

REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

The average temperature for the month of April was about normal. However, temperatures fluctuated widely: the first three days were cooler than usual; the next two weeks brought beautiful summer weather, with warm, dry days; then came a week of below-average temperatures, with a heavy rainfall of 1.65 inches on the 22nd and 23rd; warm, sunny weather prevailed during the last few days. Total rainfall was 0.74 inches more than average (Albany Airport weather data). May was generally warm, and drier than usual, with 0.72 inches less rainfall than average.

The early warmth produced foliage at an unusually early period, for the second consecutive year. With few exceptions the migration movement could be described as "average". Waterfowl moved through faster than usual, and were disappointingly absent on the day of the Century Run, May 17. Notable plusses included large numbers of migrating Blackpoll Warblers and a very good flight of Slate-colored Juncos. The late and heavy finch migration brought large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, and numerous Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. On the minus side—it seemed to several observers that the warbler migration, with the exception of Blackpolls, was incredibly poor. However, judging from the data available, the following warblers were reported a little more frequently than in the previous year: Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Prairie, with the numbers of reports of other warblers about the same.

The highlight of the period was a Wilson's Phalarope, the first ever recorded in this Region. A report of a Red-bellied Woodpecker was the second ever observed in the Region. Other observations of particular interest were a large flock of Brant at an early date, a Black-bellied Plover, and two Willet.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; J&BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; PC—Paul Connor; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MLG—Murray L. Gardler; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; MK—Marcia Kent; E&HL—Edward and Helen Long; RMcC—Robert McCullough; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; WDM—Will Merritt, Jr.; P&MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; ER—Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, Barrington Havens.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: AR—Alcove Reservoir; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; CM—Castleton Marshes; CP—Central Park; EG—East Greenbush; Gr—Greenville; IL—Indian Ladder; Mdale—Meadowdale; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; Nisk—Niskayuna; RL—Round Lake; Saratoga Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; GCBC—Greene Co Bird Club; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

LOONS—DUCK: Common Loon: observed throughout period in several areas; last report May 30 SL (bsh). Red-throated Loon: only one—Apr 27 SL (GB,BRS). Reck-necked Grebe: only one report—May 6 SL (GB,BRS). Horned Grebe: max seven Apr 23 (GA); last May 6 SL (bsh). Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 Apr 27 SL (GB,BRS); last report—a total of three May 17 Vosburgh and BCM (mob). Double-crested Cormorant: one report—seven Apr 19 Lock 6 Mohawk R (GB,BRS). Great Blue Heron: seemed scarce; few reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: three heard May 23 VFG (RPY). American Bittern: seemed scarce; first report Apr 20 (bsh). Least Bittern: only one—May 17 Vosburgh (PPW *et al*).

Mute Swan: one Apr 8 RL (GB,BRS). Canada Goose: max—three flocks of 300 +

Apr 29 Castleton (JC); last May 17 (GA,EH,RMc). **BRANT**: an unusually early report of 85 Apr 14 SL (MLG). Snow Goose: five Apr 2 NWW (MLG); one Apr 6 BCM, and one Apr 8 RL (GB,BRS). Mallard: a female with eight young May 30 SCR (GB,BRS). Gadwall: a pair Apr 18 SCR (WBS); three Apr 20 SL (BRS,GB); two Apr 27 SCR (GB,BRS). Pintail: throughout Apr; max 35 (MLG). Green-winged Teal: max 125 NWW Apr (MLG); seen to May 3 (bsh), with one later report of one May 22 CM (PPW). American Widgeon: reported into May, last two May 12 SCR (PPW). Shoveler: reported from Apr 1–20, with max ten Apr 5 NWW (bsh); one report SL—pair Apr 6 (MLG). Wood Duck: more numerous than usual; female and 12 ducklings on lawn May 20 Canaan (Gertrude Mapes). Redhead: three Apr 4, and one Apr 6 NWW (MLG). Ring-necked Duck: max 100 SCR (EH,RMc); last Apr 27 (bsh). Canvasback: missed entirely! Scaup: both species observed, the Greater to May 6, and the Lesser to May 30 (bsh). Common Goldeneye: last report May 6 (bsh). Bufflehead: last observation three May 15 AR (PPW). Oldsquaw: eight Apr 27 SL, and four May 6 SL (GB,BRS). White-winged Scoter: one Apr 27, and four May 6 SL (GB,BRS). Surf Scoter: one male, two females May 17 Galway L (David Harrison, John Steadwell). Common Scoter: one May 6 SL (GB,BRS). Ruddy Duck: six Apr 5 Collins L (EH); one Apr 20 AR (CK). Hooded Merganser: Apr max 25 SCR (MLG); a female with eight young observed May 24 SCR (GB,BRS), and again May 28 (PPW). Common Merganser: several Apr reports, with max 95 NWW (MLG); last May 17 (WBS *et al*). Red-breasted Merganser: several Apr reports; last—May 17 (MDG *et al*).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: max 15 Canaan (AG). Goshawk: one Apr 5 Chatham (ER); one Apr 6 Saratoga (MLG). Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles on four dates—Apr 12 NWW (bsh), Apr 23 Kiskatom (J&BB), May 17 (J&BB), and May 30 Catskill (PPW). Cooper's Hawk: four scattered reports. Red-tailed Hawk: max nine Apr 4 (MDG). Red-shouldered Hawk: more migrants reported than for the past two springs. Broad-winged Hawk: last one May 27 EG (MDG). Rough-legged Hawk: last one Apr 24 Chatham (M&AG). Bald Eagle: one imm May 6 SCR (GB, BRS). Marsh Hawk: reported from four areas, including a pair carrying nesting material May 31 Mdale (bsh). Osprey: last one May 26 Catskill (JB). Sparrow Hawk: max 18 Apr 8 (GB,BRS). Bobwhite: reported from two areas in May. Virginia Rail: first Apr 12 BCM (bsh). Sora: first reports—Apr 26 (bsh), and two Apr 27 CM (PC). Common Gallinule: arr Apr 19 Vosburgh (HMBC); max 25 May 25 Vosburgh (PPW). American Coot: few reports—Apr 4 Gr (Clare Ketcham) to May 17 (PC *et al*).

Semipalmated Plover: one May 17 VFG (HFB,PMcG); three May 17 CM (PPW *et al*); eight May 20, and one May 24 CM (PPW). **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER**: one May 17 VFG (HFB,PMcG). Common Snipe: max 17 Apr 6 (HHS). Upland Plover: reported from three areas, including a new locale, EG Airport (PPW). Spotted Sandpiper: arr Apr 20 (bsh). Solitary Sandpiper: first one Apr 23 Kiskatom (J&BB); many May reports up to May 17 (mob). **WILLET**: two May 4 Chent (P&GE). Greater Yellowlegs: arr Apr 19 Coxsackie (J&BB); last May 30 Glenville Landfill, Scotia (RPY). Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 19 (bsh) to May 11 Mdale (HMBC); few reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: reported on only one day, May 17, by two parties. White-rumped Sandpiper: May 17 (MDG *et al*). Least Sandpiper: reported from three areas May 15; max 30 May 17 CM (PPW); last May 29 CM (PPW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: six May 17 (Bill Gorman *et al*). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: first ever for the Region—located and identified May 23 AR (WBS *et al*), described as having a long slender bill, gray back, dark neck stripe and unmarked wings.

Great Black-backed Gull: last Apr 14 Castleton (JC). Bonaparte's Gull: Apr 13 to May 15 (bsh); max 16 Apr 23 (GA). Common Tern: Apr 20–May 24 (bsh). Black Tern: May 17 near Chatham (P&GE); May 17 (mob). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 17, 24, 25 (HMBC). Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 1 Glenville (EH); re-

ported from six areas during May. Owls: Screech: reports from Columbia Co, Greene Co, and EG. Great Horned: reports from five observers, in five localities. Barred: only one report Apr 9 Chatham (ER). Short-eared: two Apr 19, and three Apr 20 Cossackie (J&BB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first heard May 15 SCR (HFB). Common Nighthawk: first reports May 17 (mob). Chimney Swift: first report Apr 30 Spencertown (M&W Ulmer). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Apr 27 Gr (GCBC). Pileated Woodpecker: reported from approximately ten different areas. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: second time ever to be recorded in Region—observed daily from Apr 27 to May 4 at Peters' residence near Gr (Mr. and Mrs. George Peters, CK, Madeline Rundell). Red-headed Woodpecker: one May 10 Scotia (EH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several reports Apr 10, 11, 12; through May.

Eastern Kingbird: earliest Apr 26 Ghent (P&GE). Great Crested Flycatcher: arr May 4 (PPW); numerous May 10–15. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one May 15 Canaan (E&HL); May 17–24, five banded VFG, a new spring record for the banding area (WDM,RPY). Traill's Flycatcher: May 17 (mob) to May 25 Glenville (HMBC). Least Flycatcher: first report May 1 Catskill (JB). Eastern Wood Pewee: arr May 15 Castleton (JC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 13 Ghent (P&GE); May 17 (Betty Hicks *et al*).

Swallows: Tree: nesting at VFG about five days behind last year, but still ahead of 1967 or 1966 (RPY). Bank: Glenville Landfill colony of about 360 holes double that of last year; Hetcheltown Rd colony of 100 destroyed by excavating (RPY). Rough-winged: one pair on early date of Apr 6 Ballston Spa (MLG); second report six Apr 19 Vosburgh Swamp (HMBC). Barn: arr Apr 12 Gr (Marianne Werner). Cliff: arr Apr 29 Gr (CK) and Apr 30 Catskill (J&BB); nesting AR Dam (MDG,PPW). Purple Martin: 12 appeared Apr 24 at nesting site Glenville (RMCC); also, reported near Saratoga (PPW,bsh).

Brown Creeper: seems scarce. House Wren: general influx Apr 25–May 1. Winter Wren: recorded once in April–Apr 15 Castleton (JC); several May reports—to May 17 (mob). Carolina Wren: one May 23 S. Bethlehem (WBS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 11 Mdale (HMBC). Catbird: an unusually early report of Apr 9 Chatham (ER); many from May 2 on. Brown Thrasher: report of one Apr 10 at the Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary (P&GE) possibly a wintering bird; later reports beginning Apr 21 Gr (CK).

Robin: seemed scarce, with only eight banded in yard in Nisk compared to 17 in 1968, and 19 in 1967 (RPY). Wood Thrush: a very early report of one Apr 9 Malden Bridge (George Woodward); other reports from Apr 21. Hermit Thrush: arr Apr 9 Nisk (RPY), and Malden Bridge (George Woodward). Swainson's Thrush: early report of two Apr 28 in the Helderbergs (GA); others from May 10 VFG (WDM,RPY) to May 29 Hillsdale (JC). Veery: early report Apr 30 (MM); several May 10 and 11. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Apr 27 Gr (CK); subsequently, reports from three other areas. Golden-crowned Kinglet: last seen May 15 Ghent (P&GE). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: from Apr 6 (bsh) to May 17 (mob). Water Pipit: more than usual—several Apr reports; a few May reports, with the last one May 16 Ghent (P&GE). Cedar Waxwing: Only one Apr report—several Apr 9 Chatham (ER); still scarce the first part of May, with many reports during the last third of the month; abundant in late May, with 50 on many days (PPW). Shrike: one, species undetermined, Apr 1 Nisk (HHS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: first one May 3 Ghent (P&GE); two banded May 10 VFG, the first ever banded in five years of banding in that area (RPY). Solitary: arr Apr 26, 27 (four reports); last date May 17 (five reports). Red-eyed: first two reports—May 10 (bsh), and May 11 Castleton (JC). Warbling: first one May 1 Schodack (L&VB).

Warblers: Black-and-white: first reported Apr 27, 30 Gr (CK); max eight May 4 (PPW). Worm-eating: May 17 IL (mob); May 20 Ghent (P&GE). Golden-winged: arr May 7 Catskill (JB); reports from at least seven different areas through remainder of May. Blue-winged: first observed May 2 Gr (CK); reported by more observers and in more areas than in previous two years; one May 18 near Petersburg, elevation about 800 ft., seemed in unusual locale (PPW). Tennessee: first reports May 17 (mob), max six (HHS *et al*); only other report May 24 Glenville (HMBC). Nashville: arr Apr 26 Schodack and Chatham (L&V,B,ER); last May 25 (bsh). Parula: May 3, 4 (PPW); two May 4 CP (HMBC); three reports May 17, the last. Yellow: arr Apr 27 (RPY,bsh). Magnolia: first reported Apr 26 Ghent (P&GE), unusually early; several reports during May, with last date May 31 Taborton area (MDG *et al*). Cape May: from May 9 Scotia (EH) to May 24 (bsh). Black-throated Blue: appeared Apr 26 when several were seen at Chatham (ER); a few more reports than previous year. Myrtle: arr Apr 18 Canaan (E&HL); migration peaked May 2 and 3, as evidenced by max 25 May 2 (GA), and 33 banded May 2, 44 banded May 3 VFG (WDM,RPY); throughout May. Black-throated Green: first reports—one May 4 CP (HMBC), and three May 4 (PPW); throughout month. Cerulean: at usual locale Schodack Island May 16 (PPW); also, one May 17 IL (Bill Gorman *et al*). Blackburnian: first seen May 3 (bsh); max 25 May 31 Taborton area (PPW *et al*). Chestnut-sided: arr May 6 (bsh). Bay-breasted: first reported by six groups May 17; last date, May 24 (bsh). Blackpoll: first seen May 17 (mob); many more reports than previous year; a total of six banded VFG (as contrasted to a max two any previous spring) represents a new max and corroborates observations that this species was very common this spring (WDM,RPY). Pine: two reports—one May 13 Catskill (JB); one May 17 (GB,BRS). Prairie: arr May 3 Karner Pine Barrens (bsh); subsequently reported from at least seven different areas. Palm: several reports—Columbia Co Apr 11 (P&GE), May 1, 5 (E&HL); Greene Co Apr 11, 12, 21 (CK,J&BB) and May 1, 3 (CK); only one report in addition to the two southern counties—one banded May 2 VFG (WDM,RPY). Ovenbird: arr Apr 28 Gr (CK). Northern Waterthrush: arr May 3 (bsh), and VFG (WDM,RPY); migration apparently peaked May 17, when 16 were banded VFG (WDM,RPY). Louisiana Waterthrush: first reported Apr 27 (bsh). Yellowthroat: reported frequently after first date, Apr 29 Gr (CK). Yellow-breasted Chat: one May 3, and two May 31 BCM (bsh); one banded VFG May 11, the first ever banded there (WDM,RPY). Wilson's: several reports May 17; last—May 24 Glenville (HMBC), and May 24 VFG (WDM,RPY). Canada: arr May 5 Ghent (P&GE); migrants to May 28 VFG (PPW). American Redstart: arr early—Apr 29 Gr (CK).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr very early date—Apr 9 Chatham (ER); second report also somewhat early—Apr 29 Gr (CK). Red-winged Blackbird: banding numbers continued decline begun last year (RPY). Orchard Oriole: reported from usual locale—Castleton May 5 (JC). Baltimore Oriole: from Apr 26 Chatham (ER); many reports May 2, 3, 4. Rusty Blackbird: max 52 Apr 5 Schodack Center (PC); last May 17 (HMBC,GCBC). Scarlet Tanager: arr May 4 CP (HMBC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first report—one banded May 2 VFG (WDM,RPY). Indigo Bunting: arr early date—May 4 CP (HMBC). Evening Grosbeak: large numbers of returning migrants appeared in April; the flocks in May were spectacularly large, as reported from several areas; for example, 556 were banded in one yard in Nisk, from May 1–16, high counts 52, May 3 and 51, May 15, numbers decreased rapidly after May 16. Evidently they just kept right on coming and then passing right on through as there were only 13 or 14 re-captures during the period (RPY); last report May 28 EG (PPW). Purple Finch: throughout period; max 18 Gr Apr 30 (CK). House Finch: two new areas—one male appeared Apr 9 and 10 at feeder in Westerlo (Dr. Perkins); one male in song was observed Apr 20 CP (BRS); two old areas—pair Apr 28, and one male in May Nisk (GA); two males and one female seen on

different dates, sometimes singly, from Apr 23 to May 31 Nisk (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: a small flock of six or eight, including two males, well-observed, feeding on catkins in an ash tree, Ghent, May 14, 15, 16 (P&GE). Common Redpoll: several reports; last Apr 26 Guilderland (PMcG); max 50 in yard in Nisk Apr 3 (RPY). Pine Siskin: numerous reports; most plentiful middle of Apr to middle of May; last May 18 (PPW).

Sparrows: Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Apr 6 Ghent (P&GE). Grasshopper: reported from Greene Co, Columbia Co, Mdale, and near SCR. Henslow's: one area only—May 17 Mdale (GB,BRS). Vesper: arr Apr 6 (bsh). Slate-colored Junco: migrants very numerous: big influx Apr 9–12—max 225 Apr 9 Berne (MK); next big movement Apr 21–23 (RPY). Tree: last two reports—May 17 (Betty Hicks *et al*) and (E&L Lane). Chipping: max 17 May 1 Berne (MK). White-crowned: Apr 16 Hillsdale (Natalie Snare) to May 23 Schodack (L&VB). White-throated: many reports from Apr 10; max 25 May 1 Berne (MK); migrants still moving May 17 (PPW); last May 24 VFG (WDM,RPY). Fox: max 15 Apr 14 (one singing) SCR (HFB); last Apr 27 (PMcG). Lincoln's: more reports than usual—Apr 9 Chatham (ER); Apr 20 intermittently to May 17 Ghent (P&GE); eight banded May 9–23 VFG (WDM,RPY); two banded May 18 Clifton Park (WDM).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The spring season advanced evenly with no marked set backs. April was slightly on the cool and wet side with about 4½ inches of rainfall, whereas May was warm and dry with only about 2 inches of rain. Foliage was anywhere from a week to two weeks ahead of its usual rate of development, making spring birding all the more difficult than usual.

Most birders cannot remember a year in which wave movements were so absent. The migration advanced evenly with only two contributors even mentioning anything approaching a wave. If this phenomenon occurred at all, they said it happened on April 28–29 and May 11 when there were a few more warblers around than usual.

Most active birders when checking their lists found a good number of blank spaces where not one member of the species had been found. Iris Dean missed seven species of warblers that she got in the vicinity of her Greenville, Orange Co. home last year. Several birders reported missing altogether or only getting singles of such species of warbler as: Magnolia, Prairie, Hooded, Blackburnian, Canada, Black-throated Green, Wilson's and Nashville. All migrant species of warblers were severely reduced, with only resident birds showing anything like normalcy. Bob Deed went so far as to say that the paucity extended to most species of insectivores although the insects themselves were abundant. It would make one wonder if perhaps some catastrophe might have happened farther south.

Most waterfowl seemed to be normal with a few migrant species lingering late into the season. Broad-winged Hawks came thru much earlier than usual but most Raptors seemed to be normal. Both species of the rare winter white-winged gulls were reported later than usual, as were several species of northern finch.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; West—Westchester Co; MBC—Mearns Bird Club; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; USMA—United States Military Academy.