

that the percentage of chen geese is much higher in the Cayuga Lake/Montezuma area than it is in the geese concentrations both to the east and west. A single White-fronted Goose, assigned to the Greenland race *flavirostris*, was observed at Newstead (Erie Co.) and two, not subspecifically identified, were recorded near Syracuse. In contrast the spring flight of ducks was generally poor and the numbers of Canvasbacks and especially Redheads still gave cause for concern. However, two European Teal were recorded, (regions 5 & 8), both were regional firsts and they appear to be the 4th and 5th upstate records this century. A hybrid European — Green-winged Teal was observed in region 4. While, in general, I think it is good idea for local journals to follow the official names, the name Common Teal is so bad that I refuse. The species is not common to both continents, if the Asiatic part of the range worries the editors of the AOU list, then the name Eurasian Teal could be used.

Good late April hawk flights were reported along the south shores of the Great Lakes. Seventeen hundred Broadwings were noted near Buffalo and thirty-four hundred near Rochester on April 25. At the south-east corner of Lake Ontario the main flight was observed on the 26th and 27th when over eleven thousand were observed. A group of twelve Black Vultures near Castleton in May is a most unusual record.

The shorebird migration was, in general, normal although some areas reported that the late flight was poor. Outstanding was a flock of 120 Whimbrel near Rochester, probably the largest group ever recorded in the state. Regions 1, 2, & 10 reported Golden Plover, a scarce bird in spring, and a Husonion Godwit was noted in region 1. A Little Gull was reported in late May near Rochester, the discovery this year of a breeding site near Toronto helps to make sense of the records of this species in the Great Lakes area.

The collection of a specimen of a Raven from a crow shoot near Lyndonville confirms the occurrence of a species often suspected in the large April crow flights.

Carolina Wrens were reported as unusually scarce in the western part of the state. A great increase in the breeding population of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in the lower Hudson valley. Particularly large numbers of Slate-colored Juncos were noted on migration in all central and western regions of the state.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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April began with a general winter snowstorm that dropped two to eleven inches of snow over Western New York. The first three weeks were more like March, weatherwise, than was March this year. Another major snowfall occurred at mid month. The month ended with a record breaking heat wave which brought average temperatures for the month 1.9 degrees above the normal.

Like the last part of April, May was unusually warm and pleasant. Below normal amounts of precipitation continued and the average monthly temperature was 6.6 degrees above normal. Weather patterns throughout the month were rather flat

with little day to day change, and the frequent low pressure systems, so essential to good passerine "waves", were less frequent and intense than usual.

In many respects April was far more interesting, birdwise, than was May. On two very snowy weekends, two of the most outstanding rarities were found — White-fronted Goose on Apr 1 and Hudsonian Godwit on Apr 14. The latter bird as well as on Apr 15 Golden Plover followed an intense storm system originating in Southwestern United States and accompanied by rather strong winds from that direction.

Small passerine arrivals in the region during most of April were either about on time or slightly later than in the normal year. A few species like Spotted Sandpiper, Myrtle Warbler and Chipping Sparrow were extremely late in arriving in their usual numbers. Observers covering several excellent vantage points along the south shore of Lake Erie, where in the past several spring seasons good numbers of overhead migrants were noted, report generally poor flights through the end of the third week of April.

What April lacked in the form of landbirds during its first three weeks, was more than made up for during the last week. The record breaking heat wave was caused by a flow of warm Gulf air, accompanied by moderately strong winds primarily from the southwestern quarter. During this time many first arrivals were noted — among species whose average arrival dates are often much earlier in the month. Favorable winds produced several good hawk flights along the south shore of Lake Erie.

On the last three days of April, but especially on Apr 29, the most extensive and noticeable "wave" of passerines of the entire spring season occurred. Most of the evidence available at present seems to indicate that the large numbers of birds were mostly confined to areas immediately adjacent to the south shore of Lake Erie. Observers covering areas on April 29 only one-two miles inland from the lake shore, reported relatively few migrants. Some speculated that unusually cold lake waters producing a rather heavy fog cover over the lake when coming into contact with the warm air, served as a barrier and caused passerine migrants to "jam up" on the south shore. Reports from the north shore of Lake Erie in Canada for these same three days, indicate far fewer birds than were present on the south shore.

Many of the usual early to mid May arrivals were among the passerines reported during late April. The table below, using a few of the most outstanding examples, serves to show the extent of this trend. Column A shows the earliest arrival date in the region between 1948 and 1961. Column B shows the latest arrival dates between 1948 and 1961. Column C shows the average arrival dates for the years 1948 through 1961. Column D shows the 1962 arrival date.

	A	B	C	D
Least Flycatcher	Apr 27	May 11	May 3	Apr 29
Catbird	Apr 23	May 7	May 1	Apr 25
Wood Thrush	Apr 28	May 6	May 1	Apr 29
Swainson's Thrush	May 1	May 12	May 7	Apr 30
Veery	Apr 24	May 9	May 3	Apr 30
Golden-winged Warbler	May 1	May 14	May 9	Apr 30
Orange-crowned Warbler	Apr 22	May 18	May 10	Apr 30
Cerulean Warbler	Apr 24	May 20	May 10	Apr 29
Blackburnian Warbler	Apr 29	May 11	May 3	Apr 29
Ovenbird	May 1	May 8	May 4	Apr 29
American Redstart	Apr 28	May 9	May 4	Apr 28
Bobolink	Apr 27	May 6	May 2	Apr 29
Baltimore Oriole	Apr 25	May 5	May 3	Apr 28

The late April influx of small passerines was composed of a number of species most commonly found on the Gulf Coast during the third week of April. The unusual number of Prairie and Palm Warblers, the early Cerulean, Orange-crowned, Golden-winged Warblers, the Black-throated Gray Warbler and the early May Lark Sparrow seem to indicate a mid western origin for this "wave". While early stragglers of the more typical Atlantic Coast passerine migrants were first noted in late April, their numbers were very low until the end of the first week of May. Would not the rather strong and consistent southwesterly winds during April 17-28 make this situation even more likely? It will be interesting to look over the other reports for New York State in order to see if the same conditions were prevalent elsewhere. At this time,

however, it appears that the "best birding" in this region was produced by strong southwesterly winds and their associated pressure systems sweeping across the continent.

During the first week of May, the movement of passerines was generally poor to fair; a minor "wave" occurred May 5-6. After that, however, the weather was so fair and mild and so conducive to migration, that the majority of migrants flew right over without stopping. On most any night one could hear numbers of birds calling as they flew over. But on the following days at dawn it was the same, consistent story — "evrything flew over", "no bad weather to bring them down", "few small passerines", etc. My May 19 nesting populations of most species appeared to be about normal. Relatively small numbers of migrants and a few stragglers occurred during the remainder of the month.

Highlights of the season include: Eared Grebe, White-fronted Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Common Raven, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

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Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: migrants overhead Apr 18-25; peak counts of 21, Apr 22, over OOGMA (RB et al) and two counts of 18 and 25, Apr 25, over two points on south shore of Lake Erie (AS, KPA et al). Red-throated Loon: 1, Apr 8, Silver Creek Reservoir, Town of Hanover — another addition to a growing number of reports indicating regularity of occurrence in this part of the region (FR et al); 1, Apr 28, Lake Ontario at Point Breeze (KPA). Eared Grebe: 1 (almost in complete nuptial plumage), Apr 21-25, Dunkirk Harbor (RCR et al). Common Egret: 1, Apr 8, OOGMA (HDM et al); 1, Apr 18, over Hamburg (KPA). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Apr 5 (first report since last autumn), Eden (TLB); 40, (highest count in several years), Apr 8, Grand Island (AEU et al). Whistling Swan: extremely poor flight all spring, two being the maximum count reported. Canada Goose: much better than average flight on probably close to record numbers present: 37,000 estimated plus unestimated many thousands one-half mile off south shore of Lake Ontario between Point Breeze and Thirty Mile Point, Apr 8 (BOS Bird Count). White-fronted Goose: 1, Apr 1, sinks in Town of Newstead, Erie Co. (KPA et al); probably same individual observed Apr 15, 16, 18 in same area by many observers; the brilliant orange-yellow bill and dark head and neck indicate the Greenland race, *A. a. flavirostris*; first record for the Niagara Frontier area. Snow Goose: unusually high number Apr 8 — 4 with Lake Ontario goose concentration (GJL) and 15 in Jamestown area (VG). Blue Goose: 16 (unusually high number), Apr 8, with Lake Ontario goose concentration (GJL). A comment made by Able in connection with the results of the BOS Apr 8 Bird Count, generally reflects the duck situation throughout the period. — "Ducks, in general, were extremely low, conforming with the current trend in the East. Mallards and Black Ducks, for example, totaled only half their usual numbers. Diving ducks also showed drastic drops from even last year's count which was also low. Canvasbacks and Redheads were especially low. Both species of Scaup seem to be the only ducks in numbers even approaching normality." King Eider: 1 (adult male), Apr 8, Niagara River off Grand Island (AEU et al).

Hawks — Owls: Southwest winds on Apr 21, 25, 26 produced good hawk flights on the south shore of Lake Erie. Several parties watched at a number of points near the shore on these days. Without a doubt, the most outstanding lookout this year proved to be on the Allegany Road, about one-half mile east of Route #5, Town of Hanover, Chaut. Co. The largest and most impressive flights occurred over this area on Apr 25 and 26 (AS et al). High counts of migrants are as follows: Sharp-shinned Hawk — 50, Apr 26, over Hanover (RB et al). Cooper's Hawk — 15, Apr 25, over Hamburg (KPA). Red-tailed Hawk — 20, Apr 26, over Hanover (RB et

al). Broad-winged Hawk — Apr 25, 1716, over Hanover (AS et al); 954, over Portland (RCR); and 575, over Hamburg (KPA). Osprey — 6, Apr 25, over Lake View and Hanover (AS et al). An interesting late hawk flight occurred May 20 on a strong south wind along the south shore of Lake Ontario near Point Breeze. The following birds, mostly immatures, were flying to the east: Turkey Vulture — 6, Cooper's Hawk — 1, Red-tailed Hawk — 9, Red-shouldered Hawk — 1 and Broad-winged Hawk — 8 (KPA et al). Bald Eagle. 1 (immature), Apr 8, near Youngstown (WHK); 3 (immatures with partially white heads), Apr 18, near Lockport (rep. GGW). Pigeon Hawk: 1, Apr 26, Point Gratiot (RB et al). King Rail: 3 reported, May 20, OOGMA (RB). In general, this was a good shorebird spring. During April the flooded fields in the Wolcottville region produced the greatest variety and numbers. Golden Plover: 1, Apr 15-18, Steiner Road, Town of Newstead (RB et al); 1, Apr 28, Wolcottville Sinks (AS). Greater Yellowlegs: 75 (high count), Apr 28, Wolcottville Sinks (KPA et al). Lesser Yellowlegs: 1, Apr 1 (unusually early), Wolcottville Sinks (KPA); 80 (high count), May 4, Wolcottville Sinks (RCR). Pectoral Sandpiper: near record numbers this spring after being nearly absent during spring 1961; 124, Apr 8 (BOS Bird Count); numbers gradually built up through April on sinks and muddy fields in Wolcottville area — 189 counted there Apr 28 (AS et al). White-rumped Sandpiper: 1, May 30, Tiffet Street, Buffalo (RCR et al). Hudsonian Godwit: (first spring record for the region) 1, Apr 14-19, Wolcottville Sinks (many observers) — primarily in winter plumage but traces of rusty present on underparts. Caspian Tern: good flight along south shore of Lake Erie; 8 (maximum count), Apr 25, over Lake View (AS et al). Barn Owl: 1, May 10, Hamburg (TLB); 1, May 20, near Wolcottville (RB). Long-eared Owl: 1, Apr 17, Hamburg (TLB). Short-eared Owl: appeared to have remained in the region in some numbers much later than usual; 11, Apr 8, (BOS Bird Count). Saw-whet Owl: 1, Apr 8 (latest date), near Youngstown (WHK).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Yellow-shafted Flicker: 80 (flight), Apr 22, over Lake View (KPA); hybrid possessing pinkish secondary shafts, Apr 19, Town of Newstead, Erie Co. (KPA). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1, Apr 8, near Batavia (BOS Bird Count); 1, Apr 15, OOGMA (RCR et al). Red-headed Woodpecker: none reported until first migrants arrived Apr 28; apparently none wintered. Eastern Phoebe: more abundant throughout region than usual. Blue Jay: good movement over south shore of Lake Erie on several days; 383, Apr 29, Dunkirk-Portland area (RB et al); 275, May 12, over Lake View (KPA); 810, May 13, over Lake View (KPA); 75, May 15, over Lake View (KPA); 35, May 15, Athol Springs (TLB). Common Raven: one specimen, now located in collection at Buffalo Museum of Science, was shot either Apr 4 or 8 on a crow shoot near Lyndonville, Orleans Co. (rep HDM); this is first specimen for the region; 1, Apr 19, migrating over Lake View (KPA). Tufted Titmouse: present in slightly above average numbers but much less abundant than during last fall and winter; reports for the last few days of April suggest a movement into the region with the many small passerines that were present on the south shore of Lake Erie. White-breasted Nuthatch: far more abundant than usual; definite movement evident from report of 30, Apr 26, flying over and at Point Gratiot (AS et al). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce until the last few days of April when large numbers moved into region with the numerous other small passerines; 25 estimated, Apr 29, south shore of Lake Erie between Lake View and Portland (RCR et al); many observers thought they were more common from late April through mid May than at any other time in recent years. Carolina Wren: scarcity of reports indicates another withdrawal from the region; this is rather difficult to explain especially in the light of the mild winter of 1961-62; two birds roosting regularly in a garage at Springbrook last seen Apr 20 (FD). Short-billed Marsh Wren: for first time in last three years several appeared in former regular breeding areas on the Lake Plains during May. Mockingbird: one observed frequently in residential neighborhood at Lewiston throughout the past winter last reported Apr 8 (WM); 1, Apr 29-May 5, East Aurora (PJL et al); 2, late May, Day Road, Town of Alexander, Genesee Co. (RSA); 1, May 27, Francis Road, Town of Bethany, Genesee Co. (RCR); the two latter locations are near where a pair successfully nested in 1952. Eastern Bluebird: scarce throughout the region; young successfully reared at Pavilion (RSA) and West Clarks-ville (VA). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 12 (unusually high count), Apr 29, Portland area (RB et al). Loggerhead Shrike: extremely scarce all spring with few reports of single individuals; 1, May 20, orchard country near Gasport, Niagara Co. (suggests possible nesting area), (RCR et al).

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: 1, May 12, Hamburg (TLB). A brief study of April warbler reports beginning in 1947 shows several interesting items that make April 1962 especially outstanding warbler-wise. A total of 17 species of warblers were reported in April 1962. The highest previous total since 1947 was 13 species in 1949. The average over the 16 year period is eight species. Five species were observed in April this year for the first time since 1947 — Golden-winged, Black-throated Gray, Chestnut-sided, Prairie and Ovenbird. Prothonotary Warbler: 1 (singing male), May 4, Hamburg (TLB); 7, May 17 and 4, May 20 at OOGMA (regular breeding locality) (HDM, RB et al). Golden-winged Warbler: 1, Apr 30 (unusually early), Hamburg, (TLB). "Brewster's" Warbler: 1, Tonawanda Indian Reservation, May 30 (BN et al). Orange-crowned Warbler: 1, Apr 30 (unusually early), Silver Creek (RB et al). Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1, (singing male), Apr 28-29, near Portland, Chautauqua Co. (HDM et al); the second record for the region, the first being for May 11, 1930 at OOGMA. Cerulean Warbler: 1, Apr 29 (unusually early), near Portland (RCR et al). Pine Warbler: 1, Apr 21, Hamburg (TLB); 1, Apr 28, Angola (GGW et al); 1, Apr 30, near Portland (RB et al). Prairie Warbler: influx in late April and early May is unprecedented here; 1, Apr 29, near Portland (KPA et al); 1, Apr 29, Point Gratiot (KPA et al); 1, May 6, near Lake Erie State Park (RCR et al). Palm Warbler: 75 (unusually high number), Apr 29, Dunkirk-Portland area (KPA et al). Ovenbird: 1, Apr 29, Clarence (MW); 1, Apr 30, Hamburg (KPA). Connecticut Warbler: 1, May 26, Delaware Park, Buffalo (BN et al); 1, May 28, near Youngstown (RCR). Mourning Warbler: most observers thought this species was more abundant than in recent years. American Redstart: 2, Apr 28 (unusually early), near Portland (RP et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Black-headed Grosbeak: the bird noted in the last report at a feeding station near Holland, Erie Co. remained there until Apr 8 (DD). Evening Grosbeak: flocks gradually diminished in number during May in the Hamburg-East Aurora area where they are usually most abundant; most birds had left by May 17-18; flight along south shore of Lake Erie occurred Apr 26-30 and May 12-15; maximum count of 180, May 12, over Lake View (KPA). Pine Grosbeak: 1, Apr 5, near Jamestown (CB); 3, Apr 8, OOGMA (HDM et al). Common Redpoll: 3, Apr 1 (last date), Hamburg (KPA). Pine Siskin: no reports. Red Crossbill: 3, Apr 21, Hamburg (TLB). Lark Sparrow: 1 (adult), May 2-3, Dunkirk (AS et al); first record in recent years. Slate-colored Junco: 2000 estimated (unusually high count), Apr 1, between Jamestown and Dunkirk (RP et al).

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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The first two weeks of the period were very cold. Five inches of snow fell in Rochester on April 1, and snow flurries were frequent until the 15th, with heavier snowfall in the hill country to the south. A warming trend then started on the 16th and the rest of April was above average, temperaturewise. The first two weeks of May were average but a torrid spell occurred from the 14th to 21st, bringing four days of 90°, and three other days of high 80°. The last ten days of the month were nearer normal, but even so, the month was the third hottest May in Rochester Weather Bureau records. Precipitation for both months was slightly below normal.

The migration of land birds was well behind average until April 21. On this date, an early April migrant like the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was nearly if not completely absent. However, a marked wave arrived on the night of Apr 21-22 and, spurred by above average temperatures, the migration was ahead of average by the end of the month. The weekend of Apr 28-29 produced probably the best April birding this area has ever seen.