

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 leaved 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

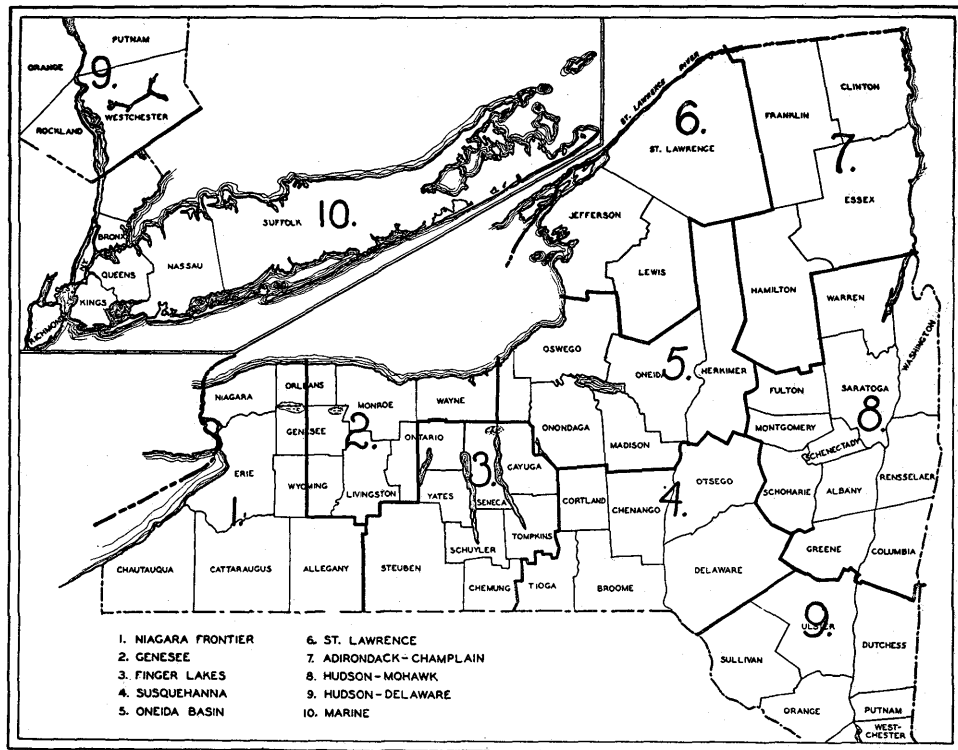
bird, 4/17, Lookout, is the last spring record. Harrier — high of 31, 4/17, Hawk Look-out; seems to be disappearing as a breeder from the open country S. of Oneida Lake and around Baldwinsville. Osprey — 1, 4/9 near Hamilton is first date; Peregrine Falcon — 1, 4/14; 1, 5/1 at the Look-out; no other reports. Merlin — 3 on 1 day (4/17) at the Hawk Look-out upsets previous conceptions of this bird's migration status with us. Both Virginia Rail and Sora were reported about a week late. Coot — 1, 5/5, Clay Swamp, could be a summering cripple or a possible breeder. Upland Plover — 1, 4/14, Hawk Look-out, is the first arrival date; a nest with 4 eggs located (5/16) near Rome (Mrs. H. Aspinwall). Spotted Sandpiper — 1, 4/16, Oswego is early. Pectoral Sandpiper — only report is 12, 4/10-12, near Oneida (A. and P. Jones). Least Sandpiper — 1, 5/5, Clay Swamp, is our earliest record. Bonaparte's Gull — unrecorded this spring, though it is usually present in numbers on Lake Oneida. Common Tern — very late; first records are a flock of 30, 5/5, near Oswego, about 2 weeks late. Caspian Tern — 2, 4/18, Sandy Pond, (J. Belknap) is arrival date. Cuckoos — the Yellow-billed appears to be much more common than the Black-billed with a ratio of 2:1 to 8:1 depending on the area in the Region. There seems to be no correlation between concentration of cuckoos and tent caterpillars. Horned Owl — 8 young from 4 nests banded this spring by B.P.B. Snowy Owl — 1, 4/17, S. of Mexico is noteworthy, but does not equal previous late date.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Chimney Swifts — 3, 4/24, Lake Ontario is early; however, numbers did not arrive at Syracuse until 5/4. Red-headed Woodpecker — first date, 2, 5/5, Oswego; 1 pr. still breeding near Syracuse despite the presence of a large factory 300 yards away; the 3 breeding stations at Oneida again active. Sapsucker — 25, 4/24, Green Lakes State Park is a peak count; last date is 1, 5/31, Fayetteville. Kingbird — 1, 4/24, Lake Ontario is a record arrival date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 1, 5/15, Selkirk is early. Crested and Alder Flycatchers and Wood Pewee were late by anywhere from 2-5 days; Alder Flyc. appears to be more generally distributed this spring than last. Barn Swallow — first report on 4/10, Bank — 4/14, Rough-winged — 4/15, Cliff — 4/16; on 5/22 near Munnsville, H. P. Nodecker located a colony of 25 pairs of Cliff Swallows, our largest colony to date. Blue Jay — migrants (flock of 19) observed as late as 5/15 migrating E. along Lake Ontario. Red-breasted Nuthatch — migrant birds not reported until 5/3 with 10, 5/10, Syracuse; 10, 5/11, Oswego as peak dates. House Wren — first bird on 4/17, Selkirk, but main body did not come into Syracuse until 2nd week of May (late). Carolina Wren — single pairs regularly present at Clark's Reservation and S. Onondaga and 1 bird resident at Camillus Valley through April and May; a report of 1, 4/24, Selkirk (Mrs. E. Evans) may represent a stray or an attempt at northward extension. Short-billed Marsh Wren — despite careful search of all known colonies and likely habitat in adjacent areas, no birds have been located; this species has virtually disappeared from the area in the past 6 years. Catbird — 1, 4/28, Syracuse, is a few days early. Hermit Thrush — flight was late (first bird on 4/16) and poor (high count, 8, 4/20, Syracuse). Olive-backed Thrush — high count at Syracuse was 6, 5/20; 25-50 is a more normal number. Gray-Cheeked Thrush — 1, 5/31, Syracuse is the only spring report and even this is late. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — 3 on 5/8, Camillus Valley, proved herald to one of the best spring finds, a nest of this species there, high in an elm on 5/15; bird apparently incubating on 5/22. Golden-crowned Kinglet — this species and the Pipits fall into the same pattern; virtually absent from the area, many observers reporting none of either species, and the so-called "high" counts were quite low. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — only a fair flight, never above the status of common. Northern Shrike — last date 1 singing bird, 4/5, Syracuse. Loggerhead Shrike — 2 April (1, 2) and 1 May (1) records, from northern Onondaga County and the Sandy Pond area.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blue-headed Vireo — not reported until 5/4, about 2 weeks late. Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos — the greater number reported (e.g., 22 Warbling and 15 Yellow-thr. reported by 1 party on the Spring Census) may indicate an actual increase or results of increased range of coverage. Philadelphia Vireo — 3 reports with 2/day as best count.

Probably the greatest disappointment of the spring was the poor warbler flight with most species anywhere from 2-10 days late. Prothonotary — first date, 5/14; total of 4 reported from the Short Point Bay area, Oneida Lake, 5/18. Blue-winged — 1 singing male observed at Camillus Village, 5/8; seen there, 5/22, actively pursued by a male Golden-winged, probably over a female Golden-wing, that seemed to follow the pair of males closely. Tennessee and Nashville — excellent flight of both this spring, the former early (12, 5/5, Oneida), the latter not re-

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ported until 5/1 (about 4 days late); high count of Tennessee was 75, 5/20; of Nashville, 15, 5/10-12. Parula — missed by most observers, never more than 2/day. Magnolia — first arrival, 1, 5/7, Camillus, but did not peak until 5/20-22. Yellow — not reported until 5/1, a week late. Cape May — on time (5/2) but counts even lower than last year (peak of 6 where 35-40 is a more normal peak figure). Myrtle — as judged by the compiled reports, never reached the status of abundant at any time in the region. Black-thr. Blue, Black-thr. Green, Blackburnian, Black-poll — all fit the same general pattern; late and reduced anywhere from 1/3 to 1/10 last year's counts from the same area. Cerulean — several new breeding sites reported; probably always present (?), but unchecked until this spring. Bay-br'sted — a count of 15, 5/20, Syracuse, was a welcome change from the low numbers of other species. Palm — 1 Yellow Palm reported 4/17, Van Buren (C. Farnham); also 1 or 2 Western Palm from Selkirk and Syracuse, but no one reported even a small wave of this species. A Water-Thrush (Sp.?) was heard and seen on the remarkably early date of 4/3, South Onondaga (Mr. and Mrs. R. Burdick). Mourning — 1 singing male, 5/15, 3 Rivers GMA, is early. Yellow-throat — first report, 3, 5/1, Selkirk, is a few days late. Wilson's — 1, 5/18, Selkirk, small wave (?) at same place, 5/24 (E. E.).

BLACKBIRDS — FRINGILLIDS: Redwing, Grackle, Cowbird — flocks (up to 400) of these species were still migrating east along Lake Ontario as late as 5/1. Bobolink — a marked increase around Cazenovia, compared to last year's counts (Mrs. O. M. Edwards). Scarlet Tanager — first reported on 5/1, but Rose-breasted Grosbeak had not returned until 5/5. Cardinal — now appearing regularly at Oneida; this, like the Turkey Vulture, appears to be advancing into the Rome-Oneida area. Evening Grosbeak — present through April and up to 5/7 in ever

diminishing numbers at Westernville (Mrs. F.W.M.); however, at Syracuse, Oswego, and Oneida, birds began to appear 5/4, 4, and 6 respectively, built up to a peak (25) about the 15th, and then quickly passed on with the last dates 5/22, Syracuse, and 5/27, Oneida. Purple Finch — scattered reports in last 2 weeks of April, but peak numbers did not come until 5/12 (about 10 days late). Redpoll — 2, 4/15, Selkirk is record last date. Pine Siskin — although there were no April records, this, like the Evening Grosbeak, had a fine May flight, beginning 5/1, peaked (25) 5/8, with last date, 1, 5/22, Oneida. White-winged Crossbill — 2, 4/25 and 1, 4/26, Oneida (H.P.N.) are the only records. Towhee — 1 ♂, 3/30, Syracuse is very early. Savannah and Vesper Sparrows — 4/10 (Oneida) is arrival date for both, but birds not widespread until at least 1 week later. Henslow's Sparrow — 1 on 4/23, and Grasshopper Sparrow — 1 on 5/3, (W. R. Spofford) probably represents the normal arrival dates rather than the concentrated flurry of records in mid-May attendant on the increased birding of that season. Tree Sparrow and Junco — the poor flights of March were only prelude to the low flock counts of these species in early April; Tree Sparrow's last date is 4/13, a few days earlier than expected. White-crowned Sparrow — like the Pipits, almost completely absent; it was not recorded at Oneida throughout May and only 1 (usually 25-40) was seen at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; high count was the ridiculous low of 3. White-throat — a poor, late flight with peak numbers this year only 1/3 of comparable '54 counts.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Few reports for April and May were received and all were brief. Many birds arrived early this spring. All who mention the Bluebirds say that fewer have been seen and that they have heard others give similar observations.

LOONS — DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorants appear to be more numerous than last year and they have started nesting. Several Brant were seen in Lake Ontario about May 20. A pair at Bass Island Refuge remained all day and acted like a breeding pair (Clements), (June 6). A White-winged Scoter was found dead in Lake Ontario by a game protector.

HAWKS — OWLS: Several Rough-legged Hawks were seen in April by Belknap, J. Blake has observed a decrease in the numbers of Marsh Hawks, Ruffed Grouse and Common Terns. There is an increase in the number of Ring-billed Gull nests. The last Snowy Owl seen by Belknap was April 14. A few Red-headed Woodpeckers — about the normal number — have been seen.

THRUSHES: Several reports from various parts of Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties all agree that there is a marked reduction in the number of Bluebirds this year. J. Blake has seen many Brown Thrashers. A white Robin is living in Watertown and has attracted the attention of many people. Only the under parts are normal color.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: A Connecticut Warbler has been reported as well as many of the more common Warblers. The last Evening Grosbeaks were seen in Watertown May 18 (F.C.) and the last in Potsdam May 31 (L. Blake). One Lapland Longspur reported near Perch April 4.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON - MOHAWK

JAMES K. MERITT

The months of April and May were both warmer and drier than normal in the Schenectady area. The average May temperature was 62.3 degrees, a whopping 4.2 degrees above normal. While May rainfall was only slightly below average, virtually all of it came during the last ten days of the month. The hot and dry weather which prevailed virtually without exception during the peak of the migration period accounted for a noticeable lack of any general flight, especially among the warblers. An exception to this general