

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Weather conditions paralleled those of the spring of 1956 — extremes of temperature, sometimes dropping 50° in 24 hours. There were late snows, on April 23 and May 1. On the 24th of May, a hard freeze occurred, 23° in Etna, and 32° on the 25th. This killed back the young leaves on many trees, notably oaks, mulberries and some maples, and damaged buds and early fruits. Foliage was still relatively sparse on May 31, and some nestings seemed delayed — those depending on dense shrubs. Precipitation was normal or slightly below in April, above in May.

As in 1956 the cold, wet May brought birds to feeders, or forced those to ground feeding, that normally remain elsewhere. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks gobbled sunflower seeds, Orioles came to suet.

There was an extremely heavy Goose migration — an estimated peak of 40,000-50,000 on Cayuga Lake, and 40,000 peak at the Montezuma Refuge (undoubtedly some duplication here). Extremely light land bird migration, except for White-crowned Sparrows. May 12 was a fairly good day for warblers, following a cold, wet day or two. The Purple Finch influx continued through April — more than 200 were banded at Etna. Inquiries seemed to indicate that Cayuga Lake marked the western border of the large influx, though places further west — Elmira, Hornell and Keuka — said "more than usual".

Abbreviations used: MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge. SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary. Cay L — Cayuga L. nr — near. yg. — young.

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Loons-Ducks: **Common Loons:** several flocks, 20-25, in Apr, over Ithaca. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 13, Dryden Lake, (PMK). Horned Grebe: good migration, CayL and MFWR, April and first week in May. Pied-Billed Grebe: lacking on some marshes where usually present. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 11, Keuka Lake, uncommon visitor. (FG), one, May 18-20, s. end Cay L. Great Blue Heron: usual numbers. 2-4 on SWS pond daily through period where normally only one until late summer. Species reported scarce at Elmira. Cattle Egret: two, May 11, Rte 90 e. of MFWR, (JP). Common Egret: two, May 19, MFWR (census group); seven, May 31, MFWR. Least Bittern: two, first, May 18, MFWR (WEB). Glossy Ibis: no reports. Mute Swan: one, Apr 7, Cay L. Probably same bird as seen Feb.; one, Apr 10, still at Horseheads dump. Whistling Swan: five, Apr 7, Rte 31 w. of Montezuma village (WEB); four, May 20, Waterloo, (JW). Canada Goose: 40,000-50,000 est. on Cayuga in April. Morse reports largest concentration at MFWR in history of refuge: peak of 40,000 mid-Apr (Highest previous peak 25,000 in '56 & '62). Left first week of May. Snow Goose: peak, 100, MFWR; Blue Goose: peak, 210, MFWR. Ducks: numbers at MFWR somewhat lower than last year (2200 peak compared with 2420 in '62). Fewer seemed to pause on Cay L in migration likewise. Mallard: first broods, SWS, May 21. Buffleheads: more on Cay L. this year — scattered pairs and small groups on both sides in April and early May. "Most common duck of migration at Hornell, Apr 3 on, always one to three pairs." (WG). Old-squaw: half a dozen reports of small flocks on Cay L. in April and May. Two Apr 16, Dryden Lake (PAB).

Hawks-Owls: **Turkey Vulture:** one, Apr 5, Apr 8, SWS (first). one, Apr 21, n. of MFWR (JW). Seen regularly thereafter MFWR. Goshawk: one, Apr 14, Union Springs (JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one pair only, May, e. of Ithaca, (JB). Cooper's Hawk: pair, nesting s.w. corner Cay L., May. Red-tailed Hawk: nest on Rte. 13 nr Etna, broken up. Red-shouldered Hawk: 24, peak, Apr 19, (NS).

Broad-winged Hawk: flight minor, but unusual in Ithaca area, Apr 18-19, peak 94. Bald Eagle: one ad. Mar 24, one ad. Apr 26 over Cornell campus (NS); 2 immes and one ad. have been seen at MFWR, but no indication of nesting (JM). One imm. shows considerable white, other does not. Marsh Hawks: very scarce. Osprey: one, Apr 7, SWS, (first). Two records at MFWR in period. one bird, along Fall Creek n. e. of Ithaca during period. Peregrine: one, Apr 4, n. e. of Ithaca, Peruville Rd., (BG). One, May 5, Elmira, (RVD). Ruffed Grouse: on upswing in their cycle. Four drumming birds, SWS. Bobwhite: some reports, Keuka, Montour Falls, Ithaca. Rails: no reports at Keuka. Sora: one, Apr 20 — May 5 (uncommon) SWS, very tame, feeding on corn with Grackles and waterfowl, swimming like a phalarope. Coot: scarce. None at Elmira. Killdeer: normal numbers. Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Dulin and Short-billed Dowitcher, all seen at s. end of Cayuga, period May 17-22. Unusual in spring migration at this location, especially with lake level as high as it was. Snipe, Woodcock, Spotted and solitary Sandpipers and both Yellowlegs came in as expected. Black-bellied Plover: two, May 26, Big Flats (JC). On Keuka Lake, Pectorals were absent, Solitaires late (FG). Hudsonian Bonaparte's Gull: very few reports from Cay L. Present, MFWR, Godwit: two, Apr 18, MFWR, (VD) — most unusual in spring. Apr 18 - May 2, peak 22. Least Tern: one, May 19, Cay L. (NS). First in recent history on Cay L; first in Region 3 since Aug '55 when one appeared on Keuka Lake. Caspian Tern: one, Apr 22, MFWR, (FS); five, May 19, MFWR census. Uncommon in spring. Black Tern: 28, Apr 29 (first), MFWR, (WEB); 'hundreds', MFWR, May 11 (WEB), 800, May 16, MFWR (VD) in migration.

Horned Owl: one nest site of long standing deserted this year. Three others known successful. Barred Owl: two young, one out of nest, May 30, SWS (DGA). Barn Owl: one, Apr 14, Ithaca, (HM), caught in kite string. Died later. Screech Owl: scarce. Long-eared Owl: two, with nest, Apr 21, Monkey Run e. of Ithaca, (JB). Five yg. banded, left nest successfully around June 1.

Caprimulgids-Shrikes. Whip-poor-will: one, late Apr, Altay, (FG). Two Apr reports in Ithaca. Several: usual stations, White Church area, s. Ithaca, May. Chimney Swift: 40, Apr 19, Cornell campus, first (NS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: most dates (first) May 8-10. Usually May 10-14. Peak: 20, 35, in Stewart Park, May 15, Ithaca; One, May 12, Hornell, at 34°, feeding on wild cherry (WG). Flicker: 50, May 24 (peak) Geneva, (EM). Pileated Woodpecker: successful nesting, Stewart Park, Ithaca, in May, (FR). Increasing at north end Cay L. Basin: 4 new stations. (WEB). Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 reports, mid-May, Ithaca area, but not to be found there later. No gain around Ithaca in recent years. One, May 4-6, Graham farm nr Burdett.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, May 16, Cornell Fish Hatchery (NS); one, mid-May, Texas Hollow Sanctuary, (BS). Swallow migration (not peak) on Cay L, Apr 19. Titmice: no increase this year. Pair gone from Keuka campus, present at nearby Dresden. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no nesting pair found this year, but one remained in May at Lane feeder, SWS. Brown Creeper: two pairs nesting, SWS, May 31. House Wren: later than normal in returning, some not until mid-May, instead of first week May. Winter Wren: migration in umbers, Apr 27, Elmira (CVAS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: almost no report. Why is this species decreasing to greater extent than Long-billed? Mockingbird: three individual birds, Apr and May, Ithaca area; "a number" reported by CVAS; one, a mile n. of Hector in May; one, Esperanza, after absence of several months. Definitely on increase. Brown Thrasher: at least a dozen reports at Ithaca, more than usual. Robin: numbers better at Ithaca and Keuka. Thrush migration (25 Hermits, 12 Woods) May 1, in snow, Texas Hollow (BS). Wood Thrushes, Veeries reported scarce, Hornell (WG), no Olive-backs or Gray-cheeks at Keuka (FG). Bluebirds: three pairs noted at Hornell, one back at Reservoir where it used to be; increase of one or two pairs at Keuka, fewer at Watkins; fewer at Ithaca (JH). No Loggerhead Shrike reports in Cayuga Basin.

Vireos-Warblers: Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: more than last year at Waterloo (JW). Migration of Warbling Vireos, May 9, along Clyde River (WEB).

Phladelphina Vireo: (rare), May 12, "Friend-Potter Woods," Keuka; one, May 16, Waterloo (JW); one, May 16, McLean Bog, n.e. Dryden, (DF). Prothonotary Warbler: none reported. Blue-winged Warbler (1 pair), Golden-winged Warbler (2 pairs), early May, "Friend-Potter Woods," Keuka. At Ithaca, Blue-winged, once extremely rare, has almost supplanted Golden-winger (fide RF). Brewster's Warbler: one, May 19, Italy Valley, (CRM); one, May 6, Crane Rd., Elmira (WH); several, mid-May, Varna RR tracks, (RF). Two records of the rarer Lawrence's hybrid: May 4, Elmira Heights, (NH); May 19, Geneva, (EM). Orange-crowned Warbler: (rare in spring): one, May 16, Cornell Fish Hatchery, (NS); one, May 12, E. Ithaca, (DM). Parula Warbler: often missed, one, May 11, Elmira. Cape May Warbler: migration noted on May 9. Ceruleans: absent this year at Stewart Park, Ithaca where they have been found for some years; more noted at Geneva, however. Yellow-throated Warbler: one, Apr 26, Collegetwon, Ithaca (CM). Prairie Warbler: May 5, Keuka, many observer. First record there since 1905 when nested north of Branchport (fide FG); one, Elmira, May 6. Yellow-breasted Chat: at one or two old stations, Ithaca, early May. One, May 25, Lindley, N. Y., (JL). Hooded Warbler: only report, mid-May, Geneva, (EM). Redstarts: continue scarce at Ithaca; reported missing from a woods where normally abundant, nr Clyde (WEB).

Blackbirds-Sparrows: Bobolinks: more than in '62 at Watkins. No change elsewhere. Meadowlark: slow in returning, usually here by early March, it was the first of April before many were seen. Western Meadowlark: one, through May, Preemption Rd., Keuka (FG); two, end of May, near Sheldrake, west shore of Cayuga. Red-winged Blackbird: still somewhat down at Geneva, though all other blackbirds up as in rest of region. Baltimore Oriole: definitely more abundant this year — perhaps two pairs for every one of last few years. Many reports of Orioles coming to suet. Scarlet Tanager: judging from number of calls coming to Laboratory of Ornithology, they are more abundant this year than last. Rose-breasted Grosbeck: also more abundant, with many reports of these on feeders, eating sunflower seeds. Few early nests were successful, however. Indigo Bunting: "abundant" at Hornell (WG). Dickcissel: singing bird at Chemung County airport, May 31 (DM). Evening Grosbeck: left quite suddenly, April 18-23, except four still at feeder, Coddingtown Road, Ithaca, May 3. Purple Finch: the large flocks, reported in last issue, pulled out by May 1 (over 200 banded at Etna before they left), but more pairs than usual remained to nest; for example, I have eight individuals in my yard at Etna, usually one pair. Red Crossbill: one, May 23, Monkey Run (RF). White-winged Crossbill: rare at any time, none all winter, one, netted and banded, Apr 25, Cornell campus, (KC). Green-tailed Towhee: the individual which has wintered on West Hill, Ithaca, last reported on Apr 25. Vesper Sparrow: numbers apparently migrating at Hornell, May 1. Tree Sparrow: two, May 12 (last date, late), Montezuma, (WEB). Chipping Sparrow: flight noticed (50-100 birds) Apr 29, Ithaca and Clyde, (DM, WEB), and May 1, Hornell (WG). Clay-colored sparrow: discovered just after end of reporting period, ¼ mile from station of former years in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, so probably had been there in May (RL, DM). White-crowned Sparrow: unusually heavy migration this year, noted by many. Present from May 6 through 14 in numbers at Ithaca. 100, May 12, Waterloo, (JW). 50 banded, Penn Yan, (ML). Outnumbered White-throats at Hornell, but no unusual numbers there. Fox Sparrow: plentiful, Mar 28-Apr 28, Burdett, peak, 8, Apr 7. Peak, 12, SWS, Apr 23.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA LESLIE E. BEMONT

On the average April was warm, sunny and dry. The 2nd and 3rd brought record breaking temperatures, in the 80's, and there was another warm period around the 17th, but the 10th and 23rd brought lower than normal temperatures. May, almost the reverse of April, averaged cool and wet. On May 9 temperatures again reached the 80's but only two days later, May 11 matched all but the very worst March weather. Another cold spell, including the last frost, came the 23rd and 24th. April 11 saw the last appreciable snow cover of any duration.