

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 "Kingbird" 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.

White). The largest flocks were 250+ on 4/10 and 200+ on 4/30, both at Oxford (Stratton). There were numerous medium sized flocks noted.

The last Pintails were at Whitney Point Dam 4/3 (TCNC). Green-winged Teal were present around Binghamton until 4/25 (TCNC). Blue-winged Teal arrived at Binghamton 4/13 (Bemont) and were last seen 5/7 (TCNC). Norwich was the only area to report Redheads and the one seen there was gone after 4/3 S. White). Ring-necked Ducks were last seen at Binghamton and Norwich 4/3. Greater Scaup were last seen at Binghamton 4/3 except for a single male which spent 4/17 to 4/20 on Boland's Marsh all by itself (TCNC). The last Lesser Scaup were 18 at Deposit 4/21 (Wilson). The only Old Squaw were 2 on 4/20 and 14 on 4/21 at Deposit (Wilson) and 4 on 4/21 at Norwich (R. White) with the exception of a lone female at Deposit 5/7 which may have been injured. 4 White-winged Scooters were seen at Deposit 4/29 (Wilson). 2 Ruddy Ducks were at Guilford in Chenango County 4/17 (S. White).

Except for the Deposit area the last Hooded Merganser was at Buckhorn Lake near Unadilla 4/10 (Wisner). At Deposit a nest was under observation all during May until by 5/30 all but one egg had hatched (Wilson). Except for a few birds which remained along the Beaver Kill all through April and May (Wilson), the last American Merganser was one at St. John's Pond near Binghamton 4/16 (Bemont). A Red-breasted Merganser was seen at Norwich 4/3 (S. White). At Deposit the first one was noted 4/9 and the highest daily count was 3 on 4/21.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Bainbridge 4/10 (E. J. Smith) and another was at Windsor the same day (Sheffields). In addition 3 were seen at Deposit 4/23 and 1 or 2 have been present there throughout May (Wilson). One was seen at Vestal 5/22 (TCNC).

Broad-winged Hawks were last seen 5/15 at Deposit (Wilson) and at Binghamton (TCNC) with never more than 2 or 3 being seen in a day. The first Osprey was at Binghamton 4/12 (Bemont) and the last one was at Deposit 5/11 (Wilson).

Three Wild Turkeys were seen near Windsor, Broome Co., 4/10. One of them had a green band on the right leg (Sheffields).

The first Florida Gallinule was at Boland's Marsh 4/22 (Bemont) and the last Coot was at Deposit 5/15 (Wilson). Both species seem to be below normal in numbers.

The last Wilson's Snipe was at Boland's Marsh 5/7 (Sheffields, Whites). An early Spotted Sandpiper was near East Windsor 4/17 (TCNC). The first Solitary Sandpiper was at Deposit 5/5 (Wilson). Greater Yellowlegs were first seen 4/18 at Boland's Marsh and last seen 5/15 in the same place (TCNC). They were also seen at Deposit 5/6 (Wilson) and 4/26 at Marathon and 5/7 & 5/8 at Chenango (Thurber). Lesser Yellowlegs were first seen 5/11 at Boland's Marsh (Sheffields), 5/16 at Buckhorn Lake (Wisner) and 5/18 at Deposit (Wilson).

A Bonaparte's Gull was at Boland's Marsh 4/19 (TCNC). There were 2 at Deposit 4/21 and 2 more 5/1 (Wilson). Black Terns were considerably more common than usual this year around Binghamton (TCNC).

The first Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen 5/11 and the first Black-billed 5/7, both near Binghamton (TCNC). Both seem quite common this year.

A Barred Owl was heard at Deposit 4/16 (Wilson).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: A Whip-poor-will was reported calling in Cortland 5/8 (Thurber). A few miles south of Vestal there was one calling as late as 5/29 (Snow). The first Nighthawks were at Binghamton 5/13 (Hannans) and the first Chimney Swifts were at Buckhorn Lake 4/30 (Wisner). The first Ruby-throated Hummingbird was Oxford 5/9 (Stratton).

There were only two reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers this spring. One at Ely Park in Binghamton 5/8 (Layman) and one at Bainbridge 5/9 (E. J. Smith). The first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was near Windsor 4/17 (TCNC) and the last one at Chenango Valley 5/22 (Thurber).

Alder Flycatchers were first noted in both Binghamton and Deposit 5/22 and Least Flycatchers at Deposit 5/3. The first Wood Pewees were at Binghamton 5/15. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher reported was at Deposit 5/21 (Wilson).

Swallow arrival dates: Bank 4/25 at Binghamton, Rough-winged 4/15 at Deposit, Barn 4/10 at Binghamton, Cliff 4/25 at Binghamton and Purple Martin 4/20 at Binghamton. Cliff Swallows seem down in numbers.

No House Wrens were reported until 4/28, about 2 weeks later than either of the last two years. The last Winter Wren was at Deposit 5/1 (Wilson). Long-billed Marsh Wrens appeared at Boland's Marsh 4/17 (TCNC).

A Mockingbird spent several hours around Mr. Wilson's lawn in Deposit 5/13. This is the first one he had ever observed there. Catbirds were first seen in

Deposit 5/4 and seem to be especially common there this year (Wilson). Brown Thrashers seemed more common around Binghamton.

Wood Thrush, 5/3 (Easton) and Hermit Thrush, 4/18 (Carpenter) both near Binghamton were just about on time. The Olive-backed Thrush, however, was a week later than the last three years. It didn't appear until 5/23 in Binghamton (Marsi). Bluebirds seem scarce in Deposit this spring (Wilson), but in Binghamton numbers are nearly normal.

Blue-grey Gnatcatchers did not appear in Binghamton for the first time in four years. Golden-crowned Kinglets have been scarce all spring around Binghamton. The last reported were 4 at Cortland 5/7 (Thurber). Ruby-crowned Kinglets have been normal in numbers. The last ones were at Deposit 5/11 (Wilson).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireos were first seen at Deposit 5/3 (Wilson). The first Blue-headed Vireos were at Binghamton 4/20 (Carpenter) and the last were reported from Chenango 5/28 (Thurber). Blue-eyed Vireos arrived at Binghamton 5/8 (TCNC) and Warbling Vireos at Unadilla 5/4 (Wisner).

A Prothonotary Warbler was at Willow Point 5/8, across the river from Johnson City (Layman). The first Broome County record in recent years.

The first Golden-winged Warbler was at Chenango 5/8 (Thurber). Around Binghamton this one of the few species to show an increase in numbers over last year. This year 2 Brewster's Warblers were found in widely separated spots on the spring census, 5/15, in the Binghamton area (TCNC). This brings the three year total to five. A Blue-winged Warbler was also found on the census (H. Marsi), but this is only the second record in recent years. The number of Brewster's is not quite so surprising when it is noted that Eaton lists the Blue-winged as fairly common in Broome County but doesn't list the Golden-winged at all back in 1908 and the situation is now almost completely reversed.

The first Tennessee Warbler was at Deposit 5/6 (Wilson) and the first Nashville at Norwich 5/1 (S. White). Both were in normal numbers, but Parulas, which were first seen at Deposit 5/7, were very scarce. Yellow Warblers appeared at Binghamton, Cortland, Deposit and Oxford all on 5/2. Magnolia Warblers appeared first at Deposit 5/4 (Wilson), but only around Cortland were they at all common. Cape May Warblers were at Cortland 5/7 and last seen at Binghamton 5/15 (TCNC). Black-throated Blues appeared 5/8, late, and have been quite scarce. One was reported 3/14 in Oneonta (Will), but it would be better to have such an early record backed up with a specimen before it is allowed to stand. Migrant Myrtle Warblers were seen in normal numbers in Deposit (Wilson), but in Binghamton they were late and noticeably down in numbers although by no means scarce (TCNC). Black-throated Greens were scarce but no more so than last year. One singing male Cerulean Warbler was seen 5/15 at Chenango Bridge near Binghamton (Bemont, Layman). Blackburnians were the only Dendroicae other than Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers to be found in normal numbers in the Binghamton area. The only Bay-breasted Warbler report was of several at Cortland 5/7 (Thurber). Blackpoll Warblers — 5/20 at Cortland and Binghamton to 5/29 at Deposit. No Pine Warblers were reported all spring. Only one Palm Warbler report — 5/13 at Binghamton (Sheffields). One Yellow Palm Warbler at Norwich 4/13 (R. White) and another at Buckhorn Lake 4/17 (Wisner).

Ovenbirds arrived at Deposit 5/5 and Northern Waterthrushes at Binghamton, Cortland and Deposit 5/8. Louisiana Waterthrushes were found near Windsor 4/23 (Sheffields). Mourning Warbler 5/22 at Labrador and 5/28 at Chenango (Thurber) and 5/30 at Norwich (S. White). Chats continue to increase around Binghamton. Canada Warblers were reported to be common around Chenango and Labrador (Thurber), but uncommon elsewhere.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The first Bobolinks of the season were reported from Laurens, north of Oneonta, 5/1 (Roffe). The first Baltimore Orioles were at Unadilla and Deposit 5/3. Rusty Blackbirds were last seen at Deposit, 4/17.

A pair of Cardinals is reported to be trying to nest in Oneonta (Will), and one has been heard singing at Cook Falls in Delaware County (Wilson). They are not common in that area.

The first Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Endicott 5/4 (Carter) and the first Indigo Bunting at Willow Point 5/11 (TCNC). Last dates for Evening Grosbeaks were 4/25 at Deposit, 5/14 at South New Berlin, 5/15 at Binghamton and 5/16 at Unadilla. The first Purple Finch report for the whole region for 1955 was of 4 at Binghamton on 4/10 (Shanley) and have never become very common. The only Pine Siskins reported this year were 3 at Deposit 4/23 (Wilson).

White-crowned Sparrows have been absent from Deposit and Cortland and uncommon in Binghamton, but at Bainbridge they appeared 5/5, were more

common than usual and stayed longer (Smith). Fox Sparrows remained at Deposit until 4/16, but none were found in the Cortland area in spite of intensive searching (Thurber).

R. D. No. 3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April was warm and rainy, the rain being especially marked (or noted) on weekends. This earlier wet condition plus prolonged, sunny weather in the last week of April and throughout May, hastened the seasonal growth of plants in Syracuse by as much as 2 weeks, according to some local botanists. Oaks, normally not in full leaf until June 5, were completely leafed out by May 22. The even warm weather which prevailed from May 5 until the end of May precluded any migration "stalling" and landbird waves subsequent thereto (one exception — a fair wave on 5/5, Syracuse).

Largely because of the poor weather on weekends, the waterfowl counts of the first 3 weeks in April were extremely low. The bright spot in a rather disappointing April was the location of a fine Hawk Lookout near the S. E. "corner" of Lake Ontario. In 6 days of observation, 2,000 hawks of 16 species were observed flying by this point. As to passerines, "Too soon leaves, too few warblers" sums up for most migrants. The May movement, one of the poorest, both in quality and quantity, on record. Noteworthy features were (1) the almost complete absence of certain species, such as Pipits, Blue-headed Vireo, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, normally found in much greater numbers, (2) the general tardiness both in first arrival and peak dates, and (3) the lack of any records of certain minor migrants like the Olive-sided Flycatchers and Lincoln's Sparrow.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon — good flight (fairly common to common) in last 3 weeks of April; most observed flying high and N. W. over Lake Ontario. Horned Grebe — flight widespread but low in numbers (high count, 20, 4/14, Lake Ontario). Great Blue Heron — not reported until 4/2, Oneida; about 10 days late. American Egret — 3 (with nuptial plumes) on 4/17, Three Rivers GMA is our earliest record; 2 later April records of single birds. Green Heron — several "first arrival" reports on 4/23 seem to indicate a side movement into the area. Whistling Swan — 1 record only, 1, 4/2-5, near Oswego (M. Rusk). Canada Geese — the numbers of this species in early April were extremely disappointing, being reduced to 1/2 of last year's at the best area (Mud Lake) and even more so in other areas (e.g., Oneida Lake); however, a major movement of Canada Geese occurred across the region in the last week of April and the first week of May with V's up to 350 in number reported. Brant — first record of 2, 5/23, Oswego (M. R.) built up to 29 shortly thereafter; no other reports. The duck flight paralleled the low goose numbers with only Black and Ring-necked reaching counts above common. Green-winged Teal — last date, 20, 5/15, Clay Swamp is late. Shoveler — 2 pr., 4/10, 3 Rivers GMA is the only regional record. Particularly low in number were Pintail, Baldpate, Scaup, and Redhead. Old Squaw — 2, 5/2, Oneida Lake is late for this mid-winter duck. The usual May stragglers of Scaup, Golden-eye, and Merganser were not observed this year on Lakes Oneida and Ontario. Ruddy Duck — only record is 3 ♀, 4/10, Oneida Lake.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture — reports of 1 regularly near Westernville (Mrs. F. W. May), a record of 3 near Central Square (5/18), and 1, 4/14, Sandy Pond, point to the continuing spread of this species here. Goshawk — 1 imm., 4/17; 1 adult, 4/30 at Hawk Lookout along Lake Ontario; 1 adult regularly present at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, until the late date of 5/20. Sharp-shinned Hawk — these, with the Broad-wings, constituted the bulk of the 2,000 birds passing the Lookout; many came within 10-12 ft. of the observers and responded to "whispering" or squeaking. Cooper's Hawk — 3 nests located near Syracuse, a marked change from last year's complete lack of nesting records of this species. Red-tailed — 17 young out of 11 nests banded by Dr. B. P. Burtt near Syracuse. Broad-winged — best flight **observed** was 650 birds on 5/1. Rough-legged Hawk — 1 light phase