

Sparrows: flocks of Savannahs (scarce Keuka-FG) and Vespers noted second week Apr Ithaca area; Grasshopper and Henslow's: both scarce, present Baker Hill Rd location Ithaca mid-May (Pearsall), no Henslow's at any former Elmira location (MW) and only one record of Grasshopper Keuka Pk area (FG); Slate-colored Junco: large numbers last few days Mar and first two weeks Apr; *OREGON JUNCO*: the one reported at MNWR Mar 31 stayed until at least Apr 29; one Apr 6 Elmira (C. Runey, WH); White-crowned: arr Apr 18 Trumansburg (L. Proskine), large numbers most areas, last May 23 Hornell (WG); Fox: only one record (Apr 11) Keuka Pk as compared to numerous sightings last year (FG), more records than usual Ithaca; Lincoln's: only report one Elmira May 6 (WH); Swamp: late arr, e.g. first MNWR Apr 12 (WEB); Song: migrants and residents abundant.

419 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April and May averaged warm and dry. Though there was scattered frost as late as May 27 there was a lack of severe storms and prolonged cold or wet periods that would mean trouble for migrants. Apparently as a result of favorable weather conditions the small land bird migration ran ahead of schedule and quite a few early arrivals were noted. The shorebird migration, however, was next to nil.

The frequency with which southern species were reported was close to spectacular, including the almost established Mockingbird in more and more areas, seven Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, three and perhaps four White-eyed Vireos, a Kentucky Warbler, two pairs of Orchard Orioles and another possible and a possible Summer Tanager. Strangely Tufted Titmice, with a head start on the Mockingbird, seem not to keep pace with it. Of course this may be an illusion created by the fact that Mockingbirds are difficult to overlook if present. More sobering is an apparent decrease in Bluebirds.

Place name abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center, a couple of miles north of Johnson City; NV—Newark Valley; WP—Whitney Point.

Observer abbreviations: DB—Donald Bemont; LB—Leslie Bemont; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; A,MD—Anna & Marilyn Davis; C,JD—Carleton & Jeanne Davis; LD—Louise Dean; EF—Elizabeth Feldhusen; CC—Clinton Gerould; CCo—Claire Gottschall; JAG—John A. Gustafson; MH—Mark Harris; FL—Florence Linaberry; ML—Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; JN—John New; MS—Mary Sheffield; R.S.—Robert Sheffield; HS—Harvey Spivak; AS—Anne Stratton; E,NW—Elizabeth & Newell Washburn; DW—Donald Weber; CW—Cora Wellman; MW—Mildred White; RW—Ruth Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: one Apr 6 WP (MS); nine other reports to May 10. Horned Grebe: Apr 26 Oneonta (JN, et al.); Apr 28 Owego (ML); May 3 Oneonta; no more. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 19 WP (ML,LD); Apr 29 and May 1 Oneonta (JN, et al.); no others. Great Blue Heron: migrants first reported Apr 6. Green Heron: Apr 18 NV (LD), very early; next ones Apr 27. American Bittern: Apr 13 Apalachin (LB,DB); seemed numerous. Canada Goose: most migrants past by May 6; a flock of about 100 May 17 flying over the Oneonta area (EF); one May 24 on river at Homer (JAG). Snow Goose: Apr 3 Tully (P.Schlenker). Green-winged Teal: one still at Apalachin May 18. Blue-winged Teal: one Apr 12 WP (MS); five Apr 16 Cortland (HS). American Widgeon: six Apr 13 Apalachin (LB,DB), the only report during the period. Shoveller: two males Apr 12 in the Oneonta area (CW); no others. Ring-necked Duck: Apr 24 Owego (ML), the last. Scaup (?): May 5 Owego (MW).

Common Goldeneye: a dozen or more Apr 4 WP (LB,DB), the latest. Bufflehead: eight reports in Apr, the last Apr 26 Owego (LD). Ruddy Duck: three females Apr 6 WP (MS), at close range. Hooded Merganser: Apr 19 WP (ML), the last. Common Merganser: 350 Apr 4 WP (LB,DB); May 19 WP (ML), the only report after Apr 12. Red-breasted Merganser: Apr 28 Oneonta (JN), the last.

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: eight reports, from WP, Owego, Delhi, Bestal Center, and Oneonta. Goshawk: one Apr 4 Andes (MC) where also reported in Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Apr 11 Delhi (LC); two other Apr reports and also at Owego "all period." Cooper's Hawk: a pair Apr 17 Milford, north of Oneonta (CW), in same woods as last year; only one other report during period, also from Oneonta area. Red-tailed Hawk: quite common; at least 32 recorded sightings from all parts of the region. Red-shouldered Hawk: nine records from Oneonta area (JN, et al.) and six from Owego. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr 18 Milford (CW); 14 more reports to May 18. Rough-legged Hawk: two Apr records, the last Apr 26 Delhi. Marsh Hawk: three at Oxford May 30 (AS); five other dated reports plus "all period" at Owego. Osprey: Apr 14 Chen Forks (A,MD); at least 17 reported, to May 12. Pigeon Hawk: Apr 1 Richford (ML), no details. Bobwhite: May 18 Vestal Center (E,NW), the only report. Turkey: one Apr 14 Cortland (Cook); also reported from Tioga County. Virginia Rail: Apalachin May 18, several observers, the only report. Sora: May 17 Homer (Wm. Breidinger), the only report. Common Gallinule: one Apr 27 Apalachin (LB,-DB), still there May 18. American Coot: two Apr 13 Apalachin (LB,DB); Apr 26 Owego (MW). Semipalmated Plover: one May 18 Apalachin (Lilly Theophanis), no others. American Woodcock: fairly common; seven counted calling in a mile Apr 10 (LB,DB). Common Snipe: at least 15 at Endicott and Apalachin Apr 13 (LB,DB); also recorded at Norwich, NV and Delhi during Apr; still at Apalachin and Norwich in the latter part of May. Upland Plover: Apr 24 Richford (ML); two May 17 Homer (JAG). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 14 Owego (MW); Apr 20 and 22 Friendsville, in nearby Pennsylvania, (CGo); no more until May 1 when they became common. Solitary Sandpiper: May 1 CC (MS,RS); only four more reports to May 17. Greater Yellowlegs: two Apr 12 Sherburne (R,SW); four more reports to Apr 23. Herring Gull: one Apr 25 Cortland (HS), the last of the season. Ring-billed Gull: seven Apr 8 Johnson City (LB), May 3 Oneonta (JN) and one May 18 Endicott were the only ones reported; usually common around Otsego Lake during the summer but no reports from there. Bonaparte's Gull: one Mar 29 WP (MH); Apr 18 Owego (MW); May 10 WP (MS); that's all. Black Tern: May 17 Cortland (Wm. Duffy), the only one. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 18 several localities and observers; seemed quite common. Black-billed Cuckoo: one May 10 Oxford (AS), early; next report May 17. Screech Owl: reported at Delhi (LC), and from Cortland and Tioga Counties; missed elsewhere. Barred Owl: two calling Apr 20 Milford (CW); also at Apalachin May 18 (HM), Berkshire May 23 (ML) and Oneonta May 17 (JN). Long-eared Owl: one seen or heard three times in the latter half of Apr and again May 25 Cortland (HS). Saw-whet Owl: those in nest box at Candor gone May 13 (DW), "not sure—if there was a nest."

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: May 19 Oneonta (JN); May 24 Cortland (JAG). Nighthawk: May 17 at Bing (E,Whitson), Owego (MW) and Homer (Mrs. Shutts). Chimney Swift: Apr 27 Berkshire (ML); common after May 3. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 16 CC (MS,RS). Yellow-shafted Flicker: abundant from Apr 8. Pileated Woodpecker: nine reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Apr 10 to 18 Deposit (Mrs. Carroll Potter, via SW), coming to a window feeder—"observed at length and at close range." Red-headed Woodpecker: May 3 (Horak) and May 24 (JAG) Cortland; May 10 CC (MS,RS); May 18 Bing (Lilly Theophanis); May 18 Berkshire (ML); May 18 Sherburne (R,SW); May 19 Oxford (AS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 6 Castle Creek (MS); particularly numerous Apr 11 to 14, but reported quite frequently all period. Eastern Kingbird:

Apr 29 Berkshire (ML). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 3 Owego (C.Gerould) and Delhi (LC). Eastern Phoebe: common from Apr 4. Traill's Flycatcher: May 17 Homer (JAG); also reported from Apalachin, Owego, Candor and CC. Least Flycatcher: May 6 CC (MS). Eastern Wood Pewee: two May 7 Cortland (HS), but no more until May 17. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 31 Milford (CW), the only report. Horned Lark: "nested nearby, saw young May 1" Candor (DW). Tree Swallow: regular reports from Apr 3; several 100 at WP Apr 6 (MS); egg dates at Oxford May 14, 17 and 22 (AS). Bank Swallow: Apr 27 Apalachin (LB,DB). Rough-winged Swallow: one Apr 12 Sherburne (R,SW); unmixed flock of eight at Endwell Apr 22 (LB). Barn Swallow: twenty Apr 19 Bing (MH); regular after Apr 26. Cliff Swallow: Apr 26 Greene (C,JD). Purple Martin: Apr 9 Cortland (Popovich). Tufted Titmouse: two reports from Cortland, one from Deposit, from three Triple Cities area localities and from Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 25 reports from Apr 13 to May 18; one still at Gilbert Lake State Park, NW of Oneonta, May 25 (R,SW); at Milford "nesting here three places" (CW). House Wren: Apr 26 Oneonta (JN, et. al.). Winter Wren: Apr 9 Delhi (LC); six more reports to at least May 25. Long-billed Marsh Wren: one May 25 Sherburne (R,SW), the only record. Mockingbird: reported from Homer, Delhi, Owego, Oxford, NV, Vestal Center and Endwell (two birds at one location); reports becoming too numerous to list individually. Catbird: Apr 15 Berkshire (ML), surely a wintering bird; migrants May 4. Brown Thrasher: Apr 10 Endwell (DB); four more reports before Apr 22 when they became common. Robin: two reports of albinos, one near Delhi Apr 15 (LC) and one at Hancock Apr 17 (SW). Wood Thrush: at Greene (C,JD) and Endwell May 3. Hermit Thrush: Apr 12 Milford (CW), and later at five different places in that area; nine other reports. Swainson's Thrush: May 15 Bing (MS), the only report. Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 17 Bing (HM), banded the only report. Veery: May 4 NV (LD). Eastern Bluebird: "started nesting" Apr 20 and four eggs May 4, Oxford (AS); at CC and Candor absent in areas where several pairs have nested for quite a few years. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 3 several along river between Oxford and Brisben (MS,RS); four sightings at Cortland from May 7 (HS, Wm. Duffy). Golden-crowned Kinglet: a flurry of reports Apr 9 to 19, peaking Apr 13, then none. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 11 Cortland (HS) to May 25 Endwell (DB). Water Pipit: Apr 13 Friendsville in nearby Pennsylvania (CGo) and Apr 22 over 60 at the same place; Apr 29 Candor (DW); May 1 to 8 NV (ML); May 6 to 12 Greene (C,JD). Loggerhead Shrike: Apr 3 NV (ML), no details.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** White-eyed Vireo: one May 2 Chen Forks (A,MD), "yellow spectacles, yellow sides and two wing bars," 60 feet up in a hickory tree in good light; one May 14 Cortland (HS), all distinctive field marks, including song, at very close range; May 18 Endwell (LB, et. al.), song and all other field marks at close range—about one hour later and a couple of hundred yards away what may, on the basis of minor differences in the song, have been another individual was seen and heard; only two records in the previous 16 years. Yellow-throated Vireo: May 5 Owego (MW); no more until May 14 Bing (MS). Solitary Vireo: Apr 17 Cranberry Lake (E,NW); no more until May 1 Oneonta (JN, et. al.). Red-eyed Vireo: Apr 28 Owego (MW); regular from May 1. Philadelphia Vireo: May 17 Bing (HM), banded; May 18 Owego (RW). Warbling Vireo: Apr 28 Owego (MW); 21 along river from Brisben to Greene May 17 (MS,RS).

**Warblers:** Black-and-white: Apr 29 Chen Forks (A,MD). Golden-winged: May 5 Chen Forks (A,MD); 31 other reports. Brewster's: May 7 Bing (HM); May 14 Milford (CW); May 21 Candor (DW); May 25 Endwell. Blue-winged: May 4 Bing (MS,RS); eight other reports. Tennessee: May 16 Oneonta (JN) to May 25 Endwell (LB); not particularly common. Nashville: Apr 27 Apalachin (LB,DB). Parula: May 14 Bing (MS) and Cortland (HS); three more reports, the last of three at Cortland May 29 (HS). Yellow: Apr 27 NV (LD); regular from May 3. Magnolia: May 5

Chen Forks (A,MD); not particularly common, although it "nests" in "four places or more" at Milford (CW). Cape May: May 5 Candor (DW); four more reports, the last May 18 Berkshire (ML). Black-throated Blue: May 2 Chen Forks (A,MD); quite common to May 18; one at Milford May 30 (CW). Myrtle: Apr 18 Cortland (Shutts); common to May 18. Black-throated Green: Apr 28 Milford (CW). Blackburnian: May 3 Chen Forks (A,MD). Chestnut-sided: May 7 Cortland (HS). Bay-breasted: May 7 Chen Forks (A,MD); only six other reports from May 13 to 21. Blackpoll: May 12 Vestal (Gail & Warren Corderman), seemed early but other reports soon after; at Bing May 17, "scads" (HM); May 18, "lots all over" (MS) and still "lots" around May 24; at Norwich from May 15 to 30 "never heard so many before" (R,SW). Prairie: May 1 NV (LD); also returned to Vestal Center again (E,NW). Palm: two May 27 Apalachin (LB,DB); May 11 NV (LD); that's all.

Ovenbird: May 3 in several areas. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 28 Milford (CW); eleven other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 15 Hinman's Corners, north of Bing (MS); two nests found in one ravine near Endwell (Margery & Dorothy Rutbell). Kentucky Warbler: May 24 and 25 Ingraham Hill (Claude Howard), found by song and watched for some time. Mourning Warbler: May 18 Bing (HM), banded; May 21 Milford (CW) where a nest was found last year. Yellowthroat: Apr 29 Oneonta (JN, et. al.). Yellow-breasted Chat: May 18 Endwell (LB); May 21 Bing (MS,RS). Wilson's Warbler: May 13 Conklin (M.Getman); five more reports to May 26. Canada Warbler: May 8 Chen Forks (A,MD). American Redstart: several May 3 Oxford to Brisben (MS,RS).

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: May 2 NV (LD). Orchard Oriole: May 3 Bing (Mary Ryan), the pair remained in an unsprayed orchard there through the month, allowing confirmation of the identification by several other observers—the property owners report that they were there last year, too, but the male was still in the primarily green sub-adult plumage then; a pair May 13 Oxford (AS), feeding on suet; May 18 Owego (RW), tentative identification from description by another observer. Baltimore Oriole: Apr 28 NV (LD) and Chen Forks (A,MD); regular from May 3. Rusty Blackbird: seen regularly at Cortland until May 7 (HS). Brown-headed Cowbird: "terrible" at Oxford (AS). Scarlet Tanager: May 4 NV (LD) and May 7 Cortland (Shutts). Summer Tanager: May 13 Cortland (Mrs. David Chapman via JAG), "she knows these—from—the mid-west," no other details. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a female Apr 25 Bing (MH); two Apr and five May reports before May 7 when they became regular; more common than most years. Indigo Bunting: one May 2 thru 5 Endwell (D.Rutbell, fide FL), very early; May 14 Cortland (HS), the next. Dickcissel: May 13 Delhi (LC), found dead three days later. Evening Grosbeak: common until May 18, thinning out considerably thereafter but still at Deposit at the end of the period (SW). Purple Finch: became fairly common after Apr 19 following a lean winter. House Finch: one Apr 9 and for several weeks thereafter at Endwell (FL), at a feeder where they have been seen other years. Redpoll: still at Endwell Apr 9 (FL). Pine Siskin: May 7 NV (Louise Hover); May 17 Oneonta (JN, et. al.); no others. American Goldfinch: returned to Andes, in the Catskills, May 11 after being absent since mid-Dec (MC). Rufous-sided Towhee: migrants Apr 14. Grasshopper Sparrow: Apr 17 Oxford (AS), early with no details; May 18 at Bing the next; scarce. Henslow's Sparrow: May 5 CC (MS); six other reports. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 6 Berkshire (ML) and two at CC (MS); fairly common. Slate-colored Junco: reduced to normal small breeding population by about May 15. Tree Sparrow: Apr 30 Endwell (D.Rutbell); one May 13 at Berkshire (ML) could only be an injured bird. Chipping Sparrow: Apr 7 Endwell (FL), and regular thereafter. Field Sparrow: common after Apr 11. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr 15 Endwell (FL), early-regular there from then but next report elsewhere Apr 27; common until May 17 and last recorded May 22. White-throated Sparrow: small numbers of migrants as early as Mar 22 but common from Apr 18 to May 18. Fox Sparrow: the last of the

main body of migrants Apr 14; a very late straggler at Candor May 16 (DW). Lincoln's Sparrow: Apr 30 Berkshire (ML), skulking along in plowed furrows—detailed report on file; May 7 Bing (MH), banded. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 13 Endicott and Apalachin (LB,DB).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y. 13760

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

March ice still locked in most lake areas to April 10. A sudden period of warm weather April 10–12 plus stiff west winds produced rapid breakup of the ice cover coupled with extensive damage by same to dunes and to lakeshore cottages. This warm spell yielded many arrival dates, particularly swallows and early shorebirds. A cold weather hammerlock promptly subdued all migratory efforts for the next eight to ten days, and birders searched very hard but often vainly for many species, e.g. swallows, herons, shorebirds, whose initial members had already been reported. Trigring warm weather and south winds produced heavy hawk and landbird migrations April 22 and 27.

Cool cloudy weather in early May brought only a few tantalizing dribbles of migrants. May 7 and 8 saw a major wave; many birders savored this and the wave residue thru May 10–11. The next major wave occurred May 17, with many holdovers to May 18, an unbelievably cold day along Lake Ontario, for the local Big Run. May 20 saw a major wave on the Sandy Pond dunes; lesser waves, primarily of flycatchers, thrushes, and vireos, were noted May 22 and 23 at Syracuse. Extremely hot weather and strong south winds in the last four days of May sent almost all landbird migrants packing northward.

Heavy rains in late April and May 19–20 created many shallowly flooded areas on local mucklands; migrant shorebirds forced down by rain or cool cloudy weather assembled on such places and local birders enjoyed one of the best late spring shorebird flights in years.

Positives for the season include: 1) a heavy hawk migration, particularly so in Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, and Marsh Hawk, but quite deficient in Red-shouldered Hawk and Pigeon Hawk and, of course, there are never enough eagles; 2) a good early shorebird flight and superb late shorebird flight with record numbers of Solitary Sandpiper and Knot and some record departure dates; 3) heavy Ontario lakeshore migration of Blue Jay and White-breasted Nuthatch; 4) a late May irruption, invasion, or return, of Cedar Waxwing—they are everywhere!; 5) increased counts of many vireos and warblers, particularly the later migrant species; 6) heavy Ontario lakeshore flight of Evening Grosbeak and Goldfinch; and 7) a good but brief flight of Lincoln's Sparrow.

Negatives for spring are many: 1) an absence of all white herons and nearly so of Black-crowned Night Heron; 2) poor numbers of both Blue and Snow Geese and only singles of Brant; 3) a paucity of Horned Grebe, Redhead, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, and Coot, interestingly all prairie marsh nesters; 4) poor swallow counts with no species above 2000/day, even on the Lake Ontario flyway; 5) a very poor Ontario lakeshore flight of Black-capped Chickadee, particularly disappointing after the massive fall 1968 irruption; 6) persistent low tallies on Bluebird; 7) an anemic flight of both kinglets; 8) a continued decline of Henslow's Sparrow; 9) poor flights of Vesper, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows.

Rarities for the period include: Glossy Ibis, European Widgeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Whimbrel, Willet, Purple Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, White-eyed Vireo, Lawrence's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Green-tailed Towhee, and Oregon Junco.