

By the first week in March there was considerable open water in the ponds along the lakeshore and several early species of ducks had arrived. On March 18th about three thousand Canada Geese were already at Oak Orchard. Most later ducks and many early song birds arrived in numbers between March 25th and 27th. The first sizable hawk migration took place on the 27th, and consisted mostly of Red-tails.

The northward movement was slow and uncertain during April, until the 22nd when southwest winds brought the early warblers and such species as Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Ruby crowned Kinglets and Sapsuckers in force, as well as the first large flights of Broad-winged Hawks.

The first good wave of warblers and their allies came between May 5th and May 7th, with Yellow Warblers and Myrtles by far the most common. After this date the new arrivals drifted in steadily, but not in marked waves or numbers. Most observers felt the peak was reached fairly early, perhaps around the 15th or 16th.

Migrants were still in evidence in early June, still drifting through in small groups. Shorebirds, notably Red-backed Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Knots and Semi-palmated Sandpipers were present up to June 10th in spite of very high water everywhere.

The season as a whole was fairly normal with almost none of the outstanding records of a year ago. A few species seemed unusually scarce, Blue-headed Vireos being the best example. The Blue-winged Warblers and White-eyed Vireos seen on the spring census on May 20 were perhaps the most unusual reports.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loon at peak first week in May. Red-throated Loon, several reports — March 29 to May 5. Great blue Heron and Bittern in by March 27th. Whistling Swan — 169 at Oak Orchard and vicinity on March 31, along with 8,000 Canada and one Blue Goose. Diving ducks at peak about March 10th, early. Red-heads and Canvasbacks in fair numbers. European Wigeon on April 14 at Buck Pond. Gadwalls (4) on May 20th. Mergansers very common, 5000 Red-breasted on April 15th. Ruddy Ducks in by April 8th, last report May 20th. The bulk of the waterfowl left early this year. Stragglers after mid-May were relatively rare in contrast with last year, perhaps due to unusually high water conditions.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Hawk migration this year seemed less spectacular probably due to less frequent observation. No Goshawk reported thus far. March 27th — 175 Red Tails, 75 Red-shouldered, 22 Marsh, 4 Sharp-shinned, 4 Coopers, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Rough-legged, 1 Duck Hawk, 8 Sparrow Hawks. Other good dates — April 14th, May 20th. First good Broad-winged flight on April 22nd. Golden Eagle on May 20th. All these reports were from the East Manitou Road at Braddocks Bay. Bald Eagles nesting along Genesee River, Livingston County, again.

Yellowlegs and other early sandpipers not common; little beach or mud flats exposed. Fairly good spring flight of later species — Knots, Red-backs, Least, Semipalmated, Sanderling, etc., observed up to mid-June.

Large flock of gulls along Lakeshore in mid-March included many Black-backs, a few Iceland and Glaucous. One Iceland Gull at pier on May 20th; Glaucous at Shore Acres till May 5th. Caspian Tern reported several times — late April and early May. Few reports on Owls. One Long Eared on March 29th. Short Eared not reported. Barred and Long-Eared on May 20th (Montezuma) and Long-eared at Mendon Ponds Park same date. Screech common. No Snowy Owls after March 1st.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Whip-poor-will on April 28th — very common this spring — possibly nesting at Reed Rd. Sapsuckers uncommon again this year. Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on May 20th (only reports). Prairie Horned Lark nesting on April 14 (4 eggs). Cliff Swallow, May 5th and 20th. Red-breasted Nuthatch very scarce — few reports — seems to have decreased greatly; a migrant and winter resident in past ten years.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher first reported on April 29th, nesting at Reed Road, May 19th, also nest at Scottsville, May 20th. Pipit, first report also April 29th, common on May 16th at Shore Acres. Northern Shrike not reported this winter, Migrant common on April 7th.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Vireos late in arriving — not common till May 20th. Blue-headed unusually scarce. Yellow-throated Vireo, first report May 12, Warbling 13th, Red-eyed 19th, Philadelphia 20th. From previous years these appear to be late "first" dates.

First Wave of Warblers — Myrtle, April 21st; Western Palm, April 22nd,

two Yellow Palms on April 29th, also April 28th — first Black and White, Black-throated blue, Nashville, and Northern Waterthrush.

Second wave May 5th, Yellow and Myrtle, very common. First, Red-start, Black-throated, green, Ovenbird, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, scattered.

Third wave May 12 and 13th. First Golden-winged, Hooded, Mourning, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Northern Yellowthroat. Mostly early warblers still common, i.e., Myrtle, Palm.

Fourth wave May 19th and 20th — not in large numbers — Canada, Blackpoll, Wilson's. Also one or two reports on White-eyed Vireo (2 — Barry — at Hale's Woods), Blue-winged Warbler — (Meade et al, 1, at Burroughs-Audubon Sanctuary) (Beiber, Listman 1, Chili woods). Louisiana Waterthrush 2, (Meade et al), Connecticut Warbler 1 (Tanghe et al. Early warblers scarce at this date. Several species still reported present after June 1st, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, etc. (small numbers). On the whole these species were present in fair to good numbers. Few rare species — some common ones either very scarce or unusually late. Heavy foliage which hampered observation after middle of month may have been a factor.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Red-wings, a few Grackles and Cowbirds moving by March 5th. Common by March 10th. Flocks of Meadowlarks seen along lakeshore by March 11th. Rusty Blackbird — first report March 18th. Baltimore Oriole — first May 6th, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted grosbeak, May 7th. Indigo Bunting, May 15th. Siskins reported until May 25th. Red Crossbill, last, May 5th — White-winged May 16th (Miller, Durand Eastman Park). Towhee, first April 21st (late). Grasshopper Sparrow, April 28th, Henslow Sparrow, May 3. Junco — last report May 20th, Tree Sparrow — last report April 22nd. First White-throated Sparrows (migrants) about April 21st, White-crowned, May 5th. Both had practically disappeared by May 20th, neither seen in usual numbers this year. Savannah Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow April 7th, Field Sparrow, April 11th, Chipping Sparrow, March 29th (early first dates). Lincoln's Sparrow reported May 20th. No Snow Buntings after March 1st.

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