

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

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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

on May 7 (Bourne) and three Dunlins on Grand Island Apr 27 (Webb, Drobits) mark the first migrants of these species. No Woodcock were reported in March and the first observation to come to our attention is of one near Hamburg Apr 8 (Bourne). This was also the situation with the Greater Yellowlegs, the first being reported on Apr 5 at East Eden (Bourne). Usually these species arrive well before the beginning of April. Noteworthy is the report of an Iceland Gull on Apr 25 near Dunkirk (Bourne). Common Terns were first noted at Buffalo on Apr 18 when 450 were seen in Buffalo Harbor (Mitchell). Two Caspian Terns on Apr 16 in Buffalo Harbor (Bourne) were the first migrants seen.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: No Phoebees were reported in March; the first were noted on Apr 6 at Dunkirk (Brockner) and at Olean (Eaton). They also are quite scarce through a large part of the region. Indicative of this is a report from Eaton at Olean that they arrived there a week late and only five pairs appeared, this representing 50% of the number of pairs nesting during his four years of observation. Blue jays migrated along the south shore of Lake Erie in high numbers during the period. On Apr 19 at Lakeview 130 flew past in less than an hour (Andrie). On May 10 a total of 100 Blue Jays were observed along this shore (Brockner). On both occasions the wind was southerly, the previous night mostly clear and cool and the maximum temperature considerably higher than the day before. It is always interesting to compare weather conditions under such circumstances and especially to check the weather maps as often significant correlations and perhaps worthwhile deductions can be made. A Mockingbird in full song at Chestnut Ridge on May 15 (Bourne) leads to speculation as to whether it nested. The general scarcity of Bluebirds in the region continues and is a subject for discussion and concern. If such is the case in other regions there probably is a major factor involved.

Vireos — Warblers: Most species of warblers and vireos were few in number as were many other small land bird migrants. A Solitary Vireo on Apr 20 at Olean (Eaton) is one of the earlier dates for the species in the region as is a Yellow Warbler on Apr 23 at Gainsville (Smith). From reports of various observers it appears that "waves" occurred on May 11, 14, 15, and 17. The migration on May 17 seemed to be rather pronounced, 19 species of warblers being reported from Buffalo (Brockner) and 13 species at Niagara Falls (Heilborn). Even on these days, however, there were fewer than usual of each species and in general May produced a rather poor migration. A Kentucky Warbler in Buffalo May 17 (Nathan) is an interesting observation of a bird that is very rare in the region.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Common Grackles were present in above normal abundance during the period. On Apr 6 a flight of 8,200 Icterids, about half Redwinged Blackbirds, was observed along the south shore of Lake Erie (Brockner). A changing male Summer Tanager was present in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo from May 14-16 (Webster) and was well seen by many observers. Cardinals are very conspicuous this spring and seem to be more common than usual. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks continued to frequent feeders during most of the period, the last individuals being reported at Gainsville May 21 (Smith). Both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were reported as being very low in numbers during the migration.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The first three weeks of April produced frustrating birding. There were no really warm days, and the wind direction was wrong much of the time. Most land birds were rather late in arriving and also were scarce except for short periods. The 20th brought the first good wave, when a few hawk flights developed and there was a good wave of small land birds which brought numbers of species which should have appeared a week or ten days previous. The last week of the month showed a good migration of water birds but still a retarded movement of land birds. The weekend of the Federation meeting (May 2-4) showed a fairly good number of birds present on Saturday, at least locally, against a background of inclement weather.