

in region 1 where one of several nests produced young. The species also attempted to nest in the New York City area (first time this century) and courtship feeding was noted near Ithaca.

Central New York provided two interesting records of rare ducks. An unusual duck, subsequently identified as a Sheld-duck, was seen at Montezuma. This appears to be the second record for North America and the first for the state. While the record is acceptable to me, I imagine that in the absence of a second observer, photograph or specimen that the record will be listed as hypothetical. The Fulvous Tree-duck, the validity of which I feel that I should not comment on, is the first upstate record and the first spring record for the state. However it is not all together surprising in view of occurrences in Ohio and Ontario and the spectacular increase in the range of this species in the last few years (Baird, Audubon Field Notes 17:6-8, 1963).

Other rarities included Harris' Sparrow near Rochester, Magpies in regions 1 and 10 (perhaps escapes were involved) and in region 10 Cinnamon Teal, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush and yet another Townsend's Warbler.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

This spring was no exception to the variable weather the region usually experiences in the season. A cloudy and showery April with no severe storms was followed by a sunny, generally warm and windy May with a fairly cool period at its end. Both months had near normal precipitation and average temperatures somewhat above the normals. Vegetation was well advanced by late April and only briefly retarded by short cooler periods in May. The strong winds of the latter month (highest velocity recorded — 65 mph on the 9th) caused damage to trees and their new leaf growth. Lake Erie ice was heavy until mid-April; thereafter it rapidly broke up until only small floes were present during the last week. Snow cover dissipated rapidly with the last measurable fall on the 9th at Buffalo. Light frosts occurred in some rural areas on May 15 and 21.

Bird migration at the beginning of April was delayed by the cool weather, but after the first week and a half it was well advanced as warmer temperatures prevailed. The absence of storms and the generally warm latter half of April contributed toward the arrival in good numbers of many migrants and an early occurrence of flycatchers and warblers before the month's end. Canada Geese continued to be in high numbers in the Oak Orchard and Lake Ontario areas in early April, and the flock of about 40 Blue Geese remaining in the former place from late March was the largest this editor can recall in the region in spring. Surface-feeding ducks appeared to be below normal in abundance. Pectoral Sandpipers occurred in large flocks in two localities. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks continued coming to feeders in April and early May. Groups of Red Crossbills also remained through April and were still present at the end of May. They made several attempts to nest in Como Park, Lancaster, but only one pair appeared to have been successful in fledging young. The crossbills visited many feeders in quest of sunflower seeds, a very unusual occurrence in this region. The migration of small passerines during May was marked by two or three days when "waves" occurred, one of the most noticeable taking place during a rather strong weather disturbance on May 13 and 14.

Highlights of the season include: Cattle Egret, European Widgeon, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations used below are: BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; JAS — Jamestown Audubon Society; 1st four letters for the county.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; AHB — Allen H. Benton; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; EB — Elma Bowen; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; RB — Richard Brownstein; CB — Mrs. Carl L. Burdick; LHB — Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Burton; RBy — Richard Byron; JC — Mrs. James A. Creighton; FE — Mrs. Flora Elderkin; AF — Arthur Freitag; WK — Walter Klabunde; HK — Harriette Klabunde; OM — Oliver Meddaugh; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; CM — Carl Mrozek; EP — Elizabeth Pillsbury; LR — Mrs. Lynn Rochester; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; DS — Daniel Salisbury; KS — Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Swanson; LT — Lena Turner; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons had a poor flight through the region this season. Double-crested Cormorant: one, May 11, Hamburg (TLB). Common Egret: one, Apr 12, Oak Orchard area (WK, HK); one, Apr 12, Allegany Co. (CB et al); one, May 21, Evangola State Park (TLB). Cattle Egrets were reported at Kiantone (Chau); three, May 3 (FE et al) and at Belmont (Alleg) May 16 (LHB). One also appeared in May at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge near Alabama, N. Y. Black-crowned Night Herons continue to be scarce, the only large group (about 60) being the nesting colony at Niagara Falls. Whistling Swans were reported in generally small numbers from widely scattered localities, the last noted (one) Apr 29, Niagara Falls (HDM). Canada Goose: maximum 48,974 observed mostly in the region on the BOS Count Apr 12. Up to seven Snow Geese were present in early Apr in the Oak Orchard area, with the last noted (one) May 1 (RFA, HDM). The only Gadwall noted were two, Apr 15, Eden (TLB) and one, Apr 24, 25, North Cuba Marsh (RCR et al). European Widgeon: one Apr 7, at Kiantone (KS). Shovelers were observed in widespread parts of the region through Apr and in the Oak Orchard area through May. Wood Ducks continue to be common. There were four White-winged Scoters off Hamburg Town Park May 28 (TLB).

Hawks — Owls: A noticeable movement of Turkey Vultures occurred with 16 reported Apr 11, Hanover (RB); 15, Apr 13, Athol Springs (RFA, RB); and 12, Apr 13, Alma Hill (RCR et al). Observed hawk movements were light between Apr 11 and 26, with usually less than 50 individuals seen in a day. Bald Eagle: one, (immature) May 3, Hamburg (TLB). Peregrine Falcon: one, Apr 7, Springbrook (GGW) and one, Apr 12, Allegany State Park (EB,LT). An interesting observation was four Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*) on May 1 in fields south of the OOGMA (OM, HDM, RFA et al). They possessed very ragged primaries but flew well. A local resident said that he had seen them on the two previous days. Colored slides and motion pictures were secured. No cranes of this species are known to be missing from zoos in the immediate area. A Turkey appeared Apr 4 within the village of Hamburg (LR et al), one of the northernmost points at which the species has been observed in the region. There was a fair shorebird flight this spring. American Golden Plover: one, Apr 12, Cherry Creek area (JAS). Pectorial Sandpiper: maximum 480, Apr 16, Hanover Center (RB) and about 325, Apr 18, 19 Wolcottsville Sinks (several observers). Glaucous Gulls were seen on Apr 9, 10 and 14, Hamburg Town Park, and Sturgeon Point (TLB). Iceland Gull: five, Apr 12, BOS Count. Common Terns arrived in good numbers by Apr 12, 1,088 being noted on the BOS Count that day. A Caspian Tern, Apr 24, at Rushford Lake, Alle (RCR) was an interesting inland observation. Black-billed Cuckoo: one, Apr 30, Como Park (RFA, RBy) — an early date. Barn Owl: one, May 4, Hamburg (TLB); one, nest and four eggs, May 14, near Hamburg (RFA, RBy). Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 12, BOS Territory 14 (Hamburg) (JC et al).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Chimney Swift: one, Apr 12 (very early), Cherry Creek area (JAS). Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared in late Apr but did not become as common as in some previous years. The 655 Yellow-shafted Flickers on the Apr 12 BOS Count was a high number. An early

arrival was an Eastern Kingbird: Apr 25, Kimball Stand (FE), and also a Great Crested Flycatcher: Apr 29, Point Gratiot (RB, AHB). The first Rough-winged Swallows (three) were noted on the BOS Count Apr 12 and the first Cliff Swallow Apr 18, North Cuba Marsh (RCR). Unusual was the Black-billed Magpie in Delaware Park, Buffalo, May 17, (RB, DS). It was found dead later in the day. Subsequent investigation found the bird to be an escape. Boreal Chickadee: one, Apr 12, Como Park, Lancaster (CM). Few Tufted Titmice were found in the region this spring and Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in small numbers in scattered localities to mid-May. Carolina Wrens are still scarce. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, May 9, Langford (TLB) and one, May 23, Wolcottsville Sinks (RB et al). Mockingbird: one, Apr 5, Amherst (RCR et al); one, Apr 26, near Olcott (WK, HK); one, May 4, Eden and one, May 13 Hamburg (TLB). Hermit Thrushes remain in low numbers, although they have shown some increase in abundance. Bluebirds continue to show an increase, especially in the southern parts of the region. 94 were reported Apr 12 on the BOS Count. An early arrival was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr 17, Jamestown (FE). Loggerhead Shrikes remain very low in numbers, the only reports being one, Apr 5, Royalton (RB et al); one, Apr 5, Cambria (WK, HK); and seven on the Apr 12 BOS Count.

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: one, Apr 27, 29, Dunkirk (RB). Early warbler arrivals were, Black-and-white Warbler: one, Apr 28, Lewiston (WK, HK); Blue-winged Warbler: one, Apr 28, Lewiston (WK, HK); Nashville Warbler: one, Apr 28, Hamburg (TLB); Yellow Warbler: two-three, Apr 25, near Dunkirk (EP, FE et al); Magnolia Warbler: one, Apr 29, Dunkirk (RB); Black-throated Blue Warbler: one, Dunkirk (RB); Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Apr 26, Hamburg (TLB); Blackburnian Warbler: three, Apr 29, Point Gratiot (RB, AHB); Chestnut-sided Warbler: one, Apr 28, Jamestown (FE); Palm Warbler one, Apr 26, Hamburg (TLB). Noteworthy were the Worm-eating Warbler Apr 29 at Point Gratiot (Dunkirk) (RB, AHB) and a Kentucky Warbler May 10, Hamburg (TLB). Pine Warbler: one, Apr 25, Alma Pond (Alle) (RCR). Two other early arrivals were Yellow-breasted Chat: one, May 5 Tifft Street, Buffalo (RFA) and Wilson's Warbler: one, May 6, Buffalo (AF).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: one, May 7, Hamburg (TLB). Common Grackles continue to be numerous and Indigo Bunting seem to be unusually common this year. Evening Grosbeaks were present in scattered flocks through Apr; they soon disappeared in May, the last reported six, May 9, Point Gratiot (RB et al). The last Pine Siskins: 108, May 13, (last), Allegany State Park (WWB). With the warm weather in late Apr the first Grasshopper Sparrow was recorded Apr 21, Langford (TLB) and the first Henslow's Sparrow Apr 24, Friendship (RCR).

Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo 14211

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the first month of the period averaged two degrees above normal while for the last half they were about three degrees above average. Precipitation for the two months was about three-quarters of an inch above normal, the excess occurring entirely during April. Gale force winds on May 9 did heavy local damage.

Among the most outstanding birds recorded during the period were Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Northern Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and Harris Sparrow.

Names of regular reporting observers: RB — Richard Brownstein; DC — Dwight Chamberlain; GLD — Mrs. Gertrude L. Davis; JF — John Foster; AEK — Allen E. Kamnitzer; DL — Dawson List; WCL — Walter C. Listman; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph