

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Except for a small amount on April 4 the period was free from snow, which in itself was somewhat unusual. April was somewhat warmer and drier than average. May was about average in both temperature and rainfall. On the whole the migration was better than last year, especially for those able to be afield during the week. The two hoped-for best weekends in May, the 16th - 17th and 23rd - 24th, both produced rather disappointing results. The heaviest waves of the season occurred between these dates, with the most spectacular movement being on May 20. On this date Robert Dobson recorded 27 species of warblers during a three-hour period in the late afternoon.

The outstanding features of April were good hawk migrations on April 1 and 5 and spectacular flights on April 25 and 29. An Eared Grebe at Manitou April 19 observed by Listman was one of the months highlights. A Little Gull was recorded April 24 and 30 and May 12 and 17 around Manitou by several observers. It would seem as though two individuals were present inasmuch as the bird seen in May was in distinctly different plumage from the April bird. The greatest novelty reported was a "singing" Chuck-will's-widow heard in Joseph Taylor's back yard on May 19. The bird called several times and then answered a recording of the species played from a window for some time longer. The bird was not seen, but the recorder is very familiar with the call, having heard it often during southern trips (Ed — While the call of the Chuck-will's-widow is very distinctive, it must be pointed out that there has apparently been no prior state record, even hypothetical. Reference: the recently published "Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds" by E. M. Reilly and K. C. Parkes. The Chuck-will's-widow is now known to nest regularly but rarely as far north as Cape May County in southern New Jersey).

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were in about average numbers, with six being recorded on the rather late date of May 24 along the east lake shore (Kemnitzer). Red-throated Loons were rarely reported, but they may have been present in better numbers since the foggy conditions that prevailed when the peak flights normally occur made observations far out in the lake impossible. Some 250 Red-necked Grebes were seen Apr 3 along the east lake shore (Kemnitzer), and 1000 Horned Grebes were noted Apr 7 along the west lake shore. Single Double-crested Cormorants were seen Apr 13 and 29 at Manitou, and two birds were observed along the east lake shore on May 24 (Kemnitzer). A single Common Egret was noted at Manitou Apr 7 and 14 (Listman), and the same or another bird was at Shore Acres on May 10 (Oreoman). Both Black-crowned Night Herons and American Bitterns occurred in larger numbers than last year, probably because of the higher water. Two Least Bitterns were reported at Round Pond May 17 by several observers, and one was seen at Manitou May 23 (O'Hara et al.). Four Whistling Swans were seen Apr 12 at Manitou (Listman). A late straggler was observed May 17 at Charlotte (Perry), and probably the same bird was seen the next day at Salmon Creek (Listman). Ten thousand Canada Geese were seen Apr 5 along the west lake shore (Dobson) who also saw a single Blue Goose in the same area. Five Brant were noted May 12 at Manitou (Listman), and small numbers occurred during the rest of the month. Four Gadwall were seen at Manitou Apr 30 (Listman), and 200 American Widgeon were seen Apr 4 along the west lake shore (O'Hara). Three hundred Oldsquaw were noted May 6 off Durand (Brummer, Listman). The largest flock of White-winged Scoters reported was one of 100 birds on the west lake shore Apr 5 (Dobson).

Hawks — Owls: Thirty-three Turkey Vultures and 87 Red-tailed Hawks Apr 5 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson) were high spring counts for these species, as were

671 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr 29 at the same place (Holland et al.). Eight thousand Broad-winged Hawks Apr 25 and 2,954 Apr 29 (Listman, Moons et al.) were the year's high counts. Ten Rough-legged Hawks on Apr 5 and four on Apr 29 were high as were four Bald Eagles on Apr 5 and seven on Apr 29. Ten Ospreys on Apr 29 (Moons) were high for this species. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen Apr 18 at Durand (O'Hara et al.), Apr 29 and May 11 at the Hawk Lookout, and May 18 at Spencerport (Listman). A single Pigeon Hawk was observed Apr 18 at Cranbury Pond (Listman), another was noted Apr 25 at the Hawk Lookout, and two were seen in the same place Apr 29. Thirty-eight Sparrow Hawks Apr 5 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson) is a high count for this species. Two Ruffed Grouse were seen May 17 at Bristol (A. Smith), and two were seen May 23 at Pultneyville (Kemnitzers). Eight Virginia Rails and five Soras on May 17 at Round Pond rewarded Bob Dobson for a lot of hard tramping. Eight Black-bellied Plover were seen May 27 at Rose's Marsh (Listman).

Some 21 Upland Plover migrating along the lake Apr 18 (Listman) is an encouraging count. Six were seen at Hamlin May 24 (McCarthy). A very early Solitary Sandpiper was seen Apr 4 and 5 at Round Pond (Miller et al.), and an early Dunlin was at Manitou Apr 19 (Listman). A Knot at Braddock's May 30 (Starling et al.) and four Short-billed Dowitchers at Ling Road May 13 (Zirtler) were rather uncommon spring migrants, and even more so was the Wilson's Phalarope at Ling Road May 17 (Tanghe et al.). Five Black-backed Gulls were seen at Braddock's May 30 (Starling et al.), and 750 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at Salmon Creek Apr 25 (Listman). A Caspian Tern at Manitou Apr 3 (Listman) and a Black Tern Apr 29 at the Hawk Lookout (Moons) were both rather early. Eight Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in Island Cottage Woods May 22 (Listman). Two Long-eared Owls were observed in the "owl" woods near Braddock's Apr 4 and 5 (O'Hara et al.), and a single bird was seen west of Manitou May 2 (Oresman, Starling). A Saw-whet Owl in the "owl" woods Apr 4 (O'Hara et al.) was our only record this spring for this species.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Three Whip-poor-wills were seen Apr 29 in the Island Cottage Woods (Starling), and the same observer saw a flock of 400 Chimney Swifts May 19 wheeling around the sites of demolished buildings in downtown Rochester. Phoebe seemed up in numbers from their low of last year. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Highland Park May 20 (Schmanke), and another was reported the same day from Island Cottage Woods (Dobson). Four were seen May 30 west of Manitou (Starling et al.). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported May 27 at Manitou (Listman). All the swallows were on the wires at Durand May 9 (Starling, Miller), and 25 Cliff Swallows were seen migrating at Manitou May 19 (Listman). A Tufted Titmouse was seen at Forest Lawn May 17 (Sunderlin, McNett). A Brown Creeper was seen in the Island Cottage Woods May 17 (Dobson). An early House Wren was reported Apr 19 in Pittsford (V. White), and the Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported May 17 near Sodus (Jones and Foster) and at Braddock's May 23 (O'Hara et al.). Thirty Eastern Bluebirds were noted at the Hawk Lookout Apr 5 (Dobson), and eight were seen May 12 at Manitou (Listman). This is probably more Bluebirds than were seen all of last year. Six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed in the Island Cottage Woods May 9, and at least one pair nested there. Some 1,000 Water Pipits were seen May 12 at Manitou (Listman).

Vireos — Sparrows. All the vireos seemed in about normal numbers except the Philadelphia which was reported only once, a bird near Sodus May 17 (Foster, Jones). Among the rarer warblers may be mentioned the Prothonotary, seen May 17 in Island Cottage Woods (Taylor et al.), the Blue-winged seen May 20 at Fishers (Brummer, Starling), the Orange-crowned noted May 17 in Durand (Perry) and May 20 in Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), the Pine seen Apr 18 at Manitou (O'Hara et al.) Apr 26 at Ling Road (Tanghe and Dobson) and May 3 at Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), the Prairie seen May 17 in Durand (McNett and Sunderlin) and again in the same place May 19 (O'Hara), the Connecticut, two of which were seen May 20 in Island Cottage Woods (Dobson), and the Yellow-breasted Chat, seen May 7 at Manitou (Listman) and at Island Cottage Woods May 17 (Dobson, McNetts, Taylor). A singing Western Meadowlark was reported from the Rochester Country Club Apr 23 (Taylor) and was still present May 10 (Zeitler). Two singing birds were reported Apr 26 in Webster (Lloyd) and were still present May 23 (Kemnitzer). One of the

birds at least was still present May 31 (Kemnitzner) who also reported another singing bird near Sodus May 23. The Webster birds were giving the calls as well as the song of the western species.

An Evening Grosbeak was seen in Durand May 3 (Miller) but the usual late spring flight of this species did not develop. Seventy-five Purple Finches were seen at Manitou Apr 18 (Listman), and this species seemed very common this spring. Five Pine Siskins were noted in Durand May 3 and six were seen in the same place May 6 (Starling and Brummer). Some 1,000 Goldfinches were seen May 11 at Manitou (Listman). A Rufous-sided Towhee on Apr 2 in Rochester (Allen) and another Apr 4 near Durand (Starling, Miller) probably represent birds which successfully wintered. An Oregon Junco frequented a feeder at the Hillside Home from Mar 4 to Apr 9 (Peters, Starling), and another bird of the same species was present Apr 7 and 8 (Peters). Another bird of this species was seen at a feeder in Irondequoit from Apr 9 to 12 (Moons). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen from May 9 to 27.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The weather during the reporting period for this year differed from last year's only in being dry instead of wet. The Saturday morning bird walks in Ithaca had below freezing temperatures for the first three Saturdays in May, and lists were low. There seemed to be no periods favorable for a wave of migrants — the weather stayed cold so long that the birds filtered through in small numbers. The 22°F morning low on Ithaca's census day (May 17), which discouraged all thrush, warbler, and flycatcher activity and song, was followed by 90° temperatures on the 20th, but by then the migration was about over. A statement made by Mrs. Carter of Avoca paints the picture well: "on May 7, in five hours hunt, I found 56 species, but three Nashville Warblers were the only transients I saw." The shorebird migration was also poor, for water levels were fairly high. Geese alone were in greater numbers than in most years, and attention is called in the body of the report to the unusual numbers of Blue and Snow Geese in the Cayuga Basin.

Highlights include our first record of the Cattle Egret and our second for the Clay-colored Sparrow. Two Wilson's Phalaropes and three Brewster's Warblers were also noteworthy.

Loons — Ducks: Only one Common Loon was seen at Hornell (May 7), and they were scarce at Elmira. One crash-landed in a driveway in Dryden on May 20, was brought to Sapsucker Woods and put on the pond there. Some 85 Horned Grebes were counted on the reservoir basin at Hornell on Apr 17, and they appeared at Montezuma in small numbers from Apr 11 to May 21. There were fewer than usual at Elmira. Great Blue Herons appeared at Montezuma in normal numbers and on schedule. I have just learned of a heronry (estimated 50 nests) on a wooded hilltop near Thurston, southeast of Bath, which has been known to nearby residents "for seven or eight years."

Morse reported the first Common Egret at Montezuma on Apr 2, an early date, and several were there on Apr 26. To Fritz Scheider and Ian Nisbet goes the credit for spying the first Cattle Egret in this region, this on Apr 26 about two miles northwest of Montezuma. A little later that day a Cattle Egret, probably the same individual, was on the refuge where it remained through May 1. Black-crowned Night Herons again were almost unknown at the head of Cayuga, where they used to be seen regularly. They appeared at Elmira first on Apr 16. An early American Bittern turned up at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, on Apr 7 and was seen fairly regularly thereafter. A Least Bittern obligingly appeared in the Fuertes duck pond at Stewart Park