

Philadelphia Vireo at Binghamton May 14 (Bemont, Fessenden). The first Warbling Vireo at Oxford May 1 (Stratton).

Warblers have been about normal in numbers, although more spread out than usual with few spectacular waves. The main wave of Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers didn't show up until the last few days of May which is a little late even for them. Pine Warblers were uncommon and late. Parulas, Golden-wings, Tennessee, Blackburnians and Chats were up in numbers. Cape Mays, Black-throated Greens and Canadas were down in numbers from last year.

Some dates: Worm-eating May 5 (Marsi), Golden-winged May 1 (Marsi), Orange-crowned May 11 (Bemont, Fessenden), Parula and Cape May April 28 (Bemont), Chat May 2 (Nat. Club) all at Binghamton. Nashville and Louisiana Waterthrush April 20, Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian April 24 and Wilson's May 24 all at Deposit (Wilson). Redstart May 1 and Mourning Warbler May 22 at Norwich (R. White).

For the second year in a row a Brewster's Warbler was found on the Naturalists' Club's Spring Census. This year by the Sheffields May 16.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** The first Bobolinks arrived at Deposit May 2 (Wilson). Baltimore Orioles descended on the whole area May 1. Binghamton, Deposit, Norwich, Oxford and Bainbridge all report their first one on that date. The last Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Deposit April 11 (Wilson).

Scarlet Tanagers arrived at Binghamton May 1 (Sheffields) and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Deposit May 2 (Wilson).

White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Deposit May 1 (Wilson) and were last seen in both Binghamton and Deposit May 16.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

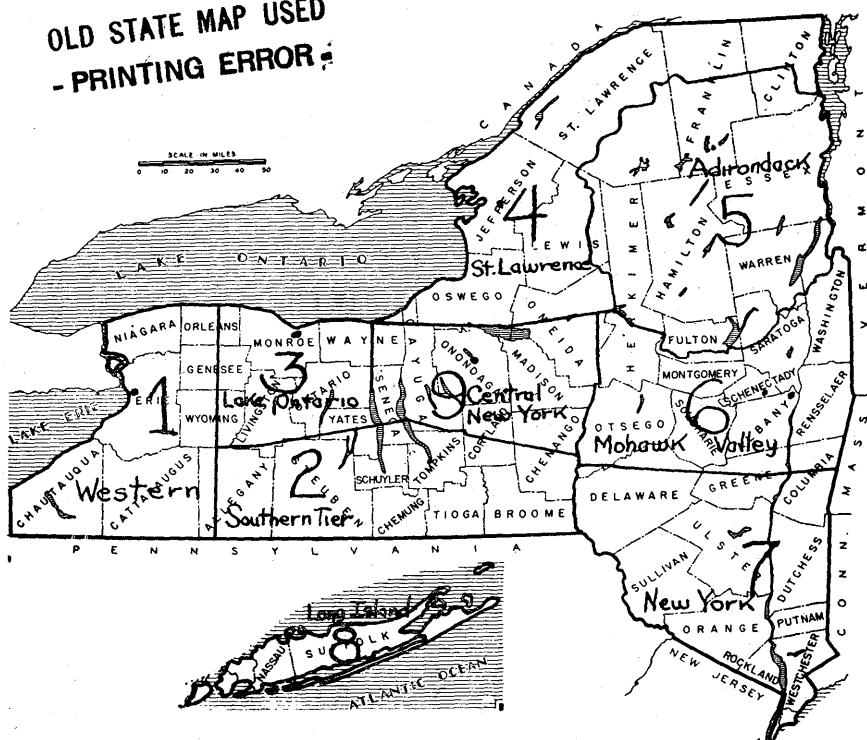
April began with 5 inches of March snow still present and remained until April 6, after which a 5 day warm spell ensued. Mid-April turned cool again and mostly cloudy. The end of April saw an extremely hot spell, which accelerated leaf growth tremendously and proved a severe handicap throughout May. The first few days of May were hot and muggy; this period was broken on the 3rd by a violent cloud-burst (2½" rain in 2 hours). The next nine days were consistently cold and cloudy with rain in the morning, clearing in the afternoon, and cool and cloudy or raining in the evening. May 13-19 was warm and fair, but the next five days were cool and cloudy. The last week in May had cool, clear weather with Memorial Day weekend very hot.

The spring migration was notable primarily for the absence of any pronounced waves (small waves occurred on 4/29, 5/2, 5, 9, 17 & 27) and the consequent low counts of warblers, thrushes, and vireos, all of which trickled through the Region. The big wave of late migrants and females of earlier migrants, which usually occurs in the last 5 days of May, was not observed this year; instead, only small and sporadic counts could be tabulated. Despite the low counts, good variety was present and widely so.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Common Loon — first date on 4/11, peak on 4/18 when 73 (singles and small groups) were seen flying northwest over Lake Ontario. Red-necked Grebe — 1 at Oneida Lake on 4/12 (E. Evans, F. Schneider). Horned Grebes hit their peak (36) on 4/25, while Pied-billed Grebes reached their (20) on 4/15. Great Blue Herons — 4 nests in a flooded swamp just south of Labrador Pond on 5/26. Whistling Swan — high count of 16 on 4/4 on Oneida Lake; last date was 2 on 4/8, also at Oneida Lake. Canada Goose — one of the best flights of any bird this spring; high count of 4000 on 4/15 at Mud Lake just west of Baldwinsville; 6 still present there at end of period. Brant — 17 on 5/16 at Sandy Pond (W. Minor, M. Wrangell, M. Rush); still present there on 5/30 (E. Evans, F. Scheider). Snow Goose — 5 on 4/4 at Brewerton, Oneida Lake (E. Evans); present for about 3 days. Green-winged Teal — 28 on 4/13 at Three Rivers Game Management Area is the high count for this spring. Shoveller — although common just to the west of us, this bird is a rare spring transient here — 8 on 4/17 at Cross Lake. Ring-necked Duck — last date, 1 on 5/23 at Oneida Lake. Canvasback — high count of 775 on 4/12 at Muskrat Bay, Oneida Lake. Greater Scaup, Golden Eye, American and Red-breasted Merganser — as usual all lingered in small numbers

# REPORTING REGIONS

OLD STATE MAP USED  
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through May on Lakes Oneida and Ontario. White-winged Scoter — 1 dead male at Sandy Pond on 4/25. Ruddy Duck — 2 spring records of this uncommon transient — 3 males, 1 female on 5/2 at Oneida Lake; 2 males on 5/16 on Mud Lake.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Turkey Vulture reports increasing, particularly northwest of Syracuse. Sharp-shinned Hawk — flight passed through 4/9 - 4/30 with peak on 4/18. Red-tailed Hawk — 18 young banded by Dr. B. P. Burtt of Syracuse, who also banded 2 Red-shouldered Hawks and 10 Sparrow Hawks this spring. Rough-legged Hawk — last date was a light phase bird on 5/2 at Bridgeport (E. Evans, M. Wrangell). Duck Hawk — 1 adult on 4/12 at Hitchcock Point, Oneida Lake, (E. Evans, F. Scheider). Pigeon Hawk — 1 female on 4/25 at Sandy Pond (W. Minor, H. F. Flamm); 1 on same date at Oneida (fide P. R. Pacquette). Virginia Rail — not reported until early May, which is about 10 days late. Sora — first date is 1 on 4/17 at Syracuse. Semipalmated Plover — first date, 2 on 5/9 at Sandy Pond; not reported again until 5/30 at the same place. Piping Plover — 1 on 4/25 at Sandy Pond (Minor, Flamm, Scheider); have looked for it there unsuccessfully several times since that date. Killdeer had young out by 5/13. Ruddy Turnstone — peak of 50 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond. Black Bellied Plover — 29 on 5/30 at Selkirk. Snipe were late by three weeks and considerably reduced in numbers as compared to previous springs. Upland Plover — first date on 4/23 along N. Y. Thruway; peak of numbers was 4/25 - 5/5. Pectoral Sandpiper — 1 on 4/13 at Oneida Lake; scarce through the remainder of the spring. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings normal in dates, but reduced in total numbers. Glaucous Gull

— last reported on 4/18 — 1 second-year bird at Oswego, where a first-year Iceland was also seen on the same date; these birds may have stayed later, but could not be checked on. Great Black-backed Gulls — 6 immatures still present at Sandy Pond Inlet at end of period. Caspian Tern — high count of 12 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond Inlet. Yellow-billed Cuckoo — first date, 5/12; Black-billed Cuckoo — first date 5/7; both cuckoos were down in numbers as compared to last year. Snowy Owl — last date, 1 on 4/20 at Baldwinsville (C. Farnham). Short-eared Owl — though its fall and winter pattern paralleled the Rough-legged Hawk, it left considerably earlier — last date, 1 on 4/7 at Oneida Lake.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Nighthawks were over a week late (probably because of the cool and wet May). Red-headed Woodpeckers — first date on 5/2 at Colosse (V. P. Mathises), with a scattering of records (Syracuse, Oswego) in the second week of May as the only indication of a peak. Crested Flycatcher — 1 on 4/28 at Fayetteville, first date; peak numbers did not come through until the third week in May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 3 reports this spring, 1 on 5/23 at Selkirk as the earliest. Alder Flycatcher — 2 birds on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation; this remarkably early date is probably the result of the hot spell at the end of April; the next record is 2 weeks later — 1 on 5/16. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows both at nest holes in the wind-carved dunes at Sandy Pond on 5/30. Cliff Swallow — 2 colonies reported — 1 on 5/26 just south of Labrador Pond; 1 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond Corners. Red-breasted Nuthatch — very sparse flight this spring; first date on 4/19 (1) with peak in first week of May; 1 still at Labrador Pond on 5/23. Brown Creeper — peak date was 20 on 4/12 at Oneida Lake. Winter Wren — 14 on 4/25 at Sandy Pond is our highest spring count in several years. Carolina Wren — 1 on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation; 1 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley; 1 on 5/16 at Three Rivers Game Management Area; later in May, 2 birds were intermittently seen in Clark's Reservation. Three reports of this southern bird in one season is indicative of the recent invasion of northern areas by Southern species. Mockingbird — 1 on 5/30 at Oneida (fide Pacquette). Wood Thrush — peak dates at Syracuse, 5/5 - 5/15. Hermit Thrush — migration was quite late and prolonged with the spring high count at Syracuse on 5/1. Olive-backed Thrush — first date, 2 on 5/3 at Syracuse, but not common until the last week of May. Gray-cheeked Thrush — 1 on 5/27 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse (F. Scheider). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (more of the southern element) 3 reports this spring with 2 on 4/22 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse the earliest. Golden-crowned Kinglet — tremendous wave through Syracuse on 4/9-10; last date 4/25 at Syracuse; 1 was seen on 5/16 (a very late date) in the Forestry Experiment Station at Syracuse. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — high counts (as many as 50 in 1 hour's walk), primarily in the first week of May; last date, 2 on 5/24 at Syracuse. Pipit — late date, 2 on 5/2 at Selkirk (E. Evans). Northern Shrike — last date, 1 adult on 4/4 at Oneida Lake. Loggerhead Shrike — 2 spring records, both in mid-April from western Oswego County.

**VIREOS — FRINGILLIDS:** Blue-headed Vireo — unaccountably scarce this spring, but W. R. Spofford reports them as common on 5/1 at Big Moose. Red-eyed Vireo — peak of flight did not come until the last week in May, surprisingly late. Philadelphia Vireo — first date, 1 on 5/12 at Westernville (Mrs. F. W. May); present (1 each day) 5/18, 24, 27 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse (F. Scheider). Warbling Vireo — first date, 1 on 4/28 at Clark's Reservation; birds widely present by 5/9.

Warblers: Prothonotary — first date, 5 on 5/13 at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake (E. Evans); nest (with 3 eggs) in a low, water-surrounded tree stub on 5/22 at same place. Worm-eating — 1 on 5/22 at Selkirk (E. Evans). Golden-winged — as the range of coverage grows, the reports also rise — 5 more probable breeding sites were found this spring, mostly in southern Oswego County. Blue-winged — 1 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley (M. Wrangell, F. Scheider); bird was continuously present until last date of checking (5/23). Tennessee — first report, 1 on 5/13 at Syracuse; peak 5/16-22. Orange-crowned — 1 on 5/27, Syracuse (Scheider); 1 on same date at Selkirk (E. Evans). Nashville — good flight but no noticeable flocks. Yellow — first date, 4/22 at Fayetteville; extremely common 5/1-4. Cape May — normal dates, but very poor numbers; highest count was only 20 on 5/16 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Myrtle — first date, 4/9, 2 at Syracuse; very poor

numbers through Syracuse area, but good counts from along Lake Ontario. Cerulean — 5 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley; by 5/23 the number there was up to 15. Blackburnian — peak came very early, 35 on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation. Yellow-throated — 1 singing bird was studied for 25 minutes on 4/30 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; observer (F. Scheider) close enough (10') to note that eye-line was all white, hence probably "*albilora*". Bay-breasted and Black-poll — normal first dates (5/9 and 5/17, respectively), but numbers sharply reduced. Pine — 1 on 4/9 at Syracuse constitutes an earliest **recorded** date. Palm — small wave of these on 5/6 at Syracuse. Louisiana Waterthrush — very sporadic in this area as far as locations go; Camillus Valley and Green Lakes State Park are the only two areas which regularly produced them this spring. Connecticut — 1 singing male on 5/16 along the Salmon River, east of Pulaski (E. Evans). Yellow-throat — first reported on 4/22 at Syracuse. Chat — 1 on 5/30 at Oneida is our first report in several years. Hooded — singing males at three different localities (Green Lakes, Selkirk, Camillus Valley) in late May. Wilson's — peak date seemed to be 3 on 5/27, Syracuse.

Red-winged Blackbird — big flight of females through the area in second week of April. Rusty Blackbird — first date for migrants, 3 on 3/4 at Westernville; still present on 5/16 at Scott Swamp, Phoenix. Indigo Bunting — 2 (1 had highly pied plumage of gray, brown, and blue) on 5/5 at Syracuse. Purple Finch — poor spring flight with high counts falling between 4/15 - 5/7. Pine Siskin — 1 on 4/17 at Cleveland; 2 on 5/16 at Three Rivers G. M. A. White-winged Crossbill — 2 females on 4/22 at Labrador Pond (W. R. Spofford). Vesper and Savannah Sparrows — first arrivals in first week of April, but peak 4/12-20. Slate-colored Junco — last date was 1 on 5/23 at Oneida (P. R. Pacquette). Tree Sparrow — sharp drop off in second week of April with last date, 1 on 4/22 at Westernville. Chipping Sparrow — great numbers passing through in the first week in May; high count, 85 in 1 hour in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, on 5/3. White-crowned Sparrows passed through rapidly (5/2 - 5/14) and in only moderate numbers (25 peak day). White-throated Sparrows — 6 locality records on 4/20 indicate the first wave; main flight was 4/20 - 5/10; 1 still present on 5/31. Fox Sparrow — **very** poor flight; low in numbers and short in duration. Lincoln's Sparrow — 1 on 5/16, Sandy Pond (Minor, Flamm, et al.); 1 each on 5/27, 28 at Syracuse. Lapland Longspur — 4 in spring plumage on 4/3 at Toad Harbor, North Shore, Oneida Lake.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

**LOONS — DUCKS:** About 60 Common Loons at Henderson Harbor April 15; Redhead and Canvasback Ducks at Point Peninsula April 8; Shoveller April 9 and Baldpate April 4.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Sora Rail May 14; Wilson's Snipe one on April 18; Osprey May 25; Upland Plover, several reports indicating they are holding their own (J. Wilson) and perhaps increasing in some areas (Kelknop); Black-billed Cuckoo May 29; Snowy Owl seen May 18 and 30; Nighthawk May 14.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Red-headed Woodpecker first seen May 23, about as many reports as usual; Crested Flycatcher May 2; Olive-sided Flycatcher May 31; Barn Swallow and male Purple Martin May 2; Brown Thrasher April 25, appeared more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** Warbling Vireo May 2 at Lowville (Bowen); Myrtle Warbler April 25 at Lowville (Bowen); Canada and Black-throated Green Warblers May 29; Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers May 31.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** Rusty Blackbird more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen); Field Sparrow more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen), April 25; Indigo Bunting May 20.

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