

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

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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

land birds occurred during April. Several distinct movements took place during May, particularly during the warming trends of the second to the sixth and the nineteenth and twentieth.

Loons — Ducks: There was a spectacular flight of Common Loons during late April on Lake Ontario. Four hundred were noted on Apr 26 mostly flying westward (Nathan et al.). Among these were several Red-throated Loons (Brockner, Nathan, Axtells et al.). Of great interest was the observation of an Arctic Loon in breeding plumage with a few Red-throated Loons off Point Breeze on Lake Ontario on Apr 26 (Axtells). Horned Grebes appeared in good numbers in April. There were 600 on Cuba Lake Apr 17 (Mitchell). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed flying over Hamburg on May 3 (Bourne). Green Herons and American Bitterns seemed to be less common than usual. An exceptional record was that of an adult male Louisiana Heron observed and collected on the Allegheny River near Olean May 20 (Eaton). The Least Bittern was not reported until May 17. The good flight of Whistling Swans ended early in April with a few being recorded up to the twelfth. A Snow Goose was seen near Shelby on Apr 15 and 16 (Nathan, Axtells, Andrie et al.) and from one to two Blue Geese were also noted at Shelby and Oak Orchard Swamp on Apr 8, 12, and 16 (Rosche, Klabundes, Andrie). Canada Geese reached a peak in numbers about the second week in April with over 36,000 birds, mostly at Oak Orchard Swamp, the sink areas, and on Lake Ontario. Ducks were generally below normal abundance in most sections. The report of a Green-winged Teal at Oak Orchard on May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein) indicates they may possibly be breeding this year. The last Buffleheads seen were seven off Grand Island on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene). Nine White-winged Scoters on Red House Lake in Allegany State Park May 24 (Elderkin) were the last migrants observed. The only Common Scoters reported were 11 on Lake Ontario Apr 26 (Brockners). A total of 168 Hooded Mergansers on the Bird Count Apr 12 was an unusually large number for the region.

Hawks — Owls: The first migrant Sharp-shinned Hawks were not noted until Apr 5 when seven were seen along the south shore of Lake Erie (Brockners). A Broad-winged Hawk at Shadigee (Andrie), another near East Aurora (Bourne), and one near Olean (Eaton), all on Apr 16 were the first observed. Two Bald Eagles, one an immature, were seen at Zoar Valley on May 17 (Wendlings). Three more were reported from southwestern Chautauqua County on the same date (Baker, rep. Parker). Ospreys passed through in about normal numbers, the last being reported from Oak Orchard on May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein). A Peregrine Falcon was observed near Hamburg on May 6 (Bourne) and another on May 17 at Taylor Hollow near Gowanda (Kivett). The only Pigeon Hawk during the period was seen by Bourne in the same locality (Hamburg) on Apr 13. The largest hawk flight reported occurred Apr 25 at Wilson on Lake Ontario when 336 hawks of seven species (the majority Broad-winged Hawks) were watched by the Axtells. No King Rails were reported throughout April and May. Soras were reported sparingly and appeared to be late in arriving. A Common Gallinule near Angola on Apr 12 (Rex, Rathbun) was a somewhat early observation. There seemed to be a fairly good shorebird migration through the region. Eaton reported 16 Short-billed Dowitchers, a female Northern Phalarope, and several other species on the Allegheny River May 17. The first Solitary Sandpiper was observed on Apr 25 near Wethersfield Springs (Rosche et al.). About 140 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported through the region on the Bird Count Apr 12. The observation by Rosche of 27 Least Sandpipers near Wethersfield Springs on May 30 was of interest as seldom are so many reported in one flock in spring. A fairly early Spotted Sandpiper was also reported by Rosche in Wyoming County Apr 12. A noteworthy record was the report of 15 Sanderlings near Batavia May 17 (Pixley et al.). Another outstanding record for April was the adult Black-headed Gull seen near the mouth of the Niagara River on the twelfth (North, Lowes). The only Little Gull of the spring, an adult in winter plumage, was noted on the Niagara River near Lewiston and also at its mouth Apr 13 and 14 (Axtells, Andrie et al.). Common Terns appeared in the region early and in numbers, the first reported being two on Apr 10 at Niagara Falls (Rosche). On the bird count two days later 277 were noted throughout the area. It seemed odd to observe them flying over and diving into the water near the ice floes. Caspian Terns also appeared quite early on both Lake Erie and Ontario. The first of this species was seen on Apr 12 and the largest number was seven on Apr 26 at Dunkirk (Mitchell). Both

species of cuckoos appeared to be in below normal numbers during most of May but were occurring more frequently at the close of the period. The Barn Owl again returned to nest in Tonawanda and was reported there Apr 1 (Wendlings). A Saw-whet Owl was heard on the Audubon Sanctuary near Java on Apr 25 (Rosche et al.) and was reported to be there until the end of the period.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were very low in numbers in May. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported near Lyndonville on Apr 12 (Axtells). Kingbirds appeared to be scarce in early May but were in at least normal abundance by the end of the month. Also Eastern Phoebe did not seem to be as numerous as in previous years. Tree Swallows were late in arriving and the first was not noted until Apr 4 at Java Lake (Rosche, Blowers). On the other hand Rough-winged Swallows appeared earlier than usual and 33 were reported Apr 12 from two inland localities. Blue Jays were not observed in their normal abundance in late April and early May migrating along the south shore of Lake Erie. Red-breasted Nuthatches continue to be lower in numbers than usual. Carolina Wrens were reported from several widespread localities, possibly indicating an increase after their apparent reduction in numbers last year. Two were observed on Grand Island, a new location, on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene). Individual Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from near Eden on May 14 (Bourne), near Lancaster May 17 (Bowen et al.), and two were seen near Wolcottsville May 31 (Schaffner, Brownstein). A Mockingbird in Hamburg May 18 (Bourne), and one reported from the vicinity of New Albion on May 31 (Knox) were the only ones recorded from the region. The first Catbirds did not appear until May 7 when they were seen in five widely scattered localities. Very few Hermit Thrushes were found in the area. It was not until May 11 that the first Swainson's Thrush was seen by Coggeshall at East Aurora. They seemed to be in below normal abundance during May. Bluebirds continued to be scarce. A flock of fifty Water Pipits was observed on Apr 15 at East Aurora (Coggeshall) and a flock of 100 near East Eden on Apr 16 (Bourne).

Vireos — Warblers: In general vireos appeared to be slightly less common than usual in migration except for the Warbling Vireo. Eaton reported the first Solitary Vireos (3) near Vandalia Apr 19. Black-and-white Warblers were not seen until May 2 when they were found in three localities. The Golden-winged Warbler was not seen until May 17 and was less common in many of its breeding area. There were no Orange-crowned Warblers reported in the region. A Brewster's Warbler was observed May 10 near Gowanda (Andrles). Parula Warblers were unusually scarce and could be considered rare this spring. Not more than three or four individuals were reported. Black-throated Blue Warblers and American Redstarts were low in numbers in May. The first migrant Myrtle Warblers were recorded Apr 12 in Chautauqua County (Stanley, Beal et al.) Black-throated Green Warblers were not found in April and were observed first in four places on May 2. Yellow Warblers were more common than usual in many areas. On May 17 the first Blackpoll Warbler was reported near Frewsburg (Beal et al.) but this species continued in rather poor numbers. A Pine Warbler on Apr 24 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne) was the only individual of this species recorded from the region. A great rarity here, a Kentucky Warbler, was found in Delaware Park, Buffalo on May 27 (Greene, Mitchell). Wilson's Warblers appeared somewhat earlier and in greater numbers than normal.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Western Meadowlark was found south of Batavia a few days before the Bird Count Apr 12 (Pixley et al.) and was still there on May 17. A pair of this species was reported near Silver Creek on May 31 (Axtells). Of interest were the records of an Orchard Oriole at Hamburg on May 8 (Bourne), another at East Aurora on May 10 (Mitchell, Greene), and two in the vicinity of Dunkirk on May 17 (Schobers). This species is seldom seen east of the Niagara River. Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared to be more common than usual. The last Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Wellsville (6) (Brandes), and Allegany State Park (1) (Anderson et al.) on May 17. Purple Finches and Goldfinches, especially the latter, were in evidence in many places and seemed to be in above normal numbers. White-throated Sparrows first appeared Apr 12 near Olean (Eaton). An above average number of Lincoln's Sparrows was reported during May.

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