

are in good numbers. Eastern Bluebird: several reports with a max of 28 carefully identified in mid-Feb. at Crown Pt (Earl Davis). They take risks with our weather. Blue-gray Gnat-catcher: pair building a nest 8 meters up in vertical fork of tree over flooded land at Ausable River delta May 7 but later abandoned (HK,RP,SS,PW); pair building nest 7 feet up in 10 foot hawthorn near flooded land at Crown Pt on May 13. A third individual was nearby the next day (EM,JP). Water Pipit: 3 Westport May 7 (GC); 18 Keene May 15 (Hi Pk Au). Northern Shrike: several. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Essex Apr. 15 as well as a Northern on same date (EM,JP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Good year for Solitary Vireo. MK had a Philadelphia Vireo near Axton May 20 as well as Warbling Vireo. The former is scarce while the latter is most readily found in the villages. Yellow-rumped, Am. Redstart, and Blackburnian Warblers are common as usual in that order of abundance. Black-and-white, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler are in good but smaller numbers than the preceding. Pine and Bay-breasted were noted more than usual. Prairie Warbler at the usual Crown Pt place in May was the best warbler find. A territorial pair of Louisiana Waterthrush at Ausable Pt on L Cham thru period (SS,mob).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird arrived at Tup L Feb 22 and came in force with 45 Mar. 9 (CD). More Northern Orioles than usual were reported. Rusty Blackbird: max 6 Ferd's Bog (FL,CS *et al.*). Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks in fine numbers. RM had an Evening with solid black on wings in place of the usual white. A March Cardinal Tup L was unusual (CD). House Finch continues to spread. PW had a pair in Platts at his house which is apparently a first Clinton Co. record altho Essex Co. has them. Pine Grosbeak: several reports in March. Pine Siskin: many but local. Red Crossbill: several Mar Ray Brook (GR); 2 Westport Mar. 30 (EM,JP); 3 Saranac L May 21 (MK). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Ray Brook Mar. 10 (GR); 2 Blue Ridge Rd Mar. 15 (JM). Vesper Sparrow: 5 reports PS to L Cham. Chipping Sparrow: Bob Hagar's 3 wintering chaps stayed thru to spring in good health except they disappeared for the Christmas count day.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Spring 1977 was characterized by early foliage and late migrants. It all began with a record warm spell followed by torrential rains in the second week of March. While April was more nearly normal, May was all mixed up. A heavy, wet snow smothered the Region on the morning of May 10. Up to 18 inches covered elevated areas such as Berne and Warrensburg; most localities had between 8 and 12 inches. The storm was particularly troublesome to the aerial insectivores but the treetop-foragers appeared to be undaunted.

Birding in the area was spiked a bit by a wager among a small group of birders for top lister. From one to five points were awarded to species according to their relative rarity. The indefatigable Ken Able took the pool with a tally of 193 species for the Region between Jan. 1 and May 31. Next year, 200 anyone?

A few trends are apparent from the reports submitted. Among these are: a general increase in the number and variety of waterfowl; a continued upswing in most raptor reports, especially species with recent problems, such as Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk and Osprey; a

troublesome dip in the insectivores, with a virtual disappearance of Carolina Wren; and finally, an interesting increase in some intriguing fringillids. Unusual sightings include: Jeff Davis' Snowy Egret; Peter Feinberg's European Wigeon; Tom Palmer's Golden Eagle; Ken Able's Lesser Black-backed Gull; Beverly Waite's White-eyed Vireo; and Chris Ketcham's "Lawrence's Warbler."

Contributors to and observers cited in this report include: Ken Able, Vern Bingman, Ann & Tom Brown, Jim Bush, Paul Conner, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugh Gardina, R. P. Guthrie, Chris Ketcham, Bill Lee, Sam Madison, E. Mansell, Bob Marx, M. Mickle, Tom Palmer, Walt Sabin, M. Smilow, Beverly Waite, Robert Yunick, Doug Allen, Hollis Ingraham, and Barry Noon.

Abbreviations used herein are: CC—Columbia County; CR—Century Run, May 14 (may be followed by the number of groups reporting a species); Cox—Coxsackie; HR—Hudson River; NB—New Baltimore; VF—Vischer Ferry; Vos—Vosburg's Marsh.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: seemed scarcer than usual. Red-throated Loon: 1 Stony Cr. Res. Apr. 29 (KA,VB); 1 SL May 4 (RPG). Red-necked Grebe: more reports than usual, Mar. 27 thru May 19. Horned Grebe: 3 Alcove Res. Apr. 2 thru CR (1 gr). Double-crested Cormorant: 20 May 1 HR at Cox; 4 CR (1 gr). Cattle Egret: 1 May 27 Brunswick. **SNOWY EGRET:** 1 Hoosic R. at Buskirk (JD). Least Bittern: CR (1 gr) Castleton Marsh; Meadowdale May 22 (KA). **WHISTLING SWAN:** 1 SL Mar 20 (B. Noon). Brant: 14 flocks reported, mostly flying over at night by KA. Snow Goose: only 1 report Ohm's Pond Apr. 17 (JC). **GADWALL:** 2 Vos May 1 (RPG); CR (1 gr). **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** 1 male Vos May 1 (PF) and May 14 (KA). Wood Duck: thru; max 23 Castleton Mar. 20 (PC). Canvasback: thru Apr. 29; max 250 Castleton Mar. 27 (PC). White-winged Scoter: 5 (SL) May 7 (KA,VB). Mergansers: all three well reported, especially Hooded at Castleton Marsh by PC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a few thru. Goshawk: three nests reported, 1 Rensselaer Co. (a first), 2 Albany Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 reports thru May 8. Cooper's Hawk: 8 reports thru May 18. Red-shouldered Hawk: 7 reports thru CR (2 gr). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 E. Greenbush Mar. 27 (PC). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 imm Leonard Hill, Schoharie Co. May 13 (D. Allen, TP). Bald Eagle: 1 imm Catskill Apr. 27 (JB). Osprey: 10 reports incl some multiple sightings (PF reports at least 12 in the air at one time at Vos Apr. 30). Semipalmated Plover: 2 (CR) Niskayuna. Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 3 (*very early*) Castleton (JC). Solitary Sandpiper: (early) Apr. 18 Ghent (BHG). Glaucous Gull: 1 Colonie Mar. 15 (KA). Iceland Gull: 5 reports thru Apr. 13 (KA). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 3rd-yr bird Colonie Apr. 13 (KA). Common Tern: 1 (SL) May 14.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 3 reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: only 2 reports. **BARN OWL:** returned to nest site in Cox silo. Barred Owl: only report 1 CR (1 gr). Short-eared Owl: Cox thru mid-Mar. and Apr. 17 Niska Isle (KA). Common Night-hawk: late returning this year and scarce at that. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 reports mid-May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only 3 reports, maybe they were just overlooked.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 Hunter Mt. May 30 (singing) (RPG). Cliff Swallow: numerous early May, scarce later. May have suffered from May snow. **FISH CROW:** 3 Niskayuna Apr. 20 (KA). Red-breasted Nuthatch: gen scarce yet reported by 5 groups on CR. Carolina Wren: only reports 1 singing NB mid-Mar. (not heard since), and 1 Hudson vic. May 14 (A&TB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Meadowdale May 22 (KA). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only 2 reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: numerous reports; Apr. 16 Vos (RPG) thru. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: seemed normal until CR—then only 1 group reported 1 indiv. **NORTHERN SHRIKE:** 1 Mar. 17 (RPG) & 1 Mar. 27 Rensselaer (VB). **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** 1 Altamont singing May 6 intermittently thru period (BW,WBS,KA). Yellow-throated Vireo: seems more plentiful; CR (6 gr). Red-eyed Vireo: very much reduced in numbers; CR (only 3 gr). Worm-eating Warbler: 1 Indian Ladder May (KA), 6 Slinger-

lands May 20 (HI). "LAWRENCE'S WARBLER": 1 Greenville May 14 (CK). Northern Parula: scarce; only 3 reports. Cerulean Warbler: 1 singing Palmer's Ravine May 27 (TP). Pine Warbler: only 1 report—1 Vos Apr. 16 (RPG). Prairie Warbler: appears to be increasing outside of the Albany Pine Bush. Northern Waterthrush: CR (1 gr); 10 banded VF (RPY). Mourning Warbler: 1 banded May 21 VF (RPY).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 1 Meadowdale May 21 (VB). Evening Grosbeak: CR (2 gr). House Finch: continued increase; CR (6 gr). Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Five Rivers May 8; 5 singing Altamont May 22 (KA). Vesper Sparrow: thru Apr. (JC); CR (1 gr). White-crowned Sparrow: mild invasion; CR (6 gr). Fox Sparrow: another invader; unusually high number. Lincoln's Sparrow: 9 banded VF (7 on May 21) (RPY).

Post Office Box 46, New Baltimore, New York 12124

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The warming trend in February continued into March, and about all of the lakes and Hudson River were well free of ice by the start of the season. The warmer than usual weather in March and April had the foliage well out by the third week in April. The last week of that month saw shrubs such as azalea and lilac in blossom a good three weeks early. The Mohonk Weather Station reported winter snows a good three feet (91.5 cm) above average and what with a 2.3 inch (5.5 cm) rainfall March 22 that amounted to as much as 13-16 inches (33-40.6 cm) of snow in the mountains, the drought of April and May was barely felt. The mean temperature for May was some 4.3° F (2.4° C) above the 80 year average.

In spite of the relatively good weather, the migration ranks with the poorest on record. Breeding birds seemed to arrive on time, but the transients thru the area were late and in very small numbers. Many active birders reported missing some species entirely, and seeing only one or two representatives of others. This was especially true of warblers. Most active birders could not recall any waves, and the only thing that resembled one took place in Dutchess Co. on Apr. 27, 28, 29. Shorebirds were poor, with the max number and species occurring on May 14. Sparrows were normal to better, but thrushes were way down. May 31 seemed to be a good day for the herons when four species were observed in the Cornwall Bay area.

Data from the Hook Mt. Hawk Watch is included with this report. The mountain was covered for 3 days in March, 20 in April and 2 in May; a total of 25 days. Total number of hours reported was 140.5. Total Hawks—1595. Best days were Apr. 16—192, Apr. 17—70, Apr. 18—101, Apr. 28—340, Apr. 29—180, and Apr. 30—253. Numbers fell to 5 on May 1, and 11 on May 2. 50% of the total observed came thru on the last 3 days of April. Winds on the six best days were northwest to north except Apr. 28, the best day, when they began south and went to northwest by 1 p.m.

Contributors and observers cited: Gene Brown, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Bill Howe, Ken McDermott, Helen Manson, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Robert Smart, Robert Speiser, Selden Spencer, Tom Storey, William & Trixie Strauss, Czecher Terhune, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; HMMW—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point; WC—Waterman Bird Club Census, Dutchess Co. May 14; first four or five letters of each county.