

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1-May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

Although there were no widespread major waves of migrants it was an interesting spring. Most notable were (1) the incursion of several southern species, (2) the fine return flight of Blue Jays and Evening Grosbeaks and (3) a fine flight of shorebirds.

The range of the Red-bellied Woodpecker is essentially western in this state, breeding sparsely from the Lake Erie plain to the Syracuse area. The population to the west of the Appalachians does not appear to have been involved in this spring movement although the Region 1 report was not available at the time this summary was written. On Long Island the incursion was similar in size to the previously recorded largest in 1962. There were five recorded in Region 9 and Region 8 had its second ever and one occurred in Region 4.

The Summer Tanager also invaded Long Island this spring, a total of 15 individuals were recorded. Previously the maximum for a season had been five. There were also two upstate records. There was a scattering of upstate records of the White-eyed Vireo (Regions 2, 3, 4 & 5). The over-shot of southern species also included exceptional numbers of Glossy Ibis and a fair scattering of southern herons.

The return flight of Evening Grosbeaks was spectacular this year and in contrast to the fall flight, these flights are not usually well documented. The size of the flight this year can be gauged from the count of 1300 in two hours at the south-east corner of Lake Ontario on May 7 and 1200 in four hours there on May 8. The maximum count in the Rochester area was on May 8. In the Schenectady area banding showed that migrants were moving through from May 1-16 since only 2 to 3 percent of the individuals caught were re-traps. The Blue jay flight along the shores of Lake Ontario reached a maximum in late May with 6000 recorded near Rochester on May 29 and over 2000 at Derby Hill on May 30.

A huge flight of phalaropes, perhaps three times larger than any previously recorded in the state was noted at the eastern end of Long Island on May 9-12. While this flight was purely coastal it was a good spring for shorebirding upstate. Unusual species recorded included Willet, Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper and Purple Sandpiper.

Rarities included the second state record of the Green-tailed Towhee and the third record of Chuck-will's-widow. After seven years I am giving up writing the "Highlights of the Seasons" and the task is being taken over by Allen Kemnitzer. I would like to thank all those who have

patiently borne my questioning and even, sometimes, my rejection of their records.

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It is regreted that the report from Region 1 was not available for this summary.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

No Report. This report period will be included in the October issue.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for April were $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees above average and for May 1 degree below normal. Precipitation for April was $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch above average, for May $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below. Two inches of snow fell in April, with one inch on April 19 being the last snowfall of the season.

The spring flight of loons was extremely light, partly or mostly due to lack of observation in the area of usual concentration. The goose flight seemed average. Ducks seemed below average except for Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The peak hawk flight came late, on April 27. Shore birds were average in numbers and very good in species. Most of the shore birds were found about rain-water pools as the lake level was high. Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls were unreported, probably due to lack of observation. Small land birds seemed rather late until a fair flight on April 27. A modest peak was reached on May 17 with a secondary peak on May 29 which almost terminated the spring migration.

Outstanding birds reported included Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Hudsonian Godwit, Little Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Observers cited in text: MC—Michael Carlson; JHC—Jerry H. Czech; JJD—James J. Doherty; JF—June Feder; JWF—John W. Foster; AEK—Mr. & Mrs. Allen E. Kemnitz; GWL—Gerhart W. Leubner; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; NSM—Dr. & Mrs. Neil S. Moon; HSM—Howard S. Miller; MO—Michael O'Hara; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; ST—Sarah Talpey; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; RJW—Robert J. White.

Localities: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; RM—Rose's Marsh (West of Braddock's Bay); WP—Webster Park; WLS—West Lake Shore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 20 May 2 WP (RJW). Red-throated Loon: one May 2 WP (RJW), only report. Common Egret: one April 6 Hamlin (JM, TM), one May 25 RM (RTO). CATTLE EGRET: one April 14–15 Webster (WLL), one May 18 Long Pond (AEK). GLOSSY IBIS: SEVEN May 17 Hamlin (WCL, JM, TM). The previous high count for the region was five last spring. Mute Swan: an adult and immature May 31 at Manitou. (WCL, HSM, RTO), the status of these birds is unknown. Whistling Swan: two adults May 31 at Manitou (WCL, HSM, RTO), very late. Canada Goose: 350 May 10 Point Breeze (WCL), last large flock, only stragglers subsequently. Brant: one May 24–25 (F. Phelps et al). A flock of about 40 was reported a day or two earlier by a lakefront resident. Snow Goose: seven April 6 RM (AEK), one with Canada Geese May 10 Point Breeze (WCL). Blue Goose: 100 April 6 RM (AEK). Greater Scaup: a drake May 18 BB