

sy Ibis and Gyrfalcon; 8) Prothonotary Warbler; 9) Common Eider, King Eider, Louisiana Heron, and Chuck-will's-widow; and 10) Swallow-tailed Kite, Pileated Woodpecker on Long Island, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Warbler, and Harris' Sparrow. Soaring over and above all of these, Region 9's frigatebird receives the BOTS award. Hopefully the NYSARC review of the sighting details will establish the species.

The complete list totals to 325 plus the two warbler hybrids. Missing, but with reasonable expectations were: Little Blue Heron, Spruce Grouse, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Piping Plover, Franklin's Gull, Least Tern, Roseate Tern, and Seaside Sparrow. Some of these may simply be too common or regular along the coast to have made their regional highlights.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"Look, Ma,—no shadow!" is what some birders are coming to as they spread themselves ever thinner, captured by the challenge of Atlasing while at the same time continuing usual activities. There should be a special Merit Award for the faithful, serious observer who, in spite of the extra load, continues to grind out invaluable reports month after month.

The spring season opened with the icy winter continuing well into March. Then, with southerly winds at last on 11 March, came a flood of birds: Ring-billed Gulls, robins, Starlings, grackles, red-wings and Song Sparrows. On 19 March there were "19 species of Ducks, Geese and Swans in southern Cattaraugus County, possibly the biggest early movement since 1976." (Eaton) Temperatures for the month averaged 1.1° F. (.6° C.) colder than normal and precipitation, 1.4 inches below the usual. On 9 March at Farmersville Station Don and Jane Clark were treated to the sight of eight Turkeys roosting 75 feet from their window and on 28 March Don netted 110 birds, the best banding there in years.

The cold northeaster that dropped six to ten inches of snow 6 to 8 April was a history maker, as the first "blizzard" ever this late, and brought both resident and migrating birds in hordes to feeders. Three of the usual six female Turkeys returned to the Eatons' feeder on Ten Mile Road near Allegany after being absent a week. Temperatures for the month were 2.9° F. (1.6° C.) below normal and precipitation was 1.6 inches below average. Lakes and small ponds were iced in through mid-April—two weeks late. At Farmersville Station 945 birds were netted, making it second only to 1976 as the "best April banding in 17 years" (D. Clark).

The backwardness of the season was still felt in May with the ice pack, acting like a giant refrigerator, lasting in Lake Erie until mid-month. However, high temperatures from then on brought the monthly average to 3.8° F. (2.1° C.) above normal. Although nearly two weeks late, not really beginning until 4 May, with a fair influx on 7 May, the warbler migration was called "mediocre," "disappointing" and "not good" with all, except for a good sampling of species, overflying us because of continuously beautiful weather. The onset of a rainy spell 22 May to the end of the period brought the precipitation total up to nearly normal and downed more birds, particularly in the western areas of the region. (Weather Data: Wellsville and WIVB-TV Buffalo).

Positives include: 1) a memorable issue of beautiful postage stamps depicting the bird and flower for each of our fifty States; 2) Great Blue Herons doing well with one to seven per day; 3) breeding confirmed for Common Mergansers in Wellsville; and Red-breasted Mergansers "wildly abundant during April" (Mosher); 4) encouraging reports of Bald Eagles; 5) good survival by grouse and Turkeys; and one to two pheasants reported here and there in Allegany Co.; 6) regular sightings of one to six per day of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; 7) excellent numbers of Common Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers; and Hairy Woodpeckers doing slightly better with one to six per day; 8) good numbers of Least Flycatchers—two to 16 per day; a "particularly strong" Rough-winged Swallow flight in early May (Jones); and Bank Swallows plentiful in Chautauqua Co.; 9) young Blue Jays scarce (Larson) a reflection of the high Great Horned Owl population?; 10) a Red-breasted Nuthatch incursion; 11) mimic thrushes doing well; 12) the Eastern Bluebird flourishing with more well-maintained nest box trails; 13) a great gnatcatcher discovery; 14) a fair flight of Ruby-crowned Kinglets; 15) many, many Warbling Vireos, Tennessee Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Cape May Warblers and Northern Waterthrushes; and a possible record early nest of the Yellow-rumped Warbler; 16) "exploding" numbers of Purple Finches (D. Clark)—surely *not* being ousted by the House Finch here; and a stupendous winter finch flight; and 17) lots of towhees and Fox Sparrows.

Negatives include: 1) "a slow year" as to number of species by the end of March (Rew); 2) a poor showing of most long-legged waders; 3) hawk numbers generally down slightly; 4) scarcity of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Screech Owls (Would nesting boxes encourage these owls?), nighthawks (only one to three mentioned in less than a half-dozen reports,) and Red-headed Woodpeckers (except in the Dunkirk area); 5) phoebes still in a slump and only one to six Horned Larks per day; 6) the Tree Swallow May Census down by half and Bank Swallows fewer in Allegany Co.; and Cliff Swallows generally scarce; 7) very few titmice; 8) lower numbers of House Wrens (but still too many for the bluebird trail); 9) fewer Hermit, Gray-cheeked and Wood Thrushes as well as Veeries; 10) still no large numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets; 11) low shrike numbers (no Loggerheads); 12) Golden-winged Warblers scarce; singles in only five areas; 13) continuing low numbers of meadowlarks; one to seven per day; but many grackles; 14) a "very weak" return migration for goldfinches (Jones); 15) Savannah Sparrows losing ground; and 16) a generally light flight of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Barnacle Goose, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Acadian Flycatcher, Boreal

Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: AAC—18 April Bird Census or AMC—16 May Bird Census for Allegany Co.; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CAC—18 April Bird Census or CMC—16 May Bird Census for Cattaraugus Co.; Cem—Cemetery; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; JAS—Jamestown Audubon Society; LEAC—18 April Bird Census or LEMC—16 May Bird Census for Lake Erie Bird Club; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; Sanct—Sanctuary; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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Corrigendum: In *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Spring 1981, page 88 line 5 should read **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, one imm. at Iroquois NWR 21 Feb (AS).—It is *not* 21 birds. (Thanks to Doug Kibbe for catching this error.)

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon flight began early with one in nonbreeding plumage at Celoron 16 Mar (AR); seasonal max was six at Allegheny Res. 11 Apr (DG) and a total 13 other birds came down in seven widespread locations. Grebes were poorly reported but a Red-necked Grebe was seen at Celoron 7 to 12 Mar (DG). The only spring Double-crested Cormorants were singles at Buffalo 1-5 Mar, Iroquois NWR 20 Apr, Dunkirk Harbor 24 Apr and (an imm.) at Greenhurst, Chautauqua L. 22 May. Noteworthy long-legged waders include at least five Great Egrets irregularly during April and May in four areas; a very early **SNOWY EGRET** along the N.Y. State Thruway near Barcelona 1 Apr (C. & R. Slack); Black-crowned Night Heron, two on LEMC and singles over Jamestown 9 and 13 May (DG) and at Eggertsville 31 May (AM, WM); and Am. Bittern, singles at Keeney Swamp, Birdsall Twp., 8 May and in Olean during May. Max of the Whistling Swan flight was 1000+ over Long Point SP, Chautauqua L. 13 Mar (GO), another excellent spring, and of the Canada Goose, 45,400 at Iroquois NWR 29 Mar (JM+). The old pair as well as two young of the Clarks' wild Canada Geese nested this year again at Farmersville Sta., fledging a total of 11 young, and were joined by a third pair of adults in May; "Tag-a-long," a gander imprinted on their Great Dane, constantly protects their front yard from all and sundry—a perfect nuisance. "Anybody want a Canada Goose?" (DC, JCl). A Brant at Lipperts and Knolts' field, three miles w. of Allegany on 23 May was watched five minutes before it flew down the Allegheny R. valley (SE). Possibly an escape, a **BARNACLE GOOSE**, was identified at Tonawanda GMA 28 Mar (RA+). The only reported Snow Geese were max five at Iroquois NWR 20 to 29 Mar (all "blues"). Highest of spring duck reports, with a few additions of interest, were: Mallard, 210+ at Cassadaga L. outlet, overwintering to early Apr; Black Duck six on AAC, two in s. Cattaraugus Co. 17 Mar and one at Little Genesee 21 May; Gadwall, 25 at

Iroquois NWR 14 Mar; Pintail, 4397 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr; Green-winged Teal, an early male in Dunkirk 13 Mar (JB, NB) and max 185 at Randolph 10 Apr (FR)—a goodly number; Blue-winged Teal, 20 at Cuba L. 20 Apr; Am. Wigeon, 1056 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr; No. Shoveler, five at Iroquois NWR 17 Apr; Wood Duck: six at both S. Stockton 11 Apr and Farmersville Sta. 13-30 Apr; Redhead, two on both the LEAC and at Iroquois NWR 18 Mar; Ring-necked Duck, 352 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr—record numbers for Region One; Canvasback, 14 at Iroquois NWR 19 Mar; Greater Scaup, none; Lesser Scaup, 20 at Iroquois NWR 19 Mar; Com. Goldeneye, 13 at Tonawanda GMA 10 Mar; Bufflehead, six on Amity L. 3 May; Oldsquaw, 70 at the Allegheny Res. 11 Apr; White-winged Scoter, 24 on the Allegheny Res. 19 Mar; Ruddy Duck, max ten at Iroquois NWR 20 Apr and two at Lily Dale 10 Apr; Hooded Merganser, 18 at Dunkirk 27 Mar; Com. Merganser: max 24 in s. Cattaraugus Co. 17 Mar, and breeding confirmed in Wellsville as a pair nesting in an unused house chimney on Chamberlain St. fledged five young on 29 May (EL); and Red-breasted Merganser, 200 at Celoron 23 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Maxima of hawk flights, all over Pinehurst unless otherwise noted, were: Turkey Vulture, 89 on 31 Mar; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 47 on 16 Apr; Cooper's Hawk, two on 16 Apr; Red-tailed Hawk, 51 on 16 Apr; Red-shouldered Hawk, five on 20 Mar; Broad-winged Hawk, a total of 258 imm. in Towns of Evans, Orchard Park and Brant on 29 May; Rough-legged Hawk, two on 25 Apr; Marsh Hawk, two, 16 Apr; Osprey, two on 15 Apr; **PEREGRINE FALCON**, one over Pinehurst 16 Apr (RA+); and Am. Kestrel, nine on 16 Apr. Other notable hawks include: Turkey Vulture, good numbers, 36 counted from 13 locations; **GOSHAWK**, one identified at Farmersville Sta. 4 Mar (DC) and two nests in Allegany Co., both lost to predation (ES+); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 11 from seven sites, total; Cooper's Hawk, singles in ten areas with three nests discovered in Allegany Co.; Red-shouldered Hawk, 16 birds counted from seven spots and at least seven pairs nesting region-wide; Rough-legged Hawk, 17 widespread birds during Mar, two or three still around in Apr with the last at Amity L. 28 Apr; **BALD EAGLE**, an ad and an imm at Allegheny Res 5 Apr (JB) as well as single imm's at Iroquois NWR 25 Mar (JM), in the Town of Portland 29 and 30 May (KF, DCr) and in the Town of Brant 29 May (RA) while of the two more imm's at Iroquois NWR 23 Apr (OO) one had an ID marker; Marsh Hawk, 16 birds, total, from eight areas; Osprey, singles in at least eight regionwide locations; Am. Kestrel, 90 on AAC, 23 on AMC, five on CAC and one on CMC. Two Virginia Rails were spotted at East Aurora 24 Apr (MZ) while another combed "the cattails for a tape-recorded rival" near Dunkirk 31 May (TM). Soras appeared as one at Tonawanda WMA 20 Apr (JM), two at East Aurora 24 Apr (MZ) and one, "also ready to battle a cassette recorder" at W. Mud L. 31 May (AB, TM). High count for Com. Gallinules was four at Tonawanda WMA 29 Apr and for Am. Coot, 160 at Celoron 26 Mar. Notable from the shorebird flight were: Ruddy Turnstone, four at Canadaway Creek NS 31 May (TM) and three at the mouth of Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L. 19 May (RS); Com. Snipe, 49 on Riverside Rd., Chautauqua Co., 11 Apr (DG)—a high spring count; Upland Sandpiper, one on the LEMC, one in the Town of Kiantone 17 Apr, two at Iroquois NWR 2 May, one at Keeney Swamp, Allegany Co., 8 May, and max two irregularly at Dunkirk-Fredonia airport 12-31 May; Greater Yellowlegs, max 24 in Town of Hanover 16 Apr (FR)—a good number; Lesser Yellowlegs, max 40 at Hanover Flats, near Silver Creek 18 Apr (TW)—high for spring; Pectoral Sandpiper, unusually low numbers, max only 25 on Riverside Rd. 11 Apr; Dunlin, early birds: one at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr, Census day (JM) and 12 at Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L. 19 May (RS); Short-billed Dowitcher, three at Buffalo Harbor 14 May (O'Dell); and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, not usual in the spring, singles at Iroquois NWR 18 May (JM) and in the Town of Elma 24 May (Happ, Reid). Among noteworthy spring larids were: Glaucous Gull, one at Iroquois NWR 28 Mar (JM+); **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, one imm., seen during Feb. and Mar (mob) in Dunkirk Harbor, still there 3 Apr (FR+); Com. Tern, max 40 in Dunkirk Harbor 25 Apr (RS, DG); Iceland Gull, one "in second-winter plumage" in Dunkirk Harbor 8 Mar (TM) and possibly the same bird there 17 Apr (FR); Caspian Tern, three at Cuba L. 16 Apr, two at Pinehurst

25 Apr, and two at Dunkirk Harbor 25 Apr; and Black Tern, the only report: four at Burgeson Sanct. 19 May (F. Gardner).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Although the Black-billed Cuckoo was well reported, the only Yellow-billed were one on LEMC, two on AMC, and singles w. of Fredonia 28 May (TM) and at Farmersville Sta. 21 May (DC). Possibly a nest box project here and there would help the Screech Owls which are rarely noted with the only ones, singles on LEMC and at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk 22 May (AB+) and two at Farmersville Sta. all season (DC). Single Snowy Owls were seen in the Town of Sheldon 6 Mar (AM, WM), at Buffalo Harbor 7 Mar (FR) and at Buffalo 21 May (O'Dell). Except in the Dunkirk area, where five were found 9 May (AW) and 15 ten days later (RM). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce with only two on AAC, five on AMC, and singles at four other reported sites.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Things look dark for our E. Phoebe, if the few census tallies in so far are any indication: 35 on AAC (70 two years ago), 108 on AMC (240 in 1980) and five on CMC and none on CAC. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found on CMC and in Eggertsville 25 May (AM, WM), and three **ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS** were calling on breeding territory on Big Indian Creek in n.e. Cattaraugus Co. 28 May (SE). The only Willow Flycatchers were singles at Iroquois NWR 18 May, Census day (JM) and at Amity L. 25 May (VP). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared on LEMC, on CMC and w. of Fredonia 26 May (JK, PK). A little raspy-voiced **BOREAL CHICKADEE** visited Amity Twp, Allegany Co., 23 and 27 Apr (VP). Tufted Titmouse numbers were down: nine on AAC, three on AMC and a dozen birds from eight other reports. Less plentiful, too, were wrens: House Wren, one early at Amity L. 16 Apr (VP); Winter Wren, one at Alfred 23 Apr (EB)—the only one; and Carolina Wren, singles on AAC, on LEMC, at Alfred 29 Mar (EB); at Spring Brook 14-25 May (DD) and at Jamestown 14 and 28 Mar (LK). The Mockingbird numbered two on AAC and four on AMC with singles noted in five areas, and a Brown Thrasher at a Frewsburg feeder 27 Mar (Yaich) may have overwintered. The E. Bluebird is doing well with 64 on AMC (76 last year), 35 pairs *reported* nesting regionwide (no reports from two large bluebird trails) and 13 areas noting 25 birds, total, other than nesters. Now for some *really* exciting news . . . ! While its mate watched, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was discovered building a nest in a willow about 25 feet above the water at Canadaway Creek NS 15 May; it was "on a horizontal branch in a niche" formed by a vertical limb at the site (FR)—a rare find! Another pair was seen gathering nesting material in a different area of the Sanctuary 13 May (TM, LB) and was still there on the 15th (FR). Always an exciting bird to see, another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared near Alfred 22 and 27 Apr (CK), three were spotted in the Town of Amherst 5 May (AM, WM) and one was at Amity L. 14 May (VP). Max report for the Golden-crowned Kinglet was 25 at Burgeson Sanct. 11 Apr (DG), and for the Ruby-crowned, 10 near Alfred 29 Apr (CK). No reports were received of the Loggerhead Shrike and single Northernns were found in only five areas.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Again a **WHITE-EYED VIREO** was banded this spring at Fredonia 30 May (MVJ) and singles were seen at Williamsville 3-6 Apr (Yoerg), at Jamestown 6 May (DG, RS) and at Burgeson Sanct. 8 May (AR). Other interesting vireo sightings were: Yellow-throated Vireo, one to three at Spring Brook 15-31 May, and singles at Canadaway Creek NS 17 May and in the Town of Amherst 20 May; Solitary Vireo, one, early, at Amity L. 16 Apr (VP); and Philadelphia Vireo, two at Willowbrook Cem., Dunkirk, 11 May and one at Burgeson Sanct. 13 May. A rare "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** was identified in the Town of Holland 27 May (RA, Gregorys). A few other highlights of the warbler migration include: Orange-crowned Warbler, one at Willowbrook Cem., Dunkirk, 30 Apr (NB); No. Parula, one banded at Farmersville Sta. 13 May (DC) and one at Little Genesee 19 May (FD); Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles in the Town of Amherst 6 May (AM, WM) and near Alfred 13 May (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler, max of flight, 100 near Alfred 29 Apr (CK) and nesting again near Alfred (EB) and in Amity Twp (VP) with a nest with two eggs in the latter area 18 May (VP) that is possibly record early for NY state by two days; Cerulean

Warbler: one on AMC and a female in Jamestown 9 May (DG); Blackpoll Warbler, one at Iroquois NWR 18 May, Census day (JM); Pine Warbler, two on AMC, three at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk, 25 Apr (RS, DG), and singles in the Town of Wales 17 May (Hein) and late on Univ. Campus, Alfred, 28 May (CK); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one, very early, in the Town of Wheatfield 22 Apr (D'Anna, Potter), max four near Alfred 29 Apr-30 May on old breeding grounds (CK, EB) and two pairs in Amity Twp. 25-29 May with one pair building a nest here the 27th (VP); Louisiana Waterthrush, one on LEMC, and singles on Ten Mile Rd., near Allegany, 17 Apr (SE), near Alfred 20 Apr (CK) and w. of Fredonia 7 May (TM); **KENTUCKY WARBLER**—a real surprise—one at Keeney Swamp, Birdsall Twp., Allegany Co. 8 May (DBs, VP, EB, CK, SB); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**—startling before August—a male banded by MVJ on Temple St., Fredonia, 23 May and seen also by RM and TM; **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**, one on Berry Rd., w. of Fredonia on LEMC (JG) and another near Saunders Pond, Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 18 May (VP); and Hooded Warbler, two on AMC and one banded at Farmersville Sta. 15 May (DC).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: A male **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was found at Frewsburg 29 May (RS) and two appeared in the Town of Evans 17-31 May (RA). The Rusty Blackbird flight included 14 on AAC, 32 on LEAC and 55 on CAC with nine other birds total, at four feeders. A "subadult male" **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** appeared on old Kiantone Rd. w. of junction with Rt. 60 on 14 Mar (RS, DG). Max of spring Evening Grosbeak reports was 100 in the Town of Wales 22 Mar (Rosche) with last of the season two there 22 May; total spring bandings were 25 at Limestone (RV), 39 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 103 at Alfred Sta. (EB). Superb numbers of Purple Finches were widely reported with max 50 at each of two feeders, Farmersville Sta. (DC) and Jamestown (Anderson) during Apr; 131 of the species were banded at Farmersville Sta. during May (DC). The best any report could come up with for the House Finch was 20 at Eggertsville 1-30 Apr (AM, WM). One lone Pine Grosbeak was sighted near Alfred 20 Mar (CK). Max of the tremendous Com. Redpoll flight was 100 near Alfred 25 Mar (CK) with bandings, all during Mar and Apr, 127 at Alfred Sta (EB), 17 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 14 at Limestone (RV). Pine Siskins, too, were everywhere with max 75 in Jamestown 9 May (DG) and bandings during Apr and May 340 at Alfred Sta (EB), 245 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 44 at Limestone (RV); a pair banded in Fredonia 24 Apr were in breeding condition (MVJ)—(Oh, for a nesting!). A few Red Crossbills were noted: four on AAC, 12 at Orchard Park 18 Apr (RA, MF) and two near Alfred 23 Apr (EB), while good numbers of White-winged Crossbills came through: two on AAC, 18 on AMC, max 20 near Alfred 5 May (CK) and 11 May (EB) and 25 others counted from seven areas. Note-worthy spring sparrow news includes: Grasshopper Sparrow, three on LEMC, one on AMC, and three in Amity Twp. 25 and 27 May (VP); Henslow's Sparrow, four on LEMC, four on AMC, two s. of Fredonia 22 May (RM+) and one near Alfred 17 and 27 May (EB); Vesper Sparrow, 11 on AAC, 10 on AMC, one banded near Alfred 6 Apr (EB), nine on Frissel and E. Oak Hill Roads, Chautauqua Co., 9 Apr (RS, Peterson) and 12 in Alma Twp. 5 May (H. Link *vide* DB); White-crowned Sparrow, max ten at Belmont 11 May (DB, LB); White-throated Sparrow, max eight at Farmersville Sta. during Apr (DC) and the same number in Amity Twp. 1 May (VP); Fox Sparrow, 14 on AAC and one to three birds (actual count, 31) reported from 15 widespread locations; and Lincoln's Sparrow, one at Burgeson Sanct. irregularly 7 to 13 May (AR, EP), and banded: one at Farmersville Sta. 13 May (DC) and two at Alfred Sta. 6-8 May (EB). Highest seasonal report for Snow Buntings was 1000 in the Town of Sheldon 14 Mar (Rosches).

Addendum: In the Fall 1981 a *very late* Least Bittern was sighted at Tiffit Farm 30 Oct (Mary Batcheller).

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