

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The unusually mild weather of the winter ended with the advent of March. There was, however, a two-week period during the middle of that month in which a wave of warm weather brought the early migrants to western New York in unusual numbers and on near-record dates. April did its best to reverse the trend of spring by giving us warm weather at the start and cooler toward the end; this resulted in a strange mixture of migrants in late April. May was one of the wettest on record, and also one of the most disappointing to bird observers. It contained no real old-fashioned waves, and for the most part arrival dates were extremely poor. The record total of 196 species and subspecies achieved on the Buffalo Ornithological Society census on the 17th was due to hard work by our observers on a day in which an inch and a half of rain fell and only a scattering of birds was in evidence. That day was almost typical of the month.

LOONS — DUCKS:

The swan flight was disappointing, but we did enjoy an extremely heavy Canada Goose migration, with a high of 25,000 estimated by the Brockners on April 19 in the Oak Orchard area. Scattered reports of such desiderata as Snow and Blue Geese, Gadwall, and European Widgeon came to us, and the very new pattern of brant records was continued this year by a flock of 25 of the American form at Niagara Falls on May 16 (Axtells); ten were still there at the month's end (Brockner). The two Harlequin Ducks which wintered at the Falls were not present after March 15.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Good flights of Broad-winged Hawks along the shore of Lake Erie south of Buffalo occurred on the 26th and 30th of April, and of Sharp-shins on May 2. Turkeys are now quite regularly reported from Allegany State Park. Few shore birds were found on "our" side of the Niagara River; four Pectoral Sandpipers were early arrivals at Wolcottsville on April 2 (Webster, Wendling), and the first record of Upland Sandpiper came on the unbelievably late date of May 2 from Farnham (Axtells).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Flycatchers, as a family, arrived about on time. Wrens were very late; Long-billed Marsh Wrens were not reported until May 7 and Short-bills seemed unaccountably absent from every one of their old haunts. Hermit Thrushes and both kinglets were more than usually abundant in late April. Pipits and Migrant Shrikes came early.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

The five vireos averaged an unbelievable seven days late. Warblers were more punctual insofar as our overall records show. However, it seemed that a single observer would manage to find a single bird on its due date, after which no more would be seen for several days. It was a thin migration indeed, and there was no compensating Decoration Day wave as sometimes occurs.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

The April and May migration of almost all of the species in these families was delayed. Numbers did not seem to be reduced as in the case of the warblers and vireos, but weather conditions caused arrivals which averaged about five days later than usual. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Lincoln Sparrows were particularly tardy. Fox Sparrows were much in evidence in late April when usually their numbers are thinning out. Redpolls ended their western New York convention during the first week of April and disappeared northward; Evening Grosbeaks lingered until May 10 (3 seen at Wellsville by Mrs. McMurtrey).

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