

later than usual—but this year it turned up only on May 15th, and then one or two half-hearted specimens only. The tiny hummingbird, due here between May 10th and 15th, was this year not recorded by the writer before May 30th. The wood pewee, with the chebec, a common breeder in our city shade trees, who also unmistakably betrays his presence as soon as here, came this year only on June 1st, other years it is here May 17th. The last regular migrant in these parts, who comes here in numbers, and whose presence can not be overlooked owing to his unique call or song, is the blackpoll warbler. Their advance guard usually arrives about May 20th but this year not before the 31st. Thus the uncongenial climatic conditions delayed these 11 species from four to seventeen days, an average of 10.5-11 days. Other years the days about May 23rd produce the largest waves of migrants, but this year the first large wave struck the gardens along our city limits on May 29th, thus showing a delay, if looked at from this standpoint, of six days.

Another notable factor is the decrease in numbers. The first arrivals of the above mentioned species were mostly single birds or at least in lesser numbers than in other years. And, whereas, in other years, the species given above become common in most cases two or three days after their advance guard has arrived, this was not the case during the last cold May. The first comers were, in many instances, the sole representatives of their species, in fact, some were seen and then not again for many days. Of course, in most cases, the normal number was reached by late and numerous accretions, but in many instances the usual abundance was never reached. This holds good in the case of the chimney swift, brown thrushes, whippoorwill, hummingbird, scarlet tanager, and very noticeably so in the case of the blackpoll warbler. Of course, there were nevertheless large waves of warblers in certain restricted localities during the last few days in May, and some who happened to get amongst them would say that they had never seen so many birds, etc., but I am convinced that there is not nearly the usual number of warblers, especially here, this summer. So, admitting the great mortality which decimated the ranks of the warblers fearfully after they did come here, also the possibility of many having retraced their steps for a little distance to the south—that the tree swallows did this earlier in the season, I am almost positive—still the fact cannot well be contraverted that the exceptional cold in May did decrease the numbers of migrants to some extent, in many cases seriously so.

But nature often likes to upset pet theories, often very elaborate ones, so there are also some exceptions to these two