

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: A singing Western Meadowlark was present in Greece from April 17-May 31 (AAS et al) and another was in Hilton May 1-31 (AEK, WCL et al). A single Pine Siskin, the only "winter finch" reported during the period, was seen at Manitou May 16 (RM). An Oregon Junco was present at the Kemmitzer feeder until April 9 and another appeared briefly at Manitou April 11 (WCL). An early White-crowned Sparrow was seen in Parma April 23 (TM, MS). Twelve Fox Sparrows were seen along the Lakeshore April 11 (RTO).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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April dragged slowly along, with no severe cold but cool enough to delay the appearance of leaves and opening of buds. May likewise was behind schedule, as far as vegetation is concerned. While, for some strange reason a few species arrived early (Hummingbirds, Tree Swallows, Purple Martins and Fox Sparrows were about a week early), the arrival of other migrants was delayed. Catbirds, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and White-crowned Sparrows were noticeably behind schedule. Food was scarce for birds when they did come, especially since leaves were so late in coming out. As in 1956 (but not to as great an extent) birds fed low or on the ground. Such species as Catbirds, Robins and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted feeding on sumac, "starvation food."

The drought is continuing, in spite of some locally heavy showers in early April, and an absence of hot sunshine throughout the period. First broods of common species averaged a week late in appearing.

The continued increase in numbers of migrating geese is as good news as the continued decrease in sightings of raptors and generally low numbers with absence of waves of warblers is depressing.

The Little Gull, which was noted by several dozen observers at Montezuma Refuge on May 16, takes honors as the bird of the spring season.

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

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LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 11 sightings of probably 7 individuals last two weeks in April in Hornell area, where species is unusual and often missed (WG); 15 Lamoka Lake, w. of Watkins, a high count (JB). Red-throated Loon: one only,

crash-landed at Tompkins Co. airport, Ithaca, Apr 19, died subsequently. Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 22, Chemung River, Elmira (WH). Horned Grebe: unusual numbers on several lakes; e.g., a peak count of 114 Apr 30 on Hornell Reservoir basins. Great Blue Heron: continues scarce. Cattle Egret: one to three, from May 16 on, MNWR and just north of Refuge. Common Egret: one, Apr 12 (early), MNWR (JM); scattered reports rest of period, including one at Horseheads dump, Apr 29-30 (RK et al). Glossy Ibis: May 1, Warren Road n.e. of Ithaca (DGA); also seen off and on, MNWR in late May. Mute Swan: five, reported various locations on Cay L, Sen L and Owasco, evidently a family group. (Note: Feral Mute Swans bred successfully raising 5 young on Skan. Lake last year.) Whistling Swan: small flocks on several lakes and one at MNWR, early April on; two on farm near Elmira for 3 weeks. Canada Goose: peaked at 40,000 at MNWR second week in April; over 25,000 (little duplication with MNWR) on Cay L; first brood at MNWR, May 14. Brant: one all April, Sen L inlet, only report. Snow Goose: 150 peak, and Blue Goose: 400 peak, early April, MNWR (JM).

Ducks peaked at 4000 at MNWR, which is about normal. Early indications point to a good breeding season this year, judging by number of mated pairs seen. Particularly true of Widgeon and Shovelers. First Mallard brood at SWS, May 23. European Widgeon: Apr 10, MNWR, first report for year; one also seen in April on Sen L lakefront (BS). A male Shoveler on Tear's Pond, w. of Penn Yan, May 4-5, was first record in that area in 10 years (FG). Bufflehead: max 50, Apr 1, MNWR (LC et al). Oldsquaw: unusually abundant this spring; 21, Apr 1, MNWR (LC et al); 60, Apr 22, Chemung River (WH); 164, Apr 22, Hornell Reservoir and 375, Loon Lake near Wayland (WG); the largest count was 1000 plus, n. end of Keuka also on Apr 22 (ML). Very rarely are there counts like these. White-winged Scoters also appeared in larger numbers than usual (some years only half a dozen are seen). Two, Chemung River, Elmira, in April (WH); seven on Apr 22, three on May 3, Hornell—first in years; 50, n. end Keuka L, Apr 22 (ML). Surf Scoter: uncommon; one, Chemung River, Elmira, Apr 28 (WH). Ruddy Duck: max 80, Apr 29, MNWR (WEB). Guthrie reports more Mergansers on Keuka than for many years, especially Hooded. Elmira and Ithaca also had more reports of Hooded Mergansers, and 17 Red-breasted Mergansers at Elmira was not only unusual but a high count there.

HAWKS—OWLS: Only small flight of hawks noticed, last week April, Ithaca. 12 Broadwings max. Turkey Vulture: one, Apr 1 (early) MNWR (PR); up to eleven near Geneva, May 23 (JW); two sightings near Monkey Run, e. of Ithaca (rare here), May 18 (JP); other scattered sightings. Goshawk: one imm., Apr 10, Whipple's Corners near Etna (WRS). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: almost completely absent; one Sharp-shin nest located south of Ithaca; absent all other sites of three to five years ago. Red-tailed Hawks seem to be maintaining numbers—usual nesting pairs located, including 3 pairs at MNWR. Broad-winged Hawk: nesting at Arnot Forest, in Chemung County; this is only second reported nesting of this species in recent years in Ithaca area. Rough-legged Hawk: one, Apr 19, near Tyrone, last date (BS). Bald Eagle: only one sighting in period, Apr 10, nearly adult bird, MNWR (Cornell Cons. 210 Class). Marsh Hawk: almost completely absent from all former locations, except MNWR, where 4 seen Apr 1. Peregrine: no reports. Pigeon Hawk: one, May 2, May's Mills (FG, ML). Sparrow Hawk: scattered reports of successful nestings, absent other former sites.

Virginia and Sora Rails reported scarce in several areas, but possibly they go unobserved. One Sora spent period from Apr 21 to early May in view of Observatory windows at SWS. Except for 2-300 peeps at a distance at MNWR in May, shorebird reports were scarce, as always in spring in the Finger Lakes, primarily because of maintenance of high water levels. A few noteworthy ones: 14 Black-bellied Plover, May 22, MNWR (WEB) and one at Elmira, May 22, second record in 15 years.

Woodcocks, late in arriving in March, continued courtship into May. Upland Plover: found again in new locations of last two years. Glaucous Gull: one, second year plumage, May 30 (*very* late date), Long Pier, Geneva (JW) et al). Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cay L last sightings, early April. Bonaparte's Gull: 200 (high count) May 14, Cay L near E. Varick (WEB). *Little Gull*: this bird, in changing plumage, seen by entire census group, May 16, MNWR—first record in Cay Basin since 1916 (details in Field Notes in this issue). Black Tern: 120 (high count), May 4, MNWR (WEB). Snowy Owl: late report, Apr 21, Myers Pt on Cay L (DGA). Barred Owl: nesting again in SWS. Young not yet visible May 31 (late). Long-eared Owl: one report, May 14, SWS (LP).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: more reports from more locations than usual, probably mostly migrants; early report, May 8, Rte 13 near Varna (HAF). Flicker: seemed unusually numerous this year. Pileated Woodpecker: nesting in view of windows at Stuart Observatory (SWS), also Stewart Park, Ithaca and other locations. Red-bellied Woodpecker: found at Geneva and at Keuka Park on census day, not found anywhere in Ithaca area that day. Red-headed Woodpecker: again at same stations as last year, plus new location at Dryden. Tree Swallow: arrival date, Apr 4, MNWR. Barn Swallow: ten nesting pairs in one barn near Jacksonville is worthy of mention (DAL). Brown Creeper: nesting again at SWS.

Mockingbird: reports continue to increase, and apparently the species has been nesting in the Elmira-Horseheads-Breesport area for several years. Details will be reported in an early issue of the *Kingbird*. The Keuka area also reports three records of Mockingbirds in May, one at Esperanza where they have been in the past. These birds often nest in dense thickets, especially multiflora rose, and past reports have usually been simply of suspected nestings, based on presence of two adults, or young seen out of nest. It is now apparent that actual nests have been under observation for several years, but confirming details had not been submitted for this report. As yet no nest has been found at Ithaca. Brown Thrasher: reported abundant at Keuka and Ithaca. Most thrushes scarce, except Robins. Little increase in Bluebirds over last year. A Veery, on 4 inches of snow on Apr 19 at Hornell was somewhat early and certainly optimistic. Only two reports of Loggerhead Shrikes: two, Apr 17, Cay Inlet (EJ); one, May 16, Reading Center (AK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: always rare; one, May 16, Texas Hollow (BS); several, May 19, near Geneva (JW). All warblers seemed scarce, but particularly Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Palm. For example, at Elmira, no Palms reported for second year. Worm-eating Warbler: May 8, near old station at former York summer home e. of Elmira. Orange-crowned Warbler: rare in spring, two records at Elmira, early May. Blue-winged Warbler: far more common than Golden-wings, which they may be pushing out in over-lapping areas. Cerulean Warbler: missing from Stewart Park, Ithaca, where they have been a 'sure thing' for years; present at least two other localities on w. shore of Cay L. Yellow-throated Warbler: May 8, Elmira (WH); rare in Region. Prairie Warbler: two or three singing males on Connecticut Hill, s.w. of Ithaca, and new stations located near Elmira, where 9 singing males were located in late May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one early, Apr 26, Waterloo (JW); three sites located near Ithaca, two of them new (DM and PMK).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: seemed a week or so late in arriving, but once here appeared slightly more numerous than last year. At Keuka, described as 'plentiful' (FG). Orchard Oriole: one only, May 23, Ithaca reservoir (HG). Red-wings, Crackles, Cowbirds, and more fortunately Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and Indigo Buntings seem in good numbers this year. White-throated Sparrows were less numerous than in most years; e.g., Lerch banded only a few, in contrast to 100's most years. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, May 8, Odessa (BS).

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