: Biggest year so far; eight (max) Oran; four Dutch; one Rock. **Snowy Egret:** Virtually unrecorded in spring; one Crugers Is, Dutch Apr 13-16 (WM). Black-crowned Night Heron: one, Pleasant Valley, Dutch Apr 24 (MV); another, Apr 26 Basher Kill, Sull (KN). **Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** one Apr 5 Haven Sw, Sull (KN); no previous spring records known. Least Bittern: numbers very low; only one, Pine Plains, Dutch May 16 (OW). Am. Bittern: reports from Dutch only; five in Apr and two in May (WBC). Mute Swan: one (imm), Tomahawk Lk Apr 1-14 (BW); and two reports from Dutch, one Apr 3-6 near Fishkill (OW) and one Vanderburg Cove, Rhinecliff from

May 7-24, the latter, last seen on Federation field trip. Canada Goose: well reported through mid-Apr; one large flock seen and heard over Greenville Oran May 7; two pairs of breeding birds at West Point; appeared for the first time in Dutch at Briarcliff (TH). Brant: first flights, 1500 May 12 and 500 more May 13 over Highland Falls (JG) and 600 May 13 over Pleasantville, West (BA). A "heavy" flight over Dutch May 16 (AJ, MK). Snow Goose: a flock of about 70 including one Blue Goose over Bedford, West Apr 12, (SD); 150 same date over Hawthorne (BA). Pintail: six, Lk DeForest Apr 4, second latest date for Rock (RD); several dozen at Goshen, Oran, present, until Apr 25 (MBC). Green-winged Teal: Numbers appear to be normal; one June 2 (very late) Amenia, Dutch (W, TS). Blue-winged Teal: numbers normal; two May 16 (last) Pine Plains, Dutch (VP). Am. Widgeon: usual numbers to better than average. **Shoveller**: Only a few have ever been reported from Region 9; two Apr 20 at Crugers Is were the first in Dutch since 1956 (JB); two Apr 3-25, Goshen. **Ring-necked Duck**: left most areas early, Apr 26 (last). Am. Goldeneye: left most areas early, except a female at Piermont Pier Rock, May 14 (next to latest date) (RD). Bufflehead: Apr 8 (last), Dutch; most left early. Oldsquaw: one Apr 18 (no other), Tomahawk Lk (MBC). Mergansers: Red-breasted absent; Common and Hooded both left early; Hooded last seen Apr 3 at White Plains (VP) and Common Apr 30 Crugers Is (AJ).

**Hawks — Owls**: MBC reports the hawk situation poor in Oran this season, and it would appear this was the case throughout the region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one, Vassar College Apr 18 (EP); one May 5, Millerton (OW); no other reports. Cooper's Hawk: Only two reports, both from Dutch. Broad-winged Hawk: not noticeably different in most areas except in Dutch where they had the biggest spring flight in ten years; fiftyfive, Vassar College, Apr 18 (MV, EP) and an even larger number at the same hour at Dover Plains (GD). **Golden Eagle**: one (imm) May 25, flying over Mountainville School, Oran (all field marks observed) (MD, MC). Bald Eagle: lingered later than usual; single birds Apr 24 and May 2 in Dutch; Apr 25 in Oran; two May 15 in Sull; there were more than the usual number of early Apr dates in Oran (MBC). Marsh Hawk: reports from Dutch, only; three in Apr and two in May. Peregrine Falcon: one, May 17 in vicinity of Rio Res Sull (EM). Ruffed Grouse: Numbers better than average, 20 May 16 WBC census compared with an average of eight over the last seven years. Bobwhite: more reported in Dutch than in the last two years; five May 13, Triloba Hill Sanct, in Katonah (RG). Virginia Rail: normal in Dutch but down elsewhere, one report only from Rock and none from the other counties. Sora: None! Common Gallinule: arr Baher Kill Apr 24 (RJ) where they are regular breeders; only other reports from Dutch May 16 (first); three June 2 Amenia (WBC). Semipalmated Plover: rare in spring; one May 17 Basher Kill (KN). Black-bellied Plover: rare in spring; second spring record for Rock, one May 14 Piermont Pier (RD), this is the seventh record for Rock. Common Snipe: two (only) May 10 Rock; one May 17 Basher Kill; seven Apr 1 and two May 16 from Dutch. Breeding of this species in Region 9 has never been proven, but the May dates make it worth investigating. Upland Plover: two (together) Apr 25 Bullville, Oran (ET, PJ). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 18 (early) Pawling (WBC), normal numbers. Solitary Sandpiper: no Apr reports; May 1 (first) Pleasant Valley (MK); 15 May 16 WBC census. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 5 (early) Millbrook; nine, WBC census. Lesser Yellowlegs: one May 16 (late) Pine Plains (VP). Least Sandpiper: only two reports, but numbers were high on WBC census May 16; about 100 May 14 Piermont Pier (RD). Semipalmated Sandpiper: none reported. Northern Phalarope: unconfirmed report of two on the Hudson at Croton Pt. May 23 (WH).

Great Black-backed Gull: Apr 25 (last report), Dutch; non-breeding residents remain along the Hudson just to the south. **Common Tern**: one Apr. 25 (rare in spring), Crugers Is (AJ, PG); two May 17 near Hyde Park (MV). **Black Tern**: unreported in spring; three May 9 at Home Farm Pond, AMENIA (W, TS); more than one (no number given) May 10, Hurleyville,

Sull (KN). Mourning Dove: population higher than in recent years. Cuckoos: a good year for both species, but especially the Yellow-billed. Bob Deed counted six in two hours in Orangeville and Blauvelt; the equivalent of a full day's birding a few years ago. Owls: Screech, Great Horned and Barred normal. WBC had three Great Horned nests under surveillance during Apr.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Both species of Goatsuckers down in Rock, but normal to better elsewhere. Chimney Swift: Apr 18 (first), Dutch, with a heavy flight ton Apr 24. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 1 (early date) (MK); numbers normal. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** The bird previously reported at Garnerville, Rock attracted a mate Apr 24 and appeared to be nesting in a high hole in a tree near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Froman. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only reports, four Apr in Dutch. Kingbird: Apr 26 (early) Tarrytown (JM), numbers average to higher. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 1 (first), Wappingers Falls; numbers good; better than 100 on WBC census May 16: five year average is 40. Phoebe: plentiful. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two May 10 Washington Hollow (FG); one, May 16, Pine Plains (MV). Trail's Flycatcher: "more numerous than I have ever known it to be" (RD); numbers up throughout the region. Wood Pewee: normal numbers, May 7 (first) (JS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 15 near Pearl River (RD). Horned Lark: usual residents; a new location near Spring Valley; two birds, one singing, June 4 (HK). Swallows: dates normal; 1000s of Tree at Basher Kill Apr 5 (ID). Rough-winged arr Apr 18 (early) Forestburgh, Sull (KN). Barn arr Apr 14 at Liberty (JK). Purple Martins were at Mt. Hope, Oran Apr 13, but arr a month later in Dutch, May 12. Fish Crow: two Apr 18, Vassar College and remained through May 23 (EP et al). Boreal Chickadee: those of last winter remained until Apr 6 at West Park, Ulst and until Apr 1 at Hawthorne (BA). Tufted Titmouse: Ulst population reported high (FH). Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven Apr records last in Dutch, May 13 (last) (EP); May 14 (last) in Rock (GB). Winter Wren: well reported in Dutch; May 3 (latest) Swan Lk, Sull (EM). Mockingbird: reported from all counties but West; continues to increase; at least six birds are known to be in Orangetown, Rock, alone. Wood Thrush: arr Apr 16, Moore's Mills, Dutch, numbers normal thereafter. Gray-checked Thrush: numbers good, reported from most counties. Bluebird: 20 on the census to an average of 12 in Dutch; 29 young were banded by the end of the period. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: continues to spread and increase; at least 12 were observed at West Point May 2 (MBC); nesting activity has been observed in Dutch and Oran. Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce in Apr, no May reports. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: noticeable flight Apr 25. Pipit: generally scarce; one Chester May 1 (SU); and on Federation trip May 24 (latest) from Dutch.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Margaret Dye reports warbler waves on May 7, 8, and 9 Cornwall area, Oran, which coincided with those reported in Dutch by OW and Rockland by BD. Smaller movements, May 14 in Rock and May 24 in Dutch. Yellow-throated Vireo: numbers up in Dutch with better than double the average number on WBC census; numbers down in Rock but normal elsewhere. Solitary Vireo: numbers low and arr was late; Apr 25 in Dutch. Warbling Vireo: numbers way up in Rock (RD); 45 on WBC census compared to an average of 12 over the last six years. Warblers: Black-and-white: Apr 18 (early) on Low Tor near Haverstraw (RD). Brewster's: one, May 15 New Paltz area (RP). Lawrence's: May 5 Poughkeepsie (MK); May 9 Pleasantville (BA). Nashville: Apr 27, Pine Plains (TH); scarce. Yellow: Apr 27, Neversink, Sull (PC). Cape May: scarce in Dutch; above average numbers in Rock; normal elsewhere; a good movement on May 14. Black-throated Blue: May 6, Moore's Mills (HM); went through early, a few or none after May 16. Myrtle: Apr 15, Basher Kill; fewer than usual. Black-throated Green: numbers low in Oran and Rock, but near normal in Dutch; Apr 25 (first) Pine Plains (WBC). Cerulean: returned to usual locales; no increase except for Dutch where Mt. Rutsen residents seem to be expanding. Blackburnian: May 7 Rhinecliff (AJ); none after May 16. **Yellow-throated**



**Warbler:** two from Dutch; one Apr 28-30, Poughkeepsie (MK); May 14 Hyde Park (AJ). Chestnut-sided: three times higher than usual on WBC census: May 6 (first) Poughkeepsie (MK); this species very much reduced in Rock (RD). Bay-breasted: May 7 Crugers Is (BD); average numbers. Pine: Apr 15 Innisfree (AJ); two May 16 (very late) (WBC). Prairie: Apr 28, Stanfordville (FG). Waterthrush: both species arr Apr 18. Louisiana normal, but Northern low. None of the latter species in Rock. Mourning: one (only report) May 9, Cornwall (B, AM). Yellow-breasted Chat: none reported, last year's residents failed to return to their usual territories. Hooded: also missing from its usual haunts. Redstart: numbers reduced compared to other years.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: May 5, (earliest) Dutch; late in Oran, May 11 (first). Orchard Oriole: one returned to its Stone Ridge nest site May 6; one High Falls Ulst (FH); this species is reported from four areas in Dutch, some adults and other immatures. Indigo Bunting: Arr May 7 Poughkeepsie; 45 compared with an average of six for the past six years, WBC census. Evening Grosbeak: last reports, May 8 Sull, May 9 Oran, and May 10 Dutch. House Finch: Cornwall Mar 30 to Apr 23 (B, AM) and Stanfordville Apr 11 (FG); this species has summered for the second year at Nyack (RD). Goldfinch: good numbers of winter population persisted through the spring with an exceptional influx May 7, Dutch (OW). Red Crossbills: May 4-10, Hawthorne (from two to ten) (BA); eight Apr 25, Pine Plains (WBC); two, Red Oaks Mill Apr 28 (TB) and several for three weeks prior to May 16 at Pleasant Valley (EP), all Dutch. White-winged Crossbill: two Apr 25 Pine Plains (WBC). Savannah Sparrow: Mar 28, Monticello. Slate-colored Junco: one or two pair nesting at Dover Plains (MK); a late migrant May 9 at Liberty (KN). **Oregon Junco:** Wintering bird last seen at Cornwall, May 10 (M, JD). White-throated Sparrow: numbers reduced all spring. Fox Sparrow: May 16 (last and very late) Amenia (WTS). Lincoln Sparrow: May 16, Lagrangeville (MK); May 10, Hawthorne (BA).

Corrigendum: **Kingbird, XIV (2) 119:** The Broad-winged Hawk seen on Dec 22 was **not** seen by Eugene Eisenmann. This bird was reported on the Bronx—Westchester Christmas Count and the record belongs in the region ten report.

Note: Contributors are requested to have their reports of the Summer season in Sept 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

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Corrigendum: In Kingbird, XIII, 139, *The Common Loon in New York State*, Map 2 shows a recent breeding record in Orange County. On pg. 140 Highland Reservoir, Orange County, is listed as questionable, and should have been so designated on the map. Breeding has not been proved for this location.

R. Arbib, Jr.



## REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

Unfortunately, limitations on space permit only the most cursory and general remarks concerning an analysis of the spring migration. Because of intimate ties with the weather it is suggested that the reader examine the following data in this light with the aid of a weather map. If we appear to place undue emphasis on the New York City parks it is because most of our information comes from here. It is well known that the migration often differs substantially from place to place within Region 10. Not only do the numbers of migrants (especially wood warblers) decrease as one moves towards Montauk, but conditions along the coast (even in New York City) often differs markedly from the New York City parks.

In general, April was poor. In New York City's Central Park the best day was April 17, with large numbers of Sapsuckers, Phoebes, Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The arrivals on this date included Black and White Warblers, Solitary Vireos, Towhees, and a House Wren. A two day movement on April 23 and 24, in addition to more of the same species as on the 17th, saw the arrival of Whip-poor-will, Wood Thrushes and Hooded Warblers. Yellow, Blackburnian, and Prairie Warblers, and Ovenbird arrived in Central Park on the 24th, while a Baltimore Oriole occurred in Brooklyn on the same date. This late April movement has in recent years included a few recurring species which are normally considered later migrants.

A prolonged cold period of easterly winds and rain during late April and early May brought migration to a virtual standstill. On May 7 the "dam broke"; the great bulk of migrants passing through between this latter date and May 12. After May 21 the migration dropped off sharply. Practically every May migrant arrived on the 7th; in most cases females arriving simultaneously with males. Although every day between the 7th and 12th was good (i.e. over 21 species of warblers per day in Central Park) and saw a complete changeover in birds, the peak day in terms of absolute numbers of individuals differed from place to place, probably reflecting local conditions; 70 species including 21 species of warblers in Central Park on the 7th (GT, PP); 80 species including 25 species of warblers in Inwood Hill Park on the 12th (WN); and 90 species including 29 species of warblers (of ca. 1,000 individuals) in Van Cortlandt Park on the 13th (MG).

In these reports we have for the most part tried to refrain from using terms of qualitative abundance by giving absolute figures. In the spring, however, obtaining accurate estimates is more difficult. Most of our maximum numbers in fall come from the coastal strip, where the low, scattered vegetation permits fairly reliable counts to be made. The following, therefore, are but mere impressions of the relative abundance of some species gained by a number of active observers. Crested Flycatchers, Phoebes, Creepers, Black and White, Tennessee, Wilson's and Canada Warblers and Orchard Orioles came through in good numbers, while Cuckoos, Least/Alder Flycatchers, Pewees and Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers were considered to be unusually low.

The outstanding rarities were Cinnamon Teal, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Magpie, Varied Thrush and Townsend's Warbler. Also noteworthy were spring records of Forster's Tern and Orange-crowned Warbler and the attempted nesting of Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations used: Max — maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; LLASB — Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulletin; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; in the following locations only the first word is used — Central Park, Inwood Hill Park, Van Cortlandt Park, Riis Park, Jones Beach and Greenwood Cemetery.

Contributors frequently cited: IA — Irwin Alperin; PB — Paul Buckley; JB — John Bull; IC — Irving Cantor; GC — Geoffrey Carleton; TD — Tom Davis; EE — Eugene Eisenmann; FE — Frank Enders; RF — Robert Fisher; MG — Michael Gochfeld; JH — Joe Horowitz; MK — Michael Kleinbaum; RL — Roy Latham; EL — Emanuel Levine; KM — Kevin Malone; LM — Lee Morgan; JN — Joe Neilsen; WN — William Norse; RP — Richard Plunkett; PP — Peter Post; DP — Dennis Puleston; DR — Daniel Rafferty; GR — Gilbert Raynor; TR — Tom Robben; RS — Richard Sloss; SS — Si Stepinoff; WT — Walter Terry; GT — Guy Tudor; CW — Cornelius Ward; LW — LeRoy Wilcox; CY — Charles Young.

**Loons — Ducks:** Red-necked Grebe: Apr 19, Rockaway Beach (RP, RF, GC). Wilson's Petrel: May 22, Shinnecock (SS). Cattle Egret: Apr 16-19, Brookhaven (DP); May 9, Jones (PP, TD, LM); May 10, JBWR (TD, R. Sutton); May 11, Van (CY). Louisiana Heron: Apr 11, JBWR (mob) — arrival. Little Blue Heron: Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, TD, LM) — in rookery. Green Heron: max 24, May 21, JBWR (MG). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: five, Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, LM, TD) — in rookery; six, May 16, Mount Sinai (GR). American Bittern: May 8, Central (mob); May 10, Greenwood (JN) — both migrants. Glossy Ibis: four, Apr 11, JBWR (mob) — arrival; max at JBWR 24 (H. Johnson); three, Apr 19, Lawrence (TD, FE); seven, Apr 29-May 1, Cutchogue (P. Stoutenburgh *fide* GR); May 30, Tobay (GC) — latter three only reports away from JBWR.

Canada Goose: movement on Apr 17 — 150, Inwood (WN) and 150, Upton (GR). Brant: 2500-3000, JBWR (mob) — through third week in May; movement (flying over) on May 21 — 1650, JBWR (MG, GT) and 1000+, New Rochelle (TR). Snow/Blue Goose: 85 flying over, Apr 4, JBWR (FE); 87 with one Blue, Apr 11, JBWR (mob); 50 flying over, Apr 12, JBWR (RP); three with two Blues, Apr 18-19, JBWR (MG, TD, FE); May 23-24, Carmen's River (DP) — late migrant. Mallard: two broods with 16 young by end of period, JBWR (FE). Black Duck: at least 16 broods totaling 83 young by end of period, JBWR (FE). Green-winged Teal: max 97, Apr 4, JBWR (FE). Cinnamon Teal: male, May 20 through period, JBWR (mob) — photographed in color. While the possibility of an escape cannot be ruled out, there are several indications that this bird is wild. It was wary at first, is free-flying and has not been banded. It was seen actively courting a female Blue-winged Teal. Of the eight records east of the Mississippi River, 1960-63 (*fide* Aud. Field Notes), one-half have appeared in late Apr and May. Wood Duck: two migrants, May 13, Tobay (EL, RS); four migrants, May 17, Greenwood (JN). Ring-necked Duck: one pair, Apr 19, JBWR (FE) — rare here. Canvasback: two males remained to end of period at JBWR (mob). Lesser Scaup: one male courting a female Scaup, May 31, JBWR (WN). Bufflehead: 120, May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); two males remained until May 22 at JBWR (PP). Old-squaw: max 3000+, Apr 3, Jones (KM). King Eider: Apr 18, Montauk (IC). Common Merganser: Apr 18, JBWR (MG) — late.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: May 1, Yaphank (IA). Red-tailed Hawk: Apr 5, Jones (EL, CW) — "that's the hawk migration this spring". Peregrine Falcon: Apr 11, World's Fair (PP); Apr 17, Van (MG); May 10, JBWR (TD). Pigeon Hawk: May 5, Central (PP); May 12, Van (S. Friedman) — only inland reports. King Rail: May 28, Brookhaven (DP). Sora: Apr 11, JBWR (SS) — early. Common Gallinule: Apr 11, JBWR (SS, TD, LM) — arrival; Apr 23, Van (F. Heath, PP) — migrant.

Oystercatcher: one pair, Apr 18-mid May, Shinnecock (GR, LW); one pair, Moriches (LW) — neither pair attempted to nest. Killdeer: max 6, May 24, JBWR (GR) — very scarce compared to former years. Golden Plover: Apr 18, Moriches Inlet (LLASB); May 21, JBWR (MG, GT); May 23, JBWR (WN) — recorded annually in spring in recent years. Woodcock: "Holding its own if not increasing as a breeder; annual census produced nine compared to usual four-six, May 4, Manorville." (GR). Whimbrel: May 10, JBWR (TD). Upland Plover: one or three, May 22, Suffolk Co. AFB (SS);

May 25-28, Eastport (GR). Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 19, JBWR (WN) — early. Willet: May 24, JBWR (GR); May 31, Tobay (JB, EE). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12, Apr 18, JBWR (LM, TD). Least Sandpiper: max 125+, May 9, JBWR (MK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1000, May 16, JBWR (MG). Western Sandpiper: May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); two, May 13, JBWR (WN); May 16, JBWR (MK); May 31, JBWR (WN) — rare in spring. Ruff: male, May 17, JBWR (WN). Northern Phalarope: female, May 13, JBWR (WN); male, May 27, JBWR (FE, GC) — regular here in spring since 1956. Wilson's Phalarope: female, Apr 25, JBWR (mob); male, May 13, JBWR (WN); two females and a male, May 28 to end of period, JBWR (mob) — regular here in spring since 1960.

Glaucous Gull: Apr 4, Tobay (CW, EL); May 1, Smith Point (IA). Iceland Gull: very scarce during spring period; only four reports, latest May 4. Little Gull: the bird at Jones Inlet mentioned in the previous report remained until Apr 12 (MK). Forster's Tern: May 10, JBWR (RP, L. Mackenzie) — well observed; extremely rare in spring. Roseate Tern: May 8, Jones (SS); May 17, JBWR (WN) — migrants. Black-billed Cuckoo: very scarce as migrants in city parks; "None found breeding in Westchester Co., especially unusual" (TR).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Pileated Woodpecker: Apr 24, Bronx Park (DR, W. Hackett) — four other records from city parks (Manhattan and Bronx), all in April (see Aud. Field Notes: 15 (5):454, 1961; 16 (4):393, 1962). At least three pairs nesting within Region 10 (S. Westchester Co.). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Apr 19, Greenwood (JN); Apr 23, Van (MG, S. Friedman) — recorded annually, late Apr to mid-May, in city parks since 1959; flight year in 1962 (7-10 reports). Red-headed Woodpecker: Apr 25-May 16, Forest Park (mob); additional reports from Long Island — six individuals seen between May 9-13, and three between May 17-24; unusual spring movement, especially on Long Island.

Eastern Kingbird: Apr 17, Orient (RL) — early. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: adult, May 11, Short Beach (H. F. Koster) — of six previous records, four were in spring (see Linnaean Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 7, 1961). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: unusually early movement — 11 reports from city parks between May 8 (two), Central (GT, PP, MG, TR) to May 18; only one report during the species' normal migration period! Empidonax (sp): Apr 24, Central (SS) — early. Acadian Flycatcher: May 2, Van (WN); May 6, Bronx Park (SS). Least Flycatcher: "No breeders found in Westchester Co. Five years ago this would have been unbelievable" (TR). All active observers reported that Empidonax Flycatchers (except Yellow-bellied) were very scarce; one person saw only four individuals all spring in the city parks, and Puleston states that he failed to find a single one on Long Island. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 12, Inwood (WN) — early.

Horned Lark: one recently fledged young, Apr 12, Short Beach (MG). Barn Swallow: Apr 4, Northport (E. McMullen) — early. Cliff Swallow: two, March 29, Riis (S. Schiff) — extremely early. Purple Martin: first arrivals at Manorville breeding colony on Apr 10 (GR). Magpie: Apr 4-5, Short Beach (PB, RF, KM, CW) — far too many records in recent years to be all escapes; most of them fall within the migration period. Tufted Titmouse: three pairs, Roosevelt (CW) — "probably breeding". Red-breasted Nuthatch: good return flight, May 7-17; max 6, May 13, Jones and Riis (GT). Brown Creeper: max 20, Apr 24, Central (GT); two, May 26, Manorville (GR) — late. House Wren: Apr 17, Central (GC, PP) — early. Carolina Wren: May 8, Marine Park (MG, JH) — straggler in this area; six-seven, Northport area (E. Mudge). Short-billed Marsh Wren: May 17, Manorville (GR).

Varied Thrush: Apr 17, Orient (RL) — see Field Note Section for details. Wood Thrush: five reports in city parks on Apr 23-24. Swainson's Thrush: the peak movement occurred on the night of May 7-8 when hundreds were heard passing over New York City before dawn (JH, GT). Observations in Central Park that morning indicated that a small number of Gray-checked



Thrushes accompanied this flight in a ratio of about one to seven. Veery: peak movement occurred on May 7 — max 35, Central (GT) and 16, Van (MG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: increasing steadily in recent years; Apr 4-May 11; max five, Apr 27, Central (PP). Water Pipit: May 13, Jones (EL, RS) — late. Cedar Waxwing: May 9, Bronx Park (WN) — early migrant. Loggerhead Shrike: Apr 11, JBWR (S. Komito); Apr 23, Idlewild (JB) — rare in spring.

**Vireos — Warblers:** White-eyed Vireo: Apr 18, Montauk (IC) — very early. Yellow-throated Vireo: territorial male, Apr 25, Sprain Ridge (TR) — early; May 26, Manorville (GR) — late. Blue-headed Vireo: max eight, May 7, Central (PP). Philadelphia Vireo: three reports on May 17: Sayville (WT), Manorville (GR) and Springfield Gardens, Queens (J. Mayer); May 19, Central (LM); May 24, Inwood (WN) — rare in spring, but more common than formerly. Warbling Vireo: territorial male, Apr 24, Van (SS) — very early; May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); May 13, Riis (TR); May 17, E. Marion (GR); May 29, Cold Spring Harbor (GR) — considered very rare on Long Island at any time.

Black and White Warbler: good early movement — widespread arrival on Apr 17. Prothonotary Warbler: May 4, Van (SS, CY); May 9, Roosevelt (EL, CW, et al). Golden-winged Warbler: max four, May 13, Van (MG); May 5, Great Neck (A. Dove, et al *vide* LLASB) — rare on Long Island. "Brewster's" Warbler: May 9, Central (mob). Tennessee Warbler: max 20, May 12, Inwood (WN) — more common every spring. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 12, Inwood (WN) — very rare in spring. Parula Warbler: max 62, May 13, Van (MG). Magnolia Warbler: max 39, May 13, Van (MG). Cape May Warbler: max three, May 8, Central (GT) — early arrival, but quite low this spring. Myrtle Warbler: max 98, May 13, Van (MG). Townsend's Warbler: adult male, May 9, Bronx Park (SS, CY, DR, M. Russak, T. Peszel, S. Hamers) — fourth record for Region 10 and state; third within almost a year! There are only three other records east of the Mississippi River!! (see Linnaean Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1964). Cerulean Warbler: female, May 10, Roosevelt (CW, EL, et al); male, May 12, Central (MK, GC); female, May 13, Van (MG); male, May 16, Alley Pond Park (LLASB); male, May 23, Van (WN) — more common every spring. Blackburnian Warbler: Apr 24, Central (GC, MK, et al) — early. Yellow-throated Warbler: May 3, Central (SS, et al); May 7, Midwood, Brooklyn (E. Sawyer). Blackpoll Warbler: max 37, May 13, Van (MG). Palm Warbler: May 13, Van (MG) — late. Ovenbird: Apr 24, Central (GT) — early. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 18, Central (PP) — early. Louisiana Waterthrush: arrival Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, LM, TD); May 24, Central (PP, LM, RP) — singing; May 29, Fort Salonga (GR) — latter two late. Kentucky Warbler: May 7, Central (mob); May 10, Roosevelt (CW, EL, et al); May 10, Hempstead (G. & D. Clifford *vide* CW); May 21, Inwood (WN). Mourning Warbler: May 13, Van (MG) — early; at least seven other reports from New York City. Yellowthroat: max 200+, May 17, Idlewild (PP, LM). Hooded Warbler: Apr 23, JBWR (SS); Apr 23, Inwood (WN); Apr 24, Forest Park (TD); Apr 26, Central (GC, PP, SS) — early movement. Wilson's Warbler: arrival May 5, Van (JH). Canada Warbler: 25, May 7, Central (GT, PP) — arrival; max 55, May 13, Van (MG).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Orchard Oriole: best flight in years; 12 individuals in New York City parks — May 6-May 11; max three, May 7, Central (GT, PP, E. Gonzalez); six Long Island reports — May 9-16 and 30. Of 13 birds in which the plumage was noted, six were adult males, three were immature males and four were females. In most years immature males predominate. Baltimore Oriole: Apr 24, Parkslope, Brooklyn (O. Raymond) — early; max 20, May 13, Van (MG). Scarlet Tanager: max 15, May 13, Van (MG). Summer Tanager: female, May 13, Van (MG).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 35+, May 9, Riis (MK). Indigo Bunting: "Breeding seems greater than usual; I counted 12 pairs on 20 acres in Yonkers in last week of May" (TR). Dickcissel: one at feeder, Apr 1-10, Scarsdale (Mrs. R. Heffron *vide* M. Cornwell); two males at feeder, Apr 5-15, Port Washington (Mrs. C. Lewis *vide* LLASB); migrant, May 9, JBWR (IC).

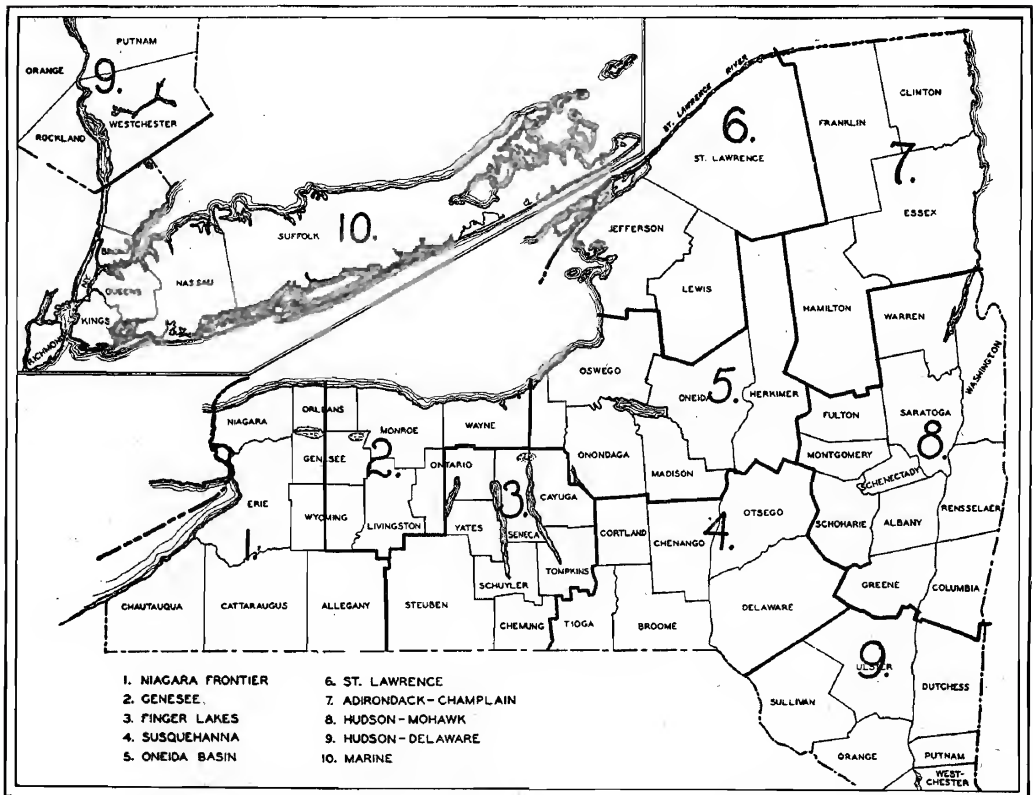


Evening Grosbeak: max 100 at feeder, Apr 14, Eastport (LW); 12 reports from city parks (mostly singles), Apr 23-May 12. Regular spring migrant since 1955. Pine Siskin: present to May 4, Scarsdale (M. Cornwell); to May 9, Blue Point (WT); to May 13, Patchogue (WT) — late birds lingering at feeders. Red Crossbill: small flock present at Hillview Reservoir until Apr 11 (JH, MG); three pairs, Apr 2, Upton — one pair nest building but birds and nest gone on Apr 7; when last seen nest was almost completed (GR, DP). First known nesting attempt in New York City area during this century. One pair, Apr 5, Manorville and two Apr 20, Upton (GR); two, May 2, Bronx Park (WN). White-winged Crossbill: three, Apr 5, Hillview Reservoir (MG); two, Apr 18, Bronx Park (WN) — both very late.

Ipswich Sparrow: departure Apr 12, JBWR (MK). Grasshopper Sparrow: two, May 9, Idlewild (GC). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: May 9, Idlewild (EE). Seaside Sparrow: May 1, Central (SS); three individuals on May 9 — Idlewild (GC), Central (GC, PP), Riis (MK); May 13, Riis (GT). The latter three species have been considered very rare on migration away from breeding localities. Slate-colored Junco: May 11 (late), St. Paul's Churchyard (J. Zupan). Tree Sparrow: five, Apr 12 (late), JBWR (MK). White-crowned Sparrow: 31 individuals reported May 7-11, very few afterwards; max 9, May 9, Kissena Park (MK). White-throated Sparrow: max 650, May 10, Greenwood (JN). Fox Sparrow: May 5 (late), Manorville (GR). Lincoln's Sparrow: 11 individuals seen in city parks, May 7-11; only four reported later. Snow Bunting: five, Apr 5 (late), Jones (MK).

Note: Please have summer reports in by Aug 25 (period ends Aug 15). Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYC 33; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, NYC 25.

## REPORTING REGIONS



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





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