

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

April weather alternated between winter, spring and early summer with a spring touch at the beginning and a sharp summer to winter reversal at the end. Temperature and precipitation were near normal; the amount of sunshine was above average. Ice was present in Lake Erie throughout the month. Frequent invasions of cold air retarded vegetation, cancelling to some extent the spurt in growth it had at the beginning of the month.

Up to an inch of snow, and in some places more, covered the Southern Tier counties on the first of May. Elsewhere, a dusting of snow occurred. May, in general, was cold with below normal amounts of precipitation. The Lake Erie ice field disappeared about May 10. A widespread, heavy frost occurred May 22, 23 and 24, causing considerable damage to agricultural crops, and retarding vegetation even more than it had been previous to this. At the end of the month, vegetation, especially in the higher areas of the Southern Tier, was considerably behind normal.

During April, bird migration was about normal, with only the usual expected fluctuations between earliness and lateness. However, this trend slowed down during May, so that by the last week, migration was noticeably behind. Nesting populations of the late May arrivals, i.e. Traill's Flycatcher, cuckoos, etc., were much below normal at month's end.

Highlights of the season include: Purple Gallinule, White-eyed Vireo and Worm-eating Warbler.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: ad. — adult; Alleg. — Allegany; BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauquo; Co. — County; imm. — immature; Lk. — Lake; Nia. — Niagara; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Pk. — Park; Pt. — Point; ss — south shore; Wyo. — Wyoming.

Contributors: KPA — Kenneth P. Able; RFA — Robert F. Andrie; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; RCA — Rachel C. Axtell; AHB — Allen H. Benton; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; RB — Richard Brownstein; LB — Lois Buck; LHB — Lou H. Burton; AC — Arthur Clark; FD — Mrs. Fred Danner; SWE — Stephen W. Eaton; AF — Arthur Freitag; LK — Lewis Kibler; WBM — Whitney and Bonnie Mallam; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; CM — Carl Mrozek; BN — Bernard Nathan; NP — Nancy Peters; EP — Elizabeth Pillsbury; FMR — Frances M. Rew; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AS — Arthur Schaffner; JS — John Schmahl; ELS — Edward L. Seeber; JFT — Joseph F. Thill; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

Loons-Ducks: Red-throated Loon: one, Apr. 27, Upper Silver Creek Reservoir, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — dead bird, skull retained. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 7, Irving, Chaut. Co. (RFA et al); one May 20, Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — both on ss Lk. Erie where reports are rather infrequent. Cattle Egret: no reports. Common Egret: one, Apr 26, Forsythe, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: two, Apr 28, near Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (HDM et al); three, May 3, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — few recent reports from inland localities such as these of this now uncommon heron. Least Bittern: one, Apr 27, Clay Ponds at Jamestown (RCR, EP et al) — early. Whistling Swan: unusually high numbers present through mid Apr; two still present, May 27, OOGMA (KPA et al). Gadwall: two, Apr 1, Bear Lake Outlet, Chaut. Co. (AS); two, Apr 4 and 10, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (RCR); three, Apr 16, OOGMA (RFA et al). Green-winged Teal: continue to increase as shown by record high count of 138 on Apr 7 BOS Count. European Widgeon: one male, Apr 6, "sinks" near Wolcottville (RCR et al). Canvasback: one male, May 27, South Buffalo Harbor (KPA et al) — late. Oldsquaw: 1059, Apr 16, ss Lk. Erie between Athol Springs and Sturgeon Point (TLB) — peak of migration with many records of fewer individuals reported this date. King Eider: two (Basic plumage), Apr 17, ss Lake Erie at Sturgeon Pt. (TLB) — rare on LK. Erie at any time. Common Scoter: five, Apr 17, ss Lk. Erie at Sturgeon Pt. (TLB) — uncommon in spring.

Hawks-Owls: Hawk migration: Between Apr 16 and 30, notable hawk movements were observed from a number of vantage points along the ss Lk. Erie (AC et al) as the birds passed overhead in a northeasterly direction. Good flights occurred Apr

16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 27, 29 and 30. On these days the Broad-winged Hawk was the most numerous, followed by the Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks. Broad-winged Hawk: 706, Apr 19 and 41, Apr 27, over ss Lk. Erie (AC et al) — highest counts. Bald Eagle: one imm., Apr 6, OOGMA (RCR et al); one, Apr 7, OOGMA (BN et al); one imm., Apr 13, over Somerset, Nia. Co. (RCR et al); one imm., Apr 18, "sinks" near Wolcottsville (RCA et al); one ad., Apr 27, Catt. Indian Reservation (KPA et al); one imm., May 10, Orchard Park, Erie Co. (TLB) — more reports this year during same period than in recent years. Peregrine Falcon: one, Apr 14 and May 19, Hamburg (TLB); one, Apr 17, over Lake View, Erie Co. (KPA). Pigeon Hawk: one, Apr 27, over Brocton, Chaut. Co. (JFT); one, Apr 30, South Dayton (GGW et al); one, May 4, Langford, Erie Co. (TLB). King Rail: One, May 17 (HHA et al) and two, May 27 (KPA), OOGMA. **Purple Gallinule:** one, May 7, Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge, Town of Java, Wyo. Co. (NP) — observed through May 17 (HDM et al) by numerous experienced field observers; the first well documented record for the region. American Golden Plover: 12, Apr 3, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (RCR) — early; few reports from ss Lk. Erie. Upland Plover: two, May 24, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. (LHB) — status of this bird and other relatively common species unknown in this county. Greater Yellowlegs: 52, Apr 27, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — unusually high spring concentration anywhere in region. Pectoral Sandpiper: unusually widespread flight with many reports from areas where it often does not occur; 74 Apr 6, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (AS); 12, Apr 8, Cassadaga, Chaut. Co. (LB et al); 25, Apr 10, Boston, Erie Co. (TLB); 150, Apr 15, "sinks" near Wolcottsville (CM et al); 20 Apr 16, Crystal Lk., Catt. Co. (GGW et al); 200, Apr 25, Hanover Center, Chaut. Co. (AC) — noteworthy locations and concentrations. Great Black-backed Gull: fewer than usual numbers reported from Great Lakes and Niagara River area — after unusually large winter numbers in these areas. Caspian Tern: six, Apr 26, Chaut. Lk. (EP) — noteworthy locality; several reports from ss Lk. Erie. Barn Owl: one, Apr 17, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (AF et al); one Apr 26, Lk. Erie State Pk (AS et al); one (dead), Apr 28, Lackawanna (JFT); one, Apr 30, Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk (AC); one, May 14 and 27, Hamburg (RB et al); four, May 19, Hamburg area (BOS Count) — the late Apr reports suggest a migratory movement into the region at this time. Short-eared Owl: one, Apr 7, north end Grand Island (WBM); one, Apr 12, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — only reports. Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 7, south end Grand Island (HDM et al) — only report.

Goatsuckers-Starling: Chimney Swift: one, Apr 19, over Dunkirk (RCR) — early. Belted Kingfisher: populations generally low throughout region; lowest count in ten years May 19 (BOS Count). "Since this is a fish-eating species it should be watched carefully in connection with the current controversy over the effect of pesticides on all fish-eaters" (FMR). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 163, over Lake View, Erie Co. (KPA et al); 300, Dunkirk to Portland (AC et al); 125, over Lk. Erie State Pk. (RCR) — Apr 17 — peak date of migration on ss Lk. Erie. Pileated Woodpecker: one, Apr 13, Somerset, Nia. Co. (RCR et al) — uncommon on Lk Ontario Plain; one, May 17, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — usually a rare bird in proximity to metropolitan Buffalo. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, May 17, OOGMA (HDM et al) — second report in two years (usually not regarded as a resident at OOGMA). Rough-winged Swallow: one, Apr 7, Randolph, Catt. Co. (AS et al) — very early. Tufted Titmouse: five, Apr 7, stations on ss Lk. Erie and Wellsville area where usually reported (BOS Count); one, Apr 9, Athol Springs, Erie Co. (TLB); one, Apr 27, Jamestown (RCR et al); one, Apr 30, Jerusalem Corners, Erie Co. (KPA); one, May 5, Angola (KPA); three, May 19, ss Lk. Erie and Wellsville area (BOS Count). Red-breasted Nuthatch: small numbers present with early warbler waves — generally uncommon. Carolina Wren: one, May 11, Hamburg, Erie Co., (TLB) — only report; first report since Aug 1962 — this bird appears to have almost completely disappeared from all parts of the region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, May 15, Lawtons, Erie Co. (TLB); two, May 27 and 31, near Alabama, Orleans Co. KPA, RFA et al); two May 29, Morton Corners, Erie Co. (WWB); one, May 31, near Barker, Nia. Co. (RFA). Mockingbird: one, Apr 22, Brocton, Chaut. Co. (LB et al); one, May 5, Town of Evans, Erie Co. (KPA); two, May 11-30, Hamburg (KPA et al); one, May 11, Springbrook, Erie Co. (FD); one, May 16, Derby, Erie Co. (TLB); one, May 17, OOGMA (HDM et al) — records suggest a May movement into region. Eastern Bluebird: populations continue to increase in general.

Warblers-Vireos: White-eyed Vireo: one, May 5, near Dunkirk (AHB et al). Warblers: 11 species reported during Apr, most of which appeared Apr 28-30. Prothonotary Warbler: one singing male carrying nesting material into tree cavity, May 19 and 27; Riverside Marsh near Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (LK et al) — this bird has occurred at Riverside irregularly in the past; it is the only known area where nesting is suspected outside of OOGMA in this region. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one, late May, near Red House, Catt. Co. (SWE). "Brewster's Warbler": one, May 10 and 27, Yorkshire, Catt. Co. (RB et al); one, May 21, Belmont, Alleg. Co. (LHB); one, May 25, Catt. Indian Reservation (FMR et al). Myrtle Warbler: one, Apr 7, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — early migrant. Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Apr 19, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM) — early. Pine Warbler: one, Apr 17, Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk (AS et al); one, Apr 19, Como Lk. Pk., Lancaster (CM). Prairie Warbler: one, May 10, near Franklinville, Catt. Co. (ELS); one, May 30, near West Clarksville, Alleg. Co. (RCR); one, May 31, Alleg. State Pk. (RCR et al) — probably all migrants; this is an interesting inland movement with all three occurring in likely nesting habitats — in marked contrast to the ss Lk: Erie movement of 1962.

Blackbirds-Sparrows: Bobolink: one male, Apr 28, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (HDM et al) — early. Western Meadowlark: one, Apr 7-May 31, Town of Marilla, Erie Co. (NP et al) — probably the same individual that occurred in this locality in 1962. Orchard Oriole: one, May 8, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB); one singing male, May 14-28, Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk (RCR); three males, one female, May 25, Pt. Breeze, Orleans Co. (KPA et al); one, May 28, Lake View, Erie Co. (JS) — an unusual number of reports — all from the Lake Plains. Evening Grosbeak: five, Apr 1, Attica Center, Wyo. Co. (RCR); 32, Apr 7, Hamburg and Cherry Creek areas (BOS Count); two, Apr 11, Hamburg (TLB) — remnants of mild Mar flight. Pine Siskin: small numbers present through May 19, especially in southern tier counties.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15, New York

CORRIGENDA:

Corrections and additions pertaining to the Niagara Frontier Regional records as printed in **The Kingbird** Vol's (2-11) as compiled by Arthur Schaffner.

- Vol 2, No 3, p 66, l 14, 15: The Willet record is not a N.Y. State record. The record was: Willet: one, Aug 23, Erie Beach, Ont., Canada (A Schaffner).
- Vol 3, No 3, p 69, l 38: "A nest of ten Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . ." should read: "A nest of ~~the~~ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . ."
- Vol 4, No 4, p 102, l 25: Cormorant record: The Double-crested Cormorant at Wellsville, Oct 12, was deleted from the B.O.S. records due to error in transcription.
- Vol 5, No 1, p 14, l 17: "Standard" should read — Stannards Corners, Allegany County.
- Vol 5, No 4, p 102, l 11, 12: The White-eyed Vireo record should read — seen Nov 5, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo and was taken Nov 6 by H. D. Mitchell.
- Vol 6, No 3, p 91, l 20: this record should read — White-eyed Vireo: one, Jul 18, Tonawanda Indian Reservation, was collected by Robert Coggeshall.
- Vol 6, No 4, p 121, l 12, 13: The date of the occurrence of the Eared Grebe was Oct 20-27 ~~not~~ Sept 20-27.
- Vol 7, No 3, p 90, l 31, 32: Record should read — A Dickcissel was heard singing by John Klem near Alma for about a week, Jun 3-8.
- Vol 9, No 3, p 123, l 31: 'Not worthy' should read Noteworthy.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 157, l 38: Burnship Creek should be Burnt Ship Creek.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 157, l 54: Red Phalarope — from Oct 9 to 16 (was collected and is now in the B.S.N.S. collection.)
- Vol 9, No 4, p 159, l 5: marketly should read markedly.
- Vol 9, No 4, p 159, l 14, 15: Laughing Gull: one, Nov 29 not Nov 28.
- Vol 10, No 2, p 57, l 42, 43: A Goshawk was seen over Allegany Road, Town of Hanover, not at Angola.

- Vol 10, No 4, p 175, l 31, 32: female Common Eider; this specimen was classified as (*Somateria m. dresseri*), the first of this race taken in the Niagara Frontier Region. The previous specimens were classified as (*Somateria m. sedantaria*.)
- Vol 10, No 4, p 177, l 62: (North) should be qualified as (R. Norths, Jr.). On occasion George W. North of Hamilton, Ont. reports records to this region.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 38, l 1: November should be **December**.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 40, l 8: The Green-winged Teal on the Niagara River was seen on **Mar 11**, not on the 12th.
- Vol 11, No 1, p 41, l 39: Island Gull should be **Iceland Gull**.
49 Northumberland St., Buffalo

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for April were about normal but May averaged 2.4°F below normal and 8.0°F below those of last May. As late as May 24 a reading of 32°F was recorded. Rainfall for April was slightly above normal and that for May somewhat below average. One inch of snow on May 1 was the first measurable snowfall recorded in Rochester in May in 18 years.

The period was marked by outstanding individual birds rather than by outstanding waves. The area was frequently under the influence of C.P. air masses which brought clear, mild days and cool nights and not very many birds. Even the low pressure areas seemed to often bring cool, rainy weather and rather ordinary movements of birds.

Outstanding birds recorded during the period included Artic Loon, Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-headed and Little Gulls, Western Meadowlark and Lark Sparrow.

Initials of regular contributors: John W. Brown — JWB; R. Brownstein — RB; Dwight Chamberlain — DC; (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis — GD; John Foster — JF; (Mrs.) Jeanne Haller — JH; (Mrs.) Ester Hyde — H; Allen E. Kemnitzer — AEK; (Dr.) Gerhardt Leubner — GL; Walter C. Listman — WCL; Warren Lloyd — WL; Alfred Maley — AM; Joseph McNett — JM; (Mrs.) Thelma McNett — TM; (Mrs.) Laura Moon — LM; (Dr.) Neil Moon — NM; Stephen Oresman — SO; Alfred A. Starling — AAS; Joseph Taylor — JT; Thomas E. Tetlow — TET; C. M. Wadsworth — CMW; (Dr.) Paul Weld — PW.

Names of places used regularly in report: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP — Durand-Eastman Park; EL — East Lakeshore; HL — Hawk Lookout (East Manitou Road); HSP — Hamlin State Park; WP — Webster Park; WL — West Lakeshore.

Loons-Ducks: The peak of the spring flight of Common Loons was reached Apr 27 when 350 were along the EL (AEK). An Arctic Loon in summer plumage was carefully observed at Pultneyville May 5, (AEK). The observer has seen hundreds of this species in the northwest and in Alaska. The only previous record for our region was a bird reported at Point Breeze Apr 26, 1959. The spring flight of Red-throated Loons was light with maximum counts of eight along the EL on Apr 15 (AEK) and 27 in the same place on Apr 27 by the same observer. Five were still present in the same area May 5 (AEK). Forty-six Red-necked Grebes along the WL on Apr 14 (AEK) and seven along the EL the next day by the same observer were the above average counts for the species. A Common Egret over the HL on Apr 20 (JF & TET) was the only report of this species. A Cattle Egret was in Parma on May 12 (J & TM, SO), three were in the same place from May 13-16 (WCL & AAS) and one was seen a short distance away on May 19 (CMW). This was the last report. Last year the high count was 15 near Avon. An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Mendon Pond Park on May 19 (GL, LM & NM). A Glossy Ibis was at East Manitou on Apr 20 (WCL) and another or the same bird was in West Webster on May 21 (AEK). Six Whistling Swans remained at WP until May 5 (AEK) and two were in Webster on May 19 (WL et al). Among the more outstanding records of ducks were six Gadwall along the WL on Apr 17 (LM et al), 200 White-winged Scoters at the same place on May 11 (WCL), one Surf Scoter at HSP on Apr 29 (AM), two common Scoters on the EL on Apr 27 (AEK) and 14 Ruddy Ducks on BB Apr 17 (WCL).