

REGION 8 – HUDSON–MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

Spring came early to our area this year with March and April having above average temperatures, breaking records with highs of 73° F March 20 and 93° F April 19 with above average rainfall. May was colder than normal with a record low of 30° F on the 13th with -1.63" rainfall departure from normal. The snow and high wind storm of May 19 (a trace to 10" in some areas) seemed to affect some of our spring visitors.

The May banding weekends at Vischer's Ferry Wildlife Management Area by R. P. Yunnick, R. J. Pantle, and J. C. Covert III "were not very exciting. In general, bird numbers were down. Noticeably so were flycatchers, vireos, and some warblers while some sparrows were up in numbers. Cool weather was partly responsible for the poorer netting take." "It was a record year for redpolls and siskins. Peak numbers of redpolls was March 21 thru April 10 and siskins increased thru May with a record of 248 banded in yard during May" (RPY).

The Century Run was held May 15 by 6 groups of the Hudson-Mohawk and 4 groups of the Alan Devoe Bird Clubs. It was a good day and 162 species were reported. An unusual sighting of a Short-billed Marsh Wren at Black Creek Marsh, Meadowdale and some only reported sightings for the period made it an interesting day. They were: Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin (1 group only), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (2 groups), Winter Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

There were many species with only 1 or 2 reports. They were: Little Blue Heron May 17; Cattle Egret Berne May 15; 2 Great Egrets April 29, 30; 3 Bald Eagles near Northville May 1; and 1 Niskayuna Wide Waters May 2; Ring-necked Pheasant; Turkey Montgomery Co. May 11; Virginia Rail; Sora; Com. Gallinule; Greater Yellowlegs; Pectoral and Least Sandpipers; Bonaparte's Gull May 15, 25; Black-billed Cuckoo May 8 and cr (5 groups—appears more common than normal); Whip-poor-will; Olive-sided Flycatcher May 12 only; Boreal Chickadee Galway April 27; 1 Water Pipit May 14; N. Shrike; Cedar Waxwing; White-eyed Vireo May 8, 15; Hooded, Wilson's and Canada Warblers; Rusty Blackbird; Grasshopper, Henslow's, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows; Snow Bunting March 18.

A few interesting reports for the period were: the Great Blue Herons have returned to their nesting site in West Glenville; unusual to have no Com. Tern reports; very few owls reported (no Great Horned); no Carolina Wrens or Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; and an unusual sighting of a PEREGRINE FALCON at Rensselaer April 21.

Abbreviations: CC—Columbia Co.; cr—Century Run; FR—Five Rivers Environmental Education Area; VF—Vischer's Ferry Wildlife Management Area; RPY—R. P. Yunnick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Mariaville L. May 10, 31 and cr. Pied-billed Grebe: March 1 thru May 29. GREAT BLUE HERON: April 4 thru with 22 nests with young in West Glenville. Green Heron: April 9 thru. Am. Bittern: 1 April 25, 2 May 1, 1 May 8 and cr. Canada Goose: March 5 thru May 15, nested April 7 thru 20 FR. Brant: 2 May 17, May 22. Snow Goose: March 27 and cr. Gadwall: 2 pair May 14. Pintail: March 26 thru. Am. Wigeon: March 6 thru 31. Redhead: 2 March 28. Ring-necked Duck: March 2, April 7. Canvasback: March 1 thru April 7. scaup: March 3 thru May 15. Com. Goldeneye: March 4 thru 28. Bufflehead: April 19 thru May 15. Oldsquaw: 5 March 28, 1 May 14. Mergansers: Hooded: March 1 thru May 14; Com. March 9 thru April 8; Red-breasted: March 20 and cr.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: April 6 thru May 29. Goshawk: March 28, 2 nesting thru May Schenectady Co. Forest. Sharp-shinned: April 20 thru May 15; Cooper's:

April 1 thru 24, none cr; Red-tailed: March 6 thru; Red-shouldered: April 6 thru 24; Broad-winged: April 17 thru May 15; Rough-legged: March 6 thru April 20. Osprey: March 7 thru May 15. Ruffed Grouse: March 27 thru May 15. Am. Coot: March 27, 28; April 4; none cr; May 16. Am. Woodcock: April 13 thru May 15. Com. Snipe: March 31 thru. Upland Plover: end of April thru May 22. Spotted Sandpiper: May 1 thru 5. Solitary Sandpiper: April 29 thru May 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Owls: Screech: March 20 thru, a pair returned and nested in Scotia; Barred: May 2, 15, 29. Short-eared: March 26. Com. Nighthawk: May 8 thru. Chimney Swift: March 14 thru. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 14 thru 29. Woodpeckers; Pileated: April 17 thru; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: April 15 thru; Red-headed: May 4 thru, becoming locally common in S. E. Montgomery Co.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: May 7 thru. Flycatchers: Great Crested: May 5 thru; E. Phoebe: April 15 thru; Traill's: May 15 thru 29, first time in 11 years none caught for banding at VF; Least: May 1 thru, 9 banded VF lowest take in 7 years. Swallows: Tree: April 19 thru; Bank: May 5 thru 15; Rough-winged: April 19 thru May 15; Barn: May 3 thru; Cliff: May 5 thru, 4 pairs nesting at Mariaville. Purple Martin: April 7 thru May 15. House Wren: thru. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 1 thru 15. Brown Thrasher: April 17 thru. Wood Thrush: May 7 thru. Hermit Thrush: April 13 thru. Swainson's Thrush: May 7 thru. Veery: May 7 thru 22. E. Bluebird: March 20 thru May 15. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 1 thru 15. Golden-crowned Kinglet: April 2 thru 29. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: April 13 thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: May 2 thru, 2 nesting Schoharie Co. May 29; Solitary: May 1 thru; Red-eyed: May 11 thru; Warbling: April 3 thru. Warblers: Black-and-white: April 25 thru; Worm-eating: May 13, 15; Golden-winged: May 5 thru; Blue-winged: May 6 thru, many Golden-winged and Blue-winged were killed by the 10" snow on May 17 at Mariaville; Tennessee: May 5 thru 15; Nashville: May 3 thru 15; Parula: May 7 thru 15; Yellow: April 28 and many May 3 thru; Magnolia: May 7 thru; Cape May: May 8 thru 23; Black-throated Blue: May 2 thru; Yellow-rumped: April 10 thru; Black-throated Green: May 2 thru; Cerulean: May 11 thru 22; Blackburnian: May 7 thru; **YELLOW-THROATED:** May 15 Ghent CC, verified by E. Reilly Jr.; Chestnut-sided: May 7 thru 22; Bay-breasted: May 5 thru 15; Blackpoll: May 9 thru; Pine: April 29 thru May 15; Prairie: May 1 thru; Palm: April 21 thru May 1; Ovenbird: May 1 thru 22; N. Waterthrush: May 7 thru 15; Louisiana Waterthrush: April 18 thru May 15; Mourning: May 22 thru; Com. Yellowthroat: May 4 thru; Am. Redstart: May 7 thru 22.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 5 thru 22. N. Oriole: April 23 thru. Scarlet Tanager: May 7 thru 22. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 thru, only 5 banded May 7 thru 15 VF, second lowest in 9 years, but were more common than usual at Jenny Lake (RPY). Indigo Bunting: May 3 thru 22, 1 banded May 8 VF. Evening Grosbeak: March thru May 22, 55 banded in April and 186 in May in yard (RPY). **COM. REDPOLL:** March 1 thru April 27. **PINE SISKIN:** March 1 thru, some nesting in area. Am. Goldfinch: March 1 thru, very scarce in yard and banded only 12 vs 346 last year (RPY). Rufous-sided Towhee: April 9 thru 22. Sparrows: Savannah: March 16 intermittent thru CC, April 12 thru May 15 elsewhere; Vesper: April 6 thru; Dark-eyed Junco: thru, less during May, nesting at Jenny Lake as usual; Tree: March 1 thru May 15; Chipping: April 4 thru; Field: April 6 thru; White-crowned: May 1 thru 23; White-throated: March 2 thru, 78 banded VF, a new 10 year record (RPY); Swamp: April 30 thru May 15, 25 banded VF; Song: March 6 thru.

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