

REGION 4 —SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a cold, late spring, although there were quite a few sunny days. There were still two to three feet of snow in parts of the Oneonta area March 11 and a favored spot for ducks at Portlandville was not open until March 25. Snow flurries, and occasional heavier snowfalls, continued all through March and well into April. Temperatures remained low enough to suppress any great amount of insect activity until, about May 10-11 with no earlier warm spells to entice and then trap the tenderer bird species.

Waterfowl numbers, Canada Geese excepted, were generally down, possibly because our better waterfowl gathering spots were still frozen when the birds went through or because the delayed migrants hurried on past us. A Double-

crested Cormorant and a flock of Brant, both in May, were the high points.

The earlier small land bird migrants, such as robins and Red-winged Blackbirds, arrived about two weeks later than in the previous year. Their hardiness was put to the test even then and there were some rather uncomfortable robins to be seen. Losses, if any, were light enough to go unreported.

A measure of the lateness of the insectivorous species is the fact that the only warblers reported before May 5 were the Yellow-rumped and the Louisiana Waterthrush and only four more warbler species and one vireo were known to have arrived by May 7. The delayed first arrivals were to some extent compensated for by compression of the main part of the migration into little more than two weeks. But a "wave" of normally early Yellow-rumps mixed with a "wave" of normally late blackpoUs at Apalachin May 21 would seem to indicate that considerably more than simply first arrivals were delayed.

The rarities of the season were a Little Blue Heron, Brant, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Kentucky Warbler and Hoary Redpoll, all hypothetical for lack of details, plus a Prothonotary Warbler.

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton ;WP-Whitney Point.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin (C, JB); Jean Barnes; Reynolds Bennett (RB); Anne Casselberry (AC); Mildred Clark; Gail Corderman; Anna and Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Warren and Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie and Malcom Dorber (SD, MD); Polly and Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall (CG); Elva Hawken (EH); Paul Hicok (PH); Jim and Kathy Hoteling (J, KH); Claude Howard; Spencer Hunt; Barry Ingber; Al Johnson; Jackie Keeler (JK); Rudolph and Ingeborg Klenke; John Knapik; Bill and Margaret Layton; Florence Linaberry; Shaw Lively (SL); L. McDowell (LMcD); Peter and Dorothy Martin; Bud and Evelyn Mead; Mike and Kathy Medovitch; Mary Ann Middleton; Robert Pantle; John Roman (JR); Robert and Jean Saunders; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Helen Spear (HS); K. Stalter (KS); E. B. and R. Vermilya (E, RV); Elizabeth Washburn; Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson; Irene Wright.

LOONS^DUCKS: Common Loon: Oneonta Reservoir Apr. 22; WP May 21; the only reports. Horned Grebe: Apr. 23 WP the last of a half dozen reports, all from Broome and Tioga Counties. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr. 23 WP, last of six reports, also all from Broome and Tioga Counties. Double-crested Cormorant: one imm. WP May 4 (CG, AC); a species that is seldom reported in the Region. Great Blue Heron: first apparent migrant Mar. 18 Endwell and the usual frequent scattered reports of one to three birds for the rest of the period; 20 or more at rookery at Sibley Gulf Pond in Oneonta area Apr. 30. Green Heron: Apr. 15 Owego (C, JB), very early but no details; next report May 13 Chenango Bridge. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one Franklin, in Delaware Co., May 22 (KS), no details. Common Egret: one Delhi area May 20, the only report. American Bittern: May 18 Chenango Bridge; May 21 WP. Whistling Swan: two at Spencer Lake in Tioga Co. the week of Mar. 27, no others. Canada Goose: first migrants Mar. 19; "thousands" going over Mar. 25 and many flocks, 40 at Owego alone, Apr. 1; counts in hundreds as late as May 12; approximately a dozen still at Windsor, east of Bing, to the end of May. **BRANT**: 50-60 WP May 21 (MS), flushed in closely bunched flock, black front-white tail, goose-like calls. Snow Goose: three at Greene Apr. 1 and three WP Apr. 16 and 22 (A, MD). Mallard, Black Duck: due to both an increase in Mallards and a further decrease in Blacks the report ratio was better than five to one in favor of Mallards. Gadwall: one or more Apr. 16 at WP; no others. Pintail: one at Cannonsville Mar. 11, two reports from WP Apr. 8 and 15 plus an Apr. report from Tioga Co., but that's all; down from 50 at a time last year. Green-winged Teal: Apr. 8 WP and Apr. 15 Chenango Bridge, plus a Tioga Co. report in Apr.; have been scarce for a couple of years. Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 6 Chenango Bridge, the first of 7 or more Apr. reports; still at Delhi May

20. American Wigeon: Apr. 9 Chenango Bridge to May 21 WP, four reports in Apr. and only the one in May; smaller numbers and later than last year. Wood Duck: Mar. 2 Owego, first date. Redhead: Mar. 13 Owego, the only report Ring-necked Duck: Mar. 2 Owego; next reports Apr. 1 Oneonta and WP; best count 21 Oneonta Apr. 8; last date Apr. 15. Canvasback: Mar. 31 Chenango Bridge, the only report Scaup (sp?): 10 reports thru Apr. 30 from Owego, Chenango Bridge, Chenango Forks and WP apparently all Lessers; Greater Scaup May 21 WP (MS), Com. Goldeneye: 60 or so Apr. 2 WP, max; Apr. 9 last date. Bufflehead: Mar. 2 Owego; small numbers, one to four at WP Apr. 1 to 30. Oldsquaw: Apr. 5 Owego; 8 WP Apr. 23, max; also two at Oneonta Reservoir May 7 and one at Delhi May 9. White-winged Scoter: 11 Oneonta Reservoir May 7; four Delhi May 9; also at WP in late Apr. Hooded Merganser: Mar. 2 Owego; one Milford Apr. 22, the last; 10 other scattered reports. Com. Merganser: regular reports to Apr. 23; May 28 at Emmons, near Oneonta, the only report after May 14. Red-breasted Merganser: Mar. reports from Owego; small numbers at WP from Apr. 2 to May 4.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Apr. 16 Oneonta; 8 "circling South Mt near Oneonta" May 21, the best count; also at Delhi, Owego, Candor and Chenango Bridge. Goshawk: Mar. 19 Chenango Bridge (MS); four other reports thru Apr. and May, all from Bing area. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 reports. Cooper's Hawk: four reports. Red-tailed Hawk: eight Colliersville-Milford area Mar. 25 and six Chenango Bridge Apr. 1, the best counts; numerous other reports all period. Red-shouldered Hawk: Apr. 9 Chenango Bridge; two Arnold Lake, Oneonta area, May 12; no others. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 22 Milford, first date. Rough-legged Hawk: Apr. 23 Chenango Bridge, the last of seven reports. GOLDEN EAGLE: one Devil's Elbow, in Tioga Co., Apr. 28 and May 1 (Barnes); one Vestal May 11 (J, KH); no details with either report Bald Eagle: one Cannonsville Mar. 11 (SD, MD); one adult flying over Candor May 27 at 9:00 am (JR). Marsh Hawk: Mar. 10 Owego; two reports May 21 Bing area, last date; three birds Apr. 1 Chenango Bridge, the highest count; only five other reports, all from Oneonta-Milford area. Osprey: one Oneonta Apr. 8, first date; May 21 Chenango Bridge, last; four Milford Apr. 22, max; 14 other reports. MERLIN: Mar. 10 Owego (RB); one Oneonta Mar. 16 (E, RV); one Delhi Apr. 18 (LMcD); none with details. Bob-white: only one report, May 21 Bing. Turkey: at Owego Mar. 6 plus an Apr. report; 12 Delhi Mar. 17; three WP Apr. 16. Com. Gallinule: one Apalachin May 21, the only report American Coot: one WP Apr. 1; also an Apr. report from Owego. Killdeer: Mar. 15 Owego; common from then on. Am. Woodcock: Mar. 22 Apalachin, first spring record. Com. Snipe: Mar. 11 Milford, no others. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr. 28 Owego, first date; none too common. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr. 30 Owego and Milford area; May 21 Maine, in Bfoome Co.; no others. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr. 30 Owego; May 21 Bing; that's all. Least Sandpiper: May 21 Owego and WP. Dunlin: May 21 WP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: six WP May 21. Herring Gull: 20 Johnson City Mar. 28, the highest count; only ones and twos after Apr. 1, but still present May 21 in Bing area. Ring-billed Gull: several WP Apr. 23; not many reports but over 100 at WP and 30 at Endicott May 21, a late date for such numbers in the Bing area. Bonaparte's Gull: four WP May 7.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: plentiful and, especially in residential areas, becoming more so. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Apalachin May 21 then daily reports in Bing area. Black-billed Cuckoo: in Bing area three reports May 2 and five later reports; one Delhi May 25. Snowy Owl: one between Candor and Spencer Mar. 2 (HS), the only one all winter. Saw-whet Owl: one road kill found Mar. 12 between Portlandville and Milford. Com. Nighthawk: Oneonta May 18, first date. Chimney Swift: May 7 Chenango Bridge, first date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 18 Vestal Center. Common Flicker: wintering birds present from the beginning of the period, migrants evident from about Apr. 12. Pileated Woodpecker: 15 reports; numbers seem to be up. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar. 13 Owego; Apr. 1 the next date then daily reports to Apr. 19; the smaller numbers present to the end of the period evidently represent the breeding population.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: one at Milford Apr. 26; next date May 7.

Great Crested Flycatcher: May 10 Newark Valley and Endwell. E. Phoebe: Mar. 23 Vestal Center. Willow Flycatcher: May 21, 2 Bing area reports. Least Flycatcher: one Endwell May 10; eight counted May 12, Portlandville-Milford area. E. Wood Pewee: May 12 Chenango Bridge; no more until May 20. Horned Lark: 425, in 4 flocks, counted Mar. 4 Otego on freshly manured fields; the usual small numbers representing the breeding population present thru May. Tree Swallow: Apr. 1 Chenango Bridge, Candor, Goodyear Dam and Portlandville; 100s at Owego Apr. 15. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr. 28 Owego. Barn Swallow: Apr. 17 Apalachin; common after Apr. 26. Cliff Swallow: May 24 Oneonta Area, probably not a representative arrival date; also at North Colesville in eastern Broome Co. Purple Martin: Apr. 25 Owego. Tufted Titmouse: regular at at least three feeders in Bing area; also reported from several Owego locations and two reports from Oneonta. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintering birds present from the beginning of the period with migrants evident May 7 to 21, but then none. House Wren: Apr. 25 Oneonta; common after May 12. Winter Wren: Apr. 11 Owego; one Delhi Apr. 26; no others. Carolina Wren: reported from three Bing area sites and Owego, but not regularly. Mockingbird: reports from Owego, Endwell, Chenango Bridge, Oneonta and Delhi, Gray Catbird: one Choconut Center May 8, found dead-apparent window casualty; first live ones May 10. Brown Thrasher: one Delhi Apr. 11, then scattered Apr. reports; regular from May 6. Am. Robin: Mar. 15 Owego; regular from May 18. Wood Thrush: May 6 Chenango Forks. Hermit Thrush: Mar. 12 at a feeder in Oneonta; Apr. 29 Chenango Forks; one Delhi May 20 and one Oneonta May 27; no others. Swainson's Thrush: May 14 Chenango Bridge; only five other reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 21 Chenango Bridge; the only report Veery: one Delhi May 12. E. Bluebird: Mar. 28 Candor; 16 Crumhorn Mt. east of Oneonta Apr. 16, the best count Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 Portlandville Apr. 30; May 6 to 15 at Chenango Forks; May 21 Chenango Bridge. Golden-crowned Kinglet: last date Apr. 25 at Chenango Forks. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 16 WP; common from Apr. 22 to May 14; two reports May 21 Bing area. Water Pipit: Apr. 28 Owego; four Franklin, in Delaware Co., May 20, Cedar Waxwing: none reported from Mar. 1 to May 19; one Delhi May 20; five different reports May 21 in Bing area. Northern Shrike: Mar. 6 to 18, six reported from five Oneonta locations plus one report from Owego, Loggerhead Shrike: Mar. 28 Chenango Bridge (A, MD); one WP Apr. 1 (PH); one Apalachin Apr. 1 (SD, SL).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks. Solitary Vireo: three Milford May 12; only three other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: May 10 Chenango Forks, Philadelphia Vireo: May 21 Bing area (EH *et al*); the only report Warbling Vireo: May 12, Delhi and Portlandville-Milford area. Black-and-white Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: one Vestal May 21 (JK), seen by only one person while three others a few feet away compared spoken description with book-after identification completed the bird rewarded the admirable restraint of the other three would-be observers by flying off as soon as they attempted to get into position for a look of their own. Golden-winged Warbler: May 13 Vestal; next report May 20. "Brewster's" Warbler: May 20 Vestal; two others, one singing Bluewing song. Blue-winged Warbler: May 13 Choconut Center and Vestal; three to two reporting ratio over Golden-wings. Tennessee Warbler: May 12 Portlandville-Milford to May 27 Choconut Center. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 13 Chenango Bridge, the only one. Nashville Warbler: May 7 Vestal. N. Parula: May 12 Chenango Forks; seven other reports, three of them May 21, the last date. Yellow Warbler: May 7 WP. Magnolia Warbler: May 12 Delhi and Portlandville-Milford. Cape May Warbler: May 11 Oneonta to May 21 Bing area; numbers up from last year, Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 10 Endwell and Newark Valley. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 22 Chenango Forks; trees still alive with them May 21 Apalachin. Black-throated Green Warbler: May 6 Chenango Forks. Black-burnian Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks; good numbers to May 21. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks, Bay-breasted Warbler: May 12 Chenango Forks; common May 21, the last date reported. Blackpoll Warbler: May 19 Delhi; numerous May 21 Apalachin; still at Choconut Center May 29. Pine Warbler: May 13 Chenango Bridge. Ovenbird: May 9 Chenango Forks. Northern Waterthrush: one Vestal May 7, banded; four Arnold Lake, near

Oneonta, May 12. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 18 Choconut Center. KENTUCKY **WARBLER**: one Bovina Center, Delaware Co., May 20 (L. Barnhart). Mourning Warbler: one Delhi May 20; the only one. Com. Yellowthroat: May 5 North Colesville. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 29 Choconut Center. Wilson's Warbler: May 21 Apalachin and Bing area, several reports; the only date. Canada Warbler: May 12 Delhi, Chenango Forks and five birds in the Portlandville-Milford area. Am. Redstart: May 10 Chenango Bridge; quite common.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 7 WP. E. Meadowlark: Mar. 25 Choconut Center. Red-winged Blackbird: Mar. 12 Vestal; common after Mar. 18. Northern Oriole: arrived May 10 in a half dozen different localities. Rusty Blackbird: 1 WP Apr. 2; Apr. 9 Owego; no others. Com. Grackle: Mar. 17 Owego and Endwell. Brown-headed Cowbird: migrants Mar. 17 Owego, common after Mar. 30. Scarlet Tanager: May 11 Oneonta. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 5 North Colesville; particularly numerous after May 13. Indigo Bunting: May 12 Apalachin; not many until May 20. Evening Grosbeak: noticeably increased numbers from about Apr. 23 thru the first three weeks of May; last date May 23. Purple Finch: migrants swelling numbers from about Apr. 5, the higher numbers remaining into late May. House Finch: now a common permanent resident in much of the urban and suburban parts of the Bing. area, but still scarce in rural areas. Pine Grosbeak: six Oneonta area and one Owego area reports, the latest Mar. 15; max. 20 Portlandville Mar. 4. **HOARY REDPOLL**: Mar. 2 Owego (C, JB), but no details. Common Redpoll: common to Apr. 9 but only in Delhi after May 1; the last stragglers May 10. Pine Siskin: wintering birds common thru Mar. but not many thru Apr. and until May 7, then a spurt in numbers until May 16; last date May 21 in Bing. area. Am. Goldfinch: common all period. Red Crossbill: one Oneonta Mar. 14 (KW), "following a wind storm which had brought down several spruce cones, and this bird walked right between my feet!" the only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 12 Choconut Center and Chenango Bridge; no more until Apr. 22 and not many until May 12. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 17 Delhi; not reported again until May 20, but seemed reasonably common after that. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 27 Choconut Center, the only report. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Vesper Sparrow: Apr. 11 Choconut Center; Apr. 18 Delhi; May 27 Oneonta area; that's all. Dark-eyed Junco: the large number of migrants present during all of Apr. dwindled steadily until after May 12 only the scattered summer residents remained. Tree Sparrow: less common after Apr. 10, but progressively smaller numbers remained until the abnormally late date of May 7 when two were banded at Vestal. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 13 Delhi and Oneonta; not really common until May 5. Field Sparrow: one Delhi Mar. 25; next reports Apr. 11 and then regular. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 25 Oneonta; Apr. 28 Owego; most reports May 11 to 21, then none. White-throated Sparrow: the bulk of migrants passed thru between Apr. 15 and May 14; nine counted in Oneonta area May 27. Fox Sparrow: Mar. 16 Owego; most migrants Mar. 22 to Apr. 12; one Oneonta Apr. 17; one banded Vestal May 7. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 15 Apalachin. Song Sparrow: swollen numbers marking arrival of numerous migrants Mar. 22. Snow Bunting: 90 Oneonta-Milford Mar. 4; 30 south of Vestal Mar. 5; Mar. 7 Owego; Mar. 15 Willet, the last date.

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