

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The spring weather for 1975 was the reverse of 1974 with a cold April and warm May. April had a -6.2 degree departure from normal with a new low of 26 degrees on the 27th, and less precipitation than normal. It was the 4th coldest April on record. May was more comfortable for birds and birders with a plus 4.2 departure and slightly less than normal precipitation.

The May bandings at Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area by R. P. Yunick, R. J. Pantle, J. C. Covert III, and A. B. Schoeder were about normal with the bird yield of 49.3 birds/100 net hours, second to 1972's record of 51.61/100.

The Century Run was held on May 17. The weather and results were similar to last year's with 7 groups of 24 observers reporting 156 species. Unusual among the birds reported were: Goshawk, Canvasback, Cerulean Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Orchard Oriole. There were disappointing reports of hawks, owls, and shorebirds, with no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows reported.

With the exception of Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pileated Woodpecker, and Cedar Waxwing the common birds of the region were reported in normal numbers.

Abbreviations: BCM—Black Creek Marsh; Col Co—Columbia County, Alan DeVoe Bird Club; cr—Century Run, May 17 Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; HR—Hudson River; L7—Lock 7; M'dale—Meadowdale; MR—Mohawk River; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RPY—R. P. Yunick; SCR—Stoney Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TCA—Tri-city area; VFGM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; thru—throughout period.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: April 6 thru max. 10 April 21 SL; 1 April 27 New Baltimore; cr. Red-necked Grebe: 1 April 14, 9 April 15 SL; 1 April 23 NWW; 2 April 25 SL. Horned Grebe: 1 April 1 SL; 1 thru May 8 Round Lake. Pied-billed Grebe: 3 April 2 to 2 April 21 SL; thru April and 2 May 2 Col Co; cr. Double-crested Cormorant: first 1 April 22 Hoosick River; 1 May 25 L7. Great Blue Heron: April 8 thru May 31 TCA; 2 May 15 Col Co; 12 pairs nesting in West Glenville. Green Heron: few April 12 thru TCA; first in Col Co May 2. **CATTLE EGRET:** 1 April 18 Col Co; 1 in breeding plumage April 20 Saratoga Co. Great Egret: 1 April 28 New Brunswick. Least Bittern: 1 May 14 VFGM; cr. American Bittern: May 6 thru TCA; cr. Canada Goose: April 1 to May 25 NWW; thru April, max. 500 April 14 SL; thru Col Co. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 5 April 14 SL. Snow Goose: first 12 large flocks April 5 HR Col Co; 1 to 2 April 15 thru 28 TCA. Gadwall: 2 April 12 VFGM. Pintail: April Col Co; April 1-22 BCM; 1 April 15 SL. American Wigeon: thru April Col Co and VFGM. Northern Shoveler: 1 April 9 Saratoga Co; 2 May 3 SL. Wood Duck: thru Col Co; April 6 thru TCA. Redhead: 4 April 12 MR. Ring-necked Duck: 6 April 12 MH; 19 April 1 thru 7 and April 25 SL; 13 April 27 E. Greenbush; May 5 HR Col Co. Canvasback: April 1 thru 21, max. 105 April 14 SL; 4 April 12 MR; 1 May 17 Coxsackie; cr. Greater Scaup: thru April Col Co; 2 April 12 MR. Lesser Scaup: April 1—May 8 SL. Bufflehead: April 1—May 18 Round L; cr. Oldsquaw: 2 April 1 Round L. White-winged Scoter: 1 May 8, 10, 17 SL; cr. Surf Scoter: 3 May 5 SL. Ruddy Duck: 1 May 10 Mariaville Lake; 1 May 10 SL. Hooded Merganser: thru April Col Co; April 6 thru VFGM. Common Merganser: thru April Col Co and TCA. Red-breasted Merganser: April 1 thru May 8 SL; 2 April 17 Selkirk; several on MR during April.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first April 16 Col Co; 1 April 22 River Rd; 1 April 28 M'dale; 2 May 15 Mariaville; 3 May 23 Col Co. Goshawk: 2 April 22, 1 April 27 New Baltimore; cr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 April 26 New Baltimore; 1 May 13 Mariaville. Cooper's Hawk: 1 April 27 Berne; 2 May 5 Malta. Broad-winged Hawk: first April 16

M'dale; 2 May 10-31 Mariaville; May 3 Col Co; cr. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 April 2 Altamont; 1 April 14 Albany; 1 April 16 S. of Saratoga Springs. **BALD EAGLE**: 1 adult May 27 Col Co. Osprey: 1 April 19 VFGM; 6 April 28 Schodack Landing; April 26 thru May Col Co; 1 May 3 M'dale; 1 May 24 SCR. **TURKEY**: 5 May 9, 19 Ghent Col Co. King Rail: 1 May 6 BCM. Virginia Rail: thru May. Sora: April 6 thru. Common Gallinule: April 22 thru. American Coot: 1 April 14 SCR. Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 12 NWW. American Woodcock: April 6 thru Col Co; occasionally in late May, 2 banded. Common Snipe: April 19 thru. Upland Sandpiper: 2 April 1-5 Cocksackie; fairly common southern Montgomery Co. thru May; cr. Spotted Sandpiper: thru May 2. Solitary Sandpiper: April 30 thru May 13 NWW; first in Col Co May 5; cr. Lesser Yellowlegs: first May 6 Col Co and May 8 SL. Pectoral Sandpiper: first April 12 Col Co; 1 May 12 Albany Airport. Least Sandpiper: 1 May 12 NWW; cr. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 April 30 NWW. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 May 12 NWW. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 April 14, 17 and May 30 SL; cr. Common Tern: 1 May 25 NWW; cr. Black-billed Cuckoo: first May 10 M'dale; May 17 Col Co; cr. Barn Owl: 1 April 17 Albany; 2 May 3 Cocksackie. Screech Owl: few during May. Great Horned Owl: heard only. Barred Owl: common in May. Short-eared Owl: 4 April 17, 1 April 24 Cocksackie.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first May 9 Col Co; 1 May 15 Mariaville; cr. Common Nighthawk: May 17 thru. Chimney Swift: April 25 thru. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 12 thru. Belted Kingfisher: thru May. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 at nesting site May 10-31 Montgomery Co, at least 5 different birds seen nearby; cr. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first April 5 Loudonville; May 17 Col Co and cr; 2 May 22 Berne. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: 1 May 11 Duanesburg. Eastern Kingbird: May 10 thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 5 thru. Eastern Phoebe: April 6 thru. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: first May 7 Col Co; cr. Willow Flycatcher: 1 May 10 M'dale; May 27 NWW. Alder Flycatcher: cr, scarce at VFWM, only 1 banded in May. Least Flycatcher: May 7 thru reduced at VFWM, only 14 banded vs 27 last year. Eastern Wood Pewee: first May 17 Col Co and cr; thru. Tree Swallow: April 6 thru. Bank Swallow: April 14 thru; small flock April 21 Schodack Landing. Rough-winged Swallow: May 2 thru. Barn Swallow: April 22 thru. Cliff Swallow: April 29 thru; reports indicate an increase of nesting colonies. Purple Martin: first 15 April 12 Col Co; thru. **FISH CROW**: 5 April 28 Saugerties; 1 May 18 Cocksackie. House Wren: April 23 thru; banding of 13 was a record spring high. Carolina Wren: April 4 thru. Long-billed Marsh Wren: several in May. Brown Thrasher: first April 25 Col Co; thru. Wood Thrush: May 10 thru; May bandings new record. Hermit Thrush: April 27 thru; 4 bandings early May. Swainson's Thrush: May 9 thru; 3 banded. Veery: May 5 thru; 14 bandings tied record. Eastern Bluebird: few thru; 1 pair nesting Mariaville and 2 pairs Col Co. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 3 thru; 3 banded early May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first April 6; last April 10. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: April 22 thru; 29 banded early May. Water Pipit: April 12 thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: May 10 thru; 2 banded. Solitary: May 3; thru. Red-eyed: May 8 thru; 1 banded May 24. Warbling: May 10 thru; 3 banded. Warblers: Black-and-white: May 9 thru; 3 banded. **PROTHONOTARY**: 3 May 17 Alcove Reservoir. Worm-eating: cr. Golden and Blue-winged: May 10 thru. Tennessee: May 10-24 VFGM; 3 banded May 17. Nashville: May 6 thru; 8 banded early May. Northern Parula: May 10 thru. Yellow: May 3 thru; 45 banded. Magnolia: May 9 thru; 6 banded. Cape May: May 9 thru; 3 banded May 10. Black-throated Blue: May 9 thru; 4 banded. Yellow-rumped: April 16 thru; 280 banded. new record. Black-throated Green: May 6 thru; 4 banded. **CERULEAN**: May 17 thru. Blackburnian: May 8 thru; 1 banded May 10. Chestnut-sided: May 9 thru; 1 banded May 10. Bay-breasted: May 13 thru. Blackpoll: May 15 thru; 1 banded May 24. Pine: 1 May 3 Malta; several May 21-31 Lake George. Prairie: May 8 Col Co; 4 May 15 Berne; cr. Palm: 1 April 22 BCM; 2 May 10 M'dale; 5 banded early May; cr. Ovenbird: May 9 thru; 1 banded May 24. Northern Waterthrush: May 4 thru; 6 banded. Louisiana Waterthrush: May 8 thru. Mourning: cr; 1 banded May 17. Common Yellowthroat: May 10 thru; 19 banded. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 6 Col Co; 1 May 13 Mariaville; cr.

HOODED WARBLER: 1 May 30 Mariaville. Wilson's: May 13 thru; 2 banded. Canada: May 13 thru; 4 banded. American Redstart: May 10 thru; 16 banded.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 5 thru. Orchard Oriole: 1 May 10 M'dale; cr; 1 May 28 Col Co. Northern Oriole: May 7 thru; 6 banded. Rusty Blackbird: April 12 thru; 1 banded. Scarlet Tanager: May 11 Col Co; May 12 thru L7; cr. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 4 thru; 14 banded, tied record. Indigo Bunting: May 10 thru. Evening Grosbeak: last May 14; 45 banded in April, 9 in May at yard feeder (RPY). Purple Finch: abundant thru; 428 banded in April, 89 in May at feeder. House Finch: thru; 13 banded in April, 7 in May at feeder. Pine Siskin: few at Jenny Lake, no real flight. American Goldfinch: thru; 161 banded in April, 100 in May (RPY). Rufous-sided Towhee: April 19 thru. Sparrows: Savannah: April 18 thru. Grasshopper: 1 May 13 Mariaville; 1 May 17 Col Co. Henslow's: 1 May 20 M'dale. Vesper: April 16 thru. Dark-eyed Junco: thru; 1 banded May 3 VFGM, first spring banding here in 9 years; 61 banded in April at feeder. Tree: 1 April 4-17 Loudonville; thru Col Co. Chipping: April 22 thru. Field: April 22 thru. White-crowned: April 17 thru; 3 banded. White-throated: thru May; 23 banded early May. Fox: at feeders during April. Lincoln's: cr; May 17 Col Co; 9 banded. Swamp: April 19 thru; 12 banded. Song: April 4 thru; 37 banded. Snow Bunting: last 2 April 6 South of Saratoga Springs.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

April was cool and dry, with 2.05 of 2.64 inches of rain falling on the 3rd. Snow was visible in the Catskills longer than usual. People in the Waterman Bird Club thought it was the coldest April in about 40 yrs. Winds were stronger than usual and persisted from the north west. May continued cool until about midmonth when a warming trend arrived. A rainfall of 4.35 inches was made up of several shower periods. Plant life was slightly behind schedule but not exceptionally so. Migrants were late with many unreported. The only marked movement reported was the weekend of May 10-11. There were no waves reported before or after that date.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, Rockland Co.; Jack Orth, Palisades Interstate Park and Wawarsing area of Ulster Co.; William Howe, Westchester Co.; Al Merritt, E. Orange Co.; John Tramontano, W. Orange Co.; Fred Hough, Ulster Co.; Marty Borko, Sullivan Co.; Eleanor Pink and Otis Waterman, Dutchess Co.; Peter Both, Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: well reported thru region from mid-April to mid-May. Max 8 over Bedford, West. Apr. 20. 9 Croton Pt. May 17. 1 pr present Middletown Res. from May 10 thru end of period. Horned Grebe: Max 12 Apr. 24 Basher Kill. Double-crested Cormorant: not usual in spring. 3 Apr. 19 Croton Pt. 1 Apr. 25 Cornwall Bay. Great Blue Heron: Tamarack Swamp heronry active. A new heronry near Thompson Pd. discovered 2 years ago by Thelma Haight had 11 nests this spring. Cattle Egret: more than usual. 3 Apr. 19 Basher Kill; 12 May 3 Glenham. Single birds May 12 Stormville, and May 14 Salt Point. Common Egret: 1 Apr. 17 Croton Pt. 1 May 10, Beaver Dam, Dutch. Snowy Egret: 1 May 11 Wappingers Cr. 1 May 21 Croton Pt. **LOUISIANA HERON:** 1 May 25 Cornwall Bay. Black-crowned Night Heron: a few more than usual. First 1 Apr. 17 Croton Pt. 2 there Apr. 19 and May 3; 1 USMA May 17 and a single bird at Cruger's Is. Apr. 27 and