

and on into the early days of June. All regular species were noted, about 25 in all, and several of the rare ones too, including Prothonotary, Prairie, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Such species as Parula, Cape May and Bay-breasted, sometimes scarce here, were frequently noted. Hooded Warblers may be harder to find breeding here than formerly but were present at least at one of its regular stations, Pellet Road, by May 17 (TM). After several springs in which Warblers were often thin at almost all times it was delightful to have days when pockets of warblers were rather common and numbers were improved.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A Western Meadowlark is once again singing along Church Road in Parma where the species now seems regular. Cowbirds seemed less common or perhaps late in arriving in numbers this year. Rusty Blackbirds were not common but Redwings and Grackles are everywhere.

An early Indigo Bunting appeared at BB on May 2 (TT). Evening Grosbeaks were migrating in good flocks in mid-May with separate flocks on May 17 of 30 and 75 birds being noted by two census parties and smaller flocks by others. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were also passing through and still present at the end of the month. The former included a flock of 15 on May 30 at Lima (Fosters).

Both Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager were common. One party on the spring census noted several Tanagers in one tree and others nearby also (WCL). Baltimore Orioles were common in migration although fears have been expressed that the disappearance of the American elm may be detrimental to this bird in its breeding range.

One of the very few records of the House Finch in this region was made by Mrs. Munson when she banded one at her feeder in Penfield on April 21. The Rufous-sided Towhee may be a more common breeder here than formerly, although this may simply be due to former farm land growing up to brush areas near suburbs. Short-tailed sparrows, i.e., Savannah, Henslow and Grasshopper seem to be recovering after a rather sudden and decided dip in abundance a few years ago. They are not yet back to optimum status but decidedly up from the low point.

No Sharp-tailed Sparrows have been reported in recent years, and this was true again. After a few years when they seemed to be almost regular in late May or early June—although rare—they have stopped appearing here.

Most of the regular sparrows seem normal in numbers and dates of appearance although Song seemed unimpressive this year. Such common species as Chipping, Field, Swamp and Vesper Sparrows may have arrived late, as April remained consistently cool until the last few days. White-throated Sparrows were up after an unusually poor flight last spring, and the always attractive White-crowned Sparrow was also common. Juncos went through strongly in April, but no reports of Oregon Junco were received this spring. A very late Lapland Longspur in a field with a few Horned Larks and one Pipit was noted on May 31 in Parma (MC, RO).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The outstandingly bad winter in the Finger Lakes was followed by an unusually fine spring: April was sunny, mild, warm with below normal rainfall. May was marked by close to normal rainfall except in Schuyler and Steuben Counties which were somewhat dry, and temperatures just a little on the warm side. As a result migrants and residents arrived 'early'—that is, in the first days of their expected arrival period, and

in some cases even earlier. Leaves were out before mid-May, making warbler-sighting difficult. Most areas ran their spring censuses on May 17, a damp day, but had good results, most expected species being seen.

For the Cayuga Lake Basin, it was one of the most outstanding springs ever, in terms of new species for the Basin checklist. Louisiana Heron, Piping Plover, Yellow-headed Blackbird and House Finch were all seen and carefully verified. Furthermore, what appears to be a completely satisfactory sighting of a Swainson's Hawk by John Haugh, a competent raptor expert, and the Clifton Hances, occurred on May 3, details to be given elsewhere. In the absence of a photograph or specimen, however, this record must remain somewhat open to question.

Other reports of note include Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Snowy Egret, a record high of 75,000 geese at MNWR, King Rail, Pigeon Hawk, Knots, a slight increase in Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Kentucky Warbler and the presence of Red Crossbills until the end of the period and into June.

Area compilers: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; PG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

Observers: DA—Douglas Auer; KA—Kenneth Amerman; PA—Philip Allan; OHH—Oliver H. Hewitt; TH—Tom Howe; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; CL—Charles Leck; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David B. Peakall; RPs—the Roger Perreaults; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mary Smith; MSH—Margaret Shepherd; MST—Mark Stephenson; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JS—John Snelling; JJT—Jean and James Tate; CST—Camille and Stephen Taylor; ST—Stanley Temple; JW—Jayson Walker.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: few April reports; 2 Apr 18 HR (WMG); flight of 17 in 2's and 3's May 19 Sen L (JB); 5 May 18 Keuka L; late report May 30 Cay L (J. Merritt). Red-throated Loon: 1 only, May 3 Cay L (CST). Horned Grebe: fewer than normal all lakes. Pied-billed Grebe: no May record Keuka L area (FG); scarce Ithaca. Double crested Cormorant: uncommon in spring, 1 May 13 s end Cay L (KA); 2 May 31 MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: first Apr 3 HR (WMG); numbers normal MNWR and Marengo Swamp. Green Heron: first Apr 10 nr Freeville (J. Patterson); continue scarce Elmira (MW). Cattle Egret: 3 sightings Elmira Apr 18, 23, 26 (MW). Common Egret: first Apr 22 MNWR, 3 May 2 MNWR (WEB); 1 May 3 nr Erin (Chemung Co) (WH). Snowy Egret: 1 Apr 25 MNWR (WEB); 1 Apr 30 Rhodes Marsh, Big Flats (WH et al)—rare in spring. *LOUISIANA HERON*: 1 Apr 23 MNWR (DM et al), first record Cay Basin and Region 3, full verification on file. Black-crowned Night Heron: first Apr 19 MNWR, max 16 Apr 23 (WEB). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 1 May 9 MNWR (WEB), verification on file; this species seems to be showing up fairly regularly in last five years. Least Bittern: 1 only, May 14 Dry L (DBP). Glossy Ibis: 4 overhead flying N.W. May 14 MNWR (CH).

Whistling Swan: 1 MNWR through May 20 (mob). This not-fully adult bird showed a 'grin line' like a Trumpeter Swan but more orange, showing how dangerous it is to depend entirely on Field Guide characters. Our field guides do not have space to describe all variations in a species. 2 May 11 Chase's Pond, Breesport, 1 with band. Canada Goose: peaked Apr 10–16 MNWR at 75,000—a new high for Refuge (CH); many more thousands on Cay L; most had left by May 10. Snow Goose: peak 100. Blue Goose: peak 400 Apr 10–16, MNWR (CH); lower than in '69. During same week in April following species of dabbling ducks reached peak which was above last year's peak: Mallard 1085; Black 830; Gadwall 370; Pintail

9605; Green-winged Teal 635; Blue-winged Teal 740; and Shoveler 280. American Widgeon 120 was lower, as was the Wood Duck count, at 50. Redhead: 15 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Ring-necked Duck: 5 (first) Apr 11 Beebe L. Ithaca (DA); max 80 May 14 MNWR (CH). Lesser Scaup: max 6 Apr 4 MNWR (CST). Common Goldeneye: last May 15 Sen L (JB). Bufflehead: scattered on Cay L in Apr; max 15 Apr 22 MNWR. Oldsquaw: 4 May 4 Keuka L (FG), more in former years; several Cay L May 17 (mob). White-winged Scoter: 3 May 6 Chemung R Elmira (WH) unusual there; 5 May 17 Cay L (mob). Ruddy Duck: max 80 May 28 MNWR (CH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first Apr 12 Lowman (MS); 1 May 21 Enfield (Mrs. Dean Davis); normal numbers MNWR; one egg May 24 in Marengo Swamp nest (WEB). Goshawk: 1 May 11 SWS (SHS et al) late date; no near breeding location known this year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: none reported during period except a few overhead in migration. Cooper's Hawk: continue scarce; one nest early May nr Ithaca (PA, WRS). Red-tailed Hawk: present in most known breeding locations. Red-shouldered Hawk: almost non-existent, one sighting May 20 nr Elmira (MS); SWS pair nested (on eggs May 19) but nest broken up by youngsters. Broad-winged Hawk: apparently now a regular but rare breeder in the Region: one nest had 3 eggs May 10 e. of Ithaca (JS), another pair seen nr Alpine (JB). Swainson's Hawk: see introductory comments. Bald Eagle: 1 imm May 8 over Etna (SHS); 1 adult May 20 over Ludlowville (Mrs. D. Flinn). Marsh Hawk (Harrier): 2 Apr 27 HR (WMG); 1 or 2 at intervals MNWR (WEB). Osprey: individuals noted on scattered dates from Apr 10–May 14 throughout Region; none at SWS this year. Peregrine Falcon: 1 near mid-Apr SWS (ST). Pigeon Hawk (Merlin): 1 (rare) May 14 MNWR (CH). Turkey: nest mid-May Conn. Hill s.w. Ithaca 9 eggs, abandoned, eggs removed to Cornell, incubated. *KING RAIL*: 1 Apr 14 SWS (P. Spitzer) very rare. Virginia Rail: first Apr 19 MNWR (J. Ebersole et al); 5 May 17 MNWR (RPs); 2 nests mid-May Watkins-Montour marsh (JB). Sora: first May 3 MNWR (CST). Common Gallinule: first Apr 23 MNWR (DM, WEB); 2 nests mid-May Watkins-Montour marsh (JB). Coot: reported scarce Elmira, Keuka, Cay L, max 255 May 14 MNWR down from last year.

PIPING PLOVER: 2 Apr 22 MNWR (Gerald Smith & WEB), first record for Cay Basin; verification report on file. American Woodcock: nest, 4 eggs Apr 21 Ellis Hollow Rd Ithaca (Mrs. D. Nickols). Upland Plover: first May 11 nr Etna (ST), nesting field later plowed; at usual Dryden locatin May 17 (PMK). Greater Yellowlegs: first Apr 13 MNWR (WEB). Lesser Yellowlegs: first Apr 19 MNWR (WEB). Knots: small flock May 17 MNWR (OHH et al) some in breeding plumage, rare in spring in Region. Least Sandpiper: max 26 May 6 MNWR (WEB). Dunlin: first Apr 19 MNWR, max 660 May 23 (WEB). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 May 17 Watkins Glen (JB, BS); max 34 May 20 MNWR (WEB). Wilson's Phalarope: uncommon in spring, 1 May 17, 24, 25 MNWR (WEB). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 only at Elmira Apr 2, winter plumage (WH); first on Cay L Apr 12 (KA); max Sen L 10 May 1 (JW), Cay L 60 Apr 14 (CST); 1 Apr 14 on ice HR (WMG). Common Tern: first Apr 26 MNWR (WEB); max 20 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Caspian Tern: 6 Apr 24 Chemung River bridge at Elmira (MS); 1 May 10 Sen L Geneva (DBP). Black Tern: first Apr 22 s. end Cay L (KA); max 100 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Screech Owl: successful nesting May Etna cemetery, female red phase, all young red. (WRS); otherwise scarce. Barred Owl: apparently did not nest SWS; 1 Apr 12 MNWR (WEB), apparently nesting on Unit 17 there. Saw-whet Owl: May 13, Beam Hill Road nr Dryden, prob nesting (ST).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: present Bennettsburg and Altay, Schuy Co (JB); heard Apr 29 Elmira (Robert Knapp); May 1 Tomp Co airport

(MST); last two weeks May North Hornell (WMG); and May 17 MNWR (RPs). Common Nighthawk: first May 11 Ithaca (R. Chipley); May 13 Elmira (A. Orbi-son). Certainly this species seems less abundant than a decade ago. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 5 (slightly early) (N. Corson); May 12 Elmira; generally scarce—only one sighting at my Etna feeders where I used to have 3-4 pairs (SHS). Pileated Woodpecker: definite increase in reports; SWS pair nesting beside trail. Red-bellied Woodpecker: nesting at Enfield broken up; another pair nesting w of Ithaca on Rt. 227. Red-headed Woodpecker: definitely more reports and sightings of this species in Cayuga Basin this year than for many years; 1 spent several days feeding on corn on ground at Stuart Observatory SWS; others reported at E. Varick, Union Springs, Trumansburg. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nesting at Arnot Forest and along SWS catwalk.

Eastern Kingbird: first May 1 Elmira; May 2 Ithaca (DA). Phoebe: first Apr 3 Dry L (DBP); Elmira Apr 4; slightly late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: often missed in spring, 1 May 16 Elmira. Traill's Flycatcher: May 9 Elmira; May 14 Ithaca (TH). Least Flycatcher: first Apr 29 Etna (JJT); May 4 Elmira; latter two species seem in slightly better numbers this year. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 sightings May 17 Ithaca, also 2 Watkins Glen (JB). Tree Swallow: first Apr 1 Ithaca (R. Parson-son). Bank Swallow: first Apr 18 SWS (DBP); numbers at colonies seem normal. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 15 Ithaca (DA). Barn Swallow: Apr 11 Cay L Inlet (N. Cutright). Cliff Swallow: small numbers at known colonies. Purple Martin: first Apr 4, early Ithaca (CL); Apr 22 MNWR (WEB); none breeding at SWS, MNWR only regional sites that continue quite active are along west shore Cay L at north end. Boreal Chickadee: the Etna bird was last seen Apr 14 (D. Poole); 1 other sighting Apr 7 Ithaca, Monkey Run area (TH). Red-breasted Nuthatch: it had been hoped that some of the large wintering group would remain to breed, but most appeared to have left area by mid May. Brown Creeper: two pairs breeding SWS.

House Wren: first Apr 25 Ithaca (DA); seems scarce Elmira, normal or in better numbers elsewhere. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Apr 9 SWS (ST); only 1 MNWR on May 17 census (WEB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: very scarce. Mocking-bird: several successful nestings Ithaca, Elmira. At Mt. Zoar the pair noted for un-successful nesting attempts (see May 1869 KINGBIRD) fledged 4 at first attempt this year, raised 3. Robin: in good numbers everywhere. First date for Wood Thrush Apr 28 (early), Hermit Apr 11, Veery May 2. All thrushes scarce at Keuka (FG). Eastern Bluebird: 6 nestings at Keuka, an increase. Scarce in Cayuga Basin. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nestings noted at MNWR, Ithaca, Elmira. Golden-crowned Kinglet: May 17 Conn Hill (JB), probably nesting there. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 reports only (F. Edminster).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: many reports Watkins area (JB), few Ithaca. Solitary Vireo: less common as migrant now than 20 years ago and no recent breeding records; 1 Apr 28 Lower Enfield Park, Tomp Co, (MSh). Philadelphia Vireo: uncommon, 4 sightings in Region May 12-17. A strange small Vireo, answering in almost all respects a description of the western Bell's Vireo, was seen May 10 at Monkey Run nr Ithaca by M. and G. F. Shepherd, watched closely for some time, never sang, same size as a Blue-winged Warbler in same tree; in absence of photograph or specimen must remain a mystery.

Warblers: to quote DM from one year ago: "all regular species of warblers were reported, plus Brewster's and one Lawrence's (Elmira, Hendy Creek Rd. (WH) numbers of most species were low." Most arrival dates were normal or slightly early. Prothonotary: 1 report only MNWR (OHH). Worm-eating: back at York Hill, Elmira. Golden-winged: losing ground to Blue-wings; first May 9 Monkey Run nr Ithaca (DBP). Blue-winged: increasing at Keuka and elsewhere. Brewster's: several reports. Tennessee: May 5 (early) SWS (TH). Orange-crowned: often missed in spring, 1 May 17 Reading Center (A. Kopp); 1 banded May 17 Penn Yan

(Lerch); 1 May 19 Ithaca (DM). Nashville: first Apr 30 SWS (R. Chipley). Parula: 2 sightings, May 3 SWS (MSt, P. Clark). Yellow: high counts 50+ May 3 w. shore Cay L (CST); 100 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Magnolia: high 10 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Cape May: few reports; May 2 City Cemetery Ithaca, (MSt); May 5 MNWR (JW). Black-throated Blue: first May 2 Ithaca City Cem (MSt). Myrtle: max 20 May 9 Monkey Run Ithaca (DBP) and May 17 MNWR (RPs). Black-throated Green: on time, good numbers. Cerulean: usual scattered locations, but 1 only at Keuka (FG). Blackburnian: first May 1 Ithaca (DA). Chestnut-sided: first May 1 Ithaca (DA). Bay-breasted: almost no reports. Blackpoll: May 13, slightly early, Ithaca (OHH). Pine: 1 only Apr 13 Enfield (R. Davis). Prairie: first May 9 Conn Hill (DM & MSt); nestbuilding observed nr Elmira May 12 (WH), eggs later disappeared. Ovenbird: first May 1 Monkey Run Ithaca (KA), numbers normal. Louisiana Waterthrush: very few reports, perhaps indicating that some usual locations were not checked, but were actually missing at Keuka, Hornell and Waterloo. *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: very rare in Region, 1 May 17 carefully noted Cayuta L (JB). Mourning Warbler: sometimes not noted, several reports this year, 1 banded May 17 Penn Yan (Lerch). Yellowthroat: fairly common, max 20 May 17 MNWR (RPs). Yellow-breasted Chat: continues scarce. Hooded: very rare in Region, 1 May 16 Horseheads Marsh (WH et al). Canada: scarce; first May 3 SWS (D. Grainger). Redstart: very scarce at Stewart Park, Ithaca and SWS; none at Hornell.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: first May 3 Dryden (DBP); sev. observers indicated species somewhat more common in late May than in past years. *YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD*: 1, male, Apr 19 SWS (JT) is first fully verified record for Cay L Basin, although there have been several seemingly good reports in previous years. Bird fed with Redwings nr Stuart Observatory feeders, seen by numerous observers. Baltimore Oriole: seem to be increasing and adapting to new nesting sites with loss of elm trees; first (early) Apr 30 Ithaca (S. Barnett). Orchard Oriole: generally considered rare here, 4 locations this year, 2 for third year in succession: nr Starkey and on West Hill, Ithaca. Rusty Blackbird: few reports. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first Apr 27 (early) Ithaca (D. Welch). *BLUE GROS-BEAK*: what appears to be a good sighting of 2 males and a female east side of east branch Keuka Lake; observed for three hours by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coon: no song heard, but call notes; very few records previously for Region. Indigo Bunting: first May 10 (early) Ithaca (J. Hewitt). Evening Grosbeaks: last dates Apr 24 Hornell (WMG), May 2 Ithaca, May 18 Watkins Glen (JB). Purple Finch: few May reports.

HOUSE FINCH: in April several positive identifications in Ithaca and Elmira, some photographs taken. Species may have been present in previous years but earlier reports were not fully verified. Common Redpoll: numerous through April at Keuka; last Ithaca report Apr 15. Pine Siskins: some stations said numerous; others had few or no records. Red Crossbill: left Keuka area May 17 (FG); still present Elmira and Ithaca end of reporting period; courtship feeding observed. White-winged Crossbill: several April reports at Ithaca.

Savannah Sparrow: scarce north end Cay L Basin (WEB). Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows both reported, and early, but very scarce. Vesper Sparrow: several early April reports, but seemed scarce. Tree Sparrow: last dates: Apr 23 (WEB), Apr 25 at Hornell (WMG). White-throated Sparrow: scarce in migration (SHS, WEB, CH). Fox Sparrow: few reports except 30 May 17 MNWR (RPs); numbers in migration vary considerably from year to year. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 May 17 Dodge Rd Ithaca (P. Brown). Song Sparrow: migrants and residents in normal numbers.

Correction: In report of Brant and Whimbrel in the July 1969 issue, Vol. 19 (no. 3): 153, for "April, 23 read "May 23".

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