

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).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

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

as late as Apr 22, Apr 29 and Apr 22 respectively (R. & M. Sheffield). Blue-winged Teal were still at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) and seemed to be nesting at a pond near Newark Valley (L. Dean). Two Shovelers, both males, were at Whitney Point Apr 22 (R. & M. Sheffield) and the next day the species was reported at Owego (R. Williams).

Ring-necked Ducks were last reported at Norwich Apr 26 (R. & S. White). Numbers were normal except for one raft of over 100 at Whitney Point Apr 2 (M. Sheffield), an unusual concentration of any diving duck in this region. One Canvasback was at Whitney Point Apr 9 (Naturalists' Club) and two were at the same place Apr 15 (F. Linaberry) but that's all during the period. During the latter half of April there was a movement of Scaup through the region which seemed to be independent of those noted in March. This later movement seemed to be mostly Lessers (by popular vote). Our last Common Golden-eyes were noted Apr 20 at Whitney Point. Buffleheads were around from Apr 7 at Whitney Point (H. Marsi, V. Misner, F. Linaberry) to Apr 25 at Norwich (R. & S. White). Oldsquaws were reported in better numbers than in recent springs. Apr 15 and Apr 30 saw the first and last of them with the high count of 73 coming Apr 23 (Nat. Club). A White-winged Scoter, an unusual species in the region, was at Norwich Apr 18 (R. & S. White). A Ruddy Duck, an infrequently reported but not necessarily uncommon species in the region, was at Norwich Apr 26 (R. & S. White). Hooded Mergansers were not reported after Apr 22 and our last Common Mergansers were noted Apr 24. Red-breasted Mergansers were at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) as late as Apr 30.

Hawks — Owls: There seems to have been an important increase in Turkey Vultures in the region this year. Cortland (J. Gustafson) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) are new areas for the species leaving Chenango County as the only large area in the region where there are active observers which they have not been reported. They continue to be noted most frequently in the Deposit area. Red-tailed Hawk reports seemed a little more numerous than in recent years. Small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were reported throughout April with the last report May 5 at Oneonta (R. Burland). Marsh Hawks continue to be relatively scarce. There were substantially more Osprey reports than in recent years with the first near Chenango Bridge Apr 8 (V. Misner, H. Marsi, J. Vivier) and the last at Oxford May 10 (A. Stratton).

Virginia Rails and Soras were both reported from Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland) and later at Apalachin, but from nowhere else. The only Common Gallinule reported turned up on the Naturalists' Club spring bird count in Vestal May 21 and the only American Coot was at Apalachin May 12 and 13 (C. Gerould, M. White). Semipalmated Plovers were present at Whitney Point from May 21 (M. Sheffield) to the end of the period. Killdeers continue to be scarce. There were ten Black-bellied Plovers at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) and one was still there May 30. The only Common Snipe reported were at Norwich Apr 16 (R. & S. White) and Newark Valley Apr 25 (L. Dean). A Spotted Sandpiper at Norwich Apr 24 (R. & S. White) was our first. Solitary Sandpipers were first seen Apr 30 at Norwich (R. & S. White) and Unadilla (H. Wisner) and were around in small numbers until May 21 at Oneonta and the Triple Cities. A Willet, a species that has not been recorded in the Triple Cities for at least the last eight years, was seen for almost two hours on Ingraham Hill, just south of Binghamton, May 31 (C. Howard). It was following farm equipment picking up insects and could be observed at fairly close range. It was reported the same day by telephone and all diagnostic field marks, except voice, were fully described. Greater Yellowlegs were at Whitney Point Apr 16 (M. Sheffield) and at the same place May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi). In between they were also reported at Oneonta, Norwich and Owego. Lesser Yellowlegs, on the other hand, were only reported once — at Whitney Point May 23 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry, Barney). Pectoral Sandpipers were at Whitney Point May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi). Least Sandpipers were first reported at Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland) and were still present at Whitney Point at the end of the period. Dunlins were first reported at Whitney Point May 21 (M. Sheffield). Roughly 200 were there May 22 (V. Misner, H. Marsi) but by the next day, May 23, only ten were left and no more were reported there-

after. On May 22 ten Dowitchers (Sp?) were at Whitney Point (V. Misner, H. Marsi). Semipalmated Sandpipers were first noted May 13 at Candor (D. Weber). They were still present at Whitney Point May 30.

There is a strong tendency on the part of many observers to list any gull seen as a Herring Gull unless it is definitely identified as something else, so some of our May Herring Gulls may actually have been misidentified Ring-billed Gulls, but one seen May 21 in the Triple Cities area (M. Sheffield) was carefully observed at close range and was without doubt a Herring Gull. During the last week of Apr and most of May Ring-billed Gulls were present in the Triple Cities area in numbers unusual for this region. On two occasions counts of over one hundred were made and smaller numbers were seen frequently. Sixteen Bonaparte's Gulls were at Owego Apr 22 and fifteen were near Norwich Apr 23. On the latter day they were also seen at Endicott (D. Sterling). Five Caspian Terns were reported at Owego Apr 25 (W. Reeves). The only Black Tern report came from Owego May 7 (C. Gerould, M. White). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were first noted at Endicott May 11 and have not been too common. Black-billed Cuckoos have been only slightly more common and were first found May 8 at Choconut Center (R. Sheffield).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Two Whip-poor-wills were reported just north of Binghamton, one May 5 (R. & J. Saunders) and the other May 15 (J. Beaver). Another was recorded at Unadilla May 20 (H. Wisner). Our first Nighthawk was at Binghamton May 10 (E. Whitson). A flock of fifty or more Chimney Swifts at Binghamton Apr 25 were the first reported. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Oxford May 9 (A. Stratton) was our earliest. They seemed scarce in some areas but taking the region as a whole were more common than in either of the last two years. A Red-headed Woodpecker was at Deposit May 9 (S. Wilson), one was at Endicott May 21 (L. Bemont) and another was at Newark Valley May 26, (L. Dean). Still another was found dead along a road south of Newark Valley, apparently hit by a car, and turned over to Lee Loomis. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrived Apr 15 in the Triple Cities area and were noted there and at Unadilla to almost the end of the period. At Oneonta they were low in numbers (J. New). There were no less than three mid-April Kingbird reports and a fourth was held back by the observer because it was impossible to get more than a brief look at the bird. The first was at Oneonta Apr 10 (R. Burland), another was at Tioga Center Apr 18 (J. Barnes) and another was near Whitney Point Apr 20 (F. Linaberry). May 7 was the generally adhered to arrival date. Great Crested Flycatchers arrived May 8 and seemed substantially more common than in recent years. Phoebe seem to be recovering slowly from the lean years but at Unadilla (H. Wisner) and Greene (W. Bartlett) were still considered scarce. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reported were at Binghamton May 21 (M. Sheffield). Traill's Flycatchers were at Newark Valley May 13. (L. Dean). This is a species whose apparent increase in numbers in recent years may be largely a matter of observer education. A Least Flycatcher was at Binghamton Apr 27 (H. Marsi) but, except for an Empidonax (sp.?) May 1 at Deposit (S. Wilson), probably of this species, no more were found until May 6. Wood Pewees were noted at Candor (D. Weber) and Newark Valley (L. Dean) May 7 but no more until May 13. The only Olive-sided Flycatchers reported were at Oneonta May 21 (R. Burland). Bank Swallows were at Owego Apr 18 (R. Williams) and Rough-winged Swallows were at Oneonta Apr 26 (R. Burland). A Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallows were in the Triple Cities area Apr 12 and Apr 20 respectively. Purple Martins were at both Owego (M. Hills) and Binghamton (S. Fargo) Apr 15.

Tufted Titmice were present at Owego, Deposit and the Triple Cities. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was still near Endwell May 24 (L. Bemont). There was also a report from Oneonta May 21. No more Brown Creepers were reported after Apr 29. Our first House Wren was reported Apr 21 but not many were found before May 1. They were not too common at Unadilla (H. Wisner) but at Oneonta were said to be "all over" (J. New). In other areas they appear to be recovering slowly from the recent bad years. Two Winter Wren reports — Apr 9 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and Apr 20 near Chenango Bridge (F. Linaberry). Carolina Wrens were reported only from Owego Apr 13 (R. Williams). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at Owego May 8 (M. White, R. Williams) and there was one Short-

billed Marsh Wren report from Oneonta May 7 (R. Burland).

Mrs. F. Voorhaas of Sherburne has reported, via Mrs. Hoyt at Cornell, that she has had a Mockingbird at her feeder the last two years. Another Mockingbird was reported at Kattellville, just north of Binghamton, May 14 (H. Thomas). Catbirds were reported at Newark Valley Apr 26 (L. Dean) but were not common until May 7 or 8. An early Brown Thrasher was south of Tully Apr 7 (H. Wisner) but the species was not generally reported until Apr 24. A Wood Thrush near Binghamton Apr 27 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry) was a few days ahead of the more general arrival date of May 1. A Hermit Thrush was at Candor Apr 23 (D. Weber). The species shows an encouraging increase over recent lean years. Swainson's Thrushes arrived at Deposit (S. Wilson) and the Triple Cities May 10. They were reported frequently but only in small numbers. A Gray-cheeked Thrush May 12 (L. Bemont) and another May 21 (J. Beaver), both in the Triple Cities area, were the only ones reported. Veeries were at Owego May 6 (R. Williams). The Bluebird status appears encouraging only at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield) and Newark Valley (L. Dean). In all other areas they were seen only once or twice. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found near Johnson City May 4 (L. Bemont) and were seen at the same spot on almost every visit thereafter but no nest was found. At Ely Park in Binghamton a pair was seen in the act of nest-building May 21 (M. Sheffield). The only other one reported was at Deposit May 11 (S. Wilson) and it was not seen again. Golden-crowned Kinglets were not particularly common and were last reported May 10. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first noted Apr 19 at Deposit (S. Wilson). They were quite common and were last reported at Oneonta and Binghamton May 21. Seven Water Pipits were at Ingraham Hill May 3 (C. Howard). They were only reported twice more, May 7 and 13, both times in the Triple Cities area. A Loggerhead Shrike was banded at Deposit May 1 (J. Wilson).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireos were at Deposit May 2 (S. Wilson), but nowhere else until May 7. Solitary Vireos arrived Apr 25 and Red-eyed Vireos May 6, both at Owego (R. Williams). One Philadelphia Vireo was banded at Binghamton May 16 (H. Marsi). Warbling Vireos were at Newark Valley Apr 28 (L. Dean).

The only Worm-eating Warbler reported was at Norwich May 15 (R. & S. White). Golden-winged Warblers were near Endwell May 10, about one week late. They seem to be increasing in numbers steadily from year to year but this is another species where the observers' increasing familiarity with it could give such an impression falsely. Perhaps indicative of an actual increase is the fact that three of the five areas in the region where they were reported this year did not report them in either of the last two years, namely Deposit, Unadilla and Norwich. At Norwich this was the first record of the species in a great many more years than that (R. & S. White). A Brewster's Warbler was at IBM Glen, near Endwell, May 12 (L. Bemont) and a Blue-winged Warbler was found not far from the same spot May 21. The station near Binghamton that was occupied by Blue-wings for the last three or four years has now become the site of a new housing development. Tennessee Warblers were here from May 9 at Unadilla (H. Wisner) to May 24 near Endwell and several reports mention lower numbers than usual. Nashville Warblers were late, arriving May 2 at Owego (R. Williams, M. White). Parula Warblers, never common, were a little more so than usual. They were at Owego (L. Saddlemire) and Binghamton (H. Marsi) May 11 and were reported as late as May 23. Yellow Warblers were at Deposit Apr 26, close to normal, but Magnolia Warblers didn't arrive until May 9, a few days late. Two Cape May Warblers at Norwich May 7 were our first and they were last seen May 21. They were scarce. A Black-throated Blue Warbler near Endwell May 6 (Naturalists' Club) was our earliest. They seemed more common than usual and at Oneonta were reported to be "abundant at times" (J. New). Myrtle Warblers arrived Apr 21 and were gone from most of the region after May 21, but at Unadilla they were present until May 30. In the Triple Cities area, at least, they seemed less common than usual. Blackburnian Warblers arrived at Sherburne and Binghamton May 7, almost two weeks later than last year. They were quite numerous. A few Bay-breasted Warblers were at Oxford May 8 (A. Stratton) and Oneonta (J. New) May 10, early dates for the species. Then there were no more reported until May 15, but after that

there were plenty of them. May 28 saw the last of them. Blackpoll Warblers were also early, arriving at Owego May 13 (L. & C. Cole). After May 21 there were no more until May 28 but there was a flight of them May 29 at Oneonta (J. New). They were also present in the Triple Cities area at the end of the period. There were two Pine Warbler reports — at Newark Valley Apr 15 (L. Dean) and at Owego May 13 (M. White). An Ovenbird was near Endwell Apr 28 (H. Marsi, M. Fisher) but then no more were reported until May 6. A Northern Waterthrush was near Windsor May 3 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry) and a Louisiana Waterthrush was at Deposit Apr 15 (S. Wilson). Mourning Warblers were at Castle Creek May 21 (M. Sheffield), at Norwich May 22 (R. & S. White) and Deposit May 30 (S. Wilson). Our first Yellowthroat, at Owego May 6, was a few days late. A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Johnson City May 6 (W. Reeves). They were also reported at Newark Valley (L. Dean) and several other spots in the Triple Cities area. It was a good year for Wilson's Warblers. Our first was at Oneonta May 10 (J. New) and they kept popping up, one to three at a time, at Candor, Newark Valley, Deposit, Oneonta and the Triple Cities area until May 28. Our first Canada Warbler, at Norwich May 9 (R. & S. White), was a few days late and our first American Redstart, near Endwell May 6, was a full week later than last year.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Bobolink at Choconut Center May 7 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) was our first. An Orchard Oriole was reported at Owego May 13 (R. Williams). An early Baltimore Oriole was at Deposit Apr 26 (S. Wilson) then no more were found until May 6, the beginning of the main influx. A very late Rusty Blackbird was reported at Oneonta May 14 (R. Burland). Cowbirds have been particularly numerous at Newark Valley, Oxford and Endwell. A Scarlet Tanager was just south of Tully May 7 (H. Wisner).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Deposit May 2 (S. Wilson) but then no more until May 6. Indigo Buntings arrived in several different areas May 9. Evening Grosbeaks were seen regularly, in small flocks, through Apr 26. Reports then became scattered until the last one was noted about May 16 at Unadilla (H. Wisner). Purple Finches have been present in several areas almost continuously all period. A few Pine Siskins were present through May 12 in the Triple Cities area, but the last ones reported were at Oneonta May 21. Large flocks of Red Crossbills were still present at Greene Apr 16 (W. Bartlett). They were regular visitors at Unadilla Apr 9 to May 15 (H. Wisner). They were also reported a couple of times at Binghamton (M. Sheffield) and Sherburne (R. & S. White) and a dead one was found at Newark Valley (L. Dean). The Rufous-sided Towhee at Oneonta Apr 2 (R. Burland) could have been a bird that wintered. Apr 21 appeared to be the date when migrants started arriving.

No Grasshopper Sparrows were reported until May 7 and no Henslow's Sparrows until Apr 30. Slate-colored Juncos were seen regularly until about Apr 27 with the big wave going through Deposit Apr 11 when 100 were banded (S. Wilson). There were occasional reports through May and one was still at Deposit at the end of the period. The last Tree Sparrow reported was at Choconut Center May 7 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) but most were gone after Apr 27. Chipping Sparrows arrived at Oneonta Apr 16 (R. Burland) and Field Sparrows at Endwell Apr 12. Our first White-crowned Sparrows were at Owego Apr 26 (M. White) and our last near Binghamton May 21 but almost all of them passed through between May 3 and May 15. Fox Sparrows were last seen May 23. A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Endwell May 10 (L. Bemont) and one at Choconut Center (M. Sheffield) and another at Owego (R. Williams) May 13. Swamp Sparrows arrived Apr 22.

710 University Ave., Endwell
