

Bergen Swamp in April produced no owls, but only the Wilson's Snipe in courtship flight. This year the Barn Owl was not to be found at Scottsville where it had been resident for several years. No Snowy Owls have been reported.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The best record in this group was the American Magpie seen two miles west of Kuckville, Orleans County, on April 21 by Listman and McKinney. This bird perched in the open 250 feet away, and was observed with binoculars and scope at leisure. (Ed. Note: This is a Reg. on I Record details of which have not yet been forwarded.) Large migratory flocks of about 1000 Chimney Swifts (downtown Rochester, Dobson) and 1500 Blue Jays (Braddock Bay; Listman, Bieber and McKinney) were reported. Swallows were late in arriving in appreciable numbers, but several thousand spent the first two weeks of May at Ling Road. Barn, Bank, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows flew underneath a low bridge, where they could be seen from above at a distance of only 5 to 10 feet. Cliff Swallows were scarce this spring. A flock of about 60 Horned Larks near Mendon Ponds on April 8 contained one-third Prairie and two-thirds Northern (McKinney). There were two or three reports each of Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird.

WARBLERS — VIREOS: The warbler migration was exceptionally good here this spring, with 36 warblers recorded. This included 34 species, one sub-species (Yellow Palm) and one hybrid (Brewster's). Most of the rarer warblers were seen on the week-end of May 19-20. These included Blue-winged at Bergen Swamp by McKinney, and at Letchworth Park by R. Simons and Kramer; Brewster's at Powder Mill Park by Mrs. Davis; Orange-crowned at Webster by Kemnitzers, at Ling Road by O'Hara, Miller, Tanghe and Dobson, at Braddock Bay by Listman, Bieber, McKinney and Brown, and at Gaines (Orleans County) by Weeks; Yellow-throated at Mendon Ponds by Mrs. White; Pine at Ling Road by Kionick, Rising and McKinney, and at Long Pond Woods by O'Hara and Miller (Apr 28); Prairie at Braddocks by Listman, Bieber and McKinney, and at Ling Road by Tanghe, Dobson et al; and Yellow-breasted Chat at Webster by Kemnitzers and at Braddocks Bay by O'Hara and Miller. This spring many of the warblers could be seen at eye level at close range.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Phenomenal flights of Red-wings and related birds took place during the first week of April when a mild break in the weather followed a prolonged cold spell. On Apr 4 a flight of over 100,000 Redwings passed eastward along the lakeshore at Braddock Bay (Listman). On the following day there was a lesser flight of 23,000 Redwings and 3000 Bronzed Grackles. Numerous Rusty Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Robins and Flickers were in these flocks. A Western Meadowlark appeared at Manitou on Apr 28 and was seen again in almost exactly the same location on May 12 and 20. Several observers saw and heard this bird. Another, probably a different bird, was seen at West Webster, about 15 miles east of Manitou, on May 23 by Mrs. Kemnitzer. Evening Grosbeaks remained until May 15, but there were no Pine Grosbeaks throughout the spring or winter. There were several reports of Lincoln's Sparrow, the first of which was seen at Mendon Ponds by Mrs. White on May 8. The last report of Lapland Longspurs was on Apr 8: two birds were seen by McKinney, one in summer plumage.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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April and May in the Finger Lakes were as cold and wet as any on record. While Walker reports the last killing frost at Waterloo on May 16, my thermometer in Etna stood at 21° F. on May 25, and there were snows in early May. Opinions vary on whether the timing of migration was affected. Around Ithaca birds seemed to come in pretty much on schedule, but near Geneva they were slow in arriving.

There was unanimous agreement on one point: unusual behavior of migrants and arriving residents. The leaves were so late in coming out (as

much as three weeks late in sections) and the insect population so reduced by the late freezes also, that tree-top feeders were driven to low levels or the ground and non-birders were seeing warblers for the first time in their lives. Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks fed in fields, on road edges (where many were killed) and came to feeders for suet, peanut butter and sunflower seeds. Songs of many species were at a minimum and made identification difficult, especially of the Empidonax Flycatchers.

Keuka Lake was high, so few shore birds stopped there on migration. Ice did not leave the collecting basins of the Hornell Reservoir until Apr 15, affecting the water-bird report.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons were somewhat scarcer than usual on Cayuga. On Keuka Lake there were more than usual but not up to peak years (Guthrie). One Holboell's Grebe was reported on Cayuga on Apr 29 (H. Adams). Great Blue Herons were down in numbers at Montezuma Refuge (Walker). A new heronry located last year near Ithaca by R. Smith was again occupied this year. The first American Egrets were reported at Montezuma in April. More Least Bitterns were reported on the Ithaca census day (May 20) than for several years. A Whistling Swan was present at the Refuge for two weeks in April; ten were reported at Tioga, Pa., just out of our area. None were recorded this year at Hornell as they are not seen there unless the ice leaves the Hornell Reservoir basin by early April. 15 Brant at Ithaca May 17 (Jehl). 2 Snow Geese and 2 Blue Geese were at the Refuge in April. 14,000 was the highest count of Canada Geese at the Refuge, and one Lesser Canada was trapped and confined there.

Gadwalls continue to increase and are nesting at the Refuge. A European Widgeon was reported there on May 20 (Jack Saunders). Wood Ducks have slumped slightly in numbers at Hornell (Groesbeck) after an increase. Several pairs are nesting at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca again. There was a good count of Old-squaws on Cayuga in early May. Groesbeck reports that Buffleheads have increased steadily in the Hornell area since '39 and Ruddies since '44. White-winged Scoters were reported on several dates on Cayuga, and five appeared at Hornell on Apr 29 for the first time since '47. Two Surf Scoters were seen on Seneca Lake May 13 (F. Gambrell).

HAWKS — OWLS: No noteworthy Hawk migration was reported in the Region, although Groesbeck saw 21 Broadwings on Apr 29 just outside Livingston County. The pair of Bald Eagles at Montezuma raised one young this Spring, and two adults and one immature Eagle were seen at Hector Falls Pt. north of Watkins Glen on May 21 (M. Bardeen). More Osprey reports than usual this spring: from Avoca, Ithaca, Etna, Tyrone, Hornell and the Refuge. One Duck Hawk reported from the Refuge May 13 (F. Gambrell) and 1 south of Ithaca on May 18 (Mr. and Mrs. E. Terry). Nesting Hawks are doing well around Ithaca, especially Red-shouldered. Pheasants were scarce at Avoca (Carter) and down slightly in numbers around Ithaca. Virginia Rails seem scarce throughout the Region, Soras in usual numbers. Florida Gallinules continue to be scarce, but P. Kelsey reported one on Apr 24 on a pond near Mohawk Airport, Ithaca and Walker saw one at the Refuge on May 30. Coot continue to increase.

Killdeer are scarcer than usual at Avoca (Carter). Ruddy Turnstones, not always seen in Spring, occurred at the Refuge in May. Woodcock are somewhat down in numbers near Ithaca (O. Hewitt). The pair on the Bardeen farm at Burdett had 2 eggs on May 26. The Upland Plover has not been reported this year from its old station near Dryden. Least Sandpipers were common on May 20, noted by both the Elmira census group and the Ithaca group in the Cayuga Basin. Red-backed Sandpipers and Dowitchers were with the Turnstones at the Refuge on May 20. Groesbeck observed 186 Ring-billed Gulls in a field at Arkport May 6. 1 Bonaparte's Gull was seen by Allen on a tiny pond near Sapsucker Woods on Apr 20. Ward reported a poor flight of Bonaparte's on Seneca this year, but 500 were at the Refuge (Walker). Black Terns were abundant at the Refuge in May. 1 was seen on a lake near Quackenbush Hill in Steuben County by the Chemung Valley Aud. Soc. on May 20. Mourning Doves seemed abundant everywhere. More Black-billed Cuckoos reported this year than Yellow-billed, several nests with eggs by June 15.

Screech Owls were absent around Keuka. One Long-eared Owl reported May 13 at Geneva (Peck).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Red-headed Woodpecker continues to be a rarity, and does not seem to be nesting at Stewart Park, Ithaca this year. One reported at Swanson farm, s. of Ithaca, on Apr 30 and one on golf course. They were not anywhere in evidence at the Refuge on May 20. Hairy Woodpeckers are scarce at Avoca (Carter). From several regions came reports that Empidonax Flycatchers were unusually silent, and hence could not be identified. However, the Yellow-bellied, often missed on migration, was seen at Clifton Springs in May (Munford), at Avoca on May 22 (Carter) and at Ithaca on May 20. The Olive-sided Flycatcher, likewise sometimes missed, was reported from Avoca on May 22 (Carter) from Geneva on May 27 (Ward) and Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca on May 14 (Allen).

Rough-winged Swallows are down in numbers at Avoca. Groesbeck reports a colony of Purple Martins at Arkport which has grown, in the 7 years it has been there, to almost 50 pairs. The first ones arrived at Ithaca unusually early this spring on Apr 5 (Allen). Carolina Wrens are again nesting at Kent's Point on Seneca Lake (Woodward). The Short-billed Marsh Wren seems scarcer than usual, and both Marsh Wrens were absent at Keuka (Guthrie).

A Mockingbird was reported by Al Kopp from Reading Center on May 24 and 25. Brown Thrashers are up in numbers at Geneva (Walker). Robins were late in nesting, although they returned on schedule. Groesbeck reports a partial albino Veery at Hornell, the head only being albinistic (May 18). All areas mourn the continued decrease in numbers of Bluebirds. Each year they fail to return to or to occupy old boxes. 3 pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred at Keuka (Guthrie) and Mrs. V. Whitaker reported a pair building at Penn Yan on April 14. They were also reported at Elmira and Ithaca. Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed scarcer than usual. Few reports of Pipits. Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings occurred at Avoca in April.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Good migration of both vireos and warblers throughout the Region, and as remarked earlier a combination of factors contributed to the number of reports, particularly of warblers. A White-eyed Vireo, second in history of the Elmira area records, occurred at the little Horseheads March 16-20 (found by R. Andrus and seen and heard by many). The Blue-headed Vireo was seen May 5 at Avoca where it is reported as often missed. Elmira had its second record of the Philadelphia Vireo but the Club notes that perhaps it is usually overlooked. May 12 and 14 were noted as good warbler days at Hornell (Groesbeck) where all, even Blackburnian and Bay-breasts were feeding low. Prothonotary Warblers, often reported only from Montezuma, were seen this year at Ithaca and Elmira on migration. Each year brings more reports of Blue-winged Warblers in the Ithaca area, and this year Golden-wings have been found at new stations too. Spiker saw a Blue-winged in Guyaniga Valley May 13. Tennessee Warblers were abundant at Avoca and lingered late (Carter). Orange-crowned Warblers, rarely seen in the Region in spring, were recorded at Elmira (Smith et al) May 5, at Avoca May 25 (Carter), and at Ithaca May 20 (Hewitt). Cape Mays were abundant around Ithaca, but scarce at Avoca. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen by many observers at Joe Smith's in Elmira on May 9, and there were two unverified but seemingly good reports of them near Ithaca (H. M. Johnson, A. Rosser). Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers were scarce at Avoca, Black-polls scarce at Ithaca and Avoca. A Yellow Palm Warbler, a rarity, was seen by Loren Ward during migration at Geneva. Groesbeck reports an increase in Water-thrushes at Hornell. Chats are scarce everywhere, but are nesting again at the Bardeen farm at Burdett. The most unusual feature of the warbler migration was the great abundance, everywhere in the region, of Wilson's Warblers, in good song, still reported at Ithaca on June 9. Canadas seemed more abundant too.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Three reports of Orchard Orioles: an imm. male at the A. A. Allen home, Ithaca on May 6, in immature at Elmira on May 20, and one at Dundee on May 13 (Lerch). Grackles are increasing everywhere, and Cowbirds are more common at Avoca (Carter). Many Scarlet Tanagers were seen feeding on the ground, and Groesbeck watched them eating sumac on May 18. Cardinals have become quite common around Hornell, everywhere except in the Collecting Basin area, and Groesbeck wonders if the foliage-control spraying might influence this. Evening Grosbeaks lingered into May, but most departure dates were before May 15, a week earlier than last year. A total of 854 E. Grosbeaks

banded at Etna from December through May. Pine Siskins were less common than some years, except at Avoca. Red Crossbills were reported from four places in April: Ithaca, Keuka, Geneva and Watkins Glen. Tree Sparrows, which left Avoca earlier than usual (Carter) left Etna at some time as other years. All areas reported the largest numbers of White-crowned Sparrows ever seen on Spring migration. Spiker banded 90 at Branchport. The numbers reached their peak at Ithaca May 7-9. Lincoln Sparrows were reported more often than in some years.

"Aviana", Etna, New York.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather during April and May has for the most part been unseasonably cold. During April there were a couple of moderately heavy snowfalls, the worst occurring April 8, and there were snow flurries more days than there weren't. There were few pleasantly mild days until almost the middle of May and most nights to the end of May brought frost or near frost. Almost all species returned late as compared to other years. The most notable exceptions were some of the normally late migrants such as Yellow-bellied, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Bay-breasted and Black-poll Warblers which were either on time or even somewhat early. The cold weather may well have been responsible for the frequency with which Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers were seen feeding on the ground by holding up the hatching of the insects that they normally feed on in the tree tops. All in all it was a very satisfactory migration from the watchers' point of view. There were few pronounced waves but rather a steady stream of migrants. The cold weather also held back the leaves so that observation was relatively easy.

LOONS — DUCKS: Single Common Loons were reported from Norwich Apr 14 to 29 (Whites) and from Deposit Apr 30 (Wilson). Two were at Guilford Lake in Chenango County May 6 (Whites). The Norwich and Deposit areas are the only areas in the region from which Loons are reported with anything approaching regularity. Horned Grebes seem to have been especially common for this region this spring. 18 reports were received, totalling about 75 birds, from the April-May period. The largest count reported was of 15-20 birds at Unadilla Apr 22 (Wisner). The last report was from Oneonta May 20 (Will). Pied-billed Grebes were scarce at Deposit (Wilson) and Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club) but seemed normal elsewhere. Great Blue Herons were seen in normal numbers. Mr. Wilson reports a flock of 12 plus one American Egret flying in circles over a wooded hilltop near his home in Deposit Apr 17. Other American Egret reports: one near Greene Apr 26 (Stratton), one near Binghamton May 5 (Topping) and one near Norwich May 11 (Whites). One Green Heron on Apr 29 at Sherburne (Whites) and four more the same day at Deposit (Wilson) were our first. A Black-crowned Night Heron along the Susquehanna River at Endwell Apr 2 was our first (Gendel). Highest count to date was nine at Willow Point, across the river from Johnson City, May 7 (Bemont, M. Washburn). Our first American Bittern was near Norwich Apr 21 (Whites). A pair was observed mating May 10 at Deposit (Wilson). A Whistling Swan was seen on the Chenango River above Binghamton from May 19 until 26 when it was found dead. It proved to be a young female (Loomis). Canada Geese seemed normal in numbers with the migration peak coming during the last eight or ten days of April. Over 1000 birds were seen flying over the Oxford area Apr 29 in "four formations in one flock" (Stratton). Baldpates seemed less common than usual. Three were seen Apr 6 at Boland's Marsh north of Binghamton (Marsis) and one at the same place the following day. Five males at Deposit May 6 (Wilson) were the only others reported. Only two Green-winged Teal reports: Apr 14 and May 5, both from the