

Evening Grosbeaks were reported to about May 15 in most areas, and Pine Siskins were in good numbers, reported by all observers in the western sections of the area. Although at Saranac Lake the last large Siskin flocks were seen on Apr 19, a few were present there throughout the period, and one was seen with nesting material on May 8 (Delafield). Good numbers of Purple Finches were reported from all areas, and both species of crossbill were observed. Six Red Crossbills were at Saranac Lake on Apr 19 (Delafield). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were first noted at Sunmount on May 14 (Kingsbury) and at Saranac Lake May 17 (Delafield).

Every spring seems to disclose a new species not yet recorded for the area. From Mr. Joseph Keji at Raybrook, a very reliable observer, comes a description which would seem to identify the Western Tanager. However, Mr. Keji is reluctant to definitely state his observation as such, lacking corroborative evidence. I will await with much interest a return sighting by Mr. Keji or other observers in that area.

White-crowned Sparrows were reported between May 7 and May 14 at Saranac Lake, with a flock there on May 10 (Delafield). These birds were reported on May 11 from Sunmount (Amstutz, Kingsbury) and Tupper Lake (Delahanty). Fox Sparrow dates were Apr 11 at Tupper Lake (Delahanty) and Apr 18 at Raybrook (Keji). Also, at Raybrook, Field Sparrows were first reported on Apr 11 (Keji). Juncos were in good numbers at Tupper Lake on Apr 1 (Delahanty), but in the Saranac Lake area they seemed less common than last year (Delafield).

On May 6 four Sharp-tailed Sparrows were sighted in a small marshy area surrounding a pond on the Saranac Inn golf course. Their marked ochre face pattern made these birds unmistakable. One bird was still present the following day, but none could be found when a search was made again on May 10. This interesting record was by Delafield.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK—HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

It was a very wet and cool Spring. Rainfall during the period was better than two inches above normal. Temperatures for April and May were 1.2 degrees and 2.1 degrees below normal respectively. Scattered frosts occurred frequently throughout May and on May 31 was quite severe in some low areas. Snow was reported from higher elevations on May 27. The most unusual records of the period were of Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, Blue Goose, Snow Goose, King Rail, nesting Long-eared Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Red Crossbill. Also several hybrid yellow-shafted — red-shafted flickers were reported (see field notes section). Except for May 9-10 there was little in the way of any big "waves". Minor "waves" were apparent in some areas on May 6, 13, and 21.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were seen from April 5 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck) to May 13 at Alcove Reservoir (Sabin). The only Red-necked Grebe reported was one seen at Vly Creek Reservoir May 14 (Linch, Johnston). It was reported as having been there "several days." Horned Grebes were seen at Saratoga Lake on April 16 (Hallenbeck) and last seen on May 5 at Vly Creek Reservoir (Sabin). Pied-billed Grebes were commonly reported after April 9 at Vly Creek Reservoir (Hallenbeck). A Snowy Egret was reported from the Black Creek Marshes where it was seen on April 19 only (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al). Common Egrets were seen on May 25 about one mile south of Albany on the Hudson River (Thurston) for the only report on this species. A pair of Least Bitterns was seen at the Black Creek Marshes on May 12 (Sabin). American Bitterns were widely reported, after the middle of April, by many observers. The three Whistling Swans reported in March dwindled to one by April 1 and it continued to be present at Black Creek Marshes until at least April 19 (Hallenbeck). This was the immature bird, the two adults having left during the last week of March. Many flocks of Canadian Geese were reported throughout April and May until May 20 (Smilow). A single Blue Goose was seen on April 14 at Stuyvesant (Thurston) and a lone Snow Goose on April 15 at the Black Creek Marshes in company with the above-mentioned Whistling Swan (Hallenbeck et al). Residents Mallards and Black Ducks apparently had good success with many reports of broods of young being

seen in May. Most American Widgeon, Pintail, and Green-winged Teal went through by April 19 (Hallenebeck). No Gadwalls or Shovelers were reported. The only report of Redhead occurred on May 13 at Black Creek Marshes (Linch et al). Ring-necked Ducks were common to abundant through April 22 with flocks of 45 and 50 birds being reported (Hallenebeck, Yunick, et al). Canvasback (4) were reported but once, on April 5 from Saratoga Lake (Hallenebeck). Both species of Scaup Duck (Lesser Scaup predominating) were reported between April 5 and 23 (Hallenebeck). A pair of Lesser Scaup were seen as late as May 6 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck). Numbers of Goldeneyes (40 to 60) went through between April 5 and 16 (Hallenebeck). Bufflehead were reported on April 8, 15, and 23 from Tomhannock Reservoir (Yunick) and on April 16 from Saratoga Lake (Hallenebeck). The only reports of Old-Squaws were of two birds on May 5 and 13 at Vly Creek and Alcove Reservoirs respectively (Sabin). There is, of course, the possibility that these two reports may be of the same two birds. No Scoters were reported during the period. The only Ruddy Ducks reported were five seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on May 5 (Yunick). Hooded Mergansers were uncommon with reports only on April 5 and 16 from Saratoga Lake, a pair on May 6 at Vischer Ferry, (Hallenebeck) and a female from Kinderhook Creek on May 26 (Reilly). Common Mergansers were widely reported between April 8 and 23 from many localities. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from April 15 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenebeck) to April 22 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck).

Hawks — Owls: A maximum of 20 Turkey Vultures was seen on April 14 at Jackson's Corners (Giddings). A late Goshawk was seen on May 6 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck). The last of the Rough-legged Hawks were seen on May 13 at Castleton (Burland) and West Sand Lake (Bordt). Presumably the same Bald Eagle was seen on April 28 as on April 30, both at Stockport Station (Thurston and Brown). The first Osprey was seen on April 22 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck). This species was widely reported the next and succeeding days. Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant were widely reported. Bobwhites are being reported in or near areas where individuals have been released by the New York State Conservation Department in their efforts to re-establish this species as a part of the native fauna. Efforts along this same line with the Wild Turkey resulted in one report during the period, from West Taghkanic on April 17 (Milne). The first spring arrivals of Virginia Ralis, Sora, and Common Gallinules were from the Black Creek Marshes on May 12, 11, and 4 respectively (Sabin). The uncommon King Rail was seen also at the Black Creek Marshes from May 19 (Shedd) to the end of the period (many observers). When seen on May 23 (Sabin) the bird was seen to have a bad right leg which caused it to walk with a pronounced limp. When pressed, it flew strongly and readily, though not far. An American Coot was seen as late as April 22 (Hallenebeck) at Vischer Ferry, where it summered in 1960. Woodcock were in full flight song by April 1 in many areas. Common Snipe were first noted on April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). A few days later they were widely reported, many performing their flight songs. The Upland Plover arrived on April 2 at Hennessey Road near the Voorheesville Depot (Baker), and the Spotted Sandpiper at Livingston on April 28 (Mapes). The first Solitary Sandpiper was reported on May 5 at New Scotland (Sabin) and Greater Yellowlegs on April 16 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck) after which both species were commonly reported. The only reports of Lesser Yellowlegs were on May 18 and 21 above Hudson (Thurston). A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen near Voorheesville on May 17 (Waite). Two Least Sandpipers were seen on May 10 at New Scotland (Sabin), 50 on May 13 at Cedar Hill Flats (Sabin), 3 at Stockport Station on May 13 and 20 (Brown, Burland), and 3 at Niskayuna Widewaters on May 14 (Hallenebeck). A late Black-backed Gull was noted, also at Niskayuna Widewaters, on May 14 (Hallenebeck). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls continued as migrants throughout the period with the bulk going through in April. Three Black Terns were seen near Niskayuna Widewaters on May 7 (SBC field trip), and a single bird on the 14th at the same place (Hallenebeck). Both species of Cuckoos arrived May 13 in the area (many observers). Nesting Great-Horned and Screech Owls were widely reported. The last Snowy Owl of the winter was seen on April 9 at Schenectady Airport (Halverson), and the last two Short-eared Owls were seen off Elm Avenue, Delmar on April 15 (Sabin). A Long-eared Owl was reported from Chatham on April 23 (Reilly). Near Altamont a pair of Long-eared Owls and three fuzzy young were discovered at their nest on May 10 (Shedd, Waite).

Subsequently these owls were seen by over 20 observers.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were first recorded at Ghent on May 13 (Erlenbach). Nighthawks arrived in Albany during the third week in April (Malone). The Chimney Swift was seen on April 25 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and many other places in the next few days. The first Hummingbird made an appearance at Loudonville on May 10 (French). Hybrid Yellow-shafted/Red-shafted Flickers have been picked up dead as the result of accidents as follows: April 27 — one found dead outside State Education Building, Albany; May 20 — one found dead near Hudson (Thurston). Both of these were taken to the State Museum where they are now in the bird collection. Another bird is reported to be present at Claverack (Thurston). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers first were seen on April 18 and 20 at Scotia and Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Several Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in the area: on May 12 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin), May 13 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and Chatham (Farmer), May 18-21 at Gallupville (Zimmer), and May 19 at Old Chatham (Lefferts). An adult male Black-backed Woodpecker was discovered feeding in a pine grove in Thacher Park on May 13. Three observers were able to view this bird from all angles at distances no greater than 20 feet while it was chipping off pieces of bark from 10 feet up in a red pine tree (Ingraham, Korn, Sabin). Kingbirds were reported on April 28 and 29 at Livingston (Brown) and Ghent (Erlenbach) respectively. With the next few days many were reported. An early Crested Flycatcher was seen on April 24 at Red Rock (Smilow). This species was not considered common, however, until May 9 at which time it was generally reported. Traill's Flycatchers made their usual late arrival on May 21 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). The first reported Least Flycatcher was seen near Niskayuna Widewaters on May 7 (SBC field trip). Wood Pewees were reported May 13 from many areas. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Rosendale Road, Schenectady on May 14 (Hallenbeck). On May 13 a pair of Horned Larks was seen to feed fledged young at Meadowdale Hill (Korn). At this writing I have no arrival dates for Bank, Cliff, or Rough-winged Swallows or Purple Martins. Barn Swallows were first reported on April 9 at Hillsdale (Burland), and early date. Tufted Titmice were reported only from Columbia County (ADBC). Red-breasted nuthatches are apparently nesting again this year in Red Rock, Columbia County (Smilow). Brown Creepers were present in Burnt Hills until May 13 (Foote). The first House Wren was seen on April 24 at Ghent (Erlenbach). Winter Wrens apparently migrated through this region unnoticed. Two early Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen on April 15 at Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck, Eddy, et al). The large influx of this species, however, did not occur until at least two weeks later. Early Catbirds were seen April 15 and 20 at Nassau (Shineman). The first Brown Thrasher was recorded on April 24 at Ghent (Erlenbach). A Mockingbird was recorded on April 19 at Scotia (Hallenbeck), not at all in May.

Wood Thrushes were first observed on May 7 at Chatham (ADBC). Three early Hermit Thrushes were seen at Ghent on April 2 (Erlenbach), then none were seen until April 20 at Schenectady (Eddy) and April 25 again at Ghent (Erlenbach). On May 13 it was recorded at Taborton where it nests (Kilcawley). Swainson's Thrushes first appeared May 4 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al) and were still passing through at the end of the month. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen on May 9 at Loudonville (French) and Red Rock (Smilow) and in several localities a few days later. Veeries arrived May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote) and Slingerlands (Sabin). Bluebirds were widely reported and appear to be more numerous than last year. Golden-crowned Kinglets were generally reported after April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin) and Canaan (Payne), up to May 13 at Taborton (Kilcawley). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were commonly reported from April 21 at Nassau (Shineman) through May 13 (many observers). Water Pipits were present in the Ghent area throughout the period up to May 22 (Erlenbach). These birds constituted a flock of about 100 individuals. Cedar Waxwings were reported from different parts of the region or area in their usual frequency. No shrikes were reported.

Vireos — Warblers: Arrival dates for the vireos and warblers were as follows: Yellow-throated Vireo — May 4 at Schenectady (Hallenbeck), Solitary Vireo — April 27 at Black Creek Marshes (Zimmer), Red-eyed Vireo — May 11 at Scotia (Hallenbeck), Warbling Vireo — April 20 at Livingston (Munson), Philadelphia Vireo — May 4 at Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Other Philadelphia Vireos were

seen May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), and May 13 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hicks, et al). Black and White Warbler — April 26 at Red Rock (Smilow), Worm-eating Warbler — May 10 at Indian Ladder (Sabin), Golden-winged Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Blue-winged Warbler — May 13 at Altamont (Waite), Poestenkill (Kilcawley), and Alcove Reservoir (Sabin), Lawrence's Warbler — May 13 in Columbia County (ADBC) and May 19 at Scotia (fide Foote), Tennessee Warbler — May 9 at New Concord (Radke), Nashville Warbler — May 9 at Central Park (Eddy, Hallenbeck), Parula Warbler — none reported, Yellow Warbler — April 27 at Black Creek Marshes (Zimmer), Magnolia Warbler — May 10 at Indian Ladder (Sabin), at Burnt Hills (Foote), and Loudonville (French), Black-throated Green Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Myrtle Warbler — April 8 at Chatham (Reilly), Black-throated Blue Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck), Blackburnian Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck), et al, Cerulean Warbler — May 13 at Gallupville (Zimmer), Chestnut-sided Warbler — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin) and Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), Bay-breasted Warbler — May 2 at Loudonville (French), Black-poll Warbler — May 13 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hicks, et al), Pine Warbler — April 27 at Schenectady (Eddy), Prairie Warbler — May 13 at Karners (many observers), and Columbia County (ADBC), Palm Warbler — May 9 at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al), Ovenbird — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Northern Waterthrush — May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), Louisiana Waterthrush — April 24 at Red Rock (Smilow), Mourning Warbler — May 13 at Taborton (Kilcawley), Northern Yellowthroat — May 9 at Slingerlands (Sabin), Yellow-breasted Chat — May 13 at Karners (Baker) and Poestenkill (Kilcawley), Wilson's Warbler — May 9 at Ghent (Erlenbach), Canada Warbler — May 10 at Burnt Hills (Foote), and Redstart — May 9 at Loudonville (French).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The earliest date for Bobolinks appears to be May 11 at Meadowdale when an estimated 20 birds were present (Sabin). Baltimore Orioles were first reported on April 15 at Nassau (Shineman). However, they did not become common until after May 8 in most areas. Rusty Blackbirds were seen on April 9 at the Black Creek Marshes (Sabin), April 30 at Ghent (Erlenbach), and a very late migrant on May 27 at Ghent (Erlenbach). Scarlet Tanagers became quite common after May 9 when two were seen at Schenectady (Eddy, Hallenbeck, et al). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported as arriving in most areas on May 9. Indigo Buntings on the other hand did not arrive until May 11 in many areas. Evening Grosbeaks were present in many areas throughout April with the last report coming from Canaan on May 13 (Gokay). Purple Finches have been very sporadic, but consistently so. Pine Siskins have been commoner than usual with the latest report being of two birds at Indian Ladder on May 10 (Sabin). Goldfinches have been very common. The erratic and irregular Red Crossbill has been rather widely reported from April 6 at Claverack (Reeve) to May 21 at Gallupville (Zimmer). The first Towhees were seen on April 30 at Watervliet Reservoir (SBC field trip). Savannah Sparrows arrived in numbers after mid-April, and Vesper Sparrow after April 9 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were first recorded on May 13 (Sabin) and May 1 at Nassau (Shineman) respectively. Juncos were present generally throughout the region throughout April and to mid-May. A very late Tree Sparrow was recorded on May 13 at a feeder in Averill Park (Farney). A few White-crowned Sparrows went through in the last week of April but the majority of them arrived in the first 10 days of May. White-throated Sparrows lingered to May 3 at Slingerlands. Fox Sparrows were present until April 23 in Columbia County (ADBC). A Lincoln's Sparrow was present at Ghent from April 6-13 (Erlenbach).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Continuing on from March the advancement of spring remained somewhat backward, staying any chance of an early season. Patches of snow could still be found in the higher Catskills even to the end of May. The effects of the variable weather on migration were not deeply pronounced, and yet it undoubtedly influenced some species to show early while others were retarded. It all presented a mixed-up picture best termed as a normal season surrounded by early and late dates.