

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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During many years April weather is characterized by an early cold pattern with occasional snow and a gradually moderating trend, particularly throughout the second half. May often brings a continuation of the modifying trend with increasingly warm temperatures sometimes giving way to midsummer-like heat. This year April was unusually warm and dry practically throughout while May was generally cold and wet although there were no late snowfalls as during the past two years. The sometimes spectacular waves of migrants produced by periods of fair weather punctuated with intermittent low pressure systems combined with southerly or southwesterly winds did not occur and most birders complained of a rather lackluster spring migration in general.

There were certain responses to the reversal of the usual spring weather patterns. Although very few migrants arrived early during April as might have been expected because of the warm temperatures, at least one breeding species, the Eastern Bluebird, started nesting several weeks earlier than usual in April. This produced disastrous results for the nestlings after the weather changed in May. Details will be presented in the next report. More noticeable was the general lack of good or even fair birding during the first half of May due to the scarcity or absence of the usual migrants. Examination of the arrival dates of many late April and May migrants, especially warblers, will reveal that the first individuals were observed from three to sixteen days later than usual. Several regularly occurring warblers were not listed since earlier arrival dates were obtained in adjacent southeastern Ontario. The only notable hawk flight occurred on April 23.

Rarities included the Cattle Egret, Common Teal, Little Gull, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated and Connecticut Warblers, Western Meadowlark and the only Pine Grosbeak seen during the past winter. For an indication of how slow this spring was, compare this list with that of last year [*Kingbird* 17 (3): 153].

Abbreviations: ABC—April Bird Count; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; Han—Hanover Township (Alleghany Road), Chautauqua County; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MBC—May Bird Count; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: very poor spring flight with max four at several localities. Red-throated Loon: only report—two Apr 27 Red House L, Alleghany State Pk (Harris Johnson, William Highhouse). *CATTLE EGRET*: one Apr 29, May 5 TGMA (Dodge, WAM). Common Egret: one May 28 OOGMA (PB). Least Bittern: decreasing in recent years—singles May 19 on, at four scattered localities.

Whistling Swan: late—one May 30 Alleghany Reservoir (AGR). Canada Goose: max 57,520 Apr 7 mostly OOGMA—TGMA—INWR complex (mob). Blue Goose: last—one Apr 28 Lyndonville (WAM). *COMMON TEAL*: adult male with two pairs of Greenwings Apr 14–28 TGMA (RB, PB, RAS *et al*). Shoveler: max 49 Apr 11 Oak Orchard area (AF). Bufflehead: late—two May 31 Riverside Marsh (AGR).

Oldsquaw: good spring concentration—1200 Apr 7 northern Nia Co BOSABC. Scoters: good spring count Apr 21 L Ont, Orleans Co—White-winged, 520 Pt Breeze to Yates; Surf, two Yates; Common, 11 Lakeside (RB,JB); other reports of Surf, two Apr 19 Cassadaga L (FMR) and four Apr 27 Alfred (CK).

HAWKS—OWLS: A fine hawk migration occurred on Apr 23 at Jerusalem Corners (southwest of Hamburg); Sharp-shin 78, Cooper's 1, Red-tail 14, Broad-wing 3126, Pigeon 1 (RFA). A small movement was observed at Han on Apr 14: Turkey Vulture 7, Sharp-shin 71, Cooper's 3, Red-tail 42, Broad-wing 24, Rough-leg 2, Marsh 5, Osprey 1, Sparrow 4 (VL). Other reports of interest: Han (VL)—Goshawk singles Apr 16, 19; Broad-wing 109 May 4; Rough-leg last, one May 4; from elsewhere—Rough-leg max 15 Apr 7 Lyndonville area BOSABC; Bald Eagle (only report) one Apr 7 Hamburg area BOSABC; Marsh max eight Apr 4 Lyndonville (WGS); Osprey 40 reports mostly of individuals, max three Apr 25 Belmont (LDB), three May 3 Ceres (LDB); Pigeon one May 5 Town of Amherst (Inskip).

Rails arr late in small numbers with the only exception the near-normal date of Apr 14 for the Common Gallinule TGMA (RB). The spring flight of Am. Coot was exceptionally poor, max 55 in southern Chaut Co Apr 7 BOSABC. Shorebirds: usual poor to mediocre spring flight inland and along south shore L Erie. Am. Golden Plover: one Apr 21 INWR (AF *et al*). Black-bellied Plover: earliest regional record—one Apr 21 Scio (LDB). Upland Plover: arr three Apr 13 Lancaster (JK). Sandpipers: Solitary, max eight May 10 Canadaway Creek (FMR); Pectoral, max 100 Apr 15 INWR (GW *et al*) well below usual counts; four Least, one Dunlin, two Semipalmated May 12 Cuba L (LDB); Dunlin, 25 May 21 Riverside Marsh (AGR); Short-billed Dowitcher, early—eight May 15 TGMA (MMW). Glaucous Gull: one Apr 19 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). *LITTLE GULL*: one Apr 25 Bay View (TLB), three Apr 25 Lewiston (PB). Caspian Tern: max 10 Apr 27 Dunkirk Harbor (RFA *et al*). Black Tern: arr two May 3 Wellsville (LDB).

Owls: Barn, one May 6 Belmont (LDB); Snowy, last-one Apr 1 Jamestown airport (AGR); Long-eared, singles Apr 6, 7 Lyndonville (WGS), May 23 Hamburg (TLB); Short-eared, max seven Apr 6 Lyndonville (WGS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr late—one May 4 Delaware Pk, Bflo (WAM *et al*); three other singles at scattered localities. Common Nighthawk: arr late—one May 16 Bflo (PH). Chimney Swift: arr one Apr 24 Lyndonville (WGS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one May 8 Lyndonville (WGS). Eastern Phoebe: excellent counts on BOSABC and MBC—370 Apr 7 and 282 May 19. Observed on normal early arr dates, when many other insectivorous species were late, were two flycatchers: Yellow-bellied one May 10 Elma (DD) and Traill's one May 15 Akron (MMW).

Swallows: retarded migration again this year with more large numbers on BOSMBC May 19—Tree 2332; Bank 2004; Rough-wing 407; Barn 3045; Cliff 100; Purple Martin 1877. House Wren: arr one Apr 22 Hamburg (TLB). Carolina Wren: one May 6 Athol Springs (TLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: singles May 11 Bear L Outlet (FMR), May 21 Eden (TLB), May 30 Randolph (RAS,AGR).

Mockingbird: eight reports from five scattered localities mostly in southern Tier—four of these may well represent birds moving with spring migrants. Catbird: arr one May 3 Water Valley (TLB). Brown Thrasher: arr early—two Apr 6 Orchard Pk (HS); four (three scattered southern county locations) Apr 7 BOSABC; one Apr 8 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK). Thrushes: Hermit, arr Apr 7 BOSABC, two Hamburg area, six Cuba L area; Swainson's, arr late—one May 11 Spring Brook (DD); Gray-cheeked, average arr date—singles May 11 Delaware Pk, Bflo (M.L.Emerson), May 11 Belmont (LDB). Eastern Bluebird: 138 May 19 BOSMBC (116 last year). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: early—Apr 15 East Eden Pond (TLB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: unusually late—two May 31 Panama (RFA *et al*). Water Pipit: peak Apr 7 BOSABC—100 Hamburg area, 75 Elma area, 23 Jamestown area; last—eight May 19 Elma

(DD). Loggerhead Shrike: only four reports of three birds on L Ont plain in northern Nia and-Orleans Cos.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: In very few other years has there been a complete lack of vireos during April. Arr this year: Yellow-throated, one May 12 Akron (GW *et al*); Solitary, very late—one May 1 Bflo (PH); Red-eyed, late—two May 13 Lakeview (TLB); Warbling, three May 3 Bflo—Hamburg area.

Warblers: Prothonotary, male observed twice during later half of May examining nest box occupied by Tree Swallows along Chadakoin R in Jamestown (Raistricks); **WORM EATING**, one closely observed and heard singing May 18 Delaware Pk, Bflo (G.Hammond,MMW,WAM); Golden-winged, one May 4 Brocton (FMR); Blue-winged, one May 5 Charlotte (FMR), 60 May 19 BOSMBC; Orange-crowned, singles May 11 Delaware Pk, Bflo (J.Thill *et al*), May 19 Bflo area, Belfast area BOSMBC, May 21 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK); Nashville, two Apr 30 Dunkirk (FE *et al*); Parula, late and scarce—one May 18 Delaware Pk, Bflo (MMW *et al*); three May 19 Vandalia area, Wellsville area BOSMBC; Yellow, one Apr 28 Alabama (FMR); Cape May, one May 6 Athol Springs (TLB); Myrtle, one Apr 7 Belfast area BOSABC; Black-throated Green, two Apr 27 Alfred (CK); Cerulean, one May 8 Evans (RFA); Blackburnian, one May 2 Water Valley (TLB,Booth); **YELLOW—THROATED**, second Chaut Co record,—one seen and heard at crange range for thirty minutes May 19 Westfield (OS,N.Bates,L.Buck); Chestnut-sided, singles May 10 South Pk, Bflo (JK), Belmont (LDB), Canadaway Creek (FMR); Pine, singles Apr 22 Lyndonville (WGS), Athol Springs (TLB); Prairie, unreported; Palm, early—one Apr 17 Scio (Larson); Ovenbird, one Apr 30 Spring Brook (Schafer); Northern Waterthrush, one May 4 Riverside (FE); Louisiana Waterthrush, one May 14 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); **CONNECTICUT**, one closely studied and ideally compared with Nashville May 22 Jamestown (AGR); Mourning, one May 18 Jamestown (FE); Yellowthroat, singles May 7 Riverside (FE), Belmont (LDB), Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Hooded, two May 14 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB); Canada, one May 11 Spring Brook (DD); Am. Redstart, two May 8 Riverside (FE), one May 8 East Eden Pond (TLB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr three May 4 Riverside (FE). **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** two Apr 20 Yates (PB,R.Rybczynski); birds present last two years at Fredonia and Center Rd, Sheridan Township, Chaut Co did not return. Orchard Oriole: male May 12, 18, 19 Caneadea (LarryWilson). Baltimore Oriole: 1068 May 19 BOSMBC.

Cardinal: 449 May 19 BOSMBC. Evening Grosbeak: 205 Apr 7 BOSABC in Allegany and Catt Cos; last—15 Apr 28 Alfred (CK). Purple Finch: large spring count 180 Apr 7 BOSABC. **PINE GROSBEAK:** only report of winter—one female Apr 7 Niobe (ECP) BOSABC. Pine Siskin: last—two May 30 Randolph (RAS, AGR). Am. Goldfinch: highest MBC total 4545 May 19. Red Crossbill: five Apr 7 Vandalia area BOSABC; three Apr 17 Water Valley (TLB); 13 Apr 28 Hamburg (JK); 14 May 19 unspecified localities BOSMBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: very high totals on BOSABC and MBC—58 Apr 7 and 506 May 19 (580 last year May 21 was highest ever).

Sparrows: Grasshopper, arr one Apr 24 Langford (TLB); Henslow's, arr one Apr 21 Hamburg (RFA), about twice usual total—41 May 19 BOSMBC; Tree, last—one Apr 30 Dunkirk (ECP,FE,OS); Field, high count 512 May 19 BOSMBC; White-throated, poor flight with no outstanding concentrations; Lincoln's, one May 8 Eden (TLB), five May 19 BOSMBC; Song, large numbers on ABC and MBC—4554 Apr 7 and 2808 May 19.

ADDENDUM. *Kingbird* 18(2). 92, May 1968, Region 1 report: insert after Eastern Phoebe: first winter record—one Dec 30 (Hamburg CC).

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