

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

to be an exceptionally early migration. Thus we find that most early May migrants were either very early or very late, depending upon whether they were reported before the May 3 cold wave set in.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons arrived on time and good numbers were reported, especially on the Niagara River. Double-crested Cormorants were unaccountably late, and less numerous than usual. Braunberns found a yellow-crowned Night Heron at Miller Beach on May 9, only the second record for this territory. Bitterns were late, other herons on time. Small groups of Whistling Swans were reported from all districts throughout April. The maximum count of Canada Geese was 25,000 estimated by the Axtells at Oak Orchard and Wolcottsville on April 22; a few Snow and Blue Geese were reported from the same district. Pintails at Wolcottsville reached a peak of 8000 on April 11. The last Harlequin Duck was seen at Niagara Falls April 18. Gadwalls, European Widgeons, and Shovellers were well distributed.

HAWKS — OWLS: There was a good hawk flight on April 20, 21, and 22. The most interesting single observation was that of Nathan, who, at Forest Lawn Cemetery on the 20th, counted 31 Sharp-Shins, 188 Broad-wings, 3 Ospreys, and 3 Pigeon Hawks flying over. This is without precedent, as most hawk flights skirt east of the city of Buffalo before striking north toward Lake Ontario. Mrs. McMurtrey reports two Hungarian Partridge from Wellsville May 14. Gallinules were on time, but rails were unaccountably late. The flight of Golden Plover was exceptionally good for Spring, the largest number reported being 72 on Grand Island on May 6 (Osgood). Greater Yellow-legs were as late as their smaller cousins had been early, not being seen until April 11. There was a strong flight of Pectorals. One Red-backed Sandpiper on April 20 (Walcottsville, Axtells) is the earliest ever recorded. A White-rumped Sandpiper reported from Miller Beach on May 9, was also without precedent as to date. Glaucous Gulls remained at the Falls until early May, but Iceland Gulls were not seen after April 17. Bonaparte's Gulls were very late in arriving, and their numbers were exceedingly low. Common Terns were first reported April 10 (very early). The last Snowy Owl was seen May 5. Scattering reports of Barn and Saw-whet Owls were received.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: An excellent example of the effect of the break from warm to cool weather on May 3 is provided by the Whip-poor-will and the Night-hawk. The former was a week early (April 20), the latter ten days late (May 21). Dr. Ogden reported an early Hummingbird at Alfred May 2 and a Wood Pewee on the 9th.

Short-billed Marsh Wrens are not nearly as numerous as they were ten years ago; this year in particular it has been a difficult bird to find, and the species was not reported until May 30. Mrs. McMurtrey writes of an encouraging increase in the Wellsville Bluebird population. The May thrushes were somewhat early. Gnatcatchers came in early (April 20 at Evans and St. Bonaventure) and many subsequent records were received. Loggerhead Shrikes seemed more numerous this year.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A White-eyed Vireo, always a rarity here, broke all records by appearing in Delaware Park April 29 (Schaffner, Fish, Axtell). Both the Blue-headed Vireo seen at Olean on April 15 (Eaton) and the one in Delaware Park the following day (R. Axtell) broke our previous earliest record. Many Warblers arrived in late April and the first two days of May. Thereafter their migration was dammed up until the 22nd, when the weather finally broke somewhat and there was a good wave. Record breakers were the Western Palm (April 9), Worm-eating (May 1) and Cerulean (May 1); tying the previous record were Nashville (April 25), Magnolia (April 30), Parula (May 2), and Chestnut-sided (May 1). Also very early were Yellow (April 25), Northern Water-thrush (April 25), Blackburnian (April 26), Ovenbird (April 30), Prairie (May 5), and Canada (May 1). Chats were reported more often than ever before.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Several Orchard Orioles were recorded. Eaton reported an early Rose-breasted Grosbeak from Olean April 29, also stating that approximately 40 Red Crossbills were still there May 31. White-winged Crossbills were not reported after April 24 (Buffalo, Webster) and Evening Grosbeaks were last seen May 2 (five at Youngstown by Tulinoffs). Nathan recorded an early Lincoln's Sparrow from Delaware Park on May 1.

Clark S. Beardslee, 132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.