

EDITORIAL: REGIONAL BOUNDARIES AND MIGRATION DATES

Several additional changes to the Regional reports start in this volume of *The Kingbird*. When I began instituting changes last year, I knew that revising the format of Regional reports would be an evolutionary process. Several readers have suggested that my effort to enhance the narrative part of the Regional reports has had the unfortunate side effect of making some records (especially of rarities) more difficult to find. I agree and have instructed the Regional Editors not to include such records in the introduction to their reports unless there is an obvious event, such as a tropical storm, that ties them together. I remain committed to a strong narrative component to the Regional reports and applaud the Regional Editors' efforts to follow my guidelines.

Several contributors from Regions which presently lack editors have submitted reports directly to me. I commend their efforts to contribute to *The Kingbird*. I will be pleased to forward such reports when a Regional Editor is available. However, I otherwise can not use such submissions in fear of inadvertently committing myself or my successors ultimately to write all of the Regional Reports. Observers are encouraged to prepare Field Notes about observations of exceptional interest, even when they also report to a Regional Editor, to fully document such records. I will be pleased to keep a list of Federation members who are interested in becoming Regional Editors. Please write, even if your Region presently has an editor, to assist me and my successors in finding a replacement should that become necessary. The Regional reports are a valuable contribution to the ornithology of New York. Their value is diminished when some Regions are absent.

Two new matters surface with this volume: Regional boundaries and a new policy for reporting arrival and departure dates.

Regional boundaries.

The current Regional boundaries were described most recently in volume 4 of *The Kingbird*, 32 years ago! Since then uncertainties about some of the boundaries have caused inconsistent assignment of reports to Regional reports. With this in mind, the Executive Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs appointed a committee chaired by Dr. Gordon Meade to review the Regional boundaries. The committee's report was accepted at the September 1986 meeting of the Executive Committee and is instituted in this issue. Only two boundaries are modified. The stated boundary between Regions 3 and 5 in Cayuga County is the Seneca River but, by informal agreement between the Regional Editors, the actual boundary has been NY Route 31. This

difference is too small to show on the Regional map which appears in *The Kingbird*, but two localities that appear in Region 5 reports – the “Seneca River flats” and Fox Ridge – are south of the Seneca River. They now officially are transferred to Region 5. Similarly, because several observers were unclear as to the boundary between Regions 9 and 10 in Westchester County, an informal agreement between Regional Editors directed all Westchester County reports to Region 9, which is inconsistent with the map of Regional boundaries. Several localities in southern Westchester Co. regularly appeared in Region 9 reports as a result of this agreement, which also becomes official now. *The Kingbird* reporting Regions and their boundaries are:

Region 1 – Niagara Frontier: all of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties and the western halves of Ontario, Genesee and Wyoming Counties west of NY Route 98 (from Pt. Breeze to Batavia), Route 63 (from Batavia to Pavilion) and NY Route 19 (from Pavilion to the Allegany County line).

Region 2 – Genesee: all of Livingston, Monroe and Wayne Counties; the eastern halves of Ontario, Genesee and Wyoming Counties east of NY Route 98 (from Pt. Breeze to Batavia), Route 63 (from Batavia to Pavilion) and NY Route 19 (from Pavilion to the Allegany County line); and the portion of Ontario County west of Mud Creek and NY Routes 64 (from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs) and 21 (from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line).

Region 3 – Finger Lakes: all of Yates, Steuben, Seneca, Schuyler, Chemung, and Tompkins Counties; Ontario County east of Mud Creek and NY Routes 64 and 21; and that part of Cayuga County south of NY Route 31.

Region 4 – Susquehanna: all of Cortland, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, Otsego and Delaware Counties.

Region 5 – Oneida Basin: all of Oswego, Onondaga, Oneida, Madison and Herkimer Counties and Cayuga County north of NY Route 31.

Region 6 – St. Lawrence: all of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties.

Region 7 – Adirondacks: all of Franklin, Hamilton, Clinton and Essex Counties.

Region 8 – Hudson-Mohawk: all of Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Washington, Rensselaer and Columbia Counties.

Region 9 – Hudson-Delaware: all of Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

Region 10 – Marine: all of Richmond, Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Kings, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Arrival and departure dates

Arrival and departure dates of migratory birds frequently appear in Regional reports. I have been asked whether these data have any value at all. I do not know. While reviewing them as a prelude to this editorial, I have become convinced that the haphazard way in which these dates generally have been reported diminishes the possibility that any use for them can be found. Some of the problems with these data will be made clearer below. With this issue *The Kingbird* begins a more systematic approach to reporting these data. After consultation with the Regional Editors I have compiled lists of common birds that occur throughout New York and for which we ask Federation members to report local arrival and departure dates to their Regional Editor on a regular basis. These data will be compiled by each Regional Editor and combined into a summary table by myself so that they can be compared more readily both on a Regional basis and also to their long-term averages. These dates will not be repeated in the Regional reports unless they set or tie Regional records.

I have compiled the dates published in *The Kingbird* for the 26-year period beginning with 1961. Table 1 lists the species for which departure dates are solicited and gives the average departure date of each species by Region along with the number of years in which that date was reported. A blank entry means that no dates have been reported for the species in that region. Table 2 lists these species in chronological order of their weighted average departure date. Table 3 lists the species for which arrival dates are solicited and gives their average arrival date of each species by Region along with the number of years in which that date was reported. Table 4 lists these species in chronological order of their weighted average arrival date. In Tables 1 and 3, the **weighted average** date is the average of the Regional dates weighted for the number of years in which the species was reported. The **unweighted average** is the simple average of the Regional averages.

The lists of species differs from fall and spring. The list of species for which fall departure dates are sought contains both water and land birds and avoids species which frequently linger into the early winter period. Departure dates of these species span the period from late August to early December. The list of species for which departure dates are sought is shorter than the list of species for which arrival dates are sought because most observers find it easier to recognize the presence of a new species than to note the disappearance of a species that has been present earlier. Arrival dates are subdivided into a short list of water birds and a longer list of land birds, again avoiding species that regularly overwinter in much or all of New York. Species were selected to span the period from late February to late May. A few species on this list – rails – are included as challenges to observers while others –

Table 1. Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Osprey	27 Oct [10]	30 Oct [2]	22 Oct [10]	22 Oct [24]	30 Oct [17]
Broad-winged Hawk	2 Oct [8]	16 Aug [1]	20 Sep [6]	30 Sep [16]	19 Sep [12]
Black-bellied Plover	30 Oct [6]	12 Nov [3]	23 Oct [10]	2 Oct [3]	10 Nov [25]
Semipalmated Plover	29 Oct [3]	19 Oct [3]	13 Oct [11]	31 Aug [6]	24 Oct [24]
Greater Yellowlegs	19 Nov [3]	12 Nov [7]	11 Nov [11]	22 Oct [17]	12 Nov [24]
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 Nov [4]	5 Nov [5]	6 Nov [8]	4 Oct [11]	31 Oct [25]
Spotted Sandpiper	1 Oct [2]	18 Oct [8]	8 Oct [10]	28 Sep [14]	11 Oct [23]
Sanderling	4 Nov [4]	1 Nov [4]	5 Oct [4]		15 Nov [24]
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7 Oct [2]	20 Oct [1]	9 Oct [5]	9 Sep [8]	24 Oct [25]
Least Sandpiper	8 Oct [3]	17 Oct [3]	15 Oct [7]	12 Sep [12]	11 Oct [23]
Pectoral Sandpiper	25 Oct [3]	9 Oct [1]	7 Nov [9]	30 Sep [10]	29 Oct [24]
Caspian Tern	20 Sep [11]	18 Oct [7]	12 Sep [11]		8 Oct [19]
Common Tern	14 Nov [4]	6 Nov [10]	28 Sep [6]	10 Sep [2]	18 Oct [22]
Black Tern	29 Sep [4]	14 Sep [5]	3 Sep [3]	26 Aug [2]	17 Sep [17]
Chimney Swift	6 Oct [5]	8 Oct [5]	1 Oct [5]	16 Sep [19]	26 Sep [20]
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	26 Sep [4]	3 Oct [4]	4 Oct [14]	29 Sep [22]	26 Sep [19]
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 Oct [4]	8 Oct [5]	9 Oct [6]	29 Sep [19]	6 Oct [20]
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	22 Sep [8]	14 Sep [6]	24 Sep [7]	19 Sep [18]	23 Sep [22]
Least Flycatcher	24 Sep [4]	15 Sep [2]		22 Sep [14]	24 Sep [11]
Eastern Phoebe	5 Nov [3]	28 Oct [7]	19 Oct [4]	18 Oct [20]	24 Oct [21]
Great-crested Flycatcher	24 Sep [7]	21 Sep [3]	23 Sep [3]	16 Sep [19]	20 Sep [14]
Eastern Kingbird	22 Sep [9]	28 Sep [4]	22 Sep [4]	18 Sep [21]	18 Sep [19]
Tree Swallow	26 Oct [4]	4 Nov [9]	24 Oct [7]	27 Sep [20]	23 Oct [21]
Barn Swallow	28 Sep [5]	28 Oct [5]	10 Oct [11]	14 Sep [25]	2 Oct [23]
House Wren	15 Oct [3]	12 Oct [5]	12 Oct [8]	6 Oct [18]	16 Oct [17]
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16 Sep [10]	10 Oct [5]	5 Sep [2]	21 Sep [6]	17 Sep [11]
Veery	23 Sep [3]	1 Oct [3]	3 Oct [3]	21 Sep [22]	29 Sep [15]
Swainson's Thrush	17 Oct [8]	20 Oct [6]	26 Oct [9]	11 Oct [23]	13 Oct [19]
Wood Thrush	20 Oct [2]	16 Oct [7]	21 Oct [7]	9 Oct [21]	8 Oct [14]
Gray Catbird	26 Oct [3]	10 Nov [4]	1 Nov [6]	19 Oct [24]	25 Oct [20]
Brown Thrasher	10 Oct [2]	20 Oct [2]	8 Oct [6]	18 Oct [22]	21 Oct [15]
Solitary Vireo	24 Oct [7]	8 Oct [5]	12 Oct [10]	10 Oct [20]	20 Oct [21]
Yellow-throated Vireo	15 Sep [8]	27 Sep [4]	20 Sep [4]	18 Sep [22]	25 Sep [18]
Warbling Vireo	24 Sep [5]	27 Sep [2]	23 Sep [9]	15 Sep [23]	28 Sep [16]
Red-eyed Vireo	9 Oct [5]	9 Oct [6]	10 Oct [7]	7 Oct [23]	13 Oct [20]

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
14 Oct [14]	12 Oct [18]	22 Oct [12]	26 Oct [4]	10 Nov [2]	22 Oct	25 Oct
14 Sep [4]	24 Sep [10]	7 Oct [13]	20 Oct [1]		27 Sep	23 Sep
25 Oct [21]	7 Oct [9]	22 Oct [8]	29 Oct [9]		27 Oct	25 Oct
11 Oct [17]	4 Oct [8]	1 Oct [9]	23 Sep [5]	17 Nov [2]	11 Oct	11 Oct
21 Oct [18]	27 Oct [5]	2 Nov [16]	8 Nov [5]	27 Nov [1]	3 Nov	7 Nov
4 Oct [16]	11 Oct [4]	18 Oct [14]	30 Oct [4]		21 Oct	23 Oct
22 Sep [13]	17 Sep [6]	1 Oct [13]	8 Nov [2]	24 Nov [1]	5 Oct	11 Oct
28 Oct [19]	18 Sep [4]	30 Sep [5]	26 Sep [3]		28 Oct	16 Oct
12 Oct [14]	6 Oct [4]	12 Oct [13]	3 Oct [5]	12 Oct [1]	11 Oct	8 Oct
20 Sep [13]	3 Oct [3]	7 Oct [10]	5 Oct [2]		2 Oct	4 Oct
17 Oct [15]	2 Oct [7]	25 Oct [14]	29 Oct [13]	13 Nov [2]	23 Oct	22 Oct
24 Sep [17]	19 Sep [1]		19 Sep [4]	12 Oct [15]	30 Sep	28 Sep
21 Sep [12]	3 Oct [2]	9 Sep [2]	17 Sep [4]	19 Nov [8]	15 Oct	9 Oct
31 Aug [5]		11 Sep [2]	3 Sep [3]	2 Sep [1]	12 Sep	8 Sep
2 Sep [6]	30 Aug [6]	24 Sep [17]	13 Oct [9]	30 Sep [1]	23 Sep	24 Sep
22 Sep [15]	21 Sep [15]	30 Sep [16]	29 Sep [9]	30 Oct [5]	29 Sep	1 Oct
17 Sep [7]	10 Sep [9]	22 Sep [15]	14 Oct [5]	26 Oct [2]	30 Sep	3 Oct
	16 Sep [4]	21 Sep [14]	23 Sep [8]	24 Sep [8]	21 Sep	21 Sep
12 Sep [1]	1 Sep [8]	13 Sep [10]	9 Oct [1]	1 Oct [9]	19 Sep	20 Sep
9 Oct [15]	13 Oct [13]	29 Oct [16]	8 Nov [8]	23 Oct [4]	22 Oct	24 Oct
14 Sep [4]	14 Sep [7]	15 Sep [13]	20 Sep [4]	2 Nov [3]	19 Sep	23 Sep
9 Sep [6]	7 Sep [10]	24 Sep [14]	17 Sep [4]	8 Oct [1]	18 Sep	20 Sep
15 Oct [12]	29 Sep [7]	3 Oct [16]	3 Nov [2]		13 Oct	17 Oct
20 Sep [6]	14 Sep [9]	20 Sep [13]	8 Oct [7]	13 Nov [4]	28 Sep	4 Oct
24 Sep [12]	6 Sep [2]	10 Oct [14]	2 Nov [5]	7 Nov [5]	11 Oct	11 Oct
30 Aug [3]	7 Sep [2]	19 Sep [5]	24 Sep [4]	13 Oct [9]	22 Sep	19 Sep
	18 Sep [9]	26 Sep [12]	30 Sep [4]	1 Oct [5]	25 Sep	27 Sep
6 Oct [7]	3 Oct [11]	10 Oct [17]	20 Oct [11]	21 Oct [6]	14 Oct	15 Oct
12 Oct [5]	29 Sep [6]	14 Oct [15]	18 Oct [12]	28 Oct [3]	13 Oct	15 Oct
15 Oct [8]	6 Oct [9]	27 Oct [13]	12 Nov [7]	30 Oct [4]	24 Oct	26 Oct
23 Oct [4]	2 Oct [9]	10 Oct [12]	20 Nov [1]	21 Oct [3]	15 Oct	18 Oct
3 Oct [10]	8 Oct [12]	8 Oct [13]	21 Oct [11]	7 Nov [3]	14 Oct	15 Oct
8 Sep [1]	25 Sep [5]	21 Sep [13]	28 Sep [7]	3 Oct [9]	23 Sep	22 Sep
20 Sep [6]		17 Sep [13]	2 Oct [5]	1 Oct [8]	22 Sep	24 Sep
29 Sep [8]	29 Sep [10]	7 Oct [17]	14 Oct [8]	26 Oct [6]	9 Oct	9 Oct

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Blue-winged Warbler	14 Sep [8]	9 Sep [4]	4 Sep [5]	8 Sep [18]	9 Sep [11]
Tennessee Warbler	19 Oct [6]	22 Oct [7]	10 Oct [5]	7 Oct [20]	9 Oct [21]
Nashville Warbler	24 Oct [6]	23 Oct [7]	16 Oct [8]	10 Oct [24]	16 Oct [21]
Northern Parula	7 Oct [11]	17 Oct [6]	7 Oct [5]	24 Sep [17]	7 Oct [21]
Yellow Warbler	28 Sep [6]	27 Sep [5]	19 Sep [7]	18 Sep [19]	24 Sep [19]
Chestnut-sided Warbler	24 Sep [1]	11 Oct [5]	3 Oct [5]	22 Sep [21]	2 Oct [20]
Magnolia Warbler	14 Oct [3]	17 Oct [6]	15 Oct [6]	7 Oct [25]	11 Oct [23]
Cape May Warbler	16 Oct [4]	14 Oct [3]	2 Oct [7]	29 Sep [19]	3 Oct [21]
Black-thr Blue Warbler	18 Oct [3]	12 Oct [6]	9 Oct [9]	29 Sep [24]	11 Oct [23]
Black-thr Green Warbler	12 Oct [5]	9 Oct [5]	12 Oct [9]	8 Oct [23]	13 Oct [24]
Blackburnian Warbler	21 Oct [2]	3 Oct [5]	5 Oct [5]	25 Sep [22]	1 Oct [21]
Bay-breasted Warbler	21 Oct [4]	7 Oct [4]	10 Oct [5]	25 Sep [20]	1 Oct [23]
Blackpoll Warbler	16 Oct [5]	10 Oct [4]	12 Oct [4]	5 Oct [22]	6 Oct [20]
Black-and-white Warbler	15 Oct [5]	30 Sep [3]	5 Oct [4]	27 Sep [17]	1 Oct [18]
American Redstart	15 Oct [3]	18 Oct [7]	27 Sep [6]	27 Sep [22]	5 Oct [20]
Ovenbird	16 Oct [3]	16 Oct [5]	30 Sep [7]	5 Oct [22]	5 Oct [22]
N. Waterthrush	27 Sep [7]	5 Sep [3]	15 Sep [5]	17 Sep [18]	25 Sep [18]
Common Yellowthroat	30 Sep [2]	25 Oct [4]	18 Oct [6]	17 Oct [22]	27 Oct [20]
Wilson's Warbler	28 Sep [3]	8 Oct [1]	3 Oct [4]	28 Sep [23]	3 Oct [21]
Canada Warbler	1 Oct [1]	25 Sep [2]	19 Sep [5]	20 Sep [21]	18 Sep [20]
Scarlet Tanager	29 Sep [2]	7 Oct [5]	16 Oct [6]	2 Oct [22]	7 Oct [19]
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14 Oct [5]	27 Oct [5]	7 Oct [5]	1 Oct [22]	7 Oct [18]
Rufous-sided Towhee	23 Oct [1]	6 Nov [3]	29 Oct [5]	22 Oct [19]	26 Oct [13]
Lincoln's Sparrow	11 Oct [9]	25 Oct [6]	13 Oct [9]	13 Oct [25]	17 Oct [20]
White-crowned Sparrow	9 Oct [2]	20 Oct [1]	9 Nov [5]	3 Nov [24]	6 Nov [15]
Bobolink	26 Sep [2]	5 Oct [1]	20 Sep [4]	8 Sep [15]	28 Sep [16]
Northern Oriole	27 Sep [2]	6 Oct [2]	27 Sep [5]	14 Sep [21]	15 Sep [20]

Average Fall Departure Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
		9 Sep [4]	21 Sep [3]	25 Sep [3]	10 Sep	12 Sep
26 Sep [6]	30 Sep [7]	29 Sep [15]	17 Oct [7]	31 Oct [11]	10 Oct	11 Oct
3 Oct [11]	2 Oct [15]	2 Oct [15]	21 Oct [5]	9 Nov [5]	12 Oct	16 Oct
6 Oct [2]	26 Sep [6]	28 Sep [14]	20 Oct [2]	7 Nov [6]	5 Oct	9 Oct
31 Aug [4]	6 Sep [3]	22 Sep [13]	21 Sep [3]	9 Oct [9]	22 Sep	20 Sep
28 Sep [6]	13 Sep [6]	26 Sep [13]	6 Oct [2]	16 Oct [4]	28 Sep	30 Sep
24 Sep [10]	21 Sep [12]	9 Oct [17]	23 Oct [5]	23 Oct [7]	8 Oct	10 Oct
21 Sep [2]	26 Sep [6]	27 Sep [11]	14 Oct [3]	29 Oct [6]	4 Oct	6 Oct
5 Oct [5]	27 Sep [10]	29 Sep [14]	17 Oct [2]	1 Nov [7]	7 Oct	10 Oct
27 Sep [13]	6 Oct [12]	7 Oct [17]	22 Oct [4]	31 Oct [4]	9 Oct	12 Oct
23 Sep [4]	18 Sep [7]	26 Sep [15]	11 Oct [4]	28 Oct [3]	29 Sep	4 Oct
1 Oct [6]	22 Sep [6]	23 Sep [13]	10 Oct [1]	16 Oct [2]	30 Sep	4 Oct
3 Oct [3]		10 Oct [15]	2 Nov [5]	4 Nov [8]	12 Oct	14 Oct
25 Sep [5]	18 Sep [11]	23 Sep [13]	24 Oct [5]	4 Nov [8]	2 Oct	5 Oct
20 Sep [5]	20 Sep [13]	25 Sep [13]	1 Nov [6]	31 Oct [9]	4 Oct	7 Oct
14 Sep [6]	15 Sep [9]	26 Sep [15]	29 Sep [2]	13 Oct [6]	1 Oct	2 Oct
12 Sep [3]		19 Sep [12]	5 Oct [1]	13 Oct [5]	21 Sep	22 Sep
10 Oct [7]	10 Oct [7]	23 Oct [16]	18 Nov [5]	2 Nov [6]	22 Oct	21 Oct
24 Sep [3]	17 Sep [9]	28 Sep [17]	12 Oct [4]	7 Nov [3]	30 Sep	4 Oct
15 Sep [7]	8 Sep [6]	22 Sep [14]	9 Oct [3]	27 Sep [6]	20 Sep	22 Sep
26 Sep [8]	26 Sep [12]	2 Oct [14]	19 Oct [5]	28 Oct [6]	5 Oct	7 Oct
29 Sep [8]	22 Sep [14]	3 Oct [17]	27 Oct [6]	2 Nov [4]	6 Oct	11 Oct
13 Oct [8]	13 Oct [5]	20 Oct [12]		27 Oct [4]	22 Oct	23 Oct
28 Sep [2]	2 Oct [3]	14 Oct [15]	20 Oct [13]	4 Nov [7]	16 Oct	15 Oct
24 Oct [16]	1 Nov [12]	31 Oct [13]	7 Nov [5]	29 Oct [2]	1 Nov	29 Oct
10 Sep [4]	2 Sep [2]	15 Sep [13]	9 Oct [5]	1 Nov [3]	21 Sep	24 Sep
4 Sep [4]	30 Aug [4]	16 Sep [14]	8 Oct [2]	7 Oct [3]	16 Sep	21 Sep

**Table 2. Species for which departure dates are tabulated
listed by weighted average departure date.**

Species	Average Date	Species	Average Date
Blue-winged Warbler	10 Sep	Scarlet Tanager	5 Oct
Black Tern	12 Sep	Northern Parula	5 Oct
Northern Oriole	16 Sep	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6 Oct
Eastern Kingbird	18 Sep	Black-thr Blue Warbler	7 Oct
Great-crested Flycatcher	19 Sep	Magnolia Warbler	8 Oct
Least Flycatcher	19 Sep	Red-eyed Vireo	9 Oct
Canada Warbler	20 Sep	Black-thr Green Warbler	9 Oct
Bobolink	21 Sep	Tennessee Warbler	10 Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	21 Sep	House Wren	11 Oct
N. Waterthrush	21 Sep	Semipalmated Plover	11 Oct
Warbling Vireo	22 Sep	Semipalmated Sandpiper	11 Oct
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 Sep	Blackpoll Warbler	12 Oct
Yellow Warbler	22 Sep	Nashville Warbler	12 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	23 Sep	Wood Thrush	13 Oct
Chimney Swift	23 Sep	Tree Swallow	13 Oct
Veery	25 Sep	Swainson's Thrush	14 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk	27 Sep	Solitary Vireo	14 Oct
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Sep	Common Tern	15 Oct
Barn Swallow	28 Sep	Brown Thrasher	15 Oct
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	29 Sep	Lincoln's Sparrow	16 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	29 Sep	Lesser Yellowlegs	21 Oct
Eastern Wood-Pewee	30 Sep	Eastern Phoebe	22 Oct
Caspian Tern	30 Sep	Osprey	22 Oct
Bay-breasted Warbler	30 Sep	Common Yellowthroat	22 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	30 Sep	Rufous-sided Towhee	22 Oct
Ovenbird	1 Oct	Pectoral Sandpiper	23 Oct
Least Sandpiper	2 Oct	Gray Catbird	24 Oct
Black-and-white Warbler	2 Oct	Black-bellied Plover	27 Oct
Cape May Warbler	4 Oct	Sanderling	28 Oct
American Redstart	4 Oct	White-crowned Sparrow	1 Nov
Spotted Sandpiper	5 Oct	Greater Yellowlegs	3 Nov

Willow and Alder Flycatcher – are common species whose recent taxonomic history has muddled our knowledge of their migration periods or which – Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Blue-winged Warbler – are undergoing range expansion in New York with possible systematic changes in their status as migrants.

Willow and Alder Flycatchers have been distinguished regularly only since 1977; I have assumed that all Region 9 (and 10) arrival dates for Traill's Flycatcher prior to 1977 refer to Willow Flycatchers. Readers also should note a systematic bias in the averages that results from the date arithmetic which I used to calculate averages across years. To compute averages I converted the dates into calendar dates such that 1 Jan equals 1, 2 Jan equals 2, 3 Jan equals 3 and so on. In leap years, all calendar dates after February come one day later in the year than the same calendar date does in a normal year. I did not correct for this difference and instead computed the average dates as if all dates were in the same year.

In the course of compiling these data I discovered many inconsistencies in reporting them, even from the same Regional Editor. Dates frequently were reported with no explicit indication of their significance. I have had to assume that many were arrival or departure dates. Some species – Gray Catbird and Northern Oriole, for example – mostly vanish relatively early in the fall, but a small residue regularly appear, often at feeders, when severe weather sets in at the end of the fall. Almost no reports come between these times. Individuals which successfully overwinter may be found away from feeders during early spring warm spells, well ahead of the bulk of arrivals. Editors sometimes noted these cases explicitly but usually reported these stragglers as exceptional arrival or departure dates without giving any indication of the corresponding "typical" date, or only a qualitative measure of it. I used these dates, even if they seemed exceptional, whenever they were specifically tagged as an arrival or departure date and ignored them when they were not so identified. A few species which seldom if ever overwinter in New York, such as Chimney Swift and Indigo Bunting, seem to arrive very early in some springs and very late in others, but seldom on intermediate dates. I used all arrival dates for these species.

Dates sometimes were described qualitatively ("two weeks late") and sometimes explicitly. Only explicit dates could be used. Some Regional Editors primarily reported anomalous dates. A compilation of dates from their reports gives a biased view of migration periods. When less than 15 dates are reported, the average in Tables 1 and 3 are likely to be biased by such anomalous dates. Similarly, dates for species thought to be rare in a Region are more likely to appear than are dates for common species. Hence, Olive-sided Flycatcher is better reported than is Eastern Wood-Pewee. Data for our common birds is just as, or more, valuable.

Table 3. Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Waterbirds											
Species	Region 1			Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5	
American Bittern	6 Apr	[7]		3 Apr	[3]		14 Apr	[6]		20 Apr	[15]
Green-backed Heron	17 Apr	[3]		20 Apr	[3]		17 Apr	[8]		23 Apr	[22]
Wood Duck	15 Mar	[6]		13 Mar	[4]		8 Mar	[3]		17 Mar	[23]
Green-winged Teal	10 Mar	[8]		4 Mar	[6]		20 Mar	[8]		23 Mar	[23]
Northern Pintail	5 Mar	[3]		22 Feb	[3]		10 Mar	[6]		16 Mar	[21]
Blue-winged Teal	17 Mar	[7]		12 Mar	[8]		21 Mar	[7]		24 Mar	[23]
Osprey	25 Mar	[4]		27 Mar	[3]		7 Apr	[9]		31 Mar	[23]
Virginia Rail	22 Apr	[10]		3 Apr	[5]		24 Apr	[8]		26 Apr	[6]
Sora	19 Apr	[10]		12 Apr	[3]		26 Apr	[9]		3 May	[3]
Common Moorhen	22 Apr	[8]		10 Apr	[1]		22 Apr	[10]		4 May	[8]
Black-bellied Plover	8 May	[11]		30 Apr	[6]		9 May	[10]		17 May	[7]
Semipalmated Plover	18 May	[4]		4 May	[2]		10 May	[8]		17 May	[9]
Killdeer	26 Feb	[10]		28 Feb	[9]		1 Mar	[13]		2 Mar	[21]
Greater Yellowlegs	24 Mar	[8]		24 Mar	[4]		6 Apr	[11]		20 Apr	[21]
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 Apr	[5]		1 Apr	[3]		19 Apr	[9]		27 Apr	[18]
Solitary Sandpiper	14 Apr	[7]		25 Apr	[2]		28 Apr	[6]		30 Apr	[22]
Spotted Sandpiper	18 Apr	[5]		22 Apr	[4]		16 Apr	[6]		21 Apr	[23]
Sanderling				24 May	[2]					30 May	[1]
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10 May	[4]		5 May	[3]		16 May	[4]		18 May	[8]
Least Sandpiper	4 May	[6]		20 Apr	[3]		5 May	[5]		13 May	[19]
Pectoral Sandpiper	27 Mar	[10]		28 Mar	[5]		14 Apr	[8]		7 May	[5]
Common Snipe	17 Mar	[5]		12 Mar	[5]		15 Mar	[7]		28 Mar	[19]
American Woodcock	8 Mar	[10]		9 Mar	[10]		9 Mar	[18]		11 Mar	[22]
Caspian Tern	17 Apr	[11]		12 Apr	[4]		27 Apr	[13]		7 May	[2]
Common Tern	11 Apr	[6]		21 Apr	[3]		21 Apr	[5]		1 May	[14]
Black Tern	3 May	[8]		1 May	[4]		28 Apr	[13]		9 May	[12]
Marsh Wren	9 May	[10]		18 Apr	[2]		5 May	[7]		11 May	[5]
										7 May	[16]
Landbirds											
Species	Region 1			Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5	
Black-billed Cuckoo	10 May	[5]		13 May	[3]		14 May	[8]		14 May	[22]
Common Nighthawk	14 May	[7]		12 May	[3]		12 May	[12]		13 May	[23]
Chimney Swift	21 Apr	[10]		25 Apr	[3]		24 Apr	[6]		26 Apr	[24]
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	4 May	[7]		7 May	[2]		9 May	[9]		8 May	[23]
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Apr	[5]		13 Apr	[2]		8 Apr	[3]		3 Apr	[24]
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May	[11]		18 May	[13]		17 May	[18]		23 May	[17]
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 May	[5]		10 May	[5]		9 May	[8]		10 May	[24]
Alder Flycatcher	15 May	[3]		15 May	[3]		17 May	[6]		17 May	[7]
Willow Flycatcher	16 May	[4]		11 May	[4]		16 May	[5]		18 May	[11]
Least Flycatcher	30 Apr	[6]		2 May	[3]		1 May	[4]		2 May	[23]
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar	[11]		22 Mar	[8]		15 Mar	[10]		24 Mar	[24]
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	2 May	[6]		28 Apr	[4]		5 May	[4]		6 May	[24]
Eastern Kingbird	24 Apr	[9]		26 Apr	[5]		1 May	[8]		27 Apr	[24]
Purple Martin	2 Apr	[6]		29 Mar	[4]		4 Apr	[6]		9 Apr	[20]
Tree Swallow	24 Mar	[14]		17 Mar	[13]		24 Mar	[14]		25 Mar	[24]
N. Rough-winged Swallow	12 Apr	[6]		11 Apr	[3]		22 Apr	[4]		23 Apr	[22]
Bank Swallow	21 Apr	[3]		8 Apr	[4]		22 Apr	[4]		24 Apr	[18]
Cliff Swallow	23 Apr	[4]		2 Apr	[4]		16 Apr	[4]		26 Apr	[20]
Barn Swallow	15 Apr	[2]		5 Apr	[4]		14 Apr	[4]		13 Apr	[25]

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Waterbirds						Weighted	Unweighted
Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		Average	Average
19 Apr [9]	26 Apr [12]	20 Apr [15]	10 Apr [4]	3 May [1]		18 Apr	17 Apr
4 May [5]	9 May [11]	16 Apr [17]	13 Apr [6]	20 Mar [1]		22 Apr	19 Apr
28 Mar [9]	6 Apr [12]	14 Mar [16]	12 Mar [6]			19 Mar	17 Mar
28 Mar [10]	19 Apr [12]	15 Mar [16]	16 Mar [8]			22 Mar	21 Mar
22 Mar [18]	6 Apr [10]	11 Mar [17]	14 Mar [7]			15 Mar	12 Mar
30 Mar [3]	29 Apr [3]	21 Mar [16]	20 Mar [10]			22 Mar	25 Mar
16 Apr [13]	20 Apr [16]	9 Apr [17]	3 Apr [10]	15 Mar [2]		7 Apr	4 Apr
28 Apr [5]	7 May [4]	19 Apr [15]	24 Mar [3]			20 Apr	19 Apr
6 May [3]	9 May [3]	1 May [12]		4 May [2]		26 Apr	28 Apr
26 Apr [11]	11 May [5]	23 Apr [14]	19 Apr [6]			24 Apr	23 Apr
23 May [9]	21 May [5]	15 May [7]	15 May [9]			14 May	14 May
19 May [6]	18 May [8]	15 May [12]	16 May [14]	18 Mar [2]		14 May	9 May
15 Mar [14]	25 Mar [13]	5 Mar [14]	3 Mar [4]			6 Mar	6 Mar
15 Apr [11]	2 May [6]	16 Apr [16]	7 Apr [5]			11 Apr	9 Apr
24 Apr [9]	16 May [2]	3 May [19]	26 Mar [2]	25 Mar [1]		21 Apr	16 Apr
6 May [5]	8 May [7]	30 Apr [20]	20 Apr [5]			27 Apr	27 Apr
1 May [10]	2 May [14]	24 Apr [19]	23 Apr [5]			24 Apr	23 Apr
17 May [5]			14 May [1]			21 May	21 May
23 May [7]	23 May [5]	15 May [16]	20 May [2]			17 May	16 May
15 May [9]	20 May [7]	12 May [17]	7 May [2]			10 May	7 May
25 Apr [5]	5 May [2]	29 Apr [13]	21 Apr [13]	13 Mar [2]		15 Apr	15 Apr
6 Apr [13]	19 Apr [13]	28 Mar [13]	14 Mar [9]			28 Mar	25 Mar
23 Mar [13]	28 Mar [11]	14 Mar [18]	10 Mar [5]			14 Mar	14 Mar
26 Apr [5]	12 May [2]	21 May [2]	5 May [2]	24 Apr [5]		25 Apr	29 Apr
4 May [10]	4 May [7]	3 May [14]	2 May [7]	21 Apr [4]		28 Apr	26 Apr
5 May [11]	13 May [10]	9 May [13]	8 May [15]	11 May [4]		6 May	6 May
9 May [7]	9 May [2]	4 May [13]	29 Apr [1]			6 May	4 May
Landbirds						Weighted	Unweighted
Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		Average	Average
20 May [11]	29 May [1]	9 May [16]	7 May [1]			13 May	14 May
20 May [15]	15 May [7]	8 May [15]	10 May [9]	24 Apr [2]		13 May	11 May
2 May [14]	6 May [10]	25 Apr [18]	19 Apr [12]	6 Apr [2]		26 Apr	24 Apr
15 May [11]	13 May [12]	6 May [14]	26 Apr [13]	24 Apr [4]		7 May	6 May
15 Apr [12]	15 Apr [11]	8 Apr [16]	29 Mar [4]			7 Apr	7 Apr
21 May [8]	21 May [11]	16 May [15]	14 May [17]	9 May [9]		17 May	17 May
17 May [11]	19 May [8]	10 May [16]	3 May [9]			11 May	11 May
24 May [5]		26 May [1]	24 May [5]			18 May	19 May
23 May [3]		9 May [3]	19 May [12]	22 May [1]		16 May	16 May
10 May [14]	9 May [9]	1 May [15]	27 Apr [7]	27 Apr [1]		3 May	2 May
3 Apr [12]	5 Apr [12]	24 Mar [15]	18 Mar [10]	20 Mar [4]		24 Mar	24 Mar
9 May [13]	12 May [8]	29 Apr [17]	1 May [10]	13 Apr [2]		4 May	2 May
6 May [12]	10 May [10]	1 May [16]	26 Apr [11]	18 Apr [5]		30 Apr	29 Apr
25 Apr [14]	29 Apr [5]	18 Apr [14]	7 Apr [7]	2 Apr [8]		12 Apr	10 Apr
2 Apr [21]	8 Apr [17]	31 Mar [18]	20 Mar [14]	24 Mar [1]		27 Mar	26 Mar
30 Apr [11]	7 May [8]	22 Apr [16]	11 Apr [10]	12 Apr [3]		21 Apr	19 Apr
29 Apr [9]	2 May [8]	23 Apr [14]	18 Apr [6]			22 Apr	21 Apr
29 Apr [11]	4 May [10]	26 Apr [13]	16 Apr [7]	21 Apr [4]		23 Apr	21 Apr
22 Apr [13]	25 Apr [11]	17 Apr [20]	13 Apr [8]	8 Apr [2]		15 Apr	14 Apr

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
House Wren	19 Apr [6]	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [2]	23 Apr [24]	24 Apr [13]
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9 Apr [2]	2 Apr [2]		12 Apr [23]	11 Apr [14]
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	18 Apr [8]	14 Apr [6]	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [25]	22 Apr [16]
Eastern Bluebird	3 Mar [17]	19 Mar [4]	19 Mar [1]	12 Mar [20]	18 Mar [14]
Veery	3 May [3]	6 May [1]	30 Apr [6]	4 May [21]	2 May [15]
Swainson's Thrush	3 May [5]	2 May [5]	5 May [4]	12 May [23]	7 May [21]
Hermit Thrush	31 Mar [4]	29 Mar [2]	6 Apr [5]	14 Apr [23]	13 Apr [17]
Wood Thrush	27 Apr [6]	28 Apr [4]	24 Apr [4]	29 Apr [22]	30 Apr [16]
Gray Catbird	24 Apr [7]		3 May [1]	30 Apr [21]	26 Apr [15]
Brown Thrasher	13 Apr [4]	10 Apr [1]	27 Apr [2]	17 Apr [23]	20 Apr [13]
Solitary Vireo	19 Apr [6]	26 Apr [5]	22 Apr [5]	25 Apr [25]	26 Apr [19]
Yellow-throated Vireo	7 May [6]	7 May [4]	8 May [3]	4 May [24]	4 May [15]
Warbling Vireo	1 May [4]	30 Apr [2]	4 May [3]	2 May [24]	1 May [14]
Red-eyed Vireo	9 May [5]	4 May [4]	12 May [2]	6 May [23]	6 May [15]
Tennessee Warbler	6 May [3]	4 May [2]	10 May [4]	11 May [25]	8 May [19]
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr [7]	23 Apr [2]	3 May [4]	30 Apr [25]	30 Apr [20]
Northern Parula	11 May [6]	30 Apr [4]	9 May [6]	9 May [21]	5 May [19]
Yellow Warbler	25 Apr [7]	24 Apr [4]	26 Apr [4]	28 Apr [22]	27 Apr [20]
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4 May [7]	4 May [2]	7 May [4]	4 May [22]	6 May [18]
Magnolia Warbler	3 May [7]	2 May [2]	1 May [4]	6 May [25]	4 May [19]
Cape May Warbler	5 May [6]	29 Apr [4]	7 May [5]	9 May [24]	6 May [20]
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	6 May [4]	2 May [2]	4 May [3]	5 May [23]	3 May [19]
Black-thr Green Warbler	23 Apr [8]	25 Apr [3]	22 Apr [5]	1 May [24]	30 Apr [21]
Blackburnian Warbler	28 Apr [6]	5 May [2]	7 May [3]	5 May [25]	5 May [19]
Pine Warbler	17 Apr [16]	20 Apr [11]	11 Apr [6]	25 Apr [7]	18 Apr [17]
Palm Warbler	23 Apr [7]	25 Apr [2]	25 Apr [4]	25 Apr [20]	27 Apr [21]
Bay-breasted Warbler	10 May [3]	7 May [3]	15 May [3]	10 May [25]	9 May [18]
Blackpoll Warbler	12 May [6]	10 May [4]	15 May [6]	14 May [25]	15 May [20]
Black-and-White Warbler	25 Apr [6]	22 Apr [3]	22 Apr [5]	28 Apr [21]	29 Apr [20]
American Redstart	3 May [6]	5 May [2]	4 May [4]	5 May [23]	3 May [18]
Ovenbird	30 Apr [8]	2 May [2]	1 May [6]	2 May [23]	4 May [19]
Northern Waterthrush	26 Apr [7]	22 Apr [4]	30 Apr [5]	1 May [24]	28 Apr [20]
Mourning Warbler	10 May [7]	16 May [4]	14 May [3]	15 May [25]	16 May [18]
Common Yellowthroat	4 May [5]	1 May [1]	6 May [4]	2 May [23]	3 May [18]
Wilson's Warbler	10 May [7]	10 May [4]	15 May [3]	12 May [25]	12 May [19]
Canada Warbler	8 May [7]	10 May [3]	9 May [3]	9 May [24]	10 May [18]
Scarlet Tanager	8 May [1]	3 May [2]	10 May [3]	7 May [25]	7 May [16]
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5 May [4]	3 May [1]	9 May [1]	30 Apr [25]	3 May [21]
Indigo Bunting	9 May [1]	2 May [3]	3 May [5]	8 May [25]	8 May [18]
Rufous-sided Towhee	8 Apr [1]	1 Apr [2]		13 Apr [22]	10 Apr [13]
Chipping Sparrow	2 Apr [4]	15 Mar [1]	3 Mar [1]	8 Apr [24]	14 Apr [12]
Vesper Sparrow	27 Mar [7]	27 Mar [2]	29 Mar [7]	5 Apr [23]	5 Apr [14]
Savannah Sparrow	22 Mar [6]	29 Mar [5]	28 Mar [3]	3 Apr [24]	5 Apr [14]
Lincoln's Sparrow	4 May [8]	3 May [2]	4 May [14]	11 May [22]	6 May [16]
White-crowned Sparrow	23 Apr [2]	26 Apr [2]	26 Apr [4]	23 Apr [24]	25 Apr [20]
Bobolink	29 Apr [10]	30 Apr [4]	3 May [5]	5 May [24]	2 May [18]
Northern Oriole	28 Apr [6]	26 Apr [3]	20 Apr [2]	1 May [23]	1 May [14]

Average Spring Arrival Dates 1961-1986

Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Weighted Average	Unweighted Average
3 May [11]	4 May [4]	25 Apr [14]	22 Apr [9]	17 Apr [3]	25 Apr	24 Apr
19 Apr [10]	18 Apr [13]	14 Apr [17]	10 Apr [2]		14 Apr	12 Apr
2 May [6]	3 May [4]	26 Apr [14]	12 Apr [7]	9 Apr [5]	22 Apr	21 Apr
29 Mar [16]	11 Apr [10]	13 Mar [11]			18 Mar	19 Mar
11 May [12]	8 May [8]	3 May [17]	25 Apr [5]		4 May	4 May
16 May [3]	13 May [6]	9 May [16]	2 May [6]	25 Apr [3]	8 May	6 May
19 Apr [11]	20 Apr [7]	14 Apr [16]	31 Mar [2]		13 Apr	9 Apr
6 May [11]	7 May [10]	27 Apr [18]	23 Apr [10]	20 Apr [2]	29 Apr	28 Apr
7 May [11]	7 May [10]	29 Apr [14]	29 Apr [3]		30 Apr	30 Apr
27 Apr [14]	25 Apr [12]	18 Apr [15]	12 Apr [9]		19 Apr	19 Apr
2 May [12]	3 May [18]	29 Apr [18]	19 Apr [8]	21 Apr [1]	27 Apr	25 Apr
7 May [4]	9 May [6]	5 May [15]	3 May [2]	22 Apr [8]	4 May	4 May
7 May [15]	11 May [8]	2 May [16]	2 May [5]	26 Apr [2]	3 May	2 May
15 May [12]	12 May [12]	4 May [16]	7 May [4]	15 Apr [1]	8 May	6 May
16 May [14]	16 May [11]	13 May [17]	6 May [5]	25 Apr [2]	11 May	8 May
6 May [14]	6 May [13]	3 May [18]	1 May [6]		2 May	1 May
12 May [2]	12 May [15]	7 May [15]	27 Apr [4]		8 May	7 May
7 May [15]	9 May [13]	27 Apr [18]	26 Apr [2]	18 Apr [1]	30 Apr	28 Apr
11 May [9]	9 May [15]	5 May [15]	1 May [3]	16 Apr [1]	6 May	3 May
10 May [6]	11 May [15]	6 May [16]	3 May [3]	30 Apr [1]	6 May	5 May
9 May [12]	12 May [8]	6 May [14]	7 May [4]	26 Apr [4]	7 May	6 May
9 May [10]	7 May [14]	4 May [17]	2 May [4]	17 Apr [1]	5 May	3 May
7 May [11]	5 May [13]	1 May [17]	29 Apr [4]	14 Apr [1]	1 May	28 Apr
10 May [6]	8 May [15]	5 May [18]	3 May [6]	24 Apr [1]	5 May	4 May
21 Apr [7]	30 Apr [4]	23 Apr [10]	11 Apr [11]	10 Mar [2]	18 Apr	15 Apr
30 Apr [8]	2 May [10]	21 Apr [19]	19 Apr [1]		25 Apr	25 Apr
15 May [13]	16 May [11]	11 May [17]	6 May [4]	25 Apr [3]	11 May	9 May
20 May [13]	18 May [9]	14 May [16]	3 May [5]	25 Apr [1]	14 May	12 May
1 May [15]	5 May [15]	28 Apr [16]	16 Apr [6]	10 Apr [2]	28 Apr	24 Apr
10 May [12]	11 May [15]	5 May [15]	24 Apr [2]		6 May	4 May
9 May [13]	8 May [15]	4 May [16]	28 Apr [3]	24 Apr [1]	4 May	2 May
8 May [8]	6 May [13]	2 May [17]	20 Apr [5]	17 Apr [2]	30 Apr	28 Apr
21 May [9]	23 May [9]	17 May [10]	17 May [17]	20 May [1]	17 May	17 May
10 May [9]	10 May [12]	2 May [17]	26 Apr [1]	15 Apr [1]	4 May	2 May
18 May [8]	17 May [11]	10 May [17]	2 May [2]	3 May [2]	12 May	11 May
17 May [7]	16 May [15]	9 May [15]	6 May [3]	30 Apr [3]	10 May	9 May
12 May [13]	9 May [11]	6 May [13]	6 May [4]	1 May [3]	7 May	7 May
10 May [14]	7 May [10]	3 May [15]	26 Apr [3]	23 Apr [2]	3 May	3 May
17 May [11]	11 May [8]	4 May [18]	2 May [13]	18 Apr [6]	6 May	5 May
24 Apr [13]	27 Apr [11]	17 Apr [17]	13 Apr [4]		16 Apr	14 Apr
23 Apr [11]	14 Apr [12]	10 Apr [15]	7 Apr [8]		11 Apr	4 Apr
14 Apr [14]	13 Apr [13]	8 Apr [17]	5 Apr [3]		6 Apr	4 Apr
16 Apr [11]	11 Apr [12]	5 Apr [17]	31 Mar [4]		5 Apr	3 Apr
7 May [1]	12 May [12]	1 May [12]	9 May [17]	2 May [2]	7 May	6 May
3 May [25]	28 Apr [16]	20 Apr [16]	23 Apr [11]	20 Apr [2]	26 Apr	25 Apr
8 May [10]	11 May [13]	5 May [16]	2 May [10]		5 May	4 May
7 May [15]	9 May [16]	27 Apr [17]	22 Apr [7]	24 Apr [1]	1 May	28 Apr

**Table 4. Species for which arrival dates are tabulated
listed by weighted average arrival date.**

Species	Average Date	Species	Average Date
Killdeer	6 Mar	Northern Waterthrush	30 Apr
American Woodcock	14 Mar	Gray Catbird	30 Apr
Northern Pintail	15 Mar	Black-thr Green Warbler	1 May
Eastern Bluebird	18 Mar	Northern Oriole	1 May
Wood Duck	19 Mar	Nashville Warbler	2 May
Green-winged Teal	22 Mar	Least Flycatcher	3 May
Blue-winged Teal	22 Mar	Warbling Vireo	3 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3 May
Tree Swallow	27 Mar	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	4 May
Common Snipe	28 Mar	Yellow-throated Vireo	4 May
Savannah Sparrow	5 Apr	Ovenbird	4 May
Vesper Sparrow	6 Apr	Veery	4 May
Osprey	7 Apr	Common Yellowthroat	4 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7 Apr	Bobolink	5 May
Greater Yellowlegs	11 Apr	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5 May
Chipping Sparrow	11 Apr	Blackburnian Warbler	5 May
Purple Martin	12 Apr	Chestnut-sided Warbler	6 May
Hermit Thrush	13 Apr	American Redstart	6 May
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14 Apr	Black Tern	6 May
Barn Swallow	15 Apr	Magnolia Warbler	6 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	15 Apr	Marsh Wren	6 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	16 Apr	Indigo Bunting	6 May
Pine Warbler	18 Apr	Lincoln's Sparrow	7 May
American Bittern	18 Apr	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	7 May
Brown Thrasher	19 Apr	Cape May Warbler	7 May
Virginia Rail	20 Apr	Scarlet Tanager	7 May
N. Rough-winged Swallow	21 Apr	Red-eyed Vireo	8 May
Lesser Yellowlegs	21 Apr	Northern Parula	8 May
Bank Swallow	22 Apr	Swainson's Thrush	8 May
Green-backed Heron	22 Apr	Least Sandpiper	10 May
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 Apr	Canada Warbler	10 May
Cliff Swallow	23 Apr	Bay-breasted Warbler	11 May
Common Moorhen	24 Apr	Eastern Wood-Pewee	11 May
Spotted Sandpiper	24 Apr	Tennessee Warbler	11 May
House Wren	25 Apr	Wilson's Warbler	12 May
Caspian Tern	25 Apr	Common Nighthawk	13 May
Palm Warbler	25 Apr	Black-billed Cuckoo	13 May
Chimney Swift	26 Apr	Semipalmated Plover	14 May
White-crowned Sparrow	26 Apr	Black-bellied Plover	14 May
Sora	26 Apr	Blackpoll Warbler	14 May
Solitary Vireo	27 Apr	Willow Flycatcher	16 May
Solitary Sandpiper	27 Apr	Mourning Warbler	17 May
Black-and-White Warbler	28 Apr	Semipalmated Sandpiper	17 May
Common Tern	28 Apr	Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May
Wood Thrush	29 Apr	Alder Flycatcher	18 May
Yellow Warbler	30 Apr	Sanderling	21 May
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr		

A problem that usually was not obvious is a bias towards weekend dates. Such a bias is obvious from the data when most dates come in pairs separated by five day intervals. It has been most severe in Region 6, where there are the fewest observers, and became less obvious there as the number of observers increased. There seem to have been enough contributors who report daily observations elsewhere that a bias towards weekend dates was not obvious.

These comments are intended to emphasize the deficiencies of haphazard reporting and are not meant as criticisms of the Regional Editors, who often chose to describe other aspects of the season in their reports and did so ably. The Regional reports which have the latter emphasis will change little with the new format adopted with this issue. Other Regional reports will be shortened by the placement of these data in the summary table for each migration period.

The summary table for this season's migration appears in the Seasonal Highlights. It is more complete than usual because it was prepared with the Regional Editors' advance knowledge of the species to be tabulated, but without their advance knowledge of the summary data in this editorial and without advance announcement to contributors. Each Regional Editor now has a copy of the dates which I have compiled for their Region. This editorial provides the list of species to contributors. I hope that the summary tables will become increasingly complete as more observers have the list of species at hand. Accompanying this summary table is a related table that gives the average Regional **seasonality** and **advance** of these dates. The **seasonality** is the average difference in days, species by species, between the long-term average date for that Region and the dates reported in the current season; it measures how early or late, on the average, the season is without respect to other Regions. The **advance** is the average difference in days, species by species, between the date for a given Region and the average date across all Regions for that season; it compares the Regions to each other. For both measures, a negative value means "early."

Finally, it seems likely that these data could become contaminated by erroneous records if gathering them is viewed as a contest rather than as an inquiry. I have taken two steps to minimize this possibility. First, the data will be reported anonymously. Second, the Regional Editors are instructed to request details for dates that are two or three weeks or more beyond the average dates reported in Tables 1 and 2, and to exclude any dates which in their judgment are not representative of the actual migration period. They may at their discretion report such dates in their reports, and an indication that such dates exist will appear in the summary table.

If these data are so questionable, why pursue them? No one will know if arrival or departure dates are useful until a substantial set of consistently gathered dates are compiled. They are data that amateurs can obtain with little change to their usual birding habits. There are many questions that can be posed from these data: Is New York State large enough that the direction of migratory movements can be inferred from arrival and departure dates, or do most species arrive or depart everywhere simultaneously? Do any species appear to arrive from the west (the Ohio valley) rather than the south? Do arrival and departure dates correlate with indices of population size? To what extent are these dates determined by local weather conditions versus day length or other seasonal cues, and does this vary species by species? Do any of the above factors differ when early and late migrants are compared? Are there regular patterns of arrivals and departures within a Region and, if so, with what factors might they be correlated?

This venture is a project of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs which, like the Breeding Bird Atlas, will take time to complete. To be successful it will require the participation of as many observers as possible. Because common birds are involved, even backyard observers can contribute. Indeed, such observations may prove more valuable than those of birders free to observe on weekends only. It requires little change to the birding you do now. The only important thing that you, the observer, must do is to continue to **observe**, to **write down** what you see (keeping regular notes of what you see each day is especially important for determining departure dates) and to **send your observations** to your Regional Editor. Use the Tables 1 and 3 to remember the species on which we are concentrating and Tables 2 and 4 as references as to when to expect arrivals and departures. Don't forget to include the few dates which may fall just outside the standard *Kingbird* reporting periods. Above all, don't restrict your reports to these species and these data. Maxima, spring departures and fall arrivals, reports of the other 200+ species of New York birds and your assessment of local population trends are welcomed by every Regional Editor. Your Regional report cannot properly reflect the events of the season unless you tell your Regional Editor what you observed.

The Editor