

class zero and weighed 23.05 g., while the female was fat class one and weighed 26.10 g. The wing chords of both birds measured 78 mm. On May 6th, another female was captured and banded, and on May 12th an unbanded male appeared at the feeder and went uncaptured. This second female was also fat class one, weighed 21.90 g. at 10:30 am. and her wing chord measured 76 mm. None of these birds was seen again. By May 15-20, all but a very few Purple Finches had departed from the feeder. It appears that when northward movements of House Finches do occur into this area, they coincide with, or are possibly influenced by, the northward movement of Purple Finches.

Concurrent to this appearance of four House Finches, Gustave Angst nearby on Rosendale Road reported the sighting of at least one male and possibly a female at his feeder the week of May 7th.

The banded female of May 5th was traced to Mrs. William Babcock of Gordonsville, Virginia, who had banded the bird on December 26, 1966 at her feeder. According to Mrs. Babcock, whom I thank for the use of her banding data and other information on the species, House Finches appeared at her feeder for the first time on December 24, 1965. During the winter of 1966-67, they arrived on November 17th and up to 200 were present during snow storms. The last House Finch departed April 1st. Gordonsville represents the furthest southern penetration of the species in numbers. It is most interesting that an individual from the species' southernmost population should be one of the northern vanguard.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 – May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

April was fairly normal weatherwise although cold in some areas. May, however, was one of the coldest on record. In general early migrants arrived on time but later migrants were delayed. Wickham sums up the situation "the low numbers of many species – even by mid-May – were unprecedented in my experience." Waves of migration were poor, the largest and most wide-spread being May 18-20, but this movement was considered good only compared to the previous poor showing. Despite reports of tanagers and warblers feeding on or near the ground the actual reports of casualties were few. Some Purple Martin kills were noted, but these were small compared to last year. However, low numbers of Martins were reported, perhaps due to a combination of the cold May and last year's heavy kill.

Five regional editors commented on the decrease of the Grasshopper Sparrow and four of these editors also mentioned decreases of Henslow's Sparrow. In at least two areas this decline was a continuation of one previously noted. It would be worth-while investigating this situation to see if the factors involved, such as changes in agriculture practice, could be evaluated. Cuckoos, particularly the Yellow-billed, continued to be scarce. On the other hand, the flight of kinglets was excellent in the central and western portions of the state.

A House Finch was noted in Region 1 (2nd regional record) and several in Region 8, all at feeders. These included one previously

banded in Virginia five months earlier. A few southern herons were reported, Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Regions 1 and 3 and Cattle Egrets in Regions 2 and 6. No major flight of Cattle Egrets like that which occurred in 1962 has happened again and it appears that the explosive stage of the expansion of this species in eastern North America is over.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported, with commendable caution, from Long Island. The possibility that New World records of this species are actually referable to dark-mantled races of the Herring Gull has now been increased by the collection of such a bird in Ontario. It was thought to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull but was found on examination in the hand to be a dark-mantled Herring Gull. There are two major groups of races of the Herring Gull. The first stretches right round the northern hemisphere with various sub-species occurring in North America, northern Europe, and Siberia. The mantle color varies from the very pale *thayeri* of northern Canada to the dark *vegea* of Siberia. The second group of sub-species stretches from central Mongolia to the Atlantic. The western-most race, *atlantis*, is the darkest. It would be possible to confuse either *vegea* or *atlantis* with a Lesser Black-backed Gull. The situation is further confused by the highly variable leg color of the adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in winter (Barnes, *British Birds* 45:3-17, 1952). This author points out that only half of winter adults have yellow legs. As there are only two specimens of Lesser Black-backed Gull for the state this appears to be a situation where additional collecting would be of value.

The report of two attempts of breeding by the Golden Eagle in the Adirondacks will probably come as a pleasant surprise to many readers. Despite the rather unpleasant spring weather the list of rarities reported is at least as long as usual. It includes Eared Grebe (Region 1, first specimen for the state of a species for which there are numerous sight records), Eurasian Teal (Regions 2, 5 and 10), Sandhill Crane (Region 8), Ruff (different adult males in breeding plumage in Regions 5 & 6), Parastic Jaeger (Region 3), Little Gull (Region 1 & 3), Brewer's Blackbird (Region 1), Boat-tailed Grackle (Region 10), Lark Bunting (Region 3), and Harris's Sparrow (Regions 1, 3, & 9). As a personal note both Dr. Sally Hoyt Spofford and I would like to hear if anyone has a Harris's Sparrow that appears to be staying around, since neither of us has seen one. This issue of *The Kingbird* incidentally contains Sally Hoyt Spofford's 60th regional report.

It is regretted that the report from Region 4 was not available for the writing of this summary.

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