

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.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon landed on a small pond near Homer Apr 6 (Wilson) and didn't have enough room to take off again. It was eventually captured and released in nearby Goodale Lake. One at Oxford Apr 11 (Whites) and another at Petonia Lake in southern Chenango County May 4 to 16 (Saunders) were the only ones recorded in the region, but one was at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania Apr 29 (N. Washburn). Three Red-necked Grebes, the first reported from the Triple Cities area in eight years, were at St. John's Pond, north of Johnson City Apr 25 (Sheffields). There were a number of Horned Grebes reported from Whitney Point, Norwich and Unadilla. The last ones were two at Norwich May 3 (Whites). Pied-billed Grebes arrived Apr 4 at Whitney Point (Sheffields). Seven Double-crested Cormorants found at Whitney Point Apr 11 (M. Sheffield) were the first recorded from the region since records were started in 1952. Three of them were still there the next day when several others confirmed the identification. Green Herons were at both Boland's Marsh, north of Binghamton, (Sheffields) and Sherburne (Whites) Apr 26. No Black-crowned Night Heron reports. Our first American Bittern was at Bainbridge Apr 9 (E. J. Smith).

The Mute Swan that appeared at Goodale Lake near Homer May 9 and remained several days was apparently one of several escapees from a local game farm (Gustafson). A whistling Swan at Whitney Point Dam Apr 12 (M. Sheffield) was the only one reported. Thirty Canada Geese flying over Choconut Center May 9 (Sheffields) were the last ones recorded. The fairly heavy flights that started in late March continued all through April with two noticeable peaks, one Apr 8 and another Apr 25. Pintails were at Whitney Point as late as Apr 25 (Sheffields). On Apr 4 Mr. Barlett of Greene reported by phone that a Common Teal was in a flooded corn field with a flock of American Widgeons and Green-winged Teal just north of the village. By the time other observers reached the spot later the same day all the ducks were gone, but Mr. Bartlett has had previous experience with the species, having hunted them in Europe while in the service. The bird was observed through a spotting scope. There were no more Green-winged Teal reported at Whitney Point after Apr 26, but on May 4 a pair was found on a beaver pond on state land near Newark Valley (H. Marsi, Misner). Blue-winged Teal were at Greene as late as May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) and American Widgeons, fairly numerous this spring, were at Whitney Point as late as Apr 19 (Sheffields). Wood Ducks have not been especially common.

Redheads were found at Whitney Point Dam Apr 12 and 16, but were otherwise unreported. Ring-necked Ducks were fairly plentiful at Whitney Point until Apr 19. The only later report was of one at the reservoir near Oneonta May 24 (New). A small flock of four or more Canvasbacks was at Whitney Point Apr 11 and 12 (M. Sheffield) but there were no more reported. Both species of Scaup were reported fairly often during April, but it was the Lessers that provided the better show when a flock of over 200 was found at Whitney Point Dam Apr 11 (M. Sheffield). That was the largest concentration of any species of diving duck reported in Broome County since 1952. Better than 50 of them were still there Apr 14. Two Lesser Scaup were still on the reservoir near Oneonta May 24 (New). Only late stragglers of the Common Goldeneye were reported the last Apr 25 on Mead's Pond at Norwich (Whites). Buffleheads were at Whitney Point in small numbers Apr 11 through 16, at Oneonta Apr 16 (New) and Norwich Apr 17 (Whites). One Oldsquaw in the period, the second of the year, at Norwich Apr 19 (Whites). Seven White-winged Scoters, unheard of in the region in recent years, were at the Oneonta reservoir May 24 (New). Only two Hooded Merganser reports after the fairly heavy March migration one at Norwich Apr 25 (Whites) and at Greene May 17 (Barlett, Maxon). Common Mergansers were last seen at both Unadilla (Wisner) and Whitney Point (Sheffields) Apr 12. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported on the Oneonta reservoir Apr 16 (New).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures appeared at Deposit Apr 5 (S. Wilson). Seven were counted at Hancock May 11 (S. Wilson). The only other one reported was at Bainbridge Apr 24 (E. J. Smith). Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in the usual rather small numbers but Broad-winged Hawks were decidedly scarce, one at Sherburne May 10 (Whites) and one at IBM Glen near Endwell (Washburns, et. al.) being the complete story. Thirteen Ospreys, slightly better than average, were reported from Apr 9 (Whites) to May 3 (Stratton), both at Oxford. One lone Bobwhite, an apparent survivor or progeny of last year's release, appeared at

Choconut Center, just three days before a new lot was released. On a county wide basis the Bobwhite release program is having very little in the way of enduring success, at least so far.

A Virginia Rail at Sherburne May 24 (Whites), a Virginia Rail and a Sora at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) and two American Coot at Whitney Point Apr 11 and 12 (Sheffields, Whites, Washburns) were the only Rallidae reported. Killdeer have been noticeably down in numbers all spring. A Common Snipe was at Whitney Point Apr 14 (M. Sheffield). On May 17 two more were reported, one at Sherburne (Whites) and one at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon). On May 17 Upland Plover were found breeding at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon), but none so far at Guilford and German. Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Whitney Point Apr 19 (Marsis). A Solitary Sandpiper was at the Newark Valley state land May 4 (H. Marsi, Misner) and two more were reported May 17, one at Greene (Bartlett, Maxon) and the other near Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). Two Greater Yellowlegs were seen from May 1 to 5 in a flooded field near Johnson City (Bemont), but there were no others reported. A Least Sandpiper at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon) was the only one recorded. There was one very late Herring Gull near Binghamton May 17 (H. Marsi, Misner). Only one Ring-billed Gull report during the period — at Oneonta Apr 16 (New). There were several reports of Bonaparte's Gulls, the first at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields, Washburns) and the last at the Oneonta reservoir Apr 16 (New). The top count was eight at Whitney Point Apr 12 (M. Sheffield). Two Common Terns were at Goodale Lake near Homer May 10 (Gustafson) and three Black Terns were at the Oneonta reservoir May 24 (New). The first Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported May 17 in the Binghamton area (TCNC) and they have been scarce but Black-billed Cuckoos have been quite numerous after arriving May 9 at Ely Park in Binghamton (M. Sheffield) and at Maine (Beaver). Still no Screech Owl reports in 1959. On Apr 11 a late Snowy Owl was seen being mobbed by Crows on Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (Howard) and the evening of the same day a Long-eared Owl was heard calling in Endwell (Bemont).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The evening of May 3 a Whip-poor-will was heard calling on the south edge of Binghamton (Tate, Lewis) and at Bainbridge one was heard from May 20 to the end of the period (E. J. Smith). An early Chimney Swift was at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner) and another was at Maine Apr 25 (Beaver) but they did not arrive in numbers until May 1. An especially early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Homer May 1 (N. Gustafson), but the next one wasn't seen until May 12 at Binghamton (J. Minehan). Flickers became numerous about Apr 2. The only Red-headed Woodpecker reported during the period was at Oneonta May 12 (New). Sapsuckers appeared at two different places in the Binghamton area Apr 8 (Dechen, Larkin). They were quite numerous until Apr 25 and on Apr 11 there was a rather spectacular concentration of 75 or more in one wood lot on Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (Howard). Kingbirds arrived at Binghamton (Sheffields) and Oxford (Stratton) May 7. Phoebe's although not back to their normal numbers were decidedly more common than last year. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found near Binghamton May 17 (Sheffields) and at Sherburne May 30 (Whites). A Traill's Flycatcher was at Endwell May 17 (Bemont). This species seems to become more common in the Triple Cities area each year. The only other area where they were found was Sherburne (Whites). Our first Least Flycatcher was at Maine May 2 (Beaver) and our first Wood Pewee was at Binghamton May 17 (Bemont). No Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported. Tree Swallows became common around Apr 10. Other Swallow firsts: Bank and Rough-winged — Apr 23 at Unadilla (Wisner), Barn — Apr 16 at Whitney Point (H. Marsi, Linaberry, Misner), Cliff — May 3 at Norwich (Whites) and Purple Martins Apr 15 at Homer (Gustafson).

At Unadilla White-breasted Nuthatches seemed uncommon (Wisner). There were no April records of Red-breasted Nuthatches and only a few May records. A Brown Creeper was still at the state land near Newark Valley May 17 (M. Sheffield). House Wrens arrived at both Deposit (S. Wilson) and Newark Valley (Dean) Apr 19. They seem to have partially recovered from their low of last year. One at Binghamton Apr 14 (H. Marsi, Doren) was the last of four April Winter Wren reports. Two Carolina Wrens, the first in over a year, were reported; one Apr 9 at the state land near Newark Valley (H. Marsi, M. Hannan) and one at Willow Point across the river from Johnson City Apr 18 (Bemont). A Long-billed Marsh

Wren was at Truxton, in Cortland County, Apr 15 (Wilson). At Sherburne, in appropriate habitat, they were quite common but around the Triple Cities, where they used to be common, they have almost disappeared because of habitat destruction. Catbirds arrived at Binghamton May 1 (H. Marsi) and were common within a day or so throughout the region. Brown Thrashers arrived May 19. A Wood Thrush singing at Endwell May 30 (Bemont) was our first. Three Hermit Thrush records Apr 20 to 24 are probably of migrants but one at Newark Valley May 25 (Dean) and one at Sherburne May 30 are probably breeders. Our first Swainson's Thrushes were two just south of Binghamton May 3 (H. Marsi) and our last were at Deposit May 20 (S. Wilson). One, and perhaps two, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found at IBM Glen May 23 (M. Sheffield, Misner). A Veery at Ely Park in Binghamton May 3 (Hannans) was our first. Bluebirds were reported to be scarce in most areas but at Choconut Center there was some evidence of recovery from last year's low. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Apr 11 at Unadilla (Wisner) is the first known record from that area. There was one at Deposit Apr 19 (S. Wilson) and quite a few records from the Triple Cities area starting Apr 13 (Misner).. Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were last reported May 2 and May 6, respectively. The latter species was quite common. Six water Pipits were seen at Norwich May 6 (Whites) but no more were reported. A Northern Shrike at the Broome County Airport Apr 14 (Beaver) was the last of three April records.

Vireos — Warblers: Two reports of Yellow-throated Vireos May 9 around Binghamton were our earliest. A Solitary Vireo was at Cortland Apr 19 (S. Wilson) and another was at Oneonta Apr 23 (New). One was still at Binghamton May 17 (TCNC). Red-eyed Vireos were at Newark Valley (Dean) and Deposit (S. Wilson) May 5 and were their usual ubiquitous selves throughout the region. A Philadelphia Vireo at Newark Valley May 31 (Dean) was the only one reported. A Warbling Vireo at Homer May 2 (Clemens) was our earliest.

A Black and White Warbler at Cortland Apr 23 (Wilson) was our first, but not until Apr 30 were they common. On May 11 a Worm-eating Warbler was picked up after bumping into a window of a Binghamton school (R. Hock). It was banded (H. Marsi) and released in apparently good condition two days later. Another was found singing on South Mountain in Binghamton May 17 (H. Marsi, Misner). The number of different spots around Binghamton that this species has been recorded in in different years suggests that it is much more common than the few records per year would indicate. An early Golden-winged Warbler was at Binghamton May 2 (Sheffields), but there were no more reported until May 14. On May 3 a Blue-winged Warbler came back to the same station near Binghamton that has been occupied for the past four years (H. Marsi). A Brewster's Warbler was near Choconut Center May 7 (Sheffields). An Orange-crowned Warbler was found at Binghamton May 14 (M. Sheffield) and another was at Greene May 17 (Bartlett, Maxon). The only Parula Warbler reported was at Oneonta May 17 (New). A very early Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Cortland Apr 23 (Wilson). The first Bay-breasted Warbler was at Binghamton May 11 (Bemont) and the last at Cortland May 18 (Wilson). In the Binghamton area they were very common. A very early Blackpoll Warbler was at Unadilla May 12 (Wisner). The next one was reported May 17. They were heard from then to the end of the period but never in too good numbers. A Yellow Palm Warbler was at Oneonta Apr 15 (New) and another was at Unadilla Apr 23 (Wisner). Western Palms were at Bainbridge May 3 (E. J. Smith), Norwich May 4 (Whites), Maine May 12 (Beaver) and Binghamton May 17. A Mourning Warbler was at Binghamton May 17 (Bemont) and another was at Norwich May 31 (Whites). Other Warbler first dates: Tennessee — May 8 at Deposit (S. Wilson), Nashville — May 2 at Binghamton and Deposit, Yellow Apr 30 at Binghamton (N. Washburn, Linaberry), Magnolia — May 5 at Deposit, Cape May — May 6 at Binghamton (Bemont), Black-throated Blue — May 4 at Deposit, Myrtle — Apr 13 at Deposit, Black-throated Green — Apr 30 at Deposit, Blackburnian — May 5 at Deposit and Binghamton (H. Marsi), Ovenbird — May 3 at Endwell (TCNC), Northern Waterthrush — Apr 28 at Norwich (Whites), Louisiana Waterthrush — Apr 15 at Deposit, Yellowthroat — May 3 at Binghamton, Unadilla and Norwich, Yellow-breasted Chat — May 17 at Binghamton (TCNC), Wilson's — May 9 at Norwich (Whites), Canada — May 7 at Deposit and Redstart — May 1 at Binghamton (H. Marsi).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: An early Bobolink was at Cortland Apr 28 (Mulholland) and another was at Deposit Apr 30 (S. Wilson). Baltimore Orioles arrived at the Triple Cities May 3 (TCNC) and were quickly abundant. A few Rusty Blackbirds were reported; the first Apr 4 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and the last May 9 near Endwell (TCNC). Cowbirds were particularly abundant at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and around the Triple Cities. An early Scarlet Tanager was at Cortland May 1 (Wilson), a week earlier than in other areas. They were quite numerous at Unadilla and at Deposit they were particularly numerous May 16 and 17. They were seen along streams and roads and quite a few were killed by cars (S. Wilson).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived at Choconut Center May 6 (Sheffields) and Indigo Buntings arrived at Unadilla May 5 (Wisner). Evening Grosbeaks thinned out rapidly as the end of April approached and after May 7, when one was at Endicott (Loomis), there were none. Several observers reported Purple Finches to be very plentiful. A flock of a dozen or so Pine Grosbeaks was still at Cortland Apr 13 (Balzano). There were many Pine Siskin reports during April and a few during May. At Cranberry Lake, about five miles south of the Pennsylvania border, a pair was seen building a nest (Washburns) and at Deposit, where they were still present at the end of the period, a pair was seen carrying nesting material. At Oneonta they were thought to be still present at the end of the period, too. Four Red Crossbills were at Maine May 9 (Beaver) and another flock was near Oxford May 11 (Stratton). There were no more White-winged Crossbills at Oneonta after Apr 21 (New) but at the Brookfield-Sherburne state land a flock of over 100 was still present May 30 (Whites). Rufous-sided Towhees were seen regularly in the Triple Cities area after Apr 9. Slate-colored Juncos were gone after May 4 except for a pair nesting at Cranberry Lake (Washburns) and the last Tree Sparrows were at Choconut Center Apr 29 (Sheffields). White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Newark Valley May 2 (Dean) and were gone after May 17. Only at Choconut Center were they at all common. The first White-throated Sparrows were at Willow Point Apr 4 (Bemont). A few were around until May 17 but most of them were gone after May 10. Fox Sparrows were reported frequently until the last one Apr 23 at Choconut Center (Sheffields). One Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at Deposit May 11 (S. Wilson) and on May 17 a total of four was seen at Greene and around Binghamton. This is the first year that sight records outnumbered banding records. Other Sparrow first dates; Savannah — Apr 12 at Whitney Point (M. Sheffield), Grasshopper — May 8 at Choconut Center (Sheffields), Henslow's — Apr 21 near Binghamton (Sheffields), Vesper — Apr 2 at Deposit (S. Wilson), Chipping — Apr 8 at Cortland (Wilson) and Swamp — Apr 5 at Whitney Point (Sheffields).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Early April suffered from residual March snow and cold; even worse was the inheritance of ice that remained, e.g. Oneida Lake jammed with slush ice until April 15, but some species still arrived surprisingly early. The middle two weeks of April were cold and fair with persistent west to northwest winds; these weather conditions probably explain the slow trickling of migrants thru that period. The last six days of April with warm weather and southwest winds brought wonderful lakeside flights (vide hawks, finches) and scattered new arrivals across the region with delightful uniformity of dates. And though April was dry, May was even drier with clear, cool weather thru the first nine days; then a series of cool days, both cloudy and clear, produced warbler waves on May 10, 13, and 17 culminating in a burst of warblers on May 20. The remainder of May was warm, windless, without waves but with rapid foliation. By Memorial Day summer was fully launched, bird, tree, flower, and weather-wise.

Noteworthy for this spring were 1) the poor early shorebird flight,