

## REGIONAL REPORTS FOR SPRING MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

### REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

Generally speaking, the spring migration of 1951 was not quite up to expectations. Nevertheless, many interesting observations were afforded, with several species showing up to good advantage. Warbler waves occurred on May 16th and 18th, with "echo waves" on the 17th and 19th. Birding was therefore excellent on four consecutive days, but the rest of the entire period left much to be desired. The weather generally has been wet and rainy, with water levels standing at record heights throughout.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

Horned Grebes were unusually common, especially on the Niagara. Holboell's Grebes were reported from several places. Two American Egrets are summering north of Akron, N. Y., while two others were seen during May near Lake Erie. Geese came in in satisfactory numbers—well over 10,000 Canadas, including one of a smaller subspecies, being reported for the Duck Census in early April. Snow Geese were reported but twice, but Blues were observed in many places. American Brant have been seen in two locations. Whistling Swans were more widespread than usual, no doubt due in part to the large total amount of water area available. All the regular ducks showed up in generally satisfactory numbers. One American Scoter remained in Dunkirk Harbor throughout March.

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

700 Broad-winged Hawks within 20 minutes, seen at Wanakah by Dr. Axtell on April 28th were very notable for this region. These were accompanied by 25 Sharp-shins and one Duck Hawk. An adult Goshawk near Wilson on May 20th was exceptionally late. White-winged Gulls remained late. The last Icelands were on April 18th while a Glaucous was found on May 15th. Three Short-eared Owls seem to be making Grand Island their summer home.

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Notable here are those southern birds whose range extends north just to here. Carolina Wrens seem to have increased slightly this spring. Gnatcatchers seem more numerous than ever but the Titmouse has retreated from several former locations and has been seen only in Allegany State Park. An Acadian Flycatcher at Irving, found on May 30th, seemed to have territorial ambitions.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Philadelphia Vireos were present in rather unusual numbers from May 16th until near the end of the month. Blue-winged and Brewster Warblers are holding their recent gains and perhaps increasing somewhat. A female Prairie Warbler, quite rare here, spent three days in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, and afforded good views to many observers. Best of all is the re-establishment of the colony of breeding Prothonotary Warblers at Oak Orchard Swamp. These could not be found there for the past few years but

Ithaca, was somewhat late in arriving this year, not appearing until after May 2. They have been occupying a definite territory in the Park, although the nest has not yet been located.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Prothonotary Warbler — The Montezuma pair was found to be present again this year; the nesting site was located on May 27.

Tennessee Warbler — During the middle week of May, this was by far the most abundant warbler in our area. Few were left by the 26th.

Cape May Warbler — Disappointingly few in numbers after several notably good years.

Cerulean Warbler — Another austral species which is increasing in our area. They have never been more common as migrants than they were this May, and a nest has been found at Stewart Park, Ithaca, where they have not bred for some years.

Palm Warbler — Spring sight records of Yellow Palm Warblers in our area have largely been discredited in the past. Careful observation and collecting records this spring indicate that we have perhaps been a bit dogmatic in rejecting such sight records. This year, apparently, a small flight of Yellow Palm Warblers preceded the main flight of Western Palm Warblers; early reports tended to be of Yellows, later reports of Westerns. Both subspecies were collected from the same flock near West Dryden on May 2 (R. W. Dickerman). Sight records of these subspecies should be made with caution; intermediate specimens have been collected in this region.

Kentucky Warbler — This species has now been reliably reported for three successive years in the Cayuga Lake Basin. It had never previously been known from this area. It was seen at Montezuma on May 20 (A. G. Mehring et al).

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

White-crowned Sparrow — This and other migrant sparrows through our area seemed to be present in smaller numbers than usual this spring, although all of the breeding species are apparently present in normal numbers.

Fox Sparrow — An individual seen at Ithaca on February 28 was about a week early for this species (P. Springer). It was not reported again until March 10.

Lincoln's Sparrow — Although this species is certainly not common here, few springs go by without at least a couple of records. None was reported this year.

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