

Apr 18 (RB, WCL) and another was seen near Pittsford May 17 (Joseph Taylor et al). For some unknown reason Screech Owls seemed scarce. Two Long-eared Owls were seen in Island Cottage Woods Apr 18 (WCL, HSM). A Saw-whet Owl was seen near the Ls Golf Club property in Greece during the first week of Apr (FS) and another was seen west of Manitou Apr 28 (WCL).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near Canadice Lake May 22 (AM) and another at Manitou May 24 (WCL & HSM). There was a heavy flight of various swallows at the e Spit May 2 which included at least 125 Cliff Swallows (AEK). This is a high count locally. The Carolina Wren was again unreported in the local area. There were numerous reports of Mockingbirds with three seen at Manitou May 24, Margaret Foley et al). The species nested in Irondequoit and successfully fledged two young birds (TM). It probably nested near Scottsville and in Webster. The Eastern Bluebird appeared more commonly in migration along Lake Ontario than for some time, with a maximum of 20 at w Manitou May 23 (AEK & WCL). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to increase with a high count of 15 along the lakeshore May 9 (GOS field trip).

Vireos — Warblers: Generally speaking, the spring warbler flight lacked luster. Especially down in numbers were the Nashville, Parula, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers and the Oven-bird. Among the more uncommon warblers, an Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in DEP May 2 (JM & TM). Another was netted and banded west of Manitou May 16 (RM). A Pine Warbler was seen in DEP Apr 12 (GD). A singing Prairie Warbler was seen on the U. of R. campus May 6 (AM). A rather early Louisiana Waterthrush was seen at Manitou Apr 12 (WCL). This species is always rare along Lake Ontario. A very early Hooded Warbler was seen in Salmon Cr Woods on Apr 27 (AM).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A singing Western Meadowlark was in Parma May 17 (JF et al) and was still present May 23 (AAS et al). An immature male Orchard Oriole was at the e Spit Apr 18 (WCL & AM). There was a good May flight of Evening Grosbeaks with 300 at Manitou May 6 (RM). A late Red Crossbill was on the U. of R. campus May 23 (AM). Oregon Junco: one at the Sunderlain feeder Apr 3; one in Ellison Park Apr 11 (ST) and one around the Kemnitz feeder in Webster for some time early in April. An unidentified sparrow appeared at the Jerome Hartke feeder in Webster early in the winter and was later identified as a Harris Sparrow. It was carefully studied May 3 by HSM & AAS and was seen two days later by AEK. Eight Lincoln's Sparrows were netted and banded at Manitou during May (RM), with four taken on May 16. A single Lapland Longspur was seen at Sodus B on the late date of May 2 (WCL et al).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

While temperatures averaged normal, there were spells of extreme cold, with freezes into the last week of May. Rainfall, too, was normal, but during the height of migration, prolonged cool spells, accompanied by wind and some rain, halted waves of birds, with the result that some areas reported excellent flights of Warblers and Thrushes, others reported none. Best Warbler flights were on May 7 and May 17, in the Ithaca area; — the latter being our census day, we rolled up a total of 181 species.

Noteworthy finds included the following: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Northern (Ladder-backed) Woodpecker (only second record of this species), Lawrence's Warbler and the first record of the Fulvous Tree Duck and Shelduck. (See body of report.)

Raptors continue to be scarce, except possibly the Kestrel. Robins, Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Savannah Sparrows, seem to have increased somewhat. Black-throated Green Warblers are absent from several former locations.

Pine Siskins, Goldfinches and Purple Finches were abundant in May, and Red Crossbills continued to appear in small flocks throughout the month. No evidence of breeding, however.

Shrubs sported the heaviest bloom in the last decade or longer. If weather conditions are right, the fruit crop should be excellent.

Places mentioned: MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake.

Contributors: WEB — Walter E. Benning; JB — Jack Brubaker; PAB — Paul A. Buckley; LC — Lewis Cowardin; EAF — Elizabeth A. Ferguson; WG — William Groesbeck; OHH — Oliver H. Hewitt; SFH — Sally F. Hoyt; PK — Paul Kelsey; JL — James Lundgren; EM — Eugene Morton; FO — Francis Orcutt; JP — James Patterson; FR — Fred Ranson; FS — Fritz Scheider; NS — Noel Snyder; WES — William E. Southern; Sts — Mark and Tom Stevenson; RS — Robert Stein; BS — Betty Strath; JW — Jayson Walker; JWe — John Weske.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: Few at Hornell, good numbers (20-40 a day) in April on Cay L. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 5, Sen L (JW). Double-crested Cormorant: (often missed), one Mar 30, Cay L Inlet, (Sts); one Apr 25, MNWR (FS). Great Blue Herons: 16 (high count) over Clyde, Apr 1 (WEB). Little Blue Heron: one, Apr 4, Dryden Lake (RS); Rare here, especially in spring. Cattle Egret: two at south end Cay L; one Apr 25, one May 16, one and possibly two birds, MNWR, May 20. Common Egret: Apr 12, MNWR, first date. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** last week April, MNWR, Refuge personnel. Second record for Cay Basin. Glossy Ibis: one, May 28, MNWR. Whistling Swans: one, Apr 11, Marl Beds Pond, Wayland, Steuben Co. (WG). Canada Goose: from March peak of 46,000 at MNWR, dropped to 40,000 on Apr 9, 20,000 on May 5, 10,000 on May 7; majority left on May 9, 500 still the following week. First Goslings May 3 (early), 31 broods by May 31. Snow Geese: May peak of 125, Blue Geese May peak, 375 (MNWR). **Fulvous Tree Duck:** one, May 17-18, near Montezuma, Cay Co. (C.M. Acland and D.B. Peakall). Carefully observed, verification report filed. See field note in this issue. **Sheld-duck:** this bird was seen May 10 and again May 12, at MNWR, by Walter Benning. He was unable to identify it on first sight, and made sketches in his field notebook. From these sketches, and his careful notes, it is evident that his bird was unmistakably a Sheld-duck. Unfortunately he was unable to find anyone else to show it to at the time, and it then disappeared. He has studied pictures of the Sheld-duck since then, and says there is no doubt in his own mind of the identity of the bird. Pintail: 1,000 (high count), Apr 3, in field with geese, n. end Cay L (Sts). European Widgeon: one, Apr 18, MNWR (Ref. Personnel). Shoveler: pair on Demmon's Pond in Howard (Steuben Co.) represented 2nd record for the Hornell area, first being 1955 (WG). Wood Duck: first brood at SWS was May 19; 18 ducklings observed and photographed as left nest box, high count, perhaps 2 broods in one nest. White-winged Scoter, and Surf Scoter, on May 2 and May 17 respectively, at MNWR, are unusual records for the relatively shallow Refuge. Hooded Merganser: up to 14 on SWS pond in April. Brought off 11 young from one nest, May 22, for first definite record at the Sancturay. Only three or four previous nesting records in Ithaca area (unsuccessful as eggs were taken). Common Mergansers: completely absent at Hornell this year, where usually present (WG).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture, first, Apr 3, MNWR (WEB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: no nesting reports this year. Bald Eagle: one report of adult at MNWR, May 2 (LC). Osprey: one, SWS, most of April and half of May; one occasionally at Stewart Park, Ithaca (possible the SWS bird); one Apr 13, Lindley, (JL). Peregrine: one, Apr 21, Etna, Tompkins Co. (SFH) chasing pigeons along Fall Creek. Common Gallinule: Apr 19 (first), MNWR (WEB).

Golden Plover: unusual in spring. **Nine** (9), Apr 25, e. of MNWR (FS). Ruddy Turnstone: rare in spring, one May 30, MNWR

(WEB). Whimbrel: May 17, MNWR (WEB et al). Willet: rare in area, one, May 2-5, Montour Falls airport (Schuyler Co.) J. Brubaker and others. Yellowlegs: Greater and Lesser: Apr 19, MNWR (WEB). Short-billed Dowitcher: one, May 17, w. of Rushville (FO). Western Sandpiper: one, May 17, w. of Rushville (FO). These two species are uncommon in this area, esp. in spring. Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 14 (first) MNWR, 20-30 on Cay L, Apr 25, peak (OHH). Black Tern: Apr 25 (first), MNWR (FS). Screech Owls: scarce. Great Horned Owl: two young reared in nest on Rte 13 near Etna, Tompkins Co. Barred Owl: two young reared in nest, SWS, left nest May 21.

Swifts — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: three heard near Keuka in May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: most observers reported an arrival date about five days earlier than usual — in first week of May. Pileated Woodpecker: new male appeared in Stewart Park, Ithaca, as replacement for one that was shot last fall. Pair nested successfully, close to path. Young still in nest May 31.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from: W. Dryden Rd near Freeville, early May; Cornell Golf Course, Ithaca; one mile south of Route 20 at Naples, on May 13; and near Camp Comstock, west shore Cay L, May 9. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: heavy migration Apr 11-13. This species is remarkably consistent in its arrival dates.

Northern 3-toed Woodpecker (Ladder-backed): (only one previous record for the Region). Female, May 16, "Monkey Run" e. of Ithaca (JWe), again, May 20, one mile west (JP); male at "Monkey Run", May 21 (NS). Another, unconfirmed report, of the species, May 17, near Watkins Glen. Acadian Flycatcher: often not reported, two, May 17, near Watkins (Bishop, Rathbun). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 10, Waterloo, early date (JW). At least three in Ithaca area in mid-May. Often missed in spring. Bank Swallow: thousands in migration, May 10, Montezuma. The colony at Myers Pt. on Cay L is very large this year — several hundred. New colony, near Brooktondale. Several other local small colonies, gone. Cliff Swallows: first, Apr 7, Sweetlands barn, s. of Dryden; unusually early. Carolina Wren: only Ithaca report, Camp Barton, n. of Taughannock Falls, Apr 26 (PK). Marsh Wrens: both species scarce throughout region. Mockingbird: three, May, Esperanza, where nested in years prior to '63; one, near Hector. At least four and possibly six individuals in Ithaca area, but no indication of nesting.

Robins: all reports stated this species in better numbers this year than last five. Poor migration, seemingly, of the two 'gray-backed' Thrushes. E. Bluebird: all reports — club and individual — have stated that a few more are around this year than in last several years; some have returned to old stations, several reported at new locations. Gnatcatchers: continue their slight increase throughout Region. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: poorest migration in years — almost none heard or seen on any of my own field trips. Loggerhead Shrike: only one record. What has happened to this species?

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: rare in Region, no reports in last several years: one, May 7, Watkins Glen, (JB); one, May 16, Sapsucker Woods Road (WES); three, May 22, n. of Tompkins Co. airport (EM) — two of these were singing, and were tape-recorded. Red-eyed Vireos: still far scarcer than six or eight years ago. Philadelphia Vireo: often missed in spring: at least four reports near Ithaca, first on May 8 (PAB).

The following Warblers of those normally seen in migration or as residents were hard to find, and few reported: Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll. No reports, or only one or two, of Orange-crowned, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Hooded, Wilson's. Brewster's reported from Texas Hollow Sanctuary, and from "Monkey Run" area. The rarer Lawrence's form was seen, May 21, Monkey Run. May 10 saw an influx of 100's of Myrtles (FR), and large numbers of Magnolias also.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: some increase over last year noted at Keuka Park, and around Ithaca. Baltimore Orioles: arrived, in good

numbers, shortly after May 1, but an oddly marked male (yellow line over eye, yellow marks extending up side of face) appeared at my feeder in Etna on Apr 14, and remained for two days, eating, of all things, peanuts. It was photographed and observed by two others, J. Weske and D. McIlroy. However, it remains a question whether this was a possible Bullock's-Baltimore hybrid. Orchard Oriole: two, May 29, Trumansburg, and Interlaken (EAF). Grackles, Cowbirds and Redwings: enormously abundant everywhere. Scarlet Tanagers: noted more commonly than some years. Indigo Buntings: abundant. Dickcissel: two Apr 29, near Odessa (BS). One, during April, at feeder in Ithaca. Evening Grosbeaks: most left last week in April. Purple Finch: abundant everywhere in May. Pine Siskins: abundant at feeders, after May 8. Goldfinches: continued abundant at feeders, as in winter. Red Crossbills: not yet found breeding, but several cases of courtship feeding were noted, and small numbers were seen in several areas of Region until late May. Henslow's Sparrow: one, Apr 15, Moravia, found injured, died shortly. Specimen brought to Cornell. Extremely early record for species — followed strong south winds. No conspicuous White-throat and White-crown migration around Ithaca.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April average close to normal with respect to temperature but was decidedly wet while May was warm and dry. Weatherwise this must be counted as an early spring. The last officially recorded freezing temperature of the period came April 16 and the last snow of any consequence April 4. The heaviest rainfall of the period came April 30, so although May rainfall was only about one-third of normal the dryness had had no untoward effects by the end of the month.

The higher level of water behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam seems to have attracted the largest number and best variety of water fowl ever in the region, and also the longest stay ever for some diving species, notably Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser. It is perhaps premature to credit the higher water level at one place with all this since it also proved to be highly attractive to bird watchers, resulting in a substantial decrease in the coverage of other areas in the region. Regular coverage of these other areas might have shown this to have been a generally better than normal waterfowl spring. It will be interesting to see what other regions have to report along these lines.

The land bird migration ran a little ahead of last year, with most species arriving one to four days earlier, but there were also a few species that returned a little late. There was one second hand report of "a million swallows" at Whitney Point April 20 that was picked up while nearly a thousand were in sight in the same place five days later. With little really adverse weather to dam them up, warblers came through in a relatively steady stream with no pronounced waves.

Our first Wilson's Phalaropes and our second House Finch and Red-bellied Woodpecker appear to top the list of rarities, but a possible Golden Eagle deserves mention. Several reports of Turkeys and Bobwhites give hope that their respective stocking programs may yet succeed.

Contributors: LB — L. Bemont; WB — William Breidinger; BB — Bradford Burgher; NC — Naturalists' Club; TBC — Tioga Bird Club; GC — Gail Corderman; C, JD — Carleton and J. Davis; M, AD — Marilyn and Anna Davis; LD — Louise Dean; RD — Robert Dirig; AE — Anna Evelin; CG — Clinton Gerould; JG — John Gustafson; CH — Claude Howard; P, PK — Paul, Sr. and Paul, Jr. Kalka; FL — Florence Linaberry; SL — Stanley Lincoln; HM — Harriet Marsi; RP — Robert Pantle; FQ — Fern Quick; RS — Robert Saunders; JS — Jean Saunders; MS — Mary Sheffield; AS —