

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

Binghamton area (TCNC). The first Blue-winged Teal was at Deposit May 14 (Wilson). An American Goldeneye Apr 22 at Unadilla (Wisner) and another Apr 29 at Norwich (Whites) were both rather late. Buffleheads seemed more common than usual. There were seven reports totalling about a dozen birds. The last report was from Whitney Point May 6 (E. J. Smiths). Old-squaws were at Deposit from Apr 29 to May 12 with the peak being 30 on Apr 30 (Wilson). One near Norwich Apr 29 (Nodecker) was the only other one reported. 13 White-winged Scoters were seen Apr 30 and seven more May 6 at Deposit (Wilson) and four were seen at Norwich May 10 (Whites). Two Ruddy Ducks were at Norwich Apr 29 and another May 11 (Whites). Seven reports containing a total of 18 Red-breasted Mergansers were received. The first was at Unadilla Apr 21 (Wisner) and the last at Deposit Apr 30 (Wilson). They were also reported from Norwich (Whites). They are not usually reported from the region at all.

HAWKS — OWLS: The usual two or three Turkey Vultures were present around Deposit during the period (Wilson). Mr. Rose of South Kortright writes that they are usually quite common there, but this year he has only seen them two or three times. A flight of hawks in which 50 were counted was observed in SE Chenango County Apr 29 (Nodecker). This is the first hawk flight of such proportions reported in the region within the last few years. The first Osprey was at Unadilla Apr 13 (Wisner) and they have been fairly common throughout the region since. Florida Gallinules were not seen until May 5 when they were found near Binghamton (Bemont, M. Sheffield). April 20 is the normal first date. Coot have been very uncommon: only three reports totalling four birds. Two at Binghamton Apr 22 (TCNC), one at Deposit May 25 (Wilson), and one at Norwich May 29 (Whites). Killdeer seem to be less common than usual in the Binghamton area (TCNC). The first Woodcock reported was near Binghamton Apr 7 (Sheffields). On May 20 an adult was seen with three young near Unadilla (Wisner). The first Spotted Sandpiper was near Norwich Apr 28 (Whites). May 6 saw the first Solitary Sandpipers at Deposit (Wilson) and at Binghamton (Bemont). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Oneonta May 20 (Will). A flock of 50 Herring Gulls, our last, was seen May 12 near Deposit (J. E. Smiths). Bonaparte's Gulls have been more common than usual, our first: seven at Norwich (Whites) and one at Unadilla (Wisner) on Apr 22. The high count was nine at Deposit Apr. 30 (Wilson). The last ones were one each at Binghamton (TCNC) and Deposit (Wilson) May 13. Two Caspian Terns were seen near Norwich Apr 29 (Whites). This is the first record for the region in the last few years. A Black Tern May 5 and another May 27 were the first and the last for the region. These were the first noted in the Deposit area for a number of years (Wilson). Three at Guilford Lake May 6 (Whites) and four near Binghamton May 13 (Sweet) were the only other ones reported. Black-billed Cuckoos were noted first in the Binghamton area May 13 (TCNC) and have been fairly common since. Yellow-bills on the other hand have been almost completely absent. A Barred Owl was heard near Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: A Whip-poor-will was at Oneonta May 20 (Will) and another was at Unadilla May 30 (Campbell). The first Nighthawks were at Binghamton May 13 (Hannans) and the first Chimney Swifts at Oxford Apr 29 (Nodecker). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed during its pendulum flight May 12 near Binghamton (Sheffields). A Red-headed Woodpecker was near Binghamton May 13 (TCNC) and another was at Oneonta about a week later (Will). Our first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Deposit Apr 13 (Wilson). In the Binghamton area they have been especially numerous since their arrival (TCNC). A Kingbird was at Deposit May 3 for our first (Wilson). In spite of an especially successful nesting season last year they have been a little less common than usual. Our first Crested Flycatcher was at Deposit May 1 (Wilson). A very late first Phoebe was at Oxford Apr 1 (Stratton). There were several reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. The first was near Norwich May 24 (Whites), two were near Binghamton May 25 (Sheffields) and two more May 28 (Bemont). Two were at Unadilla May 26 and three more May 30 (Wisner). An Alder Flycatcher near Binghamton May 14 (Bemont) was a little early. The first Least Flycatcher was at Deposit Apr 29 (Wilson) and the first Wood Pewees at Binghamton May 13 (TCNC). A rather early Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Binghamton May 13 (TCNC). They were reported more frequently this year than usual. Our first Tree Swallows were six near Binghamton Apr 2 (Bemont), the latest they have been in five years. Bank Swallows appeared at Binghamton Apr 22 and reoccupied the colony at Boland's Marsh even though the bank is slowly being removed to make way for a new housing development (TCNC). Rough-winged and Barn Swallows were both at

Boland's Marsh Apr 7 (TCNC) for our first. A previously unreported Cliff Swallow colony was reported from the Deposit area (Wilson) and another one was found south of Binghamton near the Pennsylvania border (Washburns). The Richford colony seems to have increased slightly since last year (Bemont). A few Purple Martins were back at their colony along Upper Front Street just north of Binghamton (TCNC). This is the only active colony known to me in the region. The last reported Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Oneonta May 20 (Will) and the last Brown Creeper at Binghamton May 13 (TCNC). The first House Wren was at Deposit Apr 30 (Wilson). Winter Wren records were more frequent than usual. One was heard singing near Binghamton Apr 11 (Marsi). The last one was at Binghamton on May 8 (Bemont, M. Washburn). No records of Carolina Wrens this spring. The first Catbird was at Norwich May 1 (Whites). A late first Brown Thrasher was at Binghamton Apr 28 (Sheffields). In Deposit they were rather scarce. Wood Thrushes were at Binghamton May 1 (TCNC) and Hermit Thrushes at Deposit Apr 8 (Wilson). An Olive-backed Thrush was in Binghamton May 3 (Doren, Saunders). Two Veeries at Deposit May 3 (Wilson) were our earliest. At least some of the Bluebird houses put out by the Naturalists' Club have been successful in attracting Bluebirds. After an absence of a year Blue-grey Gnatcatchers again appeared in the Binghamton area at most of the old stations and several new ones. The first ones were at Endicott May 5 (Bemont). One was seen at Deposit May 7 (Wilson), the first since 1948. Golden-crowned Kinglets were normal in numbers during migration and were seen until May 13 around Binghamton (TCNC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first seen at Deposit Apr 11 and were normal in numbers there until May 15 (Wilson). At Binghamton and Unadilla they appeared Apr 21 and were extremely common for a while. At Binghamton the main wave had passed by May 7 and they finally disappeared after May 15. At Unadilla they were still very common at the end of May. The only Pipits reported were two at Whitney Point May 8 (TCNC) and two more the same day at Norwich (Whites). There were two late reports of Northern Shrikes, one at Upper Lisle Apr 3 (Carter) and one at Cincinnati Apr 9 (Whites).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Our first Yellow-throated Vireos were at Deposit May 6 (Wilson), none in other areas until May 12 but numbers normal. A Blue-headed Vireo at Binghamton Apr 29 (Marsi) was the earliest. Reported scarce at Deposit but normal elsewhere. A Red-eyed Vireo at Unadilla May 7 (Wisner) was the first. May 13 was the earliest they were seen elsewhere. A Philadelphia Vireo was at Oneonta May 20 (Will) and another was seen singing at Deposit May 21, 22 and 24 (Wilson). An early Warbling Vireo was at Ely Park in Binghamton Apr 30 (Bemont), but there were no more until May 6. First dates for some common warblers: Black and White Apr 28 at Unadilla and Deposit, Tennessee Blue May 13 and Nashville May 3 at Binghamton, Yellow May 2 at Oxford, Black-throated Blue May 3, Myrtle Apr 27, Black-throated Green Apr 28 and Blackburnian Apr 28 at Deposit, Chestnut-sided May 2 and Ovenbird May 1 at Binghamton, Northern Water-thrush May 1 at Norwich, Louisiana Water-thrush Apr 22 at Unadilla, Northern Yellow-throat May 2 and Redstart May 1 at Deposit. Tennessee and Nashville Warblers seemed more common than usual and Myrtle Warblers, although still the commonest warbler, were slightly down in numbers. The rest of these seemed about normal. Golden-winged Warblers were not found until May 13 on the Naturalists' Club spring census and again a Brewster's was found on the census. The first date for Parula Warblers was May 12 when one was found at Norwich (Whites) and another near Binghamton (Sheffields). The first Magnolia Warbler was found May 7 near Binghamton (Sheffields) and they have been very much in evidence since. They haven't been so common for several years. The earliest Cape May Warbler was at Deposit May 7 (Wilson). They were more common than they have been for the past two years but their numbers didn't approach what they were in 1952 and 1953. A Cerulean Warbler was seen singing near Deposit May 30 and 31 (Wilson). A Yellow-throated Warbler was reported from the Oneonta area May 20 (Will). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Oxford May 12 (Stratton). At Unadilla they were being seen at the rate of about ten a day from May 20 on (Wisner). A Black-poll Warbler recorded near Deposit May 15 was our earliest (Wilson). Several records of Mourning Warblers were obtained. One was at Deposit May 15 and 20 (Wilson). One was at Binghamton May 16 (Sheffields), and one at Norwich May 27 (Whites) and still another at Unadilla May 30 (Wisner). The Binghamton area is the only part of the region from which Yellow-breasted Chats were reported. They were first seen May 13 and numbers have been normal. The surprise of the warbler migration has been the number of Wilson's Warblers. They were first seen May 13 around Binghamton (TCNC) and one or two have been seen on almost every

outing to the end of the month. The Deposit and Unadilla areas seemed to share in this abundance to a lesser extent, but in other parts of the region numbers were more normal. The earliest Canada Warbler was at Binghamton May 6 (TCNC). At Deposit they have been unusually common (Wilson).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Bobolink at Oxford Apr 30 (Stratton) was our earliest by a wide margin as there were no others found until May 12. Baltimore Orioles arrived at Binghamton and Unadilla May 5. There have been several reports that Orioles were feeding on the ground quite a bit. Rusty Blackbirds were seen until May 13 (TCNC). Scarlet Tanagers were first seen May 6 at Binghamton, Deposit and Norwich. They seemed to be more common than usual and have also been recorded feeding on the ground, particularly in the Unadilla area where Mr. Wisner writes of 11 on the ground in one yard at the same time. The first Indigo Buntings were in the Binghamton area May 13 (TCNC) and have been rather scarce in comparison with previous years. In Deposit they didn't show up until May 30 (Wilson). In Unadilla they seemed normal (Wisner). The last Evening Grosbeak was at Unadilla May 21 where a flock of 50 was present as late as May 11 (Wisner). Several reports of late Pine Grosbeaks were received, the latest from Oneonta May 20 (Will). There were also several late reports of Redpolls. The last record was a flock of about 500 birds at Deposit Apr 19 (Wilson). Several Pine Siskins at Unadilla May 27 (Wisner) were the latest of several reports. About eight Red Crossbills were near Binghamton May 6 (TCNC) and a flock of 30 White-winged Crossbills were at Deposit May 14.

The last Slate-colored Juncos were at Binghamton May 13 (TCNC) and the last Tree Sparrow was at Deposit May 1 (Wilson). Firsts: Chipping Sparrow, Binghamton Apr 23 (Shanley); Field, Endwell Apr 8 (Bemont); two White-crowned, Deposit Apr 29 (Wilson). White-crowns were more common than usual. The last one was at Unadilla May 18 (Wisner). The White-throated Sparrow that wintered at Deposit was last seen Apr 14. One was seen at Binghamton Apr 7 (Marsi) and may also have been a wintering bird. The first definite migrants were at Deposit and Binghamton Apr 26 and the last ones at Deposit May 26. They were quite common all the time they were here and on some days the woods were literally full of them. A late Fox Sparrow was at Binghamton May 13 (TCNC). A Lincoln's Sparrow was caught and banded at Endwell May 12 (Bemont).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The first week of April brought a marked thaw and a concomitant heavy influx of migrants. Despite this thaw both Oneida Lake and Sandy Pond were still frozen on Apr 7. On Apr 8, 4½ inches of heavy, wet snow plus cold weather forced thousands of recent migrants (Robins, Savannah, Vesper, and Song Sparrows, many blackbirds) to the roadside for food and resealed the recently thawed-out smaller marshes. Apr 9-15, though warm and fair, produced no great increase in migrants, only a diminution in what few ducks had arrived. The 16th to 26th consisted mostly of cold, wet days, freezing nights, and strong north winds, a combination which produced scant numbers of migrants, the majority of them late. Warm south winds on the night of Apr 27-28 induced a major migrational movement and with early AM showers, the area was flooded with hundreds of Thrashers, Hermit Thrushes, Fox, Field, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows, Sapsuckers, Creepers, Towhees, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. This horde of migrants stayed for one or two days, then rapidly dwindled in the opening days of May.