

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The poor migration was best exemplified by the lateness and scarcity of these two groups. An exception was the extremely early Blue-headed Vireo seen by Rew and Mitchell at Tifft Street in Buffalo on April 17, but I find no record of the Red-eye until May 14 nor of the Yellow-throated until the same date. Warblers which arrived in April were Black and White (26th), Yellow (23rd), Pine (19th), Black-throated Green and Blackburnian (27th, Cattaraugus Co., Eaton), Louisiana Waterthrush (17th, Cattaraugus Co., Eaton), and Northern Waterthrush (24th). The Tennessee (May 5), Chestnut-sided (May 1 and 4), Ovenbird (May 4), and Canada (May 8) were encouraged by the warm first days of May, but almost all the other species were disgracefully late, and in all the many reports of field trips I can find only one record of Cape May (May 8, Cattaraugus Co., Eaton) until the spring census on May 22, when the migration was practically ended. This is unprecedented in western New York, where the species is usually reported early and often.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Dickcissel, a rarity in western New York, visited the Klabundes' yard at Lewiston from April 24 to 28. Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were right on time. Indigo Buntings were quite late. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in small numbers from four localities in April, and flocks of thirty were still in Hamburg, Jamestown, Olean and Wellsville during the first three weeks of May. Mrs. Dorothy Baker reported to Mrs. McMurtry that she had observed ten Pine Grosbeaks at Belmont May 6. White-crowned Sparrows were unusually early (May 1, Wellsville, McMurtry), but other sparrows were pretty much normal in their arrival.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

April and May were dry with normal or slightly cool temperatures. Vegetation was somewhat ahead of schedule, but birds were mostly late in arrival, there were no waves, and people everywhere complained that birds were scarce, that residents had not returned to their yards this year. The question has been raised as to whether the hurricanes of last fall might have killed many on migration. While opinions of population varied in the case of a few species throughout this Region, there was general agreement that Swallows, Chipping Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Bluebirds, and most Warblers were scarce. Around Elmira, the water-table was low and waterfowl scarce.

Correction: In report from Region 3 in last issue of *Kingbird*, I should have said: "Great Black Backed Gulls were down in numbers on Seneca" (not Keuka) (Guthrie).

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were seen in good numbers on Cayuga in April (Walker). Holboell's Grebe on Chemung River south of Elmira 5/1 was unusual (A. Fudge) and a Horned Grebe found dead at Avoca 4/20 by Atwood was first recorded in some years there. The Pied-billed Grebe was nesting at the new Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary pond near Ithaca in late May (AAA). 13 D. C. Cormorants on Cayuga on 4/16 (Walker) and 20 on 5/15 (Gambrell). Great Blue Herons appeared at Montezuma in large numbers on schedule, were reported as scarce at Avoca this year. An early American Egret was seen at Montezuma on 4/28 (Mumfords), 2 there by the Eaton Bird Club on 5/15, and 2 at Howlands Island on 5/22 (Kellogg et al). Least Bitterns were unreported from several stations around Ithaca. One was seen at Branchport 5/22 (Guthrie), not reported every year there. A Whistling Swan at Montezuma was first reported 4/28 (Mumfords), and was still there the last week in May. Canada Geese came through in good numbers on schedule, 9,000 were at the Refuge on April 1 (L. Smith). 1 Snow Goose also at Montezuma 4/17 (Walker) and one Blue Goose 4/16 (Walker and L. Smith). Hewitt also reported Blue and Snow Geese on Cayuga in late April.

One European Widgeon was at Montezuma on 4/16 (Smith, Walker). There were two Old-Squaws on the Reservoir at Elmira 4/30 (K. Fudge), 12 at the Montezuma Refuge on 4/26 (Walker) and 18 there on 5/15 (Ward). A Ruddy Duck appeared in the Penn Yan basin 4/10 (Lerch, Guthrie) and over a dozen Ruddies were at Montezuma on 5/22.

Two male and one female Hooded Mergansers were new for the Avoca area 3/13 (Atwood). A rather late Red-breasted Merganser was seen on river at Elmira 5/1 (K. Fudge).

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture feeding on dead cow near Geneva 4/17 (Walker). No Goshawks reported this spring, and all Hawks were reported scarce at Avoca ((Carter) and at Geneva (Walker). Three Broadwings over Elmira 5/14 (Welles), observed at Montezuma 5/15 (Eaton Bird Club), none this spring at Keuka or Branchport. The Bald Eagles at Montezuma nested successfully, eaglets were visible in nest from early May on. An Eagle was seen over Elmira airport on 5/8 (Welles). A Duck Hawk was observed eating a Junco at Avoca 4/27 (Atwood), and the lone record of a Pigeon Hawk was at McLean Preserve 5/11 (Thurber).

While Ring-necked Pheasants seemed in good numbers around Ithaca after the winter, Ruffed Grouse were absent from several stations, and were also scarce at Avoca. Florida Gallinules at Montezuma 4/29 (Thurber) and at Dryden Pond 5/11 (Thurber). A Ruddy Turnstone was spotted at Montezuma 5/15 (Gambrell). Wilson's Snipe were reported from expected locations. For the second year in succession, there was a sight record of a Hudsonian Curlew near Ithaca, this year's being at Michigan Hollow 5/1 (Thurber). It could not be located later. The Dryden Upland Plover returned (Dunham) and two were present from 4/23 through late May at Catlin (Andrus). Walker reported Sandpipers as rather scarce this year. 8 Red-backed Sandpipers were at Montezuma 5/21 (Thurber). Dowitchers and 3 Wilson's Phalaropes, the latter quite rare here at any time and especially in spring, were at Montezuma on 5/8 (Munfords). Bonaparte's Gull, several records on river at Elmira 4/13 - 4/26 (K. Fudge), also seen at same time on Cayuga by several observers. 75 Black Terns were over Dryden Lake 5/11 (Thurber). Both Cuckoos seemed to be in average numbers, except at Avoca where they were reported as scarce (Carter).

Barn Owls were reported from several stations: The Murray and Dart farms just north of Ithaca 4/14; a silo on eastern edge of Dryden 5/7 (Kelsey, Dunham); Waterloo 4/10 and Seneca Falls 4/29 (Walker). A Barred Owl was calling at Montezuma at noon 5/21 (Thurber); heard occasionally throughout the spring at Sapsucker Woods (Lane) and was recorded one mile north of Keuka Park 3/30 to 4/10, where it is extremely rare (Mrs. Vireo Whitaker).

Whip-poor-will recorded 4/30 in Guyanoga Valley (Spiker, Lerch) and 5/1 on County-House Road (Lerch). Not found in that area every year. Night-hawks were not seen at Avoca this year, but nested as usual in downtown Ithaca.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Flickers were migrating in numbers at Elmira 4/4 (Welles). Downy Woodpeckers were down in numbers at Avoca. Fewer reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Region recently. Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared in Stewart Park again this year (Ithaca) and had first nest broken up by Starlings. Several Redheads were seen on Big Island in the Chemung 5/14.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are often missed in migration but were reported this year at Elmira 5/14 (Janowski), 5/29 on Big Island in Chemung (Harold Mitchell) and 6/5 at Sapsucker Woods (AAA).

Tree Swallows were late and scarce at Elmira. Cliff Swallows were in unusual numbers on farm of C. Sturdevant, Pleasant Valley near Branchport (Guthrie), with one partial albino in flock.

Tufted Titmice are still increasing in Elmira area. Nuthatches are less common at Avoca than several years ago. Walker reports a good Red-breasted Nuthatch migration in early May, but in other areas they seemed less common than last fall.

A Carolina Wren visited feeders in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, most of the winter and settled down for the summer in the Fuertes Sanctuary; one appeared in April at the Dabol's in Auburn, two reports from Elmira: one in the city 5/18 (Embler), one near Mrs. York's 5/29 (Axtells). Few reports of Winter Wrens, but one was singing at Sapsucker Woods 4/14 (AAA). The Branchport Mockingbird was last seen 5/15, and one was seen east of Dryden 5/22 (Kellogg).

Robins, which seemed scarce early in the season, picked up in numbers eventually in most areas. Wood Thrushes were scarce around Ithaca, but Veeries were in good numbers. The latter, however, were scarce at Avoca. Thurber reported 4 Olive-backed Thrushes at McLean 5/26, and a late Olive-backed was seen on the Federation field trip, Sullivan's Monument near Elmira 5/29. All observers report Bluebirds scarcer every year. Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers returned to most stations except at Elmira, first nests were broken up at Stewart Park, Ithaca and this species seems to have difficulty each year, except at Watkins Glen.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets scarce at Elmira, in good numbers at Geneva from 4/18 to 5/5 (Walker) and at Michigan Hollow (Thurber).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos were reported as absent or scarce around Avoca.

The Worm-eating Warbler was again seen at Mrs. York's at Elmira 5/17. Blue-

winged Warblers are increasing in number each year, a first report for Elmira region coming from the lower Middle Road near Millport (Samson) 5/14, one being seen at Sweeney's Woods 5/15 (near Branchport) (Mrs. Vireo Whitaker) and again 5/22 (Spiker, et al), two new stations near Ithaca: near Slaterville (Kelsey, Dunham) and southern slope of Turkey Hill (AAA). Yellow Warblers were scarce around Ithaca, plentiful at Avoca, and 50 were counted on the Eaton Bird Club census 5/15. More reports than usual of Mourning Warblers this year, from Elmira and Geneva.

Around Ithaca, Chestnut-sides, Redstarts, Nashvilles and Water-Thrushes were down in numbers, but Ovenbirds were plentiful.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Cowbirds, Grackles and Redwings appeared this spring in unusually large numbers everywhere. Redwings have become more and more of an upland bird, and are commoner than Meadowlarks along all country roads.

A Meadowlark which sang constantly the song of a Western Meadowlark and gave the call notes of a Western was first seen by Spiker in the Guyanoga Valley 4/18, and remained there until 5/8. The songs were recorded by members of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell.

Indigo Buntings were scarce in May around Ithaca and Watkins-Montour areas. Evening Grosbeaks came through in large numbers in early May, and were reported then from some sections which had not had them in the winter. Individuals remained until the last week in May. Purple Finches were scarce at Ithaca, common at Avoca. Pine Siskins were scarce everywhere, but fed with Goldfinches on the Keuka campus the first week in May. Goldfinches were common at Avoca, scarce at Dryden (DeNeef). White-winged Crossbills were seen by Kelsey at Dryden Cemetery 5/5, unreported elsewhere.

Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows are down in numbers. Tree Sparrows were gone from Avoca 4/19. Last one at Etna 5/1 (Hoyt). Chipping Sparrows are scarce at Ithaca. Field Sparrows up and Swamp Sparrows down at Avoca (Carter). White-throated Sparrows were late in coming this year, and were in small numbers. Peak at Ithaca was on 5/2. White-crowns were also few in numbers.

Fox Sparrows were absent around Keuka (Guthrie), and a late one was seen at Mt. Zoar by Mann, on 5/14. A Snow Bunting on 4/21 south of Branchport, seen by Spiker, was latest date ever recorded there.

"Avianna," Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was a relatively cool month in the Susquehanna Region and the few warm, pleasant days came as singles so that the first proper warm spell started in the first week of May. The first three weeks of May were pleasant, with little rain. The lack of rain almost reached the serious stage, but the last week of May was decidedly cool and wet.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were seen at Deposit from 4/14 to 5/1, but numbers were down from last year (Wilson). One was seen at Norwich from 4/26 to 5/8 (R. White). The first Horned Grebes were 6 at Deposit (Wilson), 6 at Windsor (Sheffields), and 20 near Binghamton (Bemont), all on 4/10. 4/23 saw the last one at Deposit.

A Double-crested Cormorant was reported from Deposit 4/19 and 3 on 4/20 (Wilson). Eaton's Birds of New York does not list this species for either Broome or Delaware County. The area has been under observation for the last 10 years without producing any other records.

4 American Egrets were seen at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton 4/20 (Bemont). One was at Norwich 5/14 (S. & R. White) and another was seen near Endicott at about the same time (Loomis). These are the first spring records for the species in this area in recent years. A mature Little Blue Heron was seen at close range while feeding at Deer Lake near Pharsalia in Chenango County 5/30 (H. P. Nodecker). This is only the second record of the adult of this species in this area. The first was seen 4/8/54 in Tioga County and reported in the "King-bird" at that time. The first Green Herons were two at Deposit 5/4 (Wilson). Late! The first American Bittern was at Deposit 4/10 (Wilson).

A Whistling Swan was noted in Binghamton 5/25 (Paul). It may have been an immature bird but is never-the-less very late. The last Canada Geese were seen 5/15, 7 near Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club) and 10 at Sherburne (S.