

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

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Both April and May were cold months, averaging 44.0 and 53.9 degrees, 2.2 and 4.0 degrees below normal, respectively, at Albany. Precipitation totalled 1.46 in., 1.31 in. below average, in Apr, and 2.35 in., 1.12 in. below average, in May. Warm periods included Apr 15–19 and Apr 21–23, May 5–6, 14–15, and 20–29. The end of Apr and beginning of May was a most noticeable cold period, and had a remarkable effect on the spring landbird migration.

Surprisingly, the shorebird migration did not seem noticeably influenced by the cold weather, and proceeded nearly on schedule. Despite considerably higher water levels this year, we again enjoyed a good number and variety of these birds, with the highlight the first Regional record for Willet. (Where were these birds going?) A flight of Dowitcher resulting in unprecedented numbers in Region 8 was also outstanding.

Rails and gallinules were much more common than in the past two years perhaps due to the higher water levels this year. Ducks were also seen in good numbers; a scoter and Oldsquaw flight on May 8 was especially noteworthy.

The landbird migration, however, was even more interesting. Due to the cold weather from Apr 25–May 14, the usual Apr migrants, such as sapsuckers, kinglets, Hermit Thrush, etc., lingered well into May. On the other hand, many migrants normally arriving in late Apr or early May were held up. On May 5 and especially the night of May 5–6 the weather moderated, and a fine wave was observed of a good variety of landbirds, including many warblers, on May 6. However, the cold weather returned the following night, and many of these birds just disappeared. Finally on May 14 and subsequently, temperatures moderated and there was a great rush of landbirds through the Region during the following week, particularly from May 16–20. The remainder of the month seemed more "normal."

Other features of the period included: 1) an impressive increase in the numbers of gnatcatchers and Mockingbirds in the Region, 2) a continuing low population of hawks and owls—with the exception of the Sparrow Hawk, 3) a heavy tern migration and 4) a very poor cuckoo flight.

Unusual species recorded, other than those mentioned above, included Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Mute Swan, Shoveler, Bald Eagle, Black-bellied Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Brewster's Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: BCM—Black Creek Marshes; BRD—Barney Road Development area, near Clifton Park; CL—Collins Lake; EG—East Greenbush; GL—Glenville Landfill; IL—Indian Ladder; JL—Jenny Lake; MR—Mohawk River; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC—Greene County Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; GB—Buy Bartlett; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MF—Marjorie Foote; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barry Havens; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; MDM—Mary Mickle; PM—Peggy McGuirk; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; DS, MS—David and Muriel Stoner; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Bartlett, Seguin and Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr 2 SL (GB, PPW) to May 25 SL (BRS). RED-THROATED LOON: two reports—Apr 2 Lock 6, MR (PPW, DS) and May 11 NWW (PPW). Red-necked Grebe: only report, *five* Apr 9–10 RL (GB, BRS, PPW).

Horned Grebe: many Apr reports, last May 14 SL (SBC). Pied-billed Grebe: at least ten Apr reports, last May 14 in several areas (ADBC, SBC). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: most spring reports in many years—Apr 19 and 23 SL (bsh) and May 5–17 MR (mob). Great Blue Heron: more reports this spring than last, throughout period. CATTLE EGRET: only report one at a farm pond near Catskill May 8 (JHB, BB, Catherine Thorne, Emmy Rusack). Common Egret: one Apr 10 Embought (JHB)—very early, only report. Green Heron: late most areas. Black-crowned Night Heron: only report—an adult at CL May 8 (David Harrison, John Steadwell). Amer. Bittern: first, Apr 17 BCM (bsh). MUTE SWAN: a pair at Embought during Apr and May (GCBC); two seen flying up MR near VFG May 1 (bsh); one at VFG from May 1 on (mob); a pair at SCR during May (*fide* BRS). Canada Goose: flights continued thru Apr to mid-May, most flocks small (less than 50 birds). Brant: large flock at Catskill May 23 (JHB) only record. Snow Goose: only one, Apr 17 Embought (JHB).

Amer. Widgeon: many reports thru Apr, last Apr 28 (BRS) and Apr 29, Catskill (JHB). Pintail: many in Apr, last May 1 (bsh). Green-winged Teal: reported thru period, last May 24 SCR (HFB) and May 28 Averill Pk (WBS). SHOVELER: one to three Mar 31–Apr 10 NWW (mob), four Apr 6 Vly Marsh (JHB), four Apr 16 TR (SBC), and two Apr 23 TR (PPW)—more reports than usual. Ring-necked Duck: reported thru May 14, late (ADBC, SBC). Canvasback: several reports early Apr; max eight Apr 2 (HFB, PM); last Apr 17 (bsh). Scaup: seen in good numbers through May 14, last May 15 Alplaus (HFB). Common Goldeneye: last May 8 SL (GB, BRS). Bufflehead: many reports to mid-May, last May 25 SL (BRS). Oldsquaw: reported Apr 9–May 8, max 18 May 8 (GB, BRS). White-winged Scoter: reported Apr 24–May 13, max 100 May 8 SL (GB, BRS) and 40 May 8 Nisk (EH). COMMON SCOTER: reported Apr 24–May 8 SL, max 10 May 8 (GB, BRS). No Surf Scoter reports. Ruddy Duck: only reports Apr 23–24 RL and SL (SBC), max eight Apr 23 (PPW). Hooded Merganser: last reports May 8 (EH, GB, BRS). Common Merganser: numbers peaked first week in Apr, max 145 Apr 2 (GB, BH) and 151 Apr 3, Stockport (PPW), rapidly dwindled in numbers, last May 14 (SBC). Red-breasted Merganser: reported well into May, last May 19 (GB, BRS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reports scattered thru Apr and May, all in southern half of Region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports, Apr 10–May 19. Cooper's Hawk: three reports, Apr 25–May 14. Red-tailed Hawk: reported from all sections, but not common. Red-shouldered Hawk: at least seven individuals reported during period. Broad-winged Hawk: poor flight Apr 26–May 14, max only five Apr 30 Greene Co (SBC). Rough-legged Hawk: last Apr 3 Meadowdale (GB, BH). BALD EAGLE: an immature over CL Apr 8 (EH) and an adult over VFG Apr 30 (EH). Marsh Hawk: many reports thru May 18, max six Apr 30 VFG (EH). Osprey: Apr 15 VFG (HFB) to May 15, several areas (ADBC, SBC)—somewhat late. Sparrow Hawk: good migration, max 16 Apr 9 and Apr 10 (bsh). Bobwhite: reports from Alplaus, Coxsackie, Meadowdale, Nisk and Columbia Co. Virginia Rail: first Apr 10 BCM (bsh), widely Apr 23–30, max six, more than the previous two years. Sora: Apr 23 BCM (GB, BH) to May 15 BCM (SBC)—several reports. Common Gallinule: several May reports from BCM, VFG, and NWW. Amer. Coot: several reports, Apr 9 SL (bsh) to May 14 BCM (SBC).

Semipalmated Plover: May 14 (SBC) thru end of May, max eight May 30 BRD (PPW). BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: one May 14 NWW (PPW, Carl Parker)—only record. Upland Plover: first Apr 30 (GB, BRS)—reported from Meadowdale, Niskayuna and Colonie. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 22 West Glenville (EH), most arr first half of May. Solitary Sandpiper: May 7 Embought (JHB)—May 27 GL (RPY), max 20 May 15 (SBC). WILLET: first Regional record—four sitting on some pilings at Lock 7, Nisk on May 17. The birds remained all afternoon without moving,

other than to occasionally stretch or preen, revealing the black and white wing pattern (BRS, GB, HE, MS, RPY). They were not present the following morning. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 23 BCM (GB, BH) to May 26 BRD (PPW), max six May 8 (GB, BRS). Lesser Yellowlegs: singles at Greenville May 7 (CK), GL May 19 (RPY) and BRD May 31 (BRS). Pectoral Sandpiper: only reports May 14 (SBC). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: one May 31 BRD—only report (BRS). Least Sandpiper: many reports, May 14 to end of period. Dunlin: more than usual; two NWW May 11–14 (PPW); two GL May 16, one (banded) reappeared May 19 (RPY); one May 19 RL (GB, BRS) and one May 30–31 BRD (BRS, PPW). Dowitcher: an abrupt and unprecedented movement occurred on May 22, when about 100 were observed in the Medusa area (MK) and 74 were at BRD (RPY); no other reports of these or other birds on other dates. Semipalmated Sandpiper: only reports May 19 and May 26–29 GL, max two, very low (RPY) and one BRD May 30–31 (PPW, BRS).

Great Black-backed Gull: after first week of Apr only a few, last May 14 (ADBC, SBC). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls remained thru period. Bonaparte's Gull: good flight, Apr 17 to May 18, max 16 May 17 Lock 7 (RPY). Common Tern: Apr 24 to May 14, max 26 May 1 (bsh). Black Tern: May 7 Greenville (CK) to May 19 (GB, BRS), max at least 30, widespread, May 14 (ADBC, SBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: very poor flight, first May 6 Karner (WBS); a few reported May 14–31. Black-billed Cuckoo: even poorer flight, only four reports, from May 23 on. Screech Owl: only one report, Columbia Co May 14 (ADBC). Horned Owl: several reported from various areas, some with young. Barred Owl: reported only at JL (GB). Saw-whet Owl: one netted and banded Apr 19 at Nisk (RPY) and another seen and heard in Old Chatham during Apr (mob).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first May 7 Kiskatom (JHB), most reports May 19 on—either late or not calling. Common Nighthawk: first May 14 Albany (SBC). Chimney Swift: first Apr 22 Greenville (CK); most arr early May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 14, several areas; many May 18–27. Belted Kingfisher: widely reported thru period. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report—one May 7 Embought (JHB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: good migration, Apr 13 Ghent (PE, GE) to May 18 (GB, BRS)—definitely extended due to cold weather. Eastern Kingbird: first Apr 29 Rotterdam (RPY); next reports May 6–7, most birds decidedly late. Crested Flycatcher: first May 6 EG (PPW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: again reported from JL (probable nesting area) May 30–31 (GB). Trail's Flycatcher: May 14 to end of month, most arr May 25–30. Least Flycatcher: first May 5 Castleton (PPW)—late; seemed scarce thru May 14. Wood Pewee: first May 14 (ADBC) (SBC), most arr May 20–27. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only reports May 24 BCM (BRS) and May 28 near Berlin (SBC). Tree Swallow: reported widely Apr 2–7. It appeared to at least one observer (RPY) that the last week in Apr with its attendant cold weather was especially hard on swallows, with Tree Swallows most affected. In most places, nesting attempts were sporadic and delayed throughout Apr and well into May, in contrast with recent years. Bank Swallow: arr Apr 23–30 in marked influx. The colony at GL numbered only about 330 nest holes on May 24 compared with 550–600 in 1964 and 1965 (RPY). Rough-winged Swallow: marked influx Apr 22–30, many areas. Barn Swallow: first Apr 9 VFG (BRS), but most arr Apr 21 on. Cliff Swallow: first Apr 14 Durham (Vernon Haskins) but most much later, migration peaking about May 7. Purple Martin: first Apr 19 (BRS); reported at Durham, Glenville, Helderberg L, Nisk and Saratoga.

Tufted Titmouse: no noticeable increase, but seen and heard regularly in many valley areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: winter feeder visitors disappeared in early Apr; few migrants reported, last May 18 Nisk (HFB, PM) and May 20 Burnt Hills (HFB, MF)—somewhat late. Brown Creeper: reported throughout period, main migration Apr 25–May 7. House Wren: only one Apr record—Apr 27 Chatham

(MDM); next records May 4 (late) and thereafter. Winter Wren: poor flight—reported Apr 23-May 14. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first May 7 BCM (SBC). SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: one report—May 7 BCM (SBC). Mockingbird: a further increase in this area in late Apr and May, when individuals were reported from several new localities. Several nests have already been reported. Catbird: first Apr 30 (GB, BRS); widely May 4-11. Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18 Alplaus (HFB)—a gradual migration in most areas. Wood Thrush: first Apr 22 Westerlo (MK); slow influx, reported widely by May 10. Hermit Thrush: more than usual, Apr 21 Nisk (RPY) to May 18 (GB, BRS). Swainson's Thrush: May 10 Nisk (RPY) to May 27 Castleton (PPW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: three reports, May 14-16. Veery: first May 5, slightly late. Eastern Bluebird: rare in suburban areas, but doing fairly well in outlying rural sections. Golden-crowned Kinglet: a few reports in late Apr, last May 14 (late) (SBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: protracted migration, Apr 20-May 21; on May 14 more than 100 were recorded by some groups (SBC). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: more common than ever before: reported from near Castleton (at least three birds), Meadowdale (four localities), RL (one), Gallupville (two, building a nest), Kiskatom (two), Greenville (one) and Catskill (one, found dead)—first Apr 23 BCM (BRS). Water Pipit: reported May 14 (ADBC) and May 20 Cocksackie (JHB, BB). Cedar Waxwing: quite scarce until beginning of May, then seen sporadically in all sections. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: one at Kiskatom Apr 23 (JHB, BB) and an adult shrike—probably of this species—was observed critically eyeing some mist nets at GL May 26 (RPY).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: first May 5 Castleton (PPW); most had either not arr or were not singing until May 15-20. Solitary: May 6-20, late. Red-eyed: first May 14 (ADBC, SBC), more widely the following week. PHILADELPHIA VIREO: one report—May 18 IL (GB, BRS). Warbling: first Apr 28 Alplaus (HFB); next May 5 Castleton; no other reports before May 13!

Warblers: Black-and-white: first Apr 23 Greenville (CK). Worm-eating: only report, May 14 IL (SBC). Golden-winged: first May 14 (SBC), widely the following week. Blue-winged: first May 6 Defreestville (PPW), next reports May 14-18. BREWSTER'S: near Catskill May 15 (JHB, BB), near New Salem May 18 (GB, BRS) and at two localities in Guilderland (*fide* WBS). No Lawrence's Warblers reported. Tennessee: extremely poor migration, May 7 Meadowdale (SBC) to May 18 Nisk (PPW). Nashville: first May 6 EG (several) (PPW)—already late then, yet most observers did not record it until May 14-16. Parula: May 7 BCM (SBC) to May 22 IL (HFB, PM). Yellow: first Apr 30, several areas (SBC). Magnolia: May 6-22, no large waves noted. Cape May: one May 7 Kiskatom (JHB); all other reports May 14-22. Black-throated Blue: May 6-25, fairly good numbers noted. Myrtle: notable influx Apr 22-24 several areas, last May 25 SL (BRS). Black-throated Green: first May 1 Vly (GCBC), more widely May 6-8 and thereafter. Blackburnian: first May 6 Defreestville (PPW); noticeable influx May 16-20. CERULEAN: a singing male observed May 27 in same grove of trees near Castleton in which a pair was seen last year (PPW)—only report. Chestnut-sided: first May 6 Karner (WBS), more widely May 13-15 (late). Bay-breasted: short migration, May 16-24. Blackpoll: May 14 (ADBC) to end of period. Pine: five reports of migrants, Apr 22 Schodack (Lee and Virginia Burland) to May 14 (ADBC); also seen near Warrensburg, presumably nesting, May 21 (EH). Prairie: first May 1 Vly (GCBC); late in Karner area, first May 17 (John Fuller). Palm: Apr 17-May 14, somewhat late. Ovenbird: noticeable influx May 6-8, many sections. Northern Waterthrush: first May 1 Vly (GCBC); good migration to May 21; at least five singing in Taborton area May 28 (SBC), more than previously encountered there. Louisiana Waterthrush: few reports, first Apr 27 Wolf Hollow (HE). CONNECTICUT: one seen and heard loudly singing May 14 and 19 near SL (GB, BRS). Mourning: one migrant May 22 near Valatie (JC); at JL breeding area May 29 (GB). Yellow-

throat: arr May 6-7 in good wave. Yellow-breasted Chat: reported only from Meadowdale, first May 14 (SBC). Wilson's: first May 6 Catskill (JHB); max ten May 16 (BRS)—good count; most observers saw none. Canada: first May 7 Kiskatom (JHB) and May 8 Lisha Kill (SBC), most arr May 14-22. Redstart: first May 7 in Albany and Greene Counties; seemed somewhat scarce.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 6 Catskill (JHB) and May 7 BCM (SBC)—slightly late. Baltimore Oriole: first influx May 6-8, several areas. Rusty Blackbird: main migration Apr 22-May 7. Scarlet Tanager: first May 6 Catskill (JHB); main influx May 14-19. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first May 6, large wave (late). Indigo Bunting: rapid movement into the area May 14-18 and subsequently. DICKCISSEL: remained at a Gallupville feeder to week of Apr 18 (Gladys Zimmer). Evening Grosbeak: heavy flight during Apr and well into May, with many feeders receiving visits from 15-40 individuals. Most of these left on or before May 15, when the weather moderated, but a few remained, last May 24 BRD (PPW). Purple Finch: no early spring flight this year; a light movement during Apr and a widespread incursion in early May. Common Redpoll: numbers dropped rapidly in early Apr, last May 7 Greenville (CK). Pine Siskin: a fair flight lasting into mid-May, last May 22 BCM (HFB, PM). Red Crossbill: four at TR Apr 16 (SBC); at Nisk thru May 18 (C. W. Huntley, F. A. Klemm). Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 16 TR (SBC), more generally Apr 23 on.

Sparrows: Savannah: first Apr 6 Greenville, impressive wave Apr 23-24. Grasshopper: first May 7 Kiskatom (JHB); other reports—May 14 Columbia Co (ADBC) and at Meadowdale from May 14 on (SBC). Henslow's: reported only from BCM, May 14 on (SBC), max eight May 14 (WBS, Donald J. Tucker, PPW). Vesper: widely reported from Apr 10 on; notable wave Apr 24. Slate-colored Junco: gradually passed thru during Apr and early May; most observers reported fewer than usual. A junco with two white wing bars was netted and banded in Nisk Apr 10 (RPY); this junco was on the large side (wing measured 79 mm.) and had two pure white outer tail feathers and the third from the outside was white in the center but edged with a dark portion on each side. Three color slides were taken of the bird in hand. Tree: most departed by late Apr, but some remained very late, last May 16 Westerlo (MK). A photograph of one (banded) was taken on May 11. Chipping: first Apr 17, good wave Apr 23. Field: gradual movement into Region during Apr. White-crowned: rather heavy migration, Apr 20 Greenville (CK) to May 20 Burnt Hills, (HFB, MF), max 40 May 8 BCM (Carl Parker); one at a feeder in JL May 28-29 (GB), very late. White-throated: good numbers in migration, Apr 17-May 22. Fox: a few records, last May 7 Meadowdale (SBC) and May 9 Westerlo (MK)—late. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: one at a Nisk feeder May 12-14 (banded) (DS, MS et al.), one in Columbia Co May 14 (ADBC) and one, Central Pk Schenectady, May 17 (MS). Song and Swamp: in good numbers throughout period.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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The remarkable feature of this spring was the lateness of both foliage and birds. Ordinarily by mid-May one can hardly find the birds for the leaves, but not this year. The birds that were missed just weren't there. Supplementing the late arrivals were the late departures of winter residents, especially of the waterfowl. Temperatures were well below average, and the first two weeks of May were exceptionally cold. Ice was observed on many bird baths throughout the Region. The latter half of May was more normal.