

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON WALTON B. SABIN

This spring has been wetter than normal with temperatures slightly below normal. There were, however, no killing frosts early in the period.

The main topic of conversation among local bird watchers this spring was the poor migration, particularly with reference to the warbler clan. There was no denying that most migrants were reasonably close to schedule, species-wise, but there just weren't any real waves discernible. Birds could be found all right, but it required greater effort than is usually the case.

One of two outstanding records for the period is that of eight Bohemian Waxwings seen at Chatham on April 5. These birds were carefully and accurately identified. The other is of ten to twelve Red Crossbills feeding on pine cones the greater part of the day, May 29, at Gallupville. Very few of the birds were adult males.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were reported within normal limits from Saratoga Lake to Alcove Reservoir. Horned Grebes were recorded between Apr 9 (SBC) and Apr 28 (Hallenbeck). A common Egret was present in Guilderland from Apr 7 (Johnston) to at least Apr 10 (Van Vorst). A Least Bittern, an uncommon bird at best in our region, was seen on May 14 at Rayville (Reilly). Virtually all species of ducks were reported during the period. Unusual were the number of Oldsquaws passing through, 23 of which were sighted at Saratoga Lake on Apr 24 (SBC). An investigation of Wood Duck nest boxes at Vischer Ferry revealed almost a quarter of those occupied were tenanted by Hooded Mergansers.

Hawks — Owls: An immature Bald Eagle was seen on May 14 at Stockport Station (Radke). Turkey Vultures were first sighted on Apr 6 near New Concord (Radke), and Ospreys were seen on Apr 9 along the Hudson River south of Albany (SBC). Soras and Common Gallinules arrived at Meadowdale on Apr 30 (Sabin). The Virginia Rail went unrecorded until May 14 at Meadowdale (Sabin, Korn, Madison, Parker). Semipalmated Plover were seen at Cedar Hill on May 14 (Sabin et al). Upland Plover arrived in Delmar on Apr 17 (fide Sabin). Spotted Sandpipers were first seen at Round Lake on Apr 24 (SBC), while the Solitary Sandpiper was not recorded until May 1 at the Watervliet Reservoir (SBC). Greater Yellowlegs were seen between Apr 14 and May 14, while the Lesser Yellowlegs was seen only on Apr 17 and May 14. Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded only on Apr 17 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Angst). Least Sandpipers were recorded on May 8 at New Scotland and May 14 at Cedar Hill (Sabin et al). Great Black-backed Gulls passed up the Hudson in good numbers on Apr 2 when 50 were counted (Foote). The only report of Bonaparte's Gull during the period was Apr 24 at Round Lake (SBC). Black-billed Cuckoos arrived about May 5 and Yellow-billed Cuckoos several days later.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were first reported from Red Rock on Apr 21 (fide Smilow), Nighthawks from Old Chatham on Apr 12 (Reilly), and Chimney Swifts from Round Lake on Apr 24 (SBC). A Red-headed Woodpecker was spotted at Meadowdale on May 27 (Sabin), and the last Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Slingerlands on Apr 26 (Sabin). Eastern Kingbirds arrived at Ghent on Apr 25 (Erlenbach), Leasts and Crested Flycatchers generally on May 3 and 4 respectively, Wood Pewees on May 8 at Gallupville (Zimmer), and Traill's Flycatchers on May 21 at Meadowdale (Parker, Sabin). Horned Larks were seen feeding young on May 10. First swallows were reported as follows: Tree Swallow, Apr 4; Barn Swallow, Apr 13; Rough-winged Swallow, Apr 20; Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Purple Martin, Apr 24.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were still present at the end of the period in Columbia County and gave indications they may be nesting. House Wrens arrived on Apr 24 at Delmar (Madison) and on Apr 26 at Albany (Thomas). A late Winter Wren was noted at Nassau on May 17 (Turner). Summer resident Long-billed Marsh Wrens were much in evidence at Meadowdale on May 14 (Sabin et al). A mockingbird was seen at Ghent on May 14 (Erlenbach), and a Brown Thrasher was at Slingerlands on Apr 18 (Grace). Wood Thrushes weren't really in until May 1, while Hermit Thrushes lingered at least until Apr 29 at Nassau (Shineman). Veeries were seen as early as Apr 25 in Ghent (Erlenbach). Swainson's Thrushes were noted but once, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes not at all. Bluebirds continued low in numbers; however, approximately a dozen nesting pairs have been reported scattered throughout the region. Water Pipits went through unnoticed except for a flock of 30 seen at Ghent on Apr 13 (Erlenbach) and a lone individual seen near Coeyman's Hollow on the late date

of May 14 (Sabin et al). Undoubtedly the most unusual record for April was that of the eight Bohemian Waxwings seen at Chatham Center on Apr 5 (Silvernail) and referred to above. A Northern Shrike was carefully identified near the Delmar Game Farm on Apr 12 (Sabin).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireos were first noted at Slingerlands on May 3 (Reilly). Solitary Vireos were present from Apr 14 at Chatham (Reilly) to at least May 14 at Indian Ladder (Sabin et al). Red-eyed Vireos arrived at Gallupville on May 8 (Zimmer); the Philadelphia Vireo was at Troy on May 15 (Austin), and Warbling Vireos were at Slingerlands (Sabin) and Gallupville (Zimmer) on May 6.

The warbler migration besides being unspectacular because there were no waves was also lacking in any rarities. Twenty-nine species plus one hybrid were recorded. The following species of warblers were first noted on the dates and at the places indicated: Black and White, Apr 23, Wolf Hollow (Angst); Worm-eating, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Golden-winged, May 3 Slingerlands (Sabin); Blue-winged, May 14, Alcove Reservoir (Sabin et al); Lawrence's, May 7, Nassau (Shineman); Tennessee, May 8, Burnt Hills (Foote); Orange-crowned, May 14, Rayville (Reilly); Nashville, Apr 29, Chatham (Radke); Parula, May 10, Slingerlands (Sabin); Yellow, Apr 26, Chatham (Alan Devoe Bird Club); Magnolia, May 20, Delmar (Parker, Sabin); Cape May, May 14, New Salem (Sabin et al); Black-throated Blue, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Myrtle, Apr 13, Chatham (ADBC); Black-throated Green, Apr 16, Nassau (Turner); Cerulean, May 8, Gallupville (Zimmer); Blackburnian, May 7, Rosendale Road, Niskayuna (Angst, Hallenbeck); Chestnut-sided, May 8, Indian Ladder (Sabin et al); Bay-breasted, May 25, Delmar (Parker); Blackpoll, May 20, Delmar (Parker, Sabin); Pine, Apr 24, Tomhannock Reservoir (Angst, Sabin); Prairie, no first date available at this writing; Palm, Apr 16, Old Chatham (Barten); Ovenbird, May 4, Slingerlands (Sabin); Northern Waterthrush, May 1, Meadowdale (Sabin); Louisiana Waterthrush, Apr 22, Red Rock (Smilow); Mourning May 27, Red Rock (Smilow); Common Yellowthroat, May 1, Watervliet Reservoir (SBC); Canada, May 17, Slingerlands (Sabin), and Redstart, May 5, Slingerlands (Sabin).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks arrived at Meadowdale on May 1 (Parker, Sabin), and Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers generally put in an appearance on May 4 and 5 respectively. The last Rusty Blackbirds and Evening Grosbeaks were seen along the Hudson River below Albany (SBC) and at Meadowdale (Parker, Sabin) on Apr 9 and May 21 respectively. Early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were seen Apr 26 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and Apr 29 at Hillsdale (Curtis) respectively. About 25 Pine Grosbeaks were observed at Ghent on Apr 30 (Erlenbach), and the last Redpoll was seen on May 1 at Hillsdale (Fremd). Pine Siskins were not reported after Apr 29 at Delmar (Madison). Unquestionably, the May record of the month was that of the Red Crossbills at Gallupville on May 29 (Zimmer). A Towhee was seen at Slingerlands on Apr 11 (Grace). Grasshopper Sparrows were first seen at Nassau on Apr 20 (Turner), Henslow's Sparrows at Slingerlands on Apr 28 (Sabin), and Chipping Sparrows at Slingerlands on Apr 9 (Sabin). The last Tree Sparrow was seen at Gallupville on May 4 (Zimmer). Fox Sparrows arrived generally on Apr 3, and the last one was seen May 12 at Hillsdale (Fremd). Swamp Sparrows were first noted on Apr 23 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). A few late Snow Buntings were seen on Apr 1 and 2 at Hillsdale (Fremd).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

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Following the late March migration there was a gradual catch-up of incoming birds during April, a stable unstormy month this year. This was encouraging as migration dates became near normal with some being earlier than usual. This in turn, however, was short-lived for a disconcerting note broke into the enthusiasm of most birders on the lookout for the May waves of migrants. Migration at this time entered into a "drifting in" of species, and there just did not appear to be any spectacular waves to bolster excitement and run up the high scores. This led to the unanimous agreement that our spring migration was definitely off, but it should be added that disappointment did not rule the whole period for there were many pleasant and interesting finds. We missed our waves, but most birds are here, some up and some down, and we again turn our thoughts to wondering what's ahead for the nesting season.