

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.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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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

Region as a whole first dates were about normal, the most notable exceptions such as Traill's Flycatcher, Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers and Indigo Bunting being early instead of late. At Ingraham Hill there was a fine "wave" of warblers May 8 but the next day a number of birds all but entered the barn seeking food and warmth.

The waterfowl and shorebird migrations were very disappointing. Trends of some interest were the observation of Turkey Vultures in widely separated parts of the Region when only a few years ago they were confined to the Deposit-Hancock area, and the increase in Mockingbird reports.

The rarity list for the period includes a Golden Eagle, two Ravens, a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow. Cerulean and Prairie Warbler reports are near rarities in this Region.

Abbreviations; Bing-Binghamton; CC-Choconut Center; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park; Chen-Chenango; IH-Ingraham Hill just south of Binghamton; Pep Res-Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L-Skaneateles Lake; Sky-Skyline, Tioga Co.; WP-Whitney Point.

Observers: LB-L. Bemont; NC-Naturalists' Club; TBC-Tioga Bird Club; G, WC-G. & W. Corderman; MC-M. Cubberly; C, JD-C. & J. Davis; M, AD-M. & A. Davis; L, WD-L. & W. Dean; CG-C. Gerould; SG-S. Gorton; JG-J. Gustafson; CH-C. Howard; FL-F. Linaberry; HM-H. Marsi; JN-J. New; JO-J. Osadchey; RP-R. Pantle; R, JS-R. & J. Saunders; MS-M. Sheffield; RSh-R. Short; AS-A. Stratton; DW-D. Weber; MW-M. White; R. SW-R. & S. White; RW-R. Williams; SW-S. Wilson; HW-H. Wisner.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 23 Owego (RW); four more reports to May 15. Horned Grebe: still at WP May 15 (MS). Great Blue Heron: arr Candor late Mar (RP, DW), colony smaller this year; other known colonies not checked. Green Heron: Apr 21 CC (MS), early but several other Apr records. Least Bittern: May 10 Bing (RSh) at a farm pond, seen fairly regularly to end of May. Amer. Bittern: Apr 17 WP (MS). Mute Swan: one on artificial lake at Owego possibly the same one that spent Feb and Mar in Bing. Canada Goose: migrants to May 7; heavier flights Apr 16 to 18 and May 3 to 8; still at WP May 29; pair nesting at Freeville. Snow Goose: one Apr 10 Pep Res with Canadas (MC). Pintail: Apr 3 Owego, last. Green-winged Teal: only four reports, the last May 14 Skan L (JO). Blue-winged Teal: still at WP May 29. Ring-necked Duck: to May 1. Scaup: Greater Apr 20 and Lesser May 15, WP. Common Goldeneye: last, eight Apr 12 Portlandville (HW). Bufflehead: one Apr 9 Norwich (R, SW), only report. White-winged Scoter: Apr 20 (SG) and May 15 (MS) WP. Oldsquaw: Apr 4 Owego (MW); Apr 20 WP (HM et al). Hooded Merganser: still at Owego and Pep Res Apr 10. Common Merganser: Skan L May 14, Owego and WP May 15. Red-breasted Merganser: six Apr 3 WP (MS); Apr 4 Owego (MW).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 50 Apr 7 Fish's Eddy (RW); reported also at Andes (MC), Deposit (SW), Candor (RP) and Scott (JG). Red-shouldered Hawk: two at nest Apr 16 IH (CH). Broad-winged Hawk: max 65 Apr 22 Sky, 50 Apr 23 (RW), station not manned thereafter; small numbers seen regularly all during May. Rough-legged Hawk: one Apr 2 Smithville Flats (R, SW); one May 14 Scott (JO); no others. GOLDEN EAGLE: one Apr 17 Pep Res found dead-shot, conservation officers stated it was feathered to toes (MC). Marsh Hawk: max 3 May 14 Cortland (JG); occasional one or two in most parts of Region. Osprey: Apr 1 South Owego (CG); no more until Apr 13 then frequent reports to May 15. Ruffed Grouse: seemed plentiful. Bobwhite: May 4 Vestal (G, WC). Turkey: one Apr 11 Hinman's Corners n. of Bing (R, JS). Common Gallinule: May 13 Vestal (FL). Coot: May 15 WP (MS) and Spencer (RW). Common Snipe: first one Apr 10 Sherburne (R, SW). Upland Plover: two May 20 Homer (JG). Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 20 WP (HM), common after May 1. Solitary Sandpiper: May 8 Spencer

(RW); not many. Greater Yellowlegs: only reports, Apr 17 WP (MS), May 15 several Triple Cities localities. Lesser Yellowlegs: May 22 IH (CH)—only report. Dunlin: one May 15 WP (MS), only report. Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 16 IH (CH), only report. Ring-billed Gull: max 200 plus May 8 Endwell (LB); present most of period. Bonaparte's Gull: May 15 WP (MS), only report. Common Tern: May 14 and 15 Owego (MW)—only reports. Black Tern: May 8 Spencer (RW), two more reports, the last May 15. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 15 Newark Valley (L, WD). Black-billed Cuckoo: May 15 Newark Valley (L, WD). Screech Owl: two young out of nest May 22 Unadilla (HW). Barred Owl: two May 20 CVSP (M, AD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will; one May 5 Cortland (JG), only report. Nighthawk: May 16 Owego (CG). Chimney Swift: Apr 22 Owego (RW); several thousand May 4 entering and leaving large chimney in Bing (M, AD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 14 several Triple Cities localities. Yellow-shafted Flicker: common after Apr 17. Pileated Woodpecker: fairly frequent reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: four May 14 Cortlandville, where one wintered (JG); also at Owego and Sherburne. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: especially common Apr 16–23; reported regularly thru May. Eastern Kingbird: one Apr 2 McGraw (Greenfield), very early; next Apr 26 Deposit (SW); one May 9 in weakened condition Candor (RP). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 8 Candor (TBC), IH (CH), Chen Forks (M, AD); one found dead May 10 Oneonta (JN). Eastern Phoebe: common after Apr 8. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only reports, May 15 Castle Creek (MS), May 21 Endwell (LB). Traill's Flycatcher: May 11 Owego (RW, MW), very early; three reports May 21, the next date. Least Flycatcher: May 6 Unadilla (HW) and Deposit (SW); one May 10 Endwell appeared in weakened condition (LB). Wood Pewee: May 12 Candor (RP), common after May 20. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only reports, one May 21 Sherburne (R, SW), May 28 Endwell (NC). Tree Swallow: one May 14 Oxford found dead in nest box (AS); at Greene (C, JD) and Oxford left nesting areas to spend worst of bad weather in valley along river and returned later in seemingly undiminished numbers. Bank Swallow: Apr 23 Chen Forks (M, AD). Rough-winged Swallow: two Apr 23 Deposit (SW). Barn Swallow: Apr 15 Greene (C, JD). Cliff Swallow: Apr 21 Greene (C, JD). Purple Martin: ten adults dead at three houses Homer after May 9 to 10 cold and snow, houses left unoccupied for first time since 1958 (JG); at Owego a few picked up from ground Apr 7, held overnight and released the next day (M. Hills).

COMMON RAVEN: one Apr 23 Sky (RW), identified by large size, hawk-like flight and calls; one May 4 Flemingville (J. Hough), observer familiar with species in west. Black-capped Chickadee: small migrating flocks at Sky Apr 23 (RW). Tufted Titmouse: only report, one Apr 10 Deposit (SW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: common thru May 22, some present to end of period. Brown Creeper: May 18 still at Oneonta (JN). House Wren: Apr 20 South Owego (CG); common after Apr 30 although scarce around Unadilla. Winter Wren: May 14 Scott (JO), the last of six reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: only report, May 15 Vestal (LB). Mockingbird: reported from seven different localities during period. Catbird: May 3 Chen Forks and Deposit. Brown Thrasher: common from Apr 22. Wood Thrush: May 5 three localities; many driven to foraging along road shoulders May 9 and 10. Hermit Thrush: Apr 27 Owego (RW); fairly numerous. Swainson's Thrush: May 8 Spencer (RW, MW, CG) to May 14 Homer (JG). Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 8 IH (CH) to May 17 Newark Valley (L, WD); one intervening report. Veery: May 6 Deposit (SW); many driven to foraging along road shoulders May 9 and 10. Eastern Bluebird: one female found dead on nearly complete nest May 9 Candor (RP); at Oxford a brood hatched May 9 (AS); at Deposit a lone male investigated but there were no takers for 20 new nest boxes. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 3 Owego (RW, MW); also at Cortland and several Triple Cities localities. Golden-crowned

Kinglet: Apr 15 Owego (RW) to May 14 Cortlandville (JG); seven intervening reports. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 19 Deposit (SW) and Unadilla (HW); especially common until May 14; still at Oneonta May 18 (JN) and still singing at Owego May 31 (RW). Loggerhead Shrike: Apr 17 WP (MS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: May 5 Cortland (JG). Solitary: Apr 21 IH (CH); relatively scarce. Red-eyed: Apr 30 Chen Bridge (SG) early; May 6 Owego (RW, MW); the only ones before May 14. Philadelphia: May 15 Newark Valley (L, WD), only report. Warbling: May 2 Owego (CG); scarce until last few days of May.

Warblers: Black-and-white: May 2 Bing (RSh); one found dead May 10 Oneonta (JN); quite numerous. Golden-winged: May 8 IH (CH); next report May 14; once thought to be uncommon, now seem to be found on most brushy hillsides. Brewster's: May 16 Owego (RW, MW); May 21 Oneonta (JN). Blue-winged: May 21 CC (MS) and Unadilla (HW); also at IH. Tennessee: May 8 Owego (RW) early; next report May 19; numbers decidedly below normal. Nashville: four May 6 Deposit (SW). Parula: IH (CH); five other reports to May 21. Yellow: Apr 30 Vestal (G, WC) and Chen Forks (M, AD). Magnolia: two May 6 Deposit (SW); to May 23 in normal numbers. Cape May: May 8 Endwell (FL); six more reports to May 19. Black-throated Blue: May 5 Bing (RSh) and IH (CH); especially common May 14 and 15; none after May 16. Myrtle: Apr 21 IH (CH) to May 26. Black-throated Green: May 5 Cortland (JG) and IH (CH). Cerulean: one May 9 Bing (E. Whitson) foraging at street level in snowy weather. Black-burnian: May 6 several localities; migrants gone after May 21. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: May 25 Chen Forks, "white belly with yellow throat above; white over the eye stripe; two white wing bars; black stripes on the side; also had a white patch on the side of its head" (M, AD); first report for Region. Chestnut-sided: five May 6 Deposit (SW); five more reports thru May 8 then none until May 13. Bay-breasted: May 17 Chen Forks (M, AD); last ones May 22. Blackpoll: May 7 Bing (MS) not singing, very early; next ones May 15; most reports after May 26. Pine: Apr 20 Endwell (LB); May 5 Cortland; May 15 Endicott and Owego. Palm: two Apr 21 Deposit (SW), one yellow and one probably western; Apr 30 Oneonta (JN), yellow; four more reports thru May 15. Prairie: May 8 IH (CH); May 14 Scott (JO); at Norwich week of May 16. Ovenbird: May 5 IH (CH). Northern Waterthrush: May 1 Castle Creek (MS). Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 22 Hinman's Corners (MS). Mourning: May 12 Endwell (LB); three other reports. Yellowthroat: May 2 IH (CH). Yellow-breasted Chat: May 14 Chen Bridge (SG). Wilson's: May 8 IH (CH); next report May 18, last, May 21. Canada: May 15 four different localities. Amer. Redstart: May 5 Cortland and IH; one flew into garage May 7 Owego and held until storm over (M. Hills); May 10 Endwell one in weakened condition (LB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: Apr 30 Greene (M, AD); quite a few. Eastern Meadowlark: reported regularly but some observers believe them to be somewhat reduced in numbers. Redwinged Blackbird: seem to increase year after year. Baltimore Oriole: May 3 Owego (RW), next ones May 6. Rusty Blackbird: last, May 14 Cortland (JG). Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird: also seem to increase year after year. Scarlet Tanager: May 8 CC (MS) and Chen Forks (M, AD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 4 Deposit (SW). Indigo Bunting: May 5 Flemingville (B. Forbes); next report May 15 Cuyler (M. Burkhardt). Evening Grosbeak: Apr 30 Oneonta, courting (JN); 30 May 12 Unadilla (HW); mostly gone after May 15, last May 23. Purple Finch: quite numerous after Apr 20 continuing to end of period. House Finch: May 16 Endwell (HM, FL) brown plumage, differences in cheek patches and over all color directly compared with Purple Finches it was with. Redpoll: last, 30 Apr 21 Oxford (AS). Pine Siskin: flock of 300 May 6 Owego (RW); built nest at Chen Forks using rabbit hair (M, AD); last, May 25.

Red Crossbill: Apr 13 Newark Valley (NC). White-winged Crossbill: Apr 13 Newark Valley (NC), still there May 6 (RW, MW). Rufous-sided Towhee: common after Apr 21.

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 15 Deposit (SW). Grasshopper: Apr 18 IH (CH); next one May 1. Henslow's: Apr 16 IH (CH). Vesper: Apr 16 Oneonta (JN). Slate-colored Junco: only very few after May 15. Tree: last normal bird May 14 Scott (JO); an injured bird at Sidney thru May 21 (F. Quick). Chipping: Apr 20 Owego (RW). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: May 9-13 Sidney (F. Quick), identified by cicada-like song, streaked crown and dark-outlined ear patch; first in Region. Field: common after Apr 20. White-crowned: May 5 Cortland (JG) and Chen Forks; quite numerous to May 15, almost all gone by May 21; last, May 28. White-throated: migrants Apr 16; common Apr 19 to May 14; especially common May 6-13; last, May 28. Fox: mostly gone after Apr 30; May 7 Oneonta (JN), May 15 Chen Bridge (SG). Lincoln's: one May 5 Deposit (SW), banded; five more to May 22.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Spring was a birdwatching disaster. An extended cold spell with nearly continuous snows, rain, sleet, and chill NW winds beginning Mar 24 persisted to Apr 17; a brief warm spell Apr 17-21 gave hopes of some redemption from the earlier vernal remnant of the Ice Age. However, rather than improving, the weather of late Apr and early May became much worse. Frosts occurred every night May 1-10 in the Syracuse area and May 9 and 10 saw one to three inches of snow throughout. A devastating loss of the insectivores, particularly earlier flycatchers and swallows, undoubtedly ensued, as they were extraordinarily scarce when warm weather began around May 13-14; the loss of Purple Martins (q.v.) was especially severe. The first major warbler-vireo-thrush wave on May 15 was made miniscule by the wave of May 16, and the next ten days was an all-too-brief glory of warblers locally. Hot weather (over 80 degrees), warm south winds, and clear nights May 24-30 permitted passage without stoppage of the later migrants and the last quarter of May, usually rich with tardy migrants and female warblers, was almost as dull as the early one-third with its cold. A few migrant landbirds were present to June 8 but none were noted thereafter.

Careful surveillance of the Derby Hill migration site by J. R. Haugh and others produced a wealth of data on hawks and other diurnal migrants. The severe cold so retarded migration that, even with the increased watching, *not one species* was recorded there ahead of its average arrival date.

Positives for period include 1) an impressive collection of diving ducks on the western third of Oneida Lake, 2) a superb hawk migration Apr 21 at Derby Hill, 3) high tallies and late departure dates for the earlier shorebirds (e.g. Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper), 4) a wave of Red-breasted Nuthatches in mid-May, 5) above-average numbers of Magnolia, Cape May, and Mourning Warblers, 6) a tinkling flood of Bobolinks panregionally, and 7) rich residua of winter finches (q.v.) with heavy Apr flights of some, and several record departure dates.

Birding deficits aside from the general migrant tardiness are 1) a paucity of Black-crowned Night Heron and American Bittern, 2) the complete absence of Brant and low numbers of Gadwall, both teal, and Shoveler, 3) a miserable late May shorebird flight, probably because no weather disturbance forced passing shorebirds to land, 4) a dearth of Whip-poor-will, Winter Wren, Water Pipit, and Palm Warbler, 5) much reduced numbers of later migrant warblers, particularly Tennessee and Blackpoll, and 6) a sharp decrease in Henslow's Sparrow with lesser but notable reduction in numbers of Grasshopper Sparrow.