

this was the peak day generally for the whole spring. **Purple Sandpiper:** one at BB May 21 (HSM, M & RTO et al)—was observed with a “zoom scope” and binoculars as close as 15 feet; the dull orange legs and base of the bill, general shape and streaked breast were noted by all observers. This is the first spring record for our area. **Least Sandpiper:** 1000 were seen in wet fields in Hamlin May 21 (JF, WCL, TET). While common in spring, this was a very high count. Most of the shorebirds have been observed in wet fields this spring as the lake is so high there is little shore line exposed. **Dunlin:** three Apr 17 Hamlin (WCL); max 300 along the WLS May 21 (JF et al). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** two early ones in Hamlin Apr 2 (WCL); max 25 at BB May 19 (WCL). **Northern Phalarope:** one near SA May 21 (WCL et al)—while not too uncommon in the fall here, it is very rare in the spring.

Iceland Gull: a late one was at BB May 19 (WCL). **Franklin's Gull:** one adult at BB May 14–21 (AEK, JM, TM and MS). **Forster's Tern:** one at BB May 26 (WCL). **Long-eared Owl:** one at Manitou May 21 (HSM, M & RTO).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpeckers were rather common. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one seen in Bergen Swamp May 21 (RM), and one in Rochester May 23 (JF). **Eastern Bluebird:** max eight in WSP May 29 (AEK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Twenty-two species of warblers were netted May 19 at Manitou by Robert McKinney; included were one Orange-crowned Warbler and one Pine Warbler. Parula Warblers seemed quite numerous, with six in Durand-Eastman Pk on May 21 (RTO et al). While the number of species of warblers present at one time was frequently good, it seems that the overall number of individual birds present was below average.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: **Western Meadowlark:** at least three were singing on apparent territories in Parma and Hamlin. Not only the songs but the call notes were carefully checked and found to be typical of the western bird. Also, the face pattern and paler upperparts seemed to well match the color pattern of the rarer bird. **Evening Grosbeak:** eight frequented a feeder in Sea Breeze during Apr and four were still present May 21 (JM, TM, MS & RW). **Red Crossbill:** one in Seneca Pk Apr 22 (GOS hike); two at Cobbs Hill Apr 29 (Frank Phelps). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** ten seen at BB May 19 (WCL). The unusual thing about this is not that ten birds of this species were present but that it was possible to identify this many of such a secretive species.

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

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

This period continued the recent topsy-turviness of the seasons. April started out fairly mild and some migrants arrived early or at least on time. Then came snow near the end of April, followed by an early May of freezing temperatures, rarely getting above 45 during the day, and cold, wet rain, day after day. Migration was at a stand-still. Birds didn't arrive or remained stranded if they had arrived. There was a slight warming trend May 13–21 which brought in a few birds, but then it again turned cold, and delayed the late migrants until the end of the month. In Ithaca it was the coldest May in 92 years, and one of the wettest.

These conditions brought more waterfowl than usual to Elmira, on the Chemung River, especially during the wet snow of April 24, and also to the former Almond Dam area at Hornell (now KPRA) and at the reservoir. High water reduced the shorebird count. Most clubs had their spring census the weekend of the 14th, with resulting low counts.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; EBC—Eaton Bird Club; CF—Charles Farnham; HF—Helen Fessenden; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; CH—Clayton Hardy; FH—Foster Helmer; VH—Vincent Hannan; WH—Wilfred Howard; BJ—Brad Jacobs; EJ—Eric Juterbock; CK—Cameron Kepler; RK—Roberta Knapp; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; PPK—Peter Paul Kellogg; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; GM—Gordon Maclean; RTP—Roger Tory Peterson; BBS—Betty and Barrie Strath; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; HS—H. Sautter; MS—Mary Smith; RS—Robert Smith; PT—Paris Trail; MPW—Mary P. Welles; SW—Strickland Wheelock.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, William Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; KPRA—Kanakadea Park Recreation Area; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Schuy Co—Schuyler County; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Tomp Co—Tompkins County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: reasonably good numbers (10–30 day) on Cay L in Apr, early May; one last week May, late, Dresden, Sen L (FG). Red-necked Grebe: one, Apr 2–5, main pool MNWR (WEB). Horned Grebe: many on Chemung R at Elmira in Apr, up to 100 some days; unusually high counts. Cay L at same time had fewer than normal. Double-crested Cormorant: one Apr 23 MNWR (JBr); often missed. Great Blue Heron: 40 max Apr 30 MNWR. Common Egret: one Apr 1 Montour Falls marsh (BS); extremely early for Region. Black-crowned Night Heron: few at Ithaca, none at Elmira, three May 30 MNWR (WEB). **Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** one, May 20 and for several days thereafter, Stewart Pk. Ithaca (Douglas Welch, PPK and mob). Least and American Bitterns: scarce. Glossy Ibis: seven May 15 Chemung River, Elmira in heavy rain (WH).

Mute Swan: three continue to be seen n. end Cay L; one, and sometimes two, Dryden L, end May (PMK). Whistling Swan: max seven May 16–19 MNWR. Canada Goose: as mentioned in May issue, tremendous migration through Finger Lakes. Peak, 35,000 MNWR week Apr 22 (CH), most migrants left May 10. An attempted nesting on Chemung River, Elmira, was flooded out—rare there as breeder. Snow Goose: peak 250 and Blue Goose peak 650 MNWR end April, early May.

MNWR peak counts and dates for ducks as follows (CH) (other pertinent reports will follow): Mallard 1480, May 1; Black 1795, Apr 15; Gadwall 2007, end of Apr; Baldpate 3046, end of Apr; Pintail 2410, Apr 15; Green-winged Teal 515, end of Apr; Blue-winged Teal 1124, Apr. 22; Shoveler 879, end of Apr; Wood 155, Apr 22; Redhead 355, Apr 22; Ring-necked 35, end of Apr; Canvasback 1, Apr 8; Scaup 323, Apr 22; Goldeneye 35, Apr 15; Bufflehead 65, Apr 15; Ruddy 20, May 21; Hooded Merganser 109, Apr 22. 12,900 peak no. all species ducks, compared with 2400 in 1966.

Pintail: 14 Apr 22, Chases's Pond at Breesport, unusual there; a few stayed until May 13. European Widgeon: one MNWR storage pond Apr 8 (FGS, CF); one May 9 MNWR. Redhead: May 23 is late date for this species on Keuka L. Bufflehead: 62 (high) Apr 22 Chemung R, Elmira; species noted last week May, head Keuka L, unusually late for there. Old-squaw: more reports than usual Cay L, but small numbers; 200+ (high) KPRA Apr 10 (WG); 177 (high count) Apr 24 Chemung R, Elmira. White-winged Scoter: one Apr 6 MNWR (FGS); 47 during snow storm Apr 24 Chemung R, Elmira (MPW), "possibly two Commons also." Surf Scoter: (rare in spring) one Apr 11 Fall Creek near Etna (GM); one Apr 23 Sen L (JW); one May 13 Elmira gravel pit pond (MS, WH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one, first, Apr 1 MNWR (WEB); up to four later. Goshawk: three nesting pairs in Ithaca area (two at new sites this year, one at obviously old location, though not previously found), only one successful, however. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no nesting pairs located, almost no sightings during period. Cooper's Hawk: absent most areas; single bird seen several times at area

of last year's nesting near Ithaca. Red-tailed Hawk: continue in good numbers with apparent nesting success. Red-shoulders: decreasing or becoming more quiet; one or two pairs at SWS. Broad-winged Hawks: reported from Apr 14 in migration; 28 over Harris Hill, Elmira Apr 15, high count for this area; pair remaining in Connecticut Hill area, s.w. of Ithaca, another at Arnot Forest. Rough-legged Hawk: usually gone by early April, late bird seen MNWR first week May (WRS).

Golden Eagle: one (rare) for several days in late April, Arnot Forest, s.w. Ithaca, carefully observed and noted by Al Fontana. **Bald Eagle:** 4 records, one, Logan Rd, Schuy Co May 3 (AK); one May 11 7-Acre Pond Elmira (HS); one imm May 10 MNWR (CH); one over Cornell campus Ithaca May 31 (BJ). **Marsh Hawk:** two females Apr 8 and later Montour Falls airport (JBr); three individuals over MNWR late May (WRS); otherwise generally absent. **Osprey:** scattered reports for periods in Apr-Dryden L, SWS, Cay L, MNWR for example. **Peregrine Falcon:** two reports: one May 5 MNWR (SW)— no details; one May 21 MNWR (Foster, Listman, Tetlow). **Pigeon Hawk:** one male Apr 23 Cay L inlet (CL). **Sparrow Hawk:** around Ithaca seem slightly more common than last two years. **Bobwhite:** scattered reports of a few birds, left from various releases. **Turkey:** 10-12 hatched in nest on Star Stanton Hill, near Dryden, May 25 (PMK); another successful nesting noted in Conn. Hill. **Rails:** both Sora and Virginia are scarce; none heard or seen on all day trip May 21. **Common Gallinule:** one, first, Apr 13 MNWR (FGS). Otherwise scarce; reported as missing at most former locations at Elmira; "very scarce" at MNWR. **American Coot:** in normal numbers everywhere.

Semipalmated Plover: first May 16 MNWR (WEB). **Killdeer:** several very early nestings, e.g., newly hatched young May 6 at MNWR (CL). **Golden Plover:** no reports. **Black-bellied Plover:** max 22 May 30 MNWR (WEB). **Ruddy Turnstone:** eight (unusual) Horseheads dump May 15. **American Woodcock:** in good numbers everywhere, although fewer north of Tompkins Co airport because of habitat change. **Common Snipe:** in good numbers; first nesting record in many years, swampy area on edge of Etna, 4 eggs June 14, young hatched June 1 (GM); another nest near Tompkins Co airport, 4 eggs pipped June 4. **Whimbrel:** very rare esp. in spring; two, May 20 n. of Horseheads (Mr. and Mrs. Lewis VanDuzer)—supporting description filed. **Upland Plover:** first Apr 30 Hanshaw Rd near Etna (HF); increase in Ithaca area continues. **Knot:** often missed in spring; one, first, May 14 MNWR; peak 29 May 28 (WEB). **Dunlin:** 250 peak May 28 MNWR (WEB). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** one May 21 MNWR (WEB). Other shorebirds in usual numbers at Montezuma during the season: **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Pectoral**, **Least**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

Parasitic Jaeger: extremely rare, especially in spring, one Apr 30 storage pond at MNWR (BBS, Mr. and Mrs. J. Holman). Full verification report, and sketches, on file.

Great Black-backed Gull: a late date for Sen L is an imm. May 22 (JBr). **Bonaparte's Gull:** first Apr 8 Cay L (CF); 17 Apr 24 Elmira, 200 on Sen L Apr 23 (EBC); 60 peak MNWR May 14 (WEB). Up to 300 on Cay L at end of April (mob); more than usual this year. **Little Gull:** a good description has been received of what could only be an adult, winter-plumaged bird of this species, seen May 5 at n. end Seneca L by a group including S. Wheelock and Jayson Walker, in company with Bonaparte's, so comparison easily made. This seems to be only the third published record of this species for the Region. **Common Terns:** first reports Apr 23. **Caspian Tern:** first Apr 19 MNWR; 8 on Apr 24 in snowstorm at Elmira was all-time early record there. **Black Tern:** 80, first, May 3 MNWR (WEB); 25 May 16 Sen L at Watkins Glen (JBr); normal numbers.

Both species Cuckoo late arriving (last few days of May) and scarce. **Screech Owl:** scarce; nest destroyed in downtown Ithaca when tree cut, 5 young rescued. **Nesting Long-eared Owl** and **Saw-whet Owl** both reported n.e. of Ithaca, but no supporting details (HF).

GOATSUCKER—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one calling, May 9, 7-Acre pond, Elmira (HS); one perched in low shrub following heavy rain May 12 Etna (GM). Common Nighthawk: seems scarce. Chimney Swift: 20 Apr 19 over Ithaca (CD), a little early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first reports everywhere May 16–18, about a week late. Red-headed Woodpecker: about four locations at Ithaca, one at Dryden, three at MNWR, reported missing from usual places at Elmira. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pair nesting SWS along main trail, nest hole started Apr 13, four days after bird first seen, but not completed for three weeks. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: general reports indicate lower numbers than usual. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: often missed in spring, always rare, seven reported from six locations in Region this year.

Most species of Swallows arrived by mid-April, in small numbers, but the terrible weather delayed the main migration. However, on May 9 Cay L was blanketed with Swallows (mostly Tree) from one end to the other (S. Spofford); an estimate of numbers was impossible as the swallows were milling around, not passing by. Purple Martins were late in occupying houses, probably suffering less of a loss than last year as they had not yet reached this area when the bad weather of early May struck. The Cliff Swallow colony at Sweetland's farm, south of Dryden on Route 38 numbers approximately 120 pairs. The Bank Swallow colony at Myers Point has been destroyed, while the one on Johnson Road just off Rte 13 near Dryden has greatly increased this year.

Crows: slightly more abundant this year. **Fish Crow:** a bird giving call of Fish Crow, seemingly small, was watched for some time Apr 26 (too early for young Common Crow, whose voice it might resemble) Elmira (WH). In absence of specimen, record must remain hypothetical.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: pair still present end May SWS (A. C. Lane). Marsh Wrens: both species scarce. Mockingbird: scattered reports in Region. Robins: abundant again. Other Thrushes except Wood scarce. Perhaps in cold weather they were not singing—but Hermits and Veeries were very hard to locate. E. Bluebird: noticeable only in locations of "Bluebird trails." Kinglets: excellent migration of both species third week April, with Ruby-crowns predominating. Water Pipit: high counts 60–70 Apr 8 Ledyard Rd between Locke and Genoa (CF), "hundreds" near Corning Apr 24 (Stasches). Loggerhead Shrike: almost completely missing in Region.

VIREOS – WARBLERS: most species 5-7 days late in arriving. Philadelphia Vireo: four reports from May 21 to June 1—often missed.

Warblers: Prothonotary: one May 13 Fall Creek, Ithaca (Hilary Jones); one May 17 near Waterloo (JW); not found at MNWR. Golden-winged: almost no records; Blue-winged Warblers have greatly increased, and it is possible they have replaced the Golden-winged. Blue-wings at all usual stations around Ithaca; six record (high) at Keuka where Malcolm Lerch banded four on May 28. Have increased at Watkins Glen. Brewster's: this hybrid was reported from Ellis Rd, Tompkins Co, from Horseheads, and from near Potter, Yates Co. Orange-crowned: one May 5 Cornell campus (BJ, EJ); one May 13–14 Texas Hollow (Odessa) (JBr); one May 18 Elmira (MS). Yellow: in normal numbers. Cape May: several observers indicated this species hard to find this season. Myrtle: noteworthy is report of several hundred May 4, Montour Falls marina (JBr). Cerulean: this marginal species has decreased and is absent from several former locations. Yellow-throated: one May 21 Geneva (PT), no supporting details. Bay-breasted: good migration Ithaca area May 19–21. Blackpoll: except for one unusually early record, this species arrived later than usual (May 30); still around in numbers in early June. Prairie: small colony again on Connecticut Hill, s.w. of Ithaca; single bird, May 8 Brooktondale (CK). **Kentucky Warbler:** one seen and heard May 20, Stewart Park, Ithaca (RS); heard in same area May 21 (RTP). **Connecticut Warbler:** almost never recorded in

spring; one May 28 Kiser Rd, Horseheads (RK and WH)—all supporting details supplied. Mourning: few reports anywhere. Wilson's: more reports than usual, late May.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: extremely abundant everywhere. Orchard Oriole: one May 9, feeding on suet, Elmira (HS); pair May 20 on, Campbell Ave., Ithaca (VH). Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird: very abundant. Scarlet Tanager: late in arriving—after mid-May most areas. Indigo Bunting: almost none until end of May, then scarcer than usual. Evening Grosbeak: after practically none all winter, three reports in May in Odessa-Watkins Glen area; four on Spofford feeder Apr 21 Etna. Purple Finches: at end of April and early May, area flooded with them, after few all winter. Red Crossbill: one female May 2, Cornell campus (BJ). **Lark Bunting:** first for Region, May 19, feeder at L. M. Wright home, Hanshaw Rd, Ithaca (DM, RS); unverified report that one had been on N. Cayuga St, Ithaca for several weeks, description seems satisfactory. Grasshopper Sparrow: missing from several usual locations, Elmira. Henslow's Sparrow: down in numbers this year. Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 1 Zeman Rd, Ithaca (DM). Slate-colored Junco: heavy influx migrants Apr 3. Chipping Sparrow: 100 (peak) May 7 Cornell campus alumni field (BJ, EJ). **Harris Sparrow:** two May 5 Ruggles residence Elmira, with White-crowns—full supporting details; one was in full adult plumage, other not. Two other unverified reports. White-crowned Sparrow: abundant May 6–18, apparently held here longer than usual by bad weather. Lincoln's Sparrow: one May 12 Etna (GM); two May 6, May 13, Elmira (Norma Hood).

Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

Although the temperature almost reached 80 degrees in Binghamton April 1 most of the rest of the month was on the cold side with the result that the monthly average was a little below normal. The temperature did reach 80 on May 1 but unseasonable cold brought the monthly average down much below normal making this the coldest May on record here. Precipitation was about 75 per cent of normal in April and 130 per cent of normal in May. The only appreciable snowfall of the period came April 24 but the small amount of wet snow that fell May 8 was probably more significant to bird populations because of the late date.

Some cold weather casualties were reported, mostly among nesting swallows, and land migrants that normally arrive during the first half of May were generally a little late. The large number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks noticed by the general public was probably a result of a cold weather induced reduction of the food supply in the tree tops forcing them to forage at lower levels and even visit feeders more than usual. Higher than normal numbers of two other species, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White-crowned Sparrows, unless the result of a damming effect, seemed unrelated to the weather. The White-crowned Sparrows were also much noticed by the general public. The late warblers, Tennessee, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll, all seemed scarce, Tennessees drastically so.

Mockingbirds seem to have made a sudden large gain in numbers in the Region. Tufted Titmice, too, although not so obviously. Prairie Warblers remaining until at least the end of May at a site not visited by observers before suggests that they have been overlooked in the past.

A surprising assortment of rarities for this Region includes a White-eyed Vireo, Cerulean and Hooded Warblers, Painted Buntings, a House Finch, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.