

REGION 9 — FINGER LAKES

Loons — Ducks:

Loons scarce. Cormorants seen in groups of few to 100 birds on Oneida Lake. Few records of Least Bittern but American Bittern seen in about usual numbers. Several Whistling Swans seen at Montezuma marsh this spring and a single bird in marsh south of Marion on April 17. Canada Geese (up to 2000) at Montezuma but numbers diminished sharply by early May. Baldpate and Pintail population seems to be down. Canvasback, Redhead, Scaups and Mergansers present in fair numbers, possibly somewhat below average. Only scattered reports of White-winged or other scoters. One Harlequin Duck reported early this spring in river near Owego, but unverified to reporter. 14 Ruddy Ducks at Montezuma on May 11 and a Glossy Ibis reported by several observers during the last week in April.

Hawks — Owls:

Most hawks observed in about usual numbers. 2 Pigeon Hawks seen at Montezuma Marsh on May 11 and a late migrating Broad-wing on May 30. Shore birds present in average numbers. Upland Plover appears to be nesting in the Syracuse area. From about May 20 to June 8 Least, Baird's, Semi-palmated, Red-backed Sandpipers common at Geneva and other points. 51 Ruddy Turnstones observed on Long Pier (Geneva) May 30. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls present in about usual numbers but Bonaparte's less common than some seasons. Common Terns in small numbers are remaining later than usual on Seneca Lake. One Iceland Gull reported near Fulton on March 16.

Cuckoos quite common this year—the Yellow-billed being about twice as abundant as the Black-billed. Tent caterpillars, cankerworms and other leaf-eating species of caterpillars, a common source of food, are unusually abundant in some sections of the state this year. Barn Owl nested again in church steeple at Waterloo. Few reports of Whip-poor-will this spring but Nighthawk common as usual, even though a bit late in its appearance. Red-headed Woodpecker appears to be breeding at Cayuga Lake State Park near Syracuse (apparently a new location).

One American three toed Woodpecker observed for ½ day at Clarks Point, Seneca Lake on April 22. Other species seen in about average numbers. Oliv-sided Flycatcher (1) at Syracuse on May 29 (several dozen reported in Adirondacks the same date) and 25 Yellow-bellied. 2 Cliff Swallows nesting areas observed—1 near Syracuse and another just north of Mexico. Late date of Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 18. Brown Creeper reports scarce. Good flights of Winter Wren—extended up to early or mid-May. Carolina Wren seen carrying nesting material in Geneva between May 11 and 18 but last seen on June 6. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, possibly breeding, in Camillus Valley May 18. Red-eyed Vireo nesting at High Banks on Seneca Lake (4 eggs in nest on June 8). **Warblers — Sparrows:**

Warbler migration, while a few days behind last year's dates, was quite pronounced in the Geneva area and reached a high point on May 17 but by the morning of May 18 practically all of them had moved on. All species listed or expected in the Geneva territory were seen in numbers except Pine, Palm, Yellow Palm, Parula, Wilson, Connecticut and Hooded. The Mourning warbler (singing) and seen in Geneva on June 8 and heard singing near Williamson June 13 (latter record by H. S. Peters, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). In Syracuse area Black and White, Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cerulean, Blackburnian and Mourning were seen in or above average numbers while La. Waterthrush, N. Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated blue and greens, Myrtle, Cape May and Wilson's were only in average, or below, numbers.

One Bohemian Waxwing (Gambrell's) seen at close range in Pine Plains region on June 1; (100 or more cedar waxwings present in same area on this date). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Scarlet Tanager quite common. Evening Grosbeak seen up to May 11. Siskins, Crossbills and Redpolls very scarce this spring. Henslow, White-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrows reported on increase in Syracuse area — other species in about usual numbers. All except the Lincoln's Sparrow fairly common to abundant in the Geneva area. White-crowned Sparrows generally more abundant than White throated Sparrows in the Geneva territory — this is somewhat unusual in this territory. The appearance of and date of continued migration seemed to coincide quite closely with the blooming of dandelion which appears to be one of their favorite food plants. 1 female Dickcissel observed on May 11 (Harftzell, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Gambrell).

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