

an unprecedented incursion in that area. Mrs. Fitzgerald banded 1212 individuals there during the winter season. A single Evening Grosbeak was present at Gallupville the last week of May (Zimmer). The Redpoll was last observed on May 5 (SBC). There were several May reports of the Pine Siskin; this species had been previously unreported locally this year. On Apr 13 six Red Crossbills were seen at Schenectady, and on May 24 three were observed in the same area (Gloria Meader). The Tree Sparrow was last seen on May 7 (French). The White-crowned Sparrow migration was extremely good, the first report for the species being on Apr 29 (Kashan). The Lincoln's Sparrow was first seen in Amsterdam on May 6, and several were subsequently banded there (Fitzgerald). This species was also reported from Niskayuna (Novak).

901 State Street, Schenectady 7, N. Y.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Most of April was anything but pleasant as far as the weather was concerned. Temperatures averaged below normal for the month and precipitation in the form of snow was far above normal. On April 28 a warm air mass from the south moved across the region, jumping temperatures to the mid-eighties, but it was short-lived as cool northerly winds on the eve of May returned the weather to more chilly levels. May did not improve. Temperatures remained cool with intermittent frosts occurring to the end of the month. Most observers estimated the foliage development to be retarded about two weeks.

Migration versus Weather: The strong clock-like control of insective migrating forces brought many of the spring arrivals into our region about on time in spite of the inclement weather conditions. In fact, many observers were surprised to see certain species ahead of their normal arrival date. Once here there was no turning back, so it was commonplace during such deep snows as that of Apr 8 to see migrants anywhere where there might be a chance of finding food. Bird feeders, plowed roadsides, or almost any bare exposure was sure to be visited by some of the migrants. Many of our northern visitors lingered longer than usual before making their departure. May migrants flooded into the region in good numbers especially during the weeks of May 6 and 13. In conjunction with the retarded foliage there was also a dearth in certain insect fare, which seemed to affect the warblers most. Many of these tree-top feeders were forced near or to the ground in search of their food — a great boon to the observers. So many birds normally not feeding near the ground were found about lawns and gardens that even non-observers were heard commenting about it. This abnormal feeding pattern caused many record breaking lists to be made. Several observers reported lists varying from 85 to 110 for a single day's count. In Rockland County several southern vagrants were found defying the cool weather.

LOONS — DUCKS: The Common Loon was seen by Ed Treacy on Stillwell Lake, West Point, Apr 10. Spring numbers of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons reported off in Rockland County (Robert Deed). A Least Bittern was seen at Grassy Point, Rockland, on May 17 (Eugene Brown, Deed). The flight of Canada Geese seemed normal in this region. Dr. Andrew Weir saw about 50 Snow Geese near Waccubac on Apr 1. Duck populations seemed about usual for the period. Several Buffleheads and four Old-squaw were spotted on Orange Lake, Orange County, Apr 29 by Treacy and Paul Jeheber. Scoters are sometimes seen along the

Hudson River. On May 12, John C. Orth saw seven White-winged and about sixty Surf Scooters near Fort Montgomery. On May 20 he counted over 300 Brant on the Hudson in the same area.

HAWKS — OWLS: There was little indication of any upset in the hawk populations: probably no shortage in their food supply. A first record for Dowitcher in Ulster County was made on May 20, when about two dozen were seen at the Ashokan Reservoir. (JBNHS field trip). A flock of twenty-three Bonaparte's Gulls at Piermont Pier Apr 29 sets a new late date for this species (RAS field trip). On this date it was also seen on Lackawach Reservoir, Sullivan County (Niven). Treacy carefully identified two Caspian Terns on the Hudson River shoreline at Cornwall on Apr 28.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: An early Eastern Kingbird appeared at Hurley, Ulster County, on Apr 29 (JBNHS field trip). Empidonax Flycatchers appeared abundant in certain parts of Ulster during mid-May. They were frequently seen feeding very close to the ground, often in weedy fields (Hough). In spite of the weather setback, most swallows were reported as numerous in the region. An exceptionally early Cliff Swallow was seen at the nesting site on the Ashokan Reservoir Apr 17 (Al Feldman). Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens found a Mockingbird at New City, Rockland, on Apr 15, and Niven had one at Loch Sheldrake, Sullivan Co., May 6. The Olive-backed Thrush appeared common in Putnam County (Mrs. George Little) and also in Ulster County where more than usual were seen (Dunbars, Hough, Pyle). Gray-cheeks were also seen more frequently in Ulster. Gnatcatchers were more common in Rockland this season (Deed), and at least two were observed near Hurley in Ulster on Apr 29 (JBNHS field trip).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Some lateness was indicated in the arrival of most vireos that normally arrive soon after May 1. The migrant warblers made a colorful spectacle in this region. Many were considered more than usual in numbers which was probably due to the forced change in their feeding habits ultimately ending in frequent exposure. The Brewster's hybrid was reported twice: once near Carmel, Putnam County, on May 17 (Little) and another near Highland Falls, Orange Co., on May 19 (Steffenses, Treacy). Dr. Marjorie Hooper made the third Rockland Co. record of the Orange-crowned Warbler on Apr 25. The Cerulean Warbler was found at Orangeburg, in lower Rockland, on May 19 by the Steffenses and Treacy. The Yellow-throated Warbler is quite rare in New York State. This year credit goes to Dr. Hopper for the first Rockland County record. Near Congers on May 7 she watched one at close range and also heard it sing. A very early Black-poll was seen at Piermont on Apr 29 (RAS field trip). The Hooded arrived in Rockland Co. on Apr 29, an early date (RAS field trip). Mourning Warblers were more common than usual this spring. Even more reports were made on Wilson's and Canada Warblers.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A new record was the Brewer's Blackbird studied closely by Mrs. Wilbur Carr at her feeder in Ferndale, Sullivan Co., Apr 17 and 18. The Orchard Oriole returned to its nesting site at Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., May 11, for the fourth consecutive year (Hough). A Baltimore Oriole was seen at Kingston, in Ulster, on Apr 29, a little early (Dr. Arthur Cragin). Some indication of distress among Scarlet Tanagers concentrated in certain areas of Rockland and Westchester apparently from the lack of food (Deed, Mrs. William Grierson). The Blue Grosbeak appeared at Grand View, Rockland, on May 3 (David Hill, Deed and others). A late departing Pine Grosbeak was seen at East Middle Patent, Westchester, on Apr 22 (James Todd). Late Redpolls reported in the region were seen near New Paltz, Ulster, on Apr 4 (Dr. Robert Pyle) and near Monticello Apr 15 (McBride). Two late Pine Siskins were at Mt. Kisco, Westchester, May 23 (Stan Grierson). A male White-winged Crossbill was banded by Ilse Dunbar on Mar 28 near her home at Lomontville in Ulster. This bird is seldom reported in this county. Tree Sparrows lingered in Ulster Co. to the latter part of April. More than usual were heard singing. White-crowned Sparrows were up in numbers this spring. They were even reported at Mohonk Lake, atop the Shawangunks, by Dan Smiley, who considered them unusual there. White-throats flooded the whole region during late April and early May. The Lincoln's Sparrow was seen on several occasions this spring. It appeared at Kripplebush, in Ulster, on May 5, again May 13 and from 15 to 20, all at the residence of Fred Hough, who also heard one sing several times on May 20. One was seen near Millwood, Westchester, on May 11 (Shirley Towbis). Others were seen near Bear Mt. and Fort Montgomery (Orth) and at New City, May 15 to 19 (Steffens).

Accord I, N. Y.