

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was decidedly and steadily cold, the official temperature surpassing 66 only on the last day of the month when it reached 76 in Binghamton. Precipitation came frequently but even with the 6-inch snowfall on Easter Sunday, the 18th, the last of the season, total precipitation was barely normal. So after a very dry May drought again stares us in the face.

May was just as warm as April was cold, particularly the first few days, the temperature reaching 90 on the third. The sudden jump in temperature just at the end of April would seem to be related to Claude Howard's comment that "early migrants seemed to be late, later migrants seemed early." Many first dates did fall in the Apr 29 to May 3 period, including those of species that usually arrive both earlier and later.

A Western Grebe record tops the list of spectacular finds but a Goshawk nesting record from a new part of the state, at least with respect to recent records, is also interesting. One can be skeptical about the lasting significance, but a Chukar on a front lawn in Otsego County would catch anyone's eye.

The waterfowl migration was not as good and the birds left earlier than last year, although the lake behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam was still there. At Norwich it was just about a one day affair, on Apr 22, but it included some very interesting species. The warm days in early May could have been responsible for the earlier departure if only by hurrying the advent of swimming, water skiing and picnicking. The shorebird migration was also disappointing, but Skyline, in Tioga County, produced some interesting hawk flights again. Among the passerines a few species such as Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo and Parula and Bay-breasted Warblers were in short supply and a couple of species, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Gray-cheeked Thrush, were missed entirely, but a few such "decreases" each year is normal. With few "waves" the small land bird migration was not particularly spectacular.

Contributors frequently mentioned: TB—Tioga Bird Club; NC—Triple Cities Naturalists' Club; LB—Leslie Bemont; M&AD—Marilyn & Anna Davis; RD—Robert Dirig; CG—Clinton Gerould; SG—Selena Gorton; JG—John Gustafson; CH—Claude Howard; FL—Florence Linaberry; ML—Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; R&JS—Robert & Jeanne Saunders; RS, MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; AS—Anne Stratton; DW—Donald Weber; MW—Mildred White; R&SW—Ruth & Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; HW—Herbert Wisner.

Abbreviations: WP—Whitney Point; Co—County.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 15 and 16, Skyline in Tioga Co. (RW), migratory flights; Apr 17, WP (MS), one calling; 20, Apr 20, WP; reports of smaller numbers from various areas; last one May 17, Owego (MW). Western Grebe: 2,

May 16, WP (MS)—see Field Notes for details. Horned Grebe: first Apr 3, Owego (RW), last May 8, WP (MS). Pied-billed Grege: several Apr reports to Apr 23; none thereafter. Great Blue Heron: heronry on Cold Brook at Scott, Cortland Co, again occupied (JG); 15 nests at Candor heronry May 31 (DW). Green Heron: Apr 6, Newark Valley (L & W Dean); no more until Apr 27. American Bittern: 1, May 9, Owego (TBC); very few reported.

Whistling Swan: Apr 3, 2 still at Owego (A. Evelien) and 1 still at WP (SG), the last date. Canada Goose: flocks flying over almost daily until about May 8, but especially heavy flights from May 1 to 5; still at WP and Chenango Bridge May 30 (MS). Pintail: not many after Apr 1; 1, May 16, Owego (B. Hewlett), the last. Green-winged Teal: small numbers during Apr; none after May 2. Blue-winged Teal: small numbers until May 15 when 2 pair were at South Cortland (JG). Am. Widgeon: none after Apr 11; reduced numbers. Shoveler: Apr 10, Owego (MW, CG); 1, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW); 1, May 2, WP (MS, SG). Wood Duck: 2 broods totalling 18 young, May 26, East Sidney (HW).

Ring-necked Duck: 40 to 90 at WP Apr 10 to 24; May 1, Owego (RW) and Maine (MS), the last date. Canvasback: Apr 10, 1 at Lounsberry (MW, CG) and 1 at Chenango Forks (M & AD), the only reports. Scaup: 20 or so, Apr 24, WP (MS); May 2, last date; apparently all Lessers. Common Goldeneye: last report Apr 24. Bufflehead: smaller numbers than last year at WP from Apr 3 to May 2; 1, May 16 (MW, CG) the only later report. Oldsquaw: Apr 22, 85 on various ponds and the Chenango River around Norwich (R&SW) and 20, at Hillcrest just north of Binghamton (C. Jennings); 1, May 1, near Maine (MS), the only other report. Ruddy Duck: Apr 3, Blodgett Mills in Cortland Co. (G. Field), 1, Norwich (R & SW) and 5, WP (SG); no other reports. White-winged Scoter: 4, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW), the only report. Hooded Merganser: continued common through Apr 24; 30 or more, Apr 10, WP (MS), the largest number; 2, Endicott, May 16 (LB), the only later ones. Common Merganser: 50 to 75 at WP until Apr 24; smaller numbers to May 8. Red-breasted Merganser: Apr 8 to May 8 at WP; 30 or so, Apr 10, the largest count.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: regularly at Hancock (RD); also at Deposit (S. Wilson), 2 at E. Sidney May 16 (HW) and 1 at Owego May 17 (RW). Goshawk: an active nest at Hancock (RD), "with at least 1 egg." Sharp-shinned Hawk: there continue to be more frequent reports than has been normal in the past few years. Red-tailed Hawk: migrants apparent by numbers until Apr 24; 20, Apr 15, Skyline (RW), the maximum count; 3 known nesting pairs in Tioga Co. Broad-winged Hawk: 1, Apr 19, Hancock (RD), the first; 152 in 7 hours, Apr 20, Skyline (RW), the highest count; an active nest at Hancock (RD). Rough-legged Hawk: thinned out after Apr 8 but a few until 1, May 16, Candor (DW), white rump patch, black "wrist marks" and hovering actions all clearly seen during five minute period; 2 earlier May records. Bald Eagle: Apr 2, Deposit (SW); 1, May 11, Hancock (RD); 1, May 16, Owego (MW, CG). Marsh Hawk: 9, Apr 20, Owego (TBC), the highest count; quite a few other reports until the last May 16. Osprey: Apr 10, Homer (JG), the first; May 15 at Freetown, in Cortland Co. and at Choconut Center, in Broome Co, the last. Pigeon Hawk: Apr 12, Vestal (HM).

Bob-white: 2 at Freetown (JG); 1, May 19, Oxford (AS); 1, May 20, Hancock (RD). Chukar: 1, Apr 25, South Worcester in southeastern Otsego Co (R. Burland) walked across front lawn; some have been released in the area in past years by private breeders. Turkey: May 16, Candor (DW). Sora: Apr 18, Chenango Bridge (MS), the only report. Common Gallinule: 1, May 6, Binghamton (CH), found dead; May 16 Chenango Bridge (LB); the only ones. Am. Coot: only report 1, Apr 11, Chenango Valley State Park (M & AD). Semipalmated Plover: May 15, Scott (JG) the only one. Woodcock: May 1, Candor (DW), adult with 4 young.

Upland Plover: 1, May 9, Sherburne (R & SW); also at Cortland in May. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 10, Greene (C. & J. Davis), the first; common from Apr 30. Solitary Sandpiper: May 8, Homer (JG) and Ingraham Hill (CH), the first; very few reports. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 17 to May 2, and very few between. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 30, Berkshire (ML); May 1, Owego (MW); the only reports. Least Sandpiper: May 15, Scott (JG), the only report. Dunlin: 2, May 23, WP (MS), the only report. Ruddy Turnstone: 1, May 23, WP (MS); rather surprisingly this is the first known record of the species in Broome Co in 12 years.

Herring Gull: mostly gone after Apr 20; at Owego, May 16 (G. Kirk, Turner), the last. Ring-billed Gull: in flocks of 30 or more to May 8; still present in small numbers at the end of the period. Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 8, WP (HM, EL), the first; 15, Apr 12, Ingraham Hill, resting on a farm pond during a heavy wind (CH), the highest count; 8, Apr 22, Norwich (R & SW), the last; a few other reports between. Common Tern: May 2, WP (NC); 2, May 15, Skaneateles Lake (JG); the only reports. Black Tern: May 2, WP (NC), only report. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 10, Choconut Center (MS), the first; not too common. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 6, Chenango Forks (SG), the first; reasonably numerous around the Triple Cities but "only a few compared with last year" at Cortland (JG). Barn Owl: at Owego "during the reporting period" (J. Shuler). Horned Owl: several nesting records; young had left nests at Ingraham Hill and Candor by May 16. Barred Owl: reported at Hancock (RD), Ludlow (AS), Castle Creek (MS) and E. Sidney (HW).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 2, May 2, Binghamton (R. Short); May 5 and 6, Ingraham Hill (J. Howard, CH); May 8, Choconut Center (MS); May 9, Hinman's Corners (R & JS); 1, May 18, E. Sidney (HW); May 22, Candor (DW); the most reports ever, although it seems highly probable that the species breeds regularly in some parts of the Region. Nighthawk: first May 11, Binghamton (R & MS). Chimney Swift: first Apr 25, Owego (RW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 10, Deposit (SW). Belted Kingfisher: common from Apr 7. Yellow-shafted Flicker: common after Apr 11. Red-headed Woodpecker: May 6, Chenango Forks (M & AD); May 7, banded at Deposit (SW); May 10, Cortland as in other years (JG); 1, May 15, Sherburne as in other years (R & SW); May 17 and 19, Ingraham Hill (CH); 2, May 21, southern Chenango Co, on fence posts along the road (SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: common from Apr 15; still present at the end of the period.

Eastern Kingbird: first 1, Apr 30, Norwich (R&SW). Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 2, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Eastern Phoebe: common from Apr 6. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: May 15, Homer (JG); 2 other reports. Traill's Flycatcher: May 16, Apalachin (TBC, NC). Least Flycatcher: Apr 25, Deposit (SW); common from May 3. Eastern Wood Pewee: first May 9, Hinman's Corners (R & JS). Bank Swallow: Apr 17, Owego (RW); regular from May 2. Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 17, Owego (RW). Barn Swallow: first Apr 13, Binghamton (R & MS). Cliff Swallow: Apr 16, WP (HM, FL, G. Corderman). Purple Martin: first, 4, Apr 5, Owego (M. Hills); at Cortland, "more this year than last" (JG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4, Apr 11, Sherburne (R & SW); Apr 15, Freetown (JG); 2, May 16, Tioga Center (J. Barnes); the only reports. Brown Creeper: May 15, Cortland (JG), the last. House Wren: first Apr 23, Hinman's Corners (R & JS) and Binghamton (HM). Winter Wren: still at Hancock May 16 (RD); reasonably frequent reports. Carolina Wren: May 13, Binghamton (R & MS); very few reports in the last few years. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 1, Chenango Forks (SG); 2, May 16, Sherburne (R & SW); the only reports. Mockingbird: May 10, Hinman's Corners (R & JS); May 14, near Sidney Center (HW) and 2 at Owego (L. Cole); May 24, Cortlandville (Clemens); an unusually large number of spring records. Catbird: first May 2, South Owego (E. Williams) and Deposit (SW). Brown

Thrasher: first Apr 17, Binghamton (R. Short). Wood Thrush: first May 2, in several localities. Hermit Thrush: first Apr 6, Ingraham Hill (CH). Swainson's Thrush: 1 banded, May 23, Endwell (R. Pantle), the only report. Veery: first May 2, Deposit (SW). Bluebird: good numbers locally—quite a few nesting reports, but quite a few nestling casualties to ectoparasites, too. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1, Apr 25, Chenango Valley State Park (MS); May 1, Newark Valley (MS); 1, May 4, Owego (RW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: a light migratory movement between Apr 17 and May 1. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 15 to May 9 in good numbers. Water Pipit: Apr 23 and May 2, Berkshire (ML); May 13 to 18, Greene (C. & J. Davis). Migrant Shrike: Apr 6, South Owego (CG).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: first May 1, E. Sidney (HW). Solitary Vireo: Apr 29, Ingraham Hill (CH), the first; very few reported. Red-eyed Vireo: first May 8, Chenango Forks (SG). Philadelphia Vireo: May 8, Deposit (SW); May 16, Newark Valley (L. & W. Dean); the only reports. Warbling Vireo: first May 1, Berkshire (ML); particularly numerous this year at Deposit (SW). Black-and-white Warbler: first Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Worm-eating Warbler: 1, May 16, Endwell (LB), the only report. Golden-winged Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD); common locally in the Triple Cities area. Blue-winged Warbler: May 10, Owego (RW); May 16, Binghamton (HM); May 30, Deposit (SW). Tennessee Warbler: May 9, Owego (TBC) and Binghamton (MS), to May 19; numerous. Nashville Warbler: first May 1, Newark Valley (MS) and Endwell (NC). Parula Warbler: May 5, Owego (MW), the only report. Yellow Warbler: Apr 24, Binghamton (R. Short); common from May 2. Magnolia Warbler: first May 4, Ingraham Hill (CH); not too many. Cape May Warbler: May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD); gone after May 9. Black-throated Blue Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD) and Hancock (RD). Myrtle Warbler: first Apr 15, Chenango Forks (M & AD); "large concentration," May 9, Chenango Valley State Park (SG). Black-throated Green Warbler: from May 1 on and quite numerous. Blackburnian Warbler: first May 2, Castle Creek (MS). Chestnut-sided Warbler: first May 2, Deposit (SW). Bay-breasted Warbler: first May 9, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, May 23, Endwell (LB), the last; not many. Blackpoll Warbler: first May 16 (TBC, NC); still present at the end of the period. Palm Warbler: Apr 27, Chenango Forks (M&AD) to May 15, Freetown (W. Breidinger); a total of 6 reports—more than usual. Ovenbird: May 3 on, in good numbers as usual. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 22, Deposit (SW). Louisiana Waterthrush: first, 1, Apr 27, Norwich (R & SW), late. Mourning Warbler: May 16, Owego (RW); 4 other reports by the end of May. Yellowthroat: Apr 30, Ingraham Hill (CH); plentiful from May 3. Yellow-breasted Chat: first May 8, Chenango Forks (SG). Wilson's Warbler: May 9, Choconut Center (MS) and 1, Sherburne (R & SW); present until May 16. Canada Warbler: first May 3, Chenango Forks (M & AD). American Redstart: Apr 24, Petonia Lake (C. Kintner); no more until May 4; numbers seem lower than in recent years.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: first May 2, Binghamton (R. Short) and Nichols (ML). Redwinged Blackbird: females first reported Apr 17 (MW). Baltimore Oriole: first May 1, Berkshire (ML) and Owego (A. Evelien). Scarlet Tanager: first May 2, Owego (RW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr 29, Owego (CG, E. Williams); next report May 3, Sidney (F. Quick). Indigo Bunting: first May 7, Deposit (SW) and Owego (CG). Dickcissel: 1, May 18, Oxford (AS), familiar with song from 1964 visit to Iowa. Evening Grosbeak: a few scattered reports until Apr 28, Sidney (F. Quick). Purple Finch: fairly common from Apr 12; several reports of nests. American Goldfinch: "lots all spring," Deposit (SW), and confirmed in NC reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: common from Apr 16. Savannah Sparrow: 6, Apr 7, Berkshire (ML); next report Apr 19. Grasshopper Sparrow: first Apr 24, Ingraham Hill (CH). Henslow's Sparrow: first May 8, Endwell (NC); seem down in numbers.

Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 8, WP (HM, FL). Slate-colored Junco: migrants about gone after May 8, residents remaining in several localities at the end of May. Oregon Junco: 1 regularly to Apr 9 and once more Apr 21, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Tree Sparrow: to May 7, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Chipping Sparrow: 1, Apr 3, Binghamton (R. Short), then no more until Apr 13. Field Sparrow: Apr 4, Owego (RW); regular from Apr 9. White-crowned Sparrow: 2, Apr 24, Hancock (RD); all other reports between May 1 and 16. White-throated Sparrow: migrants from Apr 12 and mostly gone after May 13; residents present in several localities at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: "first migration" lasted until Apr 15; a second, lesser, migration from Apr 20 to 30; May 6, Endwell (E. & N. Washburn). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 9, Choconut Center (MS); the only report. Swamp Sparrow: first Apr 10, Apalachin (RW).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y., 13763

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

Spring migration consisted mainly of a lengthy catalogue of negatives. April, chilled by the heavy inheritance of March ice, was wet and cold with persistent northwest winds, minimal hawk flights, and a marked delay in arrival of almost all migrants. May was unusually variable with a few days of warm weather followed by cold and rain, then an extremely hot period, and finally the last few days of the month colder than the first week. Foliage held back until May 6, then seemed to burst out overnight. Migrant waves were few (May 4, 6, 8-9, and 14-15) and no major influx of migrants was noted after May 16; the usually large late May flight of Wood Pewees, Empidonax flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, and female warblers was completely missed this year.

Specifically the season's negatives included 1) very low waterfowl counts, especially teal, American Widgeon, and Pintail, 2) a poor hawk flight at Derby Hill, particularly poor in March not one day with 100+ recorded, 3) very poor shorebird migration, both early (April-Pectoral Sandpiper, both Yellowlegs) and late (May-Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated and Red-backed Sandpiper, Sanderling), and 4) a dismal landbird migration, most obvious in thrushes, vireos, and warblers but also detected in flycatchers and swallows.

Lest this read like an ornithological dirge, certain positives deserve mention—1) a flurry of Mockingbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher records; 2) a rash of long-legged waders—see Herons; 3) apparently increasing numbers of Cerulean, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers; 4) a distinct upswing locally in numbers of Phoebes and Hermit Thrushes; 5) a very heavy early April icterid-Robin migration along Lake Ontario (most likely birds delayed by the severe cold of March); and 6) a heavy—though brief—migration of Vesper and Savannah Sparrows in mid-April.