

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

April was very warm with the temperature averaging 4.5° above normal. Precipitation was less than one half of normal, but the lake and ponds remained at a high level. May was cool, with the average temperature 3.5° below normal. Rainfall was slightly above average. Owing to the warm weather in April, the spring migration was well ahead of average by the end of the month. The cool weather of May slowed this early trend down to average or slightly behind schedule by the middle of the month.

The spring flight of geese and ducks was about average with some of the latter remaining in numbers rather late. The peak of the hawk flight was April 23 but numbers were recorded through May. This was especially true of the Broad-winged which occurred in higher than average numbers through the latter part of the period on favorable days. The early shorebird flight was good, but the late flight was rather poor. This was probably due in part to lack of suitable feeding areas. Terns, except for the Black, seemed scarce. Eastern Bluebirds were reported more frequently. Owing to the cool weather in May, the early arriving species of warblers were late and seemed to be in below average numbers. The late arriving species were average. There was hardly any return spring flight of northern finches.

Noteworthy birds included the Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Warbler and Western Meadowlark.

Groups cited in text: NYF—New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

Observers cited in text: GD—Gertrude Davis; JJD—James J. Doherty; JWF—John W. Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; TM—Ted Mack; AM—Alfred Maley; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—Laura Moon; NM—Dr. Neil Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; ES—Esther Stiles; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; RJW—Robert J. White.

Locations: BB—Braddock's Bay; ELS—East Lake Shore; LS—Lake Shore; WP—Webster Park; WLS—West Lake Shore; WS—West Spit.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 350 Apr 18 ELS (AEK). Red-throated Loon: scarce, one to two Apr 19–28 ELS (several). Red-necked Grebe: scarce compared to last year, max four Apr 6 Manitou (WCL), four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Horned Grebe: max 80 Apr 18 ELS (AEK). Common Egret: one Apr 28 BB (NYF), one May 11 Manitou (HSM,RTO). *CATTLE EGRET*: two Apr. 13 BB (AEK), one Apr 29-May 14 BB (Mrs.H.W.Lowden *et al*). *GLOSSY IBIS*: one to five May 18–31 BB (several)—never more than one bird at a time previously.

Whistling Swan: two Shore Acres Apr 28 (NYF). Snow Goose: four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Blue Goose: four Apr 26 WLS (RGM). European Widgeon: one adult male Apr 20–26 Parma (RGM,NYF). Ring-necked Duck: max 80 Apr 26 Hamlin (RGM). Common Goldeneye: 13 May 19 BB (WCL,TET) late for this number. Oldsquaw: 200 Apr. 26 WLS (RGM) late for this number. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: a sub-adult male May 18–19 BB (WCL *et al*)—while late, we have at least two previous May dates.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Apr 19 BB (RTO). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 150 Apr 23 BB (WCL), 76 May 8 BB (LM,TET). Broad-winged Hawk: max 5000 Apr 23 LS (several). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: two Apr 13 Hilton (AEK,WCL), one Apr 23 Hilton (WCL). Bald Eagle: one imm Apr 13 BB (RTO *et al*), two Apr 23 Hilton (WCL), one imm May 8 Hamlin (TM,RJW), two imm May 24 WLS (WCL). The pair reported last year from the Finger Lakes area returned to their

nest and were incubating April 28. Peregrine Falcon: two Apr 23 WP (WLL), one Apr 23 BB (WCL), one Apr 24 WP (WLL), one Apr 28 BB (NYF).

Am. Golden Plover: two Apr 4 Hamlin (WCL)—this date is early and the bird is scarce in the spring. Spotted Sandpiper: two Apr 20 WP (AEK) rather early. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 203 Apr 13 WLS (AEK,WCL), 126 Apr 26 WLS (RGM). Dunlin: 21 May 19 WLS (HSM,RTO). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Apr 27–28 WLS (NYF) early. Western Sandpiper: one Apr 27–28 WLS (NYF) very early. Sanderling: four May 26 BB (RTO), very uncommon in spring. Wilson's Phalarope: one May 19 WLS (WCL,TET). Northern Phalarope: one May 30 Hamlin (WCL)—very rare locally in spring, although not uncommon in fall.

Iceland Gull: one Apr 27 Manitou (NYF). Bonaparte's Gull: 400 Apr 26 WLS (RGM).

Barn Owl: the pair that raised ten young in a silo in Parma last year again nested there this year. They hatched and were raising only one bird this year. They were reported by the caretaker on the farm to have spent the winter there. Snowy Owl: one Apr 14 WLS (WCL). Long-eared Owl: one May 21 Webster (AEK), only report for the year. Short-eared Owl: two Apr 20 Newark (ES) last report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one May 3 Penfield (GD)—the species generally arrived late. Pileated Woodpecker: reported from Mendon, Penfield and Webster. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one May 26 BB (HSM,FHP). Tufted Titmouse: reported more frequently from wider areas. Carolina Wren: a singing bird frequently reported from the Durand-Eastman Pk area; a second-hand report of one from Penfield. Water Pipit: 44 May 8 BB (LM,TET).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow Warbler: one Apr 23 WS (AM) very early. Pine Warbler: one Apr 28 (A.Starling); one May 5 Durand-Eastman Park (JM,TM). Prairie Warbler: one May 14 Kendall (WCL), the only report this spring. Louisiana Waterthrush: nine Apr 25 Canadice L (AM).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: one to four Apr 1-May 31 Hamlin (several), identified by song, call notes and plumage characteristics: a specimen was collected in this area in 1952. Evening Grosbeak: Durand-Eastman Pk, Apr 28 (TM); one May 15 Penfield (GD). Pine Siskin: a few reports of one to two birds. Red Crossbill: two Apr 27 Parma (TET) only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: max three May 19 WLS (HSM,RTO). Lapland Longspur: two May 19 Parma (RGM) very late, two May 26 Hamlin (RTO) very late.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Again we had an unusually wet and cool spring, but without the extreme low temperatures of 1967. (However 24 days in May had below normal readings.) Migration seemed slightly delayed, with a few exceptions. May had heavy rains, and undoubtedly many nests were destroyed. Elmira had flooding at the end of the month, and ground nesters in particular suffered. Of interest in waterfowl migration was the dropping in on the Chemung River the night of April 26–27 of unusual numbers of waterfowl including: 20 Horned Grebes, 120 Buffleheads, 25 Oldsquaws, 25 White-winged Scoters, 30 Common Scoters, two Surf Scoters, and 10 Ruddy Ducks. With 15 Common Scoters noted at another Elmira location, this marked not only the first record but unusual numbers of the species.

Purple Martins seem to have suffered a serious set-back, with bad weather of the last few years, scarcity of insect food, and perhaps pesticide effects. Some colonies were deserted or almost so this year.

The only good warbler migration occurred on the weekend of May 18-19, and this was not outstanding.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; AF—Albert Fudge; FG—Frank Guthrie; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; CH—Clayton Hardy; VH—Vincent Hannan; WH—Wilfred Howard; BJ—Brad Jacobs; CCK—Cameron and Kay Kepler; DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; FGS—Fritz G. Scheider; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mary Smith; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles.

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

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

LOONS—DUCKS: *EARED GREBE*: May 5-12, MNWR, (Hardy, Scheider, Benning *et al*) full spring plumage; fewer than five previous records. Pied-billed Grebe: slight increase noted at Hornell, 1-3 regularly (WMG). All herons were reported as scarce at Elmira. Great Blue Heron: only nestings known in Region were near Reynoldsville (JB) and near Montezuma. Common Egret: one Apr 13 MNWR (DAL and class), an early date. Cattle Egret: one Apr 25 MNWR (CH *et al*), only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: 14 max May 19 MNWR is above usual spring max. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one, May 11-12 Stewart Pk, Ithaca, near same area as May 20, 1967; one May 19 Horseheads (WH); rare in Region. Least and American Bitterns continue to be difficult to find; none of latter at Hornell, for third successive year (WMG). Glossy Ibis: no reports.

Whistling Swan: one May 4 MNWR last report (WEB). Canada Goose: 70,000 max week of Apr 21 MNWR, highest ever; most left May 8. Snow Goose 200 max and Blue Goose 800 max Apr 21 MNWR, also high. *BAR-HEADED GOOSE* and perhaps two, undoubtedly escapees, noted at MNWR first on Apr 21, present into early May (CH and mob). Brant: one only, May 26 Ithaca marina area (R. Robinson). Mallard: first brood Apr 29 SWS, earliest date ever. Black Duck: fewer than usual MNWR at period end, but Gadwall abundant. Pintail and American Widgeon: no records for Apr at Keuka—usually present. Blue-winged Teal: pairs on various farm ponds, never abundant but regular. European Widgeon: one Apr 16 MNWR (CH); this species is seen regularly there, but does not seem to increase. Wood Duck: 15-20 pairs SWS, normal; reported as increasing at Keuka (FG). Ring-necked Duck: several observers reported this species missing from usual stopping-off places in migration, WEB said scarce at MNWR. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: female May 7-9 Sheldrake Pt Cay L (DM and others; verification report on file), first record for Region. White-winged Scoter: one Apr 27 Hornell Reservoir (WMG); seven May 12 Keuka L (FG) but no reports from Cay L Basin. Surf Scoter: three May 14 Keuka L near Penn Yan—rare in spring. See also introductory remarks for Chemung R report of unusual numbers of scoters. Ruddy Ducks: arr in numbers Apr 13-14 MNWR (CH). All mergansers in lower numbers this year than normal. Hooded Merganser: raised brood of 12 near Tompkins Co Airport (J. Hauck).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 35 Apr 9 MNWR (WEB) unusually high count; nest in Marengo swamp active again, one egg May 22; three adults May 18 Elmira (AF), usually singles only. Goshawk: one adult May 9 Hawley Hill Elmira (WH); two active nests s.e. of Ithaca late May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no nesting sites, almost no sightings. Cooper's Hawk: one Apr 13 Ludlowville (DAL *et al*); one May 24-26 near Texas Hollow (JBr *et al*); one May 21 Mills Rd Waterloo (JW); no nesting sites known. Red-tailed Hawk: most known nesting areas occupied, plus several new. Red-shouldered Hawk: still decreasing; SWS pair present, but silent, and no nest found. Broad-winged Hawk: first migrants Apr 26 near Etna (WRS). Rough-legged Hawk: Apr 14 last date in Cay Basin; none in period in

Keuka area (FG). Bald Eagle: one report only, May 7 near Etna (WRS). Marsh Hawk: one-two MNWR during period, no reports elsewhere. Osprey: scattered reports Apr 2 through mid-May. No verified Peregrine or Merlin reports. Sparrow Hawk: reports vary from "completely missing in area" to "present at usual nesting sites". It would be worthwhile to have some careful studies locally of the population of these little falcons. Ring-necked Pheasant: good numbers everywhere, though some reports of scarcity of cocks. Turkey: sightings at Conn Hill, Watkins Glen and near Dryden.

Virginia Rail: missing most Elmira stations this year (MPW); few reports anywhere. Common Gallinule: numbers seem considerably below those of a few years ago at MNWR, but exact figures are hard to obtain. American Coot: all observers mentioned fewer numbers of this species this year. American Golden Plover: four Apr 13 MNWR (WEB) rare in spring. *WHIMBREL*: rare at anytime, esp. in spring—one dead on road May 10, Town of Caton (Matt Welles). Upland Plover: at most usual stations, but arr late (late May). White-rumped Sandpiper: 12 max May 26, high count. Dunlin: 60 May 18 Chemung R flats (MS) highest spring count for Elmira area; 250 max May 19 MNWR (WEB) same high as in '67. Western Sandpiper: very rare in spring, one May 30 MNWR (WEB). Wilson's Phalarope: female May 10 MNWR (WEB); female May 22 Horseheads near A and P plant (mob). The almost annual spotting of this species in spring may simply represent more field work than was the case ten or 20 years ago or it may mean a change in migration pattern. Northern Phalarope: two females May 30 MNWR (WEB) unusual in spring. Bonaparte's Gull: first arrivals Apr 1-6 ; 800 Apr 15 Cay L (DM) s. of Canoga extremely high count, seven there Apr 21; 55 max at Elmira, Chemung R (WH) a high count there also. Caspian Tern: none reported from MNWR; one seen s. end Cay L May 17. Scattered Common and Black Terns at MNWR through May. Snowy Owl: last dates Apr 2 Ithaca, Troy Rd, Apr 17 Horseheads, Ridge Rd. Barred Owl: fledged two young in SWS, mid May, one killed on road two weeks later.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very scarce and first reports later than usual. Whip-poor-will: one May 4 Ithaca (K.Hakes); one May 9 Elmira, one May 12 Texas Hollow (JBr). Belted Kingfisher: missing from several former locations in Ithaca area; Benning reports scarce MNWR. Red-headed Woodpecker: population at Keuka improving, four pairs known (FG). No increase Ithaca area. Continuing report of fewer Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers at feeders. Flycatchers in general were a few days late in arriving; Eastern Kingbirds, Least Flycatchers and Wood Pewees were relatively scarce. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one report only, May 18 Elmira (WH). *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER*: very few Regional records of this southern species, one May 26 North Hornell (WMC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 30 Pinewoods Rd six miles e. of Ithaca (J.Patterson); one May 30 Texas Hollow (JBr).

Swallow migration noted along Seneca Lake May 2 (BS). No new colonies of Bank Swallows reported. Changes made in the barns on the Sweetland farm south of Dryden resulted in temporary abandonment of the site by the only local Cliff Swallows. By the end of May, a dozen or so birds had returned and apparently accepted things. Purple Martin: very scarce throughout Region, and those present returned in May, not April. The SWS colony did not return this year. Common Raven: one (rare) over valley between Combs Hill and Mt. Zoar, Elmira May 14 (WH). Tufted Titmouse: have disappeared in Keuka area, none reported there during period; present elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: rare Regional breeder, found regularly during the period Conn Hill, s.w. Ithaca (JBr). Marsh Wrens: none found Keuka or Elmira; scarce MNWR. Mockingbird: several definite nestings at Elmira, suspected at Ithaca. Numerous reports of failure of first nestings of Wood Thrush and Bluebird, possibly due to bad weather. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nestings reported Elmira, Ithaca.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Again, with monotony and regularity, I must report: no waves of warblers and vireos; most species noted, but few individuals. At Hornell, WMC remarked on poor migration, with absence of Black-throated Green Warblers and Redstarts. Yellow-throated Vireos were scarce everywhere. Philadelphia Vireo: one (only report) May 19 Brooktondale (CK). Prothonotary Warbler: one, May 13 Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW); no other reports. Golden-winged Warbler: this species continues to disappear from former locations, as Blue-winged Warblers become well established. Brewster's Warbler: two reports at Ithaca. Cerulean Warbler: missing from several former stations; a rare species at best. Prairie Warbler: no reports. Species noted as scarce or missing as residents or migrants by various observers were Tennessee, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Pine, Mourning, and Redstart.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: with one exception (WEB) all observers noted an increase in this species, though not back to numbers of 20 years ago. Red-winged Blackbird: extremely abundant. Orchard Oriole: one, May 22-25 Starkey on Sen L (JB) third report for area in 20 years; pair Campbell Ave w. Ithaca, same location as 1967 (VH). Rusty Blackbird: few migrants noted. Scarlet Tanager: arr late (mid-May) and scarce, Ithaca and Hornell. Indigo Bunting: fewer roadside singers noted (SHS). *DICKCISSEL*: bright male May 15-16, Danby Rd, Ithaca (Miller,DM); this species when present is usually a winter visitor, in dull plumage. Evening Grosbeak: last dates Ithaca Apr 11 (J.Hutt), Apr 30 (BJ). Purple Finch: abundant in Hornell area, fairly so elsewhere, but no big flocks or incursion noted. Crossbills: no reports. White-throated Sparrow: scarce in migration (WEB,SHS). White-crowned Sparrow: abundant. Fox Sparrow: numerous in migration at Keuka, scarce at Ithaca. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, May 3 Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW); two at different locations at Elmira May 4.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

This report will cover both the winter and spring periods, from December 1 through May 31, since there was no report for the Region in the last issue.

Reasonably mild in December, temperatures were rather severe during January and February when there were 18 days with sub-zero temperatures. Snowfall, however, was below normal. From mid March through the first three weeks of April temperatures were above normal and bird arrivals seemed to be ahead of schedule. The last week of April and most of May was cool and very wet and the bird migration fell behind schedule, but there was little indication of early nesters being in serious trouble.

Mockingbirds continue to increase their numbers in the Region substantially, not only in the winter months, but during the breeding season, too. One definite breeding record, the first for the Region, was obtained and one other situation was reported where breeding was suspected.

Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks were quite prominent in some parts of the Region. The winter finch flights, while disappointing, were better than last year. Several half-hardies, such as a Baltimore Oriole, a Catbird and a couple of Brown Thrashers survived at least until the severe January weather set in. A Varied Thrush and Caspian Terns represent new additions to the Region list and other rarities included a Yellow-crowned night Heron, a Clay-colored Sparrow, an Orchard Oriole and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Observer's initials: DB—D. Bemont; LB—L. Bemont; LC—Mrs. L. Clark; GC—G. Corderman; WC—W. Corderman ;MC—M. Cubberly; M,AD—M. & A. Davis;