

On April 29, 1961 I saw a Louisiana Waterthrush at Felts Mills Creek, Jefferson County (*Kingbird* XI: 116, 1961). This is the only other record of this species in this Region to my knowledge. The 1961 bird was undoubtedly a stray migrant. Felts Mills Creek is not suitable breeding habitat.

The July 1965 record would seem to extend the known summer range approximately 40 miles NW on the western side of the Adirondacks. Most northern breeding record appears to be Pixley Falls south of Boonville (Scheider, *Kingbird* XIV: 230, 1964).

The South Sandy Creek tributary runs over a shale rock bed strewn with small boulders. Its banks are sometimes steep and rise 10 to 60 feet to a beech-maple hemlock forest. The possibility of breeding should be carefully checked. There are many suitable stream segments with gorges throughout southern Jefferson and Lewis County in Tug Hill or near it which could harbor this species. I would think Whetstone Creek south of Lowville and the many branches of Sandy Creek would be places to begin the search.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

August 16 – November 30

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It was, according to most observers, a migration period without pronounced waves. The banding stations on Long Island reported a poor season with many species occurring in far lower numbers than usual. Nevertheless nearly 14,000 individuals of 125 species were banded. A similar effort along the shores of Lake Ontario would give a good deal of additional information on migration. Banding at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area (Region 8) revealed numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows, as was indicated by the 1963 TV kills at Elmira. This secretive species passes through in considerable numbers. Observations on the Appalachian ridges in Region 4 and along the Hudson valley added additional information on these flyways. Although the overall migration was not spectacular there was an unprecedented coastal flight of Saw-whet Owls on Long Island (involving at least 91 individuals, which will be detailed in the next issue) and some interesting waterfowl movements on Lake Ontario.

The migration of Brant upstate was well marked this fall. The count of 9520 at the south-east corner of Lake Ontario on October 23rd was apparently the largest concentration ever noted in the state away from the coast. On the same day 6500 were observed flying east along the lake edge in the Rochester area. Most textbooks refer to the Brant as strictly coastal but this is no longer correct. Eaton (1910) records only six specimens for the state away from the coast. Sheppard (*Canadian Field-Naturalist* 63:99, 1949) reviewed the status of this species for the Canadian side of Lake Ontario and Erie. He concluded that there had been

an increase in the previous 10–15 years but the maximum recorded was only thirty. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) give 1949 as the first year of pronounced migration (maximum 62). The first count of thousands along Lake Ontario dates from the early 1950's and the first flights along the Hudson River were observed at this time. Before the failure of the eel grass in 1931 the Brant was strictly maritime, then although the numbers of Brant decreased subsequent to the loss of this marine plant on their wintering grounds, the inland occurrences increased. By 1950 the numbers were increasing on the coast (Bull, 1964) and at this time the large flights along the eastern Great Lakes were first noted. The wintering population is given by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Special Scientific Reports* 61, 68, 75 & 86) as 180–260,000 in recent years so that the numbers (at least 16,000 this year) using the Great Lakes flyway represent a sizeable proportion of the population. Rusk observed some movement inland up river valleys southward from the south-east corner of Lake Ontario; this probably represents the first leg of the overland journey to the ocean. There were scattered inland reports involving, however, only a few individuals at this time. A heavy flight of all three species of scoter was noted at the same time as the big movement of Brant.

Both Pomarine and Parastic Jaegers were noted in unusually high numbers along the shore of Lake Ontario. It would be interesting to know to what extent jaegers use a similar overland route to the Brant or whether the birds observed on the Great Lakes move overland to the Gulf of Mexico as has been suggested by Williams (*Auk* 82:19, 1965).

There was a good flight of all winter finches including both crossbills. There were a fair scattering of records of three-toed woodpeckers including several of the Northern or Ladder-backed. The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls in the Niagara Gorge was good, although it did not reach the size of the 1959 flight. As usual other small gulls – Black-headed, Franklin's and Little – were seen with them. Considering the normal range of these other gulls this association is surprising. Franklin's and Little Gulls and Kittiwakes were recorded in the Rochester area and Kittiwakes were also seen in Region 5. It appears that the Kittiwake is a scarce, but regular visitant to Lake Ontario in the late fall.

Long Island rarities included Frigatebird, Sooty Tern and Scissor-tailed Fly-catcher; upstate rarities included Hawk Owl (Adirondacks), Gyrfalcon (Jefferson County), Boreal Owl (Region 5), Black Rail (Finger Lakes), Dovekie (Region 2) and Wheatear (Region 1).

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: Co-county; imm-immature; L-Lake; max-maximum one-day count; mob-many observers; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; R-River; Rd-Road.