

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

In spite of a 10 inch snowfall April 8 and 9, the last serious snow of the season, April was decidedly warmer than normal with only two thirds the normal precipitation. May, particularly the first two weeks, was wet and cool.

The small land bird migration was at least on time at the end of April but did seem retarded after that. In several instances the first report of a species was normal but the main body of migrants lagged behind. Migrant thrushes were none too common and parula warblers were not reported at all after being a little more common than usual last year.

The principal rarity was a Golden Eagle.

Observers initials: C,JB—Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin; CB—Cheryl Boise; MB—Margaret Bowman; MC—Mildred Clark; GC—Gail Corderman; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; W,LD—Warren and Louise Dean; MD—Mary Dobinsky; CG—Claire Gottschall; EH—Elva Hawken; LH—Louise Hover; CH—Claude Howard; DH—Donald Huntington; CK—Cindy Kirch; MS—Mary Sheffield; RS—Robert Sheffield; EW—Elizabeth Washburn; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; BSC—Binghamton Spring Census, May 19; CF—Chenango Forks; EB—East Branch, Delaware County; DOSC—Delaware Otsego Spring Census, May 18; Sher—Sherburne; Port—Portlandville; TSC—Tioga Spring Census, May 19; WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 13, 1 at WP (MS) and 1 at Port (MD, KW); 4 other reports, the last May 21 Pepacton Reservoir (MB). Horned Grebe: Apr 7 WP (MS); 5 more reports to Apr 25 at Oneonta Reservoir (MD). Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Apr 27 Goodyear Lake (MD, KW), the last report after being fairly common, especially around Oneonta. Green Heron: 2 Apr 28 Brisben to Greene (RS, MS). Great Egret: 1 Apr 15 Sher (R,SW); May 19 TSC; no others. American Bittern: 1 Apr 14 Emmons, near Oneonta (MD). Least Bittern: May 18 and 21 near SUNY Bing campus (Richard Kaskan). seldom reported in Region. Canada Goose: large flocks until Apr 28; 2 still near Walton May 25 (MC, et. al.). Mallard: migrants mostly gone after Apr 15. Pintail: 2 Apr 13 Port (MD, KW), last ones. Green-winged Teal: 3 Apr 13 Port (MD, KW), the last date. Blue-winged Teal: more common than usual this spring; still at Oneonta May 18 and Apalachin May 19. American Wigeon: Apr 13 Chenango Bridge (A,MD) and Port (MD, KW), last date. Shoveler: 2 to 3 birds on pond near Milford Apr 13 to 20 (MD, KW). Ring-necked Duck: Apr 27, 5 at Pepacton Reservoir (MB) and 13 at Goodyear Lake and Milford (MD, KW), the last ones. Greater Scaup: DOSC. Lesser Scaup: 400 or more Apr 11 Pepacton Reservoir (MC), first date and maximum count; 1 May 24 Crumhorn Lake, Otsego County (MD), last date. Common Goldeneye: 1 female Apr 15 Crumhorn Lake (MD), the only report after Mar 31. Bufflehead: 2 Apr 18 CF (A,MD), last. Oldsquaw: May 2, 1 at South Valley (DH) and 4 at Oneonta Reservoir (MD), last date. Surf Scoter: 1 May 4 Otsego Lake (DH). White-winged Scoter: 3 May 4 WP (MS). Ruddy Duck: 1 Apr 13 WP (MS); 2 Apr 27 Norwich (R,SW). Hooded Merganser: 2 May 5 Sher (CB), the only report after Apr 13. Common Merganser: 6 still at EB, along the Beaverkill, May 3 (MB); May 5 CF (RS, MS). Red-breasted Merganser: 25 Apr 13 WP (MS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: about 100, presumably migrating, reported at Cadosia in mid Apr (via MB); also reported at Delhi (MC), Candor (Robert

Pantle), Sher (CB), EB (MB), Center Lisle, Broome County (CH), south of Bing (GC, Warren Corderman, Eugene Kirch) and Oneonta; the species seems to have been increasing in the Region for several years. Goshawk: reported on both DOSC and BSC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 5 reports. Red-tailed Hawk: fairly common, as usual. Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 Apr 27 Oneonta area (MD, KW), the best count; at least 7 other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: only 14 reports, down from previous years. Golden Eagle: 1 immature Apr 20 over the west side of Bing (Dr. Alvin Carpenter) at 1330 EDT, no dihedral—two tone wings with lighter spots near wrists—head smaller than bald eagles—no teetering when soaring—observer has had previous experience with species. Marsh Hawk: 8 reports, up a little; 1 “tumbling” Apr 27 near Oneonta (MD, KW). Osprey: Apr 13, 2 at Upper Lisle (MS), 1 at Franklin, Delaware County (MC), 1 in Oneonta area (MD, KW); 17 other reports, 6 on more Apr 28 between Brisben and Greene (RS, MS) the best count. Merlin: May 18 DOSC. Turkey: Apr 16 Owego (LH); Apr 17 CF (A, MD); also regular at Newark Valley during Apr (W, LD) and reported on both TSC and BSC. Virginia Rail: Apr 18 Newark Valley (W, LD); 1 May 14 Sher (CB). Common Gallinule: May 8 Friendsville in nearby Pennsylvania (CG); TSC. American Coot: Apr 6 Chenango Bridge (A, MD); D)SC. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 12 Port (MD). Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 27 Owego (LH). Greater Yellowlegs: 1 May 14 Sher (CB). Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 27 Owego (LH). Least Sandpiper: May 19 Westford (DH); BSC; May 28 Sher (CB). Ring-billed Gull: about a dozen Apr 13 Upper Lisle (MS), the best count. Bonaparte's Gull: 4 records, 4 Apr 15 Sher (R, SW), the best count and last date. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: DOSC; not many. Black-billed Cuckoo: DOSC; not many. Screech Owl: 3 reports. Barred Owl: DOSC; BSC, still at regular location south of Bing.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: May 18 Hinman's Corners (Bob and Jeanne Saunders); DOSC; no other reports. Nighthawk: DOSC; May 18 CF (A, MD). Chimney Swift: Apr 23 Owego (Evelyn Williams). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 7 Friendsville (CG); fairly common. Pileated Woodpecker: 9 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: DOSC; TSC; BSC (MS); no others. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants Apr 13 at several localities. Eastern Kingbird: Apr 28 between Brisben and Greene (MS); Apr 30 South Montrose, in nearby Pennsylvania, (CG); no more until May 15. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 9 CF (A, MD). Traill's Flycatcher: May 14 Vestal (GC); both Alder and Willow on BSC. Least Flycatcher: May 2 Vestal (EH). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 May 22 Vestal (GC), banded. Eastern Wood Pewee: 2 May 16 Middlefield (DH). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 25 Sher (CB); May 27 Castle Creek (MS). Bank Swallow: Apr 28 Brisben-Greene (MS). Rough-winged Swallow: 2 Apr Sher (R, SW). Barn Swallow: Apr 16 (LH). Cliff Swallow: 3 Apr 29 Sher (R, SW). Purple Martin: Apr 3 Owego (C, JB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: BSC, the latest of several reports. Brown Creeper: none after May 19. House Wren: 1 Apr 9 Schenectady (DH); no more until Apr 26. Winter Wren: 3 Apr 12 Delhi (MC); BSC, the last date with only 2 intervening reports. Carolina Wren: Apr 15 Ingraham Hill, just south of Bing (CH); DOSC; May 27 Owego (R. W. Bennett). Mockingbird 1 Apr 21 Oneonta (Irene Smith); 1 Apr 28 Delhi (MC); Apr 30 Owego (LH); May 11 Choconut Center (RS); DOSC; BSC; TSC. Catbird: Apr 30 Vestal (EH) and 2 Westville, Otsego County (DH); common after May 6. Brown Thrasher: 1 Apr 5 Meredith, Delaware County (MC). Wood Thrush: Apr 26 Delhi (MC). Hermit Thrush: May 4 EB (MB) and 2 Milford (MD, KW), first date. Swainson's Thrush: May 14 Vestal (GC), banded; 11 more reports to May 26. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 May 17 Maine, Broome County (Jon and Susan Harrington); May 25 Walton (MC, et. al.); the only reports. May 4 EB (MB); no

more until May 11. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr 15 Ingraham Hill (CU); 3 Apr 25 EB (MB); 2 May 14 Sher (CB); DOSC; BSC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: May 12 Sher (CB), the last of 3 May reports. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6 Apr 8 Delhi (MC) to May 25 Walton (MC, et. al.); quite numerous, particularly from Apr 20 to May 14. Water Pipit: 1 Apr 8 Delhi (MC). Cedar Waxwing: not very common. Loggerhead Shrike: BSC (GC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 10 Friendsville (CG), fairly numerous. Solitary Vireo: Apr 25 Emmons (MD). Red-eyed Vireo: first date May 15 in several localities; common, as usual. Philadelphia Vireo: TSC; BSC; 1 May 20 Maine (Jon and Susan Harrington); 1 May 23 Delhi (MC). Warbling Vireo: Apr 28 Bri-ben-Greene (MS); Apr 30 Owego (LH). Black-and-White Warbler: 1 Apr 26 Delhi (MC). Golden-winged Warbler: May 4 Vestal (Naturalists' Club). Brewster's Warbler: 1 May 17 Vestal (EH), banded. Blue-winged Warbler: May 7 Sher (CB); 5 later reports. Tennessee Warbler May 15 EB (MB), first; May 27 Choconut Center (MS), last; numerous. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 May 23 EB (MB); no others. Nashville Warbler: Apr 30 Vestal (EH). Yellow Warbler: Apr 27 Owego (LH). Magnolia Warbler: May 11 Vestal (Naturalists' Club). Cape May Warbler: May 11 Vestal (Naturalists' Club). Yellow Warbler: May 8 Sher (CB) and Kirkwood (Naturalists' Club). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr 21 Owego (C,JB), first; 2 May 21 Milford (MD), KM, Virginia Hamwey), last. Black-throated Green Warbler: Apr 28 CF (A,MD); no more until May 8. Cerulean Warbler: DOSC; 1 May 20 Delhi (MC). Blackburnian Warbler: May 4 EB (MB). Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 4 Vestal (Naturalists' Club). Bay-breasted Warbler: May 14 Emmons (MD) and CF (A,MD), first date; May 22 EB (MB), last. Blackpoll Warbler: May 11 Vestal (EH); still around at the end of May. Prairie Warbler: 1 May 14 EB (MB); May 29 heard at regular station in Vestal Center (EM). Palm Warbler: 1 Apr 13 Oneonta area (MD, KW); Apr 21 Owego (C,JB); 1 May 11 Sher (R,SW). Ovenbird: May 8 Vestal (EH). Northern Waterthrush: May 13 Vestal (EH), banded; quite a few. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Apr 13 Oneonta area (MD, KW). Mourning Warbler: 1 Apr 30 Middlefield (DH); DOSC; May 25 Walton (MC, et. al.). Yellowthroat: Apr 28 Choconut Center (MS). Yellow-breasted Chat; TSC; no others. Wilson's Warbler: May 14 Vestal (GC); banded; 8 more reports to May 21. Canada Warbler: May 11 Vestal (Naturalists' Club). American Redstart: May 14 several localities, last date.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 10 Friendsville (CG). Northern Oriole: May 5 CF (MS). Rusty Blackbird: still at Brisben May 11 (RS); also May report from Owego. Scarlet Tanager: May 10 Oneonta (KW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr 5 Endwell (Esther Neal); Apr 28 Vestal (EH). Indigo Bunting: 1 May 9 Westford, Otsego County (DH). Evening Grosbeak: frequent reports but small numbers and absent from many feeders; last date May 22 Oneonta (Irene Wright). Purple Finch: scarce until about Apr 20 then abundant to May 4 and remained fairly common to the end of the period. House Finch: regular and common at 1 feeder in Bing (CK), 1 feeder in Vestal (GC) and 2 feeders in Endwell (Florence Linaberry, Les Bemont) but absent from most all other Triple Cities feeders reporting; 2 Apr 30 Owego (C,JB) and 1 May 31 Vestal Center (EW), the only reports from outside the Bing area; May 14 an immature bird banded at Vestal (GC). Common Redpoll: 3 Apr 20 (E. B. and F. B. Vermilya), the last report. Pine Siskin: small numbers until a minor surge about 20 to May 14; BSC the last date. Red Crossbill: 1 Apr 8 and 9 Bing (CK); 8 or more May 7 Oneonta (MD); the only reports. White-winged Crossbill: 3 Apr 1 and 6 Bing (CK), no other. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Apr 11 West Davenport, Otsego County (E. B. and F. B. Vermilya). Savannah Sparrow: Apr 2 West for (DH) and Delhi

(MC). Grasshopper Sparrow: DOSC; 2 other reports, both from Broome County. Henslow's Sparrow May 3 Choconut Center (MS); BSC; TSC; no others. Vesper Sparrow Apr 8 Delhi (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: down to small summer population after May 12; 1 Apr 11 at feeder at West Davenport "with pure white head" (Mrs. H. R. More); 1 "Oregon" banded at Vestal Apr (GC). Tree Sparrow: 1 lingered at Choconut Center to May 11 (MS); BSC (Jim Briggs). Chipping Sparrow: 1 Apr 5 Delhi (MC); next reports Apr 14. Field Sparrow: regular from Apr 9. White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Apr 24 Delhi (MC), the first migrants; common from May 4 to 15; May 21 Owego (R. W. Bennett), the last. White-throated Sparrow: migrants in numbers from Apr 14 to May 11. Fox Sparrow: good numbers to Apr 25; BSC (David Ciganek), the only report after May 10. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 May 11 Sher (CB); 1 banded May 17 and another May 20 Vestal (EH). Swamp Sparrow: Apr 13, 2 in Oneonta area (MD, KW) and 2 or 3 singing at WP (MS).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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A surge of southerly winds in early April triggered a spectacular raptor migration (q.v.) and gave promise of relief from March's extended and extensive winter. Unfortunately rain and persistent north and northeast winds in mid-April and again in late April made for a slow month and May was little better. Cold, clear weather and north winds in the first third of May produced minimal migrant movement and what few migrants did show up were in scant numbers. The middle third of May was more cold weather, much rain (the second wettest May on record), and tremendous winds, none southerly, but despite this, produced a few impressive waves of later warblers. Even late May was cold—again with rain and persistent adverse winds, so cold that insect life was severely retarded and many arboreal species even then were noted groundfeeding and insect repellents were not required throughout May. As judged from both comments and counts, both cuckoo species, certain flycatchers, particularly Empidonax, most vireos, many local warblers, and Indigo Bunting did not arrive on territory until well into June.

Positives for the spring include 1) a good Canada Goose flight; 2) a good but late raptor migration; 3) good numbers of certain species of flycatchers (q.v.); 4) a tremendous but brief swallow migration; 5) advancing numbers of Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Mockingbird; 6) good counts of migrant kinglets; 7) a surge in certain local breeding birds—House Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Oriole, Chipping Sparrow, 8) good, and in some cases, impressive, numbers of later migrant warblers; 9) heavy but late flight of Icterids; and 10) increased numbers of Cardinal and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and veritable swarms of American Goldfinch.

Negatives include 1) a dismal dabbling and diving duck flight, especially poor in Aythya; 2) a minimal spring shorebird flight, both for the mid-April and the late May species 3) reduced counts on all local tern species; 4) few cuckoos and even fewer Ruby-throated Hummingbird; 5) reduced tallies for locally breeding swallows; 6) reduced numbers of certain, usually early, migrant warblers—Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird; and 7) marked reduction in virtually all sparrows, notably in Savannah, Vesper, White-throated, Fox, Lincoln's, and Swamp, and even in the normally ubiquitous Dark-eyed Junco.