

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

for the Saturday morning bird walk on May 16, and another was spotted regularly at a marsh northwest of the County airport on Warren Road, Ithaca, the last week in May (N. Chase).

Two Glossy Ibis appeared at Montezuma on May 3, a few days later than the last two years, and one was there on May 17. One was seen on May 10 at the Big Flats pond of the Corning Glass Works, and later two were at a pond at the Rhodes farm (just north of the CGW pond) where they remained some time, were seen by scores of observers, and photographed.

An encouraging increase was noted in the numbers of Canada Geese that went through this spring. Morse reports that 15,000 stopped off at the refuge compared to 7,000 last year, and oldtimers on Cayuga Lake said they had never before seen such large flocks. Furthermore, the birds lingered late — many thousands were still on the lake May 5, and small V's were still going over the last week in May. Elmira reported 400 the first week in April, a high count. There were record numbers of Snows and Blues. On Apr 8 O. Hewitt saw 30 Lesser and two Greater Snows and 130 Blues at Aurora on Cayuga. On Apr 23 there were 35 Snows and 80 Blues at Montezuma.

Concerned over the poor nesting results in waterfowl last year and the apparent decrease in summer resident arrivals this spring, Manager Morse closed the dikes at Montezuma for the nesting season, except to conducted tours. A European Widgeon was spotted there on May 17 (D. McIlroy and census groups). All dabbling ducks were down in numbers at the refuge while divers were represented by more Scaup than usual, with a scattering of Ring-necks on May 5. There were few reports of Green-winged Teal in the region, and there were no broods of Wood Ducks by the end of the period at Sapsucker Woods, but seven females have fed evenings. There were six pairs of Ring-necks on the Hornell Reservoir Basin on Apr 17, a good count, while only one was seen at Elmira, that on Apr 26. A small flock of Lesser Scaup (about 20) flew back and forth from Sapsucker Woods pond and a neighboring pond for a week or ten days in early and mid May. Six males and one female Bufflehead were at Sapsucker Woods pond on Apr 6, and a late report for this species is May 27, at Smith's Pond west of Avoca. Both White-winged and Common Scoters were seen on Seneca on May 17 (J. Taylor), and there is a single report of a White-winged on the west side of Cayuga on Apr 23 (K. Fudge).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were at Montezuma from Apr 5 on, but nesting hawks were down in numbers there. No Goshawks were reported, and there were few Cooper's and Sharp-shins. Red-tailed Hawks again attempted unsuccessfully to nest in Sapsucker Woods, where two pairs of Red-shoulders held forth, but the latter, though present, have not been found incubating this year. No Broad-winged Hawk migration was noted, but one was over Jacksonville in late April (Graham). The eagles have appeared to be incubating for some time, but they have evidently had their third nest failure in a row. Ospreys were seen less frequently this year — they were absent at Etna and along the Cohocton River at Avoca and were seen only rarely at the head of Cayuga. All reports mentioned a scarcity of hawks, most stressing the few Sparrow Hawks around, but I saw my usual two pairs daily in the five mile stretch home from the Laboratory.

Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasants were still low in numbers. Rails, Coots, and Gallinules were in normal numbers at Montezuma, scarce at Keuka (where no Virginia Rails had been spotted). The Killdeer again nested on the roof of one of the Veterinary College buildings at Cornell. Two Ruddy Turnstones were at Montezuma on May 17. These are irregular in spring migration. The American Woodcock seemed unusually abundant in the Ithaca area this spring — one short stretch of road north of the County Airport produced six singing males each evening. Upland Plovers returned to the field east of Dryden where they have been found for some years. None appeared at Keuka this year, but one, behaving as if nesting, was seen at Big Flats pond west of Elmira on May 23, a new station. Yellowlegs were absent at Keuka this year and scarce at Elmira. Pectoral Sandpipers, a new shore-bird for Sapsucker Woods, appeared shortly after the pond level was lowered because of a dike break. There were three on Apr 8. Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** were found in a small marshy pond near the railway tracks east of Wilseyville on May 24 by Dave West. Insofar as I can determine, this is a first spring record for the Cayuga Basin region.

A first record of the Bonaparte's Gull for the Avoca area is that of one on Apr 30 at Smith's Pond, west of the village. The species was quite scarce at Elmira this spring, was migrating at Montezuma on Apr 7-9, and nine were seen there on May 17. Morse reported fewer than usual Black Terns at Montezuma this spring. Both Cuckoos seemed to be present in normal numbers around Ithaca, in better numbers at Geneva, but no Yellow-bills were reported at Avoca, and the first one "in years" was caught in a garage at Hornell (Grosbeck).

Screech Owls, nesting as they have for some years at the North Hornell Grade School, brought off five young but lost one to a dog. The Barred Owl nested in Sapsucker Woods again. A Long-eared Owl was found dead near Welles farm at Elmira (not often reported there), and seven Short-eared Owls and later 14 more were seen flying low over the Elmira golf course in the early evening of May 1.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: This spring brought more reports of whip-poor-wills than in most years. One was heard May 22 on the Bardeen farm at Burdett for the first time since 1945. Elmira had one on May 1, and I had two reports for Ithaca during the third week in May. A very early Nighthawk was seen and heard on Apr 19 at Elmira (C. Fudge). Others did not appear until two weeks later. An early Hummingbird visited K. Fudge's tulip tree the last few days in April. Mine appeared in Etna on May 11, on schedule, but in late May the species was less in evidence at my feeders than it usually has been.

Yellow-shafted Flickers seemed to be in good numbers throughout the region. With the continuing uncertain status of the Red-headed Woodpecker in this area, it seems worthwhile to list the ones recorded: five found by the Eaton Bird Club on May 17, five by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society on May 16, one which is termed the first in many years at the home of Mrs. Claude Pierce at Rock Stream, and another on Warren Road close to Forest Home, Ithaca, on May 3 (R. Little). While no Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen at Avoca the Ithaca area had more of them reported than in some years, especially on the weekend of Apr 11-13. However, these birds did not appear to be nesting at Sapsucker Woods.

With the possible exception of the Traill's, all flycatchers (especially Phoebe and Wood Pewees) continued to be scarce. There were no reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the area all spring. Barn Swallows were scarce at Keuka, and I was struck by the absence of Barn and Tree Swallows in Etna, although all but one of the boxes at Sapsucker Woods pond had a pair of Tree Swallows. The Purple Martin colony at Sapsucker Woods has doubled this year, but the one at Stewart Park was much reduced. Martins were also on the increase at Hornell, Arkport, and Almond, where more houses keep going up for them.

Crows seemed very numerous and even bolder. There were no new stations for Tufted Titmice. Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost non-existent in migration. House Wrens continued scarce at most reporting points, but at Watkins Glen they were somewhat more numerous than last year. The only Winter Wren report around Ithaca was of one at Sapsucker Woods on Apr 15 (H. O'Leary), but three were noted at Avoca on Apr 25 and 29. The pair of Carolina Wrens at Watkins Glen entrance brought off young in mid-May. The Mockingbird first reported Jun 14, 1958, at Mrs. Larzelere's home in Esperanza was still there. One also appeared at Kopps' feeder (Reading Center) on May 20, and another was at Harris Hill on May 8. Brown Thrashers were up in numbers around Ithaca, also at Avoca, and reported as 'relatively numerous' at Keuka (Guthrie).

Robins everywhere seemed to have recovered somewhat in numbers over the marked scarcity of last spring. Their nesting was somewhat retarded by the cold weather, but successful broods of three and four were noted in many places. The Thrushes were still considerably below normal in numbers — the absence of Veery song in Stewart Park and Sapsucker Woods this spring was marked and distressing. There were only one or two reports of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and no Hermit Thrushes were seen in Sapsucker Woods. While the Bluebird was still definitely a 'disaster species,' Jim Hartshorne in his studies has found about a 30% increase over last year in a comparable area. They were also in slightly better numbers at Elmira, but still scarce at Watkins Glen and Geneva. Three were seen in Avoca this year, where only one was found last year (Carter).

Golden-crowned Kinglet migration was noted on Apr 12 by Gebhart but Ruby-crowns were not numerous anywhere at any time. A most encouraging increase is

noted in numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, especially in regard to nesting records. Mrs. Whitaker found them in four areas near Keuka, nest-building in one; Mrs. Carter watched a pair building in 12-mile Creek Valley northeast of Avoca, for the first record there; at Miller's pond, near Elmira, they were seen using strands from a tent-caterpillar web to build on May 5, and another pair was present at the Smith's at Wellsburg. A nest at Watkins Glen was broken up. Several pairs were found in Stewart Park, and a nest there was broken up in mid-May.

Loggerhead Shrikes were unreported. The Northern Shrike remained at Swanson's, south of Ithaca, through Apr 12.

Vireos — Warblers: A White-eyed Vireo was found by Paris Trail near Geneva on May 17. In the last ten years there have been only two other reports of this species from the region: both from Elmira, in 1954 and 1956. Almost no Solitary Vireos were noted in migration, nor have any residents been reported, and Philadelphia again were unrecorded in migration. One wonders if the warbler waves of a few years ago are a thing of the past, or if we continue to overlook them because of spotty field work. All areas, however, called it a poor migration, but reports varied from only six species noted at Hornell to 28 species at Keuka, but in small numbers. However, as I sort through the reports that have come to me, I find it difficult to see a pattern — species scarce in one area were in usual numbers in another. Black and Whites were generally scarce. Mrs. York had two pairs of Worm-eating Warblers on her hillside near Elmira this year. Blue-winged and Golden-winged were both found in Guyanoga Valley near Branchport, and a new station for Blue-winged was on the side of Mt. Zoar, near Elmira (K. Fudge) May 13 and 16. One of the two Ellis Hollow locations for Golden-winged and Blue-winged reported that they arrived on schedule, but did not stay; they were present at the other station (a mile to the west). Three Brewster's Warblers were found in the Ithaca area; one on Bald Hill Road on May 16 (Thorp, McIlroy), one on the south side of Ellis Hollow on May 21 (Johnson), and one on Mt. Pleasant Road just east of Turkey Hill Road on May 27 and 29 (McIlroy, Hoyt). Tennessees were numerous at Watkins Glen; late (May 16) and scarce at Ithaca. Nashvilles were scarce at Avoca, in normal numbers at Ithaca. Cape Mays were conspicuous in Etna on May 11 but were noted as scarce at Avoca. Myrtles were scarce everywhere. Ceruleans were up slightly in numbers around Ithaca — several pairs were nesting in Stewart Park this year. Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than in most years except at Avoca. I was most struck by the scarcity of Black-polls this year. Some years they are heard in every tree, for a week or ten days in mid-May. This year I heard almost none. However, at Watkins Glen they appeared to be numerous! A Warbler that has been unreported for some years is the **Prairie**. Six singing males were found by Paul Kelsey on Connecticut Hill on May 6 and three of them were still there on May 18 (Scheider, Kelsey). Loren Ward noted that there were no Ovenbirds at Geneva, but they were in usual numbers in Ithaca and Avoca. Mourning Warblers were conspicuous in 12-mile Valley near Avoca, where Mrs. Carter found eight in one 3-hour trip. The Hooded Warbler was found this year by the Elmira census group, and was seen by Spiker on May 11 at Esperanza, the third record for Keuka area in ten years. Wilson's seems to be noted regularly now on migration, whereas ten or more years ago it was usually missed. Canada Warblers were markedly scarce in Sapsucker Woods this year: five singing males as opposed to nine in 1958. Redstarts were in normal numbers at Watkins Glen and Avoca, but were scarce around Ithaca, where none seemed to be nesting in Sapsucker Woods, and Penny Ficken has found fewer nesting pairs in Stewart Park this year than in 1958 or 1957 (12 in 1959 as opposed to 19 in 1958 and 18 in 1957).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: With the exception of migrating Rusty Blackbirds, which were not seen in great numbers, all Icterids have taken a big jump in numbers this year. Bobolinks were in normal numbers around Ithaca, but were reported as "everywhere" at Avoca, unusually numerous at Keuka, and increasing steadily at Watkins Glen. Meadowlarks were abundant. But the really huge increase is in Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds, which were swarming over feeding stations. The complaint everywhere is that Grackles have driven the more desirable birds from feeders and yards. It has been suggested that these hardier birds have filled niches left by the hard-hit species of last year. Grackles' depredations on the nests of other birds have been widely noted too, and they seem successful in any situation — deepest woods

to dry hilltops. At Sapsucker Woods they have become efficient waders and seem to have no hesitation over dipping into water four or five inches deep after the corn scattered for ducks.

Scarlet Tanagers were normal in numbers, abundant at Keuka. Cardinals continued to increase at Avoca, and were reported as having returned to the Hornell Reservoir after an absence (Grosbeck adds parenthetically that there has been no roadside spraying there for the last two years). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed an increase in the more western parts of the region, but were down a little at Ithaca, and the same holds true for Indigo Buntings. We are always receiving reports of **Blue Grosbeaks**, which usually prove to be Indigo Buntings. One report, however, seems worth presenting, especially in view of the fact that positive records have been made this spring in neighboring regions. On May 16 the Brimmers of Elmira saw two males feeding with four Rose-breasts on Wyncoop Creek Road. They had opportunity for careful study of size, bill shape, and had seen, only a day or two previous, a changing male Indigo Bunting, for comparison. Evening Grosbeaks left the region by the end of April, except for a few scattered reports from Hornell and vicinity. This was two weeks earlier than last year. Purple Finches seemed up in numbers — both as migrants and residents. A Red Crossbill was seen by Mr. and Mrs. W. Thompson on the County House Road, west of Penn Yan, on May 16, the third record for this area (previously in 1950 and 1956).

Grasshopper Sparrows continued scarce in the eastern part of the region, while they increase in the western part. Juncos were not numerous in migration. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, second record for the Finger Lakes (first one was collected at Ithaca in April, 1935), was found in the Cayuga Heights section of Ithaca on May 10 by D. McIlroy moved the next day to a lot a few blocks to the southwest, and could be seen and heard in that lot at any hour of the day through the end of the period. Its song was recorded by P. P. Kellogg. The bird was constantly heckled by Chipping Sparrows, and sometimes by Song Sparrows too. White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were evidently very spotty — both were scarce, arriving late and leaving early, at Avoca, Keuka, Hornell, and Ithaca, but in better numbers at Elmira. White-throats were in normal numbers at Burdett. Fox Sparrows were more numerous in Sapsucker Woods during migration than I have ever known them to be — this was especially marked on Apr 7. Song Sparrows were down in numbers.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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April weather averaged very close to normal with respect to both temperature and precipitation. On only nine days, the last of which was Apr 22, did the temperature go to 32 degrees or lower. May averaged a little warmer and drier than normal. May 20, when the temperature reached 90 degrees, was only one of several very warm days but the cool spell around May 15 partially compensated for them in the average.

The waterfowl migration, although nothing in comparison with the norm in other regions with large bodies of water, was of more than usual interest. Several species were added to our rather young regional list, the most spectacular being the Common Teal at Greene Apr 4. Better coverage in the Oneonta area than in past years accounted for part of the added interest but the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam produced several good records, too. Outside of a few surprisingly early arrival dates the land birds produced few surprises, but several of the species that were hardest hit last year, such as the Phoebe and House Wren, staged an encouraging, if not complete, recovery. The return of Carolina Wrens to the Triple Cities area was also welcome.