

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Common Nighthawk arrived May 14 and, due to the steady hot weather was common within a few days. Pileated Woodpecker — one May 14 Seneca Park, Rochester (Peter Zachmann). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker did not arrive until Apr 20, one of the latest arrival dates on record. Olive-sided Flycatchers — frequently reported with max. of three May 30 along the west lakeshore (Alfred Starling et al). Tufted Titmice were reported several times, but the Carolina Wren was unreported. Singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens were heard in several places where the species has been unreported for some time.

A Mockingbird was reported several times in the Manitou area (Leo Miller et al) and three were in Webster May 27 (AEK). Both Swainson's and Graycheeked Thrushes seemed to be very scarce, with only a relatively few of the former reported. Only one report of the latter was received, a single bird in Island Cottage woods May 20 (David H. Perry). Eastern Blue birds seemed up in numbers slightly. Single pairs nested in Webster, Mendon and Parma. Five were at Manitou May 30 (WCL). Cedar Waxwings — 175 at Durand Apr 28 (Joseph and Thelma McNett), and good numbers were reported late in the period.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A White-eyed Vireo was carefully observed at Island Cottage Woods May 19 (Frank Schmanke et al) and a very early Philadelphia Vireo was at Letchworth May 5 (JF). A Worm-eating Warbler along the river bank near Cottage St. in Rochester May 1 (Thomas E. Tetlow et al). Three Blue-winged Warblers were at Letchworth May 5 (Mrs. Sue Clark et al). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Manitou Apr 28 (RTO et al) and another was in the same place May 14 (WCL). Parula Warblers seemed scarce. Blackpoll Warblers arrived early, with 15 in the Island Cottage area on May 20 (J & TM). Pine Warblers were reported frequently with two at Manitou Apr 29 (Robert White et al). Single Prairie Warblers were in Braddock's Bay area May 6, 12, and 26, (Miss Margaret Foley et al). 25 Palm Warblers in Durand-Eastman Park May 5 (Bruce Brown et al) is a high count. The only report of the Connecticut Warbler was one bird in Island Cottage Woods May 20 (DP). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats nested in Mendon Ponds Park (AS) but otherwise the species seemed rather scarce.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** An adult male Dickcissel was at a feeder on Lake Road, Webster, May 16 (J & TM et al). There was a heavy spring flight of Evening Grosbeaks, with a high count of 300 at Manitou May 13 (Robert G. McKinney). The last straggler was seen in the same place May 24 (WCL). The last Common Redpoll was at Manitou Apr 22 (WCL). Pine Siskins were very scarce, only a few scattered birds being reported. This was in sharp contrast to a year ago when they were reported in flocks of hundreds. No Crossbills were reported. Slate-colored Juncos seemed very common, with flocks of over a hundred birds being reported around mid April. An adult Oregon Junco was at a feeder on Lake Road, Webster, from Apr 2-15 (Mrs. Maryann Sunderlin et al). A very, very late Tree Sparrow was at Manitou May 20 (John Brown et al).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

---

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

April was fairly normal in rainfall and temperature until the last week. From April 25, through the first week in May, a hot spell brought in the migrants following cold, wet weather from Apr 20-25. This period was followed by a few days, May 8-14, when there seemed to be no birds — the early arrivals had left, (no new ones came until mid-May. In most areas, no warbler wave was noted, but at Jasper, trees were alive with warblers May 14 and 15 (Margeson). Certain Warblers were unusually scarce as Cape Mays and Black-throated Greens.

In the over-all picture, migration was not far different from normal, except that some birds seemed to come in ahead of schedule (Cuckoos, Pewees, most Swallows, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the 'field' Sparrows), while others were late (Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Catbirds, Swainson's Thrushes).

Manager Morse reported that the peak count of 25,000 Canada Geese at Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge was the highest in five or more years. However, this **may** not represent an over-all increase in the Cayuga Lake Basin, just a Montezuma increase with an apparent corresponding Cayuga Lake decrease.

May was one of the warmest on record, and extremely dry, less than an inch of rain being recorded in most areas. The effect of this on fruit and seed crops remains to be seen.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: one, Apr 17, Owasco Lake (W. H. Allison); few noted on Cayuga or Keuka Lakes. Red-throated Loon: one, Apr 5, Salubria Lake, Bath (Mary Smith-MS). Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 30, first report in several years on Keuka Lake (Francis Orcutt); one, May 18 Chemung River (Al Fudge-AF).

Cattle Egret: one, McIntyre Rd., near Mecklenburg, May 13; another probable, Cornell Fish Hatchery, late April; four, May 20, Montezuma and vicinity (Census groups). Common Egret: one Apr 16 (first) n. of Montezuma (Walter Benning-WB). Black-crowned Night Heron: from May 15 on, Elmira. Glossy Ibis: five, May 6 and 20, Montezuma (WB, John Morse-JM); six May 21 (Fritz Scheider-FS). Least Bittern: one, (rare) May 30, Hinman Swamp near Alpine (P. Bishop). Whistling Swan: two, Apr. 22, Sullivan's Monument, Chem Co., (MS); two Apr 26, Montezuma (JM); four Apr 30, Montezuma (J. Walker-JW). Canada Goose: 25,000 (peak) Apr 20, Montezuma (JM). See introductory comments. Peak counts of Snow Geese 50, Apr 26 (JM) and Blue Geese 200, Apr 23 (FS), Montezuma, both all time highs.

Mallard: first broods, last week in May, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (A. A. Allen-AAA). Blue-winged Teal; several nestings near Elmira and near Ithaca, late May; an increase over recent years. European Widgeon: one, May 6, Tyre Marsh, Seneca Co. (Neal Smith); three, May 20, Montezuma (Census group). Shoveler: one, May 19, Park Station Chem Co. (rare in Co.) (E. Brimmer-EB). White-winged Scoter: one, Apr 16, Chemung River; one, Apr 30, Horseheads Dump; one, Apr 26, Jennings Pond, Danby, (Charles MacInnes). Hooded Merganser: brood, late May, Montezuma; probably nesting in Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures: one, Texas Hollow, Schu Co. May 20 (AF); other reports show continuing increase in the species. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are definitely scarcer. Rough-legged Hawk: last reports, last week of April. Bald Eagle seen on nest, Apr 3 and 8 W. Spofford-WS) but no indication of eggs. Bobwhite: Reports throughout the region; cautious optimism of success of recent releases. Wild Turkey: increase in reports in southern half of region 3. Common Gallinule: one, (first) Apr 14, Rte 31 near Montezuma (WB). Black-bellied Plover: several through May, S.W. corner of Cayuga Lake; rare in spring. Ruddy Turnstone: one, May 21, Montezuma (FS); one, May 17, S.W. corner of Cayuga Lake (J. House). Common Snipe: up to 100, migrating, Apr 8, Watkins-Montour airport marsh (B. Strath). Upland Plover: four stations near Ithaca, mid-May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Apr 30, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (AAA); May 19, Elmira. Baird's Sandpiper: three, May 16, Branchport (Frank Guthrie); very rare in Keuka drainage. Dunlin: 20, May 21 Montezuma (FS). Dowitchers: eight, May 21, Montezuma (FS). Both of these species were also at Hog Hole and Ithaca, later in month.

Great Black-backed Gull: immatures staying through May at Ithaca; unusually late. Black Tern: one (first) Apr 28 (WB). Barn Owl: two, May 18, Sapsucker Woods, nesting. Short-eared Owl: two, Apr 8 (last date) Montezuma (WS). Whip-poor-will: two, mid-May, Rathbun Farm east of Bennettsburg; several, May 20, White Church area south-east of Ithaca (R. Little-RL).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Flicker: reported as being common everywhere. Red-bellied Woodpecker nesting pair driven out by Starlings in King Ferry. Red-headed Woodpecker: two at King Ferry (Thatcher); one Forest Home, Ithaca, May 10 (Kirkpatrick); five, May 13, Geneva (Census group); "More than in previous years" at Elmira. Great Crested Flycatcher: 23, a high count, May 13, Geneva (Census group). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: (usually rare) one, May 9, Elmira; one, May 20, near Montezuma (WB); one, May 20, Ithaca (Census group). Olive-sided Flycatcher: (usually rare in spring) two at new locations near Elmira, May 19; one, May 24 Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca (W. Turner).

Barn Swallow: scarcer in western part of the area, banders say. Cliff Swallow: scarcer at Elmira; more nesting at Pleasant Valley near Branchport, 43 nests, (C. Sturdevant). Boreal Chickadee: Apr 8, last date, Ithaca (F. Randolph). Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers in migration, Elmira and Ithaca. Mockingbird: three at Horseheads, (MS); one, Apr 26, Reading Center, (Bernice Spencer); two at Branchport, no sign of nesting this year (Larzelere); two in Ithaca area in May. Robins reported as increased at Ithaca, Burdett, Hornell, Keuka and Jasper. Bluebirds: still scarce everywhere. Pipits: few reports, except a flock of 100 at Elmira, Apr 1.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: reported scarce everywhere. Red-eyed Vireo: later than normal in arriving and scarcer. Prothonotary Warbler: one, May 20, Texas Hollow (A. Kopp); one, May 20 Montezuma, (RL). Worm-eating Warbler: one, May 13, Breesport, new location, (EB). Brewster's Warbler: one, May 10, e. of Elmira (MS); one, May 17, Mt. Zoar (MS); two, May 6 near Varna, Tomp Co. (M. Ficken). Parula Warbler: almost no reports. Cape May: definitely scarce, missing entirely around Keuka. Black-throated Green: very scarce; absent at Hornell in an area where usually abundant. Blackpoll Warbler: rather early, May 14, Ithaca; May 17, Mt. Zoar, but scarce, and did not linger. Prairie Warbler: often not reported; one, May 10, Sullivan's Monument (MS); one, May 17, Mt. Zoar (MS). The Connecticut Hill colony was not checked. Palm Warbler: one wave noted; flock at Burdett, May 7 (J. Bardeen).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks: in some areas (Ithaca, Hornell) have been replaced by Redwings, but reported abundant, or on increase, at Keuka, Jasper, Burdett, Waterloo. Orchard Oriole: one, imm. male, May 7, Horseheads (M. Welles); one, adult male, May 3, Ithaca (NS). Baltimore Oriole: abundant at Jasper, and in Geneva area, where over 100 were found on May 13 census. Redwings and Grackles: very abundant — 110 Grackles banded on my property in Etna this spring (Weske, Hoyt). Scarlet Tanagers, slight increase. Eastern Cardinal: constant increase at Keuka and Geneva. Evening Grosbeak: large influx Apr 29, and for ten days thereafter — probably representing arrival of those wintering farther south. Most left between May 10 and 14, all gone by May 22. Only one report of Pine Grosbeak after Apr. 1. Slate-colored Junco: unusual numbers in migration Apr 1-15; flocks left Apr 17-20. Tree Sparrow: last dates fell between Apr 18-30. The Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Ithaca, on Apr. 27 for the 4th year — was seen and heard for three days, then disappeared. White-crowned Sparrow: abundant in migration everywhere except Hornell. White-throated Sparrow: scarce in migration. Several still present end of May near Ithaca. Lincoln's Sparrow: one very early record, Apr 2, Sapsucker Woods (AAA); two netted, May 20, north of Ithaca (JW).  
Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

### LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was generally mild with slightly more than the normal amount of precipitation but slightly less in the form of snow. Most of the cold and snow came in the week starting April 13, treacherously following a stretch of abnormally warm weather. The only reported instance of early migrants in trouble during the cold spell will be covered by a field note, but there can be little doubt that many others suffered to some extent, too. The month ended with record breaking or equalling high temperatures on four of the last five days. The first week of May continued warm, but May 7 to 12 was another cold spell including the last frost of the season. The Wood Pewee records reported below are of especial interest when compared to this weather pattern. May 14 to 20 was a genuine hot spell with six days in the 90's, but for the rest of the month temperatures were not far from normal. On average the month was very warm and very dry.

Arrival dates averaged early, but were not unanimously so. There were very few arrivals during the May 7 to 12 cold spell, but this was largely because many of the species that normally check in then were already here. May 6 and 12 and Bay-breasted Warblers on the 20th produced the closest thing to warbler "waves" recorded, but with the 14th and 15th, the logical dates for any damming effect of the cold weather to be evident, falling on Monday and Tuesday the waves may have been missed.