

15. On May 9 Bourne reported the first Lincoln's Sparrow at Chestnut-Ridge Park. Further information on the banded Snow Bunting, picked up in West Seneca last March 21 and mentioned in the previous report, revealed that it was not banded in Denmark, but in northern Greenland.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures and precipitation were about normal during April, but in May the rainfall was much above normal. The water level of Lake Ontario was about a foot above that of a year ago, and this resulted in sharply reduced shorebird habitat except for inland rain pools.

Spectacular hawk flights were recorded on April 14 and 17. A good early hawk flight was recorded April 3, and smaller (although interesting) flights were noted on several other occasions. The weekend of April 30 - May 1 brought a heavy flight of land birds, including swarms of midseason migrants such as White-throated Sparrows, and a good early warbler flight. The next two weekends produced ordinary birding, with the peak of the spring flight not being reached until the weekend of May 21-22. The migration had tapered off sharply by the next weekend, and the late May flight of shorebirds seemed dull.

The most unusual birds recorded were the Snowy Egret, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Loons — Ducks: The peak of a very good loon flight was reached Apr 20 when 1000 Common and 3000 Red-throated Loons were seen along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). Some 25 of the latter species were at Manitou on Apr 25 (G.O.S. hike). Red-necked Grebes on the other hand were scarce, with but two birds being reported, one at Manitou Apr 14 (Listman) and one at Webster Park on Apr 15 (Kemnitzer). Six reports of Double-crested Cormorants were received, with a maximum of three birds May 22 at Manitou (Listman). A common Egret was observed May 10 at Mendon Ponds (Zeitler, Meyer), and another bird was seen the same day at Rose's Marsh (Listman). A Snowy Egret was noted May 15 at Manitou (Listman). This is the sixth record of this species in our area. Probably because of the higher water level American Bitterns were much more common than a year ago. It seemed that ten could be heard or seen this year in comparison to one a year ago. After last year's heavy flight Whistling Swans seemed rather scarce in the area, but seven were noted Apr 12 near Avon (Haller). Two more appeared later, and the nine remained until Apr 29.

Small numbers of Brant were present during the last ten days of May around Braddock's with a maximum of six on May 23 (Listman). Fourteen Snow and 23 Blue Geese were seen Apr 12 near Avon (Haller), and four birds of each species remained until Apr 25. A Gadwall was observed on May 11 at Paine Beach (Listman). Four Green-winged Teal were noted May 15 at Braddock's (Listman), and one was seen May 25 at Rose's Marsh. Sixty Ring-necked Ducks were seen Apr 23 around Shore Acres (G.O.S. hike). Two Common Goldeneye were at Braddock's on May 25 (Listman). Eight King Eiders were observed off Sea Breeze Apr 19 (Kemnitzer), and seven were noted there the following day (McNeth, Kemnitzer). Three hundred White-winged Scoters were seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman), and 26 were at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). A Surf Scoter was also present at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). Four Ruddy Ducks were seen on Irondequoit Bay Apr 14 (Kemnitzer).

Hawks — Owls: Maximum counts for the season were made Apr 17 by Dobson on the following species of hawks at the Hawk Lookout: Turkey Vulture 21, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1600, Cooper's Hawk 42, Broad-winged Hawk 5000, and Pigeon Hawk 1. The record for the last species was the only report for the year. High counts for the season on the following species were made Apr 3 at the Hawk Lookout by Bieber, Kemnitzer, Listman, et al: Rough-legged Hawk 75, Marsh Hawk 50, and Sparrow Hawk 200. On that same day Dobson counted 154 Red-tailed Hawks over Durand-Eastman Park, and on Apr 17 the same observer counted 61 of this species at the Hawk Lookout. Good late flight counts were made Apr 17 at the Hawk Lookout by Dobson on the Red-shouldered Hawk (21) and the Rough-legged-Hawk (13). Single Golden-Eagles were seen there Apr 14 (Listman et al)

and Apr 23 (G.O.S. hike). Single Bald Eagles were observed along the west lakeshore Apr 3 (Listman et al), Apr 23 (G.O.S. hike), May 4 (Schmanke, Doherty), and May 15 (Listman). Two birds were seen Apr 17 at the Hawk Lookout (Dobson). An adult eagle visited its nesting site in the Avon area Apr 16 but remained only one day (Haller). A Peregrine Falcon at Maplewood Park on May 8 (Foley, Listman) constituted our only spring record for this species.

Both Virginia Rails and Sora seemed more common and generally distributed, probably because of the increased suitable habitat. Single Black-bellied Plovers were noted along the west lakeshore on May 13, 21, and 29. Five Ruddy Turnstones were at Braddock's on May 29 (G.O.S. hike). Pectoral Sandpipers occurred in fairly good numbers for this species in spring, with a maximum of 35 being seen Apr 15 in Hilton (Listman). Two Whiterumped Sandpipers were observed in Gates on May 15 (Listman), and there was one May 29 near Shore Acres (G.O.S. hike). Dunlins were present in some numbers with a maximum of 35 on May 13 along the west lakeshore (Listman). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen May 18 near Paine Beach (Listman). A Little Gull was observed Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman).

The Barn Owl was recorded Apr 24 in the "owl woods" (Listman), May 15 in Island Cottage woods (O'Hara, Dakins), May 21 at Manitou (Listman), and May 21 at Island Cottage woods where two birds were seen (O'Hara, Miller). Two Snowy Owls were seen Apr 3 at Manitou (Listman et al). Long-eared Owls were frequently reported, with a maximum of six in the "owl woods" on Apr 2 (O'Hara, Miller). Two Saw-whet Owls were seen in the "owl woods" on Apr. 3, one of which was caught and photographed from an advantageous location (G.O.S. hike). Two birds were noted in the same area on Apr. 16 (Killip, Rising, Miller).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Pileated Woodpecker was seen May 1 near Ellison Park, a location from which it had not previously been reported (Davis). Twelve Red-bellied Woodpeckers on May 15 from the Avon area (Haller) is a good Count even for that section. Five Yellow-bellied Flycatchers seen May 28 along the west lakeshore (Starling, Miller) was the high count for this species. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported May 21 at Manitou (Listman) and May 24 at Highland Park (Starling). All six species of swallows were reported on the wires at Manitou May 21 (O'Hara, Miller). Two Tufted Titmice reported in the Irondequoit Bay area May 21 (Sunderlin, McNeth) are probably nesting in the vicinity. Seventy-five Brown Creepers reported Apr 14 in the Braddock's area (Listman) indicates a large migratory flight at that time. A very early House Wren was observed Apr 21 near Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer). After disappearing during the latter part of the winter two Carolina Wrens reappeared in Webster Park (Kemnitzer), and another pair appeared in the east bay area (McNeth, Sunderlin). The Mockingbirds in the Webster area seemed to have disappeared, but one bird was reported Apr 25 in Pittsford (Cameron). Maximum numbers of Eastern Bluebirds reported were ten on Apr 3 along the lakeshore (Listman et al) and eight Apr 16 in the Avon area (Haller). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seemed rather scarce in the Rochester vicinity, but ten were reported May 10 near Avon (Haller). Water Pipits seemed rather low in numbers with no really large flocks being reported anywhere.

Vireos — Warblers: A White-eyed Vireo was seen at Rose's Marsh on May 7 (Listman). The Solitary Vireo was apparently rather scarce, but the Philadelphia Vireo seemed more common than usual. Four of the latter were along the west lakeshore on May 21 (O'Hara, Miller).

The migration seemed fairly normal insofar as the more common warblers were concerned, with possibly some of the earlier species slightly off in numbers and some of the later warblers such as the Bay-breasted and Wilson's in slightly above normal numbers. Of the more unusual warblers the Orange-crowned, Prairie, and Connecticut were unreported. The Blue-winged Warbler was observed on May 15 at Avon (Haller) and in White Swamp at Chili (Rising). The Pine Warbler was seen at Manitou Apr 19 (Listman). Four Louisiana Waterthrushes were noted May 10 near Avon (Haller). The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported May 15 from White Swamp in Chili (Rising), May 22 in Rochester (Brown) and Mendon Ponds Park (MacRae, Lloyd), and May 29 at the B.A.N.C. (McKinney). Three hundred Myrtle Warblers and 25 Northern Waterthrushes seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman) indicates a heavy migratory movement of these species. Perhaps the outstanding feature of the entire warbler migration was the number of reports received of the Brewster's Warbler. The five such reports were from the following areas: northwestern part of Monroe County on May 12 (Listman), White Swamp in Chili on May 15 (Rising),

B.A.N.C. on May 15 (Davis), Webster on May 19 (Lloyd), and Mendon Ponds Park on May 22 (MacRae, Lloyd).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Western Meadowlark was seen and heard in Webster from Apr 30 to May 15, at which time it disappeared (Kemnitzner, Lloyd). Some 20,000 Redwings, 15,000 Grackles, and 15,000 Cowbirds seen Apr 3 at Manitou (Listman, Bieber) represent a continuing heavy flight of these respective species from the spectacular numbers seen in late March. About 5,000 Cowbirds were seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman). Two hundred Rusty Blackbirds seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman) is a good count of this species for the spring migration, and a count of 15 on May 12 at Rose's Marsh (Listman) is a rather late date.

An immature male Summer Tanager was trapped and banded May 7 at Dr. Leubner's residence in Irondequoit. On May 12 the bird was taken from a cat, and the specimen was turned over to the Rochester Museum. This is the second record for the region, the first being at Highland Park on May 19, 1947, by Elisha Atkins. Approximately 150 Evening Grosbeaks Apr 30 at Manitou and 125 there on May 7 were the last flocks of these birds reported (Listman). A single bird was observed at Manitou on May 15 (Listman), and another was seen that day in Webster (Kemnitzner).

Three hundred Purple Finches were noted migrating at Manitou on Apr 30 (Listman). Some 300 Common Redpolls were seen Apr 3 at Braddock's (Listman et al), and five seen Apr 15 at Webster Park (Kemnitzner) were the last reported for the season. Pine Siskins were present in small numbers, the ten seen May 15 at Manitou (Listman) being the last report received. Two Red Crossbills seen in Highland Park Apr 15 (Starling) and two birds seen at the Hillside Home on Apr 22 (Peters) were the only reports of this species for the period. About 25 Towhees were seen at Manitou on Apr 30 (Listman). This bird is scarce as a summer resident along the lake in our area but is fairly common farther inland. An Oregon Junco was observed at Meadowood, near Avon, on Apr 16 (Haller).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was first observed in Webster Park on May 28 (Kemnitzner, Lloyd). The observers' attention was first directed to the bird by its peculiar, rasping song, Al Kemnitzner having had field experience with the bird in the midwest. The Clay-colored Sparrow was still present no May 31. Several other observers had ample opportunity to carefully study the bird at leisure at close range and to listen to its distinctive song. Although the bird is new to this region, its identification seems irrefutable.

The 2,500 White-throated Sparrows reported by Listman at Manitou on Apr 30 is probably the greatest number of this species ever seen here by a single observer. Lincoln's Sparrows were rather frequently reported, with a maximum of five May 21 at Manitou (Listman).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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There was snow the first week in April, followed by unseasonable heat the weekend of the 16th. May lacked the extreme cold spells of last year, but it was consistently cool, and rainfall for the month broke records throughout the region, being from one to five inches above normal. Rain fell on 23 out of the 31 days. This certainly slowed up migration (and probably reduced the number of man-hours spent in studying migration!), eliminated mudflats and consequently cut down on shorebird counts, and it interfered greatly with first nestings of many birds. The Hornell Reservoir was not free of ice until mid-April this year.

Everyone commented on the scarcity of birds — that is of everything except Redwings, Grackles, and Starlings. With the exception of Yellow Warblers, the Parulidae were exceedingly scarce, although a good variety of species was found on census day, represented by singles. The winds of April 2 and 3 brought in Song Sparrows, and more blackbirds. Some thrushes and warblers came in on May 7, but most of these birds were very late, not arriving until after the 16th, the majority on the 21st.

Particular scarcities are noted in the body of this report, but special mention should be made of the second "crash" in three years of the Bluebird. Crows were increasingly numerous, bold, and destructive everywhere.