

Vireos — Warblers: A Philadelphia Vireo was seen May 31 at Manitou (Listman). Only about six species of warblers were present at the end of April. The first weekend in May showed a majority of the earlier warblers present, but except for Myrtles and possibly Palms they were in very small numbers. The second weekend in May saw all the regular early and mid-season warblers present in good numbers and by May 15 all the regular warblers, except possibly the Blackpoll, were at least present. Single Blue-winged Warblers were reported May 13 at Avon (Haller), at Mendon Ponds May 24 (Rising, Zeitler), and at Bergen Swamp May 24 (McKinney). A Brewster's Warbler was reported May 17 at Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary (McKinney). The only spring report of the Orange-crowned Warbler was of a single bird May 15 in the Hawk Lookout woods (Listman). Five Cape May Warblers were seen May 11 at Durand (Miller). A Yellow-throated Warbler (albicola ?) was seen Apr 20-21 on Edgewater Lane in Irondequoit (Moons, Leubner). A Prairie Warbler in Durand May 13 (G. O. S. hike) on a very poor warbler day was our only record for this species this spring. The Louisiana Waterthrush was recorded near Avon May 1 (Haller). A Connecticut Warbler was seen at the Island Cottage woods May 15 (Dobson) and another was seen at Manitou May 28 (Listman). A bird heard but not seen in the same location May 30 (McKinney) was probably but not positively this species. The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Leroy May 11 (Haller) and from Manitou May 18 (Listman et al) and May 25 (Taylor et al). A bird heard but not seen at Island Cottage Woods May 30 (McKinney) was probably this species.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Western Meadowlark was reported from Spencerport May 22-26 (Listman) and from Webster May 30-31 (Kemnitzers). A remarkable flight of six hundred fifty Baltimore Orioles flying west along the east lake shore was seen May 17 (McNett, Sunderlin). Evening Grosbeaks continued in numbers until the last two weeks of the period, our last record being of a single bird May 30 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Pine Siskins, which had not been previously recorded this year, occurred during the last three weeks of May in flocks of up to one hundred birds. They were still present in some numbers up to the very end of the month. No Crossbills of either species was reported. A late Slate-colored Junco was seen in the Island Cottage woods May 31. A Harris' Sparrow was carefully observed in the Island Cottage woods May 11 by the Barlows. White-crowned Sparrows were rather late in arriving but then occurred in at least normal numbers. The pensive song of the White-throated Sparrow seemed somewhat less in evidence this spring than in some years. There seemed to be more than the normal number of reports of Lincoln's Sparrows, the largest number reported in a day being eight on May 15 at Manitou (Listman).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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It was generally a cold, wet, frosty spring. The snow cover lingered until late in April in some areas (until April 20 in front of the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory), and the Hornell Reservoir basin was ice-locked until April 15. Most observers reported that migration was late and scanty. At Geneva, Walker heard migrants passing over at night, but few seemed to drop in to feed by day in that area. Mrs. Carter reports that weather conditions around Avoca improved at nesting time and the early nesters were having success. At Ithaca, two peak days were noted: May 11 and 12 were warm, following a period of cold rain, and birds poured in. May 19 was another good day.

It was increasingly obvious that those species which had wintered in the southern states suffered considerable losses in numbers. Robins, Hermit Thrushes, Phoebe, Chipping Sparrows and Bluebirds, for example, were scarce. Those which went to Central or South America escaped our severe winter, although some early migrants suffered from the lingering cold and late blizzards when they reached the mid-Atlantic states.

Loons — Ducks: About 20 Common Loons were spotted on the west side of Cayuga on Apr 12 (I. Nisbet), and several individuals could be seen on the Hornell Reservoir basin from Apr 22 (after the ice went out) until mid-May (Groesbeck). A good find was a Red-throated Loon on the Branchport Basin on May 3 (Spiker). The only regional report of a Red-necked Grebe was of one off Aurora on Cayuga on Apr 5 (Nisbet). Horned Grebes were spotted in good numbers early in April on Cayuga — Nisbet seeing about 60 from Aurora to Levanna on Apr 5, and Mrs. A. Robinson seeing a total of 100 on Apr 6. Two Double-crested Cormorants were at Montezuma on May 11 (Walker). Great Blue Herons were in normal numbers in part of the region, slightly below normal in other sections. The first Common Egret appeared at Montezuma Refuge on Apr 16. Black-crowned Night Herons seemed rather scarce. The Least Bittern was reported at the Refuge on May 21 (V. Dewey). A Glossy Ibis, interestingly enough, turned up at the Refuge on Apr 25, the same date as a year ago, and again it was last seen on May 4, but it was not noted consistently in the period between these dates.

Two Whistling Swans were seen at Elmira on May 17, and one immature at the Penn Yan Marsh on May 24 (Guthrie). Few Canada Geese stopped at Hornell, probably because of the ice lingering so long. On Cayuga the numbers were large; on Apr 5 Ian Nisbet found by a careful count 29,000, plus or minus 2,000, and on May 4 there were still 6,000, with another 800 at Montezuma. No Brant reports this spring. A new bird for the Finger Lakes is the White-fronted Goose, carefully observed at Montezuma on Apr 20 by David Peakall of Alfred, who is well acquainted with the species in Europe (validation report filed). Two Snow Geese were seen by Nisbet near Lake Ridge on Apr 5, and two immatures spent some time at the Refuge in mid-May, according to the refuge personnel. A Blue Goose was seen near Levanna on Apr 5, and one at Montezuma on May 4 (Nisbet).

There were 26 American Widgeon at the south end of Seneca Lake the last week in March (A. Robinson). A European Widgeon was seen at Montezuma from the end of March until Apr 10. Green-winged Teal were absent this year from Elmira and Keuka. A long Blue-winged Teal spent a few days just off Stewart Park in Ithaca early in May. No Wood Ducks were found at Hornell this year. A female with 11 young was seen May 28 at Avoca (Carter), and at least two pairs are nesting in Sapsucker Woods and more nearby, since seven females were seen at the feeding area at the same time. Groesbeck reports that the only duck in normal numbers at Hornell this spring was the Bufflehead. There were fewer Oldsquaws than usual at Keuka. There was good migration of this species on Seneca the last week in April (L. Ward); one was seen on May 17 at Elmira, and an injured bird spent the period from Apr 23 to May 10 on a pond at Avoca (Carter), the first record on the valley waters there. Two White-winged Scoters were seen on the Chemung River on May 16 (Al Fudge), and there were 25 on Seneca Lake the last week in April (Ward). All Mergansers seemed down in numbers.

Montezuma Refuge personnel report the following peak numbers of waterfowl for the month of April (except where otherwise noted, this peak was reached the first week of April): Canada Geese 7,000; Mallards 1,000; Blacks 2,300; Gadwalls 200 (Apr 27 - May 3); American Widgeon 3,300; Pintails 2,500; Green-winged Teal 100 (Apr 28 - May 3); Blue Winged Teal 300 (Apr 27 - May 3); Shoveler 100 (Apr 27 - May 3); Wood Duck 100 (Apr 27 - May 3); Ring-necked Ducks 1,200 (Apr 6 - 12); Greater Scaup 100; Common Goldeneyes 200; Buffleheads 100; and Coot 200 (Apr 27 - May 3).

Hawks — Owls: All hawks were again scarce at Avoca (Carter). Turkey Vultures were reported on Apr 6 at Montezuma (Walker) and on Apr 18 at Elmira (Mann, Smith). A Goshawk was seen on Apr 13 and on May 17 at Elmira, but no Sharp-shins or Cooper's there this spring, and these seem scarce everywhere. A Red-tailed Hawk was seen carrying nesting material into Sapsucker Woods in early April, but apparently nothing came of it — perhaps the resident Red-shoulders drove them out. The latter, however, were not as much in evidence as in some years when they nested close to the Laboratory at the Sanctuary. Six Broad-winged Hawks were seen over Stewart Park on Apr 24 (Nisbet), and the species was seen at Hornell on May 8 and at Elmira on May 10. Ward noted Broad-wing migration over Geneva on May 18. While the Bald Eagles have appeared to be nesting in one of the old nests visible from the entrance to the Storage Pond dike, there is no evidence of young having been brought off. The Marsh Hawks did not return to the field across from the Laboratory of Ornithology Building at Sapsucker Woods this year, but they were seen

a mile north regularly. Ospreys seemed somewhat more numerous than usual, and one remained around Etna most of May. K. Fudge saw seven at Elmira on May 4, and three were seen on May 8 at Hornell (Groesbeck). A Pigeon Hawk eating small prey in a tree was seen at Watkins Glen on May 6 (A. Robinson).

Pheasants were scarce in some part of the region, probably as a result of the severe winter. Both Virginia and Sora Rails were scarce at Hornell, and no Soras were found at Keuka (Guthrie). Killdeer were also scarce at Keuka, but young Killdeer were found fairly early in the Ithaca region. Nisbet reported Whimbrels overhead the night of May 27. Upland Plovers returned to the usual station east of Dryden (Kelsey) and one was seen on May 30 near Elmira (K. Fudge). High water everywhere resulted in very few shorebird reports throughout the region. Bonaparte's Gulls were not as abundant as some years on Cayuga, and none appeared at Keuka this year. By May 1 Common Terns were nesting at Montezuma (L. Smith). Black Terns were fewer than usual at Elmira, but there were 200 at Montezuma on May 4 (Nisbet). Caspian Terns were seen at Montezuma on Apr 26 (J. Morse).

Mourning Doves were in good numbers throughout the region. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce in some areas, abundant around Waterloo. Black-bills were in normal numbers. Owls seemed scarce. The Great Horned did not nest at Stewart Park at Ithaca this year; there were no Long-ears at the usual roost in Elmira, and Screech Owls seemed not too common.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: There were several records of Whip-poor-wills at Geneva (Ward). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were very scarce throughout the region. Many have told me they have had none in their gardens this year, and mine at Etna were late in arriving. Fewer Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, although one hung around Stewart Park in Ithaca from Apr 25 to May 15, and one was found near Arthur Lane's in Sapsucker Woods but did not stay to nest. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to increase around Elmira, but only one has been seen near Ithaca, and that in the Forest Home section. None was at Hornell this year. The species was seen at Montezuma on May 11, and a pair nested for the second year in Moravia (Mrs. K. Ray). At Avoca both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were scarce.

Phoebes, many of which winter in the southern states, were among those whose numbers were reduced this winter and were scarce throughout the region. Least Flycatchers and Pewees were somewhat lower in numbers this year. Several reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers: one at Geneva on May 18; one at Avoca on May 23, and one at Breesport on May 25. Horned Larks seemed able to cope with the bad spring and were in normal numbers. They were seen feeding young at Hedgeville on May 15 (Groesbeck). Tree Swallows were scarcer at Avoca and several other localities, but are occupying most of the boxes on the pond at Sapsucker Woods. Ian Nisbet reported a flock of approximately 3,000 swallows at Montezuma on May 4, of which about 40% were Rough-wings, 20% Barns and 20% Trees. Rough-wings, however, were scarcer this year at Avoca. Cliff Swallows started to nest on a barn near Avoca (Carter), but the nests were torn down by the owner. A Purple Martin house was erected this spring on the pond in Sapsucker Woods and has been adopted by several pairs. A mile to the west another house was several pairs, also for the first year.

Tufted Titmice are continuing their northward spread. One pair has remained at Keuka and is probably nesting; one was seen on the Geneva census, May 18, and there are two pairs in Stewart Park in Ithaca. One has appeared several times in Etna. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were common in parts of the region in winter, there was no migration noticed, although L. Helfer reported two on May 19 at Watkins Glen. House Wrens were scarce everywhere. Few Winter Wren reports; one was singing at Star Stanton Hill on May 27, south of Dryden (Kelsey). Oddly enough the Long-billed Marsh Wren was not reported on the census at Ithaca, May 18, although the Short-billed was found at Summit Ridge. The latter species has not been reported from the Refuge, Avoca or Elmira. Catbirds were in normal numbers. Twenty-five of them were counted by Nisbet at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 12. Robins seemed quite scarce at first, but picked up in normal numbers in most parts of the region. Guthrie reported picking up six dead Robins on the Keuka campus, evidently victims of elm tree spraying. The other thrushes were all down in numbers. Migration of Wood Thrushes was noted on May 11, when 15 were counted at Stewart Park (Nisbet), but Sapsucker Woods had fewer Wood

Thrushes and no Hermit Thrushes this year. Bluebirds seem hardest hit of all. Hartshorne reports that of 30 boxes occupied last year in his studies, only 10 have Bluebird families this year, and this reduction seems to hold everywhere. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more numerous this year. A pair is nesting near Dryden, and Nisbet reported 12 individuals in Stewart Park on May 1, 20 on May 12, and 9 on May 25. Both species of Kinglets were scarce this year, and there were almost no reports of Pipits. The Cornell campus was flooded with Cedar Waxwings on May 26, and they seemed quite common everywhere.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were somewhat down in numbers. There were no Solitary Vireos around Keuka and not many were noted at Ithaca. Red-eyed and Yellow-throated both seemed somewhat scarce at Ithaca, and the Red-eyed was scarce at Avoca. Philadelphias were not noted in migration, but often aren't.

A Prothonotary Warbler spent about five days in the first week of May on the woody edge of Stewart Park. The Worm-eating Warbler has returned to Mrs. York's hillside at Elmira, and of interest too is the report of this species at Geneva on May 18. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers have increased in numbers around Ithaca, and the Blue-winged was seen in Friend-Potter's Woods near Keuka. Of even greater interest is the appearance in several localities of Brewster's, and one report of Lawrence's. The latter was seen near Elmira on May 17 by Wilfred Howard. Brewster's was seen by Al Fudge at Sullivan's monument, Elmira, on May 24; there were two unconfirmed reports of this bird near Keuka; Bill Dilger saw one in Michigan Hollow on May 18, and one was collected by Les Short at Monkey Run, northeast of Ithaca. Three Orange-crowned Warblers were counted at Geneva on the census May 18 (Ward), and Nashvilles were abundant at Geneva, scarce at Avoca. There did not seem to be as many Yellow Warblers around as in most years. Cape Mays were practically absent at Hornell and Avoca. Myrtles were scarce at Avoca, Watkins Glen and Ithaca. Black-throated Greens were abundant at Geneva, scarce at Avoca, and Blackburnians were scarce at both Avoca and Elmira. At least two pairs of Ceruleans were still present at Stewart Park on May 25 and are probably nesting there. The Mourning Warbler spent about a week at Stewart Park, Ithaca (May 18-25). One was seen May 30 and later at Mary Smith's near Elmira; one was singing on Star Stanton Hill near Dryden on May 27, and others were noted at eight different locations near Avoca. A Hooded Warbler, often missed, was seen in Stewart Park on May 13 (M. Ficken) and another on May 17 was seen just east of Ithaca along Cascadilla Creek (Leighton). Redstarts seemed in good numbers; 40 were counted in Stewart Park on May 12 (Nisbet) and 20 on May 19.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks seemed rather scarce around Ithaca, more abundant at Geneva. Meadowlarks were in good numbers all over the region, and Redwings were increasingly abundant. Baltimore Orioles were fairly abundant (20 were counted on May 12 at Stewart Park). Rusty Blackbirds were not as common this year in migration, and again bypassed Hornell. Grackles and Cowbirds were everywhere. All observers spoke of the large number of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this year. At Watkins Glen Tanagers poured through on May 15 and 16. Indigo Buntings also came through in good numbers and were particularly abundant at Burdett around May 20. Walker found them abundant at Waterloo, too.

Evening Grosbeaks lingered on, with a spurt of new individuals coming through in early May. At several locations single females have been reported as remaining into June, but aside from these, last dates have been reported as follows: Avoca, May 17; Corning, May 28; Hornell, May 26; Etna, May 25; Sapsucker Woods, May 21; and Watkins Glen, May 15. Mrs. George Richardson at Corning noted courtship in this species in a flock of 100 on May 16.

Purple Finches were scarce at Keuka, in normal numbers at Hornell and Ithaca. Pine Siskins were found in Stewart Park on May 18 and for ten days thereafter. Henslow's, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows were late and scarce at Keuka, and Henslow's is scarce or absent at Avoca. White-crowned Sparrows were more abundant than White-throats (which were actually scarce in many areas) everywhere except Hornell. At Avoca White-crown migration reached its peak on May 14 and 15, while at Ithaca the species poured in on May 15. Fox Sparrows were again very scarce. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in late May at Elmira by Mary Smith; Song Sparrows seemed somewhat down in numbers.

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