

Rochester, one seen at HL Apr 21 (Mrs. Dineen) and one in Irondequoit May 5 (LM et al); usual numbers in Bergen Swamp mid-May (RTO). Yellow-shafted Flicker: estimated 100 along EL Apr 24 (JJD, HSM, FP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 18 along WL Apr 20 (LM), first good number reported, showing lateness of season. Blue Jay: usual May flight along L Ontario, an estimated 1100 passing Manitou May 8 (GOS hike).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: one feeding young in nest in a conifer at Durand-Eastman Pk May 15 (Margaret Foley)—it has long been suspected that this species nested there. Brown Creeper: 30 along WL Apr 23 (JJD, AAS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: one heard near HL May 22 (RTO), only report. Mockingbird: new localities—one at Pultneyville Apr 3 (AEK), one at WP Apr 23 (JJD, AAS), two Furnaceville May 21 (AEK).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Among the few more outstanding warbler records were a Blue-winged Warbler in Durand-Eastman Pk (June Feder), a Prairie Warbler in Island Cottage Woods May 20 (JJD), three Yellow-breasted Chats in Fairport May 23 (BO). Orange-crowned, Pine and Connecticut Warblers were unreported and many others were seen in reduced numbers.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: one singing, observed in East Henrietta Apr 20 (WC), three along WL Apr 23–30 (mob), one Webster May 2–6 (MS). Later these birds seemed to sing little and may move on. With what species they mate, if they do, is unknown. Evening Grosbeak: 15 at BB May 18 (WCL). Pine Grosbeak: five at WP Apr 23 (JJD, AAS), very late. Common Redpoll: 27 along EL Apr 17 (WL, RM), also late. Pine Siskin: 25 migrating at BB May 18, also 500 Amer. Goldfinches (WCL). A Clay-colored Sparrow was carefully studied in Webster May 24 (JM, TM)—both observers have had previous experience with this species. Fox Sparrow: 28 in Highland Pk Apr 20 (LM et al), late for so many.

2080 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

April and May were among the coldest on record in the Finger Lakes, and continued the trend of below normal precipitation. Below freezing temperatures were recorded the last week of April, the second week of May, and, amazingly, on May 30 and 31. But the most unusual event weatherwise was the snowfall on May 9, which totalled 3½ inches in the Ithaca area, and at least an inch thru most of the Region. In freezing temperatures, the snow remained on the ground two days. Just preceding this, there had been a warm spell with southerly winds, which brought in some of the birds whose arrival had been delayed up to that time by the late April cold spell. It meant rugged going for them—and interesting observations for the birdwatchers. Orioles, Catbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flocked to feeders along with the normal customers. A female Bobolink visited the feeder at Sapsucker Woods. The bare roadsides were dotted with hungry birds—sparrows of all kinds, thrushes, grosbeaks, tanagers, warblers, kinglets and phoebes. One observer counted 80 Veeries along a road north of Sapsucker Woods in less than a mile. In an area near Elmira, Wilfred Howard found road-side concentrations of Veeries, Olive-backed and Grey-cheeked Thrushes, Ovenbirds, with a few House Wrens and Louisiana Waterthrushes. A mixed flock of 50 Hermits and Grey-cheeks was driven to ground by the storm at Keuka (FG).

Undoubtedly many of the early nesters died—I received a few reports of dead Phoebes and Bluebirds. But the worst hit were the Purple Martins. Throughout the Region Martin colonies were decimated. For example, the personnel at Montezuma

picked up 19 dead or dying Martins under their houses, in emaciated condition. Following the cold of May 9-11, there was a change to warmer, with southerly winds on the 13th and 14th, so that May 15th, picked by most clubs for their 'big run' or census, was ideal. Many warblers arrived that weekend, some vireos and flycatchers. But Pewees and cuckoos were still later, and in general May birds were a week or more late. All nesting is delayed.

Two White-fronted Geese at Montezuma Refuge on April 2nd, spotted by Dr. D. A. Lancaster's Field Ornithology class, are only the third record of the species for the Refuge, and there are almost no other reports for the Region. A Surf Scoter at Elmira during the snowstorm, three Whimbrels at Hornell, a Harris' Sparrow at Elmira and a probable Eared Grebe on Seneca Lake are of particular interest.

A field note by William Groesbeck calls attention to the fact that the Almond Damsite Recreation area near Hornell provided excellent water-birding this spring, but with development of the area for recreation it will probably be sterile in succeeding years. This year it was far more productive than the Reservoir at Hornell.

Observers cited: JBa—Jamesine Bardeen; JB—Jack Brubaker; WEB—Walter E. Benning; KF—K Fudge; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; H & SH—Heyward and Sue Hamilton; HH—Herbert Hendrickson; WH—Wilfred Howard; CK—Cameron Kepler; JK—James Kimball; JKe—John Kelsey; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JM—John Morse; JP—James Patterson; RTP—Roger Tory Peterson; BS—Betty Strath; FGS—Fritz Scheider; MS—Mary Smith; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; P & PT—Paris and Pepper Trail; LW—Loren Ward; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: fewer than usual Cay L, Keuka; one (late) Valois Pt Sen L late May. Horned Grebe: scarce Cay and Keuka Ls, absent from one of usual Hornell areas. Loon L near Wayland. Eared Grebe: a probable breeding plumaged individual of this species was reported in Geneva Harbor, Sen L May 1 by JW and two Hobart students. There are no previous published Central New York State records to the best of my knowledge. In the absence of a specimen or photograph it will have to remain a question. Common Egret: none. Snowy Egret: one May 27 MNWR, rare in spring. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 14 May 30 MNWR (WEB). American Bittern: seem scarce. Glossy Ibis: one May 4-7 MNWR (FGS, JM). Whistling Swan: no reports. Canada Goose: to quote John Morse, Mgr MNWR: "Canada Geese peaked at 32,800 compared to 40,000 last year. The drop in numbers was probably due to unusual weather conditions rather than an actual drop in flyway population. The partial freeze-up of refuge pools in late March caused a drop in goose numbers of 16,000. These birds did not return to the refuge. If those 16,000 had been added to our April peak, we would have exceeded 48,000." The Geese left the Refuge May 12, somewhat later than most years. Brant: 35 May 13 MNWR (WEB). WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: two Apr 16 MNWR (DAL & mob), third Refuge record. Snow Goose: 200 max MNWR. Blue Goose: 480 max MNWR. Ducks at MNWR 2400 max compared with 4100 in 1965. (See comment after Canada Goose max). Mallard: first brood SWS May 13. Gadwall: abundant MNWR; two sightings on Keuka L near Hammondsport, max eight, no previous records (FG). Pintail: none at Hornell this year (WG). Green-winged Teal: two Apr 21 Almond Damsite, rare in area (WG). Blue-winged Teal: one male SWS; reported down in numbers MNWR (WEB). European Widgeon: two Apr 27-28, one May 15 MNWR (JM). Wood Duck: 18 max males, late May SWS, hopefully 18 females nesting; first brood (10) May 27. Ring-necked Duck: 150 max Apr 3 MNWR (WEB). A probable Barrow's Goldeneye male was seen Geneva Harbor Sen L May 17 (LW), not found again. Oldsquaw: four MNWR Apr 27; several May 3 Cay L (mob). White-winged Scoter: two Apr 25 Almond Damsite Hornell (WG).

Surf Scoter: three males May 9 in snowstorm 7-acre pond, Elmira (MS, KF), very rare in spring. No scoters or Oldsquaws on Keuka L. Ruddy Duck: first Apr 9 and max 20 Apr 20, MNWR (WEB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: max 14 Apr 2, May 29, MNWR (WEB).

Hawks, except Red-tails, continue scarce. Sharp-shinned: no nesting pairs found at Ithaca. Cooper's: one seen near Keuka L May 15; one active nest near Ithaca. Red-tailed: no apparent decrease as breeding bird. Red-shouldered: fewer known nests this year, but two records at Keuka where often none. Broad-winged: some migration noted Elmira Apr 20, Ithaca Apr 23; possible breeding Texas Hollow (JB), Hender-shot Gulf (BS), Arnot Forest and Ringwood (near Dryden) (WRS). Bald Eagle: imm bird over Dryden May 15 (JKe). Marsh Hawk: one only at Elmira, two pairs MNWR, no sightings at Ithaca. Osprey: first Apr 16 MNWR (DAL & Class); scattered sightings thereafter, incl. SWS and Dryden L. Peregrine: one Apr 20 Sullivan's Monument Elmira (WH) in hawk flight; one May 4 MNWR. Sparrow Hawk: has disappeared from several more former nesting sites in Ithaca area; reported absent or low at Hornell and Geneva, usual numbers around Watkins Glen.

Ruffed Grouse: variable reports, some indicating peak of cycle has passed, others seeing no decrease. Rails: reported generally scarce, especially Sora. Common Gallinule: seemed down in numbers MNWR (WEB). Less cattail cover? Coot: fewer on Cay L this spring than some years. Killdeer: less abundant Hornell (WG). Black-bellied Plover: five May 11 MNWR (WEB). Amer. Woodcock: missing from some former 'singing' grounds near Ithaca. Whimbrel: three Apr 4 Almond Damsite (WG), rare. Upland Plover: first Apr 30 Peruville Rd n. of Ithaca (JP); noted in snowcovered fields May 9 near Middle Rd Elmira and near Etna; seem to be increasing in Region. White-rumped Sandpiper: one May 15, 18 near Dryden (H & SH), rare in spring. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 500 May 25 MNWR (WEB), most abundant peep. Wilson's Phalarope: one female May 9 MNWR (WEB), rare in spring. Bonaparte's Gull: first Apr 11 Cay L (DM); 14 Apr 16 Almond Damsite (WG), new site. Black Tern: 20 Apr 28 arr MNWR, max 250 May 1 (WEB); new stations—Chase's Pond Elmira May 12–14 (MW), Almond Damsite May 13 (WG), Tobehanna L near Tyrone (JB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: no reports Keuka or Elmira, reported scarce elsewhere. Black-billed Cuckoo: normal numbers most places after finally arrived.

Owls: Barn: one report only. As Screech Owls have disappeared from many locations, it seems advisable to mention known breeding localities: one Dryden across from GLF; one Hammondsport Gold Seal winery; one Seneca Lodge Watkins Glen; one sighting Stewart Park Ithaca. Great Horned: usual numbers; pair raised three young SWS first time in some years. Snowy: Apr 3 last MNWR (WEB). Barred: successful nest SWS; pair present MNWR.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: four reports only; two Apr 23 near Chemung R Elmira; one May 17 Brooktondale (CK); one May 25 Jacksonville; Rathbun farm Bennettsburg May 25 on (JBa). Common Nighthawk: late and scarce. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr week to 10 days late—May 15 Ithaca, May 17 Hornell, May 23 Keuka; one only reported from Elmira. Red-bellied Woodpecker: scattered reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported scarcer at Elmira, but at least six near Keuka (FG), several at Watkins (JBa), one May 18 N. Hornell on sumac (WG), one Taughannock Pk May 10, one May 15 Etna (RTP), one at Cornell golf course, Ithaca, and two, possibly three George Jr. Republic, Freeville. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one near Penn Yan May 1 (V. Whitaker). Flycatchers; Crested: reported plentiful Keuka and Hornell. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one May 16 Turkey Hill Ithaca (HH et al), only report. Trail's: first May 15 Dryden L (H & SH), few other reports. Least: absent several usual stations. Wood Pewee: none prior to May 23, a week later than normal. Olive-sided: one May 15 Michigan Hollow s. of Ithaca (JK); one May 22, 29 Mills Rd Waterloo (JW).

Cliff Swallow: returned to Dryden L colony Apr 7 (PMK). Purple Martin: first Mar 29 Cay State Pk (WH). Many killed in May 9 snow storm in Region. See introductory remarks and field note on Swallow behavior in storm at Hornell. House Wren: some storm loss, e.g. only one seen rest of month at Hornell. Few reports of Marsh Wrens. Mockingbird: present at most former stations; new station, Erin. Thrushes: see introductory section for storm behavior. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: usual numbers apparently in spite of weather; new nesting locations: May 29 mile n. of Elm Beach on Rte 89 (E. Van Riper); May 5, found nesting 40' up at Hornell (Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Ulmer) where only one previous sighting of species, 1954. Kinglets: two flocks of more than 50, both species, Apr 24 Texas Hollow (BS); other reports indicate good numbers in migration. Northern Shrike: last Apr 4 Burdett (Allan Graham). Loggerhead Shrike: four reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: All Vireos except Warbling scarce at Keuka (FG). Yellow-throated Vireo scarce around Ithaca. Philadelphia Vireo: two May 7 MNWR (WEB); one May 20 Mt. Pleasant Rd (PMK).

Warblers: in general late, no marked waves except near Waterloo (JW) from May 15–22. At Keuka, some increase noted in Black-and-whites and Black-throated Greens. Prothonotary: none reported. Worm-eating: none at Elmira; one May 14 Hendershot Gulf (JB, mob). Brewster's: one each Texas Hollow, along Chemung R, Michigan Hollow, Tennessee; few noted. Orange-crowned: often missed in spring; one May 15 Beam Hill near Dryden (PMK); one May 17 Waterloo (JW); one May 22 Geneva (PT). Blackpoll: first May 20 Mt. Pleasant Rd Ithaca (PMK); in numbers everywhere May 25, last Jun 3. Hooded: one only, May 8 along Chemung R (WH).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: many noted in snowstorm, but not abundant by any means. Western Meadowlark: a possible individual May 22 Clifton Springs Golf course (P & PT, Cathy Walsh) identified by song only. (Ed. note: as it is essential in distinguishing this species to hear call notes and see head pattern, this will have to remain a question.) Baltimore Oriole: reported absent from some former nest-sites. Evening Grosbeak: last dates—May 15 Burdett, May 18 Ithaca, May 19 Hornell. Red Crossbill: last May 12 Cay Heights Ithaca (Laubengayer). White-winged Crossbill: last May 23 Brooktondale (CK). HARRIS' SPARROW: very rare in Region; one May 15–16, the Irving Runey's feeding station West Hill Rd Elmira (mob). White-crowned Sparrow: reported abundant May 5–15, everywhere, especially during storm. White-throated Sparrow: very few migrants noted. Lincoln's Sparrow: one banded May 9 Cornell Campus (Eric Johnson); at least six, Elmira May 14.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April averaged a little on the cold side, although temperatures seldom strayed far from normal, and precipitation was a little below normal. For the first ten days there were frequent light snow falls that melted quickly and the last twelve days of the month were rainy, with no precipitation at all between. The first half of May was unpleasantly cold and wet, the poor conditions culminating in a storm May 9 that brought six inches of snow to the hill tops around Candor, freezing rain to Deposit and something between to other areas in the Region. The rest of the month was warm by comparison but quite wet.

There were a number of reports of casualties after, and presumably resulting from, the May 9 storm but only the Purple Martin population at Homer was observed to be seriously affected. Many observers complained of late arrival dates but taking the