

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The pattern of weather and bird migration this year was almost an exact repeat of a year ago. April was cold; it seemed wet even though precipitation was an inch below the mean. The waterfowl migration was at least a week behind until April 7-8 when a flight occurred, the likes of which we seldom see here. On these days, even the smallest ice-free ponds bordering the south shore of Lake Erie and inland held literally "hundreds" of ducks. Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers, and Ring-necked Ducks were unusually numerous this year in April; conversely, loons, all grebes, swans and American Widgeon were scarce compared with the long term averages.

There were more than the usual number of favorable days for migrating hawks as the reports below attest to. The large numbers of yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers at Hanover Center were of special interest. By month's end, migration was considered by many to be about normal.

A few migrant passerines appeared somewhat earlier than usual in late April, but for the most part these birds were about "on time". The first week of May brought the most noticeable influx of small passerines of the season. The records indicate that May 2 and 6-8 were the peak days. After that, the weather was mild and warm, so that the looked-for "waves" by ardent observers did not materialize. In general, most observers agreed that May was rather exceptionally dull — the fact that only eighteen observers were motivated to submit their May records (as against some thirty in April) tends to substantiate this fact.

Other highlights of the season include sight records of Mute Swan, White-fronted Goose, European Widgeon, Kentucky Warbler and Harris' Sparrow; and the finding of a possible nesting colony of the Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations used below are: ad-adult; Alleg-Allegany; Bflo-Buffalo; BOS-Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt-Cattaraugus; Chaut-Chautauqua; Co-County; Gen-Genesee; imm-immature; L-Lake; max-maximum; Nia-Niagara; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; Ont-Ontario; OOGMA-Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; Rd-Road; TGMA-Tonawanda Game Management Area; Wyo-Wyoming.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 30, Apr 21, over Como Pk, Lancaster (JG)-only major flight reported and max count for period—continues to be scarce. Red-

necked Grebe: one, Apr 30, Amity, Alleg Co (LDB)—only report. Pied-billed Grebe: very scarce. Double-crested Cormorant: one, Apr 6, over Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Great Blue Heron: nine, Apr 25, heronry near Town's Corners, Chaut Co (FMR et al)—number of nesting birds decreasing here from a high of 52 active nests in 1963. Common Egret: two, May 16 (AR) and two, May 22–23 (RB et al), OOGMA—only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: 51, May 16, Nia Falls (WM et al)—at only known nesting colony in Region; four additional reports for period. Mute Swan: one, Apr 22 (TLB) through May 8 (HDM et al), L Erie at Athol Springs. Whistling Swan: generally poor Apr flight; max 31, Apr 3, Chaut L (AC et al). Canada Goose: 26000, Apr 11 (JG et al) and 27500, May 1 (RB et al)—max at OOGMA. White-fronted Goose (*A.a. flavirostris*): one, Apr. 3 (RCR et al) through Apr 18 (RB et al), TGMA—seen on three successive weekends; orange bill, generally dark coloration, and prominent black belly splotchings carefully noted; second record for Region (first in 1962). Snow and Blue Goose: poorest flight in at least five years; max—three Snows, Apr 23, Lyndonville area (WGS) and three Blues, Apr 4, OOGMA (HDM et al).

Gadwall: more Apr reports involving more than the usual number of individuals than in recent years; max—five, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and Apr 22, Scio, Alleg Co (LDB). Green-winged Teal: excellent Apr flight; max—51, Apr 7, Silver Creek to Westfield, Chaut Co (RCR et al) and 73, Apr 23, Chaut Co (FMR et al); four, May 23, OOGMA (RB et al). European Widgeon: one male, Apr 9–11, South Bflo Harbor (AC et al). Shoveler: excellent Apr flight throughout Region; max—20, Apr 11, Hanover Center, Chaut Co (JG et al) and 30, May 1, OOGMA (RB et al). Redhead: max—102, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and 129, Apr 4, Chaut L (CMB et al). Ring-necked Duck: good Apr flight; max—57, Apr 7, Hamburg to Dunkirk (RCR et al), 35, Apr 17, Lime L (FMR) and 109, Apr 20, Chaut Co (EMP et al). Oldsquaw: 23, Apr 22, Scio (LDB). White-winged Scoter: four, Apr 22, Scio (LDB). Ruddy Duck: more Apr reports than in recent years; max—20, Apr 10 and 40, Apr 20, Chaut L (EMP et al).

HAWKS—OWLS: Noteworthy hawk flights:—Apr 3, south shore L Erie from Lake View to Portland (AC et al): Turkey Vulture-3, Sharp-shinned-3, Red-tailed-4, Red-shouldered-30, Rough-legged-1, Sparrow-1 (total 43); Apr 11, south shore L Erie from Lake View to Portland (AC et al): Turkey Vulture-1, Sharp-shinned-57, Red-tailed-8, Marsh-18, Osprey-3, Sparrow-23 (total 110); Apr 20, south shore L Erie, Allegany Rd, Hanover (JG et al): Sharp-shinned-40, Cooper's-2, Broad-winged-168, Pigeon-1 (total 211); Apr 21, over Lancaster (JG): Cooper's-5, Broad-winged-138, Pigeon-1 (total 144); Apr 23, south shore L Erie at Portland (AC et al): Sharp-shinned-7, Red-tailed-6, Broad-winged-327, Osprey-3 (total 343); Apr 24, south shore L Erie (FMR et al): Sharp-shinned-8, Red-tailed-4, Red-shouldered-2, Broad-winged-530 (total 544); Apr 29, south shore L Ont at Youngstown (JFT): Sharp-shinned-17, Broad-winged-103, Bald Eagle-1, Marsh-3 (total 124); Apr 29, south shore L Erie at Allegany Rd, Hanover (AF et al): Turkey Vulture-4, Sharp-shinned-3, Red-tailed-1, Red-shouldered-4, Broad-winged-669, Osprey-2, unidentified-2 (total 685).

Goshawk: adult incubating on nest during Apr near Vandalia, Catt Co (SWE)—second consecutive year this nest is being used. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: extremely scarce except during migration periods; the number of Cooper's reported in the hawk flights is lower than has often been the case in past years. Rough-legged Hawk: widely scattered during Apr; max of 51 seen Apr 22 in Lyndonville area is the highest count for Region in recent years. Bald Eagle: one ad, Apr 16, over Oakfield, Gen Co (RWR et al); one imm, Apr 29, over Youngstown (JFT); one ad, May 9, Catt Indian Reservation (CGW et al). Marsh Hawk: max of 53 noted Apr 17 in Lyndonville area (WGS) is the highest count for Region in recent years. Osprey: many reports of single birds throughout Region during Apr indicating a better flight

than in past few years; max—four, Apr 20, Kiantone, Chaut Co (EMP et al) and three, Apr 24, Chaut Co (FMR et al). Peregrine Falcon: two, Apr 4, Dunkirk area (REM et al) and one, Apr 4, Hamburg area (TLB et al). Pigeon Hawk: one, Apr 1, Lake View (TLB)—early.

Bobwhite: one, May 7 (HDM et al) and one, May 15 (GGW et al), Williston Rd, Marilla, Erie Co; three, May 23, OOGMA (RB et al). Turkey: one, Apr 21, Larkin Rd, Eden, Erie Co—another report indicating their northward spread in the Region. Rails, Coot, and Common Gallinule: scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: one, Apr 11, Dunkirk Harbor (RB et al)—early. Migrant shorebirds: extremely few records for Western New York except for yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers on a flooded sink at Hanover Center, Chaut Co—this location over the past few years has become the very best Apr shorebird habitat in the Region. Greater Yellowlegs: max 150, Apr 25 (EMP et al)—an unprecedented number in spring. Lesser Yellowlegs: max eight, Apr 15 (AF et al) and Apr 24 (FMR et al). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 250, Apr 23 (AC et al); 220, Apr 24 (FMR et al); 100, Apr 25 (FMR et al). White-rumped Sandpiper: one, May 28, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Dunlin: one, Apr 27, Red Bird Corners, Chaut Co (KOS); one, Apr 28, Town of Java, Wyo Co (RWR et al).

Iceland Gull (*L.g. glaucoides*): one, Apr 16, Athol Springs (TLB). Glaucous Gull: one, May 12, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Caspian Tern: one, Apr 16, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB); three, Apr 23, Cuba L (LDB)—second consecutive year in which this bird has been reported from Alleg Co; apparent movement May 2 along south shore L Erie—one, Barcelona (FMR et al), one, Pt Gratiot (JG et al) and five, Angola (EAU et al). Barn Owl: one, Apr 4 and May 11 (TLB) and May 23 (RB et al), Hamburg. Snowy Owl: three-four individuals reported in metropolitan Bflo area in Apr; one, Apr 13, South Bflo Harbor (FMR)—last report. Long-eared Owl: two, Apr 4, Newfane area, Nia Co (GJL et al); two, Apr 18 and 23, Lyndonville area (WGS). Short-eared Owl: max 31, Apr 3, Lyndonville area (WGS); four, Apr 3–5, Langford, Erie Co (RWR et al)—a noteworthy inland locality. Saw-whet Owl: one, Apr 9, Lyndonville area (WGS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one, May 2, Pt Gratiot (RB et al); one, May 25, Hamburg (TLB)—only reports. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 450, May 2, Dunkirk area (JG et al)—migrating individuals. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, Apr 3 (RB, RCR et al), Apr 11 (RB et al), May 1 (RB et al) and May 23 (JG et al), OOGMA—this species seems to be establishing itself at Oak Orchard and probably represents a westward extension of its range from the Batavia area. Red-headed Woodpecker: many reports during period; seems to be holding its own. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 150, May 2, Dunkirk area (JG et al)—migrating individuals and an unusually high count for a single day. Eastern Kingbird: one, Apr 25, Attica, Wyo Co (RCR et al)—early. Rough-winged Swallow: one, Apr 9, Eden (TLB)—very early. Tufted Titmouse: after what appeared to be a mild influx during the winter, reports decreased sharply during Apr and May except for a count of six, May 16 in the southern tier counties. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce; two, May 13 and 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co (RFA et al)—an indication of possible breeding in a likely habitat.

Carolina Wren: one, Apr 11 and 13 at feeder in Hamburg (TLB)—only report; this species continues to be very low in numbers. Long-billed Marsh Wren: scarce. Mockingbird: one which spent the winter in suburban Amherst, Erie Co was last seen Apr 4 (RCR et al); an early May influx is evident—one, May 3, Eden (TLB), one, May 5, South Bflo (RR), one, May 9, Cottage, Catt Co (GGW et al), one, May 20, Catt Indian Reservation (MMW et al). Wood Thrush: one, Apr 24, Hamburg (RWR et al)—early. Hermit Thrush: migrants unusually late in arriving in Bflo area—earliest was Apr 22, Eggertsville (AWM). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one, May 23, Town of Java, Wyo Co (HDM)—reports from the hill country south of Bflo are rare. Golden-

crowned Kinglet: two, May 13 and four, May 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co—the possibility of this bird nesting here among the tall spruces is excellent.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: April warbler arrivals included: Black-and-white, Apr 20, Springbrook (HDS); Nashville, Apr 27, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Yellow, Apr 28, Hamburg (TLB); Myrtle, Apr 14, Eden (TLB); Black-throated Green, Apr 23, Hamburg (RWR); Pine, Apr 21, Lancaster (JG); Palm, Apr 30, Lancaster (JG); Ovenbird, Apr 30, Belmont (LDB) and Northern Waterthrush, Apr 24, Town of Java (RWR et al) and Kiantone, Chaut Co (EMP). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were more common during May than usual. "Brewster's" Warbler: one, May 11 (MMW et al), May 15 (HDM) and May 18 (AF et al), Delaware Pk, Bflo; one, May 16, Alleg Co (BOS Count); one, May 18, Ball's Gulf, Chaut Co (FMR et al). Parula Warbler: one, May 25, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB)—only report. Cape May Warbler: unusually scarce. Myrtle Warbler: one, May 31, McCarty Hill, Catt Co (RFA)—another northern species likely to nest here. Pine Warbler: three, May 2, Dunkirk (JG et al); one, May 15, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (CGW et al). Prairie Warbler: a small "colony" of at least three singing males was located in late May, five miles north of the village of Allegany, Catt Co (SWE); one, May 13–14, McClure Hollow, Catt Co (MMW). *Kentucky Warbler*: one, May 23, Allegany State Pk (RB et al).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: one, May 10, Hamburg (RFA et al)—uncommon on south shore L Erie. Rusty Blackbird: 520, Apr 18, Iroquois NWR (RB et al)—an unusually high count for spring. Red Crossbill: two, May 11, Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB)—first report since a year ago. Slate-colored Junco: 1500, Apr 18, Forestville to Town's Corners, Chaut Co (FMR) and 200, OOGMA (EAU et al)—marked movement on this date. Tree Sparrow: one, May 6, Springbrook (HDS)—last. *Harris' Sparrow*: the individual reported since mid-Dec at Lake View, Erie Co was last reported (and photographed) May 6; at that time the bird was in typical male plumage (HDM).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for April averaged below normal, with the season's last snowfall disappearing on the 20th. Precipitation for the month was somewhat below normal. Temperatures for May averaged about two degrees above normal, with much of the warm weather occurring early in the month. Precipitation for the month was only .50 inch which made it the driest May in the history of the Rochester Weather Bureau. Rainwater pools dried up early, while Lake Ontario and connected ponds and bays experienced their usual spring rise.

Cold weather during April retarded the spring migration, especially land birds. The warm weather of early May brought heavy migration with the spring peak reached during the week of May 8–15. The latter half of the month was comparatively uneventful.

Outstanding birds recorded included the Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Lawrence's Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Oregon Junco.