

throughout the Middle Atlantic states, and one wonders what is in store for them, certainly one of the most welcome and enjoyable of all our birds. The coming breeding season should give us some indication.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The warm weather at the end of March continued through the first few days of April and the latter month's average temperature was 4.6°F above normal. Two warmer periods with above normal average daily temperatures occurred from the 12th to the 17th and from the 20th to the 25th. Precipitation, chiefly in the form of rain, was near the average although sections of the Allegheny Plateau received some fairly heavy snow on April 9. Average sunshine was only 48% of the possible, making the month considerably more cloudy than usual. May was a generally warm, wet and cloudy month. The average temperature was 2.7°F above normal and precipitation 1.58 inches over the mean. It was the fourth cloudiest May since 1891, sunshine being only 40% of the possible. It was certainly not a period for those who prefer clear weather in which to study birds. There were no severe storms or high velocity winds during the period.

Due to the warm weather several creeks overflowed and created flooded conditions in the plains in early April, but as the month progressed with no excessive rainfall the creeks subsided. The heavy ice in Lake Erie remained through most of April and the lower Niagara River was bankfull of ice floes at the month's end. During the first week in May most of the ice went downriver but the ice bridge at Niagara Falls did not entirely break up until the 8th.

More Blue and Snow Geese were recorded in the flooded land northeast of Buffalo than in previous years. Surface feeding ducks appeared to be somewhat below average in numbers although the diving ducks, particularly the mergansers on the Niagara River, seemed to be plentiful. Although winds were generally favorable in April only one hawk migration of note was reported. A number of the flycatchers, warblers and finches appeared earlier in April than usual in contrast to the tardiness of some species in the previous month. The only major land bird wave occurring in May was near the end of the passage of a warm sector on the 21st.

Loons — Ducks: The first migrant Common Loon was noted at Chautauqua Lake outlet on Apr 4 (Bohall) and the first Red-throated on Attica Reservoir Apr 21 (Rosche). Another Red-throated Loon was reported at Angola on Apr 27 (Bourne). A Red-necked Grebe on Lake Erie off Hamburg Town Park on Apr 17 was the first recorded. Double-crested Cormorants were reported from Akron Reservoir (1) on Apr 27 (Rosche) and off Athol Springs on Lake Erie (1) May 8 (Bourne). The observation of three Glossy Ibis at Lyndonville on Apr 28 (Smith) was a most interesting record of a great rarity. A total of 29,767 Canada Geese, mostly in the Oak Orchard - Wolcottsville area, were recorded in the Bird Count on Apr 10. Eleven and 18 Snow Geese and Blue Geese respectively were seen on the Wolcottsville Sinks Apr 18 (Rosche, Rubach). The first Gadwalls, two individuals, were noted at Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island Apr 9 (Brownstein). Four Buffleheads the last observed on May 14 at the Attica Reservoir (Rosche). The last Surf Scoters reported were four at Bayview on May 1 (Bourne).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were not seen until Apr 3 when they were reported from five scattered localities in the plains. A Goshawk was seen at Angola on Apr 10 (Rew, Schaffner et al). A total of 201 Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed migrating at Youngstown Cemetery on Apr 24, a warm day of southwesterly winds (Klabundes). The first migrant Broad-winged Hawks were reported on Apr 17, six at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark) and one at Clarence (Brockners). A Bald Eagle was observed at Oak Orchard Swamp on May 15 (Klabundes). Another, an immature bird, was seen by Bourne at Chestnut Ridge Park on May 25. The last Osprey observed was near Attica on May 22 (Rosche, Rubach). At Silver Creek on May 7 Brockners reported a Peregrine Falcon and on the 13th Bourne saw a Pigeon Hawk on Hickox Road in the town of Hamburg. Two Bobwhite, probably released birds, were found on Sour Springs Road at Oak Orchard Swamp by the Axtells on May 28. The Turkey continued to be recorded in new localities as one or two were heard in Allenberg Bog near New Albion on Apr. 24 (Mitchell, Rosche et al). The

first Virginia Rail was reported from Oak Orchard Swamp on Apr 10, a slightly early date (Ulrichs et al). Also earlier than usual was a common Gallinule near Hamburg on the same date (Creighton et al). An American Coot at Oak Orchard on Apr 3 (Mitchell et al) was the first reported. The observation of six American Golden Plover at the Wolcottville Sinks on Apr 21 (Mitchell, Gregory) was of great interest as this species is rarely seen in spring. American Woodcock was not found in March, the first migrant being reported on Apr 2 at Buffalo (Krayna). Upland Plover was first noted on Apr 17 when four individuals were seen at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark). Pectoral Sandpipers were noted in fair numbers by several observers in early April on the Wolcottville Sinks. On Apr 12 near Hanover Center 120 were seen (Rew). The Bournes had a very interesting observation of an immature Parasitic Jaeger flying over Lake Erie off Hamburg Town Park on May 1. Bonaparte's Gulls are seldom recorded inland so the two at Little Valley on Apr 1 (Mitchells) and one at the Wolcottville Sinks on the 9th (Rosche) were noteworthy. A very early Caspian Tern was on the pier at Olcott Apr 10 (Lehrer). An unusually early Black-billed Cuckoo was seen on the west side of Buffalo Apr 25 (Brownstein).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: An early migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported on Apr 29 at Hamburg (Bourne). A Red-bellied Woodbecker, uncommon in the region, was noted at Oak Orchard Swamp on May 15 (Klabundes). An unusually early Eastern Kingbird was seen during a very warm period on Apr 16 on Nice Road, town of Newstead (Wendlings). Another was recorded the following day at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark). Eastern Phoebe was not seen in March, the first migrant being noted on Apr 1 at Buffalo (Brownstein, Schaffner). Other species of flycatchers were seen either at normal arrival dates or somewhat later than usual. Swallows arrived generally on schedule or slightly early as in the case of the Rough winged Swallow. The first House Wrens (3) were seen on Apr 22 in Hamburg (Avery). Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens continued to be reported from widespread localities. Of interest was a Short-billed Marsh Wren near Angola on May 19 (Bourne). Two of at least five Mockingbirds which had been observed in February and March were reported on Apr 10 at Buffalo (Freitag et al) and at Hamburg (Creighton et al). No thrushes (except Hermit) or gnatcatchers were reported in April. Eastern Bluebirds continued to be exceedingly scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was first reported on Apr 1 at Lewiston (Klabundes).

Vireos — Warblers: The first Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Lime Lake May 4, the first Solitary Vireo Apr 23 on Zimmerman Road in Boston township, and the first Red-eyed Vireo May 6 in Hamburg, all by Bourne. Beal found a somewhat early Warbling Vireo at Jamestown Apr 26. The recording of nine species of warblers during April reflected the warm weather and generally favorable wind conditions which prevailed. These species were Black-and-white Apr 25 at Lewiston (Klabundes), Nashville Warbler Apr 29 at Lewiston (Klabundes), Yellow Warbler Apr 26 at Jamestown (Beal), Black-throated Blue Warbler Apr 30 (2) at Lewiston (Klabundes), Myrtle Warbler Apr 10 at Allegany State Park (Bowen et al), Black-throated Green Warbler Apr 17, unusually early, at Buffalo (Freitag), Pine Warbler Apr 17 at Lakeview (Brownstein, Clark), Northern Waterthrush (4) Apr 24 at Allenberg Bog (Mitchell, Rosche et al), and Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 28 near Varysburg (Rosche). During May warblers appeared to be generally in low numbers except on the wave of May 21. Most appeared on normal dates or in some cases slightly later. The last migrant Myrtle Warbler was seen on May 24 at Jamestown (Bohall, Rappole). An outstanding record of a rarity was the report of a Yellow-throated Warbler on May 1 at Point Gratiot, Dunkirk (Brockners). A Connecticut Warbler was reported from Batavia on May 15 (Pixley et al) and a female of the same species was seen in Forest Lawn Cemetery on May 22 (Andrie).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The report of an Orchard Oriole on May 14 at Hickox Road town of Hamburg (Bourne) was interesting. This species is seldom found in the region although recorded regularly in Canada. The last Rusty Blackbird reported was one at Batavia May 15 (Buckland). Evening Grosbeaks were seen in fair numbers on the Bird Count May 15, the last noted being at Hamburg on May 25 (Avery). Common Redpolls were last observed at Lakeview and Sturgeon Point on Apr 17 (3) (Brownstein, Clark). The first Grasshopper Sparrow was seen on Apr 21 on North Creek Road town of Boston (Bourne) and Henslow's Sparrow on Hickox Road town of Hamburg Apr 26 by the same observer. A most interesting record was the Oregon Junco observed by Klabundes at Lewiston Apr 20. The first White-crowned Sparrow was reported on Apr 30 at Lewiston by the same observers. Good numbers of these sparrows appeared in migration in May, particularly on the count of May

15. On May 9 Bourne reported the first Lincoln's Sparrow at Chestnut-Ridge Park. Further information on the banded Snow Bunting, picked up in West Seneca last March 21 and mentioned in the previous report, revealed that it was not banded in Denmark, but in northern Greenland.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures and precipitation were about normal during April, but in May the rainfall was much above normal. The water level of Lake Ontario was about a foot above that of a year ago, and this resulted in sharply reduced shorebird habitat except for inland rain pools.

Spectacular hawk flights were recorded on April 14 and 17. A good early hawk flight was recorded April 3, and smaller (although interesting) flights were noted on several other occasions. The weekend of April 30 - May 1 brought a heavy flight of land birds, including swarms of midseason migrants such as White-throated Sparrows, and a good early warbler flight. The next two weekends produced ordinary birding, with the peak of the spring flight not being reached until the weekend of May 21-22. The migration had tapered off sharply by the next weekend, and the late May flight of shorebirds seemed dull.

The most unusual birds recorded were the Snowy Egret, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Loons — Ducks: The peak of a very good loon flight was reached Apr 20 when 1000 Common and 3000 Red-throated Loons were seen along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). Some 25 of the latter species were at Manitou on Apr 25 (G.O.S. hike). Red-necked Grebes on the other hand were scarce, with but two birds being reported, one at Manitou Apr 14 (Listman) and one at Webster Park on Apr 15 (Kemnitzer). Six reports of Double-crested Cormorants were received, with a maximum of three birds May 22 at Manitou (Listman). A common Egret was observed May 10 at Mendon Ponds (Zeitler, Meyer), and another bird was seen the same day at Rose's Marsh (Listman). A Snowy Egret was noted May 15 at Manitou (Listman). This is the sixth record of this species in our area. Probably because of the higher water level American Bitterns were much more common than a year ago. It seemed that ten could be heard or seen this year in comparison to one a year ago. After last year's heavy flight Whistling Swans seemed rather scarce in the area, but seven were noted Apr 12 near Avon (Haller). Two more appeared later, and the nine remained until Apr 29.

Small numbers of Brant were present during the last ten days of May around Braddock's with a maximum of six on May 23 (Listman). Fourteen Snow and 23 Blue Geese were seen Apr 12 near Avon (Haller), and four birds of each species remained until Apr 25. A Gadwall was observed on May 11 at Paine Beach (Listman). Four Green-winged Teal were noted May 15 at Braddock's (Listman), and one was seen May 25 at Rose's Marsh. Sixty Ring-necked Ducks were seen Apr 23 around Shore Acres (G.O.S. hike). Two Common Goldeneye were at Braddock's on May 25 (Listman). Eight King Eiders were observed off Sea Breeze Apr 19 (Kemnitzer), and seven were noted there the following day (McNeth, Kemnitzer). Three hundred White-winged Scoters were seen Apr 30 at Manitou (Listman), and 26 were at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). A Surf Scoter was also present at Webster Park on May 15 (Kemnitzer). Four Ruddy Ducks were seen on Irondequoit Bay Apr 14 (Kemnitzer).

Hawks — Owls: Maximum counts for the season were made Apr 17 by Dobson on the following species of hawks at the Hawk Lookout: Turkey Vulture 21, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1600, Cooper's Hawk 42, Broad-winged Hawk 5000, and Pigeon Hawk 1. The record for the last species was the only report for the year. High counts for the season on the following species were made Apr 3 at the Hawk Lookout by Bieber, Kemnitzer, Listman, et al: Rough-legged Hawk 75, Marsh Hawk 50, and Sparrow Hawk 200. On that same day Dobson counted 154 Red-tailed Hawks over Durand-Eastman Park, and on Apr 17 the same observer counted 61 of this species at the Hawk Lookout. Good late flight counts were made Apr 17 at the Hawk Lookout by Dobson on the Red-shouldered Hawk (21) and the Rough-legged-Hawk (13). Single Golden-Eagles were seen there Apr 14 (Listman et al)