

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING MIGRATION: APRIL-MAY, 1957

One of my first years of field birding, a year when outstanding Rochester birders pointed out dozens of "lifers" to me, was quite like 1956. The chagrin and frustration of the following year when a less spectacular migration failed to produce the expected numbers of rarities came close to terminating my ornithological interest. Although there are a few similar reactions this year, the scarcity of these complaints after the spectacular 1956 migration would seem to indicate that this year's migration was above average. Surely birding was more difficult in 1957 than in 1956: trees were well leafed out far in advance of peak waves, and the rain the State so badly needed seemed to come all at once at Census time. A possible result of observation difficulty was the scarcity of Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireo reports in some western regions.

This report period completes the cycle without any Winter Finches. We can only wait until the end of the year to see how long this phenomenon will last. A couple of Three-toed Woodpeckers remained in Region 2, as if to prolong as long as possible the notoriety that region gained from Christmas Census results. Schenectady in Region 8 found the spotlight, however, when it produced for the annual Federation meeting on May 25 a Cattle Egret. This is the third known state record, the first on mainland New York.

The "new" hawk flight station at the SE corner of Lake Ontario continues to provide interesting records, this year a Golden Eagle. This is another example of the result of more intensive field work. Syracuse birders are to be congratulated for this extension of our knowledge of New York bird flights.

Also of interest is a Black Rail in Region 5, turned up during field trials for dogs. A scattering of central New York Glossy Ibis reports (several also from Region 10) and a Region 9 Gannet are also of interest. —GRR

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The first half of April was wintry. Mrs. McMurtry reported that on the eighth a ten-inch fall of snow, accompanied by a strong wind, brought many ducks down in the Wellsville area, Old-Squaw and White-winged Scoters in particular being unusually common for that inland area. The early April land bird migrants were exceptionally hard to find during this period. Starting with the 17th, however, an excessively warm spell oc-