

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS APRIL AND MAY

A few wintering birds lingered into May. A snowy owl was seen near Watertown on May 31, Tree Sparrows were seen near Rochester to May 31, White-throated Sparrows to May 27 at Elmira, May 26 at Avoca, and at Syracuse to May 31. White-crowned Sparrows lingered to May 23 in region 3 and until the 25th. in region 9.

Two species of southern herons showed up north of Long Island this spring. A Little Blue Heron on April 8 in Tioga Co. (Region 4) and at Hudson (Region 8) two American Egrets were seen on May 27. Regions 2 and 3 also reported Egrets.

Brant have appeared with more regularity in the past few years. This spring they were reported from Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and passed across the State from May 8 to May 30.

The Broad-winged Hawk migration near Rochester reached a peak of 3545 individuals on April 22 (normal) and near Syracuse the greatest number of Sharp-shinned Hawks was seen on April 18. Two Golden Eagles were reported from near Rochester and 1 near Branchport (Region 3). Elsewhere (I have not seen Region 1 report to date) the hawk migration was listed as, "no hawk flight" or "poor".

Upland Plovers, an interesting breeding sandpiper of our rolling grassy uplands, were reported from Regions 3 (Waterloo, Dryden, Italy Hill), 5, 6, and 10. An unusual number of spring Golden Plovers was seen near Rochester.

Warm weather in late April brought some migrants in a little early but a cool, wet spell in the middle of May slowed things down to normal and some species were even a little late by mid-May, such as Nighthawk, Black-poll and Bay-breasted Warblers. The weather and the small land bird migration did not cooperate to give New York's birders bushels of birds in single trees. From Keesville, in the Champlain Valley (Region 7) came the only report of a great warbler wave. The other areas called it generally spotty with normal numbers of species but smaller numbers of individuals.

Rarities were a Barrow's Golden-eye at Bear Mountain Park (Region 9), Kentucky Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers and White-eyed Vireos in central and western New York.

The rather remarkable southern invasion continues in central and north-western New York and is summarized below.

SUMMARY OF SOUTHERN INVASION SPRING 1954

Regions	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
American Egret		(5)	3					2		
Little Blue Heron				1						
Turkey Vulture			inc.		inc.			1		1
Black Vulture										1
Barn Owl		4								sev.
Red-headed Woodpecker		few	6	1	few	nor.			3	1
Tufted Titmouse			sev.					1	2	
Bewick's Wren		1								
Carolina Wren		3	1		5		1		few	?
Mockingbird			1		1				1	
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher		inc.	inc.	inc.	3				2	reg.
Loggerhead Shrike					2					1 or 2
White-eyed Vireo		1	1							
Prothonotary Warbler		3	1		5				2	4
Worm-eating "		1	3	1	1			1		rep.
Golden-winged "			inc.		inc.				?	?
Blue-winged "		2	inc.		1				?	?
Cerulean "					15				2	
Yellow-throated "		1	1		1					rep.
Kentucky "		1	1							
Yellow-breasted Chat		1	inc.	1	1		2		1	
Orchard Oriole			1						1	

inc.—increase; sev.—several; nor.—normal; reg.—regular; rep.—report;
 numbers—individuals; *—Regional Report from Region 1 not seen.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

The heavy snow of late March remained on the ground for the first five days of April. The month warmed up rapidly thereafter, with an exceptionally warm spell from the 19th to the 24th which accelerated the spring migration notably. The warm weather ceased abruptly on May 3; in fact the first two days of May were the warmest of the entire month. Cool weather prevailed until the 23rd, very effectively putting a stop to what had started