

Robins were present in great numbers by Apr 1. Hermit Thrushes were in evidence by May 2, and there were many Veery reports. Last year we had a nesting report of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but no such report has been yet submitted this year. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on Apr 11.

Vireos — Sparrows: The Warbling Vireo was seen on May 2, and a Philadelphia Vireo was noted on May 16. Both the Red-eyed Vireo and Yellow-throated Vireo were observed on May 23.

At no time were many warblers found in one place or in one flock, a contrast to last year. Two Wilson's Warblers on May 18 was an interesting report. No Bay-breasted Warblers were reported to me from the immediate area of Tupper Lake. Most of the warbler records constituted the very common transients and breeders (i. e. Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-throat, Red-start, etc.).

Eastern Meadowlarks arrived about Apr 1. Three pairs of Evening Grosbeaks, apparently nesting in the area, were still coming to bird feeders in the Tupper Lake region at the end of the period. Purple Finches put in a rather conspicuous and noisy appearance about Apr 4, and from that date until the end of May small groups of three to five Red Crossbills were frequently seen. The Crossbills have not been seen for some years as late as this. Goldfinches seemed quite common. From Apr 26 until the end of May we have had huge flights of Pine Siskins. These broke up into small flocks which we met up with here and there, and again they would consolidate — with at least 200 in a flock.

White-throats and Song Sparrows were in by Apr 5. Chipping Sparrows were present in small groups on Apr 26 and Swamp Sparrows were seen about a week later. The migration of White-crowns was disappointing; they were here from May 8 to 18, but only a few were seen at a time.

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

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The spring months of April and May were generally warm and dry in the capital district. The average temperature each month was about four degrees above normal.

The good waterfowl migration of late March continued on into early April, and this migration provided most of the interest this spring. The flight of small land birds, warblers in particular, was disappointing. There were few days when any waves were noted, and a few species, such as the Blackpoll, were inexplicably scarce. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were rarely reported.

The Schenectady Bird Club had a count of about 148 species on its annual "century run" (held May 16), and the Alan Devoe Bird Club, covering a more confined area, had 126 kinds that day, about a dozen of which were not on the Schenectady total.

The highlights of the period were probably a Lawrence's Warbler, a Prothonotary Warbler, and a Cattle Egret. The Cattle Egret is the second report for this region (if you attended the Federation meeting in Schenectady in May 1957 you will remember the first record).

Loons — Ducks: A few Common Loons were noted on May 16 on lakes and reservoirs south of Schenectady (Schenectady Bird Club). Seventeen Horned Grebes were at Scotia on Apr 10 (Hallenbeck), and about ten were at Saratoga Lake on Apr 19 (SBC). One was at Tomhannock Reservoir Apr 12 (Kilcowley), and a very late Horned Grebe was noted at a reservoir near New Salem on May 24 (Stoner, Thomas). Black-crowned Night Herons did not put in an appearance until May 1.

The Cattle Egret reported was seen and photographed near Glen Falls, in the northern part of the region, on Apr 19 by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hart. They were informed that the bird had been present about a week but it was not seen after Apr 19, although attempts were made.

The flight of Canada Geese was quite heavy both in April and May. Many observers reported flocks of geese heading north on Apr 8, and Apr 26 was another good day. A very large group was seen passing over the Guilderland area on May 18 (Van Vorst), and a flock estimated at 700 went north along the Hudson over Castleton on May 25 (Cook). The May flight of Canada Geese last year was better than that of April, and such might well have been the case this year. About 75 Snow Geese were on the Hudson at Castleton on Apr 8 (Alan Devoe Bird Club); these birds had been seen in the area in late March.

There were several reports of ducks not too frequently seen in this area. Three Shovelers along the lower Hudson Apr 11 (Holmes, Eddy, Van Vorst) and one at Meadowdale Marsh Apr 25 (Hallenbeck, Johnston, Linch, Meritt) were the first reported locally since 1954. Three Oldsquaws were reported at two separate localities on Apr 19. Quite a few Redhead reports were submitted but these reports are somewhat tainted in that the Redhead was one of the species released in the area this spring by the New York State Conservation Department.

About 25 Ring-necked Ducks were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Apr 15, and many Scaup of both species were there then (Benton). The Greater Scaup, the less common of the two varieties in the spring, was also reported from the Mohawk River at Niskayuna on Apr 12 (Kaskan). Hooded Mergansers were seen along the lower Hudson on Apr 11 and at Saratoga Lake on Apr 19. Red-breasted Mergansers were at Round Lake Apr 12 (Foote) and at Saratoga Lake Apr 19 (SBC). In all, at least 18 varieties of ducks were reported during the two-month period, a good total for this inland area. Scoters were missed entirely, as they usually are in the spring.

Hawks — Owls: The many reports of Turkey Vultures indicates that this species is becoming increasingly common locally during the spring and summer. The lone Bald Eagle seen was an immature at Alcove Reservoir on May 16 (SBC). Other hawk reports were few, and certainly not out of the ordinary.

Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse continued to be relatively scarce in the northern part of the area, and I don't believe more than the usual few Bobwhite were seen, these principally in the southern part of the region. A Turkey seen near Alcove Reservoir on May 16 created some excitement even though it was realized it was one of a group released in that area.

Common Gallinules seemed to be reported in very good numbers, especially along the Mohawk at Niskayuna. A Sora was killed by a cat in downtown Schenectady on Apr 11 and taken to the Schenectady Museum, where a skin was made. A good count of eighteen of these birds was made at Meadowdale May 10 (Sabin). Virginia Rails were recorded on several occasions, but there were no more than three of these birds at a time.

As usual, shorebirds were sparsely reported. Eight Least Sandpipers were at Mohawk View on May 17 (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and other reports included the Greater Yellowlegs, Woodcock, Common Snipe, and Solitary Sandpiper. The Upland Plover was seen in Scotia on May 27 and 28 (Halverson), at West Glensville on May 10 (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and also in the Delmar area (Sabin).

Two Caspian Terns, the first locally in several years, were in the Watervliet Reservoir area on Apr 29 (Benton). Four Black Terns and two Common Terns were seen over the Mohawk River at Niskayuna May 17 (SBC). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in expected numbers during May, but the Black-bill appeared to be a bit on the rare side, except in Columbia County where it was described as more numerous than last year. The Barred Owl was heard at Jenny Lake on May 16 (Bartlett), and a family of Great Horneds was at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). Both the Great Horned and Screech were recorded in Columbia County on May 16 (ADBC). A Screech Owl was present daily in New Concord during April (Radke).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: An early Whip-poor-will was heard in Columbia County on Apr 24, and another was heard in Loudonville, a rather urban area, on May 2 (O'Meara). The first Chimney Swift was an early one in Columbia County on Apr 19 (ADBC). Nighthawks, however, appeared to arrive later than normal.

The mid-April flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was quite heavy, and there was a late individual at Castleton on May 17 (Cook). A nesting Pileated Woodpecker was found in the Alcove Reservoir area on May 17 (Madison). There were reports of four Red-headed Woodpeckers, something virtually unprecedented in this area. Two of these birds first seen near Gallupville on May 16 were still present at month's end and were apparently nesting (Zimmer). Another bird first seen in Scotia on May 19 (Scott) remained for some time in a very restricted area and was seen by many observers. This might indicate a nesting, but only this one bird was noted. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Troy May 10 (Brocow).

The Eastern Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher were both reported in late April from Columbia County. The Traill's Flycatcher was late in arriving. At Meadowdale Marsh where they are usually quite common, they were not seen until May 24 (SBC). Eastern Phoebe seemed more common than last year, but they were still scarce in relation to pre-1958 years. Purple Martins returned to a Burnt Hills colony about Apr 17, and these birds also put in an appearance during April at their well-publicized South Bethlehem colony. All swallows seemed about normal in numbers.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported from Jenny Lake, where it breeds (Bartlett), but other reports were few. A Tufted Titmouse was seen in Nassau in April (fide Fletcher), and another bird was heard in Scotia in late May (Hallenbeck). Carolina Wrens were virtually unrecorded during the period, which seems to confirm a heavy population decrease this past winter. A Short-billed Marsh Wren, a rare bird locally, was seen and heard near Meadowdale on May 16 and was still present a week later (SBC). A Winter Wren was at New Concord on May 7 (Radke).

The first Brown Thrasher was at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). Thrushes generally were poorly represented. Bluebirds were a bit more common than last year, but they were still not up to normal numbers by any means. Wood Thrushes and Veeries were in normal numbers at best, but there were few reports of the Swainson's Thrush and only about three of the Gray-cheeked. A Water Pipit was seen near Vischer Ponds on May 6 (Benton). A few of these birds were at Ghent from Apr 12 to May 6 (Erlenbach). Shrikes were unrecorded.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were perhaps present in normal numbers, with the first one reported being a Solitary in Columbia County on Apr 30 (ADBC).

There were few good warbler days worthy of the name, but there were several interesting reports nevertheless. Chief among these was a Prothonotary Warbler seen at a small pond at Old Chatham on May 11 (Reilly); the last previous Region 8 report was during that fabulous spring of 1956. The Golden-winged Warbler was reported quite commonly, and there were several reports of the Blue-wing. But in the Mohawk Valley, at least, there were more reports of the Brewster's than of the Blue-wing. At least three Brewster's were seen on the Schenectady Bird Club's century run, and in Columbia County both the Brewster's and Lawrence's were seen nest-building. A male Lawrence's was paired with a female Blue-wing, and a female Brewster's was apparently mated with a male Golden-wing. These birds were seen by several observers of the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

A Worm-eating Warbler was noted on May 16 at Amsterdam (Fitzgerald), and the species was also seen that day and subsequently at Indian Ladder, Thacher Park (where it breeds). The Cerulean Warbler was reported from Schenectady's Central Park on May 16 (SBC) and also on several dates late in the month from Gallupville (Zimmer). Another Cerulean was seen along the Indian Ladder trail on May 19 (Hallenbeck) and again on May 30 (Stone).

Tennessee Warblers were quite commonly reported at several localities on May 17, and May 20, probably the best warbler day of the month, brought in good numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers at Niskayuna (Eddy). A Parula Warbler was in Niskayuna on May 9; this bird is uncommon locally. Reports of Wilson's Warblers were few. This species was seen in Columbia County on May 16 (ADBC), and one was noted at Indian Ladder on May 20 (Benton). There were two reports of the Mourning Warbler. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen on several occasions late in the month at Meadowdale, and one of these birds was recorded near Vischer Ponds on May 6 (Benton). Cape May Warblers were seen in fair numbers, with the first report being of an early bird at Watervliet Reservoir on Apr 26 (SBC). The Pine Warbler was noted on Apr 25 in Niskayuna (Eddy), but it was missed later in the

spring in the Karner barrens near Albany. A Lone Orange-crowned Warbler was carefully studied on May 10 in the Meadowdale area (Sabin).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Two Orchard Orioles were seen in Schenectady on Apr 22 (Overs), and two were also noted at Livingston on May 28 (Munson). There were several latish Rusty Blackbird reports. A pure albino Cowbird was observed in Thacher Park on May 16 (SBC). Evening Grosbeaks were last noted at Amsterdam on May 2 (Fitzgerald), but two were still at New Concord on May 7 (Radke), and a small group was at Delmar on May 10 (Madison). The departure of these birds was early this year.

A lone Pine Siskin was at Amsterdam May 9 (Fitzgerald). Five Cardinals were seen or heard together in Albany on May 10 (Baker), and there were many other reports of this increasingly common bird. Several Henslow's Sparrows were heard in the Meadowdale area on Apr 25, and this species appeared quite common there subsequently. There appeared to be a moderate May flight of White-crowned Sparrows, and one of these birds which had been present in Amsterdam since Jan 20 was banded in April (Fitzgerald). The West Sand Lake Oregon Junco finally departed on Apr 5, after an extended winter stay (Bardt). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded in Amsterdam May 9 and was present for several days thereafter. Late date for the Fox Sparrow was Apr 19 (Overs), and the Tree Sparrow was last noted at Amsterdam on Apr 26 (Fitzgerald).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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April was slightly warmer with somewhat less than normal rainfall and with very little snow. The most noticeable weather factor in May was the dryness of the period. The migration was quite normal and mostly unimpressive from the standpoint of spectacular waves. Many observers claimed to be aware of a numerical drop in several of the flights indicating a loss of birds somewhere. In Rockland County most watchers were disappointed in the return of spring migrants there, especially flycatchers, swallows and some shorebirds. Up in Ulster County the picture was less discouraging with most of the usual birds around. Elsewhere the lack of comment on the overall picture leaves us short in telling just how much our Hudson Valley migration was off. The following species account tells us something of the migration trend, particularly the early arrivals and the off numbers of certain others. Prominent flights occurred around Apr 19, May 6 & 7 and around May 10.

Loons — Ducks: The Red-necked Grebe continued to attract attention in the lower part of our region, being found as far up as Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co. (Martha Earl). About 25 Double-crested Cormorants flew in at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co. on Apr 18 (Joseph Morlan). A definite nesting record of the wild Mute Swan was made in Rockland Co. with the location of a pair at Congers Lake. Seven young were noted on May 19 (Bob Deed). At the Cross River Reservoir in Westchester Stanley Grierson found a pair of Canada Geese with eight young on May 17. On May 23 a late flock of Canadas were migrating over the Lomontville area in Ulster Co. (Henry Dunbar). Around 500 Brant were seen over Katonah, Westchester on May 18 (S. Grierson) and about the same number on the same day at Highland Falls along the Hudson (Ed Treacy). Over 100 Snow Geese including one Blue Goose were watched by John LeMaire on Apr 5 as they were reforming their flight pattern in an area near Suffern, Rockland Co. The Blue Goose is Rockland's first record.

A pair of American Widgeon were watched at close range on a small beaver pond near Krumbille, Ulster Co. on Apr 25 (F. Hough). After several years of observing ducks on the Ashokan Res. in Ulster Co. Al Feldman finally added the Blue-winged Teal to the list. He saw one male on Apr 15.