

mm. deep. The maximum outside height of the nest was 100mm, the outside diameter 125-150 mm, and the sides were 47mm thick.

Nichols (*Birds of America*, 1936) says that the Mourning Warbler nests in dry cut-over clearings or swampy ground. Bent (*Life Histories of American Wood Warblers*, 1953) says "seldom in shady woods". Pough (*Audubon Bird Guide*, 1946) states that "the essential habitat" is an extensive, dense stand of shrubbery. The nest that I found in marginal habitat may be explained by reviewing recent plant succession in the area. After limited selective cutting of mature timber in the tract in 1959, berry tangles sprang up on about 10 percent of the forest floor. In 1965 I found four singing males. As the canopy gradually closed again, the tangles ceased to flourish and the habitat became marginal for Mourning Warblers. By 1971 only one pair returned to the tract. In 1972 there were none. Nesting materials mentioned in the literature are dead leaves, coarse fibers, and grass. I find no mention of fern strips. In marginal habitat this pair of Mourning Warblers used a large proportion of atypical nest material.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

Fritz Scheider

April entered warm, wet, and mild with some really splendid days around Easter (April 22); May, however, was persistently cool, very cloudy, very wet, and with some extraordinarily late snowfalls upstate (3,5). Warbler flights were sparse (2,3,4,5) with only May 11-12 downstate and May 28-30 upstate as good wave days. Most migrant species were delayed, some markedly so, e.g. Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the major tallies and/or peak dates were four to ten days later than usual. A gaudy array of southern "overshoots" (Prothonotary Warbler—3,10, Yellow-throated Warbler—2,10, Summer Tanager—2,10, and Blue Grosbeak—10), primarily from Long Island and the Lake Ontario littoral brightened an already rarity-rich spring (vide *infra*).

The recent surge of pelagic trips received good coverage in the Region 10 report—tideless, saltwaterless upstaters can only drool while all those semi-sailors downstate happily unchuck and log shearwaters, petrels, jaegers, and Lord knows what else out at sea.

Cattle Egrets staged another vernal invasion (2,3,5,9,10) and small flocks rather than singles are now the rule; lesser numbers of Glossy Ibis were also reported (3,5,6,9). Waterfowl, both geese and ducks, left almost statewide in late March and early April; April numbers were uniformly few except of dabbers at Federal and State Refuges. Even fewer leftover ducks were noted in May and I suspect many Big Runs were shy of the usual late, list-swelling anatids one always hopes for. A heavy Lake Ontario White-winged Scoter flight (2,5) was associated with inland observations of both *Melanitta* scoters (3,4).

Turkey Vultures have increased sharply in the Lake Ontario hawk flights (2,5) with evidence of local, non-flight increases in other areas (4,6). The spring hawk migration for Lake Ontario (2,5), and the Catskills (9) merits attention, particularly the very late Broad-winged Hawk flight on the lakeshore. Both Eagles and Peregrine Falcon were reported widely, not because there are more, but probably because there are less, hence increasingly notable and reported.

Late shorebird flight with some excellent numbers and a really existing spring variety were evident in 2 and 3; however, judging from the paucity of comments elsewhere the statewide flight was incredibly poor; a very high number of Solitary Sandpiper were recorded upstate (3,5) but no assessment of this species came from elsewhere.

Both cuckoos were very scarce, more so upstate (3,5,6) and, where present, extremely tardy. The decline in Whip-poor-wills (2,3,5,7) and Common Nighthawk (2,3,5) continues but possibly the poor numbers of the latter are secondary to the very delayed migration (4,5,9). The recent acceptance of two "Traill's" flycatchers (Willow—"fitz-bew" and Alder—"wee-bee-o") warrants all observers to note song type very carefully and non-singing birds—of which there are many—should be lumped as *Empidonax* sp. and forgotten.

Swallows as migrants seemed to fare moderately well but resident swallows (5,9), and specially Purple Martin (3,5,9), appear to be much reduced.

Both warblers and vireos were notable for variety and tardiness with particularly heavy flights of Cape May (4,5, also noted in 6,7), Myrtle (5), Bay-breasted (3,4,5) and Prairie Warblers (9). Black-throated Green Warblers were noted as very scarce on their Adirondack breeding grounds (7) and subsequent careful counts of this species there are certainly in order. Numerous counts mention Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler numbers with Blue-winged continuing expansion into previous Golden-winged range and Golden-winged reported farther north; a rash of hybrids (3,5,9,10) were reported but strangely none were reported from the large downstate contact zone in Region 9.

Orchard Orioles attempted nesting in 2,3, and 9, a possible prelude to the recapture of their extensive state breeding range of the early nineteen hundreds.

The May flight of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill occurred pan-regionally (2,3,4,5,6,7,9) and some smaller groups of the last two tarried long enough to ignite speculation of possible out-of-range breeding attempts. House Finch continue to spread (2,3,4,5,6) and unless an account of their eastern range and expansion gets into all the current fields guides soon, all "feeding-station" Redpolls, even in a Red-poll winter, must become suspect. Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows were widely noted as either scarce or decreasing (3,4,5,6,7,9); in some

cases Grasshopper Sparrow were reportedly very early in May but could not be found thru the month thereafter.

The spring rarities list has a very strong flavor of southern "over-shoots", this despite the poor showing of southerly winds thru most of the season; similarly upstate had a fine array of "coast - to - inland" birds which may have been stopped by the innumerable rainstorms rather than passing over in the usual non-stop northbound migration. The Adirondack sector had a good collection of northern rarities (q.v.) and a "state lister" would do well to read that report in toto. The many rare birds included - Great Cormorant (5), Glossy Ibis (3,5,6,9), Surf Scoter (4), Swainson's Hawk (5), Sandhill Crane (2), Whimbrel (3), Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits (2), Ruff (3), Avocet (3), Black-necked Stilt (10), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5), Little Gull (3), Black-billed Magpie (3), Common Raven (7), White eyed Vireo (2,4), Swainson's Warbler (10), Yellow-throated Warbler (2,10), Kentucky Warbler (4,5,10), Summer Tanager (2,10), and Blue Grosbeak (10).

And for the closing, admonitions - keep counts carefully; report not just species, but numbers of each; document your rarities; and get your reports to your regional editors on time.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Rochester experienced what statisticians would call an average Spring. April temperatures and rainfall were slightly above average, 48 degrees and 3.21 inches, respectively; while May was average with 55 degrees and 2.66 inches. Early April was rather cold and wet with some snowfall on the 10th. The balance of April was very pleasant with above average temperatures. The first Broad-winged Hawks and an Osprey appeared on the 15th with other notable flights occurring on the 21st and 22nd. May was very pleasant both weather and birding wise. With the exception of the 28th and 29th when we experienced spectacular flights, no large flights occurred. Small flights were noted on the following days: 2, 12, 19, 22, 26 and 30th. Foliage was advanced enough throughout May to make birding a constant challenge.

RARITIES INCLUDE: Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Summer Tanager, House Finch.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand Eastman Park; WEB - Webster; WP - Webster Park; WLS - west Lakeshore.