

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 1

The area did not have an outstanding spring migration as we had hoped we might, following such a mild winter. While Warblers were here in good numbers the weekend of May 17, there was nothing spectacular then or at anytime. April and May were relatively cool and very wet; early June has not been much better. 193 species were recorded on the May 17 census of the Cayuga Lake Basin by the Cornell Ornithology Seminar group.

The Kingbird

LOONS — DUCKS:

A Horned Grebe was reported by the **Triple Cities Naturalists' Club** on 4/None seen last year. Several observers in different localities have remarked that Great Blue Herons are down in numbers. American Bittern 4/4, Montezuma (My & Seeber), at Binghamton 4/19. Nest found at Spencer Marsh 5/27 containing eggs. (Cornell Ornithology 9 class) European Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal, Montezuma 4/11 (Cornell Conservation 103 class) B. W. Teal nest built 5/14, Montezun (W. J. Hamilton III) Flock of 30 Whistling Swans over Endicott, 4/30 (Rising) Sn Goose reported at Eurora, 4/15 (Hewitt).

HAWKS — OWLS:

A Goshawk was seen over Cornell Rifle Range 5/12 (J. Layne). Broad-wing Hawk 4/19 and Osprey 4/16 by **Triple Cities Nat. Club**. Latter reported as more common than usual this year. Osprey at Ithaca 4/20 (AAA). Long and Short saw Pigeon Hawk, Stewart Park, Ithaca 4/12. Florida Gallinule, Triple Cities 4/2; Wilson's Snipe, Larch Meadows south of Ithaca 4/9 (Rosche), at Freeville 4/5/10, then gone. (Hoyt) Woodcock incubating 4/12 (Hoyt).

Bonaparte's Gull 4/8, Cayuga Lake jetty (Sibley), 4/10 in Triple Cities are Black Terns, Montezuma 5/3 (Cornell Field Orn. Club), at Triple Cities 5/5. Because species of Cuckoo seem more abundant than usual this year.

Long-eared Owl, Inlet Valley, 5/3 (Rosche). Heinz Meng reported that Great Horned Owls again nested at the old Peregrine nest site at Taughannock Falls a had two 3-week-old young on 4/8.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Whip-poor-will, 5/2, Palmer's Woods, Ithaca (Long). One also heard most that week north of East Hill Airport and recorded on tape (P. P. Kellogg). Heo near Binghamton 5/17 (Doren, Fassenden, White). First Nighthawk of season, Ithaca, 5/10 (Simon), same date Binghamton. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5/9 at Ithaca (Rosche) and at Binghamton (Bemont). Nest almost complete, 4/6/2 (Hoyt).

While still uncommon in area, there have been a few more reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers this year than in recent years.

Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/13, Ely Park, Binghamton (H. Marsi). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 5/16, Renwick Hgts., Ithaca (Boch). 1st record of Tufted Titmouse in Triple Cities area, 4/25 (Bemont, Rising, Layman). Seen regularly at Stewart Park, Ithaca, all spring. See note below*. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Binghamton 5/9. An early date for House Wren is 4/12 at Binghamton. In Ithaca the first one was 4/24, Etna (Hoyt). Last record for Winter Wren, 5/3 Binghamton. Long-billed March Wren had young in nest 5/13, near Triple Cities.

Hermit Thrush, Binghamton 4/12 (Layman). Nest with 5 eggs, McLean Box 5/12 (WJH III).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was quite conspicuous the first week in May at Ithaca (Stewart Park) but seemed to have disappeared later in the month. It arrived 4/3 at Binghamton (H. Marsi) and 2 nests were located there later. Shrikes again scarce.

* In the July '52 issue, I stated in regard to the Tufted Titmouse that no positive evidence of their breeding at Stewart Park had been found. I have since learned that Mrs. George Welles of Elmira saw 3 or 4 young Titmice following adults in Stewart Park on 5/18/52, and being fed.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Yellow-throated Vireos are reported as uncommon in Triple Cities area this spring. Very few Philadelphia at Ithaca.

Among the Warblers, Tennesseees were abundant at Ithaca in migration and lingered late. More Bay-breasted Warblers were seen than usually, at Ithaca, but **T. C. Nat. Club** reports fewer of this species this year than last. A Prothonotary Warbler was singing at Stewart Park on 5/23 and seen by a dozen observers. Worm-eating Warbler 5/9 at Lower Enfield south of Ithaca (Carter); at Binghamton 5/1 (Marsi), heard singing there on 5/30 (White) no nest located to date. Golden-winged Warbler, Cornell Rifle Range 5/7 (WJH III), Blue-winged Warbler, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, 5/6 (Emerman). Brewster's Warbler 5/16, Binghamton, (Layman Rising). Kentucky Warbler, Triple Cities 5/17, (Layman, Rising, Bemont).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Baltimore Orioles were late in arriving at Ithaca, the first being reported 5/3 by Barbehenn at Treman Park. Numerous reports of increase in numbers of Cardinals

nals throughout the region. Good flocks of Pine Siskins reported everywhere in area; last date at Triple Cities 5/30 (Bemont, Rising). Young Siskins out of nest 6/11 Cornell campus (R. Fischer). Several more flocks of Red Crossbills reported from Triple Cities.

A late Tree Sparrow 5/22 at Beebe Lake, Ithaca (Short). White-crowned Sparrows at Ithaca 5/2 to 5/17. White-throats were unusually abundant and were seen until 5/19 at Ithaca. A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported at Sapsucker Woods 5/3 (Rosche).

Les Bemont has called it to my attention that I attributed several records to him in the last issue which should have gone to the **Triple Cities Naturalists' Club**.

Mrs. Southgate Hoyt
"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 2

The spring has been consistently cool and wet, with an occasional warm day, such as on May 10 and 11 when temperature was in the eighties. The warm days, though few, sent migrating birds through in a hurry, so that we did not have many waves of migration. The frequent rains have produced a luxuriant growth of grass and foliage, and hay meadows have grown rankly. Migration has been rather complete, as most species were recorded.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loons were recorded on the Chemung river as late as May 6, and on Keuka Lake as late as May 17. A pair of Horned Grebes were on the basin at Branchport all through May until the 25th. The Chemung Valley society reports Great Blue Heron very scarce, and the same is true of the Keuka Lake area. The first American Egret appeared at Montezuma Marsh the last week in April. Both Teal were almost absent from Keuka Lake this spring. Black Ducks breed wherever there is an extensive area of swampy woods, and partially grown young were found in the Chemung area on May 30. Wood Duck are using a nest box put up by A. W. Fudge at Lowe Pond. American Mergansers were on the Chemung river as late as May 16.

HAWKS — OWLS:

On April 14 and 15 a Bald Eagle was seen near Catharine Creek, and one over Mrs. York's Hill at Elmira on May 22. Marsh Hawks are scarce this year; a pair that gave evidence of nesting a couple of miles north of Branchport in May are not there this summer — whether something drove them away or they were destroyed I do not know. An Osprey was on Keuka Lake at Branchport as late as May 21. Sparrow Hawks were about their usual numbers during winter and late spring, but are generally scarce now. A Florida Gallinule flew into a barn near Elmira on April 20, and was brought to A. W. Fudge, who banded it. The writer's first Woodcock and Wilson Snipe were both recorded on April 5, and on May 17 in company with M. J. Lerch and C. A. Sturdevant found 3 downy young. Spotted Sandpiper scarce along Keuka Lake. Solitary Sandpiper at Elmira May 2. Caspian Tern appeared May 4, with Common and Black Terns 10 days later. Horned Owls were calling in their usual numbers during spring, but Screech Owls are not common. A Barred Owl was heard near Elmira May 6.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

First Chimney Swifts were recorded by the Elmira group on April 26, and first Hummingbird on the 6th day of May. First Elmira Nighthawk was seen on April 30. Kingfishers were seen along Keuka Lake until May 16 — none since; it is probable that fishermen destroy them. The nesting of one pair in an active gravel pit just north of Branchport was destroyed in the process of taking out gravel. Red-headed Woodpeckers are slightly on the increase the last couple of years; there are 5 areas in the Elmira locality where they are found this year, and there are one or two additional points in Yates county where they are nesting. Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be gradually on the increase. An extremely early recording of the Kingbird was made on April 14 by V. Fudge of the Chemung Valley society. No Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported.

Carleton A. Sturdevant of Prattsburg, who has a large colony of Cliff Swallows on his barns, reports a couple of unusual sidelights on swallow nesting: Several pairs of Cliff Swallows dispossessed Barn Swallows nesting in the hayloft, coming in under the roof and revamping the Barn Swallow nests into their own fashion; also a pair of Tree Swallows drove Cliff Swallows from a nest under the eaves and took over.

The Elmira group reports a Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 2. I have found Thrashers established in several additional spots in Yates and northern Steuben counties. First Migrant Shrike in this area was on March 24.

GNATCATCHERS — WARBLERS:

Gnatcatchers appeared in the Elmira area May 1, and the middle of May a group from the Keuka Park club observed 4 of them a mile south of Branchport. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the Keuka Lake area till May 9, which was also my last date on Ruby-crowns.

Blue-headed Vireo reported on April 19 at Elmira. The Worm-eating Warbler is nesting again at Elmira, and was seen on May 10. Warblers came through on about their usual schedules, and all species which we customarily find were reported. Pine Warblers are becoming more scarce with the continued cutting of red pine, which in this area is their natural habitat. Many Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from the Chemung River area, but they are scarce in the Keuka Lake region. Their fluctuations, however, are governed by the change in habitat; after brush and second growth reach a certain stage the Chats go elsewhere.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Rusty Blackbirds were scarce this spring, only a few being reported. Meadow-larks arrived in the Keuka Lake area on March 13. Baltimore Orioles arrived about their usual dates, but they appear to have proceeded immediately to nesting, for young orioles were out of the nest and chattering by the 15th of June, which is almost two weeks earlier than normal. First Scarlet Tanagers were reported on May 6, both from the Elmira and Branchport areas.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appear to be slightly on the increase over the area. A Blue Grosbeak was found on Big Island in the Chemung river on May 16, and was seen by several observers. Evening Grosbeaks were at Horseheads as late as April 28. On May 1 the writer found a flock of a dozen to 15 White-winged Crossbills in the hemlocks on his farm. Seven Pine Grosbeaks were seen on May 3 southeast of Elmira. Indigo Buntings appeared at Elmira on May 9; this species has greatly increased in the past 20 years. The Chemung Valley society had Slate-colored Junco on May 16; they occasionally spend the summer at higher altitudes in the southern tier, especially where there are swampy woods and hemlock. Vesper Sparrow was recorded at Elmira on April 4.

Charles J. Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.