

REGION 7 — NEW YORK

(PART 1 — ROCKLAND COUNTY)

The Spring season was warm and dry, especially during the latter part of April and the first half of May. Many species normally arriving the first or second week of May were recorded several days ahead of schedule. Peak dates for many migrants were earlier than usual. Numbers of individuals were about as in other years. There was no marked deviation from the normal migration pattern other than the somewhat early arrivals.

LOONS – DUCKS:

No loons were recorded on local lakes this season, although Common Loons are usually regular migrants here. Ducks passed by on schedule without the many stragglers noted a year ago.

HAWKS – OWLS:

No large hawk flights were reported. A Pigeon Hawk, rare for this county, was seen May 13. (Steffens). Wilson's Snipe were seen April 4, and Upland Plover on April 6 (Fox et al); a Pectoral Sandpiper May 13, (Sickels).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

A Purple Martin was seen May 13, (Sickels). This former resident has not nested here in recent years and is now rare. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen May 26, but not again. This is a rare summer resident. A pair of Mockingbirds were in Nyack the end of April but have not remained. Until a year ago, only one record was known for this species within the county. Its range, which finds its northern limit here, may be moving northward.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

On the whole migrations were good but not unusual. There were several new early dates, and a fine early warbler wave was noted the first few days of May during a period of warm dry weather and southerly winds. An Orange-crowned Warbler, a new species for the county, was a daily visitor at a feeder in Nyack (Dr. Hopper) from March 17 to April 21, and came once more on May 2. A Cape May Warbler was seen May 3 (Brown).

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Bobolinks were seen the second week of May and Orchard Orioles the middle of the month. Both are uncommon. White-crowned Sparrows were reported from several places the second week of May.

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(PART 2 – WESTCHESTER-BRONX COUNTY)

April saw few migrating hawks through this region. At Jerome Reservoir all of April and part of May were 25 Ruddy Ducks. Land bird migration was poor until the 19th of April. In May there were birds going through but no spectacular waves. Best days were May 2, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15th.

LOONS – DUCKS:

A few Common Loons noted over Van Cortlandt Park, east ridge, during late April and early May. Two Pied-billed Grebes were seen on Van

Cortlandt lake in late April. Eight to ten Black-crowned Night Herons spent all of April and May in Van Cortlandt Park and it is believed a few may be nesting. On April 26th a Green Heron was observed at Bronx Park and Van Cortlandt Park. American Bittern at Van Cortlandt on May 1st. Least Bittern at same place, May 6th. Both are believed to be nesters (Komorowski).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron observed in Van Cortlandt Swamp on May 2nd by B. Norse. On May 5th at Baxter Creek a Mute Swan was observed (unusual for this area). Canada Geese were seen in small numbers throughout the area during April and May; one pair at Grassy Sprain on May 20th with three young. Some Wood Ducks also were seen in the above areas. Three Ruddy Ducks were at Jerome Reservoir until May 15th.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Turkey Vulture observed along Palisades-Interstate Park Alpine area on April 17th. A few Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered, Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Sparrow Hawks and Ospreys were seen migrating over Van Cortlandt Ridge during April. Virginia Rail nesting in Van Cortlandt Park. Sora Rail observed in same area, April 22nd.

The usual number of Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, at Van Cortlandt Park during May. Upland Plover observed May 10th and 12th by several observers in same area. Laughing Gulls were in good numbers, in May, in Bronx and Van Cortlandt areas and also at Central Park, May 8th. Mourning Doves were in good numbers this spring. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 13th at Van Cortlandt Park; Black-billed Cuckoo at Central Park, May 9th. Screech Owl at Bronx and Central Parks during April and part of May.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Whip-poor-will May 13th at Bronx Park, Nighthawk May 21st at Bronx Park. Red-headed Woodpecker on May 11th at Central Park by Phillips. May 26th at Central Park, Olive-sided Flycatcher. Komorowski noted Prairie-horned Lark had two young in nest on May 1st. Carolina Wren at Palisades-Englewood Cliffs on April 17th by Komorowski and Herbert. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher observed May 13th by Skelton and at Central Park May 15th by Messing.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

All Vireos were common and observed except the Philadelphia on the *Linnaean Society Field Trip* to Bronx and Van Cortlandt Park, May 13th. Warbler migration was fair. Worm-eating Warbler, April 15th at Bronx Park by Klein and Komorowski was earliest record in many years.

Cape May Warbler noted as being quite common this year. Brewster's Warbler May 12th at Central Park by Skelton. Yellow-throated Warbler April 28th at Pelham Bay Golf course, noted by Russak, Solmon, Weinstein. Mourning Warbler observed May 9th at Pelham, May 26th at Bronx Park and May 28th at Central Park.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Ryan saw an Orchard Oriole at Van Cortlandt Park May 13th and Skelton observed one at Central Park the same date. Summer Tanager observed

on May 15th by Harrison at Central Park. Cardinal seen on nest May 13th by Komorowski. Lincoln's Sparrow seen at Central Park May 7th, White crowned Sparrow seen May 9th and May 13th. A late Slate-colored Junco was noted by Gershon at Central Park on May 2nd.

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