

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

FRITZ SCHEIDER

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.

Early May was a series of cool days, cold nights, retarded foliage, and no birds. From May 11 on, however, even despite the cold weather of May 15-27, wave after wave (May 12, 16, 19, 22, 23, 27) of warblers and other migrants appeared, usually following cold early rains. Accordingly, the early warblers (Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Palm) were seen in fewer numbers but the later warblers (Wilson's, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted) were observed in profusion. The cold, cloudy weather through the greater part of May retarded leaf growth and insect hatching; the first condition resulted in easier observation and the second resulted in many of the tree-top warblers feeding on the ground, scratching like White-throated Sparrows. This migration also showed many, many more reports of numbers of Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, all of which were seen frequently feeding in plowed fields. Migrational singing was practically non-existent and local May arrivals were often seen days ahead of the 1st singing noted. Noteworthy also were: (1) the numbers of late-staying ducks, and (2) the burst of shorebirds, attracted to the windrows of dead fish along Sandy Pond, in the last 10 days of May. Extensive tent caterpillar damage through southern Oswego and northern Onondaga Counties has occurred.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon: first arrivals on Apr 1; major flight not until last ten days of April; many stayed on larger lakes until mid- and late May. Red-throated Loon: one in winter plumage, Apr 21, Selkirk, is the only report. Red-necked Grebe: one Apr 21, near Texas, and two Apr 29, Oneida Lake are the sum of the spring reports. Horned Grebe: a few in early April but late April saw tremendous numbers of them (eg. 280, April 22, Oneida Lake); a few stayed into late May. Double-crested Cormorant: one Apr 7, Lake Ontario near Texas, is early. American Egret: one, May 20, Selkirk is the only spring report; there are usually one or two April reports. Whistling Swan: two reports. Canada Goose: flight only fair; the best count at Mud Lake was 2500, Apr 15 with 700 of them still there on May 6; however, no late May stragglers reported. Snow Goose: one report of a single bird, Oneida Lake, second week of April. Brant: unlike past few years' flurry of reports, only one report, four on May 25, Sandy Pond Inlet. Dabbling ducks: all extremely scarce, a condition probably due to the prolonged high water, frozen marshes, and overall poor feeding. Diving ducks: Oneida Lake flight was markedly reduced, largely because of ice conditions in early and mid-April.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported in April from Fulton, Texas, and Mexico with first date, Apr 8. Goshawk: last report is an adult, Apr 7, near Texas. Sharp-shinned Hawk: peak flight was 190 on Apr 15. Red-tailed Hawk: peak flight was 109 on Apr 15. B. P. Burt has noted a greater percentage of nests of this species with three young and/or eggs this spring than in the last three years; also many nests are two to three weeks behind previous years' dates in hatching. Broad-winged Hawk: first record is one, Apr 1, near Texas (very early); no really major flight observed this year. Bald Eagle: the Lake Ontario nest again appears to be without young. Harrier: high spring count is 70, Apr 15, along Lake Ontario. Osprey: many reports of single birds from Apr 15 to May 21. Merlin — a single male, Apr 14, Green Lakes State Park, is the only one noted. Coot: a very poor flight. Piping Plover: two, May 20, Sandy Pond; one has been seen there repeatedly since. Ruddy Turnstone: really a wonderful flight; first were 4 on May 26, Oneida Lake; up to 100+ in the closing days of May at Sandy Pond. Woodcock: first reported on Apr 4 (very late) near Clark Reservation. Wilson's Snipe: the Apr 8 storm forced down many Snipe. Upland Sandpiper: not reported until Apr 28 (late); reports indicate an encouraging increase in numbers of this bird. Greater Yellow-legs — not reported until Apr 15 (very late) and in very small numbers (4-8). Knot: eight on May 20 at Sandy Pond is our earliest spring record; 4-17 seen there to closing days of May. Pectoral Sandpiper: only one record, that of two, Apr 22, North Syracuse. Great Black-backed Gull: a few immatures present to May 27 at Sandy Pond Inlet. Ring-billed Gull: 10,000, mostly first and second year birds, were noted on May 20, Sandy Pond; the latter group was probably attracted to the area by the mid- and late May kill of the abundant moon-eyes. Bonaparte's Gull: almost totally absent as a migrant. Common Tern: first arrivals Apr 22, Phoenix; birds scarce at Oneida Lake to date, probably because of unseasonable high water.

Caspian Tern: first on Apr 22; high count 26, May 5, Sandy Pond inlet. Cuckoos: despite very pronounced tent caterpillar damage, cuckoos have been scarce all spring. Barn Owl: one trapped in a sawdust chute, Apr 18, near Nedrow; later banded and released; the pair at Warners, Onon. Co., returned to the last year's nest site in the third week of May. Whip-poor-will: first reported with the wave on Apr 28; many scattered reports of migrants up to June 1; a nest of this species was found in the Rome Pine Plains May 27 (P. Paquette, R. Wayland-Smith). Nighthawk: first May 13, but the majority of areas did not report them until the 20-21 of May.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Swift: first arrivals with the late April wave; like the nighthawk, the major group was late, many breeding birds not arriving until mid-May. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird appears to be quite scarce in comparison to counts of past few years. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a single male present to early June near Nedrow (Chamberlaine); formerly recorded only in winter in that sector. Red-headed Woodpecker: no April dates; two of the nine known breeding stations in this area have been abandoned this spring; in a few years it will probably be extirpated as a breeder here. Sapsucker: a very late flight (first arrival on Apr 11!) and until Apr 28 counts were ridiculously low; the April 28 flight left birds all over Onon. and Oswego Counties, many staying in non-breeding areas until the 2nd week of May; last migrant on May 20. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: surprising in view of the cold weather is the arrival date of May 9 (early); reported often with a high of 6 on May 19, Camillus Valley. Alder and Least Flycatcher: arrival dates May 14 and 4 respectively. I have seen more Empidonax flycatchers this spring (up to 120/day) than in any of the past 5 years; the majority of them passed through in irritating silence. Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher: both appeared on May 12, remarkably early for the latter species; about three times the usual spring reports of each were noted. Horned Lark: a flock of about 60, plainly referable to the northern race, were seen Apr 22 near Phoenix; these along with the other northern winter visitants probably stayed later because of the cold April weather. Tree Swallow: not reported until Apr 3 (late); 700+ were noted flying south along Sandy Pond on Apr 7; on Apr 8, the day of the wet snow, hardly any could be found. Bank Swallow: one on Apr 7 near Texas is early. Cliff Swallow: both number of colonies and individual colony size seem to be falling rapidly each year. Blue Jay: flocks of birds still migrating along Lake Ontario on May 20! Red-breasted Nuthatch: flight was small but protracted, Apr 14 and May 20. Brown Creeper — very scarce through early April but a flock of 50 was reported on Apr 28 and many (up to 15/day) were reported through the first week of May. Winter Wren: Apr 28-29; last migrant, May 20, Selkirk. Carolina Wren: after the rugged winter, it is heartening to receive reports of this bird from Selkirk (from May 6 on), Clark's Reservation (2 pair thru April & May), and Highland Forest, the last a single bird at 1500' on Arab Hill on May 20 (W. F. Minor). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 reported on May 4, Oneida (H. P. N.); as was the case last year, not one breeding pair reported. Catbird: daily counts of this species have been remarkable; it was not unusual to see 35 to 45 in a ½ hour's walk at Syracuse in first two weeks of May. Veery: first arrived with the flight of Apr 28; migrants still passing thru May 27. Olive-backed Thrush: many observers commented on the flocks of this bird; it was noted frequently feeding on sumac seed clubs; very rarely heard singing this spring. Gray-cheeked Thrush: scattered reports of single birds from May 20-26. Bluebird: a few records for early and mid-April; otherwise practically unreported and breeding pairs are extremely scarce.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: like the Carolina Wren and Cardinal, spreading into new sectors; first date Apr 27, Syracuse; three pairs located in Camillus Valley with a partially built nest discovered there on May 26 (D. Ackley); Mrs. H. Aspinwall saw a single bird at Rome on May 22, and D. Ackley also had one at Oneida, Apr 28. Golden-crowned Kinglet: very poor April flight; last date, May 12, Syracuse. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: a late flight but the region was flooded with these birds in the Apr 28 wave; present to May 12 in numbers; departure date May 20. Pipit: none reported until Apr 8; very few birds and no large flocks reported but the last date of May 12 is late. Cedar Waxwing: spring numbers have been extremely erratic; seen in numbers in early April and early May; absent through the remainder of the period although by late May the summer numbers appeared to be established. Northern Shrike: last date, and our latest ever, is one adult, Apr 15, Clay Swamp. Loggerhead Shrike: first reported from northern Cayuga Co. Apr 4 (Benton).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blue-headed Vireo: flight was late — May 4 was

first arrival. Red-eyed Vireo: through late May, great numbers of this bird passed but the flight of June 6 is the greatest ever noted in this area (eg. 60 birds in 100 yards of brush) and the total in the area must have been enormous. Philadelphia Vireo: many reported this spring. One observer has seen a total of 14 compared to the usual two or three.

The April migrant Warblers arrived approximately a week to ten days late. The first ten days of May showed counts of these earlier migrants far below normal and practically all early May species were tardy by two or three days. With May 11 the numerical situation changed tremendously and great numbers of warblers passed through from that date to Jun 5. Particularly scarce were Myrtles, Palms, and Cape Mays. Particularly abundant were Blackburnians, Nashville, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, and Canada. The last ten days of May saw startling numbers of Mourning, Black-poll, and Wilson's Warblers. Black & White: first birds on May 3. Prothonotary: May 20 at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake; female seen carrying nesting material on May 23, same place. Golden-winged: not reported until May 12, about four days late; reported from Oneida on May 12 (the first local record) and a new breeding station was found at Selkirk, May 20. Blue-winged: a non-singing bird seen repeatedly in Camillus Valley from May 17 to end of period. Brewster's: a singing bird seen at Camillus Valley on May 13 and frequently thereafter (our first local record); the presence of this bird would suggest a Golden-winged:Blue-winged nesting here last year. Tennessee: from May 13 on, this bird was common with a high of 35 on May 25; present to Jun 5; one of the few migrants that indulged in much singing. Orange-crowned: four records of this very rare spring migrant between May 15-20. Nashville: none reported in April, but May numbers (30-35 in an hour's walk) were impressive; last date June 5, Syracuse. Yellow: notable lack of song in this species through first two weeks of May; peak numbers not attained until May 12-13, about a week later than usual. Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian: arrival dates about three days behind and extremely scarce until the wave of May 12; the wave of May 19 brought even greater numbers of Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided along with hordes of Bay-breasted, the last about 5 days late. Cape May: first arrived on May 6; numbers thru Syracuse were very low (high of 12 on May 11), but both Rome and Oneida reported better than usual counts. Mrs. H. Aspinwall noted the Cape May several times feeding on suet. Black-poll: not reported until May 20 (very late) but counts in the fourth week of May much higher than in past four years — up to 45/day. Palm: very few individuals reported but both arrival and departure dates are remarkably late, Apr 28 and May 30 respectively. Connecticut: one report of this very rare spring migrant, a male on May 20, Green Lakes State Park (Dr. Evelyn Eddy). Mourning: arrived with the May 19 wave; peak date was 16 on May 27, Camillus Valley. Yellow-breasted Chat: one present from May 13 (D. Griffin) to end of period in wet aspen-willow brush at Camillus Valley; first local record in three years. Wilson's: first reported on May 14, Syracuse; an outstanding flight in late May with reports ranging from 9 - 25/day; still passing thru in numbers (15 - 18/day) at end of period; this and the Mourning Warbler, in contrast to the majority of warblers, sang frequently in their passage thru the area. Canada: not recorded until May 10 but the waves of May 29 & 27 produced small flocks of this species and 50/day counts were reported between those dates. Redstart: Apr 28 is arrival date (early); very little singing until the third week of May.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: a meadowlark consistently singing the Western's song has been heard and seen repeatedly (May 12 to Jun 3) near Routes 104B and 3, south of Selkirk. Baltimore Oriole: certainly a very common migrant this year; many were noted gorging on tent caterpillars; the most curious feeding was several orioles eating dead moon-eyes in company with shorebirds and other blackbirds at Sandy Pond, May 27. Scarlet Tanager: all observers commented on the number of individuals seen, often forming loose flocks of ten to 20 birds; frequently noted feeding on plowed ground. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: between May 12 and 20 these birds were reported everywhere in small flocks with a preponderance of males; often seen feeding on the ground, Towhee-fashion. Evening Grosbeak: a sharp drop in numbers with the warm weather of early April; however, two, May 25, Syracuse. Purple Finch: this year's flight was late and poor. Red-poll: flocks of 200 - 250 reported in first weeks of April; last noted is 12, April 15, near Texas. Siskin: a few reported in April; many reported throughout May with the last three on May 25. Junco: late April counts were close to the peak counts of early April and flocks of 35 to 100 stayed into early May; last

migrant reported May 20. Tree Sparrow: many small flocks (16-65) lingered in wet brushy areas thru the last two weeks of April; last seen on May 6 at Clay Swamp. The tardiness of the above two species probably resulted from the prolonged cold spells of April. Chipping Sparrow: extremely poor flight with comparable count 1/4 to 1/10 of last year's figures. Field Sparrow and Towhee: the flight of Apr 28 brought hundreds of these birds down over the area; both were noted feeding on shoreline wrack (Oneida Lake) and on open lawns. White-crowned Sparrow: from Apr 21 (near Rome) to May 30, Syracuse; outstanding numbers thru the first two weeks of May with 150+ on May 12 as peak figure. White-throated Sparrow: Burt's banding shows a better flight than '55 but lower numbers than '54; peak numbers on May 8. Fox Sparrow: small numbers thru April; flight of Apr 28 left stragglers to May 1, the departure date. Lincoln's Sparrow: first report, one trapped and banded on May 9; about 10 birds reported to last date, May 20 with 3/day as peak count. Lapland Longspur: a single report, five in spring plumage with a large flock of Horned Larks and three Snow Buntings near Baldwinsville on Apr 8, the last date for both those winter visitants.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The first of April brought spring-like weather and the snow began to melt at last. Winter had lasted to the end of March. The month of May was nearly four degrees below normal and the rains were frequent. These weather conditions delayed the development of some species of plants and insects much more than others. Warblers that usually feed in the tree tops were forced to look for food nearer the ground where they were more easily seen. Less foliage on the trees also helped observers. Many birds arrived late this spring, but a few were seen about the usual time. No doubt these same conditions also help to explain why so many people saw Scarlet Tanagers the latter part of May.

LOONS — DUCKS: The last half of April saw a good flight of Loons (Belknap). An American Egret was seen at the edge of Grasse River in front of Dr. Langdon's house on Apr 25. Egrets are more likely to be found in this region after the breeding season, although one was seen a few years ago near Potsdam about Apr 10 (Nichols). Canada Geese appeared early in April and stayed late. A flock of about 70 geese flew over Watertown May 5. The only Whistling Swans reported were seen by Evans near the outlet of Stony Creek in southern Jefferson County. Greater Scaup stayed as late as May 12, the latest on record (Nichols).

HAWKS — OWLS: Pigeon Hawk stayed until May 13 (Nichols). The earliest report of a Killdeer was Apr 4, although they are often seen two or three weeks earlier. Sora Rails were seen at Beaver Meadow May 18. Among the birds reported by David Gordon of Carthage are: Wilson's Snipe and Upland Plover Apr 28, Solitary Sandpiper May 5, Spotted Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper May 12. The Solitary Sandpiper stayed until May 21 (Nichols). A Snowy Owl stayed for a week near Watertown and was last seen May 18 (Belknap).

SWIFTS — WARBLERS: The first Chimney Swift was seen in Watertown May 12 and Nighthawks came the next day. Tree Swallows appeared the first week in April in spite of adverse weather (Belknap) and on time (Nichols). Barn Swallows reached Madrid Apr 13, three days earlier than any previous record (Nichols). L. Blake of Potsdam has one pair of Bluebirds but says they are about as scarce as last year. Nichols says that they have been rare this year as last and mentions their inability to compete with Starlings. Joseph and Agnes Blake noted that the warblers came about on time but stayed late. They saw and positively identified: Black and White, April 28; Black-throated Green, May 11; Wilson's, May 17;