

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

PETER FEINBERG

A weather observation network organized for this region in May of 1978 by the American Meteorological Society reports March as the coldest in its six year reporting history. An average minimum temperature of 20.9° F and an average maximum temperature of 37.3° F were recorded. We had two major snowstorms. Thirteen inches of snow were dumped on the region on 13 March making it the second heaviest snowstorm ever recorded for March. The record is still held by the blizzard of '88.

April and May, though milder, continued to deliver bad weather conditions, with 15 and 13 days of rain respectively. April had 11 clear days and four cloudy days. May had ten clear days and eight cloudy days. This continuous bad weather is not conducive to migration. It has set up what some have called the theme of the spring season, a late migration. Migrating orioles, grosbeaks and warblers were still seen feeding in cornfields until 17 May.

The bad weather had limited influence on the Century Run of the Alan Devoe Bird Club (ADBC) held on 12 May and the Guy Bartlett Century Run (GBCR) held on 19 May. Hardy birders gave good showings on both days. Despite the rain, the ADBC compiled an impressive 128 species with such highlights as a Brant on Nassau Lake, a Snowy Egret on Lake Taghkanic, and a Lapland Longspur in Ghent.

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Clubs GBCR had one of the few nice days in May. A total species count for the day was 168 with a phenomenal, record-breaking 150 species by one party. Highlights were Bald Eagle, King Rail, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, and "Brewster's" Warbler.

The eagle sighting is the first for a CR in 20 years. With the greater than usual winter and spring reports for this region and the initiation of the Bald Eagle hacking project at the Alcove Reservoir, the restoration of this national bird to its former abundance in the Hudson and Mohawk watersheds looks promising.

For the spring period, the region reported a total of 215 species and two hybrids. Among these were two real showstoppers. In this last year of New York's Bird Atlasing Project, we were rewarded with two new confirmed breeding species - the Yellow-throated Warbler and the Clay-colored Sparrow. A nesting pair of Yellow-throated Warblers was found in Catskill. A male Clay-colored Sparrow set up house with a female Chipping Sparrow near Harlemville in Columbia County. The nestling *Spizella passerina x pallida* is the second of our two hybrids.

Contributors: Kenneth P. Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, J. D. Cherry, William Cleveland, Bill Cook, Jack & Juanita Cook, Mike Crevier, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Richard P. Guthrie, Edgar M. Reilly, Scott Terrill, and Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: GBDC-Guy Bartlett Century Run.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one L. Taghkanic 6 May; five groups GBCR. Pied-billed Grebe: one Embough Bay 26 March; one Vosburghs Marsh 14 April. Horned Grebe: three Tomhannock Res 8 April; one Saratoga L 17 May. Red-necked Grebe: one Hudson R Albany 4 March, retrieved dead from ice; two Tomhannock Res 8 April; two Saratoga L 15 April. Double-crested Cormorant: 15 Embough Bay 15 April; Hudson R 20, 26 April; Hudson R 11, 12 May; two groups GBCR. Am. Bittern: one Tomhannock R 9 April; one Catskill 7 May; one Kinderhook 7 May; five groups GBCR. Least Bittern: one group GBCR. Great Egret: one Melrose 11 April. Snowy Egret: one Stockport 12 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Vischer's Ferry May; one Vosburghs M 19 May; one Rotterdam GBCR; one Old Chatham 27 May. **TUNDRA SWAN:** one Claverack 6-11 April (BC), adult feeding in cornfield. Snow Goose: migration reports 2 April thru 15 April with max 3,000 Hudson R, Washington Co. 10 April; late date Hillsdale 21 May. Brant: Nassau L 12 May; 200+ Berne 22 May. Green-winged Teal: four Embough B 26 March; one Hudson 2 April; two Vosburghs M 15 April; one group GBCR. N. Pintail: four Embough B. 26 March; one Five Rivers 13, 14 April; one group GBCR. Blue-winged Teal: four Embough B. 26 March two Vosburghs M 15 April; three groups GBCR. N. Shoveler: four Embough B. 26 March; one Hudson 20 thru 26 April. Gadwall: four Vosburghs M. 15 April. Am. Wigeon: eight Embough B. 26 March; Queechy L. 2, 13 April; eight Vosburghs M. 15 April; three Embough B. GBCR. Canvasback: Castleton 4 March; 500 Catskill 24 March; and six Embough 15 April. Redhead: Castleton 24 March; Hudson 12 April; and Cent. Col. Co. 20 April. Ring-necked Duck: 12 Tomhannock R 8 April; six Vosburghs M. 15 April; two Olana 22 April; two Embough GBCR. Greater Scaup: ten Embough 15 April. Lesser Scaup: three groups GBCR. White-winged Scoter: two Athens 15 April; one Cheriote 27 April; one Basic Creek Res 16 May. Com. Goldeneye: three groups GBCR. Hooded Merganser: one n.e. Rensselaer Co. GBCR. Com. Merganser: one Embough B GBCR Red-breasted Mergansers: six Tomhannock R 8 April; Embough B. 16 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: five groups GBCR; and max 10 Central Bridge May. Bald Eagle: eight reports for Region 4 March thru GBCR, that's a lot of eagles! N. Harrier: one group GBCR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one group GBCR. Cooper's Hawk: three groups GBCR. N. Goshawk: one group GBCR. Red-shouldered Hawk: one group GBCR, only report received for period. Broad-winged Hawk: five groups GBCR. Rough-legged Hawk: Rotterdam March. Merlin: Olana 7 May (JP). Ring-necked Pheasant: four groups GBCR. Wild Turkey: Central Bridge thru; one group GBCR. N. Bobwhite: Black Cr. M. GBCR, only report for period. **YELLOW RAIL:** one flushed Beebe Rd. Knox 15 May (KPA). **KING RAIL:** one Black Cr. M. GBCR (KPA, SBT, JDC and RPG). Am. Coot: one Castleton 24 March; Merwins P. 4 April; Ooms Pond 18 April. **SANDHILL CRANE:** Colonie 1 March; New Scotland 2-4 March. Greater Yellowlegs: Clermont 4 May; Stockport 12 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: Clermont 4 May. Solitary Sandpiper: three groups GBCR. Upland Sandpiper: three Coxsackie 23 April; two Altamont 7 May; Montgomery Co. 19 May; zero reports for GBCR. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Clermont 4 May; Ancram 5 May; one group GBCR. Least Sandpiper: two groups GBCR, only reports received. Pectoral Sandpiper: one group GBCR; only report received. Com. Snipe: four groups GBCR; Black Cr. M. 20 May thru. Am. Woodcock: five groups GBCR. Bonaparte's Gull: one group GBCR, only report received. Iceland Gull: Cohoes 9 April. Glaucous Gull: Cohoes 6 April. Black Tern: Great Vly 16 May; two Saratoga L 17 May; one Saratoga L GBCR.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: two groups GBCR. Short-eared Owl: one Old Chatham 14 March. Com. Nighthawk: numerous Albany 16 May thru; only one group GBCR. Whip-poor-will: two groups GBCR; Berne 21 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: three groups GBCR. Belted Kingfisher: five groups GBCR. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Cheriote 27 April; one Spencertown 30, 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports; three groups GBCR. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: four groups GBCR. Pileated Woodpecker: four groups GBCR.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: one Columbiaville 7 May; one Clermont 22 May; one Schenectady Co. 18 May; no reports for GBCR. Alder Flycatcher: one group GBCR; Berne 23 May. Willow Flycatcher: five groups GBCR. Horned Lark: N. Chatham 14 March; two Sch. Co. Airport 14 March; Knox 6, 15 May; and two groups GBCR. Purple Martin: Stockport Station 14 May; four groups GBCR. Cliff Swallow: four groups GBCR. Fish Crow: numerous reports; two Washington Park Albany March thru, probably breeding; one group GBCR. Com. Raven: two Elk L 24 March (RPY); one Central Pk. Sch. 1 April (MC). Carolina Wren: two Catskill 16 May; one Embough GBCR. Winter Wren: three groups GBCR. Marsh Wren: six groups GBCR. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two groups GBCR. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two groups GBCR. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: seven groups GBCR. E. Bluebird: numerous reports; seven groups GBCR. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ghent 3 May. Swainson's Thrush: four groups GBCR. **VARIED THRUSH**: one N. Chatham 14 March (EG & KD). Water Pipit: 25 Berne 6, 15 May; 40 Coxsackie 16 May; one group GBCR. Cedar Waxwing: three groups GBCR.

VIREOS-WARBLER: White-eyed Vireo: one N. Baltimore May. Golden-winged Warbler: five groups GBCR. "Brewster's" Warbler: Linlithgo 11 May; two groups GBCR. Tennessee Warbler: three groups GBCR. N. Parula: one group GBCR. Magnolia Warbler: two groups GBCR. Cape May Warbler: four groups GBCR. Blackburnian Warbler: six groups GBCR. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: two Catskill May thru, nesting (RPG). Pine Warbler: two Vosburghs M. 15 April; 2 Philmont 16 May. Palm Warbler: one Ancram 5 May; two Five Rivers 21 April. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Castleton 12 May; one Kinderhook 17 May; three Clermont 22 May. Blackpoll Warbler: Berne 22 May; three Ancram 23 May; three Poolsburg 24 May; five banded at Vischer's Ferry 25, 26 May; first banded at VF in May in 12 years (RPY). Cerulean Warbler: one group GBCR; only report received for this period. Worm-eating Warbler: two Gallatin 15 May; three groups GBCR. **MOURNING WARBLER**: three banded at Vischer's Ferry 26 May, only five other individuals of this species banded in May at VF in the last 15 years. **HOODED WARBLER**: one Berne 15-19 May (AH, KPA, SBT). **WILSON'S WARBLER**: two groups GBCR. Yellow-breasted Chat: three groups GBCR.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER: one Vosburghs M. 16 May (SBT, RPG, JDC and KPA). Indigo Bunting: three groups GBCR. Am. Tree Sparrow: Embough B. 26 March; Jenny L 7 April; Schdy. 18 April. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one Harlemville 23 May thru, confirmed nesting with a female Chipping Sparrow. Vesper Sparrow: four Berne-Knox 29 April thru 19 May; Clermont 4 May; two groups GBCR. Grasshopper Sparrow: six Philmont 16 May; three groups GBCR. Henslow's Sparrow: two Knox 6 May; one Knox 15 May; one Knox GBCR; two Rotterdam 19 May. Fox Sparrow: two Leeds late March; Eagle Mills 27 March; Niskayuna 1 April; and Vosburghs M. 15 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: nine banded at Vischer's Ferry 12 May; two banded at VF 18 May; two banded at VF 19 May (RPY). White-crowned Sparrow: five groups GBCR; two banded at VF 12 May. Lapland Longspur: one reported from Ghent 12 May. Snow Bunting: large flocks reported thru 24 March. Rusty Blackbird: Old Chatham 17 March; Olana 26 April. Orchard Oriole: one Central Bridge 14 May; one Embough 16 May; one Stuyvesant 21 May. Pine Grosbeak: Clear Pond 24 March. **RED CROSSBILL**: Clear Pond 24 March. Pine Siskin: many Altamont, Berne thru 23 May; two Jenny L 13 May; one Jenny L 30 May; two groups GBCR. Evening Grosbeak: numerous reports thru 18 May, flock of 12 Sch. Co.

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306 Hudson Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.