

"The bird was seen through 7x35 glasses at distances of 75-125 feet by Mrs. Chas. Chapman and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Martin. It was described in detail, as the observers had ample time to study it. Dr. Kingsbury, Agnes Amstutz and I returned to the same spot next day but were unable to find it. The Chapmans and the Martins are reliable observers, I consider this an authentic sighting (D).
Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

April was a very dry month, with only 1.14 inches of precipitation at Albany during the month — less than that of any April of the previous 20 years. Temperatures averaged less than a half-degree from normal, with a high of 70° on Apr 20 and a low of 23° on Apr 1 and Apr 9. The month was also unusually windy, which completed the drying process. May was also extremely dry. Precipitation totalled 1.90 inches at Albany, 1.57 inches below average. Temperatures averaged 56.6°, or 1.3° below normal. There was a late freeze on May 24, when many plants and trees were set back, losing some or all of their new leaves.

Landbird migration proceeded fairly normally through the first part of April, but the cooler weather towards the end of the month slowed the appearance of most species. During May it seemed most species appeared in numbers 4-7 days behind usual. Because of the lack of stormy and rainy weather, there were only three noticeable "waves". The first of these occurred April 20, following a particularly warm night with southerly winds. Many waterfowl (e.g., Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Canvasback, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Bonaparte's Gull) were first reported, or increased greatly in numbers, following this weather pattern. A number of other birds (e.g. Osprey, Virginia Rail, Myrtle Warbler, Palm Warbler, various swallows) also appeared.

The major landbird "wave" of the season occurred May 4-5, when many warblers, thrushes, vireos, and other migrants were first noted, or first appeared in numbers. The temperatures for May 4-5 averaged about 5° above normal, and winds averaged below 10 m.p.h., being generally westerly. The preceding five days had been quite windy and slightly colder than average. Another, less-noted wave occurred May 20-21, with numbers of later migrants appearing. More than the usual number of shorebird reports were received, due no doubt to the prolonged drought which had exposed feeding and loitering areas for these birds.

Hawks are being reported in very low numbers for the second successive year in our area. There seems evidence of a drastic decline in the population of both migrating and breeding hawks encompassing all species excepting Sparrow Hawks and possibly Broad-winged Hawks in Region 8. This may be related to reported difficulties encountered by Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Comments on this subject from other observers would be appreciated.

Rare or unusual species reported during the period included Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Snow Goose, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, Goshawk, Black Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Caspian Tern, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; arr — arrived; BCM — Black Creek Marsh; br — breasted; ck — creek; com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; max — maximum; nr — near; pr — pair; Res — Reservoir; R — River; Nisk WW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; Sar — Saratoga; Sta — Station; thr — throated; W Res — Watervleit Reservoir; w — winged; Visch Fy — Vischer Ferry; Tomh — Tomhannock.

Observers: GB — Guy Bartlett; JHB, BB — James & Barbara Bush; JC — Juanita Cook; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; MFW — Mabel French; MK — Marcia Kent; HK — Mrs. Harry Ketcham; HM, MM — WN — W. Niefus; ER — Eleanor Radke; EMR — Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; ERus — Emmy Rusack; WBS — Walton Sabin; BRS — Benton Seguin; RS, MLS — Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; FS, MS — Fred & Myra Smilow; WS — Walter Smith; CT — Catherine Thorne; DJT — Donald Tucker; BW — Beverly Waite; PPW — Peter Wickham; TZ, MZ — T. & M. Zaph.

Loons—Ducks: Loon: arr Apr 13 at Sar L (SBC) and migrants were recorded through May 20 (BRS). Red-necked Grebe: an excellent migration, with at least seven records, Apr 7-27 (BRS). Horned Grebe: arr Apr 4 (BRS) and appeared in large numbers about Apr 20, max 70, Apr 22, Sar L (BRS); also 32, Apr 20, W Res (PPW, RS, MLS) and 25, Apr 21, Alcove Res (WBS); last May 12, Sar L (BRS). Pied-billed Grebe: reported passing through in small numbers. There are no definite reports of breeding birds for the second successive year. Double-crested Cormorant: Seven were at Sar L May 5 (BRS, GB). Common Egret: two at Stockport Sta May 13-14 (WN) the lone record. Cattle Egret: one was at Round L May 18 (SBC) but there was no major influx as occurred in 1962. Green Heron: appeared generally in late Apr and early May, first Apr 27 (HK). Bittern: followed a pattern similar to Green Heron, first Apr 20, BCM (WBS). There were no reports of Night-herons or Least Bitterns during the period. Canada Goose: good numbers moved through Region 8 until May 21 (ADBC). Brant: a flock of 700 nr Catskill May 16 (JHB) was decidedly unusual. Snow Goose: ten Apr 3, Nisk WW (PPW) the only report. Gadwall: two at W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) were unusual. American Widgeon: a few were reported through Apr, last Apr 27 (BRS). Pintail: reported until May 5 (GB, BRS). Green-winged Teal: last report May 19, BCM (WBS). Blue-winged Teal: first Apr 6, Stockport Sta (ADBC). Shoveller: two May 7, Stony Ck Res (BRS) the only record. Redhead: two records — four at Stony Ck Res Apr 13 (BRS) and six at Sar L May 12 (BRS). Ring-necked Duck: very common, max 80, Apr 7, Stony Ck Res (BRS), last May 5 (GB). Canvasback: more reports than usual, from Apr 4-24, max 30, Sar L, Apr 20 (BRS). Scaup: a late flock of six was at Sar L May 12 (BRS). Bufflehead: widely recorded during Apr, max 70, Apr 27, Sar L (BRS), last May 5 (GB, BRS). Oldsquaw: Apr 20 (PPW, BW) May 5 (GB, BRS). White-w. Scoter: one was at W Res Apr 20 (MLS, RS, PPW) and a flock was at Sar L May 5-18 (very late), max 10 May 15 (GB, BRS). Ruddy Duck: prs were observed at W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) and at Round L Apr 26-27 (GB, BRS); a group of six at Sar L May 12 (BRS) were also noted. Hooded Merganser: last May 18 (SBC). Common Merganser: common throughout Apr and early May, last May 15, Sar L (BRS). Red-br Merganser: Last May 5 (GB, BRS).

Hawks—Owls: all of the birds of prey, with the possible exception of Sparrow Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks, seemed unusually scarce. Turkey Vulture: only seven reports, six from Columbia Co. (ADBC). Goshawk: one was at Castleton on the late date of May 18 (JC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only three records, Apr 14-May 8. Cooper's Hawk: one record, BCM, May 4 (SBC). Red-Tailed Hawk: very few birds reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: only three known breeding prs, and no other records. Broad-w Hawk: widely reported after Apr 21 (WBS, GB, BRS). Rough-legged Hawk: an unusual concentration of at least 12 sitting in trees or on the ground as well as flying around was noted **within one mile** nr Argyle, Wash Co., Apr 13 (WBS). There were no other reports during the period. Marsh Hawk: only one record for May: it appears that the species will not nest in formerly usual breeding areas for the second successive year. Osprey: many appeared about Apr 20 and thereafter, last May 12 (GB, BRS). Peregrine Falcon: one Apr 19 nr Altamont (BW, MLS) the only record. Virginia Rail: first Apr 20, BCM (PPW, WBS); also recorded from Old Chatham and Hudson R marshes. Sora: only two records, both May 18 (SBC) for this formerly fairly common rail. Black Rail: one was seen May 18 at very close range at Vly Marsh, Catskill, and described quite convincingly (JHB). Com Gallinule: first Apr 21, Vosburgh (GCBC) and Apr 24 Nisk WW (PPW). Coot: no reports. Semipalmated Plover: one May 18, Nisk WW, (SBC) and one May 24, nr Troy (PPW et al). Black-bellied Plover: one May 19 on a golf course nr Voorheesville the only record (RS, MLS). Upland Plover: first Apr 21 nr Slingerlands (WBS); found in at least 4 other areas in May. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 22 (BRS) and widely the following week. Solitary Sandpiper: May 1 (JHB, BB) May 19 (WBS, PPW, DJT). Greater Yellow-legs: one Apr 13, very early, nr Argyle (WBS); others Apr 28-May 18 (SBC). Lesser Yellow-legs: one May 9 at Old Chatham (EMR). Pectoral Sandpiper: only one record-one; May 18, Kiskatom (GCBC). Least Sandpiper: many records, May 11-25. Dunlin: two May 18 (SBC) were unusual during the spring migration. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one May 13 (GB) the lone record. Great Black-backed Gull: appeared in large numbers,

especially of immature birds, until May 18 (SBC). Bonaparte's Gull: a brief stopover, Apr 20-27, max 8 W Res Apr 20 (PPW, RS, MLS) and 15 Sar L Apr 27 (BRS), with several other records during the week at reservoirs and larger ponds. Com Tern: first Apr 24 Nisk WW (PPW) and Apr 27, Sar L (BRS), max 17 May 11, Lock 7 (DJT, GB, BRS); last May 16 (BRS). Black Tern: May 5-16, max 10 May 12, Round L (BRS). Caspian Tern: one was at Basic Res. May 28 (RS, MLS). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: first May 5, Catskill (BB). Black-billed Cuckoo: first May 8 (JC, JHB). Both species of cuckoo seemed quite common, especially about May 15-20. Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls were recorded regularly. Barred Owl: reported from nr Schenectady (BRS), Altamont (BW), and Westerlo (MK) as well as in previously known locations. Saw-Whet Owl: one May 18, Old Chatham (EMR) was unusual.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: first May 2, Kiskatom (WS). Night-hawk: first May 18 (SBC); most birds appeared very late, and were still appearing in their usual haunts past the end of May. Chimney Swift: first Apr 19, Catskill (E Rus), but most appeared suddenly two to three weeks later. Ruby-thr Hummingbird: first May 4 (FS, MS) with a decided influx May 9-17. Red-headed Woodpecker: only one record; May 31, Athens (JHB, BB). Sapsucker: migrants reported to May 18 (SBC). Eastern Kingbird: first migrants appeared May 4, BCM (SBC) and May 5 (ADBC). Crested Flycatcher: first at Ghent May 5 (PE, GE) and at Loudonville May 7 (MWF). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one record, May 12, Burnt Hills (BRS). Traill's Flycatcher: first appeared May 12 in Greene Co (JHB) and May 19, Albany Co (WBS et al.). Least Flycatcher: first May 1, Catskill (JHB, BB) and May 2, Ghent (PE, GE). Wood Pewee: first May 18 (SBC) and many thereafter. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 11, Lisha Kill (BRS) was early; several others passed through May 22-30 (BRS, PPW). Bank Swallow: first Apr 20, BCM (PPW, WBS). Rough-w Swallow: first Apr 26 (GB). Barn Swallow: first Apr 14, Catskill (JHB) and Apr 16, Tomh Res (PPW). Cliff Swallow: first Apr 21, Alcove Res (WBS). Purple Martin: first Apr 19, Nick WW (BRS). Tufted Titmouse: widely reported well into May. It appears this species will be more common and more widespread this summer. Red-br Nuthatch: last migrants May 18 (SBC). Brown Creeper: last migrant May 19 (PPW). House Wren: first Apr 25 nr Voorheesville (RS, MLS); it appeared widely later in the month. Winter Wren: migrants Apr 3 (RS, MLS) May 4 (SBC); some birds breeding at higher elevations. Carolina Wren: one, singing persistently, at Old Chatham May 5 (PPW) the only record. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: late in appearing, first May 4, Catskill (CT) and May 12, BCM (GB, BRS). Short-billed Marsh-Wren: individuals were reported at Catskill May 18 (JHB) and at BCM May 18-19 (SBC). Mockingbird: reported from Hudson, Ghent, and Guilderland. Catbird: first Apr 21, Livingston (HM, MM), but appeared in most localities May 4-5 in a marked wave. Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18 at New Concord (ER) and Apr 20, Voorheesville (PPW). Wood Thrush: first Apr 28, Westerlo (MK) and Apr 30, Ghent (PE, GE). Hermit Thrush: first Apr 14, Old Chatham (ADBC). Swainson's Thrush: May 11 (SBC)-May 24 (MWF). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one May 12 at Sar L (BRS) the only record. Veery: first May 4, Catskill (BB) and May 5 (GB, BRS), somewhat later than usual. Bluebirds: about as common (or uncommon) as last year. Golden-cr Kinglet: last May 18 (SBC), quite late. Ruby-cr Kinglet: first Apr 6, Stockport Sta (SBC) and Apr 9, Nisk (PPW); most appeared Apr 19-May 13. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one was seen May 4 at BCM (SBC) and another (perhaps the same individual) less than a mile away May 5 (DJT). A pr was in Catskill May 5 and also May 18 (JHB, BB). It is not known whether these are nesting in the area. Pipit: a flock of 75-200 remained throughout Apr at Ghent (PE, GE) and the last birds were seen May 22. Cedar Waxing: a marked influx occurred May 4-5, and the species was seen throughout the region after these dates in abundance.

Vireo—Warblers: Yellow-thr Vireo: one Apr 29, nr Voorheesville (MLS) early. Solitary Vireo: first May 4 (SBC); migrants were observed through May 19 (PPW, WBS). Red-eyed Vireo: first Apr 29 (FS, MS) but most appeared after May 10. Philadelphia Vireo: one record, at Hannacroix May 18 (TZ, MZ). Warbling Vireo: first May 3 (ADBC); several were reported during the next few days. Spring arrivals of the warblers were as follows: Black and White: Apr 28, Ghent (PE, GE) and Apr

29, Voorheesville (RS, MLS). Worm-eating: very late, first May 16 (BW) nr Altamont. Many were still not on breeding grounds May 19, but did appear there by June 1 (PPW). Golden-winged: first May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT); many arrived later that week. Blue-winged: first May 6 (ADBC) with more than the usual number of reports from several different areas. Both Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids reported. Tennessee: May 12-22, many records. Orange-cr: one reported at Loudonville May 11 (MWF). The species is uncommon to rare in this region in spring. Nashville: first May 3, Rensselaer (PPW) was followed by a wave on May 4-5. Parula: only two records, May 6 at Voorheesville (BW) and May 13 at Slingerlands (WBS). Yellow: Apr 20, Ghent (PE,GE) and Rensselaer (PPW). Magnolia: May 5 East Nassau (PPW) and Columbia Co. (ADBC). Cape May: May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT) and in Columbia Co. (ADBC). Black-thr Blue: a marked wave May 3-5 reported by many observers. Myrtle: Apr 20, BCM (WBS, PPW). This species was widely observed Apr 21 and was especially abundant May 4, when over 200 were estimated in one small pine plantation nr Voorheesville (SBC). Last migrants May 19. Black-thr Green: first May 4, nr Voorheesville and E. Greenbush (SBC) and widely reported May 5. Blackburnian: relatively few reports, first May 5 (several observers). Cerulean: no migrants reported. The species had returned to a nesting area in Gallupville by May 18 (SBC). Chestnut-sided: arr in a marked wave May 4-5. Bay-breasted: May 5, Columbia Co (ADBC) early. Most passed through May 18-25.

Blackpoll: May 18 (GCBC), still passing through at end of May. Pine: Apr 20, Canaan (ADBC); many migrants observed May 5. Prairie: May 5, Greenville (HK). Palm: Apr 17, Catskill (JHB)-May 12, BCM (WBS). Ovenbird: several areas May 5. Northern Water-thrush Apr 27, Ghent (PE, GE)-May 19, BCM (PPW, WBS, DJT). In addition, one was singing May 30 nr Taborton, Renss Co (PPW). Louisiana Water-9-12 many arrived. Orchard Oriole: one, May 22, Catskill (JHB, BB); two, May 19, (PE, GE) where it has appeared several years in succession. Mourning: one May 13, Slingerlands (WBS). Common Yellowthroat: May 5, E. Nassau (PPW), several. Yellow-br Chat: a pr was at BCM May 12-19 (WBS et al.). Wilson's: May 5, Columbia Co (ADBC)-May 13 (GB), few records. Canada May 5 (ADBC), appeared widely May 10-13. Redstart May 4, BCM (SBC) and May 5 in many areas.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: first May 4, New Concord (ER). Baltimore Oriole: first Apr 29, Catskill (JHB) with a marked influx May 3-5. Rusty Blackbird: reported until May 4, BCM (SBC) with one late injured individual, Visch Fy, May 11 (GR, BRS). Scarlet Tanager: late, first May 6, Kiskatom (WS); during May 9-12 many arrived. Orchard Oriole one, May 22, Catskill (JHB, BB); two, May 19, BCM (WBS). Rose-br Grosbeak arr first week in May, first May 1, Ghent (PE, GE). Evening Grosbeak several lingered into May, last May 15, New Concord (ER). Purple Finch: quite common throughout period. Pine Siskin: common in Apr, lingering well into May, last May 18 (SBC). Red Crossbill a flock of at least 40 was observed at close range Apr 16 at Tomh Res (PPW). Towhee: appeared gradually through area during Apr, first Apr 1, Catskill (JHB). Grasshopper Sparrow: first May 9, Old Chatham (EMR). Henslow's Sparrow: first Apr 26, BCM (GB). Vesper Sparrow: heavy migration first week in Apr; a flock of 35 in northern Green Co, Apr 6 (WBS) outstanding. Slate-colored Junco: many noted, especially during Apr. Tree Sparrow last May 1, Castleton (JC). Chipping Sparrow: early, first Apr 4 (BRS) and Apr 6 (SBC). Field Sparrow: appeared widely about mid-Apr. White-cr Sparrow: very common, May 5-26, max 40 May 5 nr Voorheesville (DJT). Another observer reported seeing seven in one brush-pile (WBS). White-thr Sparrow much less common than usual, first migrants Apr 5 (BRS) and recorded generally, but in low numbers the third and fourth weeks of Apr and into May. Fox Sparrow: several recorded, early Apr, no late date. Lincoln's Sparrow three reliable records: May 9, Wolf Hollow (BRS); May 12, BCM (WBS); and May 13, Loudonville (MWF).

Box 465A, R.D. 4, Troy