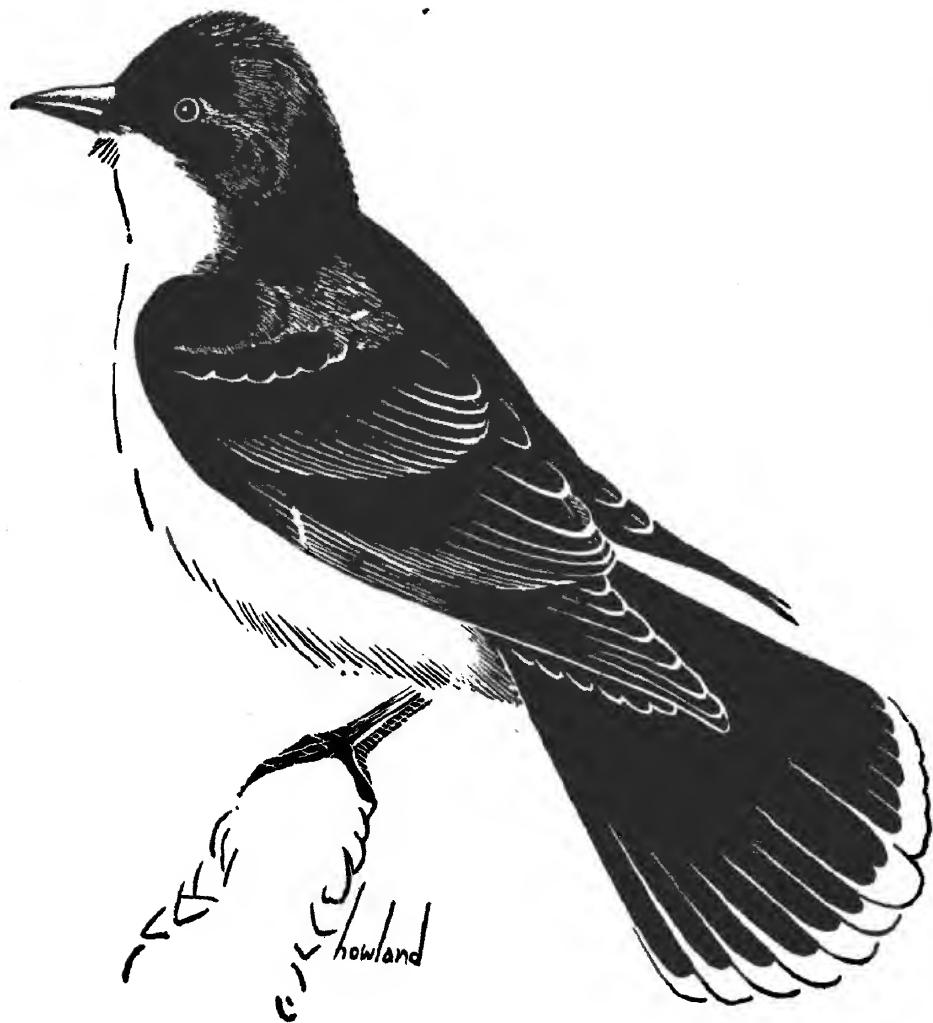


# The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XV, NO. 3

JULY • 1965

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# The KINGBIRD

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Vol. XV No. 3

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## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

### 2. Gyrfalcon.



*Photo by David G. Allen, Courtesy Bird Photographs, Inc.*

During the morning of 24 February, 1965, a Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) in nearly pure white plumage spent over an hour perched and flying at the Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The accompanying photographs were made by the *Kingbird's* photographic editor, David G. Allen, who was among the thirty or more observers who soon gathered in the Stuart Observatory to admire this most remarkable spectacle. Although Gyrfalcons have been seen and collected in New York State for over a century, this seems to be the first recorded by camera, and that it was the very rarely seen white form is all the more remarkable.

Since this appears to be the first record of a white Gyrfalcon in central New York, further particulars seem appropriate. Even during the gyrfalcon influx of the winter of 1961, in which white birds were reported at Katonah, New York, Rockport, Massachusetts and Montreal, and "fairly large numbers all white" in Newfoundland, none was reported in upstate New York. However, one of the two specimens collected in southeastern Pennsylvania in former years was a white bird, now in the Reading Museum.

The Ithaca bird was first identified by Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr. who observed it circling over the Stuart Observatory and perching in a tall elm in front of the "picture" windows. From the elm it made perhaps a dozen sorties over the six hundred or more ducks assembled on the ice or open water of the sanctuary pond. At each sortie, the ducks "hit the water" in panic and returned to comparative composure only after the falcon returned to its high perch. In flight the Gyrfalcon was extremely graceful and gull-like, not notably swift, and sometimes appeared to hover over the assembled ducks in the manner of an Osprey or Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk). On one occasion it seemed to "float" onto its perch, almost stalling its flight before gently alighting. While perched it often bobbed its head as does a Kestrel, but the also kestrel-like jerking of its tail was apparently a result of the strong wind.

With ample time for study by many observers, the following features were noted. The plumage seemed pure white below, but with dark wingtips and indistinct barring of both primaries and secondaries. The tail appeared pure white as were the "flags" feathering the thighs and legs. The back and upper wing coverts showed small markings. The eyes were dark, and the eye region darker than the rest of the head. The beak was bluish but with a dark tip, the cere and feet (including tarsi) bluish-gray, establishing the bird as an immature specimen, lacking the yellow feet, cere and eye-ring of the adult.

Although the term "phase" is generally used in this country to refer to the several chromatic forms of the gyr, it should be understood that white birds are from high latitudes, and the nearly pure population of extremely white birds ("candicans") of northeast Greenland have long been referred to as "Greenland Falcons". White birds also occur in the northern Archipelago parts of Alaska and Siberia.

Although regular fall flights occur in northern regions, incursions as far south as the United States take place infrequently, but a number of sight records have been recorded this winter. (See *Kingbird* Vol. XV (2) and also Field Notes this issue.) Some flights have been related to lemming



*Photo by David G. Allen, Courtesy Bird Photographs, Inc.*

cycles, but gyrs feed extensively upon ptarmigan, and some coastal falcons upon sea-birds.

On March 7, as reported earlier, Mr. Walter E. Benning observed a white Gyrfalcon, possibly the same specimen, perched upon a utility pole north of Clyde, New York.

*Sally Hoyt Spofford, Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca*

## JUNCOS OF THE HIGH PLATEAUS

STEPHEN W. EATON

This paper is an attempt to describe the breeding cycle of the Slate-colored Juncos on the High Plateaus of southwestern New York (Eaton S.W., *Kingbird* 5:94-97). From 1950 to 1964 I have lived in their nesting habitat on the Ten Mile Rd., town of Carrollton, Cattaraugus County (42°, 7' north; 78°, 35' west). Although my attention has never been concentrated on this species for any length of time, I have accumulated enough fragmentary data to give a fair account of their nesting.

A. H. Miller (Speciation in the Avian Genus Junco, *Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zoology* 44: 173-434.) considered these birds to be intermediate between *Junco hyemalis carolinensis* of the southern Appalachians and *Junco h. hyemalis* of the Catskills, Adirondacks and points north.

We can see Juncos here any month of the year but we also have a distinct spring migration of individuals which have wintered to the south of us. This migration starts about March 15 and reaches a peak about April 7 (8 year average 1952-1959). Migrants are scarce after the first week in May, only the residents remaining. (See also Tanghe, L.J., *Kingbird* 5: 69-84 for Rochester Area)

Fall migration starts about September 25 and peak numbers may be seen in large flocks of up to 100 individuals about October 28 (average fall maximum 1952-1959). This migration is about over by mid-November.

During the winter, flocks of 10 to 20 individuals are quite generally distributed in the wooded valleys along streams, in areas where they nest during the summer. Here their favorite foods appear to be Hemlock and Yellow Birch seeds and when abundant, Collembola, or snow fleas, and Stoneflies, Plecoptera. Occasionally large flocks are seen in the open parts of the Allegheny River valley mixed with Tree Sparrows and feeding in weed fields.

*The Breeding Cycle:* First territorial song by the locally breeding birds began on the average date of March 12 (figured on 10 years-1952 to 1961). Dates of first song ranged from February 26, 1958 to March 21, 1952 (see Figure).

This song was identified as territorial if birds sang from the tops of trees 30-75 feet from the ground, several times in sequence, in apparent answer to other birds within hearing. Migrants might be passing through at this time but were in fairly well-defined, restless flocks and when singing were lower down or on the ground.

Before first eggs appeared in nests there was a rapid falling off of territorial singing, followed by a slight rise in singing at the time of the

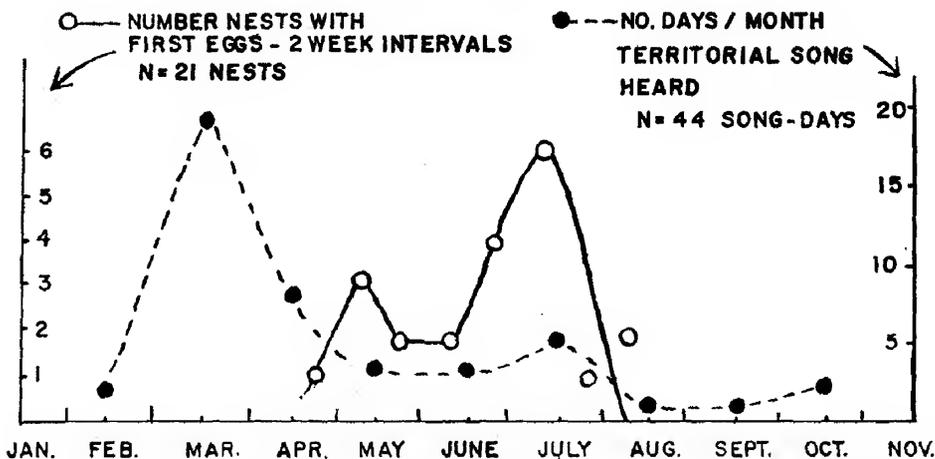
second nesting. In late September and October a slight recrudescence was noted; the latest territorial singing was on October 15, 1962.

First pair bonds were established on March 13, 1955, March 30, 1957 and March 25, 1959. I have assumed this was accomplished when 2 birds (apparently male and female on plumage characteristics) fed close together and followed one another in moving about in an acre or so of area.

Nest building is delayed or at least prolonged following pair formation. They are similar in this to the Song Sparrow (Nice, M. M., Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow I, *Trans. Linnaean Soc.* IV: p. 65 and 98). First building began about the third week in April and the earliest first egg was laid on April 28, 1951 (not actually found on this date but calculated back from its hatching date). The Figure shows that this population is double brooded and that probably the second brood is more successful than the first at fledging young. There is, of course, much bias in these figures because many nests were found in late July and August with young at various stages of growth representing second broods and renesters. This would not have been true of the peak in May.

The Figure shows actual and calculated dates of nests with first eggs. Several assumptions have been made to utilize fragmentary bits of information on 21 nests. It is assumed that, first, incubation takes 12 days; second, young remain in the nest for 10 days; and third, it takes 4 days to

Figure



Number of days per month territorial song from Juncos was identified in breeding territory from the spring of 1950 to the fall of 1961. Songs were recorded in a field notebook on a total of 44 days. Also shown are the number of first eggs in 21 nests assembled into 2 week intervals. (See text for further details)

lay 4 eggs. When a bird was flushed from 4 eggs and the nest was not seen again, 10 days (4 days to lay eggs, plus 6 days for half incubation) were subtracted from that date. The age of young in the nest in days was estimated from experience with other small passerines. In 4 nests first eggs were actually found, in the other 17, calculations of first eggs were made as described above.

In 15 nests where it was determined with fair accuracy, 4 eggs (or 4 young) constituted full clutches.

Eleven nests were placed on the ground usually along a logging road in the woods where a cut bank 2 to 6 feet high was topped by humus and leaf litter. The nests were located under the leaf litter at the top of the cut bank. Three nests were placed on ledges of the vertical faces of large conglomerate boulders about 6 to 8 feet from the ground. Five nests were about 2 feet from the ground in small Hemlock hedges adjacent to houses. One was placed on an upturned Yellow Birch root system and another in a neighbor's wind-vane bird feeder approximately 8 feet from the ground.

*Copulation* was observed once on July 17, 1955. The female was perched near the end of a Hemlock bough about 10 feet from the ground. The male flew down from a perch about 10 feet away, jumped on her back, copulated for about 3 seconds and flew away.

*Incubation*: One bird which had 2 eggs on June 18, 1960 hatched the last of 4 eggs July 1, for an incubation length of 12 days. Another which completed a clutch of 4 eggs May 12, 1961 hatched the last egg May 25 for an incubation length of 13 days. V. A. Greulach (*Auk* 51:389-390) reported one incubation length of 12 days from the same general area.

*Nestlings* remained in 2 nests, where hatching and departure dates were known, for 9 days. Greulach's (op. cit.) single brood left the nest when 12 days old.

*Dependent fledglings*: In one case where birds nested in a Hemlock hedge in front of our house the young were banded at nest departure. The father of this brood was crippled and easily identified. These young, which left the nest August 3, 1959, were seen being fed by their father August 24 and August 27. On August 28 one young banded bird was seen feeding by itself at some cracked corn in our feeder behind the house. On August 30 one of these same young perched adjacent to its father on the feeder and crouched facing towards him without giving the usual begging call. The father gave an upward posture towards its young 4 or 5 separate times, finally flying at the young and chasing it for a short distance. The young before flight remained in a crouched position as though begging but did not give the begging call. Possibly the lack of the begging call in this situation was the reason for the father chasing his

own young which he had fed so eagerly 3 days before. The young had apparently not learned the upward aggressive posture which an older bird would have given in a similar context.

On September 19, 1959 the father mentioned above was still at our feeder and about through with his post-nuptial molt. Nearby, but completely independent, was a banded juvenal bird which had just about completed its post-juvenal molt. A few juvenal feathers were present in the head, and the undertail coverts had not quite completed their growth, 46 days after the bird left the nest.

In 1960 a pair nested in about the same spot. The young fell out of the nest, perhaps a day or so early, on July 9 and were banded. On July 30 one of these young was at the same feeder and was chased a short distance by one adult bird. A few minutes later it was seen being fed by another adult Junco. August 7, 29 days after leaving the nest the banded young were starting to get visibly grey feathers in the scapular regions and in the middle of the back but the rest of the plumage was typically juvenal. On this date they were apparently independent. On September 14 the locally breeding birds were still coming to our feeders and the young had on this date completed their post-juvenal molt.

Flocks of 10 to 15 individuals composed of first and second brood juvenals and adults can be seen in the breeding areas until the migrants return from the north in September to confuse the identity of the resident individuals. Although I have banded about 20 locally raised birds, I still can not be sure whether the locally nesting populations are permanent residents because they have never been recaptured in the winter. But it is very possible that the small flocks seen in the nesting areas during the winter are local birds and the larger flocks of the more open areas of the river valley are more northern breeders. Perhaps 1% of our Song Sparrow populations remain in the area for the winter—at least we see them all winter along the banks of the Allegheny. I suspect an even higher percentage of our Juncos are permanent residents.

*Miscellaneous Notes:* Roosting has been noted on several occasions and is similar to that described by W. J. Hamilton, Jr. (*Auk* 1940, p. 258). On April 13 while night banding Robins, 4 Juncos were flushed from roosts in thick Norway Spruces 3 to 8 feet from the ground. On December 28, 1960 after dark a Junco was flushed from the nest in a Hemlock hedge 2 feet from the ground where there had been a successful rearing of Juncos that summer. The flock which had been feeding at cracked corn behind the house left the immediate area after this date but returned January 25, 1961 and that night I again flushed a bird from the nest. The nest, then, functions not only as a place to nurture the eggs and young, but occasionally as a roosting site in winter.

On June 29, 1962 I observed an adult Junco feeding a semi-independent Cowbird. Social parasitism of the Junco must be quite rare in this area.

It has been reported from New York (Friedmann, H. Host, Relations of the Parasitic Cowbirds, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 233, p. 161) but not specifically from these breeding populations.

Table

	High Plateaus (Present Study)	Great Smokies (Tanner)
Years of Data Collecting	1950-1964	1951-1958
Altitudes where Nesting	1600-2450 ft.	2700-6000 ft.
Number Nests Found	21	84
First Territorial Singing	March 12	March 19
Earliest First Egg of Clutch	April 28	April 20
Latest First Egg of Clutch	Aug. 3	July 19-30
Clutch Size Apr.-June*	4 eggs 100%	4 eggs 75%, 3 eggs 24%
Clutch Size July or Later†	4 eggs 100%	4 eggs 22%, 3 eggs 61%

\* Sample size High Plateaus 9, Great Smokies 92

† Sample size High Plateaus 6, Great Smokies 18

#### Discussion

The breeding cycle of this northern outpost of *Juncos* with a southern accent (intermediate between *J.h. carolinensis* and *J.h. hyemalis*) is surprisingly like the *Juncos* breeding in the Great Smoky Mountains, 7 degrees of latitude to the south (Tanner, J., *Juncos in the Great Smoky Mountains, The Migrant* 29: 61-65). Further, *Juncos* of the State of Maine also are double brooded and nest from April to July (Palmer, R. S., *The Birds of Maine, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 102:559). If we go

farther north to Newfoundland broods also appear to be raised in May and July (Peters, H. S. and T. D. Burleigh. *Birds of Newfoundland*. Dept of Nat. Resources, Newfoundland, St. Johns., p. 387). They mentioned clutch sizes of 4 to 5 eggs. On the High Plateaus I have never found a clutch with 5 eggs and, in the Smokies, Tanner, citing Stupka, said only one clutch of five eggs has been found there.

In conclusion it is interesting to note that subspecific variability, clutch size and the degree of migratory habit seem to be more malleable from the Great Smoky Mountains to Newfoundland than the timing of the reproductive cycle.

*Dept. of Biology, St. Bonaventure Univ., St. Bonaventure*

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### MEETING OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

The Nature Conservancy, Western New York Chapter, invites members of the Federation and their friends to attend its 16th annual meeting to be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N.Y., September 10-12, 1965.

The agenda includes program and tour of Moss Lake Sanctuary on Friday, September 10, with exhibits, program and reception in the evening at the Museum; general program, business meeting and annual dinner, Saturday; field trip to Deer Lick Sanctuary, Sunday.

For detailed information about the meeting, write to: The Nature Conservancy, 2039 K Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20006.



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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

### Conservation and Management — are they the same?

These are difficult times for those of us who are determined to defend and protect our wildlife and wild lands, who would prevent further despoliation of America's natural beauty, who would seek to enhance this country's magnificent wild heritage. On all sides we are beset and besieged by a host of interests, public and private, almost always claimed to be "in the majority interest." Here the highway builders devastate a swath through a forest, there developers annihilate a wetland, here someone proposes one more needless cafeteria in a city park, there a power company alters the natural ecology of a river. Pesticides, power lines, bounties on useful animals, billboards—daily our strengths are divided and often we are conquered. We win a little victory here, and lose a major war somewhere else. Yearly the list of threatened species grows, and the area of wilderness diminishes.

Until recently, we knew who stood beside us in this battle; where our friends were, and that we could count on their support. And staunch among them were the professional conservationists, including those who labor for our state. We could count on the New York State Department of Conservation to take enlightened positions on most subjects, and make forward-looking decisions. We looked upon this department as the guardians of our wildlife, the protectors of our heritage.

But lately, one begins to detect shifts in emphasis in the orientation of this department. There is less talk today of protection and enhancement, and far more talk of population pressure, of recreation, of exploitation, of "management." There have been subtle attacks in the department on the "forever wild" concept that protects the forest preserves from commercial violation, and a growing record of practices which, if they do not legally infringe the forever wild clause, circumvent it in fact.

Presently, the innocent-appearing question has been raised, "Shall the state be allowed to sell to commercial interests timber removed from forest lands to permit better utilization of these forests by deer?"

There are two basic dangers with the proposition. First, bringing commercial interests into the forest preserves, to crop timber for whatever reasons, and however policed, would surely and certainly mean the end of the forests. And second, removing timber to permit greater utilization by deer is management, and managed land is not wilderness. It is the destruction of the wilderness for the benefit of one group—the deer hunters—to the detriment of all others.

This proposal is a symptom of what is happening to "Conservation" Departments all over the country. The reason seems quite obvious. No one wants true wilderness less than a trained wildlife manager, because therein there is nothing for him to do. With more and more of our staffs

college-trained, more and more management would seem to be the trend. Who ever went to college to learn how to leave a forest or a wetland exactly as one finds it? One learns how to "improve the cover" for this species, improve the environment for that; one learns sustained yield and multiple use and a dozen other subjects that all add up to tinkering with nature. The end result is wilderness no longer—but wildlife farms, or game factories, or something. (There are of course, many instances where limited management is desirable: to help a threatened species, to restock a natural habitat area, to preserve a "study area" in static rather than in evolving form, to recreate or improve a deteriorated or destroyed habitat.)

But you conservation experts; leave our wilderness lands alone! If there is a temporary surplus of deer, let it be cropped by hunters, or let nature strike its own balance. Your job is not to manage—but to preserve and protect: from fire, from commercial exploitation, from chemical contamination, from water pollution, from infestations of destructive pests including man. The name of your role is conservation—not exploitation.

*Robert S. Arbib, Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543*

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## HISTORICAL NOTE ON PIPITS WINTERING IN ORIENT, LONG ISLAND

ROY LATHAM

Water Pipits, *Anthus spinoletta*, occur on eastern Long Island as fall and spring migrants. In the fall they arrive in Orient, Suffolk County, with exceptional regularity, never varying more than a day or two from September 28. They are usually common by the first week in October, and leave between November 10 and 15. The earliest spring record in Orient is April 1, 1905 and the latest date noted is May 15, 1907. Pipits arrive during the spring plowing and follow the plow for hours picking up small insects for food. Never have more than two pipits together been observed in Orient during the spring migration.

Prior to the winter of 1909-10, pipits had occurred in Orient as an abundant autumnal and a rare spring migrant. The winter of 1909-10 was the mildest ever recorded on Long Island. It was noted for its freedom from ice, snow and frozen ground, the ground being in plowing condition throughout the entire winter. This may have been the principal cause of the pipits' tarrying beyond their usual latest departure date of November 20. In late December, 1909, a flock of 28 pipits was found in an oat field grown for a cover crop. The flock remained in the same field until the last day of March.

There was considerable interest in what the pipits would do the following winter. Again, some lingered past November 20. Two flocks, one of 52 and the other of 55 individuals, were located in late December. It was a cold month, and the winter of 1910-11 was the opposite extreme of the preceding one, with the temperature dropping nearly to zero several times. With the very rough weather came the greatest flight of Snow Buntings ever recorded in Orient. The numbers of buntings hovering over the fields were compared to a great fall flight of Tree Swallows, and at the height of their invasion were estimated at 10,000 individuals. They were concentrated on cultivated fields two miles in length by half a mile in width, a combination of several adjoining farms. Mixed with the buntings were many Horned Larks and a few Lapland Longspurs. The two compact flocks of pipits remained isolated from each other about a mile apart, feeding by themselves on the outskirts of the big bunting flock rather than actually associating with it. The fields were abundantly covered with crab-grass, corn-grass and wild mustard seeds. The growth of oats gave sufficient shelter, and the pipits wintered through satisfactorily. Probably the abundance of accessible food and suitable shelter were the main factors causing them to winter in Orient.

During the fall migration period pipits have never been observed in

such compact flocks as were seen that winter. In all the fifty-four years since then, only an occasional pipit, or rarely more than ten, has been noted, for a single day only, in the dead of winter.

In recent years, pipits do not come to Orient in the abundance of fifty years ago. This is also true of the Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. The status of the Lapland Longspur, never a common species in Orient, has not changed. Of late years, the buntings have been scarce or even absent in winter more often than in former years. On several farms where the Horned Lark used to be common daily all winter into April and early May, they are now seen not at all for weeks at a time, or are seen in small, isolated groups of less than a dozen individuals at infrequent intervals.

*Orient, Long Island, New York 11957*

---

### Minutes of the 18th Annual Meeting of the Council of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

The 18th annual meeting of the Council of the Federation, held at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., was called to order at 9 A.M. on June 12, 1965 by the President, Mr. Robert Arbib. A quorum was declared with 37 delegates representing 28 clubs answering the roll call.

Minutes of the 1964 Council meeting were read and approved. The report of the Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, was approved. Mr. Niven read the auditors' statement of approval of the Treasurer's report.

The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frederick Marsi, reported that all clubs had been sent the required notice of the proposed by-laws amendment to raise individual and club dues, as well as a later reminder.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, *Kingbird* Editor, mentioned her appreciation of the previous editor's work. She reported two changes: the new printer, in Ithaca, for *The Kingbird*; and the granting of second-class mailing privileges, which will result in great savings in postage, for which thanks are due the Ithaca assistant postmaster for his help and advice in this matter. Mrs. McIlroy also made two requests: 1) that contributors of data to the Regional editors send in their reports immediately at the close of the reporting-period, so that the Regional editors can send their reports in on time and *The Kingbird* appear on time; 2) that we all help in finding articles for *The Kingbird*. Dr. Edgar Reilly has offered to give a talk, on a month's notice, to any local club on how to write articles for *The Kingbird* and similar magazines. After January 1, 1965, zip-code will be required on *Kingbirds* as part of the second-class mailing arrangement; any subscriber whose zip-code does not appear on his *Kingbird* is requested to send his zip-code number to Mr. Niven or Mrs. McIlroy.

Mrs. McIlroy also requested that delegates advertise *The Kingbird* in their clubs; some local bird club members have not heard of it! At this point, the President commented that member-clubs should send in changes of officers as they occur, so the list will be up to date. He announced that from now on clubs will receive one *Kingbird* per 100 members, as was voted sometime past, and that Dr. Walter Gillespie of Wells College has agreed to take the job of *Kingbird* Business Manager.

Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., Chairman of the Publications and Research Committee, reported that the first 10-year *Kingbird* index is still available from him at the State Museum in Albany for \$1.00, and would be available that afternoon at the Federation meeting. He announced that a questionnaire is to be sent to member-clubs to ascertain who is doing research, banding, etc., locally—this information for the state book editor's use.

The State Book Committee report was read for Dr. Gordon Meade, Chairman, by Mr. Arbib. Fifty copies were printed of a brochure asking for funds for the state book. Replies from recipients of the brochure have all been negative so far, because a state bird book is outside the organization's field of interest or because their funds are already committed. The plan for next year is to have the editor of the state book, John Bull, apply for funds as an individual, as more effective than the Federation's applying. Mr. Arbib stated that there may be good news by fall on state book financing. Another possibility is state legislation to sponsor the book. John Bull, the editor, is already at work going over museum specimens.

Miss Elizabeth Manning, Chairman of the Bulletin Exchange Committee, reported that eighteen member-clubs are interested in exchanging their club bulletins. A list of their names is published in the May *Kingbird*.

In regard to bulletin exchange, Dr. Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman of the Bibliography Committee, announced that the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell will be glad to receive local club bulletins; the Laboratory now has facilities for displaying these and making them available. The Bibliography Committee, which prepares an annual listing of books and articles on New York State ornithology, requests that Federation members send in a card on any obscure reference they find, which the Committee might otherwise overlook. Two questions to consider are 1) whether a second cumulative bibliography of New York State ornithology should be published now or soon, and 2) whether local checklists should be included in the bibliography.

President Arbib reported on the 1965 Waterfowl Census, the summary of which is published in the May *Kingbird*, for Mr. John Mitchell, Chairman of the Waterfowl Count Committee.

Mr. Richard Sloss, Chairman of the By-laws Committee, read the proposed changes in Federation by-laws, which were sent to member-

clubs for consideration this spring: to raise member-clubs' dues to 15¢ per member; to raise the basic individual dues to \$5; to raise higher dues classes accordingly; and to establish a new dues class of student members at \$3. Mr. Sloss also read two further, corollary, proposals: that an active \$5 member can revert to \$3 if he returns to school, and that dues be waived during the time a member is in military service or on a scientific expedition. There was discussion of the proposed by-laws changes, including the corollaries, and of a suggested \$50 ceiling on club dues and minimum club dues. No motion was made on the ceiling or minimum; the original by-laws amendment with the two corollary proposals was passed.

After a coffee break, Mrs. Lillian Stoner, Chairman, made the report of the Nominating Committee. Since the Recording Secretary had received no additional nomination petitions, the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, of Dr. Allen H. Benton, State University College at Fredonia, for President; Mr. Watson B. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, for Vice-President; Mrs. Frederick Marsi, Binghamton, for Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. R. Barrie Strath, Odessa, for Recording Secretary; and Mr. Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello, for Treasurer, was voted upon and elected.

Mr. Alfred Starling, Chairman, gave the Membership Committee report. He distributed a list of the proposed new individual Federation members, who were then voted into membership. Several delegates reported what they knew of the activities of the Auburn, Oneida, and Suffolk Bird Clubs, proposed as member-clubs of the Federation, after which these three new clubs were voted into the Federation. Mr. Starling suggested that every local club president or delegate should act as a member of his Membership Committee, and that a *Kingbird* flyer might be mailed out with each copy of the next local club bulletins to interest individuals in becoming Federation members.

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Chairman, made the report of the Finance Committee. The Committee's proposed budget was adopted.

The John J. Elliott Memorial Fund Committee report was given by Mr. Cornelius Ward, Chairman: the first Elliott award, of cash, for the best *Kingbird* article was to be announced later in the convention. Mr. Arbib explained that he had appointed Mrs. Alice Ulrich, as *Kingbird* editor in 1964, Dr. Edgar Reilly, as Chairman of Publications and Research, and Mr. Ward, as Chairman of the Elliott Memorial Fund Committee, as a judging committee for the award.

The report of the Conservation Committee was made by Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., Chairman. He announced that Ruth Rubenstein was a member of the committee, and Mrs. Frederick Marsi and Ruth Williams, new members. There should be more year-round publicity on Federation conservation activities, he noted. A suggested program on pesticides for

local club use has been drafted. The Conservation Committee would like to hear ideas as to what sort of Conservation meeting to hold at next year's convention. The following resolutions proposed by the Conservation Committee were voted favorably by the delegates: 1) in support of the anti-pollution bond issue to go before New York State voters this fall; 2) to request the NYS Conservation Dept. that no timber cut in the Forest Preserve for fire hazard elimination, etc., be sold commercially (Here there was discussion of the "forever wild" concept vs. *any* management of the Forest Preserve); 3) in opposition to the U.S. Army Engineers' plan for dredging and building a hurricane barrier in the Town of Hempstead wetlands area; 4) to congratulate the Town of Hempstead on the conservation award given it for its activities in preserving its wetlands; 5) in support of Rep. Ottinger's Hudson Highlands National Scenic Riverway bill, which is backed by the two State senators through their bill which would protect the Hudson from its source; and in opposition to Con Edison's Pump Storage Plant on Storm King Mountain (the last, after discussion of the possible dangers to both wildlife and esthetic values; the delegate from the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club reported that his club, nearest bird club to the proposed Pump Storage Plant site, had found no reason as a club to oppose Con Edison, as the plant would not affect wildlife, only esthetics).

The following Nominating Committee for 1966 was elected: Dr. David Peakall, Syracuse, Chairman, with Dr. Neil Moon, Rochester, and Mr. Harold Mitchell, Buffalo.

The Auditing Committee of Mr. Edward R. McBride and Mr. Jerome Kerner was re-elected for 1966.

Mr. Arbib stated that the Board of Directors will take into consideration a proposal to have a three-day annual meeting in 1966.

A motion of congratulation of Mr. Arbib, outgoing President, was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Margaret S. Rusk, Recording Secretary, 805 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, 13210.

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## ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE

"The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at the annual banquet to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in *The Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges." (President's Page, *Kingbird*, May 1964)

President Robert S. Arbib announced at the annual banquet in Syracuse, June 12, that the first Elliott Memorial Prize of \$40 and a scroll had been awarded to Stephen W. Eaton for his article "The Wild Turkey in New York State" in the January 1964 *Kingbird*.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

New York birders are in the forefront of conservation efforts both statewide and in local communities where one lady was able to change some official and public thinking about pesticides and a bird club was instrumental in halting an aerial spraying campaign against the gypsy moth.

While many of us were at the annual meeting in Syracuse talking about a suggested four-point program a club could follow in dealing with a local pesticides issue, Mrs. Otis C. Parrish of Lyons Falls was doing something about it. It was on Friday night, June 11—the same time when the Federation conservation committee was having an open meeting in a crowded room in a Syracuse University dormitory—that Mrs. Parrish was nervously seeking recognition to go up in front of a village open meeting to answer inquiries being directed to a spokesman for a group that wanted to embark on some wholesale spraying.

“At this point,” she wrote Dr. Sally Hoyt Spofford, “with a trembling hand and voice I asked if I might have the floor and was granted it. I felt I had the information they were seeking and was only awaiting the proper moment. I hadn’t known before that I was going up front to face the audience, but this I did as I felt I had so much more to give than the speaker. I read your letter (an explanatory letter sent by Mrs. Spofford), gave the highlights of the leaflet (reprint of the pesticides article in the January, 1965 *Kingbird* by Dr. Walter Spofford and Dr. David Peakall), and told briefly the *Farm Quarterly* story” (also sent by Mrs. Spofford and describing the effect of pesticides on milk in the Washington, D.C., area).

Mrs. Parrish added that in response to her remarks “One of the men got up and said, ‘I came here tonight not knowing anything about pesticides. I feel now I have gained a great deal of information and that we should not go forward with any spraying at this time.’ As a result of this meeting a Citizens Committee was appointed to study the subject.” She reported that in the meantime the Village Board is trying corrective measures in place of pesticides. Her husband was told by a Village official that Mrs. Parrish had “sold the people on not spraying.”

One of the suggestions of the Federation’s conservation program for a club (obtained free of charge by writing the conservation chairman) was for appearances by an informed citizen before public meetings concerning pesticides. Another suggestion was for a public meeting on pesticides held by the club itself and for articles in the club newsletter. These were some of the activities pursued by the Huntington Audubon Society on Long Island in its successful fight to prevent the New York

State Conservation Department from carrying out an aerial spraying program against gypsy moths in the Nissequoque area. Sevin was the proposed pesticide.

William A. McAneny, president, led the effort with John Taylor writing about pesticides in the club newsletter. Leaflets with the article by Dr. Spofford and Dr. Peakall were distributed at a public meeting. Mrs. Betty Allen organized a group of club volunteers who rallied many of the home owners in the contemplated spray area to fight it.

At the annual meeting the Federation joined those now engaged in the effort to preserve for New Yorkers one of its great resources, the Hudson River and its environs. The delegates gave their support to H. R. 3012 by Rep. Richard Ottinger which would establish a Hudson Highlands National Scenic Riverway.

Also, the delegates urged the scenic preservation of Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River and opposed the construction there of a pump storage power plant by Consolidated Edison Company. Among other reasons cited for this action by the Federation, was the possible decimation of the Hudson River striped bass population. There was also the question of pollution.

Now New York City, suffering from a severe water shortage, has considered drawing from the Hudson River, polluted as it is. As a start toward clearing up this resource as well as other waters in the state, the Federation urged enthusiastic support by clubs and members of the one-billion-dollar anti-pollution bond issue that will appear on the ballot this fall. The National Audubon Society has termed this perhaps the first fully realistic attack on water pollution ever proposed by a state government.

The Federation, in line with its belief that 10,000 acres of salt wetlands in the Town of Hempstead on Long Island's south shore should be preserved, opposed a proposed U.S. Army Engineers Hurricane Dune Barrier Project which would dredge eight million cubic yards of fill, most of it coming from these wetlands. It joined with the Hempstead Town Lands Resources Council, recent American Motors Conservation Award winning organization, in this action.

The Federation delegates also urged upon the State Conservation Department that no timber cut for fire purposes or any other possible reason in the Adirondack Forest Preserve should be sold commercially. There have been suggestions in this direction.

In a statement of conservation policy rounding up its various positions, approved both this and other years, the Federation called upon "every citizen of our state and nation to come to the defense of his land—for assuredly we are losing our land as though it was being ravaged by some conqueror. Not, however, an enemy in foreign guise come to take us over, but our own compulsion for progress, plus lack of insight or admission of

how vast and permanent is the 'scarred earth policy' which is the effect of those who are invading our land (and by land we also mean the valuable lands under water; the rich and fertile lands—called wetlands—in our bogs, marshes, swamps; the life-filled waters, even the purifying air; and of course, the plant and animal wildlife that lives in, on and above our land) with dredges, bulldozers, and in the forests mechanized vehicles like snowmobiles, or in the air airplanes releasing their poison sprays."

We are glad to announce two new members of the conservation committee; Mrs. Ruth Williams, president of the Tioga Bird Club and Mrs. Frederick Marsi of Binghamton who is also corresponding secretary of the Federation.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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#### FIELD NOTES

**Dark Phase Gyrfalcons in Columbia and Albany Counties:** On January 21st, 1965 at the Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, Old Chatham, N.Y., I glimpsed a bird which was certainly a large falcon and probably a dark-phase Gyrfalcon. Terrain and other difficulties prevented me from seeing where the bird went and I was unable to see it again despite considerable searching. On February 1 another (or the same bird) was seen briefly flying over the road near Chatham Center. Hours were lost in unsuccessful searches of the area and members of the Alan Devoe Bird Club of Chatham were alerted. Unfortunately, the news was passed on as a positive identification and was so listed in the *Kingbird*, volume XV, 1965, p. 122.

On February 13th while traveling on the Thomas E. Dewey Thruway headed toward Albany I saw two dark-phase birds, one of which was flying over the center mall paralleling the course of the car and, for several seconds, only about ten feet away from me. The light was excellent; the flight pattern and distinctive features were clearly evident and there is no doubt in my mind that this bird and its companion were Gyrfalcons. The locality of this record was near the community of Selkirk, just north of the Selkirk exit of the Thruway.

The rare records of the Gyrfalcon this far south are usually of single birds, so the sighting of two birds apparently travelling as a pair seems most unusual. When seen, both birds were airborne, one about 20 yards behind the other and following the flight pattern beat for beat. At the place where the birds were seen there were large areas of open fields usually inhabited by pheasants and the patches of dense woodlots surrounding the fields have had populations of Ruffed Grouse. Members of the Schenectady Bird Club were notified, but a search of the area the following day failed to disclose the Gyrfalcons.

Compared to the Peregrine Falcon, the wing beat seemed slower, almost ponderous. At first glance from behind I thought I was observing a Turkey Vulture taking off from the center mall; but as I neared the bird the pattern and rhythm of the wing beat seemed more like that of a Herring Gull. The more solid dark color of the Gyrfalcons made them loom or appear much larger than the Peregrine Falcons I have seen.

E. M. Reilly, Jr., New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y. 12224

**First record of Black-headed Grosbeak in Dutchess County:** On Jan 23, 1964, in the midst of the heaviest snow storm of 1964-65, a storm that originated in the Texas Panhandle and moved northeast in about 36 hours, a bird, tentatively identified as a Black-headed Grosbeak in the immature plumage of a first year male, appeared at my feeder in Pleasant Valley.

The bird had a striped head, the center stripe being the same cinnamon or burnt orange as the throat, chest and rump. This same color followed around the back of the head and gave way to a bright yellow at the center of the breast. The mandible was dark, the maxilla light. Identification was confirmed through the study of skins at the American Museum of Natural History, by courtesy of John Bull. The latter has retained two of the seven slides taken of the bird.

The Grosbeak remained at my feeder for 81 days and was last seen on April 13. I had it under observation for a total of 115 hours during this time. It was extremely timid and always came into the feeding area from the same direction. The area from which it came is profuse with Multiflora Rose, Wild Grapes and Sumac. It usually stayed only a few minutes on the feeder, eating nothing but sunflower seeds, then left, not to return for another hour or so. The least noise or movement inside the window would frighten him away, and our pictures had to be taken from six feet within the room. There was no evidence of plumage change before his last appearance.

Records indicate that two or three of these birds are noted every winter in New England and the mid-Atlantic states. While some are single time observations, several like this one remained for some time. In at least two reported cases the birds moulted into adult plumage before leaving.

Eleanor Pink, Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569

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**Adult Little Blue Heron at Watertown:** On May 9, 1965, while driving through Brookside Cemetery at Watertown, my wife, June, and I saw a heron fly from the edge of a pond to a tall tree. Realizing it was not a Green Heron, we moved nearer for a closer look but it flew out of sight. In 3 or 4 minutes it returned and perched in a nearby tree in full view about 30 feet from the ground.

We were able to study closely this adult Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). The slim body, longer neck, dark legs and slate blue plumage distinguished it from a Green Heron. The bill was light blue with a dark tip. The bird remained in view for 10 to 15 minutes in large trees on the edge of the pond. Returning 30 minutes later, we found the bird wading in several inches of water.

At least 13 birders saw the heron that day at the cemetery ponds. We returned the next morning but were unable to locate it again.

The occurrence of a Little Blue Heron, especially an adult, in Northern New York in the spring seems unusual since most records show the "wanderers" of this species to be white immatures. There was, however, an adult seen five miles east of Phoenix, May 19, 1959. (*The Kingbird*, IX(2): 89.)

Robert C. Walker, Watertown, N.Y.

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**Sandhill Crane in Southern Oswego County:** On May 16, 1965 I observed an adult Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in a small marsh about one mile southeast of Pleasant Lake, Town of Schroepfel, Oswego County. The bird was observed for approximately 25 minutes in good light (1700 EDST) with 10X binoculars and a 30X spotting scope by myself, Christian G. Spies, Jr., and Jon R. Bart. When seen initially, the bird was vigorously preening but shortly thereafter began to feed in a

sedate, almost studied fashion about the margins of an open area in the small marsh. The pointed dark bill, bald red crown, the smooth gray plumage with marked brown cast to back and wing coverts, the heavy, drooping posterior plumage, and the long gray legs were all carefully noted. No call was heard and the bird was not seen to fly. When the pond was checked one hour later, the bird was gone and no further observations of this individual are known. The same day, a day of strong southwest winds, two Cattle Egrets were observed near Phoenix by J. R. Bart and C. G. Spies, Jr., and five Snowy Egrets were observed in a small marsh near East Syracuse by G. Weissberg. Probably all of these birds were moving on or in advance of a surge of warm southern air moving northeasterly that day and were precipitated locally by frontal thunderstorms that occurred intermittently on the afternoon of the 16th.

This is the first record of this species locally this century.

F. G. Scheider, 427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

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**Western Grebes at Upper Lisle:** On Sunday May 16, about 7 AM, as I was looking slightly west of south down the Whitney Point Flood Control Lake at Upper Lisle, I saw two very odd water birds. Distances on water are very deceiving, but I would say they were 1500 to 1800 feet away. Light was good, and I studied them for quite a time with my 25X telescope.

It was very clear they were not loons, geese or ducks. They were quite good-sized birds (duck size) with bodies low slung and dark and with long necks. The whole front of the neck from the bill right down to the waterline was dazzling, sparkling white. It gleamed in the sunlight like the white of a Common Merganser. The top of the head and the back of the neck were dark, the line between these and the white very clear and clean cut. The bill was yellow.

The only bird in my guide which fits this description is the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). The only water birds of this type with yellow bills are the Western and Red-necked Grebes. To eliminate the Red-necked Grebe, the front of the neck was sparkling white, the back of the neck dark, the line between the two very clear cut, and there was not the slightest indication of a triangular white patch on the cheek. The neck had a longer, slimmer look than in the Red-necked Grebes I have seen.

Mrs. Robert Sheffield, R.D. 5, Binghamton

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**English Visitor Helps Identify Little Gull at Montezuma:** On June 16 at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, I was shown some of the American shore and water birds. I was being introduced to Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls congregated on a gravel bar by the main pool, when Mrs. Pettingill spotted a smaller gull with black head standing a little back from the others. In my 12x50 binoculars, it showed up well, a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

It is remarkable how often single members of this species get separated from their kind and turn up, all alone, on lakes and reservoirs where they will stay some days, to the delight of local birdwatchers. This has happened twice at our reservoir near Bridgewater, Somerset, England. My best sight was in Finland in 1959 at a nesting place on a marshy lakeside some 40 miles from Helsinki. We were able to sit in cover (liberally anointed with mosquito repellent) and watch the birds of a small colony flying, feeding, bathing and preening, a delightful sight for the Little Gull is a dainty bird.

Marie L. Colthurst, Bridgewater, Somerset, England

**Note by Local Observers:** The small size of the gull, much smaller than any of the

Bonaparte's Gulls nearby, was very conspicuous. Apparently it was an immature coming into adult plumage. With telescopes at fairly close range, some flecking of white could be seen in the black hood, which came well down the back of the head. At rest, the primaries showed black, the rest of the wings and back gray, the bill dark, feet and legs red. In flight, the wing linings were still white, some of the zig-zag pattern of the immature was visible, the tail was white with an incomplete, narrow black band at the end, the central tail feathers being white to the tips. More than 20 people saw the gull.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 – May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

April was cold and rather wet throughout the state and migration was, in general, late and slow. However, there was a heavy duck flight in Region 1 and some early arrivals were noted in Region 3. May was variable. An early warm spell was responsible for the peak migration towards the end of the first week. Afterwards migration was, at least to the observer, poor. Although the date of the main wave corresponds almost exactly to last year's, numbers seemed to be markedly lower. Presumably this was due to poor conditions for observation rather than to actual low numbers. It would be most helpful to have breeding bird census data from various parts of the state. Any persons interested in this vital project should contact Dr. Reilly at the State Museum at Albany.

Although the overall impression was poor, there was considerable variation in which species were affected in different areas. For instance, in waterbirds Region 1 reported Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Shoveler and Ring-necked Duck as unusually numerous; loons, grebes and Widgeon as scarce. Region 3 had more Common Loons and Horned Grebes than usual; Widgeon and Shoveler in good numbers. Region 5 noted Pintail, both teal and Widgeon as scarce, with Shoveler in good numbers. All that is in common is a good flight of Shoveler. Warbler migration was considered poor by most regional editors, but again there was no uniformity in the species considered to be especially down in numbers. Some interesting occurrences of the Prairie Warbler were reported. Bent aptly sums up the distribution of this species as "Its range is quite extensive in the eastern United States but its distribution is very spotted and its numbers seem to vary considerably from year to year." This spring a group of at least three singing males were located in Cattaraugus County, there were nine singing males in a new site near Elmira, and there were three records from the Rochester area. Possibly

the species is again increasing in the western and central portions of the state.

The movements of four southern species—Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird—have received a fair amount of attention in recent years. This spring the Mockingbird has made a spurt in four regions in central New York. The Finger Lakes report refers to recently located breeding areas, although some of them may have been used for several years. Region 4 reports five sightings of this species, “an unusually large number of spring records,” and there were about a dozen, including one definite nesting, from Region 5 “a remarkable rash of records of a bird normally reported once a year.” In Region 8 Mockingbirds were reported from seventeen localities in six counties, “a remarkable increase.” The relative movements of these four species are of some interest. The Cardinal and the Tufted Titmouse are at least holding their own, the Mockingbird is increasing and the Carolina Wren has undergone a drastic reduction in recent years from which it shows no sign of recovering. Beddall (*Wilson Bulletin* 75:140, 1963) has summarized the changes of these species for the Hudson Valley and southern New England. She concludes for the Mockingbird “It is the most climatically limited of the four species but, at the same time, apparently the most wide ranging.” The increase of feeding stations may be an important factor in colonization by these southern species.

The hawk watch at the south-east corner of Lake Ontario, organized by Dr. Cade of Syracuse University, recorded fewer birds than last year. The peak count of 2282 Broadwings compared unfavorably with last year's peak and with Rochester high count of 6000. These observations on lake shore migration are to be continued for several years and extended to other species. It is hoped that observers at other places along Lake Ontario will contribute to this study. It would be particularly interesting to have information from the north-east corner of Lake Ontario.

The very strong wind system which swept from the south-east Atlantic coast, Florida and the east Gulf coast up over the Great Lakes on May 14–15 brought a rash of rarities to the state. Region 2 reported a Snowy Egret and a Ruff; Region 3 a Little Gull; Region 4 a Western Grebe; Region 5 Cattle Egret, Snowy Egrets and a Sandhill Crane; Region 8 Western Tanager and Kentucky Warbler; Region 9 Blue Grosbeak and Region 10 a Wood Stork and a Purple Gallinule. Other rarities, not associated with this movement, reported this spring included White-fronted Goose (Regions 1 & 10), Fulvous Tree-duck (10), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (10), Townsend's Warbler (9) and Harris's Sparrow (1 & 8).

*Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210*

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

The pattern of weather and bird migration this year was almost an exact repeat of a year ago. April was cold; it seemed wet even though precipitation was an inch below the mean. The waterfowl migration was at least a week behind until April 7-8 when a flight occurred, the likes of which we seldom see here. On these days, even the smallest ice-free ponds bordering the south shore of Lake Erie and inland held literally "hundreds" of ducks. Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers, and Ring-necked Ducks were unusually numerous this year in April; conversely, loons, all grebes, swans and American Widgeon were scarce compared with the long term averages.

There were more than the usual number of favorable days for migrating hawks as the reports below attest to. The large numbers of yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers at Hanover Center were of special interest. By month's end, migration was considered by many to be about normal.

A few migrant passerines appeared somewhat earlier than usual in late April, but for the most part these birds were about "on time". The first week of May brought the most noticeable influx of small passerines of the season. The records indicate that May 2 and 6-8 were the peak days. After that, the weather was mild and warm, so that the looked-for "waves" by ardent observers did not materialize. In general, most observers agreed that May was rather exceptionally dull — the fact that only eighteen observers were motivated to submit their May records (as against some thirty in April) tends to substantiate this fact.

Other highlights of the season include sight records of Mute Swan, White-fronted Goose, European Widgeon, Kentucky Warbler and Harris' Sparrow; and the finding of a possible nesting colony of the Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations used below are: ad-adult; Alleg-Allegany; Bflo-Buffalo; BOS-Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt-Cattaraugus; Chaut-Chautauqua; Co-County; Gen-Genesee; imm-immature; L-Lake; max-maximum; Nia-Niagara; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; Ont-Ontario; OOGMA-Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; Rd-Road; TGMA-Tonawanda Game Management Area; Wyo-Wyoming.

Contributors: RFA-Robert F. Andrie; CMB-Clarence M. Beal; TLB-Thomas L. Bourne; RB-Richard Brownstein; LDB-Lou and Doris Burton; AC-Arthur Clark; SWE-Stephen W. Eaton; AF-Arthur Freitag; JG-Joseph Grzybowski; GJL-G. John Lehrer; WM-Whitney Mallam; AWM-Alice and Willard McKale; REM-Richard E. Miga; HDM-Harold D. Mitchell; EMP-Elizabeth M. Pillsbury; AR-Al Reigle; FMR-Frances M. Rew; RWR-Mrs. R. William Rochester; RCR-Richard C. Rosche; RR-Robert Rybczynski; HDS-Mrs. Harry D. Schafer; WGS-William A. and George M. Smith; KOS-Kenneth and Ora Swanson; JFT-Joseph F. Thill; EAU-Edward and Alice Ulrich; GGW-Gertrude G. Webster; MMW-Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 30, Apr 21, over Como Pk, Lancaster (JG)-only major flight reported and max count for period—continues to be scarce. Red-

necked Grebe: one, Apr 30, Amity, Alleg Co (LDB)—only report. Pied-billed Grebe: very scarce. Double-crested Cormorant: one, Apr 6, over Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Great Blue Heron: nine, Apr 25, heronry near Town's Corners, Chaut Co (FMR et al)—number of nesting birds decreasing here from a high of 52 active nests in 1963. Common Egret: two, May 16 (AR) and two, May 22-23 (RB et al), OOGMA—only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: 51, May 16, Nia Falls (WM et al)—at only known nesting colony in Region; four additional reports for period. *Mute Swan*: one, Apr 22 (TLB) through May 8 (HDM et al), L Erie at Athol Springs. Whistling Swan: generally poor Apr flight; max 31, Apr 3, Chaut L (AC et al). Canada Goose: 26000, Apr 11 (JG et al) and 27500, May 1 (RB et al)—max at OOGMA. *White-fronted Goose* (*A.a. flavirostris*): one, Apr. 3 (RCR et al) through Apr 18 (RB et al), TGMA—seen on three successive weekends; orange bill, generally dark coloration, and prominent black belly splotchings carefully noted; second record for Region (first in 1962). Snow and Blue Goose: poorest flight in at least five years; max—three Snows, Apr 23, Lyndonville area (WGS) and three Blues, Apr 4, OOGMA (HDM et al).

Gadwall: more Apr reports involving more than the usual number of individuals than in recent years; max—five, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and Apr 22, Scio, Alleg Co (LDB). Green-winged Teal: excellent Apr flight; max—51, Apr 7, Silver Creek to Westfield, Chaut Co (RCR et al) and 73, Apr 23, Chaut Co (FMR et al); four, May 23, OOGMA (RB et al). *European Widgeon*: one male, Apr 9-11, South Bflo Harbor (AC et al). Shoveler: excellent Apr flight throughout Region; max—20, Apr 11, Hanover Center, Chaut Co (JG et al) and 30, May 1, OOGMA (RB et al). Redhead: max—102, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and 129, Apr 4, Chaut L (CMB et al). Ring-necked Duck: good Apr flight; max—57, Apr 7, Hamburg to Dunkirk (RCR et al), 35, Apr 17, Lime L (FMR) and 109, Apr 20, Chaut Co (EMP et al). Oldsquaw: 23, Apr 22, Scio (LDB). White-winged Scoter: four, Apr 22, Scio (LDB). Ruddy Duck: more Apr reports than in recent years; max—20, Apr 10 and 40, Apr 20, Chaut L (EMP et al).

HAWKS—OWLS: Noteworthy hawk flights:—Apr 3, south shore L Erie from Lake View to Portland (AC et al): Turkey Vulture-3, Sharp-shinned-3, Red-tailed-4, Red-shouldered-30, Rough-legged-1, Sparrow-1 (total 43); Apr 11, south shore L Erie from Lake View to Portland (AC et al): Turkey Vulture-1, Sharp-shinned-57, Red-tailed-8, Marsh-18, Osprey-3, Sparrow-23 (total 110); Apr 20, south shore L Erie, Allegany Rd, Hanover (JG et al): Sharp-shinned-40, Cooper's-2, Broad-winged-168, Pigeon-1 (total 211); Apr 21, over Lancaster (JG): Cooper's-5, Broad-winged-138, Pigeon-1 (total 144); Apr 23, south shore L Erie at Portland (AC et al): Sharp-shinned-7, Red-tailed-6, Broad-winged-327, Osprey-3 (total 343); Apr 24, south shore L Erie (FMR et al): Sharp-shinned-8, Red-tailed-4, Red-shouldered-2, Broad-winged-530 (total 544); Apr 29, south shore L Ont at Youngstown (JFT): Sharp-shinned-17, Broad-winged-103, Bald Eagle-1, Marsh-3 (total 124); Apr 29, south shore L Erie at Allegany Rd, Hanover (AF et al): Turkey Vulture-4, Sharp-shinned-3, Red-tailed-1, Red-shouldered-4, Broad-winged-669, Osprey-2, unidentified-2 (total 685).

Goshawk: adult incubating on nest during Apr near Vandalia, Catt Co (SWE)—second consecutive year this nest is being used. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: extremely scarce except during migration periods; the number of Cooper's reported in the hawk flights is lower than has often been the case in past years. Rough-legged Hawk: widely scattered during Apr; max of 51 seen Apr 22 in Lyndonville area is the highest count for Region in recent years. Bald Eagle: one ad, Apr 16, over Oakfield, Gen Co (RWR et al); one imm, Apr 29, over Youngstown (JFT); one ad, May 9, Catt Indian Reservation (GGW et al). Marsh Hawk: max of 53 noted Apr 17 in Lyndonville area (WGS) is the highest count for Region in recent years. Osprey: many reports of single birds throughout Region during Apr indicating a better flight

than in past few years; max—four, Apr 20, Kiantone, Chaut Co (EMP et al) and three, Apr 24, Chaut Co (FMR et al). Peregrine Falcon: two, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and one, Apr 4, Hamburg area (TLB et al). Pigeon Hawk: one, Apr 1, Lake View (TLB)—early.

Bobwhite: one, May 7 (HDM et al) and one, May 15 (GGW et al), Williston Rd, Marilla, Erie Co; three, May 23, OOGMA (RB et al). Turkey: one, Apr 21, Larkin Rd, Eden, Erie Co—another report indicating their northward spread in the Region. Rails, Coot, and Common Gallinule: scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: one, Apr 11, Dunkirk Harbor (RB et al)—early. Migrant shorebirds: extremely few records for Western New York except for yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers on a flooded sink at Hanover Center, Chaut Co—this location over the past few years has become the very best Apr shorebird habitat in the Region. Greater Yellowlegs: max 150, Apr 25 (EMP et al)—an unprecedented number in spring. Lesser Yellowlegs: max eight, Apr 15 (AF et al) and Apr 24 (FMR et al). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 250, Apr 23 (AC et al); 220, Apr 24 (FMR et al); 100, Apr 25 (FMR et al). White-rumped Sandpiper: one, May 28, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Dunlin: one, Apr 27, Red Bird Corners, Chaut Co (KOS); one, Apr 28, Town of Java, Wyo Co (RWR et al).

Iceland Gull (*L.g. glaucooides*): one, Apr 16, Athol Springs (TLB). Glaucous Gull: one, May 12, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Caspian Tern: one, Apr 16, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB); three, Apr 23, Cuba L (LDB)—second consecutive year in which this bird has been reported from Alleg Co; apparent movement May 2 along south shore L Erie—one, Barcelona (FMR et al), one, Pt Gratiot (JG et al) and five, Angola (EAU et al). Barn Owl: one, Apr 4 and May 11 (TLB) and May 23 (RB et al), Hamburg. Snowy Owl: three-four individuals reported in metropolitan Bflo area in Apr; one, Apr 13, South Bflo Harbor (FMR)—last report. Long-eared Owl: two, Apr 4, Newfane area, Nia Co (GJL et al); two, Apr 18 and 23, Lyndonville area (WGS). Short-eared Owl: max 31, Apr 3, Lyndonville area (WGS); four, Apr 3–5, Langford, Erie Co (RWR et al)—a noteworthy inland locality. Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 9, Lyndonville area (WGS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one, May 2, Pt Gratiot (RB et al); one, May 25, Hamburg (TLB)—only reports. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 450, May 2, Dunkirk area (JG et al)—migrating individuals. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, Apr 3 (RB, RCR et al), Apr 11 (RB et al), May 1 (RB et al) and May 23 (JG et al), OOGMA—this species seems to be establishing itself at Oak Orchard and probably represents a westward extension of its range from the Batavia area. Red-headed Woodpecker: many reports during period; seems to be holding its own. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 150, May 2, Dunkirk area (JG et al)—migrating individuals and an unusually high count for a single day. Eastern Kingbird: one, Apr 25, Attica, Wyo Co (RCR et al)—early. Rough-winged Swallow: one, Apr 9, Eden (TLB)—very early. Tufted Titmouse: after what appeared to be a mild influx during the winter, reports decreased sharply during Apr and May except for a count of six, May 16 in the southern tier counties. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce; two, May 13 and 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co (RFA et al)—an indication of possible breeding in a likely habitat.

Carolina Wren: one, Apr 11 and 13 at feeder in Hamburg (TLB)—only report; this species continues to be very low in numbers. Long-billed Marsh Wren: scarce. Mockingbird: one which spent the winter in suburban Amherst, Erie Co was last seen Apr 4 (RCR et al); an early May influx is evident—one, May 3, Eden (TLB), one, May 5, South Bflo (RR), one, May 9, Cottage, Catt Co (GGW et al), one, May 20, Catt Indian Reservation (MMW et al). Wood Thrush: one, Apr 24, Hamburg (RWR et al)—early. Hermit Thrush: migrants unusually late in arriving in Bflo area—earliest was Apr 22, Eggertsville (AWM). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one, May 23, Town of Java, Wyo Co (HDM)—reports from the hill country south of Bflo are rare. Golden-

crowned Kinglet: two, May 13 and four, May 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co—the possibility of this bird nesting here among the tall spruces is excellent.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: April warbler arrivals included: Black-and-white, Apr 20, Springbrook (HDS); Nashville, Apr 27, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Yellow, Apr 28, Hamburg (TLB); Myrtle, Apr 14, Eden (TLB); Black-throated Green, Apr 23, Hamburg (RWR); Pine, Apr 21, Lancaster (JG); Palm, Apr 30, Lancaster (JG); Ovenbird, Apr 30, Belmont (LDB) and Northern Waterthrush, Apr 24, Town of Java (RWR et al) and Kiantone, Chaut Co (EMP). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were more common during May than usual. "Brewster's" Warbler: one, May 11 (MMW et al), May 15 (HDM) and May 18 (AF et al), Delaware Pk, Bflo; one, May 16, Alleg Co (BOS Count); one, May 18, Ball's Gulf, Chaut Co (FMR et al). Parula Warbler: one, May 25, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB)—only report. Cape May Warbler: unusually scarce. Myrtle Warbler: one, May 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co (RFA)—another northern species likely to nest here. Pine Warbler: three, May 2, Dunkirk (JG et al); one, May 15, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (GGW et al). Prairie Warbler: a small "colony" of at least three singing males was located in late May, five miles north of the village of Allegany, Catt Co (SWE); one, May 13-14, McClure Hollow, Catt Co (MMW). *Kentucky Warbler*: one, May 23, Allegany State Pk (RB et al).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: one, May 10, Hamburg (RFA et al)—uncommon on south shore L Erie. Rusty Blackbird: 520, Apr 18, Iroquois NWR (RB et al)—an unusually high count for spring. Red Crossbill: two, May 11, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB)—first report since a year ago. Slate-colored Junco: 1500, Apr 18, Forestville to Town's Corners, Chaut Co (FMR) and 200, OOGMA (EAU et al)—marked movement on this date. Tree Sparrow: one, May 6, Springbrook (HDS)—last. *Harris' Sparrow*: the individual reported since mid-Dec at Lake View, Erie Co was last reported (and photographed) May 6; at that time the bird was in typical male plumage (HDM).

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 14215

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for April averaged below normal, with the season's last snowfall disappearing on the 20th. Precipitation for the month was somewhat below normal. Temperatures for May averaged about two degrees above normal, with much of the warm weather occurring early in the month. Precipitation for the month was only .50 inch which made it the driest May in the history of the Rochester Weather Bureau. Rainwater pools dried up early, while Lake Ontario and connected ponds and bays experienced their usual spring rise.

Cold weather during April retarded the spring migration, especially land birds. The warm weather of early May brought heavy migration with the spring peak reached during the week of May 8-15. The latter half of the month was comparatively uneventful.

Outstanding birds recorded included the Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Lawrence's Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Oregon Junco.

Observers: WC—Walter Corcoran; GD Mrs. Gertrude Davis; JD—James Doherty; MF—Miss Margaret Foley; RF—Mrs. Ruth Feder; JF—John Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; BK—Mrs. Beatrice Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Miss Ruth MacRae; AM—Alfred Maley; RM—Robert McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Mrs. Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—Mrs. Laura Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; AAS—Alfred A. Starling; MS—Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlin; JT—Joseph Taylor; ST—Steven Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; RW—Robert White.

Places and their abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; HSP—Hamlin State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay; SP—Seneca Park; SB—Sodus Bay; WP—Webster Park; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Three hundred Common Loons reported from Pultneyville April 18 (AEK) was the peak of the spring flight. Two Red-necked Grebes were reported along the WL May 2 (WC & RTO). The only report of the Double-crested Cormorant was one at BB April 20 (WCL). This species has decreased locally since its virtual disappearance as a breeder from the islands in eastern Lake Ontario. One Cattle Egret was seen in Hilton April 22 (Wadsworths) and the same or another bird was seen in Parma May 1 (AEK & WCL). This species seems to have decreased locally since two or three years ago. A few Common Egrets were reported, with a high count of three in DEP May 13 (MS). A Snowy Egret was seen at Manitou May 16 (JF, AEK & WCL). An early Green Heron was seen in DEP April 17 (AAS et al) and an early American Bittern was at BB April 4 (JF et al). Whistling Swans were scarce during the spring, with a high count of only two at SB from April 4–10 (AEK). A very late bird was seen on Lake Ontario near Sodus Bay on May 30 (AEK). The spring flight of Brant consisted of three at Pultneyville May 31 (AEK).

One hundred Green-winged Teal were along the WL April 16 (WCL). A male European Widgeon was seen at Cranberry Pond April 17 and 20 (RTO, AAS, ST). Possibly the same bird was seen at SA May 9 (WCL et al) and along the WL May 23 (JT et al). One hundred Amer. Widgeon were seen along the WL April 11 (RTO) and 50 Shovelers were in the same place April 24 (GOS hike). Wood Duck: 40 at Rose's Marsh May 16 (MF, JF, & WCL). One hundred and thirty Redheads and 124 Ring-necked Ducks were seen at SB April 10 (AEK). Oldsquaw: 300 at HSP April 23 (JM, TM). A female Harlequin Duck was seen at Oklahoma Beach May 15–16 (AEK, WL, TM, MS & RW). While this is very late for this rare species locally, one was reported from the vicinity of Manitou in May, 1956. Two hundred and seventy-five White-winged Scoters were seen along the WL May 22 (AEK). Two adult male Surf Scoters were at Oklahoma Beach May 16 (JM, TM, MS), and one adult male Common Scoter was at Point Breeze April 16 (JD, HSM). These last two species are uncommon locally in the spring, especially the adult males. The high count of Ruddy Ducks, uncommon here recently, was only three on IB April 17 (AEK). Twenty-five Hooded Mergansers were seen along the WL April 3 (RTO). Ten thousand Red-breasted Mergansers, an abundant migrant, were seen at Manitou April 27 (WCL).

HAWKS—OWLS: Eighteen Turkey Vultures were seen in Webster April 22, an apparently unfavorable flight day with light NE winds (WL). High count of Sharp-shinned Hawks was 350 at BB April 26 (AM). The high count of Cooper's Hawks was 11 at BB April 20 (AEK, AM), and the season's high count of Red-tailed Hawks was only 30 at BB April 20 by the same observers. High counts of Broad-winged Hawks varied from 800 along the WL April 25 (GOS hike) to 6,000 along the Lakeshore April 22 (WL, TM, MS). This was an unfavorable flight day, with light NE winds. A good late flight of this species occurred May 16 when 500 were seen along the WL (AEK, BK). High counts of Rough-legged Hawks were 10 at BB April 26 (AM) and 30 along the Lakeshore May 9 (WL, RM). A Golden Eagle was seen in Webster April 22 (WL). Bald Eagles were reported as follows: one at Rose's

Marsh April 29 (WCL); two at BB April 30 (several); one at the WL May 8 (GOS hike); one at SB May 8 (AM, TET) and one at Shore Acres May 16 (AEK, BK). High counts on Ospreys were eight along the WL April 22 (TM, MS) and 13 along the Lakeshore May 8 (GOS hike). These counts compare with a count of 65 at Sodus Bay May 2, 1964. The drop in numbers was probably due to unfavorable flight conditions this year rather than to a decrease of the species. The year's first and only Peregrine Falcon was seen at SB May 8 (AM, TET). Single Pigeon Hawks were seen at Manitou April 25 (WCL); in Greece April 29 (JF); at Rose's Marsh April 30 (WCL); and at Pultneyville May 8 (AM, TET). Peak numbers of Sparrow Hawks were 15 along the WL April 25 (GOS hike). This species seems to have increased somewhat over last year.

Peak counts of Whimbrel were seven at WP May 26 (AEK) and 11 at BB the same day (WCL). The year's first Upland Plover was reported from Manitou on the rather late date of April 25. An early Spotted Sandpiper was seen at Pultneyville April 21 (AEK). The Region's first accepted record of the Ruff was a bird carefully studied at Hilton May 16-17 (MF, JF, WCL et al). It was in the company of both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and was directly compared with them. John Foster has observed the species in Delaware. High count of Sanderlings was six at SB May 31 (AEK). This species is very uncommon locally in the spring. A late Iceland Gull was seen at SB May 31 by AEK, who also reported a fully adult Franklin's Gull at WP May 26. An immature Little Gull was first reported from BB May 23 (WL, RM). Fourteen Caspian Terns were at BB April 23 (ST). A Barn Owl was reported from Mendon May 23 (JT et al). This is the third year that they have been present in this location. A very late Snowy Owl was seen at BB April 23 (ST). A Long-eared Owl seen in the "owl woods" near BB (RTO) was only the second reported this year. Peak count of Short-eared Owls was six near Manitou April 8 (RTO). The year's only Saw-whet Owl was reported from near Webster May 16 (WL).

**GOATSUCKERS--STARLING:** One thousand Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported migrating past BB April 25 (GOS hike). They were accompanied by one Pileated Woodpecker. Twelve Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen along the WL April 24 (LM et al). A very early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Fairport May 15 (RF). An estimated 200 Brown Creepers were seen along the Lakeshore April 24 (AAS et al). A Carolina Wren was reported from Powder Mill Park May 25 (JM, TM). This species was exterminated locally by the severe winters a few years ago. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one at Buck Pond May 16 (RTO et al). An estimated 2000 Robins were observed migrating along the Lakeshore April 11 (RTO). High count of migrating Eastern Bluebirds was 38 along the WL May 16 (AEK, BK). Numerous reports of nesting pairs have been reported from inland localities, and the species seems to be experiencing a definite upswing. An estimated 500 Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported along the Lakeshore April 24 (Dr. K. Planansky et al). The year's only Bohemian Waxwing was reported from DEP April 24 (AAS et al). Six Loggerhead Shrikes were seen along the WL April 10 (AAS et al).

**VIREOS--WARBLERS:** A White-eyed Vireo was seen in Penfield May 8 (GD) and another was reported from Seneca Park May 14 (RM). This species is rare locally. A Lawrence's Warbler was reported from Powder Mill Park May 15 (GD). This is the Region's first accepted report of this recessive hybrid. Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Manitou May 8 (WCL). Pine Warbler: one in Highland Park April 21 (LM et al). Prairie Warbler: one in Island Cottage Woods May 9 (JM, TM); one in Seneca Park May 14 (RM); a third was netted and banded west of Manitou May 15 (Dr. G. Leubner)—this bird was still present early the next day. A Yellow-breasted Chat was netted and banded at the same place May 15 (Dr. G. Leubner) and another was seen at Ling Road the same day (Dr. Neil Moon et al).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A singing Western Meadowlark was present in Greece from April 17—May 31 (AAS et al) and another was in Hilton May 1—31 (AEK, WCL et al). A single Pine Siskin, the only "winter finch" reported during the period, was seen at Manitou May 16 (RM). An Oregon Junco was present at the Kemnitzer feeder until April 9 and another appeared briefly at Manitou April 11 (WCL). An early White-crowned Sparrow was seen in Parma April 23 (TM, MS). Twelve Fox Sparrows were seen along the Lakeshore April 11 (RTO).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

April dragged slowly along, with no severe cold but cool enough to delay the appearance of leaves and opening of buds. May likewise was behind schedule, as far as vegetation is concerned. While, for some strange reason a few species arrived early (Hummingbirds, Tree Swallows, Purple Martins and Fox Sparrows were about a week early), the arrival of other migrants was delayed. Catbirds, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and White-crowned Sparrows were noticeably behind schedule. Food was scarce for birds when they did come, especially since leaves were so late in coming out. As in 1956 (but not to as great an extent) birds fed low or on the ground. Such species as Catbirds, Robins and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted feeding on sumac, "starvation food."

The drought is continuing, in spite of some locally heavy showers in early April, and an absence of hot sunshine throughout the period. First broods of common species averaged a week late in appearing.

The continued increase in numbers of migrating geese is as good news as the continued decrease in sightings of raptors and generally low numbers with absence of waves of warblers is depressing.

The Little Gull, which was noted by several dozen observers at Montezuma Refuge on May 16, takes honors as the bird of the spring season.

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

Sub-editors and compilers: M. Welles, J. Bardeen, W. Groesbeck, F. Guthrie, J. Walker.

Contributors: DGA—David G. Allen; JB—Jack Brubaker; WEB—Walter Benning; LC—Lew Cowardin; HF—Helen Fessenden; FG—Frank Guthrie; HG—H. Golub; WG—William Groesbeck; WH—Wilfred Howard; EJ—Eric Johnson; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; RK—Roberta Knapp; AK—Art Kopp; DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JM—John Morse; JP—James Patterson; LP—Lewis Pearsall; PR—Porter Reed, Jr.; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; BS—Betty Strath.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 11 sightings of probably 7 individuals last two weeks in April in Hornell area, where species is unusual and often missed (WG); 15 Lamoka Lake, w. of Watkins, a high count (JB). Red-throated Loon: one only,

crash-landed at Tompkins Co. airport, Ithaca, Apr 19, died subsequently. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 22, Chemung River, Elmira (WH). Horned Grebe: unusual numbers on several lakes; e.g., a peak count of 114 Apr 30 on Hornell Reservoir basins. Great Blue Heron: continues scarce. Cattle Egret: one to three, from May 16 on, MNWR and just north of Refuge. Common Egret: one, Apr 12 (early), MNWR (JM); scattered reports rest of period, including one at Horseheads dump, Apr 29-30 (RK et al). Glossy Ibis: May 1, Warren Road n.e. of Ithaca (DGA); also seen off and on, MNWR in late May. Mute Swan: five, reported various locations on Cay L, Sen L and Owasco, evidently a family group. (Note: Feral Mute Swans bred successfully raising 5 young on Skan. Lake last year.) Whistling Swan: small flocks on several lakes and one at MNWR, early April on; two on farm near Elmira for 3 weeks. Canada Goose: peaked at 40,000 at MNWR second week in April; over 25,000 (little duplication with MNWR) on Cay L; first brood at MNWR, May 14. Brant: one all April, Sen L inlet, only report. Snow Goose: 150 peak, and Blue Goose: 400 peak, early April, MNWR (JM).

Ducks peaked at 4000 at MNWR, which is about normal. Early indications point to a good breeding season this year, judging by number of mated pairs seen. Particularly true of Widgeon and Shovelers. First Mallard brood at SWS, May 23. European Widgeon: Apr 10, MNWR, first report for year; one also seen in April on Sen L lakefront (BS). A male Shoveler on Tear's Pond, w. of Penn Yan, May 4-5, was first record in that area in 10 years (FG). Bufflehead: max 50, Apr 1, MNWR (LC et al). Oldsquaw: unusually abundant this spring; 21, Apr 1, MNWR (LC et al); 60, Apr 22, Chemung River (WH); 164, Apr 22, Hornell Reservoir and 375, Loon Lake near Wayland (WG); the largest count was 1000 plus, n. end of Keuka also on Apr 22 (ML). Very rarely are there counts like these. White-winged Scoters also appeared in larger numbers than usual (some years only half a dozen are seen). Two, Chemung River, Elmira, in April (WH); seven on Apr 22, three on May 3, Hornell—first in years; 50, n. end Keuka L, Apr 22 (ML). Surf Scoter: uncommon; one, Chemung River, Elmira, Apr 28 (WH). Ruddy Duck: max 80, Apr 29, MNWR (WEB). Guthrie reports more Mergansers on Keuka than for many years, especially Hooded. Elmira and Ithaca also had more reports of Hooded Mergansers, and 17 Red-breasted Mergansers at Elmira was not only unusual but a high count there.

HAWKS—OWLS: Only small flight of hawks noticed, last week April, Ithaca. 12 Broadwings max. Turkey Vulture: one, Apr 1 (early) MNWR (PR); up to eleven near Geneva, May 23 (JW); two sightings near Monkey Run, e. of Ithaca (rare here), May 18 (JP); other scattered sightings. Goshawk: one imm., Apr 10, Whipple's Corners near Etna (WRS). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: almost completely absent; one Sharp-shin nest located south of Ithaca; absent all other sites of three to five years ago. Red-tailed Hawks seem to be maintaining numbers—usual nesting pairs located, including 3 pairs at MNWR. Broad-winged Hawk: nesting at Arnot Forest, in Chemung County; this is only second reported nesting of this species in recent years in Ithaca area. Rough-legged Hawk: one, Apr 19, near Tyrone, last date (BS). Bald Eagle: only one sighting in period, Apr 10, nearly adult bird, MNWR (Cornell Cons. 210 Class). Marsh Hawk: almost completely absent from all former locations, except MNWR, where 4 seen Apr 1. Peregrine: no reports. Pigeon Hawk: one, May 2, May's Mills (FG, ML). Sparrow Hawk: scattered reports of successful nestings, absent other former sites.

Virginia and Sora Rails reported scarce in several areas, but possibly they go unobserved. One Sora spent period from Apr 21 to early May in view of Observatory windows at SWS. Except for 2-300 peeps at a distance at MNWR in May, shorebird reports were scarce, as always in spring in the Finger Lakes, primarily because of maintenance of high water levels. A few noteworthy ones: 14 Black-bellied Plover, May 22, MNWR (WEB) and one at Elmira, May 22, second record in 15 years.

Woodcocks, late in arriving in March, continued courtship into May. Upland Plover: found again in new locations of last two years. Glaucous Gull: one, second year plumage, May 30 (*very* late date), Long Pier, Geneva (JW) et al). Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cay L last sightings, early April. Bonaparte's Gull: 200 (high count) May 14, Cay L near E. Varick (WEB). *Little Gull*: this bird, in changing plumage, seen by entire census group, May 16, MNWR—first record in Cay Basin since 1916 (details in Field Notes in this issue). Black Tern: 120 (high count), May 4, MNWR (WEB). Snowy Owl: late report, Apr 21, Myers Pt on Cay L (DGA). Barred Owl: nesting again in SWS. Young not yet visible May 31 (late). Long-eared Owl: one report, May 14, SWS (LP).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: more reports from more locations than usual, probably mostly migrants; early report, May 8, Rte 13 near Varna (HAF). Flicker: seemed unusually numerous this year. Pileated Woodpecker: nesting in view of windows at Stuart Observatory (SWS), also Stewart Park, Ithaca and other locations. Red-bellied Woodpecker: found at Geneva and at Keuka Park on census day, not found anywhere in Ithaca area that day. Red-headed Woodpecker: again at same stations as last year, plus new location at Dryden. Tree Swallow: arrival date, Apr 4, MNWR. Barn Swallow: ten nesting pairs in one barn near Jacksonville is worthy of mention (DAL). Brown Creeper: nesting again at SWS.

Mockingbird: reports continue to increase, and apparently the species has been nesting in the Elmira-Horseheads-Breesport area for several years. Details will be reported in an early issue of the *Kingbird*. The Keuka area also reports three records of Mockingbirds in May, one at Esperanza where they have been in the past. These birds often nest in dense thickets, especially multiflora rose, and past reports have usually been simply of suspected nestings, based on presence of two adults, or young seen out of nest. It is now apparent that actual nests have been under observation for several years, but confirming details had not been submitted for this report. As yet no nest has been found at Ithaca. Brown Thrasher: reported abundant at Keuka and Ithaca. Most thrushes scarce, except Robins. Little increase in Bluebirds over last year. A Veery, on 4 inches of snow on Apr 19 at Hornell was somewhat early and certainly optimistic. Only two reports of Loggerhead Shrikes: two, Apr 17, Cay Inlet (EJ); one, May 16, Reading Center (AK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: always rare; one, May 16, Texas Hollow (BS); several, May 19, near Geneva (JW). All warblers seemed scarce, but particularly Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Palm. For example, at Elmira, no Palms reported for second year. Worm-eating Warbler: May 8, near old station at former York summer home e. of Elmira. Orange-crowned Warbler: rare in spring, two records at Elmira, early May. Blue-winged Warbler: far more common than Golden-wings, which they may be pushing out in over-lapping areas. Cerulean Warbler: missing from Stewart Park, Ithaca, where they have been a 'sure thing' for years; present at least two other localities on w. shore of Cay L. Yellow-throated Warbler: May 8, Elmira (WH); rare in Region. Prairie Warbler: two or three singing males on Connecticut Hill, s.w. of Ithaca, and new stations located near Elmira, where 9 singing males were located in late May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one early, Apr 26, Waterloo (JW); three sites located near Ithaca, two of them new (DM and PMK).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: seemed a week or so late in arriving, but once here appeared slightly more numerous than last year. At Keuka, described as 'plentiful' (FG). Orchard Oriole: one only, May 23, Ithaca reservoir (HG). Red-wings, Grackles, Cowbirds, and more fortunately Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and Indigo Buntings seem in good numbers this year. White-throated Sparrows were less numerous than in most years; e.g., Lerch banded only a few, in contrast to 100's most years. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, May 8, Odessa (BS).

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was decidedly and steadily cold, the official temperature surpassing 66 only on the last day of the month when it reached 76 in Binghamton. Precipitation came frequently but even with the 6-inch snowfall on Easter Sunday, the 18th, the last of the season, total precipitation was barely normal. So after a very dry May drought again stares us in the face.

May was just as warm as April was cold, particularly the first few days, the temperature reaching 90 on the third. The sudden jump in temperature just at the end of April would seem to be related to Claude Howard's comment that "early migrants seemed to be late, later migrants seemed early." Many first dates did fall in the Apr 29 to May 3 period, including those of species that usually arrive both earlier and later.

A Western Grebe record tops the list of spectacular finds but a Goshawk nesting record from a new part of the state, at least with respect to recent records, is also interesting. One can be skeptical about the lasting significance, but a Chukar on a front lawn in Otsego County would catch anyone's eye.

The waterfowl migration was not as good and the birds left earlier than last year, although the lake behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam was still there. At Norwich it was just about a one day affair, on Apr 22, but it included some very interesting species. The warm days in early May could have been responsible for the earlier departure if only by hurrying the advent of swimming, water skiing and picnicking. The shorebird migration was also disappointing, but Skyline, in Tioga County, produced some interesting hawk flights again. Among the passerines a few species such as Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo and Parula and Bay-breasted Warblers were in short supply and a couple of species, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Gray-cheeked Thrush, were missed entirely, but a few such "decreases" each year is normal. With few "waves" the small land bird migration was not particularly spectacular.

Contributors frequently mentioned: TB—Tioga Bird Club; NC—Triple Cities Naturalists' Club; LB—Leslie Bemont; M&AD—Marilyn & Anna Davis; RD—Robert Dirig; CG—Clinton Gerould; SG—Selena Gorton; JG—John Gustafson; CH—Claude Howard; FL—Florence Linaberry; ML—Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; R&JS—Robert & Jeanne Saunders; RS, MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; AS—Anne Stratton; DW—Donald Weber; MW—Mildred White; R&SW—Ruth & Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; HW—Herbert Wisner.

Abbreviations: WP—Whitney Point; Co—County.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 15 and 16, Skyline in Tioga Co. (RW), migratory flights; Apr 17, WP (MS), one calling; 20, Apr 20, WP; reports of smaller numbers from various areas; last one May 17, Owego (MW). Western Grebe: 2,

May 16, WP (MS)—see Field Notes for details. Horned Grebe: first Apr 3, Owego (RW), last May 8, WP (MS). Pied-billed Grege: several Apr reports to Apr 23; none thereafter. Great Blue Heron: heronry on Cold Brook at Scott, Cortland Co, again occupied (JG); 15 nests at Candor heronry May 31 (DW). Green Heron: Apr 6, Newark Valley (L & W Dean); no more until Apr 27. American Bittern: 1, May 9, Owego (TBC); very few reported.

Whistling Swan: Apr 3, 2 still at Owego (A. Evelien) and 1 still at WP (SG), the last date. Canada Goose: flocks flying over almost daily until about May 8, but especially heavy flights from May 1 to 5; still at WP and Chenango Bridge May 30 (MS). Pintail: not many after Apr 1; 1, May 16, Owego (B. Hewlett), the last. Green-winged Teal: small numbers during Apr; none after May 2. Blue-winged Teal: small numbers until May 15 when 2 pair were at South Cortland (JG). Am. Widgeon: none after Apr 11; reduced numbers. Shoveler: Apr 10, Owego (MW, CG); 1, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW); 1, May 2, WP (MS, SG). Wood Duck: 2 broods totalling 18 young, May 26, East Sidney (HW).

Ring-necked Duck: 40 to 90 at WP Apr 10 to 24; May 1, Owego (RW) and Maine (MS), the last date. Canvasback: Apr 10, 1 at Lounsberry (MW, CG) and 1 at Chenango Forks (M & AD), the only reports. Scaup: 20 or so, Apr 24, WP (MS); May 2, last date; apparently all Lessers. Common Goldeneye: last report Apr 24. Bufflehead: smaller numbers than last year at WP from Apr 3 to May 2; 1, May 16 (MW, CG) the only later report. Oldsquaw: Apr 22, 85 on various ponds and the Chenango River around Norwich (R&SW) and 20, at Hillcrest just north of Binghamton (C. Jennings); 1, May 1, near Maine (MS), the only other report. Ruddy Duck: Apr 3, Blodgett Mills in Cortland Co. (G. Field), 1, Norwich (R & SW) and 5, WP (SG); no other reports. White-winged Scoter: 4, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW), the only report. Hooded Merganser: continued common through Apr 24; 30 or more, Apr 10, WP (MS), the largest number; 2, Endicott, May 16 (LB), the only later ones. Common Merganser: 50 to 75 at WP until Apr 24; smaller numbers to May 8. Red-breasted Merganser: Apr 8 to May 8 at WP; 30 or so, Apr 10, the largest count.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: regularly at Hancock (RD); also at Deposit (S. Wilson), 2 at E. Sidney May 16 (HW) and 1 at Owego May 17 (RW). Goshawk: an active nest at Hancock (RD), "with at least 1 egg." Sharp-shinned Hawk: there continue to be more frequent reports than has been normal in the past few years. Red-tailed Hawk: migrants apparent by numbers until Apr 24; 20, Apr 15, Skyline (RW), the maximum count; 3 known nesting pairs in Tioga Co. Broad-winged Hawk: 1, Apr 19, Hancock (RD), the first; 152 in 7 hours, Apr 20, Skyline (RW), the highest count; an active nest at Hancock (RD). Rough-legged Hawk: thinned out after Apr 8 but a few until 1, May 16, Candor (DW), white rump patch, black "wrist marks" and hovering actions all clearly seen during five minute period; 2 earlier May records. Bald Eagle: Apr 2, Deposit (SW); 1, May 11, Hancock (RD); 1, May 16, Owego (MW, CG). Marsh Hawk: 9, Apr 20, Owego (TBC), the highest count; quite a few other reports until the last May 16. Osprey: Apr 10, Homer (JG), the first; May 15 at Freetown, in Cortland Co. and at Choconut Center, in Broome Co, the last. Pigeon Hawk: Apr 12, Vestal (HM).

Bob-white: 2 at Freetown (JG); 1, May 19, Oxford (AS); 1, May 20, Hancock (RD). Chukar: 1, Apr 25, South Worcester in southeastern Otsego Co (R. Burland) walked across front lawn; some have been released in the area in past years by private breeders. Turkey: May 16, Candor (DW). Sora: Apr 18, Chenango Bridge (MS), the only report. Common Gallinule: 1, May 6, Binghamton (CH), found dead; May 16 Chenango Bridge (LB); the only ones. Am. Coot: only report 1, Apr 11, Chenango Valley State Park (M & AD). Semipalmated Plover: May 15, Scott (JG) the only one. Woodcock: May 1, Candor (DW), adult with 4 young.

Upland Plover: 1, May 9, Sherburne (R & SW); also at Cortland in May. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 10, Greene (C. & J. Davis), the first; common from Apr 30. Solitary Sandpiper: May 8, Homer (JG) and Ingraham Hill (CH), the first; very few reports. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 17 to May 2, and very few between. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 30, Berkshire (ML); May 1, Owego (MW); the only reports. Least Sandpiper: May 15, Scott (JG), the only report. Dunlin: 2, May 23, WP (MS), the only report. Ruddy Turnstone: 1, May 23, WP (MS); rather surprisingly this is the first known record of the species in Broome Co in 12 years.

Herring Gull: mostly gone after Apr 20; at Owego, May 16 (G. Kirk, Turner), the last. Ring-billed Gull: in flocks of 30 or more to May 8; still present in small numbers at the end of the period. Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 8, WP (HM, EL), the first; 15, Apr 12, Ingraham Hill, resting on a farm pond during a heavy wind (CH), the highest count; 8, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW), the last; a few other reports between. Common Tern: May 2, WP (NC); 2, May 15, Skaneateles Lake (JG); the only reports. Black Tern: May 2, WP (NC), only report. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 10, Choconut Center (MS), the first; not too common. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 6, Chenango Forks (SG), the first; reasonably numerous around the Triple Cities but "only a few compared with last year" at Cortland (JG). Barn Owl: at Owego "during the reporting period" (J. Shuler). Horned Owl: several nesting records; young had left nests at Ingraham Hill and Candor by May 16. Barred Owl: reported at Hancock (RD), Ludlow (AS), Castle Creek (MS) and E. Sidney (HW).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 2, May 2, Binghamton (R. Short); May 5 and 6, Ingraham Hill (J. Howard, CH); May 8, Choconut Center (MS); May 9, Hinman's Corners (R & JS); 1, May 18, E. Sidney (HW); May 22, Candor (DW); the most reports ever, although it seems highly probable that the species breeds regularly in some parts of the Region. Nighthawk: first May 11, Binghamton (R & MS). Chimney Swift: first Apr 25, Owego (RW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 10, Deposit (SW). Belted Kingfisher: common from Apr 7. Yellow-shafted Flicker: common after Apr 11. Red-headed Woodpecker: May 6, Chenango Forks (M & AD); May 7, banded at Deposit (SW); May 10, Cortland as in other years (JG); 1, May 15, Sherburne as in other years (R & SW); May 17 and 19, Ingraham Hill (CH); 2, May 21, southern Chenango Co, on fence posts along the road (SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: common from Apr 15; still present at the end of the period.

Eastern Kingbird: first 1, Apr 30, Norwich (R&SW). Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 2, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Eastern Phoebe: common from Apr 6. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: May 15, Homer (JG); 2 other reports. Traill's Flycatcher: May 16, Apalachin (TBC, NC). Least Flycatcher: Apr 25, Deposit (SW); common from May 3. Eastern Wood Pewee: first May 9, Hinman's Corners (R & JS). Bank Swallow: Apr 17, Owego (RW); regular from May 2. Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 17, Owego (RW). Barn Swallow: first Apr 13, Binghamton (R & MS). Cliff Swallow: Apr 16, WP (HM, FL, G. Corderman). Purple Martin: first, 4, Apr 5, Owego (M. Hills); at Cortland, "more this year than last" (JG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4, Apr 11, Sherburne (R & SW); Apr 15, Freetown (JG); 2, May 16, Tioga Center (J. Barnes); the only reports. Brown Creeper: May 15, Cortland (JG), the last. House Wren: first Apr 23, Hinman's Corners (R & JS) and Binghamton (HM). Winter Wren: still at Hancock May 16 (RD); reasonably frequent reports. Carolina Wren: May 13, Binghamton (R & MS); very few reports in the last few years. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 1, Chenango Forks (SG); 2, May 16, Sherburne (R & SW); the only reports. Mockingbird: May 10, Hinman's Corners (R & JS); May 14, near Sidney Center (HW) and 2 at Owego (L. Cole); May 24, Cortlandville (Clemens); an unusually large number of spring records. Catbird: first May 2, South Owego (E. Williams) and Deposit (SW). Brown

Thrasher: first Apr 17, Binghamton (R. Short). Wood Thrush: first May 2, in several localities. Hermit Thrush: first Apr 6, Ingraham Hill (CH). Swainson's Thrush: 1 banded, May 23, Endwell (R. Pantle), the only report. Veery: first May 2, Deposit (SW). Bluebird: good numbers locally—quite a few nesting reports, but quite a few nestling casualties to ectoparasites, too. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1, Apr 25, Chenango Valley State Park (MS); May 1, Newark Valley (MS); 1, May 4, Owego (RW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: a light migratory movement between Apr 17 and May 1. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 15 to May 9 in good numbers. Water Pipit: Apr 23 and May 2, Berkshire (ML); May 13 to 18, Greene (C. & J. Davis). Migrant Shrike: Apr 6, South Owego (CG).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: first May 1, E. Sidney (HW). Solitary Vireo: Apr 29, Ingraham Hill (CH), the first; very few reported. Red-eyed Vireo: first May 8, Chenango Forks (SG). Philadelphia Vireo: May 8, Deposit (SW); May 16, Newark Valley (L. & W. Dean); the only reports. Warbling Vireo: first May 1, Berkshire (ML); particularly numerous this year at Deposit (SW). Black-and-white Warbler: first Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Worm-eating Warbler: 1, May 16, Endwell (LB), the only report. Golden-winged Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD); common locally in the Triple Cities area. Blue-winged Warbler: May 10, Owego (RW); May 16, Binghamton (HM); May 30, Deposit (SW). Tennessee Warbler: May 9, Owego (TBC) and Binghamton (MS), to May 19; numerous. Nashville Warbler: first May 1, Newark Valley (MS) and Endwell (NC). Parula Warbler: May 5, Owego (MW), the only report. Yellow Warbler: Apr 24, Binghamton (R. Short); common from May 2. Magnolia Warbler: first May 4, Ingraham Hill (CH); not too many. Cape May Warbler: May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD); gone after May 9. Black-throated Blue Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD) and Hancock (RD). Myrtle Warbler: first Apr 15, Chenango Forks (M & AD); "large concentration," May 9, Chenango Valley State Park (SG). Black-throated Green Warbler: from May 1 on and quite numerous. Blackburnian Warbler: first May 2, Castle Creek (MS). Chestnut-sided Warbler: first May 2, Deposit (SW). Bay-breasted Warbler: first May 9, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, May 23, Endwell (LB), the last; not many. Blackpoll Warbler: first May 16 (TBC, NC); still present at the end of the period. Palm Warbler: Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M&AD) to May 15, Freetown (W. Breidinger); a total of 6 reports—more than usual. Ovenbird: May 3 on, in good numbers as usual. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 22, Deposit (SW). Louisiana Waterthrush: first, 1, Apr 27, Norwich (R & SW), late. Mourning Warbler: May 16, Owego (RW); 4 other reports by the end of May. Yellowthroat: Apr 30, Ingraham Hill (CH); plentiful from May 3. Yellow-breasted Chat: first May 8, Chenango Forks (SG). Wilson's Warbler: May 9, Choconut Center (MS) and 1, Sherburne (R & SW); present until May 16. Canada Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD). American Redstart: Apr 24, Petonia Lake (C. Kintner); no more until May 4; numbers seem lower than in recent years.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: first May 2, Binghamton (R. Short) and Nichols (ML). Redwinged Blackbird: females first reported Apr 17 (MW). Baltimore Oriole: first May 1, Berkshire (ML) and Owego (A. Evelien). Scarlet Tanager: first May 2, Owego (RW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr 29, Owego (CG, E. Williams); next report May 3, Sidney (F. Quick). Indigo Bunting: first May 7, Deposit (SW) and Owego (CG). Dickcissel: 1, May 18, Oxford (AS), familiar with song from 1964 visit to Iowa. Evening Grosbeak: a few scattered reports until Apr 28, Sidney (F. Quick). Purple Finch: fairly common from Apr 12; several reports of nests. American Goldfinch: "lots all spring," Deposit (SW), and confirmed in NC reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: common from Apr 16. Savannah Sparrow: 6, Apr 7, Berkshire (ML); next report Apr 19. Grasshopper Sparrow: first Apr 24, Ingraham Hill (CH). Henslow's Sparrow: first May 8, Endwell (NC); seem down in numbers.

Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 8, WP (HM, FL). Slate-colored Junco: migrants about gone after May 8, residents remaining in several localities at the end of May. Oregon Junco: 1 regularly to Apr 9 and once more Apr 21, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Tree Sparrow: to May 7, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Chipping Sparrow: 1, Apr 3, Binghamton (R. Short), then no more until Apr 13. Field Sparrow: Apr 4, Owego (RW); regular from Apr 9. White-crowned Sparrow: 2, Apr 24, Hancock (RD); all other reports between May 1 and 16. White-throated Sparrow: migrants from Apr 12 and mostly gone after May 13; residents present in several localities at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: "first migration" lasted until Apr 15; a second, lesser, migration from Apr 20 to 30; May 6, Endwell (E. & N. Washburn). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 9, Choconut Center (MS); the only report. Swamp Sparrow: first Apr 10, Apalachin (RW).

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

Spring migration consisted mainly of a lengthy catalogue of negatives. April, chilled by the heavy inheritance of March ice, was wet and cold with persistent northwest winds, minimal hawk flights, and a marked delay in arrival of almost all migrants. May was unusually variable with a few days of warm weather followed by cold and rain, then an extremely hot period, and finally the last few days of the month colder than the first week. Foliage held back until May 6, then seemed to burst out overnight. Migrant waves were few (May 4, 6, 8-9, and 14-15) and no major influx of migrants was noted after May 16; the usually large late May flight of Wood Pewees, Empidonax flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, and female warblers was completely missed this year.

Specifically the season's negatives included 1) very low waterfowl counts, especially teal, American Widgeon, and Pintail, 2) a poor hawk flight at Derby Hill, particularly poor in March not one day with 100+ recorded, 3) very poor shorebird migration, both early (April—Pectoral Sandpiper, both Yellowlegs) and late (May—Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated and Red-backed Sandpiper, Sanderling), and 4) a dismal landbird migration, most obvious in thrushes, vireos, and warblers but also detected in flycatchers and swallows.

Lest this read like an ornithological dirge, certain positives deserve mention—1) a flurry of Mockingbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher records; 2) a rash of long-legged waders—see Herons; 3) apparently increasing numbers of Cerulean, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers; 4) a distinct upswing locally in numbers of Phoebes and Hermit Thrushes; 5) a very heavy early April icterid-Robin migration along Lake Ontario (most likely birds delayed by the severe cold of March); and 6) a heavy—though brief—migration of Vesper and Savannah Sparrows in mid-April.

Seasonal rarities noted were Cattle and Snowy Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Sandhill Crane.

Localities and their abbreviations: HIGMA—Howlands Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; RSP—Rome Sand Plains near New London, Oneida County; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; SP—Sandy Pond; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; ad—adult; arr—arrival, arrived; imm—immature; max—maximum (a); L—lake; V—valley.

Observers: DWA—Dorothy W. Ackley; HHA—Hazel H. Aspinwall; BPB—B. P. Burt; VB—Virginia Billings; MEB—Maude E. Bitz; JRB—Jon R. Bart; DWB—David W. Beebe; GLC—Gerald and Margaret Church; MLE—Meredith L. Estoff; GG—George Gage; SH—Stuart Hosler, Jr.; P, SP—Paul and Sylvia Paquette; DBP—David B. Peakall; JWP—Jean W. Propst; MSR—Margaret S. Rusk; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; CGS—Christian G. Spies, Jr.; EMS—Elizabeth M. Starr; mob—many observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: peak count 85, Apr 15, Mexico Bay, probably secondary to the passage of a cold front that morning; last noted May 28 near Eaton (GLC); many single C. Loons noted in the middle two weeks of May. Red-necked Grebe: four in breeding plumage Apr 12, Brewerton is the only report. Horned Grebe: max 30, Apr 7, Brewerton (MSR); last noted May 16, Sylvan Beach (fide DWA). Great Blue Heron: 35 nests in the Cross L heronry Apr 24 (MEB); four active nests at Bridgeport Apr 8; approximately 20 active nests at Scott Swamp (MSR, JWP). Common Egret: one Apr 14, HIGMA with two there May 2 (GG); unreported elsewhere in the Region. Cattle Egret: two ad in breeding plumage feeding in a cow pasture near Phoenix May 16 (JRB, CGS), the same day that five Snowy Egrets were reported in a marsh near E. Syracuse (G. Weissberg fide BPB). Glossy Ibis: one noted May 1–11 near Wampsville (B. Peebles, mob).

Mute Swan: five imm noted on Onondaga L in early Apr, photographed by the local newspaper's camera man and reported as Whistling Swans; the caveat—Birders, beware!—is thus quickly and amply demonstrated. Whistling Swan: eight at Brewerton, three at Bridgeport, two at Otisco L, one at Oneida Creek in first ten days of Apr; all left when a sudden freeze-up closed the open water areas locally, not when a burst of triggering southerly winds had ensued as one might expect. Canada Goose: 11,000 at Cross L Apr 4; 7150 at Beaver, Cross, and Oneida Lakes Apr 11; 5400 at HIGMA Apr 14 and 2400 still there on May 2; exodus in first week of May, about 10 days late. Brant: one, May 16, near Eaton (GLC) is the only spring record. Snow Goose: just two reports—one, Apr 7, Cross L (JRB, CGS) and another (? same bird) Apr 14, Beaver L (SH); no Blue Geese reported.

Mallard and Black Duck: spring max 1100 and 2000 respectively Apr 4, Cross L; Mallard ducklings noted May 16. Pintail: max 85 (very low) Apr 17 in flooded onion fields near Bridgeport; no late May birds noted. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals: arr dates Apr 4 SSSP and Apr 6 Brewerton respectively; Apr tallies very low—max 44 Green-winged Apr 24 Scott Swamp area (MSR) and 21 Blue-winged, Apr 14, HIGMA (GG); many widely scattered reports of male Green-winged Teal in late May. American Widgeon: max 102 (very low) Apr 17, Scott Swamp (MSR). Shoveler: an influx this spring; widely reported, usually two-five birds each, from Scott Swamp, Clay Swamp, Boliver flats near Chittenango, Oneida, Oriskany, Otisco L, and even six in a small dump-rimmed marsh within the city limits of Syracuse (mob). Wood Duck: 50, Apr 10, Delta L (VB) is a large spring concentration, probably because of the lack of open water in that sector in early Apr; Wood Duck brood of 12 noted May 31 near Oneida (P, SP).

Redhead: max reported in Apr is 50, HIGMA (GG) and numbers elsewhere were extremely low, e.g., high of ten (very low) for Oneida L in Apr; max in May, 20 at

HIGMA (GG). Ring-necked Duck: 300 tallied Apr 8, SSSP, Brewerton, and Bridgeport; last was a female, May 14 near Pleasant L, southern Oswego County. Canvasback: 100-300/day at Brewerton and Bridgeport in early Apr; rapid exodus after ice break-up Apr 14; last noted May 6 near SSSP. Lesser Scaup: last noted May 17, a female near E. Syracuse. Barrow's Goldeneye: ad male Apr 4 Brewerton (DBP) continues the single annual spring record. Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: both last noted May 16 at Tully L and L Ontario respectively; the many late dates for departing waterfowl are in keeping with the retarded migration in Apr. Ruddy Duck: very scarce; singles only, at Brewerton Apr 8, 10, and 12; unreported elsewhere.

Hooded Merganser: max 80, Apr 8, SSSP and Oneida L; very few after Apr 14; a female May 16, Salmon River Reservoir, is probably a breeding bird. Common Merganser: 3000, Apr 4, Cross L is a high spring count; exodus Apr 13-14 concomitant with ice break-up; last noted May 11 near Eaton (GLC). Red-breasted Merganser: max 2700, Apr 15, at Derby Hill-SSSP; the greater share of these birds were smelt-catching at the mouth of the Salmon River; hundreds still present there May 6.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr Apr 4 near Fair Haven; max resident count 16, HIGMA, May 14 (GG). March hawk migration at Derby Hill near Texas was dismal with not one 100+ day noted. Adverse winds thru most of Apr precluded high tallies and the total of 10,607 is less than 40% of last year's total. Turkey Vulture: total 40 with majority Apr 7-15 but peak tally of 10 on Apr 29. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1409 total with peak 328 on Apr 21; individuals, all imm, still drifting thru in the last week of May. Cooper's Hawk: 70 total with most in Apr 1-15 period. Goshawk: spring total of 42 with majority between Mar 2-Apr 14; many of these birds were noted moving along on adverse, i.e. northwest or westerly, winds. Red-tailed Hawk: max single day count 133 on Apr 8; a progressive shift thru mid-Apr from mostly ad to entirely imm birds by Apr 29. Red-shouldered Hawk: total 309 with no one day above 100; these low numbers are almost certainly due to the wretched weather conditions that prevailed during the peak migration period of this species, but locally this species is waning rapidly and seems to be headed for local extirpation just as the Cooper's Hawk and Harrier have. Broad-winged Hawk: first arr Apr 8; peak tallies 1129, Apr 21; 2282, Apr 25; 1544, Apr 29; still noted passing May 16 (64 birds) and May 27 (59 birds—all imm). Rough-legged Hawk: total 122 with best tallies 26, Apr 7; 14, Apr 25; and 19, Apr 29; this number of returning birds is in keeping with the heavy movement noted at SP and Syracuse last fall.

Golden Eagle: singles noted Mar 18, Apr 11, Apr 21, and Apr 29 (mob). Bald Eagle: singles Apr 8, 20, and 25, May 5, 8, and 27 with two Apr 21; all but one (? two) were imm. Marsh Hawk: total 205 with date range Mar 16-May 27, majority Mar 28-Apr 25; all birds noted in latter half of May females or imm. Osprey: 104 recorded with max 21, May 3; date range Apr 7-May 27, majority Apr 20-May 5; the five noted May 27 were all in marked molt suggesting migrant adults rather than an influx of southern imm as might occur with the Bald Eagle. Peregrine Falcon: total of four with one each Apr 29 and May 3 and two Apr 25; now rarer than the Bald Eagle in the Region—and that is mighty rare! Pigeon Hawk: total of six with singles Apr 14 and 15, and two each Apr 20 and 25; no May records despite the generally retarded migration. Sparrow Hawk: total 191, a marked drop from last year's 507; peak dates Apr 7, 60; Apr 8, 22; and Apr 11, 36; majority Apr 1-26. All hawk data from Dr. T. Cade's compilation (Mar 1-May 27).

Sandhill Crane: see Field Notes. Common Gallinule: first noted Apr 16, Clay Swamp. Coot: amazingly scarce; peak spring count is seven, Apr 12, Otisco L; only one recorded in May; essentially no recorded migration of this species here this spring.

Semipalmated Plover: first arr May 15 (late) SP; max 22, May 27, Onondaga L.

Killdeer: young hatched May 20, Syracuse. Ruddy Turnstone: arr May 23 (late) SP; max 29, Jun 3, SP. Upland Plover: first arr three, Apr 17, Syracuse Airport, greeted by a two-inch snow-fall; very few noted along L Ontario at Derby Hill. Solitary Sandpiper: arr date Apr 23, Plainville (MEB); six May 13, Belle Isle and five, Steven's Pond near Phoenix, May 14. Shorebird migration was late and scant with no lingering birds; e.g. Red-backed Sandpiper—arr May 5; max 23, May 12; last noted May 31, Onondaga L; Semipalmated Sandpiper—arr May 20 (very late), Onondaga L; max 88, Fox Ridge Road near Port Byron and Onondaga L, May 31; last noted Jun 5, Onondaga L.

Iceland Gull: only spring record one, Apr 5, at the mouth of Oneida Creek (SP, DWA), rather far inland; this paucity of spring records is quite in contrast with their abundance this past winter. Ring-billed Gull: 4000, Apr 3, at Fair Haven State Park feeding in the muddy shallows of the pond there. Bonaparte's Gull: max 15, Apr 17, Duck L (MSR); singles noted May 16, Onondaga L and May 23, SP; a very poor flight this season. Common Tern: first arr Apr 7, Oneida L (early, especially in view of the extreme cold of early Apr); max of 90, May 15, SP. Caspian Tern: unreported in spring migration!

Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo: late in arriving—May 10 and May 8 respectively—and low in numbers—max four each; very little vocalization heard thru May and even into Jun. Snowy Owl: single birds noted thru Apr at Brewerton, Syracuse Airport, and Mexico; one, May 7, near SP (Mrs. MacKnight); one, May 15, near Eaton (Ada Carter); and one, May 30, near Deerfield (VB), a record late date. Long-eared Owl: present to mid-May near Liverpool (? possible breeding).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Nighthawk: unreported until May 15 and very scarce thereafter; many observers saw none in May and the highest May count is five at Utica. Similarly, Ruby-throated Hummingbird was somewhat late (May 7) and inordinately scarce with a spring max of two on any one day. Yellow-shafted Flicker: peak of 305, Apr 25, Derby Hill (JWP), the same day some 60 were seen near Fair Haven (MSR). Red-headed Woodpecker: first migrant Apr 18, Mexico Point; reported widely—Oneida, RSP, SSSP, SP, Liverpool X2, Euclid, Utica, Camillus, Fair Haven and southeastern Madison County (mob)—thru May; definitely increasing locally. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a pair at Long Branch, Onondaga L, May 1 (FGS) and another pair thru May at Camillus (DWB, mob); like the Red-headed Woodpecker, apparently increasing as this species prior to 1960 was only a rare winter visitant in the immediate Syracuse area.

Eastern Kingbird: first arr May 3 (late), SSSP; max 50, L Ontario and Phoenix, May 23. Phoebe: counts of 12–15/day, Apr 11–14, Derby Hill; once again a common bird about camps and bridges of the area, a distinct increase from the very low numbers of 1958–61. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only two (very low) reported for entire migration—May 16 and Jun 1 (JWP); five, May 30, Big Moose (DWA, MSR, Ada Carter) is a bit low for that area and season. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported from breeding grounds at Big Moose (DWA, P, SP) and Nobleboro (VB); only migrant of entire spring is one, May 9 (early) at Utica (VB). Swallow arr dates were uniformly tardy—Tree Apr 4, Barn and Purple Martin Apr 7, Bank Apr 11, Rough-winged Apr 15, and Cliff Apr 29 (very late); Apr Tree, Barn, and Bank Swallow counts in the 100–500/day range; the only 1000+ counts all spring were of 1000 Tree and 1500+ Barn Apr 24 at various ponds around Phoenix and Bridgeport, and 1000 Bank Swallows May 15; max Cliff Swallow 24 at Nobleboro in mid-May (VB).

Tufted Titmouse: one at Green Lakes State Park, a new locality, May 15–16 (D. Dawley). Brown Creeper: flight of 18, Fish Gulf near Otisco L (JWP) on Apr 24; lesser numbers (ten-12/day) noted from SSSP and Mexico Point until May 3. No Carolina Wrens reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first, May 4 (late), Scott Swamp.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: single birds noted May 10 near Cicero and May 13, Toad Harbor Road near West Monroe, otherwise unrecorded and no local breeding colonies known. Mockingbird: singles reported from Verona (VB) in May; one at Vernon Apr 18-19 (O'Shea fide DWA); a pair at Oak Orchard near Euclid thru May (FGS); a pair at Camden with nest and three young (Mrs. Mahon); two at Camillus May 8-12 (DWB); one near Rome Apr 11 to mid-May (fide HHA); one (? two) on the outskirts of N. Syracuse (fide BPB) in May; one near Liverpool May 27 (CGS); a remarkable rash of records of a bird normally reported once a year in the area heretofore. Catbird: max 50, May 15, SP dunes and 55, May 16, TRGMA and Camillus.

Robin: 2000, Apr 7, in an enormous Robin-Starling-icterid flight at Derby Hill (JWP) were evidently cumulative birds normally passing thru in Mar; the lateness of the season is exemplified by 3800 passing Derby Hill Apr 15 (FGS, P. Kaplan). Hermit Thrush: numbers apparently up in RSP and around Pulaski and SSSP; best migrant numbers in first week of May (late). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes: spring max of three May 8-15 and three May 9 respectively are astonishingly low; last noted May 28, Swainson's and May 18, Gray-cheeked; many observers saw none this spring and no large night flights were heard passing over.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one-two birds reported from SSSP, Fair Haven State Park, TRGMA, Pleasant L, HIGMA, Derby Hill, Toad Harbor on north shore of Oneida L, Tully Lakes, and Wampsville (mob) besides the regular birds at Camillus V and North Camillus; max five, Camillus V, May 9 and 13. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: high counts for season 80, Apr 24, Fish Gulf (JWP) and 60, May 3, Syracuse (MSR) respectively. Loggerhead Shrike: total of nine, the majority from Derby Hill and environs Apr 1-15 (mob). Starling: "millions" in Apr 7 landbird flight at Derby Hill (JWP); some 21,000 noted passing Derby Hill Apr 15; such numbers should dissolve the "permanent resident" status of this species locally.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: No Apr reports of vireos—arr date of May 3 for Solitary Vireo is late.

The warbler migration, normally a spring highlight, was poor this year. Species arr dates were invariably late and numbers with few exceptions were extraordinarily low. Even more disturbing were the low counts of normally very common local warblers (Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Redstart). Only five species were reported in Apr—Myrtle Apr 11, Pine Apr 21, Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 24, Northern Waterthrush Apr 29, and Palm Apr 30. Black-and-white May 1, Yellow May 2, Nashville May 3, Black-throated Green May 1, Black-throated Blue May 6, Blackburnian May 4, Cape May May 6, Magnolia May 4, Golden-winged May 6, and Blue-winged May 8 were all four to seven days late; a major wave brought many first migrants in May 4; a second wave May 8-9 brought the later group of migrants to the area—e.g. Bay-breasted May 8, Blackpoll May 9, Wilson's May 9—giving some idea of how compressed the arrival of spring warblers was this season. The very low numbers were even more discouraging; either there were no birds or circumstances of weather eliminated all local concentrations—the three exceptions of 48 Nashvilles May 4 at Syracuse, 500 Myrtles May 5-6 at SSSP, and 36 Black-throated Blues May 8 at Camillus (JWP, MLE) made the paucity of other warblers even more conspicuous. The following high counts and dates emphasize the sparseness and tardiness respectively of the warbler migration: Tennessee—six, May 16 and 20, Camillus V; Parula—three, May 8, Onondaga Park; Magnolia—20, May 10, Pleasant L; Cape May—eight, near Eaton, May 11 (GLC); Black-throated Green—nine (very low), May 8, Camillus V; Blackburnian—eight, May 8-9, Camillus V; Chestnut-sided—eight, May 15, South Onondaga area (20, May 22, RSP, probably represents mainly breeding birds); Bay-breasted—twelve, May 16, TRGMA, Blackpoll—25, May 23, SP; Palm—seven, May 5 and six, May 6, Derby Hill and SSSP; Wilson's—five May 20, Camillus V.

Golden-winged Warbler: max 16, May 22, Onondaga Indian Reservation, Marcellus, and Camillus (JWP); single birds noted near Wampsville (B. Peebles) May 6 and another near Parish May 29 (MSR) are extensions of range locally. An influx of Blue-winged Warblers—two, May 8, Onondaga Park (MEB); one, May 9, Onondaga Indian Reservation (JWP), and two, May 13, 16, and 20, Camillus V—may signal a repeat of the Golden-winged to Blue-winged Warbler conversion noted at Ithaca over the past decade. Brewster's Warbler: at least three different birds noted in Camillus V area May 8–29 (mob). Cerulean Warbler: max 20, May 16, HIGMA and Camillus V; widely reported from Oneida, Pleasant L, south shore of the western half of Oneida L, Tully, Otisco L, and the periphery of Cicero Swamp;—actual range expansion, more observers, or observers more aware of its distinctive song? Yellow-breasted Chat: up to three birds at Camillus V, May 12–31; also singles near HIGMA May 16 (MSR), at Pleasant L May 11 (FGS) and at Utica for a week (VB). Redstart: max of 20, May 15, SP and SSSP; majority of observers, however, noted only five-15/day; many woodlots had only one-two pairs present. Where are they?

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Cowbird: an enormous flight—"millions"—Apr 7, Derby Hill (JWP); 20,000 Redwings and 15,000 Grackles Apr 8 and 23,000 Redwings, 26,000 Grackles, 3200 Cowbirds Apr 15, all estimates at Derby Hill (FGS, P. Kaplan). Rusty Blackbird: 50, Apr 16, HIGMA; 140, Apr 15, Derby Hill and Scott Swamp; last date May 6, Fish Gulf (JWP). Evening Grosbeak: migrants noted Apr 14 and 15 passing over Derby Hill; also recorded Apr 6, four, near Eaton (GLC) and at Taberg 30–50/day with last date Apr 14 (Mrs. D. Lynes). Pine Siskin: 12, Apr 15, Derby Hill (FGS) are the only ones reported. Goldfinch: 1000, May 19, SSSP (JWP) is a record spring tally.

Vesper Sparrow: max 200 Apr 15, Sage Creek Drive near Texas with lesser numbers (30/day) on Apr 18, Derby Hill and on Apr 19, Otisco L area. Savannah Sparrow: 20, Apr 15, Derby Hill; 65, Apr 17, Pleasant L; and 45, Apr 18, Derby Hill. Tree Sparrow: the paucity of Mar birds was not made up by an early Apr flight; Apr max 50, Apr 11, near Liverpool and 45, Apr 15, Scott Swamp and SSSP; last noted May 5, Otisco L (EMS). White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows: peak counts 15, May 15, SP dunes and 300, May 8 (late for such a high number) Camillus V respectively; last date for White-crowned May 20, Verona Beach State Park (DWA) and for White-throated May 19, SSSP (JWP); this rapidity of movement—with only ten days or two weeks between peak and departure dates—was also noted in the review of the warbler data. Song Sparrow: a count of 550, Apr 15, Derby Hill, SSSP, and Scott Swamp emphasizes the retarded character of the Mar migration as such counts normally occur only in the last week of March. Lapland Longspur: last noted Apr 28, one, near Eaton (GLC), a very late date especially for the southern hill country.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather during April and May was cool most of the time. Many of the migrant birds arrived late. Some of them like the ducks seemed to move on rapidly which tended to keep their numbers low.

The adult Little Blue Heron seen May 9 near Watertown is the first record for this Region.

PRGMA is used for the Perch Lake Game Management Area near Watertown. PRGMA is being enlarged by adding 600 acres along the Perch River below (or west of) the older part of PRGMA. Work is being done here this summer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 15. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 25. Double-crested Cormorant: about 50 at Gull Island. Common Egret: May 18, PRGMA. Great Blue Heron: Apr 11. Little Blue Heron: at least 18 persons saw this bird May 9, first seen by the Walkers and later identified by G. Houghton before she knew that any others had seen it. The Green Heron is seen in the same area so it was easy to compare the two birds. (See Field Notes for details) Black-crowned Night Heron: 50 pairs on Bass and Gull Islands; 75 active nests on Little Galloo Island. Canada Goose: late and fewer in numbers, about half normal numbers at PRGMA; 5 dead at PRGMA of lead poisoning, one had eaten 22 shot; 3 pairs and one nest on Little Galloo Island May 23. Mallard: nest on Little Galloo. Black Duck: 2 nests on Little Galloo May 23. Pintail: PRGMA Apr 11. Green-winged Teal: PRGMA Apr 11. Blue-winged Teal: PRGMA Apr 17. Shoveler: Henderson Apr 15. Wood Duck: pair at Castorland Apr 1. Redhead: PRGMA May 11. Ringed-necked Duck: Apr 11. Canvasback: Apr 17. White-winged Scoter: Apr 19 near Henderson. Ruddy Duck: Apr 25 at Stony Pt. Hooded Merganser: Apr 25. Red-breasted Merganser: May 29 Bass Island.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Apr 11 Watertown Center and May 1 PRGMA. Goshawk: 2 in Lewis Co near where they have nested the last two years. Rough-legged Hawk: 9-10 at Point Peninsula Apr 5 (moving north?). Broad-winged Hawk: 3 at Wanakena Apr 24. Bald Eagle: adult El Dorado May 10. Marsh Hawk: PRGMA Apr 11. Osprey: Apr 11 at PRGMA and 2-3 there at least to May 9. Sparrow Hawk: good spring flight first three weeks of Apr. Bobwhite: heard near Watertown. Common Gallinule: May 1, PRGMA. Semipalmated Plover: PRGMA May 20 and El Dorado May 23. Black-bellied Plover: May 11 PRGMA. Woodcock: Apr 12, Watertown. Common Snipe: May 1 PRGMA. Upland Plover: Apr 22. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 24. Dunlin: two flocks, not far apart at El Dorado, one of 55 and one of 60 birds, May 22. Sanderling: El Dorado May 23. Great Black-backed Gull: one at Massena May 4. Herring Gull: a hundred nests on Little Galloo, May 23. Ring-billed Gull: an estimated 85,000 nests on Little Galloo Island (Belknap and Allen). Bonaparte's Gull: 3 at Massena May 4. Common Tern: Massena May 4. Black-billed Cuckoo: PRGMA May 11. Barred Owl: Apr 25 near Rodman.

GOATSUCKERS—VIREOS: Whip-poor-will: May 21 Watertown. Yellow-shafted Flicker: unusually heavy flight, late Apr and early May. Kingbird: May 8. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 6 Watertown. Phoebe: Apr 11 Redwood. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 19 Beaver Lake, Lewis Co. Tree Swallow: Apr 17 PRGMA. Barn Swallow: Hermon Apr 27. Purple Martin: May 8. Catbird: May 8. Brown Thrasher: May 1 PRGMA. Wood Thrush: Apr 20. Hermit Thrush: Apr 12. Swainson's Thrush: May 16. Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 21 Watertown. Veery: May 16. Bluebird: seen more often than any spring for 6-7 years (Belknap). A pair appeared in Black River Apr 25 where two broods were raised last year, but the pair this year was not seen again for two weeks. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr 25 near Rodman. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 25 near Rodman. Water Pipit: May 11 Knolesville. Loggerhead Shrike: Apr 11 Redwood. Red-eyed Vireo: May 8. Warbling Vireo: May 8.

WARBLERS—SPARROWS: Nashville Warbler: May 8. Parula Warbler: May 19 Beaver Lake. Yellow Warbler: May 8. Magnolia Warbler: May 8. Cape May Warbler: May 9 South Edwards. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 8. Myrtle Warbler: several hundred were observed moving along alder thickets at the bank of a small stream in a slow, steady movement May 12. Some were seen there the next day, but moving at a slower rate. This was near the Whetstone Gulf Road (Walker). Black-throated Green Warbler: May 8. Cerulean Warbler: May 22; at least four singing males were seen this spring (Allen). Blackburnian Warbler: May 8.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 8. Blackpoll Warbler: May 30 and 31. Pine Warbler: May 1. Palm Warbler: May 8. Connecticut Warbler: May 9 PRGMA (Allen). Redstart: May 8. Baltimore Oriole: May 8. Rusty Blackbird: Apr 19. Scarlet Tanager: May 8. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 8. Evening Grosbeak: few seen in Watertown after early Apr, last in Watertown Apr 26, but reported in St Lawrence Co. in early May. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 24. Vesper Sparrow: many at Canton Apr 23. Slate-colored Junco: Seen at Watertown from Apr 10 to May 10. Field Sparrow: May 1 PRGMA. White-crowned Sparrow: May 3-19. White-throated Sparrow: Apr 25 near Rodman; Fox Sparrow: first Apr 11 PRGMA, last May 1.  
173 Haley St., Watertown 13601.

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDAK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

Spring was late this year. April was a miserable month with temperatures ranging from 4° on the 1st to 72° on the 25th but sticking mainly in the 30s and 40s. Four inches of snow fell from 8:30 pm April 12 through April 13 so that 2" of new snow lay on the ground April 14 — snow again on the 17th — and so it went. Flowers and birds were late.

May, on the other hand, was a fine month with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Birds began to return and flowers to burst. Black flies and other pest insects were at a minimum which may have had something to do with the fact that no very large flocks of any species but Canada Geese were reported. Warblers were in good numbers but no spectacular waves were reported.

Precipitation was so light that many of the churches began to pray for rain but, as long as we had such fine weather, hikers, fishermen and birders saw fit to make the most of it. Among the unusual finds were a pair of Shovelers and a Least Sandpiper on the Saranac River between Pine Street and Moose Pond Rd (this is the stretch of river referred to frequently in this report) and a Red-headed Woodpecker at Gabriels.

Observers: AA—Agnes Amstutz; EA—Elizabeth Anderson; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; L—Lake; M—Marsh; R—River.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: nesting pair Follensby P; one April 30 Raquette R; two May 25 McKenzie P (JH); Tupper L April 20 to May 2 (AA), nine T. L. April 25 (MK). Horned Grebe: one April 7 Bog R Falls (MK). Pied-billed Grebe: one seen April 8 Tupper L, one heard Raquette P Marsh May 16 (MK). Great Blue Heron: reported from all areas; one Tupper L April 25 (AA); five Ausable M, one N branch of Saranac R May 20 (JH); two May 21 Ray B (JK). Green Heron: May 16 Tupper L (MK); one May 24 Saranac R (JH); one May 6 & 24 Ray B (JK). Black-crowned Night Heron: two May 18 L Alice (JH). American Bittern: one April 25 Tupper L (AA), one "usual marshes" T. L. (MK); one Ausable M May 4, two Rainbow L May 9, two Saranac R May 24 (JH); two May 6 Ray B (JK). Canada Goose: 37 April 25 (AA, MK), 20 April 28 (JH) Tupper L &

Raquette R, probably stocked; 30 May 1 Big Chazy R (JH); Saranac L—30 April 6, 300 April 15, 200 May 3 (HD); 100 April 22, 100 May 1, 21 May 4 (GK); 303+ Ray B May 3 (JK). Snow Goose: five April 25 "near Saranac L" (AA); one April 27 L Alice (Gardephe fide Hart).

Mallard: one male May 24 Saranac R (JH). Black Duck: seem normal all areas; 16 Wickham M April 26, 20 Ausable M May 4, 16 Saranac R May 24 (JH). Pintail: pair May 3 L Champlain near mouth of Big Chazy R (JH). Green-winged Teal: one male May 19 outlet Barnum P (JH). Blue-winged Teal: two April 26 Ausable M; 20 Big Chazy R, 15 Catfish Bay May 3, six Ausable M May 4, two pair Saranac R May 24 (JH). Shoveler: pair Saranac R May 24 (EA, HD, JH). Wood Duck: six Tupper L April 21 (AA), May 14 (MK); seven Ausable M April 26, 21 Saranac R May 24 (JH). Ring-necked Duck: normal nesting Tupper L (MK); two Ausable M April 26, two pair Raquette P April 28, four males and one female May 19 Jones P (JH); one Madawaska May 15 (AA). Lesser Scaup: eight May 2 Tupper L (MK). Common Goldeneye: three pair Fish Creek May 12 (RH); ten to 18 April 4 thru 25 Tupper L (AA); one May 1 Tupper L (MK). Bufflehead: Tupper L 15 April 25 (AA, MK), 11 May 2 (MK). Hooded Merganser: late April Tupper L (AA, MK); two Ausable M May 4 (JH); female with eight tiny young May 31 Ray B (JK); five May 2 & 4 Saranac L (HD). Common Merganser: numbers from 18 to seven reported from Tupper L late April (AA, MK); pair Grass P May 8, pair Saranac R May 24 (JH); pair April 27 and May 3 Ray B (JK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: pair with one young in nest May 31 Jay (RH). Red-tailed Hawk: one Sable Mt May 11 (RH). Red-shouldered Hawk: one May 18 Sable Mt (RH); one Pollywog P May 13, one Saranac L May 15 (HD); one Schuyler Falls May 21 (JH). Broad-winged Hawk: normal all areas after April 22; nest Ray B May 5 (JK). Golden Eagle: two seen in Adirondacks. Marsh Hawk: one May 2 Tupper L (MK); one Ausable M May 4 (JH); one Ray B May 6 (JK); one May 19 & 28 Saranac L (EA, HD). Osprey: one Tupper L April 25 (AA) & May 2 (MK); one L Alice and one Catfish Bay May 3, one May 4 Ausable M (JH); one April 30 & May 1 Ray B (JK); one May 2 & May 4 Saranac L (HD). Sparrow Hawk: one Saranac L April 13, one down chimney at neighbor's successfully released April 17, pair mating Ross Park May 15 (HD). Spruce Grouse: one May 15 Madawaska (EA, HD, MK). Ruffed Grouse: normal; nest with 12 eggs Ray B May 24 (JK); nest with 10 eggs Saranac L May 29 (GK).

Killdeer: four April 21 Tupper L (AA); one May 10 & 11 Saranac L, one Ross Park May 15 (EA, HD). American Woodcock: two heard Tupper L May 2 (MK); one Saranac L April 6 (H Schmidt); singing ground survey showed normal numbers around Saranac L and Franklin Falls (EA, HD, JH). Common Snipe: Tupper L April 21 (AA) & one May 13 (MK); one Saranac L May 19 & 24 (HD). Spotted Sandpiper: two May 3 Ray B (JK). Yellowlegs (? species) Tupper L May 9 (AA). Least Sandpiper: one May 24 Saranac R (EA, HD, JH). Herring Gull: back Tupper L April 25 (AA); two April 29 Saranac R (HD); 12 May 31 Ray B (JK). Mourning Dove: one Tupper L May 2 (AA, MK); one Wickham M April 26 (JH); one May 3 on, Ray B (JK); one to two Saranac L April 5 thru May 4 (GK). Barred Owl: one Tupper L May 2 (MK).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one or two heard May 14 thru May 30 Tupper L (AA, MK); Saranac L May 15 & 16 (HD), off and on May 9 thru May 25 (GK). Common Nighthawk: Tahawus May 10 (JH); Tupper L May 22 (MK); Saranac L May 25 (DY). Chimney Swift: few from May 3 on, Ray B (JK); ten May 18 Tupper L (MK); three, trail to Rocky Falls May 20 (HD); four Saranac L May 22 (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers reported after May 3 Saranac L; first May 14 Ray B (JK). Belted Kingfisher: "seem less common" Tupper

L (MK); one Ausable M April 26, two Saranac R May 24, two Moody P May 25 (JH); one to three April thru May 16 Ray B (JK). Yellow-shafted Flicker: no large numbers reported from any area. Pileated Woodpecker: one Adk Loj May 1, two Grass P May 8, pair Ausable M May 18 (JH). Red-headed Woodpecker: one reported from Tupper L (AA did not see the bird herself); one carefully identified Gabriels May 19 (DY et al). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: normal; nest May 3 Ray B (JK). Hairy Woodpecker: normal. Downy Woodpecker: normal. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: pair Wolf P, Township 30 Boreas R May 12 (JH); one Ray B April 27 (JK).

Eastern Kingbird: two May 3 Tupper L (AA); May 10 thru period Ray B (JK); first May 14 Saranac L, seem to be up in numbers (HD). Great Crested Flycatcher: one May 14 Tupper L (MK); May 9 thru period Ray B (JK). Eastern Phoebe: first April 10 Ray B (JK) & Saranac L (HD); two April 25 Tupper L (AA). Traill's Flycatcher: three May 30 Tupper L (MK). Least Flycatcher: first May 8 Ray B (JK) & May 9 Saranac L (HD); one May 12 Tupper L (MK). Eastern Wood Pewee: first May 21 Saranac L (HD) & May 26 Ray B (JK). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 31 Ray B (JK); late in all areas. Horned Lark: four April 4, pair thru May 31 Saranac L (EA, HD). Tree Swallow: "many" April 7 Tupper L (MK); nine April 9 Ray B (JK); one April 17, at nest box April 30 Saranac L (HD). Bank Swallow: eleven May 1 Ray B (JK); colony of 30+ Saranac L early May (HD). Rough-winged Swallow: Ray B May 6 thru 31, no numbers (JK). Barn Swallow: six April 25 Tupper L (AA, MK); April 26 thru period Ray B (JK); April 29 thru period Saranac L (HD, GK). Cliff Swallow: eight Rockefeller Park May 15 (MK); one May 2 Ray B; 20 May 21 Saranac L (JK).

Gray Jay: one Madawaska May 15 (EA, HD, MK). Blue Jay: normal all areas. Common Crow: no large numbers reported. Black-capped Chickadee: normal all areas. Boreal Chickadee: two May 3 Saranac L, one May 15 Madawaska (HD); small flock Hays B May 11, (RH). White-breasted & Red-breasted Nuthatches: normal all areas. Brown Creeper: normal all areas (HD). House Wren: none reported. Winter Wren: one May 11 Sable Mt (RH); "not singing until late May" Tupper L (MK); none Ray B (JK) or Saranac L (HD). Catbird: two Tupper L May 2 (AA); May 10 thru period Ray B (JK); May 14 on, good numbers Saranac L (HD, GK). Brown Thrasher: one or two thru May Tupper L (MK); one April 26, 27 & May 3 Ray B (JK); one April 28 on Saranac L (HD). Robin: late arriving but then good numbers. Wood Thrush: first Tupper L May 2 (AA); May 10 Ray B (JK); May 10 Saranac L (EA). Hermit Thrush: back in all areas late April and early May but, as MK puts it, "fewer year by year". Swainson's Thrush: heard May 15 Tupper L (AA & MK); one May 10 Ray B (JK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two May 15 Tupper L (MK). Veery: back early May all areas, most numerous thrush of spring as usual. Eastern Bluebird: one Newcomb Rd May 4 (MK); one Saranac L May 3 & 16 (HD); nesting Gabriels May 24 (AA). Golden-crowned Kinglet: few April 8 to May 3 Ray B (JK); two April 19 Saranac L (HD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: April 25 Tupper L (AA, MK) and Ray B (JK); May 4 Saranac L (HD); May 15 Madawaska (MK). Water Pipit: 40 May 14, two May 19 Gabriels (DY). Cedar Waxwing: 20 May 26 Ray B (JK); Saranac L three May 25 (GK) and 20 May 30 (M Muncil). Starling: large numbers mid-April, normal May.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one May 3 Ray B (JK); one Hays B May 11 (RH); one May 12 & 15 Tupper L (MK). Red-eyed Vireo: normal all areas after mid-May. Warbling Vireo: reported from Summit in May (AA, MK). Black-and-white Warbler: May 3 Ray B (JK); two May 4 Saranac L (HD); Tupper L May 15 & 29 (MK). Tennessee Warbler: one May 13 Ray B (JK). Nashville Warbler: good numbers all areas thru May. Parula Warbler: good numbers Ray B and Saranac L after May 15 (JK, HD). Yellow Warbler: three May 9 Tupper L

(MK); May 14 on, Saranac L (HD); May 16 & 18 Ray B (JK). Magnolia Warbler: Tupper L May 29 (MK); two near Newcomb May 11 (JH); May 10 thru period Ray B (JK); one May 15 Paul Smiths (HD, MK). Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 5 thru period Ray B (JK); four May 20, trail to Rocky Falls (EA, HD); one May 21 Saranac L (HD); one May 29 Tupper L (MK). Myrtle: early, common warbler all areas, 10+ Chubb R May 15 (EA, HD). Black-throated Green Warbler: good numbers all areas thru May. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 thru period Ray B (JK); May 9 thru period Saranac L (HD); two, trail to Rocky Falls May 20 (EA, HD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: one of the common warblers from May 10 in all areas. Bay-breasted Warbler: all reporters distressed at not having any. Blackpoll Warbler: one Ray B May 26 & 31 (JK). Ovenbird: two May 9 Tupper L (MK); three May 12 Saranac L (HD); JK saw this species 10 times during May at Ray B. Northern Waterthrush: one May 21 Ray B (JK); May 9 thru period Saranac L, two Mountain P May 22 (HD). Mourning Warbler: one Sable Mt May 20 (RH); one Marcy Dam May 30 (MK); one Ray B May 29 (JK). Yellowthroat: common May 9 thru period all areas. Wilson's Warbler: one May 18 Ray B (JK). Canada Warbler: "many" Marcy Dam May 29 (MK); May 17 thru period Ray B (JK); one or two Paul Smiths May 15 (HD, MK). American Redstart: one of the commoner warblers May 10 thru period all areas.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: ten May 21 Ray B (JK); one May 22 Saranac L (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: back in good numbers all areas mid-April; 20 April 19 Ray B (JK). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru all areas. Baltimore Oriole: one May 12 Tupper L (MK); one female Ray B May 17 (JK); one May 19 Saranac L (HD). Rusty Blackbird: 30 Tupper L April 25 (AA, MK). Common Grackle: common all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: common all areas. Scarlet Tanager: one May 13 Tupper L (MK); one May 13 Ray B (JK); one, trail to Rocky Falls May 20 (EA, HD).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one May 10 Tupper L (AA); several Tupper L May 15 on (MK); one May 11 Ray B (JK); one Moody P May 18 (JH); up to five males reported Saranac L after May 14, pair uttering loud alarm notes, trail to Rocky Falls May 20 (EA, HD). Indigo Bunting: two May 3 Tupper L (AA). Evening Grosbeak: four Keene May 12 (JH); four pair Tupper L May 31 (AA); some thru period, 100 April 1, two May 31 Ray B (JK); 225 April 13, diminishing numbers to two or four until end of period Saranac L (HD). Purple Finch: no large migrating numbers, nesting all areas. Pine Siskin: April 9 & 20, no numbers given, Ray B (JK). American Goldfinch: thru period all areas. Savannah Sparrow: all areas after April 25. Vesper Sparrow: eight April 25 Tupper L (MK); April 20 Ray B (JK); three April 23 Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: no large migrating numbers, few in all areas thru period.

Tree Sparrow: gone May 2 from Tupper L (MK) & Ray B (JK); last April 30 Saranac L (ED). Chipping Sparrow: numerous after April 26 Saranac L (HD), after April 28 Ray B (JK) and after May 4 Tupper L (MK). Field Sparrow: April 20 to May 8 Ray B (JK); May 5 Tupper L (AA) variform songs in valley thru May Saranac L (HD). White-crowned Sparrow: seen in small numbers May 1 thru 15 Tupper L (AA, MK); eight May 10 seen until May 15 Ray B (JK); Saranac L seven May 4 (ED), small flock thru May 15 (HD). White-throated Sparrow: first two April 25 Tupper L (AA, MK); back April 17 "no flocks, four high count" Ray B (JK); first April 14 Saranac L (EA). Fox Sparrow: one seen three times mid-April Ray B (JK). Lincoln's Sparrow: one May 15 Rockefeller Park (AA, MK); May 15, 21, 26 Ray B (JK). Swamp Sparrow: May 1 thru period Tupper L (MK); two May 24 Saranac R (HD). Song Sparrow: first April 7 Tupper L (AA); April 8 Ray B (JK) & Saranac L (ED).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

April was a rather cold month, with an average temperature (at Albany) of 42.2°, 4.0° below normal. Particularly cool periods were Apr 1-4, 17-19, and 23-27. Precipitation totalled 2.38 in., 0.39 in. below average. May was extremely dry, with a total precipitation of 1.22 in., 2.25 in. below average. Temperatures averaged 59.6°, 1.7° above average. Warm periods included May 3-4, 9-12, 22, 26 and 27; cooler than average periods included May 13-15, 21, 23-24 and 29-31.

The most outstanding feature of the season was the lack of precipitation or even of cloud cover during most of late Apr and May. As a result, the landbird migration for the most part was spectacularly unimpressive. Very few waves were noted, and transients—particularly in May—were difficult to find. However, nesting warblers and vireos in more northern areas seemed in good numbers despite the paucity of local reports. Probably, “waves” of landbirds were not grounded and passed on directly to nesting areas without stopping, due to the favorable weather conditions.

Hawks and other predators (especially owls) continued their alarming decline. It seems quite evident, now, that particularly those nesting in this or nearby areas (as opposed to migrants through the area) have been most affected, as many species are wholly absent from former breeding localities. Numbers of migrants seen are very low, too. The drought of four years' duration, perhaps combined with other factors, continues to affect adversely populations of rails, Pied-billed Grebes, bitterns, Great Blue Herons and other marsh species.

The increase of southern species such as the Cardinal, Mockingbird and Tufted Titmouse seems to be accelerating. The Carolina wren, on the other hand, has not reappeared since the severe winters several years ago eliminated those then in the Region.

The shorebird migration was again, as in 1964, the most rewarding feature of the season. Especially good flights were noted May 23 and 26. Outstanding shorebird records included Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin and a group of 18 Semipalmated Plover.

Other unusual species included Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Shoveler, Common Scoter, Iceland Gull, Barn Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Migrant Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Kentucky Warbler and Harris's Sparrow. The Western Tanager reported below may be the most exciting “find” of the year.

Abbreviations used: arr—arrived; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; Co—County; CP—Central Park, Schenectady; EG—East Greenbush; IL—Indian Ladder; imm—

immature; L—Lake; LK—Lisha Kill; max—maximum; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; Res—Reservoir; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; VF—Vischer Ferry.

Observers: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC—Greene County Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; GB—Guy Bartlett; JHB, BB—James & Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; JF—John Fuller; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; MK—Marcia Kent; HO—Helen Olds; DR—David Rothaupt; BRS—Benton Seguin; WBS—Walton Sabin; RS, MLS—Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 10, SL (SBC), first (late)—May 22, RL (PPW, DJT). *Red-throated Loon*: one Apr 29, SL (BRS)—rare spring migrant. Red-necked Grebe: only one, Apr 14, SL (EH). Horned Grebe: Apr 3, Four-mile Point (ADBC)—May 21, Alcove Res (WBS et al). Pied-billed Grebe: good migration, last May 15, SL (BRS, GB, EH); none known nesting. *Double-crested Cormorant*: one at SL May 15 was seen both flying and sitting on the lake (WBS, DJT, PPW). Great Blue Heron: rather uncommon, seen throughout period. Cattle Egret: becoming of rare but regular occurrence in late Apr and early May; only report, one, May 4–5, NWW (DJT et al). Green Heron: first Apr 28, Vly (JHB, BB) and widely the first week in May, late. Bittern: first Apr 29, BCM (RS, MLS), late. Canada Goose: a good flight; flocks of over 100 reported Apr 10, 11, 15, 19, May 1, 2, and 15; last May 15, BCM (SBC). Brant: only reports—38, SL, May 19 (GB, BRS) and one, Alcove Res, May 21 (WBS)—contrast with the flights of last spring. Snow Goose: a flock of 30 flew over South Schodack Apr 5 (George Milne) and one (possibly an escape<sup>p</sup>) remained at a pond in Old Chatham for about two weeks in late Apr (ADBC).

Gadwall: two reports—Apr 22, Basic Res (JHB, BB) and two, May 2, Watervliet Res (bsh). American Widgeon: reported regularly to May 2; a male was at NWW May 14–19 (DJT, bsh). Pintail: last May 2, West Sand L (Katherine Bordt). Green-winged Teal: reported through period to May 19, NWW (GB, BRS). Shoveler: two Apr 4 (ADBC), Four-mile Point, and three, NWW, May 1 (PPW) the only reports. Redhead: two May 29, very late, Emboght (JHB) the only report. Ring-necked Duck: a good flight; max 50 SL Apr 10 (SBC); last May 1, Vly (SBC). Canvasback: only reports—two, Watervliet Res Apr 3 (PPW); three, SL, Apr 10 (BRS); and three, Coxsackie, May 8 (Molly White, Martha Bush). Scaup: last May 15, SL (SBC). Goldeneye: most left rapidly in mid-Apr, last May 12, SL (GB, BRS). Bufflehead: good numbers in Apr, last May 1 (SBC). Oldsquaw: at least six reports of 1–4 birds Apr 3–May 15 at Basic Res and SL. White-winged Scoter: one, May 1, SL and two May 8, SL (GB, BRS) the only reports. *Common Scoter*: five, SL, May 15 and one SL, May 19 (SBC)—this species is very rare in spring in this area. Ruddy Duck: Apr 4, Four-mile Point (ADBC); SL Apr 10, 14 and May 15 (SBC). Hooded Merganser: most left by Apr 17, one straggler (♀) May 19, VFG (GB, BRS). Common Merganser: regularly reported into May, last May 10, SL (DJT) and May 12, Schroon L (JF, DR). Red-breasted Merganser: reported to May 15, SL (GB, BRS, EH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: very scarce, only five reports during period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only *three* reports. Cooper's Hawk: only *one* report—May 21, Jenny L (GB). Red-tailed Hawk: fewer than usual. Red-shouldered Hawk: six reports, Apr 3–May 14. Broad-winged Hawk: marked influx after Apr 19 with several small flights observed. Rough-legged Hawk: several Apr reports, last Apr 17. Bald Eagle: an imm remained at SCR throughout the period (many observers). Marsh Hawk: seven reports, Apr 3–May 19. Osprey: good numbers seen, Apr 17–May 15; max 9 Apr 24, SCR (bsh). Bob-white: reported from BCM, EG, Greenville, Nassau

and Sand Lake. Virginia Rail: first Apr 18, BCM (bsh), relatively few reports. Sora: three reports, BCM, Apr 30-May 15. Common Gallinule: light influx from May 1 on, few reported in usual nesting areas. Coot: 1-2 reported in at least four areas Apr 9-30.

Semipalmated Plover: good flight May 16-31, max 18 May 26 near Scotia (RPY). Black-bellied Plover: one May 26 near Scotia (RPY) was unusual. Ruddy Turnstone: one May 15 on a rocky outcropping on Schroon L. (JF, DR, Stephen Fuller) was the first record in several years in Region 8. Woodcock: frequently reported throughout period from most parts of the Region. Upland Plover: Craig School May 1 and 15 (GB, BRS); Niskayuna May 5 (PPW); Gallupville May 12 (GMZ) and Albany Airport May 15 (WBS, DJT, PPW). Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 29, BCM (RS, MLS), widely first week in May. Solitary Sandpiper: May 4, Elnora (DJT)-May 21, Scotia (RPY). Greater Yellowlegs: scattered reports, mostly Apr; Apr 18, BCM (bsh) to May 23, Niskayuna (RPY). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Apr 29, SCR (BRS), rather early; three other reports, May 10-28. Pectoral Sandpiper: more observed than usual, May 15-31; max 7 May 26, SCR (EH). Least Sandpiper: heavy flight, May 6-31; max 30 May 15 at SCR and SL (BRS, GB, EH); 20 May 23 and 16 May 26, Scotia (RPY). Dunlin: one, SCR, May 15 (WBS, DJT, PPW) only report. Semipalmated Sandpiper: few, May 13-31. White-rumped Sandpiper: one report—two at SCR May 31 (BRS, RPY).

Iceland Gull: a bird in pale tan plumage was seen with a large group of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls at RL Apr 3 (bsh). Great Black-backed Gull: reported regularly through Apr; last May 15, SL (SBC), late. Bonaparte's Gull: good numbers observed Apr 11-May 15 at SL and Basic Res; max 25 May 15, SL (WBS, DJT, PPW). Common Tern: a few reports, Apr 27-May 15; last May 29, NWW (PPW), late. Black Tern: first Apr 29, RL (BRS), early; max 25 SL May 15 (WBS, DJT, PPW); last May 29, NWW (PPW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 8, Catskill (BB) and generally the next week. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr widely May 10 (DJT). Barn Owl: one was seen at Meadowdale May 9 roosting in a white pine (WBS); subsequent search failed to find it again. Screech Owl: very few, only two reports. Horned Owl: reported from several areas. Barred Owl: reported only in Jenny L and Schroon L areas.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first Apr 23, near New Salem (Charles Brown); several reports about May 1. Nighthawk: first May 15, most arr near end of May. Chimney Swift: first Apr 21, Ghent (PE, GE), widely reported by May 1. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, quite early, at Greenville May 1 (CK); most arr in marked influx May 9-15. Pileated Woodpecker: at least a dozen probably different birds reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: frequently reported; migration dates, Apr 12, Westerlo (MK)—May 5, Niskayuna (HE, EH). Kingbird: first May 2, Kiskatom (GCBC), widely by May 5. Crested Flycatcher: first May 2, Tomhannock Res (RPY), widely by May 5. Phoebe: arr Catskill Apr 5 (BB), widely by Apr 10, somewhat late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two May 15, SL (BRS, GB, EH). Traill's Flycatcher: first near New Salem May 15 (HE, B. Hicks, M. Linch). Least Flycatcher: first near Red Rock Apr 25 (John & Eloise Payne), widely by May 9. Wood Pewee: first May 8, LK (SBC), most arr May 15-25. Olive-sided Flycatcher: unreported. Tree Swallow: first Apr 3, Castleton (JC), somewhat late. Bank Swallow: first Apr 10, SL, (BRS), early. Rough-winged Swallow: three reports Apr 16-18, widely by Apr 24, early. Barn Swallow: first Apr 17, SL, widely Apr 25, somewhat late. Cliff Swallow: few seen; first, Apr 18, Watervliet Res (bsh). Purple Martin: first, Linlithgo (breeding area) Apr 6, early (ADBC).

Tufted Titmouse: reported from at least seven localities in four counties—apparently increasing. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only three migrants noted, although plentiful in nesting areas. Brown Creeper: rather common during migration; max 8 Apr 17, Tomhannock Res (PPW). House Wren: first Apr 24, marked influx Apr 27-30. Winter Wren: a few observed, Apr 20 (RS, MLS)—May 8 (BRS, GB). Carolina

Wren: still no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first May 9, BCM (EH), late, Mockingbird: remarkable increase; reported from five localities in Greene Co, at least three in Columbia Co, three in Rensselaer Co, four in Albany Co and one each in Schenectady and Saratoga Cos. Catbird: first May 2, several areas. Brown Thrasher: arr about as usual, first Apr 23, Westerlo (MK). Wood Thrush: first Apr 24, Kiskatom (JHB, BB); marked influx Apr 28-May 2. Swainson's Thrush: only five reports of migrants May 8-23. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only *one* report—May 2, LK (BRS), quite early. Veery: most arr rather late, first May 5, Niskayuna (RPY). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: first, two, May 1, Catskill (SBC); this pair was seen twice later in the month in the same locality; reported from Four-Mile Point twice (GCBC); BCM May 2, 8, 14 and 15 (bsh, WBS) near a 1964 nesting site; two May 13, CP (GB, BRS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: a few Apr 15-May 1. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: many reported, Apr 18-May 15, max 75 May 1 Kiskatom (SBC). Pipit: only report Apr 24, Ghent (PE, GE). Cedar Waxwing: rather common throughout period; unusual was a flock of 75 May 29, NWW (SBC). *Migrant Shrike*: one, Apr 4 at Emboght (JHB, BB). An imm shrike was seen singing at BCM Apr 3 (PPW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: first May 4, LK (DJT). Solitary Vireo: first Apr 27 CP (bsh), several to May 10. Red-eyed Vireo: first May 4, Gallupville (GMZ), widely by May 12. *Philadelphia Vireo*: one at IL May 14 (WBS, et al) and one at Wolf Hollow May 23 (SBC), the only reports. Warbling Vireo: first Apr 29, Rensselaer (PPW) widely by May 6.

Warblers: Black-and-white: first Apr 25, Canaan (John and Eloise Payne). Worm-eating: first May 5, Leeds (HO) and May 10, IL (DJT). Golden-winged first May 6, Niskayuna (EH). Blue-winged: first May 4, EG (PPW). Tennessee: brief migration, May 10-19. Nashville: first Apr 27, CP (bsh). Parula: first May 3 EG (PPW), more than usual. Yellow: first Apr 28, Emboght (JHB, BB). Magnolia: several reports May 10-18, slightly late. Cape May: May 1, Elnora (June Strunk), early—May 15 (SBC). Black-throated Blue: first May 2, CP (GB, BRS). Myrtle: Apr 10, SL (SBC)—May 15. Black-throated Green: first May 2, CP (GB, BRS). Blackburnian: first May 2, CP (GB, BRS). Chestnut-sided: first May 3, EG (PPW). Bay-breasted: May 8, Catskill (BB)—May 19 SL, (GB, BRS). Blackpoll: first May 13, LK (GB, BRS), max 7 May 31 (PPW). Pine: one Apr 25, Meadowdale (DJT) and one May 7, Kiskatom, the only migrants reported; also reported from northern Warren Co., May 15, (JF, DR) and near Warrensburg, May 23-24 (EH). Prairie: first May 6, Catskill (BB). Palm: nine reports (more than usual) Apr 18, BCM (bsh)—May 8, VF (GB, BRS). Ovenbird: first May 2, LK (BRS), widely May 4-8. Northern Water-thrush: May 2, Niskayuna (bsh)—May 23, Wolf Hollow (SBC). Louisiana Water-thrush: first Apr 25, Red Rock (Fred and Myra Smilow), widely by Apr 30. *Kentucky Warbler*: again at Ghent, May 15-17 (PE, GE) where it has annually appeared recently. Mourning Warbler: only reports from nesting areas in Jenny L, first May 15 (WBS, DJT, PPW). Yellow-throat: arr many areas May 2-4. Yellow-breasted Chat: first May 10, BCM (DJT); two singing there May 15, and another at VF May 19 (GB, BRS). Wilson's Warbler: two only, May 13 and May 15, BCM (DJT, et al). Canada Warbler: first May 2, CP (GB, BRS), rather few. American Redstart: first May 5, Leeds (HO) and May 6, VF (DJT).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 4, several areas. Orchard Oriole: first May 3, Catskill (JHB); Catskill May 5 (E. Rusack), Merwin's Pond May 31 (PPW, GE) and at least 5 at Castleton (JC). Baltimore Oriole: first Apr 25, Greenville (CK), several areas May 1, early. Rusty Blackbird: several individuals and small groups reported, mainly Apr 23-May 2 (last). Scarlet Tanager: marked influx May 8-12; on May 8 in Catskill, 12 (all males) were seen (BB). *Western Tanager*: a singing male was observed at Wolf Hollow May 16 (Gus Angst). This

individual had black wings, yellowish wingbars, yellow underparts and yellow head (no red). The sharp demarcation between the black wings and back and the yellow neck was noted particularly. The bird was singing a song similar to the Scarlet Tanager, but composed of shorter, somewhat sweeter phrases. Efforts later in the week to locate the bird failed to find it. Cardinal: becoming quite common. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first late Apr, at a feeding station near New Salem (Charles Brown), widely May 2-8. Indigo Bunting: first May 10, Greenville (CK), widely by May 15. Evening Grosbeak: disappeared rapidly early Apr, last Apr 8, Kiskatom (W. Smith). Purple Finch: reported frequently throughout period. Pine Siskin: only report—flock at Jenny L Apr 25 (GB). No Crossbill reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr 21, Catskill (JHB, BB), appearing widely by Apr 28.

Savannah Sparrow: first Apr 11 at Catskill and Westerlo. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported only from BCM, from May 10 on. (DJT, et al) Henslow's Sparrow: also rare, first May 2, BCM (DJT). Vesper Sparrow: good numbers, first Apr 12, Westerlo (MK). Slate-colored Junco: heavy flight Apr 10-30, few stragglers later; 62 in one hour, EG, Apr 15 (PPW). Tree Sparrow: not common but lingered very late, last (several) May 15 (SBC). Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 19, near Glenville (EH), most arr Apr 24-28. Field Sparrow: first Apr 8, Westerlo (MK), widely the following week. *Harris's Sparrow*: the one which wintered near Athens last seen May 3 (fide JHB). White-crowned Sparrow: fewer than in recent springs, most appeared May 4-16. White-throated Sparrow: migrants Apr 15, Niskayuna (HE)—May 22 SL (DJT, PPW); most observers felt there were fewer than usual; max 50 in one hour Apr 23 near Rensselaer (PPW). Fox Sparrow: most disappeared by Apr 7 after the big flight on Mar 29, but a few appeared later; last Apr 17 (EH). Swamp Sparrow: first Apr 9, Ghent (PE, GE) most arr after Apr 15. No Snow Buntings were seen during the period.

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

This spring put us well into our fourth year of drought. Precipitation to date is less than half the average for this area. Berries and other fruits are withering, and weed plants are dwarfed and dying portending a poor seed crop for the summer and fall. Temperatures for the April-May period held to the cool side, but not to any extreme. When spring arrived it remained, and effectively "turned off" the winter weather.

Bird movements were about average, not exceptionally good or bad. Waders are again at a low point in Rockland County, and hawks are down throughout the entire Region. Warbler movements were not at their best for numbers or species, but there were a few movements about May 3-4 and 10-13. The relatively waveless migration was undoubtedly due to the constant fair weather for the period.

Contributors: MBC—Mearns Bird Club; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; WBCC—Waterman Bird Club Census, May 15; A,MB—Arlene & Martin Borko; ID—Iris Dean; RFD—Robert F. Deed; RED—Robert E. Dirig; J,MD—John & Margaret Dye; BE,BG—Brother Eric & Brother Gary; PG—Pat Garthwaite; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; DG—Dick Guthrie; P,TH—Paul and Thelma Haight; LJ—Lee Jacoby; AJ—Alice Jones; JK—Jim Key; MK—Mary Key; HK—Hazel Killam; RK—Ruth Klevesahl; EP—Eleanor Pink; JS—Jim Southward; F,RS—Frank and Ruth Steffens; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; SU—Sarah Uhelyi; MVW—Marion Van Wagner; BW—Barbara Whitcomb

Abbreviations: arr—arrived; imm—immature; Is—Island; L—Lake USMA—United States Military Academy; Dutch—Dutchess County; Oran—Orange County; Rock—Rockland County; Sull—Sullivan County; Ulst—Ulster County; West—Westchester County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Usual Apr migrants on the lakes; four May 3 and two May 10 were observed flying high in a northerly direction over the Hudson Highlands at Highland Falls (EDT). Horned Grebe: scattered individuals reported during the second and third week of Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: generally late in arr, but numbers were good. Double-crested Cormorant: rare any time on the upper Hudson, but extremely so in spring; four at Crugers Is, Dutch May 15 (MVW, PG). Great Blue Heron: numbers down; WBCC produced 11, a hopeful sign. Cattle Egret: the only Rockland wader on Bob Deeds "Break-a-Hundred" trip May 13; one at New City; 17 at Blooming Grove, Oran May 13 (BW). Snowy Egret: second consecutive spring record for Dutch, one at Pleasant Valley on May 6 (PG). Black-crowned Night Heron: one at Crugers Is, Apr 24 (BE, BG); three there May 1 (WBC). Least Bittern: one at Basher Kill Apr 23 (ID), early; one at Crugers Is, May 1 (WBC), also early. Mute Swan: 71 in Rock May 13, all but half a dozen on Rock L (RFD); only a few scattered individuals elsewhere. Canada Goose: more nesting pairs than last year; widely scattered; migrants in good numbers especially in mid-Apr. Brant: no reports. Snow Goose: one walking on the shore of the Hudson at Piermont Apr 10, may well have been the one that wintered on nearby Rockland L; 50 Apr 10 at Amenia, and 25 on the 11th at Crugers Is are more than we usually observe in spring. Most species of ducks were normal in numbers and dates except Ring-necked Duck and Scaup which were late arrivals in Dutch. Canvasback: 30 on Indian L, Dutch (on the Conn. line) is unusual in that there were so many so far inland from the Hudson. Common Goldeneye: a male at Piermont Pier May 13, very late (RFD). Bufflehead: four remained at Rockland L as late as May 3 (CB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Most hawks down in numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: first, Apr 17 at Monticello (A, MB) and eight at Katonah, West the same day (SG). Bald Eagle: one Apr 10 (late) at Hankins, Sull (RED). An imm died and was collected by Sam Phelps at Walden on May 30. Observed for a week in the area and the remains are to be analyzed for possible pesticide poisoning. Marsh Hawk: the usual few migrants reported, never numerous. Pigeon Hawk: always rare, esp. in spring; one at Poughkeepsie Apr 25 (DG). Sparrow Hawk: numbers better than usual in Dutch, normal to below elsewhere. Ruffed Grouse: continues to maintain high numbers. Bobwhite: one large covey of about 30 birds at Milan, Dutch Apr 7; five at the home of P & TH Apr 25; several scattered individuals elsewhere. Very few rails reported, a few more Virginia than Sora. Common Gallinule: one found in Dutch; at least seven individuals counted at Basherkill, Sull May 8 (MBC), probably many more there. Coot: numbers very low, only a few reports. *Semipalmated Plover*: WBC reports the first spring record in Dutch since 1928, two at Briarcliff Farm May 23. American Woodcock: two birds courting at Long Eddy, Sull, on the late date of May 20 (RED). Common Snipe: normal or better numbers in Dutch, 10 on WBCC, resident birds back at Martha Earl's farm in Blooming Grove, Oran. Upland Plover: only reports from Oran as usual; two on the runway at Oran Co Airport in

Montgomery May 1 (ID), and another pair in the Chester area on May 15 (SU). Only Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers were reported, numbers good. Two of the latter reported Apr 8 in Dutch, eight days earlier than previous spring record (JS). *Wilson's Phalarope*: a female, May 15 on a small pond near the Taconic State Pkwy. at Poughkeepsie was a first for Dutch (JK et al). *Iceland Gull*: one at Crugers Is Apr 24 was very late (BE, BG). Bonaparte's Gull: two at New Hamburg, Dutch, on Apr 19 (DG). Cuckoo: both species scarce this year. Owls: most species of usual abundance.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr right on time the third week in Apr and in good numbers. Chimney Swift: early arr in Dutch on Apr 20 (JK), and in good numbers by the 23rd. Flicker: very heavy influx in Dutch on Apr 16. *Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker*: the two birds of last winter persisted into the spring, one at Crugers Is last sighted on May 1 and the other at Red Oak Mill on May 13 (WBC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only reports, one in Dutch (EP), and two at West Point, Oran (J,MD), all on May 15. Wood Pewee: one very early, Apr 30, in Dutch (AJ)—usually arrives in mid-May. Bank Swallow: two, very early, at Washington Hollow, Dutch on Apr 11 (FG). Cliff Swallow: one Apr 13 was at least a week earlier than previous record in Dutch (AJ). A large colony is now established at the USMA Summer Camp at Camp Buckner, only a few miles from the Rock line where no colonies have been known in recent times, even with very active coverage by the Rockland Audubon Society. It is the only colony known in the southern part of Region 9. Purple Martin: a number of colonies now established in the Region. *Raven*: Fred Hough studied one making passes at a Red-tailed Hawk over Slide Mt. on May 20. He says "the calls and actions were quite distinctive." It makes the first authentic record for the species in Ulster. Fish Crow: returned to the Vassar Campus Apr 16 (EP) where Federation members saw it a year ago; at least six birds recorded in Dutch during May. Brown Creeper: a breeding record for Rock, adults feeding nestlings near New City in late May (F,RS); previous Rock breeding has been restricted to the higher elevations of Bear Mt. Park. Winter Wren: five Apr records in Dutch and two in May (WBC). Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers about usual except in Dutch where they seemed to be up. Mockingbird: ever increasing; very successful nesting. Brown Thrasher: first Apr 4 in Dutch, very early. Wood Thrush: first Apr 25, a few days earlier than expected. Hermit Thrush: came through in excellent numbers, many reports. Swainson's Thrush: one, very early, Apr 24 (AJ); numbers normal to below. Gray-cheeked Thrush: unreported. Bluebird: four or five birds reported in an area of Rock near Suffern where they've been absent for years; numbers low throughout Region, but nesting seems to have been successful esp. in Dutch. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: reported from more areas this year but not in as great numbers as in the past several; first Apr 14 at Chester (SU); a sitting bird observed on USMA, West Point May 31 (MBC). Pipit: eight reported from Dutch Apr 22 (AJ); 30 at Liberty, Sull on May 8 (HK); a far cry from the hundreds often reported in fall. Loggerhead Shrike: one Apr 4 in Dutch (DG). Most winter shrikes reported were of this species.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: only report, one May 12 at usual spot on USMA Reservation (EDT). Yellow-throated Vireo: fewer than in any recent year. Solitary Vireo: always uncommon; many reports this spring by comparison to other years. A few light waves of warblers were reported, but the majority went through in an even flow. Most species were in usual to better numbers except Nashville and Blackburnian which were quite scarce. Those in smaller numbers than usual were Cape May and Black-throated Blue. Greater than usual numbers were reported for Tennessee, Palm and Northern Waterthrush. Chats recovered from their apparent low of last spring, and were slightly less than normal. Only one unusual species was reported—a male *Townsend's Warbler*, Apr 24 at Thompson's Pond, Pine Plains,

Dutch (EP, MVW). The bird was observed at length the next day by eight WBC members. Details are being prepared for "Field Notes." Cerulean Warbler: Rock had its twelfth report on May 13 for as long as Bob Deed has been keeping records (at least 30 years). The usual breeding birds were reported from Dutch, Carrie Carnwright saw one at her home in Cornwall, and two more at Downing Park in Newburgh on Apr 30; rarely does one see one bird a season away from the breeding grounds. *Kentucky Warbler*: Rock had its seventh record since 1940 on May 13.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: numbers less than last year, about the same arr date of May 6. Orchard Oriole: More reports than usual. Breeding birds back at Stone Ridge and Kripplebush in Ulst and at New City in Rock. Single birds observed in Oran at Cornwall May 3—May 12 (RK) and at Tomahawk L, Town of Blooming Grove, May 15 (SU). Baltimore Oriole: plentiful. Rusty Blackbird: last report, two May 1 at Crugers Is (WBC). *Black-headed Grosbeak*: the bird that arr last Jan 23 finally left Pleasantville, Dutch Apr 13 (EP). *Blue Grosbeak*: one at Greenville, Oran May 15 (ID). Indigo Bunting: one at Freedom Plains Apr 29 was extremely early (MK); numbers down in Dutch, but normal elsewhere. Evening Grosbeak: after an almost complete absence during the winter, small flocks started to appear in Apr—Middletown Apr 8 thru 12, Dutch Apr 15 and Monticello, Sull Apr 20. Purple Finch: numbers more normal this spring than last winter. House Finch: continued to increase: no nests reported, but several singing males, and one adult with what appeared to be a fledgeling young in Nyack (RFD). Savannah Sparrow: fewer in number. Grasshopper Sparrow: normal; 15 reported for May in Dutch. *Lark Sparrow*: left the home of Mrs C. Terhune near Salt Point, Dutch Apr 4, where it had been since Feb 5. Chipping Sparrow: normal to better numbers; a small wave thru Dutch Apr 22. White-crowned Sparrow: 11 seen on WBCC; your reporter failed to see one with daily birding in Oran from May 1 thru 15—perhaps they prefer the east bank of the Hudson? Snow Bunting: one at West Nyack on the late date of Apr 20, well seen in "patchy" plumage by Ed Gamble.

Corrigendum: The Broad-winged Hawk record in the previous report (*Kingbird* 15(2), p. 126) should be deleted.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, 10928

Note: Records for the summer season thru Aug 15 are due no later than Sept 1.

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

The spring migration may be summed up in one word: poor. Although there were a few days when migrants were present in fair numbers, there was no one day or days that were exceptionally good, as is usual. Norse, for example, reported it to be the worst spring in five years. However, what might be termed the one exception was a concentration of warblers in Bronx Park on May 11, where Ryan recorded 26 species, including Yellow-throated, Kentucky and Connecticut. Spectacular as this was, it was apparently only a local phenomenon. Also, several species, such as Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Black-and-white Warbler, were much commoner than they have been in a number of years.

The extreme shortness of this report is no doubt largely due to the poor migration which caused observers to be more apathetic than usual. The inability of the editors to collect reports, first hand, in the field, as in previous seasons, also probably played a large part.

The one consolation, at least to the editors, was the excellent flight of Sooty Shearwaters. Although probably present earlier in the month, the first observation was at Tobay Beach on May 15. As in previous years, this year's observations confirmed the inshore movement of this species during late afternoon and evening. One could see anywhere from three or four to 25 or more Sooty Shearwaters, any evening, and early on most mornings, just beyond the surf from Jones Beach east. On most evenings birds were moving east, but many individuals were also observed sitting on the water or actively diving for food only a few hundred yards off the beach. Observations during the day produced not a single shearwater!

Kuroda (*Condor*, 57: 290-300, 1955) makes the observation that this species "feeds at dawn near the land where food is abundant and then scatters offshore during the day." This statement is not, however, further expounded upon. Gordon (*Auk*, 72: 138-147, 1955) hypothesized that petrels and shearwaters feed at night when the deep scattering layers, containing copepods, amphipods, euphausian shrimps, fishes etc., are at the surface, but could find no reference to this problem in the literature. Gordon's observations are supported by a great deal of nocturnal activity noted by various observers among Wilson's Petrels around fishing boats off Long Island. Further, Post (unpublished) while at sea has noticed that petrels and shearwaters are most active during the early morning and evening hours, whereas large flocks of birds resting on the water are commoner during the day.

There seems to be a correlation developing between the abundance of mackerel and shearwaters. It was the best year for this fish since 1957, when one of the largest shearwater flights in this Region took place. Peak numbers of shearwaters followed fairly well the movement of mackerel, which on May 15 were an hour's run from Sheepshead Bay. Shortly thereafter, the fish moved off to the east, and the June 7 Pelagic Trip found only a handful of Sooty Shearwaters. Again, most of these were close inshore just off the Short Beach jetty about 4:00 p.m.

Wilson's Petrels also arrived early and were in better numbers than in the last five years. Coincidentally, the only report of Great Shearwaters (19 birds moving east at Tobay Beach, during the late evening of May 1) was the earliest for the Region. Immature Gannets summer offshore, but are seldom seen from the beaches. However, this spring it was not unusual to see two or three Gannets accompanying an evening aggregation of Shearwaters.

The outstanding rarities were Wood Stork, White-fronted Goose,

Fulvous Tree-Duck, Purple Gallinule, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Connecticut Warbler. Also noteworthy were another Magpie, above average occurrences of Yellow-throated Warbler and Summer Tanager, and spring records of Forster's Tern and Orange-crowned Warblers.

Abbreviations used: max—maximum one day count during the period; mob—many observers; LLAS—Lyman Langdon Audubon Society; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; AMNH—American Museum of Natural History; the following are New York City Parks: Central, Inwood, Prospect and Van Cortlandt.

Contributors frequently cited: JB—John Bull; IC—Irving Cantor; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; TD—Thomas Davis; HLF—H. Lee Ferguson; WH—William Hackett; JH—Joseph Horowitz; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; RL—Roy Latham; EL—Emanuel Levine; WN—William Norse; PP—Peter Post; DP—Dennis Puleston; GR—Gilbert Raynor; RR—Richard Ryan; WS—Walter Sedwitz; SS—Si Stepinoff; RS—Robert Sutherland; WT—Walter Terry; LW—LeRoy Wilcox; EW—Edwin Willis; JY—John Yrizarry.

LOON—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: Apr 1, Jones (SS). Sooty Shearwater: good year, see introduction. Great Shearwater: 19, May 1, Tobay Beach (TD, RS)—earliest date for Region. Wilson's Petrel: 10, May 22, off Fire Is (MK). Gannet: see introduction. Double-crested Cormorant: max 1000, Apr 25, Pt Lookout to Tobay (RS). Cattle Egret: May 26–30, JBWR (PP, TD, et al). Wood Stork: May 16, JBWR (F. Davis)—excellent description of bird soaring over West Pond.

*White-fronted Goose*: May 17 thru period, Halsey's Pond (Mecox Bay) (GR, DP, PP, WT, LW, et al)—adult bird (photographed) frequenting pond with feral Canada Geese; the bright orange bill of the Greenland race (*A. a. flavirostris*) tends to suggest a wild bird. We have been unable to ascertain when it first arrived. Third record in this century from Region 10. *Fulvous Tree-Duck*: Apr 25, Mecox (C. McKeever fide GR)—found dead and greatly decomposed; three, May 29–Jun 4, JBWR (L. Epstein, H. Johnson, JB)—second and third records for Region 10. Gadwall: two pairs nesting at Lawrence; one at Pond X, one in salt-marsh (mob). European Teal: Apr 9–May 2, JBWR (RR, RS, TD). Blue-winged Teal: nest with seven eggs (May 22), eight eggs (May 30), in salt-marsh at Lawrence (mob). Harlequin Duck: adult drake, May 23, Orient (IC)—over a month later than previous late record. Common Scoter: 25, May 31, Smith Pt, Fire Is (PP, TD)—late flock.

HAWKS—OWLS: Rough-legged Hawk: May 19, Brookhaven (GR, DP)—latest date for Region. King Rail: Apr 30, Van Cortlandt (WN); May 15, Tobay (TD, RS). *Purple Gallinule*: May 19, Brookhaven (DP, GR). Oyster-catcher: pair, Apr 15, Moriches (LLAS)—failed to nest and left shortly thereafter (LW); nested at Shinnecock (two eggs) but nest abandoned (LW); transient, Apr 25, Tobay Pond (TD, RS). Golden Plover: two, Apr 8, JBWR (RR). Red Phalarope: female in winter plumage found freshly dead, Apr 3, Tobay Pond (R. Snyder)—specimen in AMNH; third earliest record for Region. Northern Phalarope: two, May 22 thru period, JBWR (mob). Wilson's Phalarope: at least one present at JBWR thruout most of May (mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: light phase adult, May 22, off Fire Is (MK). Parasitic Jaeger: light phase adult, May 22, off Fire Is (MK). Glaucous Gull: one present at JBWR thru period (mob); Apr 19–20, Hillview Reservoir (R. Kane, WH); Apr 24, Fulton Fish Market (EW); May 4 and 18, Cholera Banks (D. Rafferty). Forster's Tern: bird in fall plumage, May 23, JBWR (JB, E. Eisenmann, M. Russak)—very rare in spring. Black Skimmer: early arrival Apr 14, JBWR (B. Conolly, A. Dove); transient, Apr 22, Prospect (JY)—first record for this city park. Saw-whet Owl: May 1, Bronx Park (T. Peszel)—very late.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: Apr 17, Tobay (EW, TD, F. Shaeffer)—early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Apr 20, Bronx Park (R. Kane); Apr 24, Bronx Park (SS)—both early. Red-bellied Woodpecker: May 13, Bronx Park (WH); May 16–20, Central (GC, WS, et al). Red-headed Woodpecker: May 12, Bronx Park (WH, E. McGuire); May 18, Fisher's Is (HLF). Common Sapsucker: good year; up to eight or ten per day in city parks during latter half of April; latest May 14, Central (EW). *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*: adult female, May 27, Quogue (DP, WT)—second consecutive May record from outer beach; see last spring's Region 10 report for summary of previous records. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 15–16, Tobay (TD, RS); May 31, Tobay (GR)—uncommon on coastal strip in spring.

Magpie: Apr 25, Gilgo Beach (G. Donaldson, TD, RS). Wood Thrush: Apr 17, Orient (RL)—earliest record for Region. Hermit Thrush: peak movement on Apr 18; max counts 50, Inwood (WN) and 36, Van Cortlandt (JH). Swainson's Thrush: Apr 24, Orient (RL)—earliest record for Region. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max four, May 8, Central (EW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15, Apr 12, Inwood (WN). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 70, Apr 30 Van Cortlandt (WN); May 31, JBWR (SS)—very late. Water Pipit: May 18, Tobay (SS)—very late.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: May 23, Inwood (WN); May 30, Fisher's Is (HLF). Black-and-white Warbler: max 30, Apr 30, Inwood (WN). "Brewster's" Warbler: May 15 thru period, Yaphank (DP, GR). Tennessee Warbler: May 3, Central (GC)—early. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 3–6, Central (mob); May 10, Hempstead (EL); May 10, Prospect (O. Raymond)—normally very rare in spring. Nashville Warbler: max seven, May 9, Central (EW). Magnolia Warbler: Apr 30, Central (mob)—early. Black-throated Green Warbler: early individual found dead at base of Empire State Building on Apr 14 (A. Dignan); max 20, May 9, Central (EW). Cerulean Warbler: male, May 6, Central (E. Hirshberg); female, May 11, Prospect (JY); male, May 12–16, Yaphank (DP). Yellow-throated Warbler: two, May 1, Hempstead (EL); May 11, Bronx Park (RR)—more than normal.

Pine Warbler: good year; max 15, Apr 16, Central (RS); May 6, Central (EW, RS); May 15, Inwood (WN)—both late. Palm Warbler: May 14, Central (GC, EW)—late. Louisiana Waterthrush: one banded, Apr 16–20, Manorville (GR); Apr 28, Upton (GR)—rare on L.I.; May 27, Inwood (WN)—very late. Kentucky Warbler: Apr 30, Central (RS)—second earliest record; May 11, Bronx Park (RR); May 27, Inwood (WN). *Connecticut Warbler*: adult male, May 11, Bronx Park (RR)—earliest record for Region; casual in spring. Mourning Warbler: eight reports, May 13–Jun 5, all from city parks. Yellowthroat: Apr 15, Roosevelt (C. Ward)—early. Wilson's Warbler: May 2, Inwood (WN); May 3, Central (PP); May 4, Van Cortlandt (JH)—early movement.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 10 reports; adult male, Apr 20, Brookhaven (DP)—earliest record for Region—thru period. Summer Tanager: Apr 23, Orient (RL); May 10, Prospect (O. Raymond); imm. male, May 12–23, Central (GC, EW, WS); imm. male, May 13, Fisher's Is (HLF); female, May 27, Central (EW)—well above normal. House Finch: new nesting locations—Van Cortlandt, Fordham University campus and Bronx Park. First two nests in street lamps, the third nest in ivy (R. Kane). Ipswich Sparrow: two, Apr 17, Moriches Inlet (LLAS); Apr 18, JBWR (WN, IC)—both late. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: transient, May 1, Central (G. Tudor). Tree Sparrow: Apr 17, Tobay (TD, EW, F. Shaeffer)—late. White-throated Sparrow: max 300, Apr 30, Central (EW).

Note: The editors regret that they will be unable to continue writing this column. We wish to thank all those who bore with us for the past two years and urge their continued cooperation with our successor(s).

Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYC 10033; Tudor, 370 Riverside Dr., NYC 10025

## BOOK REVIEWS

A New Dictionary of Birds. Edited by A. Landsborough Thomson. McGraw-Hill. 928 pp. Illus. \$17.50.

The factual excellence of A New Dictionary of Birds has been testified to in the reviews of professionals, such as the review by Roland C. Clement in the May-June *Audubon Magazine*. As a birder, not a professional ornithologist, I find that the volume is a useful addition to my very small library.

In normal dictionary fashion, it includes definitions of terms. For the amateur, the meaning of many of these special terms is not easily found elsewhere. In addition, there are many articles summarizing knowledge in special aspects of ornithology. One can browse among articles on flight and the modifications of structure developed in birds for efficient flight; on the physiology of birds, such as descriptions of the nervous system, respiratory system, hearing, sight; on evolution and classification; on studies of bird behavior, such as learning, courtship, aggression; on conservation and control; even on birds in literature and music. Or one can study various aspects of one subject, with the help of cross-references in the articles and the two lists of major articles at the front of the book, one of general subjects and one of bird groups. Descriptions of families and world distribution would be of special interest to the bird watcher who likes foreign travel. Each major article is followed by a brief bibliography listing some of the most important reference works for that subject.

For the bird watcher interested in broadening his understanding of what he sees and increasing his knowledge of the problems that ornithologists are studying, A New Dictionary of Birds would be an excellent volume to own, especially if he cannot afford to purchase many books or does not have access to a large reference library. Dorothy McIlroy.

Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region: An Annotated Check-list. By Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 22, Buffalo, N.Y., 1965. xix + 478 pp. Illus. Hard cover \$10. Soft cover \$9.

The up-dating of information on occurrence and breeding of birds in New York State, recently started with John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area*, is ably continued with *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* by Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell. Although this is called an annotated check-list, it gives much more information than is usually included in such a list.

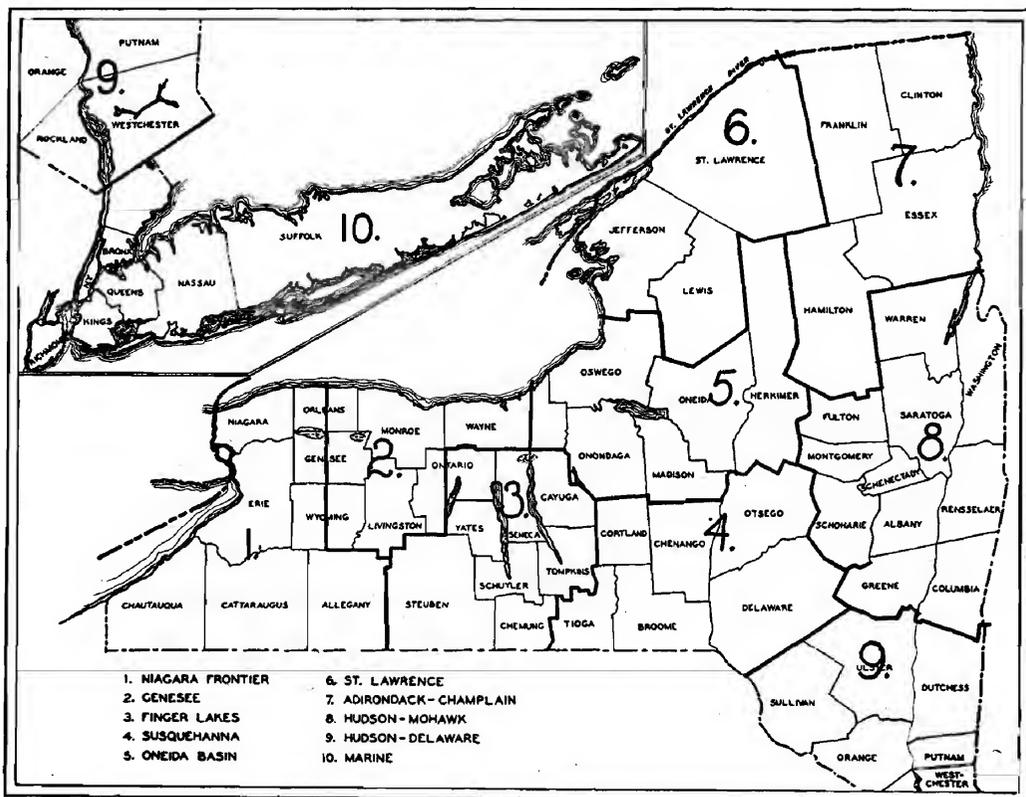
Early observers and previous ornithological works dealing with birds of the region are mentioned in a brief historical section. A short discussion

of the life zones found there is followed by an interesting description of good birding areas, with mention of some typical and unusual birds to be found in each. These areas are keyed by number to a map and illustrated by photographs of some of the habitats. Many more places are mentioned than appear in either Pettingill's *A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi* or in *Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York* by Pettingill and Hoyt. Two lists of birds, one classified by seasonal status (permanent resident, summer visitant, etc.) and the other by monthly occurrence, should be helpful to birders planning trips to the region to see particular species.

The annotated list, comprising the major part of the book, includes all pertinent data on present frequency of occurrence, breeding, first and last dates and period of maximum occurrence. A short discussion of each species gives such information as type of habitat where the species may be found, unusual sightings, interesting historical notes including population changes. Complete details for records of rare birds are given. Black and white photographs of a few species are included, but there are no other pictures of the birds as this is not intended to be a guide to identification.

Bird watchers in the Niagara Frontier Region should own this book to supplement their identification guides. Birders in adjacent areas and in the rest of the state who may be driving through, birding on the way, or planning a trip to the region will find it invaluable for its specific information. The data published will be very important in the compilation of our projected new state bird book. It is to be hoped that other sections of the state will be able to find as capable authors to up-date previous publications or to compile a book like this if none has ever been published. Dorothy McIlroy

# REPORTING REGIONS



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

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