

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Spring this year has been wet, cool and slow.. Precipitation during April was the third heaviest on record for that month. The last snowfall came April 12 and there were still traces of snow on the ground until April 17. Although the total precipitation in April was high, there were only eleven rainy days divided into three or four day periods so that the total of sunshine hours and the average temperature were also higher than normal, mainly because of the unseasonably warm weather during the third week of the month. May was decidedly cool on the average, although the last frost was quite early, May 10. Precipitation was actually below normal, but it came in frequent light rains so that it seemed to be a wet month.

Although the spring was cool and slow in some respects, the warm spell in the third week of April, mentioned earlier, put the foliage substantially ahead. The well developed leaves combined with the somewhat late arrival of many song birds that was noted by all observers made migration watching less than ideal. There was also a substantial decrease in the number of song birds of several species reported, a larger decrease than can be explained on the basis of poor visibility. Especially noticeable was the decrease in Phoebe's, Black and White Warblers and Myrtle Warblers.

Loons — Ducks: After six years without a Common Loon report from the Triple Cities area two were found on the same day, Apr 12, one at Whitney Point (Sheffields) and the other on Lily Lake in Chenango Valley State Park, over ten miles away (Goetz). There were later reports from Norwich and Guilford Lake (Whites), but the last report was from Whitney Point May 10 (Beaver). Three Red-necked Grebes, an unusual species here, were on Mead's Pond just north of Norwich Apr 13 (Whites). There were quite a few Horned Grebes reported from the Triple Cities and Norwich areas, the last from Norwich May 4 (Whites). Our earliest Green Heron was at Unadilla May 3 (Wisner). Some Black-crowned Night Herons spent enough time around a pond in the Greene area to raise hopes they were breeding in the area (Maxon), but they seem to have moved on. The colony at Willow Point, across the river from Johnson City, seems to have been deserted. A number of visits by several different observers all through the spring failed to turn up any of the birds. Our first American Bittern was at Willow Point May 11 (Sheffields).

A larger than normal number of Canada Geese have been migrating over the Triple Cities area, particularly from Apr 14 to May 1 (Naturalists' Club). On Apr 5 over 75 Mallards were at Whitney Point Dam (Sheffields). Sixty Mallards and 200 Black Ducks were near Binghamton May 1 (Marsi). A Mallard nest with ten eggs was found near Deposit May 16 (Wilson). Our first and last Pintails were ten at Whitney Point Dam Apr 5. Green-winged Teal were first seen Apr 4 at Whitney Point and were last seen Apr 20 at Boland's Marsh (Sheffields). The first Blue-wings were west of Endicott Apr 13 (Sheffields, Washburns). Neither teal was very common. American Widgeons were around until Apr 13. Ring-necked Ducks were still at Tarbell's Pond at Smithville Flats in Chenango County at the end of May. They raised a brood there last year (Maxon). Except for one straggler that was at Bainbridge May 18 (E. J. Smith) Canvasbacks were gone after Apr 5. Nine Lesser Scaup at Whitney Point Apr 12 (Sheffields) were the only ones reported. Our latest Common Goldeneyes were at Deposit Apr 3 (Wilson) and our last Buffle-heads at St. John's Pond, north of Binghamton, Apr 30 (Sheffields). An Oldsquaw was still in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will). A Ruddy Duck, another infrequently seen bird in this area, was at Norwich Apr 30, May 3 and May 7 (Whites). A Common Merganser was still in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will), and the next latest were two at Unadilla Apr 13 (Wisner). A Red-breasted Merganser was reported from Whitney Point Apr 3 (Beaver).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures continue to increase and spread. One was at Bainbridge Apr 19 (E. J. Smith) and another was near Harpursville May 30 (Nodecker). There were also two reports from the Triple Cities area, but the most surprising report was of 38 seen at the same time at Hancock May 4 (Wilson). Our

earliest Broad-winged Hawk was at Norwich May 4 (Whites). They weren't very common and were last seen May 18 at Oneonta and Binghamton. An Osprey at Oxford Apr 8 (Stratton) was our first and two at the same place May 12 (Stratton) were our last.

Another 750 Bobwhite were released in Broome County by the Broome County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Apr 11. The birds were bought with money appropriated by the Broome County Board of Supervisors. There were several reports of Turkeys around Oquaga Lake (Wilson). Two Virginia Rails and one Sora were found east of Otego, in Delaware County, May 18 (Wisner) but were otherwise unreported. No Common Gallinules or Coots at all. An adult Killdeer with four young chicks were seen at Vestal May 18 (Doren). The only Common Snipe reported were twelve at Whitney Point May 8 (Beaver). Upland Plover have been found in two different spots near Greene so far this year (Maxon). Our first Spotted Sandpipers were two near Endicott Apr 28 (Bennett, Bemont). No Solitary Sandpipers were reported until May 18 when one was seen at Binghamton and another east of Otego (Wisner). Five or more Greater Yellowlegs were at Whitney Point May 6 (Beaver) and one Lesser Yellowlegs was at Boland's March May 7 (Bemont). Both species were at Whitney Point May 10 (Beaver), but these are the only reports received. Least Sandpipers were in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will) and during the last week of May Least and Baird's Sandpipers and at least one Dowitcher were seen in the Greene area (Maxon).

A Great-backed Gull was seen several times around Greene during May and in the same area Bonaparte's Gulls seemed more common than usual (Maxon). Neither species was reported anywhere else in the region. A last flock of Herring Gulls was at Binghamton May 21 (Fargo). No Black Terns were reported anywhere in the region. Our first Yellow-billed Cuckoo was near Binghamton May 11 (Marsi) and our first Blackbill was at the same place May 14 (Bemont). The latter species was much the more common of the two.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Whip-poor-will was found in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will). Nighthawks first appeared in the Triple Cities May 16 (Snow). They were also reported from Hancock, Norwich and Oneonta before the period was over. A flock of 16 Chimney Swifts was counted over Binghamton Apr 24 and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at the same place May 14 (Sheffields). The first Flicker migrants were at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen behind the public library at Deposit May 23 (Wilson). No other reports. The first Sapsucker reported was at Maine Apr 1 (Beaver). A Hairy Woodpecker at Ludlow Lake near Greene has literally ruined one side of a club house by drilling hundreds of holes through the asbestos shingles and the sheathing. That side of the building will have to be completely resingled (Maxon).

Our first Kingbird was at Norwich May 4 (Whites). They have been none too common since. Our earliest Crested Flycatchers were at Newark Valley (Dean) and Norwich (Whites) May 11. No Phoebe until Apr 4 when one was near Vestal (Washburns). In some areas they were considerably later and several areas reported them to be scarce. Our only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were two at Sherbourne (Whites) and one near Choconut Center, north of Johnson City, all May 18 (Sheffields). Alder Flycatchers arrived in the Triple Cities area May 23 (Bemont), a Otego May 25 (Wisnor) and at Norwich May 30 (Whites). Least Flycatchers arrived May 4 at both Unadilla (Wisner) and Binghamton (Sheffields) and have been rather scarce. The first Wood Pewee was at Deposit May 10 (Wilson), but they were not found at Unadilla or around Binghamton until May 17. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared near Choconut Center May 15 (Sheffields). They were also reported from Deposit and Norwich. Northern Horned Larks were seen at Newark Valley May 11 (Dean). No Tree Swallows were reported until Apr 4 when they were seen at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). Bank Swallows were at Boland's Marsh Apr 20 (Sheffields) and Rough-winged Swallows were at Deposit Apr 25 (Wilson). On Apr 11, a rather cold day, a very cold looking Barn Swallow was seen perched on a wire, with its feathers fluffed up as much as possible, near Endwell (Bemont) Cliff Swallows were at Maine Apr 26 (Beaver). A previously unreported colony was found between Choconut Center and St. John's Pond (Sheffields). The birds had not returned to the colony at Newark Valley by the end of the period (Dean). Purple Martins were back at their colony on Upper Front St., north of Binghamton, Apr 18 (Bemont). A previously unreported colony was found at Union Center, north of Endicott, and a newly erected Martin house one mile south of Maine was occupied this spring (Beaver).

A large number of apparently migrating Blue Jays was seen May 17 near Endwell (Washburns). A Red-breasted Nuthatch near Endicott May 6 (Bemont) was our first. At Norwich, where they apparently bred last year, one was still present May 21 (Whites). No Brown Creepers after the one at Ely Park, in Binghamton, May 7 (Bemont). A House Wren was at Deposit Apr 25 (Wilson), but nowhere else until May 1. A few Carolina Wrens survived the hard winter around Willow Point, but they are missing from many of the stations where they were seen last fall. Catbirds were at Endicott May 6 (Bemont) and Brown Thrashers were at Choconut Center Apr 17 (Sheffields). A Wood Thrush was at Endicott May 1 (Bennett). A Hermit Thrush was at Unadilla Apr 24 (Wisner). They have been quite uncommon around the Triple Cities. A spot near Choconut Center where a singing male can usually be found during the nesting season has produced none so far this year. Two Swainson's Thrushes were at Ely Park May 17 (Sheffields) and our first Veery was at Endicott Apr 29 (Bennett). There has been a considerable drop in Bluebird numbers since last year. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Choconut Center May 4 (Sheffields) and the first one seen in the Deposit area for several years was there May 5 (Wilson). Golden-crowned Kinglets were gone after Apr 20. Ruby-crowns arrived at Deposit Apr 19 (Wilson) and were last reported at Oneonta May 18 (Will).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireos arrived at Binghamton May 9 (Marsi). Our first Solitary Vireo was at Deposit Apr 26 (Wilson) and our last at Ely Park May 11 (Sheffields). They were never common. Red-eyed Vireos arrived at Maine May 9 (Beaver). Philadelphia Vireos were found at Oneonta May 18 (Will) and six or seven were seen and heard at Maine May 31 (Beaver). A Warbling Vireo was at Newark Valley May 4 (Dean). They were rather scarce at Binghamton and Deposit.

Black and White Warblers were first seen at Deposit Apr 23 (Wilson). At Binghamton they were much less common than usual. A Worm-eating Warbler was heard singing at IBM Glen, near Endwell, May 17 (Marsi) and again May 25 (Bemont). Our first Golden-winged Warbler was near Binghamton May 9 (Bemont). They still seem to be increasing in the Triple Cities area. A Blue-winged Warbler was found in almost exactly the same spot it spent the breeding season last year. On May 25 four different Brewster's Warblers were found on the same hillside near Choconut Center (M. Sheffield, Bemont). Tennessee Warblers were found at Endwell May 12 (Bemont) and were quite common until the last one was found at Unadilla May 29 (Wisner). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Norwich May 28 (Whites). Nashvilles arrived at Unadilla May 3 (Wisner). Four Parula reports, all from the Binghamton area: the first May 13 and the last May 22 (Sheffields). Yellow Warblers arrived May 1 at both Newark Valley (Dean) and Binghamton (TC). In both the Triple Cities and Unadilla areas they have been abundant. Our first Magnolia was at IBM Glen May 10 (NC). They have been less common than last year. Cape Mays arrived May 11 at Binghamton (Sheffields) and were scarce. They were last seen at Oneonta May 18 (Will). May 11 brought Black-throated Blue Warblers to both Norwich (Whites) and Binghamton. They, too, were scarce. The real surprise was the scarcity of Myrtle Warblers in most areas. One good wave went through Binghamton May 9 (Marsi) but the rest of the time they were rather hard to find. The Norwich area was apparently an exception to this and they were more plentiful there than last year (Whites). The Black-throated Green story was very similar, even to the one good wave May 9 (Marsi). One Cerulean Warbler was reported at Newark Valley May 17 (Dean). Blackburnians were at Endicott May 1 (Bennett) and Chestnut-sideds at Choconut Center May 6 (Sheffields). A good number of Bay-breasted Warblers went through both the Triple Cities and Norwich areas between May 14 and May 21, but the only other area to report them was Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). Blackpoll Warblers arrived at Binghamton May 18 (NC) and were fairly plentiful the rest of the month. They were also found at Norwich, Deposit and Newark Valley. No Pine or Palm Warblers were reported but on May 6 two Prairie Warblers were found at Glendale, just west of Endicott. One of them was caught in a mist net and banded (Bemont). On May 18 another one was found near Kattelville, across the river from Chenango Valley State Park (Bemont), and on May 24 still another was found at Ely Park (Sheffields, Whites). To our knowledge, these are the first records of this species in Broome Co., but with known breeding areas north and east of here it should be no surprise to find that they migrate through here occasionally. Ovenbirds arrived May 3 at both Unadilla and Binghamton. The first Northern Waterthrush was reported May 4 from Norwich (Whites).

and Apr 20 brought the first Louisiana Waterthrush reports from both Binghamton and Deposit. They were also reported from Sherbourne and Unadilla. A Mourning Warbler was found at Unadilla May 20 (Wisner) and another returned to Norwich May 25 (Whites). Our first Yellow-throat was at Newark Valley May 3 (Dean) and Yellow-breasted Chats returned to the Binghamton area May 16 (Bemont). Our first Wilson's Warbler was at Newark Valley May 16 (Dean) and our last at Choconut Center May 30 (Sheffields). Their numbers were at about the same relatively high level attained last year around Binghamton. A Canada Warbler at Norwich May 3 was our first (Whites). A Redstart was reported from Newark Valley Apr 26 (Dean), but there were no more until May 1. At Deposit they seemed unusually plentiful (Wilson).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: There were two unusually early Bobolink reports, one at Newark Valley Apr 26 (Dean) and another at Ely Park Apr 27 (Sheffields). No more until May 6. Baltimore Orioles were first seen at Maine May 5 (Beaver) Three Rusty Blackbirds were at Norwich Apr 6 (Whites). There were only a few others reported, the last May 8, at Binghamton (Marsi). Scarlet Tanagers were first reported at Newark Valley May 11 (Dean). At Unadilla at least, they were quite plentiful (Wisner).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Endwell May 7 (Bemont) and an Indigo Bunting came to a feeder near Unadilla May 3 to May 5 (Wisner). The last of the Evening Grosbeaks were three at Deposit May 25 (Wilson). Their departure brought sighs of relief in several areas. There were quite a few reports of Purple Finches between the first ones at Deposit Apr 20 (Wilson) and May 18. Two Pin Siskin reports: three at Choconut Center May 11 (Sheffields) and some at Newark Valley May 24 (Dean). Three Redpolls at Choconut Center Apr 6 (Sheffields) were the only ones reported. The first Towhee was at Choconut Center Apr 20 (Sheffields).

Savannah Sparrows were at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields). Our first Grasshopper Sparrows were at Choconut Center May 4 and our first Henslow's Sparrows were at the same place Apr 20 (Sheffields). The latter species seems to have been quite plentiful in the Triple Cities and Greene areas. Three Vesper Sparrows at Whitney Point May 5 (Sheffields) were our first. Slate-colored Juncos were around until May 18 in both the Binghamton and Oneonta areas. There were no Tree Sparrows reported after Apr 20. Chipping Sparrows arrived at Deposit Apr 22 (Wilson) and Field Sparrows arrived at both Deposit (Wilson) and Binghamton (Marsi) Apr 17. Our first White-crowned Sparrow was at Newark Valley May 1 (Dean) At Binghamton they were fairly plentiful, but at Deposit and Unadilla they were scarce. A White-throated Sparrow at Bainbridge Apr 17 (E. J. Smith) was our first. In the Greene area where they bred last year they were still around at the end of the period (Maxon). They were not especially common anywhere. Fox Sparrows were first seen at Choconut Center Apr 4 (Sheffields) and were seen in the Triple Cities area until Apr 20. The only other area where they were reported was Oxford. A total of five Lincoln's Sparrows, four of which were banded, was recorded in the Triple Cities area, the first May 16 and the last May 25 (Bemont, Sheffields). Our first Swamp Sparrow was at Willow Point Apr 18 (Marsi).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April weatherwise, although chronically cold, was not an impressive month and no striking variations from the norm stayed for long. Birdwise it was a long string of disappointments, e. g., very poor loon and grebe flight, early departure of migrant ducks and geese, few good hawk flights (because of unfavorable conditions), and a generally sluggish migration. The May migration continued the slowness of the April flight, particularly in the cold, wet days of May 2-10, but was relieved by a few good warbler waves between May 9 and 21 and excellent numbers of the more colorful migrants — Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Evening and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The abrupt fall-off of migrants in the last week of May and the poor shore-