

FIELD NOTES

Evening Grosbeak in Unusual Plumage — Among the Evening Grosbeaks taken in my banding traps on Jan 13, 1959, was a bird with aspects of both male and female plumages. On the breast, the division between the two plumages was so distinct that it appeared as if a line had been drawn lengthwise through the bird.

The left half of the bird had the characteristic yellow breast, under tail coverts and back of a male. The right half had the grayish-white coloration of a female. There were spots on the upper tail coverts — yellow on the left, white on the right side. The head was generally gray except for a faint yellow stripe over the left eye and a whitish one was across the forehead — Eleanor Radke, Box 138, R. R. 1, East Chatham.

A partially albino Chickadee (continued) — The partially albino Chickadee reported in the last issue of *The Kingbird* has been observed four times subsequently in approximately the same location at Selkirk Shores State Park — on April 18 and 24 and May 10 and 16, 1959. It has been possible to study the bird much more closely than when first seen on February 1, 1959. The eye was black, but the feet and legs light-colored and the bill pinkish horn-colored with some blackish spots. The flanks were light gray without any buff. The narrow fringe of black feathers bordering the white throat formed a crescent, with the points coming up the sides of the throat in a pattern similar to the blacker portion of a Mourning Warbler's crepe. The posterior aspect of the white crown was sparsely flecked with dark gray feathers, of which there were more on the nape. The amount of white in the secondaries was greater than normal. Basically, the albinism becomes increasingly subtle from head to tail — the head largely white, the back and wings with more than average white the tail apparently normal in color.

It is of interest to compare this Chickadee with the melanistic Chickadee skin in the Cornell collection (collected by James Tanner in October 1933 near Butter-milk Falls south of Ithaca) of which there is a painting by Albert Hochbaum at the Sapsucker Woods Ornithology Laboratory, as this painting shows a bird melanistic to approximately the same degree on the same parts of its anatomy where the Selkirk bird was albinistic. Tanner's Chickadee has black cheeks, and the black bib extends perhaps somewhat farther ventrally than normal, so that the result is a black-hooded bird, just the opposite of the white-hooded effect of the Selkirk Chickadee. For the rest, the Ithaca specimen's body color is darker-than-normal gray, the reverse of the whiter-than-normal color of the subject of this note.

Also worthy of mention is that the last time I saw the Selkirk Chickadee (May 16) it was in the company of only one other, normally-colored, Black-capped Chickadee. The albinistic bird responded to spishing consistently with the clear "chick-a-dee-dee" call whereas the other bird gave only the hoarse "conversational" chickadee" notes — Margaret S. Rusk, 100 Stadium Place, Syracuse 10.

Checklist of New York State Birds — There is now available a preliminary annotated checklist of New York State Birds. The authors of this 41-page publication are E. M. Reilly of the New York State Museum and K. C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh.

As Dr. Reilly pointed out at the Federation meeting in Watertown, it is impossible for any two compilers to have access to all the facts. It is hoped that observers will bring suggestions, additions, deletions, and other comments to the attention of the authors.

The publication costs twenty cents (to cover processing) and can be obtained by writing the New York State Museum and Science Service, State Education Department, Albany 1 — The Editor.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

APRIL 1 — MAY 31

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration was a confusing one at best; it is difficult to apply any other term to observations on a state-wide basis. Birds scarce in one area were commonly seen in others. The waterfowl migration seemed to be

above average in the eastern and central sections; over twice as many Canada Geese went through Montezuma Refuge this spring than last. Excellent hawk flights were observed in Regions 2 and 5. There were relatively few good warbler days in May; these birds seemed to go through very quickly, and several regional editors commented on a general impression of low numbers.

Cattle Egrets were observed in Regions 3 and 8 and there was a "probable" in Region 5. Glossy Ibis were reported from two areas. A Louisiana Heron was collected in Region 1, and this species was also reported from Long Island. Snow Geese were observed in six of the ten reporting regions, and Blue Geese were seen in four. Of interest in the duck line were two of our "foreign" friends, a European Widgeon in Region 3, and a Common Teal in Region 4. Black-headed Gulls were in Region 1, and Little Gulls were seen in that area as well as Region 2. Reports of Wilson's Phalaropes in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 6 were of more than passing interest.

There was a strong southern flavor to many of the interesting passerine records. A White-eyed Vireo turned up in Region 3 for the first time since 1956, and the Hooded Warbler was also reported from that section. Prothonotary Warblers were observed in five of the reporting regions, and the Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler were each seen in two. There was a rash of Blue Grosbeak reports, with four sections reporting them, and the Summer Tanager was observed on Long Island. There was at least the usual number of reports of the Orchard Oriole.

Westerners were not completely unrepresented. A Bullock's Oriole showed up in Region 5, and a Clay-colored Sparrow in Region 3 was the first record for the Finger Lakes area since 1935.

Evening Grosbeaks generally put in a rather early departure. Red Crossbills were reported in four areas and White-wings in two. A real winter lingerer was a Snowy Owl seen April 11 in Region 4.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

In contrast to March the month of April was generally warm (average 2.2°F above normal) and sunny, a welcome change after the severe weather of the winter. Rainfall was somewhat above normal and was concentrated during the first nine and last six days of the month. Large snow drifts were in evidence in depressions and along north-south roads in the plateau after a 114.5 inch seasonal snowfall which was 38.4 inches above average. The ice in Lake Erie was heavy and floes covered miles of water at the end of April. Some of the last ice was moving down the Niagara River during the second week of May. The ice bridge also remained in the gorge below Niagara Falls until well into April. The warm trend continued into May, however, and this month's average temperature was 4.8°M above normal. Despite this there were frosts on the first and sixteenth. May was the first month of the year with precipitation below normal. No storms or excessively high winds occurred in this period. Both land and water bird migrants arrived either at normal times or somewhat early but some species of passerines, especially warblers, seemed to be low in numbers. No large waves of small