

Bonaparte's Gulls nearby, was very conspicuous. Apparently it was an immature coming into adult plumage. With telescopes at fairly close range, some flecking of white could be seen in the black hood, which came well down the back of the head. At rest, the primaries showed black, the rest of the wings and back gray, the bill dark, feet and legs red. In flight, the wing linings were still white, some of the zig-zag pattern of the immature was visible, the tail was white with an incomplete, narrow black band at the end, the central tail feathers being white to the tips. More than 20 people saw the gull.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 – May 31

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April was cold and rather wet throughout the state and migration was, in general, late and slow. However, there was a heavy duck flight in Region 1 and some early arrivals were noted in Region 3. May was variable. An early warm spell was responsible for the peak migration towards the end of the first week. Afterwards migration was, at least to the observer, poor. Although the date of the main wave corresponds almost exactly to last year's, numbers seemed to be markedly lower. Presumably this was due to poor conditions for observation rather than to actual low numbers. It would be most helpful to have breeding bird census data from various parts of the state. Any persons interested in this vital project should contact Dr. Reilly at the State Museum at Albany.

Although the overall impression was poor, there was considerable variation in which species were affected in different areas. For instance, in waterbirds Region 1 reported Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Shoveler and Ring-necked Duck as unusually numerous; loons, grebes and Widgeon as scarce. Region 3 had more Common Loons and Horned Grebes than usual; Widgeon and Shoveler in good numbers. Region 5 noted Pintail, both teal and Widgeon as scarce, with Shoveler in good numbers. All that is in common is a good flight of Shoveler. Warbler migration was considered poor by most regional editors, but again there was no uniformity in the species considered to be especially down in numbers. Some interesting occurrences of the Prairie Warbler were reported. Bent aptly sums up the distribution of this species as "Its range is quite extensive in the eastern United States but its distribution is very spotted and its numbers seem to vary considerably from year to year." This spring a group of at least three singing males were located in Cattaraugus County, there were nine singing males in a new site near Elmira, and there were three records from the Rochester area. Possibly

the species is again increasing in the western and central portions of the state.

The movements of four southern species—Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird—have received a fair amount of attention in recent years. This spring the Mockingbird has made a spurt in four regions in central New York. The Finger Lakes report refers to recently located breeding areas, although some of them may have been used for several years. Region 4 reports five sightings of this species, “an unusually large number of spring records,” and there were about a dozen, including one definite nesting, from Region 5 “a remarkable rash of records of a bird normally reported once a year.” In Region 8 Mockingbirds were reported from seventeen localities in six counties, “a remarkable increase.” The relative movements of these four species are of some interest. The Cardinal and the Tufted Titmouse are at least holding their own, the Mockingbird is increasing and the Carolina Wren has undergone a drastic reduction in recent years from which it shows no sign of recovering. Beddall (*Wilson Bulletin* 75:140, 1963) has summarized the changes of these species for the Hudson Valley and southern New England. She concludes for the Mockingbird “It is the most climatically limited of the four species but, at the same time, apparently the most wide ranging.” The increase of feeding stations may be an important factor in colonization by these southern species.

The hawk watch at the south-east corner of Lake Ontario, organized by Dr. Cade of Syracuse University, recorded fewer birds than last year. The peak count of 2282 Broadwings compared unfavorably with last year's peak and with Rochester high count of 6000. These observations on lake shore migration are to be continued for several years and extended to other species. It is hoped that observers at other places along Lake Ontario will contribute to this study. It would be particularly interesting to have information from the north-east corner of Lake Ontario.

The very strong wind system which swept from the south-east Atlantic coast, Florida and the east Gulf coast up over the Great Lakes on May 14–15 brought a rash of rarities to the state. Region 2 reported a Snowy Egret and a Ruff; Region 3 a Little Gull; Region 4 a Western Grebe; Region 5 Cattle Egret, Snowy Egrets and a Sandhill Crane; Region 8 Western Tanager and Kentucky Warbler; Region 9 Blue Grosbeak and Region 10 a Wood Stork and a Purple Gallinule. Other rarities, not associated with this movement, reported this spring included White-fronted Goose (Regions 1 & 10), Fulvous Tree-duck (10), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (10), Townsend's Warbler (9) and Harris's Sparrow (1 & 8).

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