

Hawks — Owls:

There was one Goshawk record: Shelter Island, February 11 (R. Latham).

Cooper's Hawks and Duck Hawks were scarce through the winter and spring; there were no Gyrfalcon records since last fall. Sora was reported at Idlewild, April 12, and there were four Florida Gallinules at Lawrence on April 18 (J. Bull, J. Mayer, G. Rose), while on April 25 a King Rail was seen (R. Sloss). Early shore-bird dates: Spotted Sandpiper, Jamaica Bay, March 14 (R. Clermont); Knot, Mecox, April 16 (C. McKeever); Solitary Sandpiper, Idlewild (Mayer, Rose), Willet at Shinnecock and Least Sandpiper at Sagaponack (McKeever) all on April 19. Another early record was that of a Marbled Godwit at Jamaica Bay (The Raunt), April 12, (Brooklyn Bird Club). Red-backed Sandpipers and Sanderlings continued plentiful through the winter into March and April. Piping Plover came back to the dune lands in mid-March and Greater Yellow-legs a week or so later. There were several records of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, but very few Kumlien's Gulls were reported. A Barn Owl was seen at the Jones Beach tower in late winter (G. Komorowski); there were no Snowy Owl reports; Long-eared Owls were scarce, but the Short-eared still resorts the rat-infested Jamaica Bay dumps. The little Saw-whet Owl was present at Riis Park for about a month in mid winter, but was scarce elsewhere.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Two early Nighthawks, one at Seaford (E. Morgan) and one at Lawrence (Mayer) were reported on April 12. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was common by mid-April; the Phoebe came through sparsely around April 1; Tree Swallows wintered at Gilgo as they did last year; Purple Martins showed up on western Long Island on April 18 and a Mockingbird is back in the same location where it was heard singing at Merrick last summer but was not known to breed. Goodly numbers of Thrashers, Towhees and White-throated Sparrows appeared April 25. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one at Seaford, April 16 (Morgan) and two at Woodmere, April 25 (Mayer, Rose). The Northern Shrike went unrecorded since early winter.

Vireos — Warblers:

Blue-headed Vireo appeared on western Long Island, April 19, and a White-eyed Vireo was seen in the Botanic Garden (Brooklyn) a week earlier. 10 Pine and eight Yellow Palm Warblers were seen at Manorville, April 11, 12 (G. Raynor). An Orange-crowned Warbler showed up at Woodmere, April 19 and Louisiana Water-Thrush at Far Rockaway, same date (J. Bull).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

The Rusty Blackbird was reported into late April. A Western Tanager, observed at Jones Beach late November to January 16, was not seen later.

The White-winged Crossbill invasion was the greatest in 50 years. A Dickcissel wintered at a Wantagh feeding station. Practically no Evening Grosbeaks were reported in winter or spring; Purple Finch has been scarce to date, but the House Finch is increasing so rapidly as to be now included in one's daily list while birding on western Long Island. The Ipswich Sparrow passed through early with very few of the usual April records coming in. Savannah Sparrows arrived in numbers in early April and the Vesper Sparrow appeared on the coastal strip April 12. As to be expected Longspurs and Snow Buntings departed for the north this mild spring a month earlier, being generally present into early March at Jones Beach and Idlewild.

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REGION 9 — Central New York

With mild weather during late February and early March, there was a noticeable increase in bird activity such as the spring song of Black-capped Chickadee, Cardinal, Red-wing Blackbird, and the Song Sparrow. Several flocks of Canada Geese were observed during week of February 23. It appears that some geese may have wintered on the Finger Lakes. Mild weather continued throughout most of March and certain spring migrant species were observed. The present report carries on from the previous one which covered the fall and winter season up to March 1. Few reports have been received since that time, but a composite record of wintering and migrants to about April 1 follows:

Loons — Ducks:

Common Loon reported throughout winter but none of Red-throated Loons. Late March arrivals include Whistling Swan, Canada Geese, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Horned Grebe, Baldpate, Pintail, Wood Duck, and Ruddy Duck. American, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers wintered in Finger Lakes Region; Bald Eagle nesting March 29 (Dr. Munford's); Coot wintered in fairly large numbers; Woodcock heard March 21 (Gambrell); several reports of Killdeer (3/15 - 3/29); Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers seen on April 12; also 1 Western Sandpiper reported at Montezuma (J. Walker and M. Wheat), 5 Great Black-backed Gulls present on foot of Cayuga Lake on 3/21 (Gambrell's) and 1 adult Bonaparte's Gull on Seneca Lake April 12. Mourning Dove appeared in numbers about March 21.

Hawks — Owls:

Both hawks and owls have been scarce in Geneva-Montezuma area. Small numbers of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks reported through winter or early spring but Sparrow Hawk fairly common. A few barn, Great Horned and Short-eared Owls reported in this area. No migration flights of hawks have been reported thus far this spring.

Swifts — Shrikes:

No Chimney Swifts or Barn Swallows seen to date but Tree Swallows present on March 22; Purple Martin observed early April (4/12). Flickers reported by 3/21, also Phoebe. Robins present in some numbers by April 12, Hermit Thrush on April 13, 200 Cedar Waxwings on 3/7 (Gambrell's); Meadowlark reports on 3/21.

Vireos — Warblers:

None.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Red-wing Blackbirds, Bronze Grackles observed in mid-March; 5 Redpolls seen all winter roosting in evergreens beside house, last recorded April 2 (Gambrell). Cowbirds present by April 3. Field, White-throated, Vesper and Song Sparrows reported mid-late March; Purple Finch seen March 6 (Gambrell); 5 Tree Sparrows seen March 6 and Savannah Sparrow present March 15. Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs either not reported or quite scarce this winter around Geneva but observed by Syracuse group. Cold weather throughout most of April has not been favorable for large movements of migrating species.

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