

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

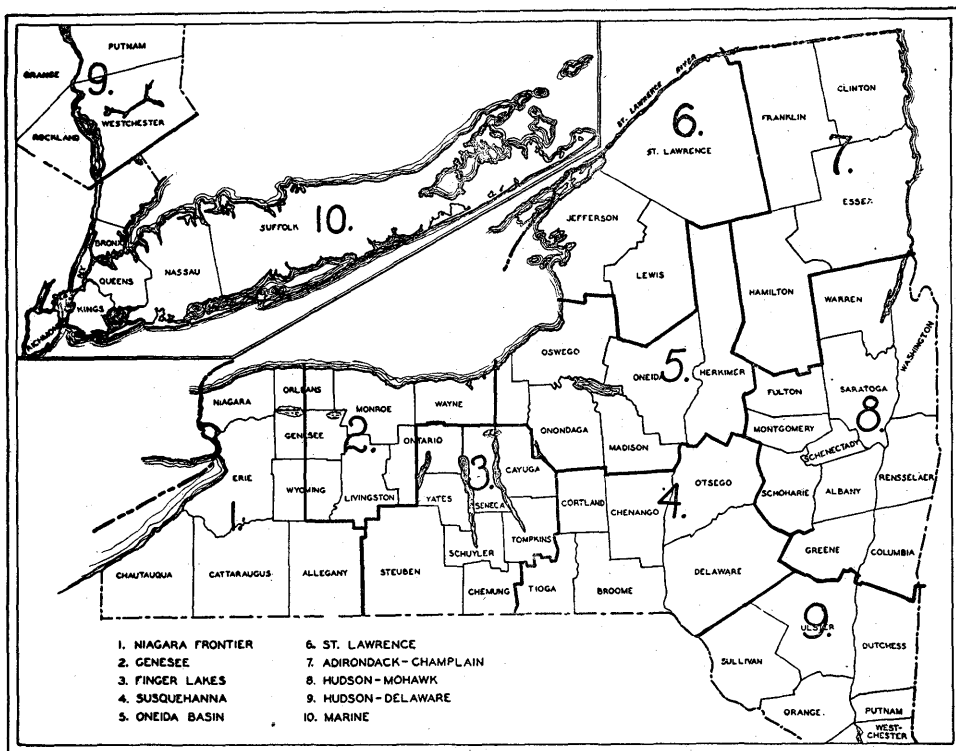
The weather this spring has gone from one extreme to the other, each extreme lasting for about three weeks and then giving way to the other. The first three weeks of April were cold and wet. Both snow and rain fell frequently. The next three weeks brought pleasant warm weather with no rain at all. Just as the dryness started to become serious and Gov. Harriman's ban on going into the woods went into effect it started to rain again. The wet weather then continued a couple of weeks but the last week in May was again warm and dry. Judging by first dates alone one might think that the migration was quite normal, but if dates of peak numbers are used it becomes apparent that the migration was a week or in some cases two weeks late.

Loons-Ducks: A Common Loon was at Norwich from Apr 17 to Apr 19 (Whites) and another was seen flying over near Oxford May 5 (Stratton). The latest Horned Grebe record was from Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) but there were several earlier reports from Binghamton, Cortland and Deposit. Green Herons were at Scott in Cortland Co. (Gustafson) and at Unadilla (Wisner) on Apr 24. Two Black-crowned Night Herons at Binghamton Apr 17 (Saunders) were the earliest reported. 14 were at Willow Point May 7 so that there is some hope that they will continue nesting in that area in spite of the fact that their previous site has been appropriated for the new Harpur College campus which is now under construction. An early Bittern was at Deposit Apr 22 (Wilson) and another at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites). A Binghamton Press story reported an injured Least Bittern, identified by unknown Conservation Dept. people, was found in Binghamton May 21.

Canada Geese were reported as late as May 5 from Oxford (Stratton) and Sherburne (Whites). At Oxford over 1000 went over during the day and night of Apr 29. Ten Mallard ducklings were seen at Little York in Cortland Co. Apr 24 (Pratt). Seven Green-winged Teal at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton Apr 15 (H. Marsi) were our last. A Wood Duck had occupied one of Mr. Wilson's nesting boxes at Deposit Apr 3. Ring-necked Ducks were around until Apr 13 at Deposit (Wilson) and Canvas-backs were at Norwich until the same date (Whites). Three late American Goldeneyes were at Norwich Apr 8 (Whites). The high count of Buffleheads was 12 at Little York Apr 17 (Gustafson) and the latest were at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites). They were also reported from Norwich. Seven Oldsquaws at Deposit Apr 19 (Wilson) was the high count and three at Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) were the latest. A Hooded Merganser had twelve eggs in one of Mr. Wilson's nesting boxes at Deposit May 19. Two American Mergansers were still at Norwich, where they are transients, Apr 12 (Whites). At Deposit where they are breeders a pair was in the vicinity throughout the period (Wilson). There were three Red-breasted Merganser reports; two at St. John's Pond near Binghamton Apr 6 (Sheffields), six at Norwich Apr 8 (Whites) and two at Deposit Apr 20 (Wilson).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were seen in ones and twos throughout the period in the Deposit area, but on May 13 ten were seen at one time (Wilson). Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be much more common than usual during April, but there was a decided decrease in May (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club), but Broad-winged Hawks were down in numbers. From Deposit where Broad-wings sometimes nest Mr. Wilson writes that he knows of no nesting pairs this year. Dr. Burt, of Syracuse, banded two young Red-tails in a nest 2 mi. south of Binghamton Apr 17 and found them much further advanced than would be usual for that date in the Syracuse area. Two Rough-legged Hawks were at Oxford Apr 14 (Stratton). Three Bald Eagles were at Cortland May 16 (B. A. Hall). Marsh Hawks were also more common during April than in previous years but they too decreased in May. Our earliest Osprey was at Unadilla Apr 12 (Wisner) and a late one was at Little York May 21 (Thurber). A Duck Hawk was

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reported from Oxford Apr 1 (Stratton). The Broome Co. Board of Supervisors earlier this year appropriated \$1000 to be used by the Broome Co. Federation of Sportmen's Clubs in a conservation project. The money was used for the purchase of 500 Bob-white of a "northern breed" and these birds were released in a few carefully chosen areas this spring.

Florida Gallinules, a few years ago considered to be very common in appropriate habitats, have gone undetected so far this spring. Semi-palmated Plovers were seen by several observers in the Binghamton area May 19 (TCNC), but were recorded on no other day. There have been a number of reports of Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe from various parts of the region, the latter as late as May 26 at Sherburne (Whites). Two Upland Plover were at Homer May 1 (Gustafson). Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Norwich (Whites) and at Willow Point (Bemont, E. Washburn) Apr 29. Solitary Sandpipers in small numbers were reported from Deposit May 11 (Wilson) and from Binghamton May 19 and 26 (TCNC). Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers in the Binghamton area, also May 19, rounded out one of the best spring waves of shorebirds on record here (TCNC).

An especially late Herring Gull was at Endwell Apr 25 (Bemont), and two more

were at Norwich May 1 (Whites). Five Ring-billed Gulls were at Deposit Apr 17 (Wilson). On Apr 6, 15 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Whitney Point Dam (Whites), some in winter and some in summer plumage. Two more were at Deposit Apr 17 (Wilson). A Common Tern was at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson) and was the only one reported. A Black Tern at Little York May 12 (Thurber) was likewise the only one reported. Both Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos were found near Binghamton May 9 (H. Marsi). The latter has been decidedly more common and was reported from other parts of the region. The Barred Owl at Deposit was heard Apr 10 and a few times since (Wilson). One was at Sherburne Apr 28 (Whites).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawks appeared at Binghamton May 9 (Whitson). They have since been found at Cortland (Cecil), Hancock (Wilson), Norwich (Whites, Stratton) and Oneonta (Wisner). One Chimney Swift seen near Binghamton Apr 21 (Saunders, Sheffield) was the first. They arrived in force Apr 25. The first Hummingbird was at Unadilla May 15 (Wisner). Sapsuckers were around from Apr 2 at Binghamton (Ainslie) to May 6 at Berkshire in Tioga Co. (Bemont). They seemed common in the Binghamton and Deposit areas but were not reported elsewhere. A first Kingbird was at Little York Apr 24 (Pratt) but they were uncommon until about May 12. The first Crested Flycatcher was at Binghamton May 10 (TCNC). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Sherburne May 26 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center near Binghamton May 30 (Sheffield). An Alder Flycatcher in the Binghamton area May 19 (Bemont) was the first one. More are being found each year in the area. This year they were also found at Unadilla and at Chenango in Cortland Co., but not at Deposit. The earliest Wood Pewee was at Ely Park in Binghamton May 15 (Bemont, E. Washburn). Only two Olive-sided Flycatchers one at Deposit May 13 (Wilson) and one at McLean Bog in Cortland Co. May 23 (Gustafson).

Although a few Tree Swallows were reported in March no more were found until Apr 12 at Deposit and Apr 15 elsewhere. Bank Swallows were at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner) but did not appear in Binghamton until May 4. Another colony was found along Route 17 near Readburn Creek in Delaware Co. (Wilson). Rough-winged Swallows arrived at Deposit Apr 25 and Barn Swallows were at the same place Apr 22 (Wilson). Cliff Swallows were at Deposit Apr 23 (Wilson), but were not seen at Binghamton or Little York until May 19 or at Unadilla until May 20. The colony just west of Richford was visited several times during the period but it appeared to be abandoned. A single Purple Martin was at the colony on Upper Front St. north of Binghamton Apr 27 (Sheffield) but there were several more birds there by May 6. A colony at Little York was occupied May 10 (Gustafson). Only three Red-breasted Nuthatch reports; one from Unadilla Apr 27 (Wisner), one from Sherburne May 4 and one from Norwich May 25 (Whites). A late Brown Creeper was at Sherburne May 26 (Whites).

The first House Wren was at Deposit Apr 24 (Wilson). Only two Winter Wrens were reported during the period, both Apr 21; one at Deposit (Wilson) and one just north of Binghamton (Saunders, Sheffield). A Carolina Wren was at one of the old stations in Binghamton May 19 (Bemont). This is the first record since January of 1956. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were very late. The first was at Boland's Marsh May 19 (TCNC). Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens finally returned to Sherburne May 26 (Whites). Hermit Thrushes have been low in numbers around Binghamton (TCNC). Olive-backed Thrushes were first found at Binghamton and Cortland May 19. Bluebird numbers seem to be improving around Binghamton. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were very late but two finally appeared at Ely Park May 30 (M. Sheffield). Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed fairly common around Binghamton but numbers were down from the extreme high of last year (TCNC). Mr. Wilson reports finding them at Deposit Apr 4, the earliest date in 11 years. A Northern Shrike was at Georgetown in Chenango Co. Apr 7 and one was at Oxford Apr 13 (Whites). A Migrant Shrike was at Whitney Point Dam Apr 6 (Whites) and one was at Unadilla June 1 (Wisner).

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Oxford Apr 25 (Stratton) and Blue-headed Vireos were at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson). The first Red-eyed Vireo was at Unadilla May 5 Wisner). A Philadelphia Vireo was found near Bing-

hamton May 19 (Saunders) and the first Warbling Vireo at Oxford Apr 25 (Stratton).

The first Black and White Warblers were found at Binghamton and Deposit Apr 25. Around May 10 this species reached an unusually high peak in the Binghamton area. A Worm-eating Warbler was found on South Mountain in Binghamton May 9 (H. Marsi) and another was found at Ely Park May 30 (M. Sheffield). Golden-winged Warblers arrived at Binghamton May 9 (M. Sheffield, E. Washburn). A Blue-winged Warbler was found at Deposit May 10, the first one seen there since 1950 (Wilson). Another was found near Binghamton May 11 (H. Marsi) where it later established a territory adjacent to at least one Golden-winged. A Blue-winged was also found at Chenango May 23 (Thurber). For the fifth year running a Brewster's Warbler was found in the Binghamton area, this time in a new location, on May 19 (H. Marsi). An early Tennessee Warbler was found Apr 29 at Endicott (Carter). From May 9 to May 23 they were common in the Binghamton area. They were also rather numerous at Cortland and Unadilla. An Orange-crowned Warbler was found near Castle Creek north of Binghamton May 5 (TCNC). Only three Parulas; one at Deposit May 10 (Wilson), one at Binghamton May 12 (TCNC) and another at Binghamton May 13 (Bemont). Only two Pine Warblers, both at Hartwick, Apr 14 and 15, one of which was banded (Chamberlaine). One Yellow Palm at Deposit Apr 21 (Wilson), and two Palm records; one at Binghamton May 4 (M. Sheffield) and four just north of Binghamton May 5 (TCNC). Three Mourning Warblers; one at Cortland May 12 (Thurber), one near Peakville in Delaware Co. May 12 and again May 25, in the same spot as last year (Wilson) and at Norwich May 30 (Whites). Two Wilson's Warblers: one at Binghamton May 11 (M. Sheffield) and one at Little York May 21 (Thurber). Other Warblers: Nashville, Apr 29 (Wilson), fairly common after May 5; Yellow, Apr 27 (Wilson), very common after May 4; Magnolia, May 8 (Wilson), uncommon; Cape May, Apr 28 at Virgil (C. Wilcox), fairly common around May 12; Black-throated Blue, May 3 (Wilson), uncommon; Myrtle, Apr 21 (Wilson), very common after May 5; Black-throated Green, Apr 27 (Wisner, M. Sheffield), fairly common around May 10; Blackburnian Apr 26 (Wilson, Wisner), uncommon; Chestnut-sided, Apr 27 (Bemont), common; Bay-breasted, May 9 (H. Marsi), uncommon; Black-poll, May 13 (M. Sheffield), common around May 30; Oven-bird, Apr 27 (M. Sheffield), very common; Northern Water-thrush, May 11 (Bemont, Hevey), rare; Louisiana Water-thrush, Apr 20 (M. Sheffield, Wilson), rare; Yellow Throat, May 3 (Bemont, E. Washburn), very common; Chat, May 9 (M. Sheffield, E. Washburn), rare; Canada, May 8 (Wilson), rare; Redstart, Apr 29 (Wilson), common.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Our first Bobolink was at Unadilla May 8 (Wisner) and our first Baltimore Oriole at Endwell May 1 (LaSheir). A last Rusty Blackbird was at Willow Point Apr 30 (Bemont, E. Washburn). Scarlet Tanagers arrived at both Binghamton and Deposit May 8. A very early immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared in a back yard in Binghamton Apr 6 (Gillespies, fide H. Marsi). The first "normal" migrant was at Deposit May 1 (Wilson). Indigo Buntings were first seen at Binghamton May 9 (M. Sheffield). Mr. Wilson reports they are much more common at Deposit this year than last. The first Red-eyed Towhee was at Binghamton Apr 14 (Marsis) about two weeks earlier than last year. Most other parts of the region were almost as early. Savannah Sparrows arrived at Deposit Apr 9 (Wilson); Grasshopper Sparrows at Binghamton Apr 28 (M. Sheffield, Pucek); Henslow's Sparrows at Binghamton Apr 22 (Sheffields); and Vesper Sparrows at Chenango Bridge Apr 5 (Jennings). The last Tree Sparrow was near Binghamton Apr 16 (Marsi) and almost all the Juncos had left by Apr 28. White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Binghamton May 2 (Linaberry) and were last seen at Deposit May 2 (Wilson). White-throats arrived at Binghamton Apr 12 (H. Marsi) and one was still singing at Deposit May 29 (Wilson). No more Fox Sparrows were seen after Apr 15 near Vestal (H. Marsi). A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported near Binghamton Apr 21 (Gillespie).

710 University Ave., Endwell