

Rochester (fide RO) and another was recorded May 20 at Athol Springs, Erie Co., N.Y. (TB). **Yellow-headed Blackbird** occurrences have been increasing in the most recent few years; this year 1 was studied at a feeder at Hamburg, Erie Co., N.Y. May 27 (RA, et al.). A count of 200 Baltimore Orioles at Braddock Bay May 15 indicated a peak migration period (TT). The only Summer Tanager of the season was one at Erie, Pa. May 11-14 (RB, et al.).

**FRINGILLIDS**—The peak of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak migration in the Rochester area occurred on May 12 when 30 were observed (JM). There were a few Evening Grosbeaks present during April; a bird count conducted Apr. 4 covering the westernmost counties of the Region found 184 (B.O.S.); most had left by the end of the month but there were still 2 at Ithaca at the end of May (fide DM). House Finches were still at several locations in Elmira (WH), 2 ♂♂ were at Ithaca throughout the period, and 2 ♂♂ and a ♀ fed at an Etna, Tompkins Co., N.Y. feeder on May 17 (SS). There were single reports of Pine Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls, and Red Crossbills. Pine Siskins were exceedingly scarce, the maximum count being 21 Apr. 6 at Hamburg, N.Y. (TB). Many observers continuously mention the reduced numbers of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows compared with just a few years ago; therefore, counts of 10 Grasshopper Sparrows, and 25 Henslow's Sparrows on May 30 at Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe Co. seemed noteworthy (GP, et al.). The very rare **Le Conte's Sparrow** was carefully studied May 11 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (RA, et al.). The Oregon Junco regularly seen at Webster, Monroe Co. since last Nov. 11 remained until Apr. 6 (MS); another was reported at the same place on Apr. 18 (JM, et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow that was banded and photographed at Presque Isle, Pa. May 16 was the second record for Erie Co., the first being on May 11, 1959 (RL, CN, et al.). A **Harris' Sparrow**, one of only a few Regional records, was at Irondequoit Apr. 27 (GL). Fifty Lapland Longspurs and 750 Snow Buntings were at Braddock Bay Apr. 1 (WL); a late longspur was at the same place on May 15 (GP, et al.).

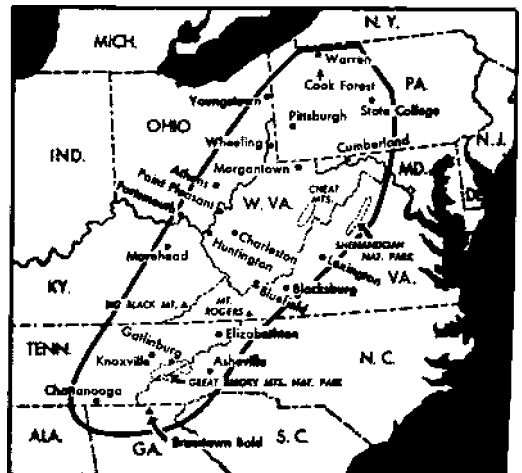
**ADDENDA**—Because satisfactory details were not available by deadline dates, three important records were omitted from two past reports. An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*S.v. nuchalis*) that was found in a comatose state at Ithaca on Jan. 19, 1971 was brought to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology where it later died; the specimen was placed in the Cornell collection (JT). From May 18 through 21, 1970 an adult male **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder at Williamsville, Erie Co., N.Y. where it was photographed in color (HM, et al.); there was no evidence of its being an escape. Among the birds picked up at the Elmira television tower on Oct. 18, 1970 was a Clay-colored Sparrow; the specimen was placed

in the private collection of O.S. Pettingill Jr. (WH, JT).

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## APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

A cold, dry, and retarded spring produced a highly mixed bird migration. Some observers reported the best birding in years, but others found things rather dull. All agreed, however,



that it was an unusual spring. Sometimes one wonders if there ever was a "usual" spring. April was very dry, the Pittsburgh weather station reporting less than half an inch of precipitation, and the latter half of the month had much lower than normal temperatures. May was also cooler than normal but several hard storms produced a more normal rainfall. There was snow (3 in.) as late as Apr. 24 at Meadville, Pa.

and also at Peaks of Otter on the Blue Ridge Nat'l Parkway, Va. on May 3. The development of the vegetation was correspondingly delayed, and at the higher elevations the trees had not fully come into leaf by the first of June.

The early April migrants were about on time, and the waterfowl migration continued in force into the period. By the middle of April, however, arrivals were late, in some cases by as much as two weeks. The early May migration was particularly affected, and most warblers, for example, did not come through until after mid-May. The latter half of May produced more normal weather, and the late migrants were more nearly on time. There, were, however, many migrant species still present at the end of May.

Many species, in addition to being late, lingered for longer periods of time than is normal. This was particularly evident at Dalton, Ga. the southernmost reporting point in the Region, where the passage of northbound migrants often lasts only a few days. This year ten species lingered for abnormally long periods (APH).

The first substantial wave of migratory passerines came on May 7-9, although there had been a smaller movement about Apr. 25. Another, and heavier, wave came May 15-18. After this date no pronounced waves were noted and migrants moved through steadily in low concentrations. There were the usual wide variations in numbers reported from the different parts of the Region. In most cases, for any particular species, a location reporting low numbers could be balanced by another reporting high numbers, indicating overall average numbers. This is often true during migration and indicates that population trends should be estimated only from breeding or wintering numbers.

There are two new artificial lakes in w. Pennsylvania, L. Arthur in Butler County, and Sayers Dam Reservoir in Centre County. As is typical of new impoundments both are producing some exciting birding, with many unusual transients, and at L. Arthur, at least, indications of unusual nesting species.

**LOONS, GREBES, AND HERONS**—The flight of Com. Loons was very good at most places, and there were some late dates: May 20 at Ligonier, Pa. (RCL), and May 23 at Jersey Shore, Pa. (PWS). Five Red-throated Loons were seen at Conneaut L., Pa. on Apr. 29 (RB, ACF, fide RFL) and 1 was seen on May 7 at Fort Frederick State Park, Md. (GLK). A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Sayers Dam Reservoir on May 8 & 9 (MC, fide PWS). Many more than the usual number of Horned Grebes were reported.

A total of five colonies of Great Blue Herons involving 140 active nests were reported from the Warren, Pa. area (JCS). The Com. Egret is not often reported in the spring but this year reports came from Seneca, L., O., Apr. 6-21 (JSt); L. Arthur, Apr. 11 (TEM); Canonsburg, Pa. (BL, fide DBF); and Sayers Dam May 1

(CH & MC, fide PWS). A Snowy Egret was found dead on May 29 in Campbell Co., Tenn., the first county record (FJA & EM). A Cattle Egret (first county record) was seen near Warren on May 17 (HJ, fide JCS), and one was seen at Dalton Apr. 22 (JOH, fide APH). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Fort Frederick State Park, Md. May 15 (GLK). Least Bitterns, often not reported, were found at Sayers Dam (MWo), L. Arthur, 8 on May 28 (DBF); Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R.) near Ligonier, May 10 and banded May 11 (RCL); Boaz, W. Va. (JSt); McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason Co., W. Va. (CK); Maryville, Tenn. Apr. 30 (FJA & BB); Alcoa, Tenn. where several nests were found May 10-16 (FJA et al). Glossy Ibis were reported from Lock Haven, Pa. May 10-11 (PWS) and Loudon Co., Tenn. May 25 (PP & JBO, fide FJA), and 14 near Kingsport, Tenn. on May 8 (TWF).

**WATERFOWL**—In the winter account it was reported that the early spring waterfowl flight was the best in several years, and this continued to be true in April. Late Whistling Swans were seen in Pittsburgh Apr. 18 (DBF) and a very late one in Franklin Co., Pa. May 28 (GLK). The Blue Goose mentioned in the winter report at Jersey Shore remained until May 23 (PWS). Both dabbling ducks and diving ducks moved through the Region in good numbers, as illustrated by such figures as 4000 Ruddy Ducks on Conneaut L., Pa. Apr. 29 (RB, fide RFL) and 100-200 other diving ducks at Pymatuning L., Pa. Apr. 13 (RFL). Many of these ducks remained quite late into May. Blue-winged Teal were present at L. Arthur until the end of the period (DBF) and may have nested (FWP). Oldsquaws were more widely reported than usual and remained rather late. Many were in breeding plumage, not often seen here.

**RAPTORS**—Black Vultures were seen in Bedford Co., Pa. Apr. 14, a slight extension of range (GLK). Both Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks were very scarce this year; the many observers in the Pittsburgh area could report only 3 of the former and 4 of the latter (DBF). Red-tailed Hawks were reported more frequently than usual but otherwise the picture continued to be gloomy. In the Charleston, W. Va. area 3 Red-shouldered Hawk nests were known to have produced 2 young each (NG). In Crawford Co., Pa. 3 Bald Eagle nestings apparently raised only 1 young (RFL). A Peregrine was sighted April 4 in Allegheny Co., Pa. (WOR & SR, fide DBF).

**RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS**—King Rails nested near Alcoa, Tenn. (FJA et al). Virginia Rails were reported from L. Arthur, where at least 8 were present May 28 (DBF), Alcoa (FJA et al), Seneca L., O. May 21 and McClintic Wildlife Station, W. Va. May 28 (JSt). A Purple Gallinule was found dead near Oak Ridge, Tenn. May 23 (GJP, fide FJA). The dry weather resulted in low water levels and with mudflats available and most

areas with water impoundments experienced good shorebirding. This was particularly true at the two new Pennsylvania lakes. Some of the unusual species were: 3 Willets at Seneca L., O. May 8 (JH, fide JSt); two White-rumped Sandpipers at L. Arthur, May 28 (DBF); Am. Golden Plover in Knox Co., Tenn. Apr. 25 (FJA & JMC) and at Sayers Dam Reservoir (MWO).

**GULLS AND TERNS**—The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains was much heavier than usual and most regions reported good numbers, including one at Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park Apr. 24, the first park record (FJA & GOW). Caspian Terns were more widely reported than usual. The Black Tern may be nesting at L. Arthur, well south of its normal range (DBF).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, AND CORVIDS**—As was to be expected in the retarded season, all species of flycatchers were late in arriving; the resident E. Kingbird at my home did not appear until May 18, although others had been seen earlier. It was, however, a good year for *Empidonax* flycatchers which, though late, came through in very good numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were especially common for the spring season, and at P.N.R. 36 were banded, compared with a spring average of 13 (RCL). One banded at Morgantown, W. Va. May 21 and 1 seen May 27 were the first spring records there (GAH). More Least Flycatchers were banded at Morgantown (GAH) and at P.N.R. (RCL) than usual. Traill's Flycatcher had arrived at Clarksville, Pa. May 10 (RKB) but was not present near Charlestown, W. Va. until after May 16 (GAH). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Tamarack, Pa. May 20 (CH & MC) and from Marietta, O. May 27 (JSt). Most swallows were somewhat late in arriving. Barn Swallows arrived at Wise, Va. Apr. 3 (RHP), Clarksville, on Apr. 9 (RKB), Charleston Apr. 21 (NG) but at Morgantown they were still not present until after Apr. 24 (GAH). A Bank Swallow at Blacksburg, Va. May 23 was late and was the first record there in 17 years (JWM). There was a heavy Blue Jay migration through P.N.R. in late April and early May, where 181 were banded compared with an average of 30 (RCL). At Peaks of Otter, Va. 758 jays were counted May 1 (DLC).

**TITMICE, NUTHATCHES, AND WRENS**—A Black-capped Chickadee was found on territory near Wise at an elevation of 2750 feet (RHP). This seems rather low altitude for the species at this latitude. After the poor winter there were very few reports of migrating Red-breasted Nuthatches through the Region. Early House Wrens were seen at Newcomerstown, O. on Apr. 13 (EHS), and Pittsburgh Apr. 19 (DBF) but elsewhere arrival was not until Apr. 27 at Morgantown (GAH) and Blacksburg (JWM) or even as late as May 5 at Clarksville (RKB) and May 6 at Charleston (CK).

**MIMIDS AND THRUSHES**—All areas agreed that the Catbird was quite late in arriving, arrival dates at some stations were: Dalton Apr. 27 (APH), Morgantown May 3 (GAH), Charleston May 7 (CK), P.N.R. May 7 (RCL), and Pittsburgh May 11 (DBF). The bulk of the Swainson Thrush migration came after May 15 and numbers were good, although the volume of singing was less than normal. This species was present at Dalton Apr. 26–May 17, a remarkably long time for the region (APH). Both Veeries and Hermit Thrushes were in low numbers in migration.

**KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, AND VIREOS**—The Golden-crown Kinglet very nicely illustrates the great disparity of numbers reported at different stations. At Pittsburgh, the migration was reported as very heavy (85 counted Apr. 11 at suburban Fox Chapel—WOR & SR), but at State College, Pa. none were seen by any observer during the entire season. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration was very good at most places, and at P.N.R. 144 were banded as compared with a normal 100. This species was in very good song throughout its stay with us. Water Pipits were reported at rather late dates of Apr. 24 at Erie N.W.R., Crawford Co., Pa. and Conneaut L., Pa. (RFL) and May 8 at Sayers Dam Reservoir (PWS). Cedar Waxwings had been virtually absent during the winter but appeared in numbers after May 15. The White-eyed Vireo continues to extend its range and increase in numbers. It was more common than ever at Morgantown, where 5 were banded compared to an average of less than 1 (GAH), 1 was seen at State College (DLB & MW); 1 at Lewisburg, W. Va. May 23 was a first local record (COH). On the other hand, after a steady buildup for several years the population at P.N.R. crashed markedly and only 1 was banded and none heard (RCL). Yellow-throated Vireos continued to be scarce for the second successive year in n. West Virginia (GAH) but other areas did not comment. At P.N.R. the Red-eyed Vireo migration was down by about 30 percent (RCL) but was apparently normal at most other stations. The "rare in spring" Philadelphia Vireo was reported from Allegheny Co., Pa. on May 19 (WOR & SR) and 5 were banded at P.N.R. compared with an average of 14 (RCL).

**WARBLERS**—As usual the warbler migration, which by and large determines the character of the whole spring migration in this Region, brought a set of highly mixed reactions. The birds were conspicuous in the leafless trees, and so in many places the report was "best migration in years" but others reported "All expected species seen but in low numbers." While it is very difficult to generalize, my impression is that, while this was a good migration, better than in recent years, it was below normal if our definition of "normal" includes the heavier flights of 15–20 years ago. Normal too, was the wide variation in numbers of individual species reported from place to place,

and perhaps this year there were fewer species than usual that drew a unanimous reaction. One example will suffice to show an extreme case. At Morgantown the Tennessee Warbler, normally an abundant migrant was almost completely missing (GAH) but at Pittsburgh it was quite common, with a count of 40 in one day reported (SR, fide DBF). The resident species which normally arrive in n. West Virginia in the last week in April, such as the Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, and Am. Redstart, were about a week late in arriving. The early transient species were also late. The transients expected in the latter half of May such as the Blackpoll and Bay-breasted were about on time. Most species lingered longer than usual, and members of transients were still present on May 31. Once again Dalton witnessed some long stays. For example, the Black-throated Green was present Apr. 8–May 8, and the Cape May was present Apr. 17–May 10 (APH). It would appear that the Ovenbird may in a major population decline. Very few were present in n. West Virginia this Spring, and most reporters failed to mention them.

Some of the more unusual records are: Swainson's Warbler at Wise, May 19 (RHP) and at McClintic Wildlife Station a new West Virginia station, May 30 (NL). Orange-crowned Warblers were banded at Morgantown May 5 (first local spring record—GAH) and at McClintic Wildlife Station May 30 (JSt). There were three reports of the "Brewster's" hybrid: Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park, Tenn. Apr. 23 (JMC); Marietta, O. May 19 (JSt), and near Pittsburgh May 16 and 28 (DBF), and one report of the "Lawrence's" hybrid: banded at Meadville May 17 (ML, fide RFL). Yellow-throated Warblers were found at two new locations in West Virginia: McClintic Wildlife Station (NL) and near Bethany, Brooke Co. (GP, fide NL). There were more than the usual number of spring reports of Connecticut Warblers.

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS**—Baltimore Orioles were reported as being more abundant than usual by many observers, but this may have reflected the absence of leaves, which made them more conspicuous. There were two early arrival dates: Apr. 14 at Lewisburg, W. Va. (COH) and Allegheny Co., Pa. Apr. 18 (MB, fide DBF), but general arrival was not until about May 7, a week late. Orchard Orioles seem to be extending their range with reports from Meadville May 14 (HCP, fide RFL); East Liverpool, O. (NL); and 4 banded at P.N.R., as compared with only 3 (total) in ten years (RCL). Scarlet Tanagers were late in arriving, and in n. West Virginia (GAH) and at P.N.R. (RCL) were rather scarce. Summer Tanagers arrived Apr. 27, about a week late in Charleston (CK) and they continue to increase in n. West Virginia, although no reports came from Pennsylvania this year.

**FRINGILLIDS**—The winter was definitely not a "northern finch" winter but the spring might be classified as a "sparrow" spring. Song, Field, and Chipping Sparrows all staged a very good migration and were all about on time in early April. The Fox Sparrow flight was also good and some of these remained rather late: a pair at Meadville, Pa. Mar. 16–Apr. 17 (RFL); Charleston Apr. 11 (CK); Pittsburgh until Apr. 25; and Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia May 3 (CM). Lincoln's Sparrows were also in good numbers with 7 banded at Morgantown (compared with a normal 1) May 6–May 26 (GAH) and 11 banded at P.N.R. compared with an average of 8 (RFL). Henslow's Sparrows were reported more frequently than usual with noteworthy reports coming from Warren May 30 (JCS) and at least 17 singing males on a square mile tract at L. Arthur May 28 (DBF). At Morgantown (GAH) and Clarksville (RKB) there was a very heavy migration of White-crowned Sparrows from about May 4 to May 12. The birds were everywhere and there was much singing. On the other hand the flight was poor at P.N.R. (RCL), they were scarce at Newcomertown (EHS) and at Blacksburg (JWM). White-throated Sparrows had been extremely numerous in the northern part of the Region during the winter, and the migration at Morgantown was very heavy with many birds remaining until late May, but no such heavy flight occurred at P.N.R. where only 39 were banded (RCL); they were low at Charleston (CK) and almost absent at Wise (RHP).

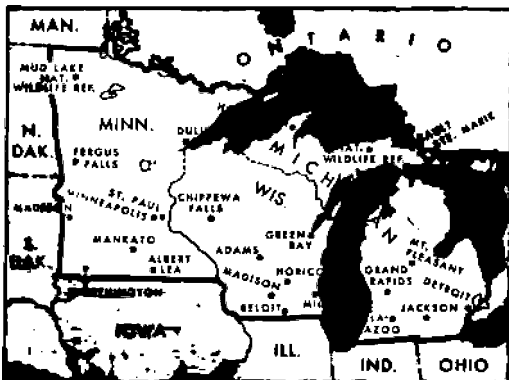
The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was late in arriving and tarried south of its breeding range rather late. At Dalton it was present Apr. 20–May 11 (APH). Indigo Buntings were about a week late in arriving. The only report of Dickcissel came on Apr. 1 from Penn Hills, Pa. (DBF). The only reports of Evening Grosbeaks came from w. Pennsylvania: Apr. 6 at P.N.R. (RFL); Apr. 5–8 at New Kensington (DE, fide DBF); Apr. 16 at State College (WSC); and Allegheny Co. Apr. 29 (JG, fide DBF). Purple Finches were abundant at Warren (JCS) but were generally scarce at most other places. A House Finch was seen at Lock Haven, Pa. Apr. 13–29 (CH, fide PWS). Most unusual for this winter-spring was a pair of Com. Redpolls in Franklin Co., Pa. Apr. 23. Pine Siskins were reported only from Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park, Tenn. (where they may breed) Apr. 23–24 (FJA, JMC, MWi). Am. Goldfinches had been very common in n. West Virginia and w. Pennsylvania all winter and in early May they were extremely abundant, and conspicuous but numbers dropped off rapidly after May 15.

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION / Thomas K. Soulen

While migrants were arriving nearly on schedule in early April, the weather in many parts of the Region seemed to retard migration more and more as the season progressed. Cold weather



in Michigan Apr. 24 left 4 in. of snow in Alpena Co. and caused E. Bluebirds to desert their nests in the Detroit area; the cold persisted for most of the following week. Snow squalls occurred in the Region in early May, and there was unseasonably cold weather during the last week of the month, also. Many trees were less than 20 per cent leafed out at the end of May in Alpena Co., unusual even for this northern location (AEV).

The season was not marked by sharply contrasting weather systems which affected widespread areas, consequently most observers noted little in the way of marked waves of migrants and generally found the season disappointing. Those few who did witness major concentrations or movements of birds were located along the shores of one of the Great Lakes. Thus, Booth saw sizable diurnal movement in s.w. Michigan Apr. 5, 8, & 18 and May 5, 7-8, 11, & 14.

On the e. side of Michigan, at Tawas Pt. in Iosco Co., Novy and Slomkowski banded many birds during heavy passerine movements May 10-13 & 19, including 187 Baltimore Orioles May 11 and 74 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks the next day. Although migration seemed delayed in s. Michigan, good numbers of warblers were banded May 13-15 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., where in some years they don't appear in numbers before the end of May (fide AHK). A warm front May 23 brought one of the few waves noted in Alpena Co., including many flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, and grosbeaks (AEV). An ore boat (Lake Michigan or Superior?) reported a warbler migration May 25, with many fatalities aboard (fide J. P. Perkins). The late season produced more reports than usual of migration at the end of May, with Lamb banding 30 species at Whitefish Pt. May 30, Valentine netting 10 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers May 28-31 in Alpena Co. (usually late, but not in these numbers), and several Michigan observers noting major movement into June (Alpena Co., AEV; Oakland Co., JPK).

It is difficult to assess comments on abundance of species in a season such as this, when there is such variation in the pattern of migration through the Region, resulting in reactions from observers which range from enthusiasm to disappointment. Reports from several people both in Michigan and Minnesota seem to indicate good numbers of at least some waterfowl, although not all observers would agree. Shorebirds elicited little general comment except in s. Michigan, where they were less evident than usual; high water in s.e. counties flooded usual haunts, whereas suitable habitat mostly dried up in s.w. counties. Several Minnesota observers reported one-third to one-half the normal number of juncos and White-throated Sparrows and a poor warbler flight. Most of the other comments there were on individual passerine species appear in the summary following.

**LOON, GREBES, CORMORANTS**—Observations at Whitefish Pt. revealed a prolonged Com. Loon migration at least from mid-April (O.B.B.A.) through May 30 (WAL). At times the flights were heavy, as May 8, when 481 were seen in one hour, and 820 total in 10 hours (BM, JP, GW); one flock of 46 was noted May 17 (AHK, NK), and 30 migrants were still passing through May 30 (WAL). One bird of this species still present May 23 at Stevensville, Berrien Co., Mich. was very late (RS). A Red-throated Loon was noted Apr. 4 in Ozaukee Co., Wis. (JM). Five Red-necked Grebes were observed at Whitefish Pt. May 7 (BM, JP, GW), and 1 was present May 30 in Alpena Co. (BG); Wisconsin birds were present Apr. 13–May 5 in St. Croix Co. (SG), Apr. 24 in Winnebago Co. (DBr, EPe, JPe), and May 8 in Madison (TA). The only Double-crested Cormorants reported were 1 in Clay Co., Minn. Apr 4 (EMW); 25 near Fergus