

(HD). Vesper: Apr 13 thru period RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: no large flocks reported, small numbers all areas. Tree: last seen Apr 15 TL (RM), Apr 30 RB (JK), May 8 SL (GK). Chipping: Apr 16 TL (RM); four Apr 22 RB (JK); two Apr 22 SL (ED). Clay-colored: one May 20 thru 23 carefully studied at feeder, Gabriels (DY). Field: back by Apr 7 SL (HD), Apr 29 TL (MK), May 6 RB (JK). White-crowned: May 2 thru May 24, eight May 14 SL (HD); "fewer" May 18 TL (MK); six May 19 RB (JK); six May 14 Moira (Orcutt). White-throated: good numbers all areas. Lincoln's: one May 28 Hart L Rd near SL (MK). Swamp: one Apr 30 SL (HD). Song: first Apr 6 TL (RM); good numbers all other areas.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

Once again April and May were cold months. Apr was the more "normal" of the two, with temperatures averaging (all weather data taken at Albany) 43.5°, 2.7° below average. The high temperature of 71° occurred on Apr 1. The only other days the temperature reached even 65° were Apr 2 and Apr 30. Precipitation totaled 3.69 inches, 0.92 in. above normal. May was extremely cold, averaging 50.4°, 7.5° below average. It was consistently cold as well; only *three* days (May 1, 2 and 19) were not below the normal average temperature for that date. The high temperature was a mere 81° on May 19, and on only five other days did the temperature reach 70°! Precipitation totaled 3.36 in., 0.11 in. below normal.

The cool weather during Apr did not appear to hinder the appearance of most early Apr species (e.g., the sparrows) but those species of landbirds expected in very late Apr or early May were generally delayed. The low numbers of many species—even by mid-May—were unprecedented in my experience. "Waves" of some importance occurred on May 1, May 5 and 6, and May 13 and 14, but these were dwarfed by that on May 18, when a real flood of warblers and vireos finally appeared. After May 20, when another impressive wave occurred, the latter part of the month was not distinguished by waves so much as a continuous flow of birds into and through all areas.

Upon reflection, the lateness of appearance and especially abundance of many small passerines was almost certainly tied to the lack of the usual foliage and (consequently) insects expected at their usual arrival dates. This lag seemed generally about two weeks through almost all May. Incredibly enough, more than half the deciduous trees in the Taborton area in eastern Rensselaer County were not yet in leaf on May 27. The acute food shortage for the insectivores was also noted in numerous reports of warblers feeding on or next to the ground and in at least two reports of birds eating fruit-tree blossoms.

Unlike the previous few years, the shorebird movement was disappointing. Very little was observed during the last two weeks of May, at what should have been the peak of migration. This seemed primarily because there was little suitable shorebird habitat discovered in Region 8 this year. Those shorebirds which were seen—mainly in the first half of May—suggested that their migration was not noticeably slowed by the cold weather.

Other points of interest for the period were: (1) a continued increase in records of rails and gallinules; (2) a continuing very low population of cuckoos (both species); (3) a marked influx of Purple Finches including several House Finches.

Other rare or unusual species recorded included Snowy Egret, Mute Swan, Snow Goose, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler, and a probable Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations used: AR—Alcove Reservoir; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; BR—Basic Reservoir; CM—Castleton marshes; IL—Indian Ladder; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; GA—Gus Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; PC—Paul Connor; JC—Juanita Cook; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MF—Marjorie Foote; MWF—Mabel French; WG—William Gorman; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; DH—David Harrison; VH—Vernon Haskins; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ket-cham; SM—Samuel Madison; PM—Peggy McGuirk; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: observed through period to May 13, several areas (SBC). Red-necked Grebe: single individuals SL Apr 15 (SBC); AR Apr 22 (SBC); BR May 13–14 (PPW, PC, WG, MDG, WBS). Horned Grebe: observed through period to May 13, SL (SBC). Pied-billed Grebe: many reports in both Apr and May. Double-crested Cormorant: singles—SL Apr 15 (SBC); Lock 7, Mohawk R, May 13 (GA, EH); AR May 14 (WBS). Great Blue Heron: rather few noted, but reports widespread; first Apr 10, Palenville (Jean Hervey). **Snowy Egret**: one feeding. Mohawk R just below Lock 7, May 20 (EH, Ruth Fox, Ethel Young). No other egrets reported. Green Heron: only about 15 reports, first Apr 26, Ghent (PE, GE) and NWW Apr 30 (HHS). American Bittern: reported at VFG, NWW, Vosburgh Marsh and BCM during period. No Least Bitterns reported. **Mute Swan**: one Apr 1–2 NWW (RPY, PM, EH); one seen flying south over Rensselaer Apr 13 (John Alexander, PPW). Canada Goose: flocks observed during Apr and early May, last large flock 210 May 12, CM (PC), last one May 20, BR (fide PPW). Snow Goose: a good spring flight with five Apr and one May report, max 175–200 Apr 9 over SL (MK); a flock of 13- all imm- arr BR May 19 (WBS et al) and remained there *into June*.

Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks commonly reported. American Widgeon: reported into May, last May 19–20, BR (WBS, PC, PPW). Pintail: most gone by end of Apr, last May 13, AR (Helen Budlong). Green-winged Teal: rapidly disappeared after Apr, last May 21, BCM (PPW, WBS, MDG). Shoveler: two to three Apr 22–29 NWW (HHS, HFB), five Apr 15 Collins L (EH), one Apr 16 TR (SBC), one at the Vly Apr 29 (SBC), one May 20 NWW (WBS *et al.*)—more reports than usual. Redhead: only report- one Apr 16 TR (SBC). Ring-necked Duck: many Apr reports, last May 13 (GA, EH). Canvas-back: several Apr reports, max 40 Apr 8 Embought (JHB, BB), last May 13 SL (GB, BRS). Scaup: both species observed, last May 20 NWW (HHS). Common Goldeneye: reported through Apr, last Apr 26 SL (HFB). Bufflehead: many reports in Apr and well into May, last May 20 BR (PC, PPW). Oldsquaw: five reports, Apr 3 Collins L (EH) to May 13 SL (BRS, GB), max 28 Apr 15 SL (SBC). White-winged Scoter: only scoter reported- May 13 SL (GB, BRS) and May 17 Sikuli Swamp near Medusa (MK). Ruddy Duck: one Apr. 1–16 SCR (SBC) and five BR May 14 (WBS), the only reports. Hooded Merganser: reported through most of Apr; only May record- two May 20, NWW (HHS). Common Merganser: many reports through Apr, last May 13, BR and SL (SBC). The last May records of each species were of a group of females convoyed by a single adult male.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: several reports, max 25 Apr 15, Kiskatom (VH). Goshawk: only report- immature May 23 near Greenville (CK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reported during period, four of these Apr 16 from three scattered localities. Cooper's Hawk: Apr 29 near Catskill (SBC), May 12 BCM (WBS), May 13 Burnt Hills (MF). Red-tailed Hawk: seen fairly commonly throughout period. Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports Apr 3–29 and one May

report- May 29 near Scotia (RPY). Broad-winged Hawk: Apr 12 SCR (EH) to end of period, more reports than has recently been the case. Rough-legged Hawk: Apr 4 Ghent (PE, GE), Apr 23 CM (PC) and May 13 West Glenville (HFB, MF, PM). Bald Eagle: an imm in very shabby-looking plumage was apparently feeding on a dead fish at NWW May 23 (PPW, WG). Marsh Hawk: only four reports, last May 13 (SBC). Osprey: many observed, Apr 11 Catskill (BB) to May 28 Greenville (CK). Bobwhite: reported from Athens, BCM and East Greenbush. No Wild Turkeys reported. Virginia Rail: first Apr 22, CM (PC) with other reports from NWW, BCM, Vly and Vosburgh Marshes. Sora: several reports May 6-13. Common Gallinule: first, Apr 16 CM (PC) with other reports from NWW, BCM, Vly, VFG and Vosburgh. At least 20 estimated at Vosburgh May 20 (PC, PPW). Am. Coot: only reports- one May 13 SL (PPW, PC, MDG, WG), one NWW May 28 (HHS). Sandhill Crane: The bird reported last period near Whitehall remained in the same locality through Apr 26. After this date, it was not seen again.

Common Snipe: reported from the usual localities; one also performed regularly at CM (PC). Upland Plover: first Apr 22 Colonie (HHS)—few reports. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 23 NWW (HHS)—few reports before May 13. Solitary Sandpiper: first May 6, with rapid influx thereafter. Greater Yellowlegs: arr, one Apr 3 SCR (EH); several other reports in Apr and the first half of May, last May 18 (EH). Lesser Yellowlegs: notable movement May 13-14, several areas, when up to 15 were seen at once. Pectoral Sandpiper: only records- one NWW Apr 27-28 (HHS), one May 13 near Selkirk (Helen Budlong), three BCM May 20 (WBS, SM, PM). Least Sandpiper: reported May 13-29, max 12 May 19, Glenville (RPY). Dunlin: only reports- one May 6 BCM (SBC), two May 13 BR (PPW, PC, MDG, WG). Dowitcher: one May 20 SCR (WBS, SM, PM). White-rumped Sandpiper: only report- May 13 BR (David Ellers, Dawne Spaulding). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only one, May 14 NWW (EH). Great Black-backed Gull: a few reports through Apr, last May 6 Embought (JHB) and May 20 Mohawk R (EH). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls seen throughout the period. Bonaparte's Gull: only reports- one Apr 5, Collins L (EH), one Vly Creek Reservoir May 13 (Betty Hicks et al), May 13 SL (GB, BRS). Common Tern: very late arrival, observed May 13-20, many areas. Black Tern: May 13-28, many areas. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only reports- May 13 AR (David Ellers, Dawne Spaulding), May 21 BCM (WBS). Black-billed Cuckoo: somewhat more common; six reports- first May 7 Slingerlands (WBS). Screech Owl: reported only from Scotia (DH) and Niskayuna (HHS). Great Horned Owl: reported from several scattered localities; a family of two adults and three young observed at Karner during May (WBS et al). Barred Owl: reported only from the Jenny L area (GB, BRS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr (or at least first heard) very late, first May 13 near SCR (PPW *et al*). Common Nighthawk: first Apr 26 Castle-ton (JC) and May 4 Berne (MK); other reports May 19 on. Chimney Swift: first Apr 21 Vly (BB) and Apr 29 Schenectady (WBS); most arr May 1-7. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 6 Catskill (JHB); major influx May 14-20. Pileated Woodpecker: many records from entire Region. Red-headed Woodpecker: two reports- one near Delmar May 16-17 (Dirck Benson), one (possibly the same) at BCM May 21 (Ken Gruett, MDG, PPW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 12 Scotia (DH) to May 6 Scotia (DH), with many migrants observed. Flycatchers: all seemed late, especially in numbers (see table). Swallows: Tree: arr widely Apr 1 on. Bank: first Apr 22 BCM (PPW), widely by the end of Apr. Rough-winged: marked influx Apr 21-23, many areas. Barn: first, Apr 13 Durham (VH); few records until Apr 21-22. Cliff: first Apr 21 Catskill (JHB, BB) and widely during next few days. Purple Martin: no Apr reports; most nesting stations reported very poor numbers, with birds returning quite late. Tufted Titmouse: reported from many localities. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from the usual nesting areas; only

one migrant noted- May 6 Scotia (DH). House Wren: first, Apr 16 Greenville (CK), appeared widely first week in May. Winter Wren: a few reports, first Apr 13 Ghent (PE, GE). Long-billed Marsh-wren: arr May 6 BCM (SBC) and other areas about the same time.

Mockingbird: reports continue to come in from new localities in addition to previously known ones, suggesting a further increase in population. Catbird: widespread wave May 4-5 in many areas. Brown Thrasher: very scarce in Apr; first Apr 15 Greenville (CK); a large number of thrashers appeared with the Catbirds on May 4-5. Hermit Thrush: migrants Apr 12 SCR (HFB) to May 10 Schenectady (HFB) with later reports from usual nesting localities. E. Bluebird: occasionally seen, Apr and May, but appeared somewhat less common. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers during Apr, last Apr 29 Catskill (SBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: many reports, arr Apr 15-16 in a marked influx; commonly observed until May 20-22; last May 28 Niskayuna (HHS) and May 30 Galway L (DH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: fewer than last year; first Apr 29 Kiskatom (SBC); others at Catskill (two pairs, building nests- JHB), Indian Ladder (one) (WBS *et al.*) and one Schodack Island (PPW). Water Pipit: Apr 7-8 Ghent (PE, GE), Apr 9 East Greenbush (PPW), May 6 Cossackie (JHB)- only reports. Cedar Waxwing: erratic appearances, usually in small groups throughout period, max 50 May 8, East Greenbush (MDG). Shrikes reported from Chatham Center Apr 11 (Murray and Alice Giddings), Catskill Apr 21 (JHB) and Ghent May 13 (PE, GE).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: See table for most species. Orange-crowned Warbler: individuals reported on Apr 30, Rensselaerville (Robert C. Dagleish) and May 21, Niskayuna (HHS)- in both instances the birds were actively fitting about in brushy thickets near water. Cerulean Warbler: one male May 18 in the Schodack Island area where it has summered the last two years (PPW, PC). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** a warbler described as having a "gray back, yellow throat, black streaks along sides, *white* underparts, white in wing, no white in the tail" observed May 19 in Greenville (CK) almost certainly this species. Prairie Warbler: first May 7 Vly (PPW), later reports scattered through month. Mourning Warbler: five reports, more than usual, of migrants; May 21 Loudonville (MWF) to May 30 Loudonville (MWF). Yellow-breasted Chat: only two reports- May 13 Catskill (PPW *et al.*) and Guilderland (John Fuller, Betty Hicks, Mary Linch *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: only reports- May 13 Catskill (JHB, BB) May 15 Ghent (PE, GE). Rusty Blackbird: many reports through Apr into early May, last May 13 several areas (SBC). Evening Grosbeak: only reports from northern sections except two at a feeder in Slingerlands (Grace Liebich) into mid-May; pair near North R Apr 30 (DH); Jenny L area May 13 (BRS, GB). Purple Finch: heavy influx, late Apr and early May, in all sections. **House Finch:** at least four (two males, two females) visited one feeder/banding station in Niskayuna May 5-9 during the height of the Purple Finch influx. Two of these were banded and another had previously been banded (Dec. 26, 1966 in Gordonsville, Va.) (RPY)-see Field Note. A pair were also coming regularly to another Niskayuna feeder May 8-29 (GA). Sparrows: Savannah: widely reported Apr 9 on. Grasshopper: only reports from BCM, May 13 and 21 (SBC). Henslow's: only report, BCM May 13; this species has been getting scarcer for several successive years. Vesper: first Apr 2 Greenville (CK), several reports over next week. Tree: most left last week in Apr, last reports May 13 (SBC). Chipping: first Apr 12, Catskill (JHB, BB); several reports on Apr 15. White-crowned: again surprisingly common, Apr 1 Castleton (JC) to May 27 VFG (RPY). White-throated: few reports early Apr, widespread Apr 14-May 22, last May 28 VFG (RPY) aside from usual nesting areas. Fox: several late Apr reports, last Apr 30 Haines Falls (JHB, BB). Lincoln's: two reports- Apr 21 Altamont (WBS), Apr 27 VFG (banded) (RPY). Swamp: first arr, Apr 9 Meadowdale (EH).

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061

MIGRANT PASSERINES - REGION 8 - 1967

SPECIES	FIRST DATES ^b			SECOND DATE 1967	# PARTIES OBSERVED ^a		REMARKS
	1967	1966	1965		5/13/67 (max 12)	5/14/66 (max 11)	
Eastern Kingbird	May 5	Apr 29	May 2	May 6	6	10	
Crested Flycatcher	May 5	May 6	May 2	May 6	3	2	
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	May 13	---	May 15	May 20	1	0	6 reps., May 25-30
Traill's Flycatcher	May 20	May 14	May 15	---	0	2	widespread May 20
Least Flycatcher	Apr 26	May 5	Apr 25	May 5	5	7	
Wood Pewee	May 10	May 14	May 8	May 13	2	3	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 21	May 24	---	---	0	0	only one May 21, IL (SCB)
Swainson's Thrush	May 6	May 10	May 8	May 13	2	4	
Wood Thrush	May 1	Apr 22	Apr 24	May 4	10	9	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 13	May 14	May 2	May 20	2	1	five reps., May 13-22
Veery	May 6	May 5	May 5	May 11	9	11	
Yellow-thr. Vireo	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 12	3	2	
Solitary Vireo	May 13	May 6	Apr 27	---	4	3	uncommon all spring
Red-eyed Vireo	May 13	May 14	May 4	May 18	2	1	
Warbling Vireo	May 8	Apr 28	Apr 29	May 11	4	6	
Black and White W.	Apr 27	Apr 23	Apr 25	May 1	7	10	
Worm-eating Warbler	May 13	May 14	May 5	May 21	1	2	
Golden-winged Warbler	May 6	May 14	May 6	May 7	0	2	max 5, IL May 21 (SBC)
Blue-winged Warbler	May 5	May 6	May 4	May 13	1	1	scarce, total 5 reports
Tennessee Warbler	May 18	May 7	May 10	May 20	0	1	also scarce
Nashville Warbler	May 2	May 6	Apr 27	May 6	5	7	present into June
Parula Warbler	May 14	May 7	May 3	May 18	0	2	present into June
Yellow Warbler	Apr 30	Apr 30	Apr 28	May 1	11	11	widespread by May 5
Magnolia Warbler	May 5	May 6	May 10	May 7	1	2	
Cape May Warbler	May 6	May 7	May 1	May 7	3	1	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	May 6	May 6	May 2	May 7	5	8	
Myrtle Warbler	Apr 22	Apr 22	Apr 10	Apr 26	12	9	
Black-thr. Green Warbler	May 6	May 1	May 2	May 7	9	5	
Blackburnian Warbler	May 3	May 6	May 2	May 5	3	7	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 6	May 6	May 3	May 7	5	4	
Bay-breasted Warbler	May 18	May 16	May 8	May 20	0	0	many reps, May 20-31
Blackpoll Warbler	May 10	May 14	May 13	May 18	0	0	max 20, May 20, early
Palm Warbler	Apr 15	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 16	2	3	last Apr 25 (late), Chatham (PM)

MIGRANT PASSERINES - REGION 8 - 1967

SPECIES	FIRST DATES ^b			SECOND DATE 1967	# PARTIES OBSERVED ^a		REMARKS
	1967	1966	1965		5/13/67 (max 12)	5/14/66 (max 11)	
Ovenbird	May 6	May 6	May 2	May 7	9	9	
Northern Water-thrush	May 6	May 1	May 2	May 13	5	5	
Louisiana Water-thrush	Apr 30	Apr 27	Apr 25	May 13	3	3	late, low numbers
Yellow-throat	May 6	May 6	May 2	May 9	8	10	still uncommon May 13
Wilson's Warbler	May 5	May 6	May 13	May 17	0	0	max 15, May 20
Canada Warbler	May 8	May 7	May 2	May 13	2	1	
Redstart	May 12	May 7	May 5	May 13	4	5	not widespread until May 20
Bobolink	May 9	May 6	May 4	May 11	4	7	
Baltimore Oriole	May 1	May 6	Apr 25	May 2	12	11	
Scarlet Tanager	May 12	May 6	May 8	May 13	2	5	widespread May 18
Rose-br. Grosbeak	May 5	May 6	"late Apr"	May 6	9	10	generally late
Indigo Bunting	May 14	May 14	May 10	May 19	0	0	several waves, 5/19 on.

^a "# Parties Observed" refers to the results from the SBC "Century Run" in 1966 and 1967; these are included to show how scarce most small landbirds were even by mid-May.

^b Note overall similarities between 1966 and 1967- both involving a cold first half of May- and differences from 1965.