

(Oresman et al). No less than twelve reports of Yellow-breasted Chats were received from scattered localities.

Only the Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler were unrecorded among our more uncommon warblers.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: A singing Western Meadowlark appeared at the Rochester Country Club golf course Apr 15 (Taylor), and the bird was still present there at the end of the period.

Three Rusty Blackbirds were still at Silver Lake May 29 (Rosche). The Evening Grosbeak was unreported for the whole period. A single Common Redpoll was observed feeding with American Goldfinches in black birch trees in Island Cottage Woods May 6 (O'Hara et al). Pine Siskins were still present at the end of the period in small numbers, and a pair successfully raised a brood of young in Irondequoit (Moons). This is our area's first breeding record for this species. Thirty-one Red Crossbills were noted in scattered localities on May 21 (GOS census), and some were still present at the end of the month. One wonders if and when they are going to nest.

A spectacular flight of Vesper Sparrows occurred Apr 15-16, and hundreds must have been present along the lakeshore for those two days. A male Oregon Junco was seen at Lake and Bay Roads Apr 3 (McNetts), and another was seen at Manitou Apr 26 (Listman). One hundred fifty White-throated Sparrows May 6 (Dobson) and 100 White-crowned Sparrows May 13 (Listman) were the peak counts for these species. Lincoln's Sparrows were frequent, with a high count of four at Island Cottage Woods and Manitou on May 13 (Listman et al).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The Finger Lakes shivered and swam through a period which, on the calendar only, was termed spring. Below freezing temperatures on May 30 and 31 weren't a real surprise, as they followed two months marked by other late freezes and wet snows. When it wasn't snowing it was raining. Total precipitation for the two months was not much below twelve inches in the Ithaca area.

Oddly enough, the effect on bird life was not as marked as might be expected. Bird-watching got an assist from the weather in that leaves were not fully out before the end of May. This served, however, to keep down the number of insects, and birds had a hard time finding food. Orioles came to suet, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches found sunflower seeds on feeders, both unusual procedures in this area. There was no set pattern to arrival of vireos, and warblers were slightly late. Hummingbirds on time; Indigo Buntings were early. In general, nesting has been delayed.

Loon—Ducks: Common Loons appeared in normal numbers. One grounded during a storm is thriving (wing-clipped) on Sapsucker Woods pond. The only report of a Red-throated Loon was May 21 on Cayuga. Horned Grebes were found in numbers in the Elmira area on Apr 6 following a heavy storm the night before, and one Red-necked Grebe was sighted also. Another Red-necked Grebe was observed on Apr 30 at Interlaken Beach on Cayuga (O. Hewitt). Morse reported Pied-billed Grebes as somewhat less common at Montezuma. There were about four sightings of Double-crested Cormorants this spring — twice the normal number. Two Cattle Egrets appeared at Montezuma on Apr 29 and were seen regularly through the first week in May. Another was at Big Flats, Elmira, on May 10 (M. Smith et al) — the first for that area. Except for one Common Egret on Apr 15 at the Refuge, this species was unreported this period, unlike the last few years when several have been in evidence at the Refuge before June 1. A most unusual record was that of an adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** on Apr 25 in the swamp woods south of Routes 5-20 at Montezuma. Those seeing and identifying this bird were Dean Case, W. Wilcox, and Foster Helmer.

Canada Geese peaked at 9,500 the week of Apr 7 at Montezuma. Numbers dropped to 6,000 on May 5, and most had left a day or so later. This peak is below that of a year ago. However, the numbers on Cayuga were very large. On Apr 27, for example, the raft extended for 6½ miles, an estimated 20,000-25,000 birds. Keuka Lake also had fine Canada flights.

To promote nesting of Canada Geese birds have been released by the State and Federal Governments at Montezuma, and ten nests had been found by Jun 1.

There were 40 Brant at Montezuma on Apr 10 (Dewey), and two flocks of Brant were seen by A. A. Allen on May 21 at Ithaca. The second record of the **White-fronted Goose** in the Cayuga Basin occurred on Apr 15 when two were seen at Montezuma by Charles Farnham, an observation confirmed by Hosking and Ray Hendricks. A high count of 100 Blue Geese and 30 Snow Geese was reported from the Refuge, and there were more than the usual number of reports of these birds in the Canada flocks on Cayuga. There were 25 Snows at King Ferry on May 5 (L. Kelsey).

The first Mallard brood was spotted at Sapsucker Woods on May 22, a week earlier than last year. Pintails and American Widgeon were in lower numbers at Montezuma, but they may have scattered out on the unusually wet neighboring mucklands. The European Widgeon was sighted at Montezuma on Apr 27 (McIlroy). There were more migrant Shovelers than in past years. Eleven pairs of Wood Ducks were coming to the feeding area at Sapsucker Woods. At least one pair was using a nesting box, while the other seemed to be in natural cavities in the woods. There was a slight increase in breeding Redheads at Montezuma (Morse). There were no scoters on Keuka this spring, and the only scoter report from Cayuga was a White-winged on Apr 24 (Futuyma). A brood of Hooded Mergansers was seen on a farm pond near Malloryville in late May (P. Kelsey), and it is suspected that this species was trying to nest at Sapsucker Woods again. Some 36 Red-breasted Mergansers at Branchport on May 9 was a large number for that date (Guthrie). Numbers on Cayuga seemed large in late April.

Hawks — Owls: All observers reported Turkey Vultures more common than ever. For example, seven immatures were seen on May 21 near Cameron (W. Groesbeck). A Goshawk seen by Al Fudge at Elmira on Apr 22 was the only report. Cooper's Hawks were unreported all spring, and all hawks were scarce around Avoca (M. Carter). Some Redtails were noted in migration over Ithaca on Apr 23. Red-shoulders seemed scarce in the Geneva area (J. Walker), and neither nest has been found this year in Sapsucker Woods, although the two pairs are seen from time to time. The last report of a Rough-legged Hawk was on May 7 at Montezuma. An immature Bald Eagle was seen over Elmira on May 17 (O. York). The Montezuma pair made only token attempts to nest this year. Pigeon Hawks were seen at Ithaca on Apr 20 (P. Buckley, N. Smith) and at Waterloo on May 14 (Walker).

Ospreys made the news this season, for not in the last twenty years have there been so many reported. For example, Paul Kelsey saw seven at once over Dryden Lake on Apr 27. One spent a full month at Sapsucker Woods (sometimes joined by a second) and fed on goldfish in front of the observatory windows. Ruffed Grouse were not much in evidence. Wild Turkeys were spotted near Breesport.

Black-bellied Plover, often missed in spring, were reported from three locations. Snipe seemed more abundant than usual; they were heard winnowing around Ithaca through May. Upland Plover were scarcer than last year at Elmira and Ithaca, and they were unreported at Keuka. In spite of high water there was a better variation of shorebirds at Montezuma than is usual in the spring. Of note were White-rumps there on Apr 24 and fifteen Whimbrel on May 26 (Cummings and Dewey).

There were fewer Bonaparte's Gulls this year on Cayuga. The census usually produces 12-15, whereas only a couple were seen this year. Several hundred Ring-billed Gulls were seen on the May 21 census, however, a surprisingly large number. Great Black-backed Gulls were last seen at Montezuma on May 7. Morse reported fewer migrant Black Terns at the Refuge, although the breeding population was about normal. Mourning Doves were scarce around Avoca, and there were fewer cuckoos of both varieties than last year.

There was only one Barn Owl report in the entire Ithaca area, and Horned Owls were missing from Stewart Park there. Both Barred Owl and Long-eared Owl were found in Texas Hollow on May 21 (B. Strath). Paul Kelsey saw the only Short-eared Owl of the spring, at the Seneca Ordnance Depot on Apr 13.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Whip-poor-will was heard by Randy Little on May 21 at Michigan Hollows, and one was heard by the Montour-Watkins group the same day. Nighthawks came in on May 13 at Hornell (they usually arrive there about May 22).

Chimney Swifts arrived ten days late in the Keuka area (Guthrie). There was a good movement of Flickers Apr 20-24 throughout the region. The Pileated Woodpecker nested again in Stewart Park, but the first nest was lost when the tree snapped off in a windstorm. They seem to be continuing their increase in the Ithaca area. The big news was the seeming increase in Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Cayuga Lake Basin. There were at least two reports from the west shore, three from the east shore, a single bird in Stewart Park, one in Forest Home, a pair on the Cornell golf course, and a single at Sapsucker Woods, May they all be successful in nesting! Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were abundant the weekend of Apr 15, and a pair of these birds nested in Sapsucker Woods. A female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker delighted Ithaca observers, envious of neighboring regions for so long, by spending two days on a pine tree on Beebe Lake Drive at the very end of May, a late record indeed as well as a rarity. A male of this species had been seen by T. Ryder near Sapsucker Woods on May 7 but was not found again.

Elmira had good numbers of all flycatchers. This was not the case elsewhere. Certainly around Ithaca Phoebes and Kingbirds were scarce, and Geneva and Keuka observers remarked on the absence of Phoebes. Several reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers this spring may just reflect more hours in the field at the right time.

While swallows seemed very abundant in migration (for example, close to 8,000, including 6,000 Trees, were noted by F. Scheider at Montezuma on Apr 24), resident swallows seemed scarce. Barn Swallows were early, oddly enough, at Hall (W. Robson), appearing there on Apr 19. Cliff Swallows were found dying, with empty stomachs, following a cold spell at Keuka (C. Sturdevant). Purple Martins were really late in returning to boxes near Ithaca; the Sapsucker Woods birds, save for individuals alighting briefly, did not turn up until the very end of the period.

Tufted Titmice are appearing more regularly on higher elevations in areas where they have been present for several years at lower spots. They continue moving northward. Brown Creepers nested at Sapsucker Woods, near the Laboratory Building. House Wrens have not yet returned to old abundance, although they are picking up around Geneva. The Winter Wren was reported singing into June on Beam Hill, south of Dryden (Dunham). The slight gain registered last year by Carolina Wrens was wiped out this past winter; the species went unreported many weeks around Ithaca. Short-billed Marsh Wrens seemed absent from usual areas around Elmira.

Mockingbirds were in the news. Singles were seen near Varna on Apr 28 (Mrs. Hanks) and near North Lansing in May (O. Hewitt). The species nested successfully at the Largelere's at Esperanze, bringing off two young, and Mockingbirds were reported nesting in Breesport (fide A. Fudge.)

One of the largest movement of Robins I have ever seen in this area occurred on Apr 11 and 12 near Ithaca. The birds were everywhere. On the morning of the 11th the ground was covered by a light snow, and in a two-mile stretch of field west of Etna I counted 98 Robins just as I drove along the road. Prof. Guthrie noted that Wood Thrushes were unusually common at Keuka. Both Woods and Veeries have picked up a little at Ithaca, but Veeries were unusually silent early this year. Bluebirds were still extremely scarce. Paul Kelsey reported large numbers of Water Pipits on Apr 13 near Seneca Ordnance Depot.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireos were absent at Keuka, and they seemed scarce in the Ithaca area. It is often difficult to gauge the abundance of vireos in the absence of song. The cold and wet weather resulted in little song, and

many vireos were undoubtedly overlooked for when warmer weather set in, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos were common enough. There were several reports of Philadelphia Vireos this spring, including at least two on Connecticut Hill and one in Sapsucker Woods.

The warbler story is again a difficult one to evaluate. I heard of no wave around Ithaca, and yet Loren Ward reported one of the heaviest migrations in some years at Geneva on May 18. Several Watkins-Montour observers spoke of good flights on May 3-5. Most of the spring census reports mentioned many species, but few individuals. There were a couple of Prothonotary reports in the region, but these birds can no longer be found with ease at Montezuma. The Worm-eating Warbler was late in arriving (May 20) at Mrs. York's hill in Elmira. Bob and Penny Ficken reported a considerable increase in Golden-wings in the Ithaca area, and several Brewster's were found, one with a nest (which unfortunately was broken up). A Brewster's was also noted at Geneva. Tennessees, although fairly common at Geneva, were none too abundant in Stewart Park, Ithaca, or at Keuka, or else unusually quiet. There were two reports of Orange-crowns, rare in spring: one at Sapsucker Woods on May 21 (D. McIlroy) and one east of Elmira on May 10 (M. Smith). Nashvilles seemed common at Geneva, scarce at Keuka, as were Parulas and Cape Mays. Myrtle Warblers seemed scarce around Watkins, were noted migrating Apr 15 elsewhere.

More Blackburnians than usual were observed in the Ithaca area this spring, and glimpses of these warblers — one of our loveliest — rewarded those who turned out faithfully for cold bird-walks at Stewart Park. A Yellow-throated Warbler, being found almost every year now, was seen May 15 by Nancy Deane near the Cornell campus, and one was found at Odessa by B. Strath on May 14. Blackpolls lingered into June. A rather early Pine Warbler appeared near Beebe Lake at Cornell during a wet snow on Apr 8 and was trapped and banded by John Weske. Prairie Warblers were found again on Connecticut Hill on May 15, and one was at Sullivan's Monument on May 10. Louisiana Waterthrushes were absent from some of the glens around Ithaca this year. Chats, almost completely missing around Ithaca for the last two or three years, were back at least two of their old stations. A Hooded Warbler, rare in the region, was seen at Bennettsburg by D. Rathbun on May 21.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were slightly commoner than in the last few years. At Avoca Mrs. Carter noticed that as Redwings increase in the dry fields at lower elevations Bobolinks seem to move to higher elevations and to be more common there. Do others agree? Certainly Bobolinks are now missing from many areas in which they used to occur around Ithaca. Is this a change in habitat conditions?

A **Western Meadowlark** (singing and giving typical call notes) was found the middle of May along Route 89 east of Ovid at the LeConte Meyer farm (identified by Mrs. Meyer, confirmed by D. McIlroy). Baltimore Orioles were up in numbers. Indigo Buntings came in early (first report was May 8 at Ithaca by K. Thorp) and were unusually abundant, turning up in new localities. Evening Grosbeaks appeared for the first time this past "winter" in some localities in April (after their appearance other places in February and March — see May **Kingbird**), but almost none of the species reached as far west as Keuka and Hornell. All had departed by the last week of April.

Resident Purple Finches have increased in several sections of the region. Pine Siskins, so abundant at the end of the last reporting period, pulled out rather suddenly by the last of April, except for a few here and there. Goldfinches remained abundant. The influx of Red Crossbills persisted, but numbers dropped off after mid-May. However, some were still present around Ithaca at the end of May, but they showed no signs of nesting. Red Crossbills were reported from Branchport on May 14 (Whitaker).

Vesper Sparrows were moving in good numbers Apr 13-15, being noted particularly around Hornell and Ithaca. A male Oregon Junco fed with the Slate-colored at the home of Lincoln Kelsey in Ithaca on May 1. Ithaca's Clay-colored Sparrow returned to the same field for the third season; the bird was

sighted on Apr 28 (D. McIlroy) and began singing his "second song" before the end of May [Ed—for an account of this bird's nesting activities in 1960, see the May, 1961, **Kingbird**]. White-crowned Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows seemed quite scarce everywhere; this scarcity was especially noted at Auburn (Coalson), Hornell (Groesbeck), and Ithaca. At Geneva all the field species of sparrows were scarce (Ward). A Lapland Longspur at the Welles farm on May 29 is certainly a late record for this species (M. Welles).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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April was cold and wet. Only from Apr 21 to 26 did temperatures average above normal. The cold was a matter of average rather than extremes and each day the maximum temperature was above freezing so although snow fell frequently until Apr 18, with the major falls coming Apr 10 and Apr 13, it melted off quickly and there was no snow cover after Apr 18.

In May there were periods of much above and periods of much below normal temperature with the monthly average slightly below. The warm spells were May 8, 9 and May 13-15 and the cool spells May 1-3, May 19, 22, 23 and May 27, 30. The last frost of any consequence came May 1, so it is evident that the much below normal temperatures were not extreme enough to be a direct hazard to migrants but they appeared to be the cause of a decidedly late migration.

The variability of the May weather would lead one to expect migration waves and at Oneonta, at least, they materialized spectacularly. Dr. New writes that their first warblers, seven different species, arrived May 8, but it was May 10 that they "had a flight of warblers the likes of which I haven't seen in many years — never around here. — Birds were all over and in one tree there were often as many as five or six species of warblers and possibly 10 -12 individuals. It was amazing and exciting to see." On May 17 he reports another smaller flight, mostly Bay-breasted Warblers, and a final flight May 29 of Blackpoll Warblers. The same general pattern was apparent around the Triple Cities but evidently on a less spectacular scale. Where these waves were missed warblers appeared scarce. There were some obvious exceptions to the lateness of the migration such as the three April Kingbird records but there were also a number of species that appeared to be on time on the basis of the first report but the main movement of the species was nevertheless late. The late break-up of ice on ponds in the Norwich — Sherburne area was reported as a possible cause for the scarcity of ducks.

An interesting assortment of shorebirds was found at the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam the week following May 21.

Loons — Ducks: There were several Common Loons reported between the first Apr 23 at Whitney Point (R. & M. Sheffield) and the last May 9 at Candor (H. Doty). Horned Grebes were noted in relatively good numbers for this region from Apr 6 at Owego (M. White, C. Gerould) to Apr 30 when a dozen or so were at Unadilla (H. Wisner). Green Herons arrived at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Deposit (S. Wilson) Apr 22. Three Common Egrets at Deposit Apr 21 (S. Wilson) were the only ones reported. Our first American Bittern was near Chenango Bridge, a little north of Binghamton, Apr 20 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry). They were reported a little more frequently than in recent years. A Least Bittern, of the color phase known as Cory's Least Bittern, was shot south of Newark Valley in late May and turned over to Lee Loomis, a taxidermist in Endicott. Mr. Loomis is currently assembling collections for the planned museums at Binghamton and Cooperstown and it will eventually be part of one of them.

No Whistling Swans were reported. The Canada Goose migration continued until at least May 22 when 200 were at Whitney Point (V. Misner, H. Marsi). The peak came during the last week of April when a number of counts were in the hundreds. On Apr 28 over 1000, in four flocks, were seen flying over in the Norwich area (R. & S. White). A sub-adult Snow Goose was seen and well described Apr 16 at Greene (W. Bartlett). American Widgeons, Pintails and Green-winged Teal were noted in the Triple Cities — Whitney Point area