

record Keuka area until June; several at Tompkins County airport and other reports in Ithaca area. Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce; only 1 location in Elmira area; none Keuka; a few Cay Basin. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: the one at Phipps feeder in Ithaca since Dec 12 was last seen May 14.

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

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April averaged a little above normal temperature and precipitation. April 8 to 15 produced sub-freezing temperatures every night and 1 3-inch snowfall but the next week was well above normal in temperature. May was almost uniformly cold and wet. Nearly 2 inches of snow fell May 17-18.

Mrs. Margaret Bowman, reporting from East Branch in Delaware County, writes, "To say that the spring migration viewed from the ground was sparse this year is putting it mildly", and she provides comparative figures. During eighteen days in the field in May '73 she recorded 60 individuals of 14 migrant species of warblers, while 14 days of May '72 produced 211 individuals of the same species. The writer noted some of the highest chip counts during the evening were in the last week of May, so perhaps volume was recouped late when no one was watching.

One migrant species that was noticeably more common than usual was the Cape May Warbler. The non-migrant House Finch also continues to increase and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills lingered in appreciable numbers all through May. Another Goshawk nest and one, possibly two, more Prairie Warbler summer sites were encouraging.

Rarities, at least for the Susquehanna Region, included a Double-crested Cormorant, a small flock of Surf Scoters and a Kentucky Warbler. An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Pine Warbler may belong on that list, although one suspects they are more common in the Region than historical records indicate.

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton; WP-Whitney Point.

Observers initials: J,CB-Jeanette and Cutler Baldwin; LB-Les Bernant; MB-Margaret Bowman; LC-Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC-Gail Corderman; A,MD-Anna and Marilyn Davis; W,LD-Warren and Louise Dean; MD-Mary Dobinsky; CG-Claire Gottschall; SH-Shirley Hartman; EH Elva Hawken; CH-Claude Howard; D,ML-Dwight and Margaret Lynch; HM-Harriet Marsi; R,RP-Robert and Rite Pantle; MS-Mary Sheffield; EW-Elizabeth Washburn; DW-Don Weber; CW-Cora Wellman; R,SW-Ruth and Sally White; KW-Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 May 23 still at Crumhorn Lake, near Oneonta (CW, MD), eclipse plumage. Horned Grebe: Apr 6 Candor (DW); 2 Apr 22 WP (MS); only 2 reports between. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 14 WP (MS), the last report. Double-crested Cormorant: May 13 WP (MS), seldom seen here. Great Blue Heron: Apr 21 Candor (R,RP) and Owego (J,CB), early. Black-crowned Night Heron: seen several times flying over Ingraham Hill, south of Bing, in mid May (CH). Green-winged Teal: 2 Apr 4 Oneonta (KW, et al), the only report. American Widgeon: Apr 17 Candor (DW), last date. Ring-necked Duck: 10 May 12 Portlandville, near Oneonta, (KW, MD), latest report by 3 weeks. Lesser Scaup: Apr 1 Owego (J,CB). Common Goldeneye: Apr 7 Owego (J,CB), latest. Bufflehead: 1 Apr 4 Oneonta (KW, et. al.); 3 Apr 12 Chenango Bridge (A,MD); 2 reports between. Oldsquaw: Apr 6 Owego (D,ML); 3 Apr 14 WP (MS). Surf Scoter: 4 May 13 WP (MS), 7 or more the next day

in the same place (R,SW), almost never seen in Region. Hooded Merganser: still in Bing area May 13. Common Merganser: May 13 WP (MS). Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Apr 7 Oneonta Reservoir (KW,MD); Apr 8 Owego (J,CB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 8 May 14 East Branch (MB), 5 Bing Apr 19 (CH) the best counts; seldom seen near Bing although reasonably common in Delaware County. Goshawk: Apr 10 Candor (DW); May 6 Endicott (R. & S. Lynch), active nest found and photographed. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 5 reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 reports Broad-winged Hawk: May 6 Oneonta (MD), Chenango Forks (A,MD), first date. Marsh Hawk: Apr 6, 7 and 13 Vestal (EH); May 12 Oneonta (KM, MD). Osprey: 20 reports Apr 4 to May 13; May 26 and 28 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Bob-white: regular at Candor all period (DW). Turkey: 3 Apr 14 South Vestal (GC, W. Corderman); regularly the last 2 weeks of Apr Flemingville, in Tioga County, (Charles Truman). American Coot: Apr 7 Milford (MD); 2 Apr 14 WP (MS). Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 13 Vestal (HM, EW). Common Snipe: 9 Apr 4 Oneonta (FW, et al.). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 23 Candor (DW), early. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 25 Candor (DW), early. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Apr 8 Sherburne (R,SW). Common Tern: May 13 WP (MS); May 26 Goodyear Lake, near Oneonta. Black Tern: May 14 WP (R,SW). Barred Owl: Apr 6 Bing (GC, et. al.); May 13 Bing. Long-eared Owl: 1 Apr 17 Delhi (LC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: heard several nights in mid-May on Ingraham Hill (CH). Nighthawk: May 26 Oneonta (Irene Wright), unusually late. Chimney Swift: 2 Apr 26 Walton (SH). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 1 Newark Valley (W,LD); 1 May 3 Milford (MD); no more until May 13. Pileated Woodpecker: 8 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: at Candor in Apr (DW); May 7 and 13 Newark Valley (Louise Hover). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 2 Candor (DW). Eastern Kingbird: May 2 Newark Valley (DW, DL); 1 May 2 Delhi (LC). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 13 Bing (MS et al). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: May 26 Vestal (GC), the only report. Traill's Flycatcher: 1 May 17 Vestal (EH), earliest. Least Flycatcher: 1 May 1 Vestal (EH). Wood Pewee: May 19 Chenango Forks (A,MD) and Bear Spring Mountain (SH). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 30 Milford (MD), the only report. Bank Swallow: May 1 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Apr 25 Sherburne (R,SW). Barn Swallow: Apr 16 Candor (R,RP). Purple Martin: Apr 20 Owego (J,CB). Tufted Titmouse: May 5 a recaptured banded bird had a well developed brood patch (GC); regular at a number of Bing localities; also reported from Oneonta (Irene Wright) and Owego (J, CB, D, ML, Emma Bushi). Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few almost everywhere in the Region all period. Brown Creeper: a pair completing a nest at East Branch May 14 (MB). House Wren: 1 Apr 15 Oneonta (E and F Vermilya). Winter Wren: May 20 East Branch (MB), last report; 3 other May reports from Bing area. Mockingbird: reported from Bing area, Delhi (LC, Mrs. M Carey), Owego (D,ML), Candor (DW) and Newark Valley (W,LD). Hermit Thrush: May 7 Oneonta (KW); seemed scarce. Swainson's Thrush: 3 banded May 17 Vestal (GC); six more reports to May 29. Gray-checked Thrush: 1 May 20 Sherburne (R,SW); 1 May 23 Vestal (EH). Veery: May 6 near Oneonta (MD). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 May 12 "nesting in willows at Milford Launch site"; May 13 Bing (R. Marsi); May 13 Newark Valley (Phil Biehl); May 26 Bing (MS), Golden-crowned Kinglet: May 27 Owego (D,ML), the only report after Apr 14. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 15 Apr 17 Delhi (LC) to May 14 East Branch (MB) and Vestal (GC) in good numbers; only 2 later reports, May 19 Bear Spring Mountain (SH) and May 26 Chenango Bridge (MS). Cedar Waxwing: continue to be scarce.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: May 13 near Halseyville, south of Bing (CG). Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 May 3 Delhi (LC); more numerous than usual. Solitary Vireo: May 2 Chenango Forks (A,MD), late. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 13 Apalachin (HM, LB). Warbling Vireo: 1 May 3 Norwich (R,SW), the only report before May 13. Golden-winged Warbler: May 6 Chenango Forks (A,MD); quite a few in Bing area but none anywhere else. Blue-winged Warbler: 1 May 8 East Branch (MB); May 23 Owego (J,CB); 3 Bing reports. Tennessee Warbler: May 13 Bing area, numerous until May 27. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 13 Halseyville (CG). Nashville Warbler: May 3 Choconut Center (MS). Parula Warbler: May 4 East Branch (MB), not many. Yellow Warbler: Apr 19 Bing (CH), no more until May 1. Magnolia Warbler: May 4 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Cape May Warbler: 3 May 1 Walton (SH), no more until May 10; 36 banded at Vestal from May 11 to 19 (GC) and numerous reports from most parts of the Region; last date May 25 Vestal (GC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 13 Bing. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Apr 20 Chenango Forks (A,MD); 25 or more still at Oneonta May 16 (MD); last date May 28. Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 May 2 Delhi (LC). Blackburnian Warbler: 3 May 7 Delhi (LC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 10 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Bay-breasted Warbler: May 19 Vestal (Robert Schumann) and East Branch (MB); last report May 30 (MB). Blackpoll Warbler: 2 May 20 East Branch (MB). Pine Warbler: 1 Apr 20 Sherburne (R,SW). Prairie Warbler: May 2 near Vestal Center (EH), about 2 miles from the location where they have been resident for several years and where they arrived May 4 this year (EW) — both locations continue to be occupied; May 29 singing at East Branch (MB). Palm Warbler: Apr 22 Owego (J,CB); May 13 Halseyville (CG). Ovenbird: May 2 Delhi (LC). Northern Waterthrush: May 13 Bing. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 16 Bing (MS); Apr 22 Whitmarsh Hollow (DW). Kentucky Warbler: 1 banded May 17 Vestal (GC). Mourning Warbler: 1 banded May 17 Vestal (GC); 2 banded May 30 Vestal (EH); singing at East Branch May 29 (MB). Yellowthroat: Apr 23 Owego (J,CB); no more until May 3. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 19 Bing (MS); 1 banded May 30 Vestal (EH). Wilson's Warbler: May 13 Apalachin (HM, LB); only 2 other reports. Canada Warbler: May 13 Bing. American Redstart: May 6 Vestal (EH).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 12 Owego (J,CB). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: May 1 Endwell (Margaret Layton), Rusty Blackbird: Apr 21 Candor (DW). Scarlet Tanager: May 6 Vestal (EH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Indigo Bunting: May 12 Owego (J,CB). Evening Grosbeak: still present at the end of May. Purple Finch: have remained common all spring. House Finch: regular at Vestal from mid May (GC) and still regular, as for several years, and in increasing numbers at a location in Bing (Eugene Kirch) and another in Endwell (Florence Linaberry). Pine Grosbeak: 10 May 7 East Branch (MB), last ones; reported from nowhere else during the period. Pine Siskin: present in shrinking numbers to the end of the period. Red Crossbill: present to the end of the period at several locations; seemed to be more common, particularly during May, than at any time in the last 20 years, although no single report records more than 12 individuals. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 15 Delhi (LC). Grasshopper Sparrow: May 13 Bing, the only report all spring. Henslow's Sparrow: May 3 Bing (MS); only 3 other reports, all in Bing area. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 7 Walton (SH). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: migrants to about May 5; small numbers to the end of the period. Tree Sparrow: Apr 18 last date. Chipping Sparrow: 1 Apr 16 Delhi

(LC). White-crowned Sparrow: May 3 Endwell (LB); May 27 Owego (D,ML), the only report after May 19. Fox Sparrow: 6 Apr reports — last date Apr 15. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 and 24 Vestal (EH), 1 banded each date; the only reports. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 25 Candor (DW).

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

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Rain, rain, rain, rain, rain, — and if it didn't rain, it snowed in this second wettest spring of record. The first two weeks of April had virtually continuous rain and every local wetland flooded over. The last half of April had some clear spells but of such brief duration that hawk migration observations were literally a washout. Unseasonably warm but still wet weather in late April accelerated foliage markedly and early May birding was a squishy walk thru a leaf-rich, warbler-poor jungle. Cold weather and storms (eight inches of snow May 18 in southern Madison and Oneida Counties) in mid-May stalled the migration completely; this was followed by extensive rain to late May. May 29-31 saw the only true burst of spring warbler migration for the entire season — and then suddenly it was summer. The very high water levels of Lake Ontario precluded any concentration of gulls, terns, or shorebirds at low lying areas such as Sandy Pond, Salmon River, or Selkirk Shores State Park; however, gull concentrations on the breakwaters at Oswego and Fair Haven were quite impressive. The extensive flooding of many farm fields with the creation of abundant habitat may explain in part the diffuse reports and low tallies of migrant shorebirds.

Positives for the season include 1) very good numbers of Common Loon with many late birds; 2) a spurt of Cattle Egret; 3) good numbers of Canada Geese and a superb spring Brant flight; 4) good hawk flights, primarily in March and May with some record tallies (q.v.), except for a diffuse and protracted Broad-winged Hawk movement; 5) high counts and late dates for the larger gulls including "white-wingers"; 6) very good late May flight of flycatchers; 7) heavy Lake Ontario migration of swallows (q.v.); 8) excellent warbler counts for some species though virtually every species was late in arrival and in date of peak numbers; 9) a huge flight of Evening Grosbeak and Goldfinch with lesser numbers of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Red Cross-bill; and 10) a heavy movement of White-crowned Sparrow.

Negatives include 1) poor numbers of all grebes; 2) very poor duck flight, especially so in dabblers and Aythya with virtually no late May residua; 3) a miserable shorebird migration, both in numbers and in variety; 4) very poor counts of Bonaparte's Gulls and all terns; 5) poor May migration of cuckoos; 6) paucity of caprimulgids, Chimney Swift, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird until late May; 7) very low tallies of Winter and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird; 8) incredibly low counts on all local Warbling Vireos; 10) very low spring counts of Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Chipping, Fox, and Lincoln's Sparrows and all the "meadow" sparrows.

Rarities for the spring period were many and include some exciting modern regional firsts — Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.