

Most striking was the contrast in cuckoos—reported in numbers from downstate areas (Region 9) but extraordinarily scarce in Regions 2, 3, and 5 upstate. Even more striking—and disturbing—is what appears to be a statewide decline in Whip-poor-wills despite some few more noted in Region 5. This species should be checked for next summer and it might be advisable to do “night runs” for counting of same. Paralleling the drop in Whip-poor-wills is a sharp drop in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in central and western New York (Region 3 and 5), a situation definitely not so in the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondacks.

Tree Swallows were remarkably low in Regions 3 and 5 and may be similarly so in the Adirondacks (report not in as of this writing). Quite in contrast both Bank and Barn Swallows have done quite well (Regions 3, 5, & 9). Bluebirds across the state seemed very scarce and the only tallies of note involved specific bluebird nesting box projects.

Cedar Waxwings were noted as being up on both Region 2 and 5, and various Adirondacks counts suggest this may be true in that sector also.

Golden-winged Warbler was proven to breed near Gouverneur (Region 6) confirming the recently discovered expansion of 1969 in Region 5. Redstarts appear down sharply on breeding bird surveys in both Region 3 and 5, but Region 2 indicated some evidence of recovery from previous low numbers there.

Rarities for the season include the first New York state record of breeding Cattle Egret (Region 10), a Goshawk nesting in Dutchess Co. (Region 9), an out-of-season Sabine's Gull (Region 10), a Chuck-will's-widow (Region 10), a Kentucky Warbler (Region 3), and evidence of breeding House Finch in Elmira (Region 3) and summering House Finch in Syracuse (Region 5).

It is regretted that reports from Regions 1, 4, 7, and 8 were not available for this summary.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Report for period April 1—May 31.

The weather for the first twenty-five days of April was about normal with average temperatures but the last five days brought unseasonal heat and averaged eighteen degrees above normal. Precipitation was approximately one half inch below the long-term average. The ice on Chautauqua Lake did not break up until mid-April, two to three weeks later than usual. May was a pleasant month with both temperature and precipitation somewhat below average.

Observations and trends noted were: (1) the best flight of loons (both species) in at least fifteen years, (2) a slight improvement in the showing of the herons and related forms, (3) average or below average numbers of nearly all species of

waterfowl except for a record breaking total of Canada Geese, (4) a disappointing hawk flight with no outstanding concentrations seen, (5) the best variety of shorebirds (twenty two species) ever observed in Region 1 during the spring, mostly at localities away from the shoreline of Lakes Erie and Ontario, (6) a deluge of insectivorous migrants during late April and early May in response to the summer-like temperatures, (7) one of the best displays of parulids in both quantity and quality for the past thirty years including a record twenty species in April and a record or near-record list for May of thirty-four species and one hybrid, (8) a relatively modest showing of the Starling-blackbird hoards, (9) excellent counts of Scarlet Tanager and several species of grosbeaks, (10) numerous remnants of the superb flight of winter finches during the past winter, (11) fair to poor numbers of most of the sparrows, (12) single records of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting, species often unrecorded after March.

The most interesting rarity was an adult male Painted Bunting photographed at a feeder to provide the first documented record for western New York State. The two Varied Thrushes, new for the region this past winter, were last observed during the first week in April. Other rare birds recorded were Eared Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Mute Swan, Golden Eagle, Wilson's Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler (away from regular breeding station at Oak Orchard), Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—April Bird Count; arr—arrival; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; Co—County; imm—immature; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; L—Lake; max—maximum; MC—May Bird Count; mob—many observers; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OO—Oak Orchard.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; NB—Nina Bates; CB—Clarence Beal; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; LB—Lois Buck; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; DC—Douglas Carlson; AC—Arthur Clark; DCs—D. Clarks; LMC—Link and Marian Crone; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; WHK—Walter and Harriette Klabunde; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; CMN—Charles and Martha Neel; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; A (D) R—Archie and Doris Richardson; LR—Lynn Rochester; AS—Arthur Schaffner; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; OS—Ora Swanson; JT—Joseph Thill.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 42 Apr 25 over Allegany Road, Chaut Co (mob); 42 May 17 BOSMC. Red-throated Loon: possibly a rare but *regular* spring migrant on Red House L, Allegany State Park and the Allegheny Reservoir—1 Apr 12 Allegheny Reservoir (RAS), 2 Apr 17 (FE), 6 May 17 (RAS, David Campbell) all same locality; 1 mid-Apr Red House L (FMR). Horned Grebe: 214 Apr 12 BOSAC. *EARED GREBE*: adult in breeding plumage Apr 9 Prendergast Point, Chaut L (John Rappole). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 May 28 Prendergast Point, Chaut L (RAS). *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: one in changing plumage May 3 Bear L outlet, Stockton (FMR, NB, LB). Common Egret: excellent spring flight—5 individuals at scattered localities (mob). Black-crowned Night Heron: uncommon or rare except on islands in Nia River—1 Apr 16–19 Greenhurst, Chaut L (mob); 1 Apr 30 INWR (AF).

MUTE SWAN: bird seen during winter returned May 23–31 Dunkirk Harbor (DC, RAS). Whistling Swan: poor flight—max 103 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 May 30 Allegheny Reservoir (LMC). Canada Goose: max 103, 467 Apr 12 BOSAC mostly in OO area—largest number ever recorded. Snow Goose: 7 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC. Blue Goose: 5 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC; late 1 May 17 Hamburg BOSMC. Counts of most species of waterfowl about average or below including no scoters except a few White-winged.

HAWKS—OWLS: The spring hawk flight was most disappointing with no large concentrations. Goshawk: singles Apr 11 Town of Birdsall (LDB), Apr 26 Shadigee (FMR, LB); pair at nest Apr and May Alma (LDB, Ives). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 20 Apr 26 over Portland (RFA, JT). Cooper's Hawk: surprisingly high counts—11 Apr 12 BOSAC; 13 May 17 BOSMC. Red-tailed Hawk: 263 Apr 12 BOSAC—highest previous Apr count total 127 but many of these in nearby Ont and also probably due to unusually large number of observers (246). Broad-winged Hawk: max counts—70 Apr 25 Allegany Road, Hanover Township (FE et al); 111 Apr 26 between Westfield and Portland (RFA, JT). Rough-legged Hawk: good scattering of individuals throughout region including several Southern Tier localities where usually rare (see also Dec–Mar report)—max 15 Apr 12 BOSAC; singles Apr 3, 8 James Road, South Stockton (FMR, Ulrich; DC); May 3 over Water Valley (TLB); 2 May 17 Bolivar area BOSMC. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC. Bald Eagle: imm Apr 5 Riverside Marsh (AR); adult May 10 over Town of Evans (RFA, Hauser); imm May 29 Tonawanda Game Management Area (Morse); imm May 29, 30 Quaker Bridge, Allegheny Reservoir (LMC). Osprey: excellent spring flight—max 11 Apr 12 BOSAC; 4 Apr 25 Onoville (OS et al); 1 May 30 INWR (Morse). Peregrine Falcon: 1 May 8 INWR (Morse, Odell). Pigeon Hawk: 1 Apr 25 Langford (TLB).

Rails were generally scarce and late with the first Virginia May 10 Oak Orchard Game Management Area and the first Sora 2 May 8 INWR (Morse). Although there were only average or low counts for even the common species, the variety of shorebirds (22 species) was the greatest ever reported for Region 1, mostly away from the shoreline of L Erie and L Ont. Semipalmated Plover: 31 May 26 Riverside (AR). Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 17–26 Riverside (mob). Whimbrel: 1 May 27 Jamestown (Ruth Olson)—second record for Chaut Co. Upland Plover: arr 1 Apr 12 Falconer BOSAC. Solitary Sandpiper: arr early 1 Apr 11 Riverside (RAS, CB et al). Willet: 1 May 10 Town of Evans (RFA, Hauser). Knot: 1 May 17 Buffalo BOSMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: 110 Apr 19 Conewango Township, Catt Co (OS); last 1 May 31 Langford (TLB). Dunlin: 142 May 23 Fredonia (DC). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 May 17–26 Riverside (mob). A dowitcher of undetermined species was carefully studied by at least 6 observers between Mar 31 and Apr 8 at Red Bird Corners, Chaut Co, more than 3 weeks early. Stilt Sandpiper: 1 May 19 Langford Pond (TLB, LR et al)—second spring record. Sanderling: arr early 3 May 2 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 1 May 9 (Olsen), May 19 (Morse et al), May 20 (PB) INWR—second spring record. Iceland Gull: 1 Apr 10 Athol Springs (TLB). **LAUGHING GULL:** adult in breeding plumage Apr 26 Greenhurst, Chaut L (RAS, OS). Bonaparte's Gull: 1000 Apr 14 Lewiston to Youngstown (WHK); 2000 Apr 19 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). **LITTLE GULL:** singles Apr 12 Wilson BOSAC; Apr 14 Lewiston (WHK); Apr 19 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). Caspian Tern: 1 Apr 19 Dunkirk (RFA); 3 Apr 20 Cuba L (LDB); 1 Apr 29 Athol Springs (TLB); 3 May 17 OO area BOSMC.

Barn Owl: singles Apr 5 Hamburg (TLB); Apr 12 Grand Island BOSAC; Apr 14 26 Youngstown Cemetery (WHK); May 17 Hamburg BOSMC. Saw-whet Owl: last 1 May 12 Farmersville Station (DCs).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr 1 Apr 27 Lewiston (WHK); 3 others in or near Bflo. Chimney Swift: first 1 Apr 21 Belmont (LDB). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 264 Apr 16 over Canadaway Creek (DC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: adult male May 12, 14, 23 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Great Crested Flycatcher: arr early 1 Apr 26 Point Gratiot (PB, RB et al). Eastern Phoebe: good totals on BOSAC and MC—359 Apr 12; 349 May 17. Traill's Flycatcher: early arr 1 May 10 Akron (Wendlings).

Tree Swallow: 2399 May 17 BOSMC (compare with 1969 count of 639). Barn Swallow: 3648 May 17 BOSMC (1969 total 7442 [corrected from original report of

7392]). Cliff Swallow: 73 May 17 BOSMC (1969 figure 105). Purple Martin: 1167 May 17 BOSMC (814 in 1969 corrected from 754). Blue Jay: 400 May 9 south shore of Erie (HDM et al). *BOREAL CHICKADEE*: 1 Mar 23 Cuba (Keoples); last 1 Apr 12, 13 Fillmore BOSAC, (Palmer). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 60 Apr 12 BOSAC; 20 May 2 Dunkirk (DC). Carolina Wren: 5 individuals in scattered localities. Long-billed Marsh Wren: late arr 1 May 11 East Eden Pond (TLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: singles May 16 Eden (TLB); May 17 OO area BOSMC; May 17 Bear L outlet, Stockton BOSMC.

Mockingbird: 7 at scattered localities, mostly in Southern Tier, including 4 migrants between Apr 23 and 27. Catbird: arr 2 Apr 21 Alma (LDB). Brown Thrasher: 4 Apr 12 BOSAC. *VARIED THRUSH*: wintering birds last noted first week in Apr—Riceville Apr 4, North Tonawanda Apr 7. Eastern Bluebird: 127 (148 in 1969). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 5 Apr 25 Point Gratiot (AS, AC); 13 May 17 BOSMC. Water Pipit: max 125 Apr 19 Stow (ADR, CMN). Northern Shrike: last 1 Apr 6 Jamestown (CB). Loggerhead Shrike: 8 Apr 12 BOSAC—unusually high total for recent years.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 May 1 Point Gratiot (FMR); 1 May 9 Jamestown (RAS, DC). Yellow-throated Vireo: 6 May 17 BOSMC—extremely scarce throughout Southern Tier counties. Solitary Vireo: 8 May 17 BOSMC—very scarce, especially considering substantial numbers usually breeding throughout Southern Tier. Philadelphia Vireo: excellent flight with scattering of singles and pairs throughout region starting with 1 May 11 Riverside (FE).

Black and White Warbler: arr 1 Apr 23 West Seneca (LMC). *PROTHONOTARY WARBLER*: largest number ever reported away from usual locality in OO area—early arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB); 1 May 13, 15 Farmersville Station (DCs); 1 May 17 Hamburg area BOSMC; 1 May 23–29 Riverside Marsh (RAS et al); 8 May 17 OO area BOSMC. *WORM-EATING WARBLER*: 1 May 3, 4 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (WAM, RFA, JT et al). Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 May 3 Fluvanna (RAS); 1 May 3 Barcelona (RAS). Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 May 1 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (RFA); 64 May 17 BOSMC. “Brewster’s” Warbler: singles May 9 Cold Spring Township, Catt Co (RAS, DC); May 17 Alfred Area BOSMC; May 22 Farmersville Station (DCs); May 25 Cherry Creek (FE). Tennessee Warbler: 110 May 17 BOSM. Orange-crowned Warbler: early arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB); at least 3 between May 15 and 17 at widely scattered localities. Nashville Warbler: 93 May 17 BOSMC. Parula Warbler: 11 May 17 BOSMC—highest total since 21 in 1956. Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Apr 29 Sheridan (RB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB). Myrtle Warbler: excellent flight—arr 6 Apr 12 Fillmore and Cold Spring Township; Catt Co BOSAC; 300 estimated (118 banded) May 3 Riverside (ADR, CMN); 325 May 17 BOSMC. Black-throated Green Warbler: 309 May 17 BOSMC—highest total since 512 in 1948. Cerelean Warbler: arr singles Apr 30 Canadaway Creek, L Erie State Park (FE, ECP). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 326 May 17 BOSMC—highest count since 358 in 1956. Bay-breasted Warbler: 64 May 17 BOSMC—highest number since 108 in 1961. Blackpoll Warbler: unusually early 1 adult male banded May 3 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Pine Warbler: unusually early 1 Apr 8 Water Valley (TLB). Prairie Warbler: arr early 1 Point Gratiot (AS, AC); 1 May 15 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (FMR). Ovenbird: arr early 1 Apr 28 Hamburg (RFA). Northern Waterthrush: arr 1 Apr 26 Mayville (RAS). *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: 3 males, 1 female banded and photographed at Riverside May 3–24 (ADR, CMN). Mourning Warbler: unusually early 1 banded May 2 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Yellowthroat: arr early 1 Apr 28 Holland (PB), 1 Apr 28 Frewsburg (ECP); 541 May 17 BOSMC—highest since 603 in 1962. Yellow-breasted Chat: 4 at scattered points. Hooded Warbler: arr early 1 Apr 26 Canadaway Creek (PB, RB); 1 May 1 Point Gratiot (FMR). Wilson’s Warbler: arr early 1 banded May 2 (ADR, CMN). Canada

Warbler: arr 2 banded May 2 Riverside (ADR, CMN); 1 May 2 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (AF et al).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr early 2 Apr 27 Point Gratiot (RB et al). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: singles Apr 12, May 17 OO area BOSAC and MC; 1 May 2 Lakeview (TLB). Orchard Oriole: 1 May 9 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (TLB); 6 May 17 Bolivar area BOSMC. Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 Apr 29 Jamestown (CB); 1119 May 17 BOSMC. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: female critically identified at close range at feeder May 16 Hamburg (TLB). Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 Apr 29 Sheridan (RB); 389 May 17 BOSMC.

Cardinal: 501 Apr 12 BOSAC; 593 May 17 BOSMC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 429 May 17 BOSMC. BLUE GROSBEAK: adult male carefully observed May 8 Riverside (ADR, CMN)—first record for region since 1950. Indigo Bunting: arr 1 at feeder May 2 Jamestown (Caney). PAINTED BUNTING: adult male photographed at feeder May 18—21 Williamsville (HDM, WAM et al)—first substantiated record for region. Evening Grosbeak: excellent early Apr flight—929 Apr 12 BOSAC; 80 May 17 BOSMC. Purple Finch: 151 May 17 BOSMC. Common Redpoll: 257 Apr 12 BOSAC; 1 Apr 25 Point Gratiot (AS); last 1 at feeder Apr 28 Jamestown (Mrs. Frank Fields). Pine Siskin: 383 May 17 BOSMC. Red Crossbill: 68 May 17 Hamburg and Alfred areas BOSMC. White-winged Crossbill: 4 Apr 12 Fillmore area BOSAC. Rufous-sided Towhee: 540 May 17 BOSMC.

Tree Sparrow: 1351 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder Apr 29 Lewiston (WHK). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 adult observed and song tape recorded May 17—29 near Foster L, Alfred (Klingensmith, LDB et al). White-crowned Sparrow: 516 May 17 BOSMC. Fox Sparrow: 95 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder May 15 Hamburg (LR et al). Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 May 1 Spring Brook (Danner); 11 May 17 BOSMC; last 1 May 24 Hamburg (TLB). Lapland Longspur: last 12 Apr 19 Conewango Township, Catt Co (OS). Snow Bunting: last 1 Apr 7 Canadaway Creek (DC).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Except for one period of about a week in mid-July and a few days in early August when high temperatures combined with high humidity in a very uncomfortable way, it was a pleasant summer in this part of the State. Very few days of 90° weather have occurred and most nights have cooled off for good sleeping. Precipitation has continued to be above normal in both June and July so that on August 1 the deficit of the early months of this year has been entirely erased, and a surplus of a little over an inch has now fallen. Fields and lawns have remained green, and wet areas contain higher than usual levels of water. In fact, there are very few places to find even the more common shorebirds in this Region not to mention rarer species.

Several of our local observers have remained quite active this summer, and the result is a good list of species not so often observed at this season. Many of these records, listed below, do not so much indicate unusual species as they show the wide variety which occurs at least in small numbers and in limited locations within the Region. There is no reason not to expect that it has been a productive breeding season for most species unless pesticides and pollution or habitat changes have been involved. Hopefully, increased public awareness of these problems will result in improvement where it is not already too late.