

et al). The Cardinal continues its increase with 658 Apr 4 BOSAC compared with 501 in 1970 and 821 May 16 BOSMC versus 593 last year. A few stragglers represented the winter finches during the spring, surprising when recalling the nearly total absence of this group during the winter except for the Evening Grosbeak, 184 of which were reported on Apr 4 BOSAC. A late pair of Pine Grosbeaks occurred on Apr 13 at a feeder in Spring Brook (Schafer). The latest-ever Common Redpoll for this region frequented a feeder in another suburb of Bflo, Boston, May 7-20 (Murray). There were only two reports of Pine Siskin—21 Apr 6 Hamburg (TB) and 1 at a feeder in Falconer May 6 (FE). An all-time high count of American Goldfinch for the BOSAC was reported with 536 on Apr 4 (previous high 496).

The meadow sparrows were all late in arriving; best of this group and the most spectacular bird of the spring was a *LE CONTE'S SPARROW* May 11 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (RA et al); one of the two previous records for western New York is of an adult May 14 and 18, 1946 near Leroy (Pixley). A new high count of the Tree Sparrow for the BOSAC is 1558 Apr 4 compared with the previous high 1351. A pair of *CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS* has returned to a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred, Alleg County, May 11-31 (EB); breeding was suspected last summer. Another high count was established for the BOSAC total of the Field Sparrow—207 compared with a previous high of 99.

19 Chestnut St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

The best word I can think of to describe our spring this year is *inconsistent*, both with regard to weather and to birds. Even this word is not entirely accurate, however, because there were consistent trends among the many inconsistencies.

In general, April and May were both relatively dry months. Precipitation was about an inch below normal in both months and had dropped from about two inches above normal for the year on April 1, to almost exactly normal on June 1.

Temperatures ran steadily below normal except for a few brief warmer periods. Snow and ice lingered late, no doubt discouraging migrants and birders alike at times! April 1 to 3, 9 to 13, and May 1, all are examples of these warmer periods. Early May was consistently cool until the 9th when the best flight of the spring began and continued until the 12th or 13th, when another period of fair weather with cool nights resulted in no movement.

May 16 marked the peak of our migration this spring. Birds were everywhere that day as southwesterly winds brought in the heaviest flight of the season. Vegetation had progressed slowly, and many of these migrants were seeking food in the lower bushes since the treetops were still devoid of leaves. Development was rapid after that date, however, and by the following weekend. May 22 and 23, foliage was normal for late May in most respects.

The late May flights, sometimes among the most interesting and productive of the season, were somewhat disappointing. Probably a combination of rather steady, favorable weather conditions and delayed migrants hurrying through, is responsible for the anti-climatic nature of this period.

Water levels were high along Lake Ontario, but inland mud flats and pools tended to dry up quickly in the absence of rain. Some species did linger late, particularly those which normally peak in April and disappear in late April or early May. Others,

especially early May arrivals, were late in appearing and early in leaving, compressing the whole migration period into a period of about two weeks in mid- to late May.

In summary then, a good spring, especially for the warblers, but surprising and, therefore more interesting than most.

Rarities Noted: Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, European Widgeon, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Little Gull, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-eared Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DP—Durand Park; HL—Hawk Lookout; IB—Irondequoit Bay; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitou Beach; RR—Reed Road; SA—Shore Acres; SB—Sodus Bay; WL—West Lakeshore; WP—Webster Park.

Observers Cited: J&RA—J. and R. Ambrose; JD—James Doherty; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; AK—Al Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Richard O'Hara; BO—Bernard Olin; SO—Steve Oresman; CP—Chip Perrigo; JT—Joe Lloyd; RM—Robert McKinney; TM—Thelma McNett; m. ob.—many observers; RO'H—Taylor; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

LOONS—DUCKS: Once again the spring flight of both loon species seemed very light with no large numbers of either species reported. This decline certainly appears to be a real one, not well accounted for by weather conditions or random observation.

Red-necked Grebes were reported several times with 3 being the most noted on a single day—Apr 18 SA (WCL). Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were both around in fairly good numbers this spring, especially the latter species. A single Eared Grebe was present from May 11–15 at MB and seen several times (WCL).

A Double-crested Cormorant was noted at MB on Apr 25, the only report this season (WCL).

Great Blue Herons seemed rather scarce except on flight days.

All three species of egrets were noted briefly in mid-May. Cattle Egrets were reported twice, with 3 on May 16 the largest number SA (JD). A single Snowy Egret was at Chase Road in Hamlin on the 16th (WCL) and a Common Egret was noted at Fallantine Road south of Rochester on May 12 (J&RA). Black-crowned Night Herons appeared as early as Apr 18 HL (TT), and Green Herons again seemed abundant.

Glossy Ibis were again reported several times, although not in the large numbers of last spring. All reports were between May 23 and 28, but widely scattered.

A late flock of 9 Whistling Swan was noted along the West Lakeshore in May (GOS).

While Canada Geese numbers were high, they did not seem any greater than the last two or three years, perhaps indicating a leveling off after years of very rapid increase. A single Snow Goose was at SA May 1 (GOS).

Among the ducks, the following observations appear pertinent. Mallards and Black both made a good appearance, but Pintail seemed sadly reduced in numbers. This may only be true locally for some reason, but they were quite scarce. Baldpate were somewhat better than the last few years, but not really in good numbers. A fine court of 28 Gadwall was made at SB on Apr 10 (B. and G. Perrigo).

A single European Widgeon remained for a week at BB Apr 3–10 (JD et al). The European Teal was not recorded this spring. The other dabbling ducks seemed either normal or perhaps a little less common than usual this spring.

Late lingering diving ducks included a pair of Oldsquaw May 22 at BB (RO'H). Both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers continued rather scarce and, as usual, the Ruddy Duck made only a very limited appearance.

All in all the duck flight this spring was rather unspectacular, especially after the ice completely disappeared in mid-April.

HAWKS—OWLS: 15 species of raptors were noted on our spring flights this year, most in fairly good numbers. In addition, a single observer reported a brief look at a bird he felt could only be a Gyrfalcon. Another experienced observer, familiar with the bird in the West, had a brief look at a falcon which seemed to show black axillars as does the Prairie Falcon. These reports are mentioned to indicate the great variety of possibilities, although both reports fall short of what seems necessary for such unusual records to be fully acceptable.

Among the best reports of raptors are the following:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Turkey Vulture	Apr 3	65	Hawk Lookout	Several
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Apr 9	145	Hawk Lookout	Several
Cooper's Hawk	Apr 9	36	Hawk Lookout	Several
Red-tailed Hawk	Apr 3	160	Hawk Lookout	Several
Rough-legged Hawk	Apr 1	15	Hawk Lookout	Listman
Broad-winged Hawk	May 1	2,622	Hawk Lookout	Perrigos
Bald Eagle—7 records	Apr 1— May 16		Hawk Lookout	
Golden Eagle	Apr 3	1	Hawk Lookout	Tetlow et al
Marsh Hawk	Apr 9	28	Hawk Lookout	Several
Osprey	May 12	9	Hawk Lookout	Tetlow et al
Peregrine Falcon	Apr 3	1	Webster Park	Lloyd
Peregrine Falcon	May 1	1	Hawk Lookout	G. O. S.
Pigeon Hawk	Apr 1	1	Hawk Lookout	Lloyd et al
Pigeon Hawk	May 1	1	Hawk Lookout	Anderson's et al
Sparrow Hawk	Apr 1	17	Webster Park	Lloyd et al

2 Ruffed Grouse were reported from MP on Apr 22, the first from there in many years (CP). Small numbers of these birds apparently continue to exist in the wilder areas of several woodlands around Rochester, although seldom reported.

Very few Rails were noted this spring; perhaps more due to little effort to find them than to scarcity, since local marshes appear in the best condition in recent years.

Likewise, shorebirds seemed scarce, but this may be partly due to rather poor habitat locally, as noted in the opening paragraphs. Nevertheless, on some days when flight conditions appeared good, few were noted, indicating perhaps that these birds were passing over or through this area without much stopping. Some exceptions are noted below.

Semipalmated Plover, over 100 at scattered locations on the WL May 23 (WCL et al) was the largest of several good counts in late May. It was a most unusual spring for White-rumped Sandpipers which appeared in several localities during late May (Perrigos et al). At the same time a female Wilson's Phalarope was noted off and on for a few days in Hamlin (RO'H et al).

Among birds of this group which were scarce this spring in this region are: Ruddy Turnstone, Upland Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Knot and Dowitcher.

Bonaparte's Gulls were late but put in a good appearance in late April when flocks of 3,500 to 7,500 were reported at IB (AK et al) and BB (m. ob.) from Apr 24 to 27. A few Little Gulls were with these flocks, with a maximum of 3 at MB on the 23rd (WCL).

Cuckoos were both scarce and late. Most observers reported none at all, even at the end of May.

Owls were not widely reported either. Especially notable was the almost complete absence of Short-eared Owls and Saw-whet Owls along the Lake Ontario shoreline where they are usually regular if not common in spring. There were 3 Long-eared

Owls at BB on May 1 (RO'H), but otherwise these were also scarce this spring. Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls are well distributed, especially the latter, away from the immediate vicinity of the city of Rochester. The single Snowy Owl which stayed at BB all winter finally disappeared when the ice melted some time in early April. Neither Barn Owl nor Barred Owl has been reported this year.

GOATSUCKER—STARLING: Whip-poor-will is apparently still nesting in Bergen Swamp where one lit on the roof of Jim Doherty's car, but they were thin in lake-shore woods this year. Nighthawks were somewhat late but staged a good flight after mid-May. The best report was 30 at IC on May 28 (Perrigos).

A report of 12 Red-headed Woodpeckers on May 15 at BB was the most noted in migration (TT). This bird seems to be increasing slowly but quite steadily.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed rather uncommon, but like some other April migrants, this scarcity may have been more apparent than real, due mainly to local weather conditions during their normal migration season.

The poor flights of late May explain the absence of records of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. Phoebe's also appeared quite scarce in our records, but the other flycatchers were common.

Swallows arrived late, but there was a tremendous movement when warm weather finally arrived after May 1. On May 9, the air over the cattail marshes along the West Lakeshore was alive with hundreds of swallows, feeding as they moved from west to east. Probably all species were included among them but Barn, Bank, Tree, and Purple Martin predominated. Martins seemed present in good numbers at most houses in the same region.

The Tufted Titmouse is now so regular east and south of Rochester that it is taken for granted in many places. Its whistle is often heard and no longer do observers feel the need to check further. We hope it is as permanent a change as the Cardinal seems to be. The Carolina Wren, on the other hand, was again unreported locally.

The Mockingbird is moving in somewhat more slowly than the Titmouse, but it is steadily spreading in the same general areas.

Winter Wrens made a good showing and a very late bird was banded at BB on May 23 (RM). A singing bird on breeding ground was noted the same day at RR (JT et al). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were scarce and very little song was heard even at the end of May. Short-billed Marsh Wren was unreported.

Thrushes were reasonably common except possibly for Swainson's which has had several rather poor years locally. Bluebirds again are breeding only in very few places as far as we know and Loggerhead Shrike is even more local.

A late Golden-crowned Kinglet on the local Spring Census (May 23) was near Scottsville (SO et al). Water Pipits and Cedar Waxwings made good appearances, but no really large numbers of either were noted.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo appeared in mid-May at BB (Perrigos). The first Solitary Vireo of the season was at HL on May 1 (m. ob.). Philadelphia Vireo was scarce again probably due to poor flight conditions in late May.

As noted early, warblers made a splendid appearance when they finally came, especially from May 11 to May 23. The facts that foliage was thin and cool weather prevailed after good flight conditions brought the birds in made observation unusually easy and leisurely. Frequently the same individual birds occupied the same trees for days at a time.

Especially well represented this year were the Black-and-white, Nashville, Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green. Almost all the other regular species were at least normal—as we used the word a few years back. In most cases, that means a noticeable improvement in numbers, continuing the upswing first noted

last spring and confirmed again last fall. Among the more unusual records received are the following:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	May 23	1	Oak Orchard	Connors
Blue-w. Warbler	May 14	1	Mendon Ponds	T. T.
Orange-cr. Warbler	May 13	1	Pittsford	G. Perrigo
Orange-cr. Warbler	May 15	1	Island Cottage	G. Perrigo
Orange-cr. Warbler	May 23	1	Braddocks Bay	J. T. et al
Cape May Warbler	May 23	6	Lakeshore	Lloyd et al
Black-th. Blue Warbler	May 18	12	Lakeshore	McNetts
Myrtle Warbler	May 12	200+	Braddocks Bay	T. T.
Myrtle Warbler	May 12	200+	Webster Park	W. L.
Black-th. Green Warbler	Apr 24	1	Durand Park	R. O'H.
Pine Warbler	May 8	1	Durand Park	Perrigos
Pine Warbler	May 17	1	West Lakeshore	J. D. et al
Prairie Warbler	May 11,12	2.1	Webster Park	W. L.
Prairie Warbler	May 23	1	Braddocks Bay	J. T. et al
Connecticut Warbler	May 23	1	Island Cottage	Hampson et al
Yellow-br. Chat	May 23-31	3	Mendon Ponds	Whites et al

The 32 species of warblers reported this spring include all that might be expected here regularly except for Louisiana Waterthrush.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Several observers noted rather large flocks (up to 30 birds) of Bobolinks feeding in plowed fields during migration in May. The Western Meadowlark was singing along Curtis Road in Hamlin again. This is now a well-established yearly occurrence, although it is still sporadic in appearance elsewhere in the region. The bird was first noted on May 16 and was still there at month's end (m. ob.).

Rusty Blackbirds were somewhat late and no large flocks were noted this year. Baltimore Orioles seemed abundant after May 9, with up to 200 a day noted at BB on May 15 (TT). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, while not as common, were still in good numbers; McNett's reported 30 on May 12 for the best total. Indigo Bunting was late and still not well-distributed at the end of May.

All winter finches remained scarce or absent right through the spring. There were rather small flights of Purple Finches and a few Evening Grosbeaks but even these moved quickly. Towhees were not common as migrants except for a few days in mid-May (late), but were well-distributed on breeding stations at the end of the month.

An excellent count of Grasshopper Sparrows, 10, and Henslow Sparrows, 25, was made at MP on May 30 (CP). This is the largest number of either species noted here within memory.

The Oregon Junco which remained all winter in Webster was last reported on Apr 6 (Sunderlin) but the same bird or another of that species was seen nearby on Apr 18 (TM).

One of the rarest birds reported in Region 2 this year was the Harris' Sparrow which appeared at Leubner's feeder in Irondequoit on Apr 27. It apparently stayed only a day or two and constitutes only the second or third record locally. Good numbers of White-crowned Sparrows were in evidence during the heavy flight of mid-May while the numbers of White-throated Sparrows was about normal. A late Fox Sparrow was still in Powder Mill Park on May 16 (BO). Lincoln Sparrows occurred in the usual small numbers.

A flock of about 50 Lapland Longspurs was noted on Apr 1 at BB (WCL), and a late individual of the same species was reported in the same vicinity on May 15

(Perrigos). The last large flock of Snow Bunting for the season was 750 on Apr 1 at BB (WCL).

265 Carling Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY H. SPOFFORD AND DOROTHY MCILROY

In the Ithaca area precipitation was about an inch below normal in April and about normal in May. Temperatures in April averaged three to four degrees below normal, in May one or two degrees below normal. This delayed warming following the unusually cold March showed up in the slow leafing out of the trees, some of which were not yet in full leaf by the third week of May, especially at higher elevations.

Migration was delayed. Arrival of many land birds was a week or more late, including most thrushes, vireos, warblers, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager and some of the sparrows. A few species had not arrived by May census dates—May 15 Chemung Valley Audubon Soc. (132 species), May 16 Eaton Ornithological Soc. (139 species), Cayuga Basin census (174 species) and Schuyler County Bird Club. As usual, no leaves—no warblers; not only were they late in arriving, but numbers were low and they were very quiet, slipping through quickly not grounded by adverse weather.

Unusual reports were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, first record of Black Rail for Cayuga Basin, Piping Plover second record at MNWR, Hooded Warbler, Lark Sparrow first record at Ithaca.

Abbreviations: Cay L—Cayuga L; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Sen L—Seneca Lake.

Area compilers: Jack Brubaker, Frank K. Guthrie, Douglas Mullen, James Tate, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

Contributors: DA—Douglas Auer; WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; MC—Mildred Comar; FKG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall; GR—Gary Randorf; SHS—Sally Spofford; JT—James Tate; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary Welles; MNWR records unless otherwise attributed are by Refuge personnel reported by Douglas Mullen, Acting Refugee Manager.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max, flock of 21 Keuka L in Apr (FKG); 2 died Ithaca, 1 of fish hook Apr 24, 1 oiled bird May 17 SWS. Red-necked Grebe: 1 May 1 Dryden L (PMK), late. Double-crested Cormorant: 4 May 10 MNWR (M. Thomas) stayed thru May 23. Great Blue Heron: Marengo Swamp heronry active (WEB); 2 new active sites discovered Elmira area, about 30 nests each, 1 near Welsburg and 1 near Caton (MPW); at least 7 active nests Reynoldsville (JB). Green Heron: first, 1 Apr 5 MNWR, max 10 late Apr. Cattle Egret: 4 reports—1 May 1 MNWR (D. Parks); 1 imm May 3, 1 adult May 8 Elmira; 1 May 20 Ithaca. Common Egret: first, 1 Apr 5 MNWR, max 2; 1 near Ithaca Apr 21. Snowy Egret: 1 Apr 24–30 MNWR. Black-crowned Night Heron: first, 2 Apr 18 MNWR (WEB), max 30, 12 there May 30. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: 1 May 16 Serven Rd, Geneva area (C. Walsh, Trails). Least Bittern: first Apr 28 Ithaca (T. Howe), several other Ithaca sightings including Stewart Pk and SWS. American Bittern: first Apr 5 MNWR, max 20 Apr 30. Glossy Ibis: May 7 MNWR (O. Hewitt). Whistling Swan: 2 May 5–7 Elmira (MPW); 3 May 17–31 MNWR.

With MNWR frozen until Apr 9, early ducks and geese concentrated on flooded mucklands north of the Refuge. Canada Goose population at MNWR peaked at 60,000 week of Apr 15 and stayed 22 days because of ice conditions in Canada; peak