

Most of the birds, except the Marsh Hawks and Ospreys, were first sighted in the area of the tower high in the air (at least as high as the tower), with the Sharp-shinned tending to flock in groups of three to five birds. It was interesting to see that in almost every case they would come down into the area where I was standing and dash through and around the pitch pines. From there they usually would swing across the road and over the police barracks to the northwest. Pigeon Hawks in almost every case would do this. Ospreys and Marsh Hawks would appear from anywhere, with Ospreys frequently coming in from the ocean.

From the number of bird remains to be found in this region during the fall it appears that a considerable number of hawks pass through. Although I managed to get out to this same area for a short while in the fall of 1957, I did not see any such flights as I did in 1956. However, I found the remains of number of birds — Flickers, a Cuckoo, Myrtle Warblers, Redstarts, Thrushes, a Sapsucker, etc., and other unidentifiable ones.

The reason the observations as shown above ended around 11:00 A. M. or 12:00 noon was because of the fact that the flights died off at those times insofar as quantity was concerned. — Cornelius J. Ward, 71 East Centennial Ave., Roosevelt, Long Island.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING MIGRATION:

APRIL - MAY, 1958

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration of 1958 might be described as paradoxical. It started rather slowly and never did quite catch up to its expected timetable. A good many species, most notably the Phoebe and Bluebird, were not only late in arriving but were unexpectedly scarce thereafter. As Sally Hoyt has pointed out, those species that normally winter in the middle Atlantic and southern states suffered population losses from moderate to perhaps heavy, such losses being attributable to the late winter cold waves and storms that plagued those regions. The May migration continued to be generally poor. Most areas reported few, if any, spectacular warbler waves, and it was the general consensus that numbers were low.

Yet in spite of these factors good flights of certain species were observed. Blue Jay flights were noted in Region 1, 2, 4, and 9. A flight of over 600 Baltimore Orioles was observed in Region 2. Although the White-crowned Sparrow migration was described as poor in Region 1, it was good in Regions 3, 7, and 8. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers, two species that would not have been affected by the late winter storms in the South, were apparently present in good numbers. Throughout the Hudson Valley the May flight of Canada Geese exceeded that of April, and Canada Geese were still present in the Buffalo area at the end of the period. A phenomenal concentration of Red-necked Grebes appeared in Region 2, and large numbers of Phalaropes were reported from Region 10.

Although warblers were generally reported in low numbers, the variety of warblers observed could hardly have been exceeded. Consider the following: Kentucky Warbler (Regions 1 and 10), Yellow-throated Warbler (Regions 2 and 9), Hooded Warbler (Region 3), Prothonotary Warbler (Regions 3, 9, and 10), Brewster's Warbler (Regions 2, 3, 4, and 10), Lawrence's Warbler (Region 3), and Connecticut Warbler (Region 2).

Other outstanding individual records include a Western Grebe in Region 1, an Eared Grebe in Region 2, Glossy Ibis in Region 2, 3, 6, and 10, a Cattle Egret in Region 9, and a White-fronted Goose in Region 3.

The Carolina Wren has in recent years been establishing itself in many

parts of the region. Most reports indicate this species survived the winter but in somewhat reduced numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were present at most localities much later than normal, thus bringing to a close one of the largest recorded incursions of this winter finch.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The mild weather of late March continued into April which proved to be the second sunniest in 50 years. Precipitation was 1.4 inches above normal. The month was generally warm, the daily average temperature only once being below freezing and the monthly average being 4.4° F above normal. The winds during the latter half of the month prevailed in the southern quarters. In spite of these apparently favorable conditions many land bird species were somewhat late in arriving and were generally low in numbers. May averaged 1.4° F cooler than normal with slightly less precipitation than usual. This month paralleled April with continued low numbers of many species of land bird migrants.

Loons — Ducks: The lakes in the southern part of the region were as usual frequented by a good variety of water birds although in somewhat below normal numbers. Of interest were 300 Horned Grebes on Rushford Lake Apr 25 (Mitchell et al). A spectacular observation was that of a Western Grebe May 18 on Lake Ontario near Olcott (Lehrers). On the Buffalo Ornithological Society spring bird count Apr 13 a total of 20 Red-necked Grebes was noted, the majority on Lake Ontario east of Olcott (Axtells). Only occasionally does this rather rare species occur in such numbers. A Double-crested Cormorant in Buffalo Harbor on May 14 (Bourne) was noteworthy as the species is infrequently observed in the region. In the flooded fields near Wolcottsville a Common Egret appeared on Apr 19 (Clemesha, Laux), and apparently the same bird was there on the following day (Mitchell et al). Another Common Egret was noted on Grand Island May 30 (Heilborn). Very few Whistling Swans were observed this spring, marking one of the poorest flights on record. Canada Geese maintained high numbers into late April in Oak Orchard Swamp and the flooded fields east of Buffalo. A few lingered at least until the end of the period, 87 being reported May 31 (Norths). One to two Blue Geese and one to five Snow Geese were found among the Canada Geese at various times into May. The three small-sized geese which were seen in the Newstead sinks and Oak Orchard areas were very likely the larger of the two smaller races of the Canada Goose. Several partly white Canada Geese were seen by many observers in the same localities. Interesting was the report of a Blue-Snow Goose hybrid at Oak Orchard on Apr 12 (Webb). Ducks of many species were lower in numbers than normal and no explanation is apparent for this fact. Below normal rainfall, rapid run-off, and high evaporation during April reduced water levels in marshy areas and flooded fields but not sufficiently, it would seem, to affect duck migration.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were observed quite frequently in widespread places and seemed somewhat more common. Several hawk flights occurred along the south shore of Lake Erie in April. 124 hawks of eight species including 43 Red-shouldered Hawks were counted there on Apr 5 (Axtell). Although the prevailing wind that day was ENE, wind from a southerly quarter seems most favorable for large hawk flights along this shore. Flights were also recorded on Apr 20, 24, and 27 (all days of prevailing southerly winds). On the last date 225 Broad-winged Hawks, 104 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and nine Red-tailed Hawks were observed in one hour (Brockners). An immature Bald Eagle was reported near Yorkshire Apr 17 (Bourne). At Irving on May 10 another Bald Eagle was seen (Brockner) and a third near Hamburg on May 29 (Bacon et al). A Peregrine Falcon, an event in this area, was noted near Hamburg on May 8 (Bourne), and the same observer saw a Pigeon Hawk on Apr 12 near Langford. Comparatively few shorebirds were observed during the period. The lack of a shallow lake shore and extensive mud flats seems to handicap this area, the shorebirds having to depend on flooded land and isolated small ponds and lakes for stopping places. A Least Sandpiper in Buffalo Harbor