

REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Rainy weekends did not deter the eager observers and many bird records were listed this spring. Enthusiasm ranged high from Brooklyn to the Hamptons. About a dozen 'big-day' counts were sent in, the largest totaling 135 species. Practically all of these were made by one or two observers without any grandiose efforts of a large group. Although shorebirds continued their flight well into June, a wide distribution and large numbers of migrating land birds were evident through the first ten days of May. By May 16 the peak had been reached and by late May a gradual settling into breeding habitat by summering birds was noted, migrants became scarce and very few early June transients were noted. This was especially true of the late stragglers of Black-poll Warblers and Yellow-throated Flycatchers, while the Mourning Warbler, generally recorded in late May was not listed after May 16.

LOONS — DUCKS:

A few Common Loons were observed flying over inland ponds to the middle of May; Red-throated Loon left much earlier. An April 16, 300-400 Gannets were observed migrating eastward off Mecox (C. McKeever). The White Pelican is still at Mill Neck after a year's stay. Concerning pelagics, although occasionally noted other springs, there were no Sooty Shearwaters, Wilson's Petrels, Jaegers or Red Phalaropes listed to date. There were several April and May records of Little Blue Heron and a half-dozen of American Egret reports eastward to Mecox. Canada Geese and Brant were recorded to mid-May at which time a few Blue-winged Teal were listed in areas suitable for nesting.

HAWKS — OWLS:

There was a poor spring flight of hawks, except for resident Buteos and Osprey. Several Pigeon Hawks were reported and two Turkey Vultures were seen at Water Mill, April 20 (C. McKeever). A Wilson's Plover was seen at Mecox, May 9-16; an Upland Plover at Water Mill, May 4. Stilt Sandpiper was recorded at Sagaponac, April 26, and two Black-necked Stilts (accidental here) were observed at Mecox, May 23-31 (numerous observers). Generally, Stilt Sandpiper went unlisted even in the populous Jamaica Bay area; there were, however, numerous Willet records through mid-May. Unusual was a spring Wilson's Phalarope at Floyd Bennet (Jamaica Bay), May 24, (Brooklyn Bird Club), seen again on May 30 (Bull, Darrow). One record of Northern Phalarope came in: Moriches, May 31 (Eisenmann, Grant). Terns arrived late, with the Roseate less common than last year. Unusual, however, were 19 Caspian Terns flying over Idlewild in a flock on May 16 (Mayer), and a Black Tern was at Jones Beach, Bay 17 (Bull). A fairly good spring flight of Cuckoos appeared with hopes of a good summer population. The Snowy Owl went entirely unrecorded for winter and spring, but the first actual nesting of a Great Horned Owl was discovered by G. Raynor near Manorville. The nest, however, was unproductive, having been robbed by some predator.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

The Hummingbird was scarce in migration; the Red-headed Woodpecker was unrecorded; the Kingbird arrived about May 1. Records of Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers were well distributed from Woodmere to Prospect Park. There was also an Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 10 at Mastic (J. T. Nichols). The Cliff Swallow is a rare migrant with apparently only one record for western Long Island this spring; one, May 17 at Idlewild. The Purple Martin, however, is apparently on the increase. There were several records of Mockingbird and one or two of Short-billed Marsh Wren. Apparent also was a good distribution of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers from April 18 to May 17 on western Long Island. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was abundant in late April - early May. Shrikes were almost non-existent as far as reports went this spring.

VIREOS — SPARROWS:

Yellow-throated Vireos were reported mostly from western Long Island, the Warbling Vireo eastward to the Hamptons. A Prothonotary Warbler was seen on several occasions at Prospect Park; a Golden-winged Warbler at Far Rockaway, May 9; Brewster's Warbler, same place, May 4 and May 9 (Bull). One Lawrence's Warbler was seen at Prospect Park, May 4, 5 (Brooklyn Bird Club). Hooded Warbler appeared very early at Seaford with two seen on April 18 (Morgan). Louisiana Water-thrust was recorded first at Woodmere, April 19 and Wilson's Warbler, May 9. Curiously, almost duplicate listings of rare birds were made at Prospect Park and Oak Island May 16. Similar species were Tennessee, Cape May,

Bay-breasted, Kentucky and Mourning Warblers. Arrival dates for White-crowned and Vesper Sparrows were April 26 and April 12 respectively. The Lincoln Sparrow was seen at Oak Island, May 16 (Elliott); same date at Forest Park (Mayer, Rose) and last recorded May 24 at Far Rockaway (Bull).

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