

LOONS — DUCKS: The recently discovered Red-throated Loon migration (*Kingbird* Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 49, 1952) occurred in the latter part of April, the birds following the Lake Ontario shore westward. The height of this flight occurred on 4/25 with counts of several hundred. About 5 American Egrets seen in May; Least Bittern a few reports; Brant small numbers in May; one Snow Goose 4/4 and one Blue Goose 4/4 and again on 5/31; two European Teal on 4/25 and one on 5/16, all males, Rochester; King Eider — two on 4/15-25, male and female (or immature) near Rochester, one adult male on 5/16, Sodus Bay; one White Pelican 5/14 to 5/16 at Sodus Bay.

HAWKS — OWLS: The best hawk flight of the Spring was on 4/22 near Rochester with totals of 3545 Broad-winged and 634 Sharp-shinned; 5 Duck Hawks, 3 Pigeon Hawks and no Goshawks (numbers are estimates and counts) seen during May; one Golden Eagle 4/30 and one 5/2 near Rochester; Ruffed Grouse showed increasing reports; one King Rail 5/9 from Rochester. A very unusual flight of Golden Plovers (usually rare in spring) occurred from 4/21 to 5/1 with a high estimate of 210 on 5/1 at Rochester — flocks were seen moving east along the Lake Ontario shore. On the first date, 4/21 a flock of 100 (est.) was seen; the high count for Black-bellied Plovers occurred a little later on 5/16 with a count of 21; one Hudsonian Curley 5/29 at Rochester about the same time several hundred were reported near Buffalo. A few white-rumped Sandpipers in May; two unusual May Dowitcher records; a male Wilson's Phalarope (rare here) was seen 5/31 near Rochester; last date for Glaucous Gull 5/22; Black-backed Gull present to end of May; one immature Little Gull seen on 5/8 near Rochester; four Barn Owls reported near Rochester; last Snowy Owl date 5/31; we had normal flights of Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls in April along the Lake Ontario shore; seven Barred Owls 5/16 Sodus Bay.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few reports of Pileated, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers. The first and second of May produced quite a few early dates. It will be interesting to see if other areas also noted a great influx of migrants; first Crested Flycatcher 4/30; first Kingbird 5/1; first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 5/16; one Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/16; first Least Flycatcher 5/1; Acadian Flycatcher **none**; first Cliff Sparrow 4/6; three Carolina Wrens reported; our **first recent record for Bewick's Wren** 4/21 to 23 at Rochester; first Catbird and Wood Thrush 5/1; first Veery 4/30; first Olive-backed Thrush 5/3; Grey-cheeked Thrush a few in May; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher more than usual in late April; last Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5/30; no definite Mockingbird reports.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: First Blue-headed Vireo 4/21, last 5/28; a few reports of Philadelphia Vireo; our **first recent record** (Rochester) of **White-eyed Vireo** 5/2 (see Eaton, *Birds of N. Y.* Vol. 2, p. 376); Prothonotary Warbler two on 5/16, one on 5/23; Orange-crowned Warbler two on 5/20 near Rochester; Pine Warbler one on 4/20 near Rochester; Yellow Palm Warbler few reports in late April; ten Louisiana Waterthrushes on 5/15 Canandaigua Lake; Connecticut Warbler a few reports (this bird seems to appear about as often as Philadelphia Vireo); two Blue-winged Warbler reports from Rochester; our **first recent record for Rochester area for Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/15; one Yellow-breasted Chat 5/31 Rochester; one Kentucky Warbler 5/29 at Rochester; an estimated high of 1,000 Myrtle Warblers on 5/7 Rochester; first Parula and Chestnut-sided Warblers 5/1; first Bay-breasted Warbler 5/3.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: First Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5/1; one to three Evening Grosbeaks seen in May; one White-winged Crossbill in May; no Red Crossbills seen; last Tree Sparrow 5/31 (very late here) Rochester; last Fox Sparrow 5/22 (very late) Rochester; last Lapland Longspur 5/9.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

Region Three includes all of Chemung, Tompkins, Seneca, Schuyler, Yates and Steuben Counties, and that part of Cayuga County south of the Seneca River and of Ontario County east of Mud Creek and Routes 64 and 21 to the Yates County Line at Woodville.

The most conspicuous feature of this area is the series of lakes which gives it the name of Finger Lakes. They vary in size from 40 mile long Cayuga to 11 mile long Owasco, and include Seneca (36 miles), Keuka (21 miles) and Canandaigua (16 miles). Skaneateles lies just outside the area. The lakes are narrow and deep, and consequently are slow in freezing over, affording open water for a large waterfowl population throughout most winters. The section of Region Three which contains these lakes (central and north) is marked by rolling hills, some of them fairly high.

The southern third of the region is characterized by higher hills and extensions of the Allegheny Plateau, particularly in the south-western corner of Steuben County. This area is crossed diagonally by the Canisteo and Cohocton Rivers, which unite at Corning to form the Chemung.

The Finger Lakes drain to the north, and the area along the northern border of Region 3 is characterized by swamps, ponds and fertile muck lands. The Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge is found here, a mecca for waterfowl and shorebirds during migration. There are other large streams in addition to those already named, including the inlets to the Finger Lakes, and Seneca River and the barge canal.

Elevation varies from 381 feet above sea level at the north end of Cayuga Lake, to approximately 2400 feet in Steuben County.

Much of the northern two-thirds of the region consists of cultivated or abandoned farm-lands, and vineyards are common along several of the lakes. Reforestation projects are being carried out on abandoned lands by the Conservation Department and cooperating individuals. The southern third of the area contains much more forested acreage.

With the exception of the extreme southwestern corner, and the eastern portion of Cayuga County, Region Three is well covered by a series of bird clubs.

The Eaton Bird Club, with headquarters at Geneva, covers an area bounded on the north by Route 31 from the Seneca River to Palmyra, on the west from Palmyra south along the west side of Canandaigua Lake, on the south by the Ontario-Yates County Line, continuing east from a point opposite Long Point on Seneca Lake through Ovid to west shore of Cayuga, and the eastern boundary is the center of Cayuga Lake north along the east bank of the Seneca River to Route 31. Principal areas covered by the club are the contained bodies of water, the Montezuma Refuge, Castle Creek, Cook's Woods, Mile Point, Glenwood and Washington Street Cemeteries, Border City Swamp, all in or near Geneva; and the Pine Plains region north and east of Geneva, as well as the area adjoining the Sampson Air Force Base and Seneca Ordnance Depot, the south end of Canandaigua Lake and the Clifton Springs area.

The Keuka Park Conservation Club covers regularly an area entirely surrounding Keuka Lake and Lamoka Lake, and extending in a narrow strip north-east to Seneca Lake. Less regularly the Club covers the area of Yates County north and west of Penn Yan to the Ontario County Line. The highest point is Italy Hill, at 2030 feet. There is little swampy area in the region, forest is mostly second growth beech, maple and hemlock with a few small stands of white and red pine, and some oak and hickory on the dry ridges. There is an area of about 10 acres of virgin forest in the Juber-town Swamp.

The Chemung Valley Audubon Society, with headquarters at Elmira, covers Chemung County and the eastern portion of Steuben County. The chief points of interest are the Chemung Valley, 7 acre pond near Millport, the Horseheads Marsh, ponds at Big Flats, hemlock forest on hills in the area, a marsh west of Corning, and the Catlin area. The highest point is Quackenbush Hill, a little over 1800 feet.

The Watkins Montour Bird Club covers an area on either side of the southern end of Seneca Lake, with boundaries pretty much the same as those of Schuyler County. The Watkins Glen Gorge is the most outstanding feature of this area, which also includes smaller gorges and Catherine's Creek.

Ithaca is the headquarters of the Cayuga Bird Club, the Cornell Field Ornithology Club, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell and the recently-organized Dryden Bird Club is at nearby Dryden. These groups cover the entire Cayuga Lake Basin, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and all of Tompkins County. The favorite interesting areas for bird life include the Fuertes Sanctuary and the Hog Hole at the head of the lake, Sapsucker Woods, Larch Meadows, Ringwood Preserve, Spencer Marsh, Michigan Hollow and Danby Beaver Pond, Connecticut Hill and Taughannock Gorge. Good observation points for waterfowl on the Lake include, on the east side: Myers Point, King Ferry, Aurora Bay, Levanna, Farley's and Cayuga; on the west side: the Hog Hole, Glenwood, Taughannock, Sheldrake and Canoga.

In addition to these clubs, one observer reports from Avoca. It would be well to have a club with headquarters at Hornell to cover Steuben County, and one at Auburn to cover the section between Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes.

April and May were, in general, cold, wet months in the Finger Lakes. A few pleasant days in the early part of April brought in some migrants ahead of schedule, but then migration seemed to be at a stand-still for a period, and by early May was running behind schedule. None of the area reporters noted any real waves, and reported that migration was "spotty". First nestings seemed slightly delayed, perhaps because of the cool wet weather.

We have succeeded in extending our coverage into the south-western corner of Steuben County, as Mr. William Groesbeck of Hornell will collect material from that area.

Observers in all sections of the Area agree that Alder Flycatchers have increased in numbers markedly while Bluebirds seem to be on the decrease.

LOONS — DUCKS: Fewer reports of Loons than usual. Horned Grebes were noted at Elmira, including a rather late one on May 15 (Fudge). A double-crested Cormorant was reported at Montezuma 5/2 (Walker). Great Blue Herons on Hornell Reservoir 4/20 (Groesbeck), 3 American Egrets at Montezuma 5/21 (Walker). Reports of Whistling Swan were more common, 1 at Hornell Reservoir 4/2 (Groesbeck), 7 at Goodale Lake near Homer 4/3 (Dunham); 1 imm. on Seneca Lake 4/4 (Bardeen) and 2 at Catlin 4/1 (Andrus). American Brant are turning up more regularly too, or perhaps being recognized more often. 4 near Geneva on Seneca 4/30 (Walker), a flock of 50 flying over Ithaca 5/14 (Jehl) and several reports of a single bird at s. end of Cayuga last two weeks in May. A Cornell Conservation class saw a Blue Goose 4/10 at Scipio.

The Elmira group reports Blue-winged Teal down in number this year. A flock of 100 White-winged Scoters was noteworthy on Keuka Lake, a mile south of Branchport 5/8 (Spiker) and smaller numbers were also reported on Cayuga 5/16 (McIlroy) and Hornell Reservoir 4/21 (Groesbeck).

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures were more numerous than in other years in Elmira area, in April and May. A Goshawk was seen at Montezuma 4/4 (Walker) and at Catlin 5/1 and 5/23 (L. Andrus); Red-shouldered Hawks nests with eggs were found near Ithaca on 4/18 and 4/20 (Meng); more Broadwings than usual were seen over Avoca 4/20 (Carter) and one was seen over South Hill, Ithaca 4/21

(Seeber). A late date for a Rough-legged Hawk is 5/29, near Ithaca (A. Fudge). Hazel Ellis Loomis reported a Golden Eagle over Pinnacle Hill, near Branchport on 5/25, an unusual spring report. Duck Hawk reports were few, one over Elmira 5/31 (Fudge) and one at Potter Swamp (Mrs. J. Whitaker). Sparrow Hawks, which had been common all winter near Avoca, were reported as scarce in May (Carter).

Ruffed Grouse with 10 eggs near Ludlowville 5/9 (Green). Florida Gallinules were reported at Montezuma 4/11 (Rosche), and were seen 5/16 on Dryden Lake. The CVAS reports fewer Coot at Elmira this year.

The first Wilson's Snipe report of the year was 4/15, at East Hill airport (AAA and EGA). Upland Plover were reported at Dryden 4/2 (J. Jones), near Waterloo 4/30 (Walker) and near the village of Italy Hill 5/30 (Spiker).

Solitary Sandpiper, usually irregular at Hornell but this year 7 spent a week in early May (Groesbeck); 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were observed at Horseheads 5/26 (Welles).

Boneparte Gull reports were scarce. None around Elmira, but one on 5/1 at Salubria (Fudge), 1 at s. end Cayuga 4/4 (Simon).

2 Long-eared Owls were seen at Turner's Woods, Horseheads, 5/15 (Samson) and 2 Saw-whet Owls 5/15 on Sullivan's Mtn. (Manns).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Hummingbirds were rather late in arrival in Ithaca area. A small flock of Nighthawks was observed flying north over Avoca 5/24 (Carter). Reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers are fewer, of Redheaded Woodpeckers are increasing, having been seen at Ithaca Yacht Club 5/1 (West), Back Road, Watkins Glen 5/5 (V. Smith), Turner's Woods, Horseheads 5/15 (Samson) and E. Lake Road, (Seneca) by Bardeen. On the other hand, Walker (Seneca Falls) did not find them in usual places he covers.

An Acadian Flycatcher was seen at Hornell 5/3 (Groesbeck), and Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported 5/30 at Catlin (Andrus) and on York Hill 5/31 (York).

A small colony of Purple Martins seems to have become established in Elmira at last (Harvey). Tufted Titmice occur at several stations in Elmira now, and one was reported at Dryden 5/3 (Dunham). Redbreasted Nuthatches were more common at Elmira than usual. Reports at Ithaca were few. Brown Creepers were numerous in Watkins Glen area until middle of April (Bardeen). A Carolina Wren "returned" to Woodward Cottage near Watkins Glen on 5/16. Waves of Golden-crowned Kinglets passed through Watkins area 5/30 and 5/31 (H. Garnsey). Brown Thrashers are reported as being more common this year around Avoca (Carter).

Veeries seem down in numbers in Ithaca-Dryden area (Kelsey, Hoyt).

More stations are reporting Blue Gray Gnatcatchers each year. 2 were seen at Hornell 5/6, first in experience of Mr. Groesbeck. Guthrie reports them increasing around Keuka. One was seen at Dryden 4/24 (Dunham), and the pair returned to old station at Canal Area, Watkins, completed a nest, then deserted it.

A Pipit was found dead 4/3 at Trumansburg (K. Andrew). Waxwings are scarcer in the Watkins Glen area (Welles).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: All Vireos seemed low in number in Watkins area (Bardeen). Fewer Blueheaded Vireos around Dryden this year (Kelsey). No reports at Ithaca of Philadelphia, one at Waterloo 4/30 (Walker). A White-eyed Vireo, rare in the Finger Lakes, was seen 5/9 and 5/15 at a marsh near Horseheads (A. Fudge).

There were no outstanding Warbler waves in Watkins area or in Ithaca, but birds came through on schedule. First flocks around Avoca were noticed 4/29, including Myrtles and Black-throated Greens (Carter). A small wave, more noticeable for species than numbers, was noted at Avoca on 5/25.

Prothonotary Warbler at Ithaca 5/15 (New).

Three stations reported Worm-eating Warblers this year — the first one in ten years at Keuka Park (Mrs. J. Whitaker) on 5/4; at York Hill, Elmira 5/13, and at Avoca 5/14.

Prof. Guthrie reports Golden-winged Warblers somewhat more common this year around Keuka Park. Blue-winged Warblers are well established at Michigan Hollow, s. e. of Ithaca. Parula Warbler, which is very irreg. at Hornell, was seen 5/3 (Groesbeck). **A Yellow-throated Warbler, extremely rare at Ithaca,** was seen singing for several hours behind the Conservation Bldg. on Cornell campus 5/24 (Hewitt). A Prairie, also irregular, was observed singing 5/29 at Varna (Gibbs). A Kentucky Warbler was at Renwick at Ithaca 5/16 (Rosche et al). Prof. Guthrie reports Yellow-breasted Chats increasing in number in Keuka area. A pair, presumably

the same, returned to Bardeen farm near Burdett for 6th year on 5/14. Mourning Warbler 5/4 at Keuka Park (Mrs. J. Whitaker) and 5/30 Potter Woods (Spiker). Wilson's Warbler, usually uncommon, at Bardeen Farm 5/19, and at Horseheads 5/15 (A. Fudge). Canada Warbler, also uncommon, was reported at Strathmont (Burr).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: An Orchard Oriole, which many years isn't seen at Ithaca, was reported 5/24 by K. Thorp. Cardinals, which did not occur at Avoca 10 years ago, are now well established there (Carter). 3 day old Cardinals in nest, at Ithaca 5/2 (AAA). Indigo Buntings seemed late in arrival at Keuka 5/16 (Guthrie) and at Hornell 5/19 (Groesbeck).

Tree Sparrows left Avoca 4/24 (Carter). White throated Sparrows were at Avoca 4/20 to 5/26, and another rather late Whitethroat lingered on York Hill, Elmira until 5/27. Mrs. Carter had a flock of 14 White-crowned Sparrows 4/30 to 5/14, with one bird remaining until 5/23. The only report of a Lincoln's Sparrow was from Horseheads Marsh (Fudge) on 5/9.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

The weather has been somewhat colder and rainier during April and May than usual, although not as wet as the same period last year. Wood Pewees, Chimney Swifts and the main wave of Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers have been quite late, perhaps as a consequence of the weather but otherwise the migration has been close to normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were seen regularly at Deposit up until May 16 and a Red-throated Loon was reported from the same place May 8 and again May 23 (Wilson). Five Common Loons were seen at Norwich April 28 (R. White). No Loons around Binghamton as usual. The last Horned Grebes were seen at Binghamton April 26 and at Deposit April 29.

An adult Little Blue Heron was seen April 8 at Lippincott Marsh, 1½ mi. south of Halsey Valley in Tioga Co. by Stuart Free and Bob Folker and reported to Dr. Kellogg at Cornell. It is most unusual to find the adult bird this far north.

A Brant was seen at Deposit May 8 (Wilson).

Last Baldpates were two at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton April 29. Also reported from Boland's Marsh; a Garwall April 3 and three Shovellers April 19 (Sheffields) and a Ruddy Duck April 17 (Layman).

The last Buffleheads were 5 at Deposit April 23 and the last Old Squaws April 27 (Wilson). A pair of late American Mergansers were seen near Corbett in Delaware Co. May 30 (Sheffields).

HAWKS — OWLS: Hawks have been very low in numbers in the Binghamton area. Not a single live Broad-winged Hawk was reported, but a dead one was found near Endicott May 16 (Washburn). Numbers have been more normal around Deposit.

Herring Gulls left Deposit April 20 and Ring-billed Gulls left May 4 (Wilson). Bonaparte's Gulls seen in small numbers at Deposit, Whitney Point and Norwich from April 7 to April 25. Black Terns at Binghamton April 28 (Naturalists' Club) and Norwich May 12 (R. White).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Chimney Swifts arrived in Binghamton April 30 (Saunders) more than a week late. At Deposit May 2 and Norwich May 3. Nighthawks at Binghamton May 11 (Sheffields).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Ely Park in Binghamton May 1 (Nat. Club).

A Wood Pewee reported from Norwich May 2 (R. White). Otherwise Pewees have been very late. May 18 at Deposit, May 20 at Binghamton and May 23 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and May 24 at Oxford (Mrs. A. Stratton). A few Olive-sided Flycatchers have been reported starting May 19 in Deposit (Wilson) and May 28 at Binghamton (Bemont, Fessenden and Washburn).

A late Brown Creeper was reported from Norwich May 30 (R. White).

Blue-grey Gnatcatchers have increased noticeably around Binghamton this year and two were reported from Bainbridge April 13 (E. J. Smith). Wilson reports Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in Deposit.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blue-headed Vireos have been more common than usual in Binghamton this spring. First seen April 28 (Nat. Club), at Deposit April 20 (Wilson). Yellow-throated Vireos were at Bainbridge May 2 (E. J. Smith). A