

caterpillar plague. **Evening Grosbeaks** have remained again in Saranac Lake-Tupper Lake area through May and probably are breeding as in the past several years. A not frequent record for the northern New York area is that of a **Towhee** near Keeseville on April 29 (T. L.). Several observers have commented on the smaller numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** in Adirondacks this spring.

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

The spring of 1954 was in general cool and wet. Beginning with a snowstorm in early April, the season continued generally slow through May. Large waves of migrants were almost completely lacking, and by far the greater proportion of the birds arrived late, although a few individuals of most species arrived at nearly the normal date. Several flocks of Brant were seen on May 8, indicating an unusual flight. Otherwise, there were few unusual records, and migration was dispersed over a long period. Nesting too appeared to be slow, with many resident pairs arriving late.

LOONS — DUCKS: Numbers of loons and grebes were poor, with only one record of Horned Grebe, none of Loons or Holboell's Grebe. Two American Egrets seen on May 27 at Hudson (Madison) indicate continued northward movement of this species. Waterfowl, however, were present in good numbers, with the Brant, noted above, representing the most interesting occurrence. Flocks were observed on the same day at three widely separated points, indicating a general movement into the area on that day. Fourteen Whistling Swans appeared at Vischer's Ponds on April 14 (Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote). Canada Geese were seen in good numbers, and large flocks of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Scaup and Goldeneye were reported through March and early April.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Karner on May 30 (SBC trip). This species is now seen almost every year. Madison recorded a Bald Eagle at Selkirk (Albany Co.) on May 27. Pigeon Hawks were seen on several occasions in early April. No reports were received of Broad-winged Hawks. A White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at Vischer's Ponds on May 31 (Hallenbeck). Turrentine and Stone saw four Bonaparte's Gulls and nine Common Terns on the Mohawk River on April 17.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers are becoming more common, with records from several counties, including some seen in villages. Least Flycatchers seem unusually common. Wood Pewees arrived rather late, the earliest record at hand being May 23. Swallows are present in usual numbers. The local colonies of Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins are again occupied. A Tufted Titmouse at Cohoes in early April indicated continued northward invasion of this species. Thrushes were generally late and scanty in numbers. Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked were reported May 16 and 25 respectively. Two spring records of the Pipit March 7 (SBC trip) and May 23 (French) are unusual occurrences.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: Warblers continued to migrate well into June. Indeed, the first movements of appreciable numbers of Blackpolls and Tennessees did not occur until nearly June 1. The Worm-eating Warbler is again present at Indian Lodder. Both Pine and Prairie Warblers were present in the pine barrens into mid-June, evidently breeding, with the latter being by far the more common. Nothing of special interest was noted with regard to blackbirds and sparrows. Purple Finches, abundant during the winter, have continued in some numbers into the spring season, and are evidently nesting in several localities. Evening Grosbeaks were last seen in early April.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

April was warmer and drier than usual; May, chillier and wetter. Marked waves of migrants reached the area in the latter part of April, a week to ten days ahead of time. Birding in the normal range of the peak migration in May was correspondingly poor.

LOONS — DUCKS: In Rockland County, the usually common herons were all scarce this spring. However, other sections report no notable change, and the Rockland situation may be local.

A Horned Grebe remained rather late at Congers Lake, Rockland County, to Apr. 25 (Deed). The Snow Goose was recorded for the first time in Rockland County, a flock of eight flying over New City on Apr. 18 (Mrs. John M. Price). A Brant stopped at Piermont Pier on May 15 for the third Rockland record (Thomas Dow, David Hill). A late date for American Widgeon at Congers Lake, Apr. 24 (Deed).

The great find — or great mystery — of the spring in the Rockland-Orange area was a supposed Barrow's Golden-eye at Lake Tiorati, Bear Mountain Park, on a Rockland Audubon Society field trip Apr. 25. On that date, and other days through Apr. 29, the bird was studied at close range through binoculars and telescope, and was observed in flight, too. John C. Orth, Palisades Interstate Park naturalist, studied skins and consulted with staff at the American Museum of Natural History. Everyone who saw the bird was satisfied that it was an immature drake changing belatedly into breeding plumage — yet the place and date are fantastic. Of course, the fantastic occurs oftener these days.

HAWKS — OWLS: No outstanding hawk flight was reported. On Apr. 28, a male Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying an English Sparrow flew into the side of a building in Bedford Hills (Mrs. William Grierson), and on May 18 an adult male Cooper's Hawk was killed when it hit a picture window in Mt. Kisco, also in Westchester County (John Trainer).

Rails continued their strong comeback. A Virginia Rail, seldom reported in Ulster County, was seen on May 2 near Lomontville by Mrs. Henry Dunbar. The Sora appeared again at Tallman Mountain, Piermont, in Rockland County on May 2.

In Ulster County, the Black-billed Cuckoo arrived on May 6 at Kripplebush (Fred N. Hough), but the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not recorded until May 22 at Kingston (Mrs. Dunbar) and May 23 at New Paltz (Dr. Robert Pyle). A Whip-poor-will arrived early, Apr. 19, at Kripplebush (Hough) and at Mohonk Apr. 21 (Daniel Smiley).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Red-headed Woodpecker continues to make a stand in Orange County. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond of the Sullivan County Audubon Society watched one at Cuddebackville, in Orange, on May 15. This species is regarded as uncommon in Ulster County, but birds were seen on May 9 at Whiteport (Dr. Arthur Cragin, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Hough) and on May 11 near Mohonk (Dr. Pyle).

An early date for the Least Flycatcher in Rockland County was Apr. 20 (Homer S. Kelsey). The Cliff Swallow was early at Ashokan Reservoir on Apr. 24 (Hough) and Purple Martin at Hurley, Ulster County, on May 1. A Rough-winged swallow was found shot in Bedford Hills, Westchester, on Apr. 11 by Don Reynolds.

The Tufted Titmouse is now recorded regularly in the New Paltz area of Ulster, and another record for the west side of the Shawangunk ridge was listed by Fred Hough at Kripplebush on Apr. 26. Red-breasted Nuthatches are reported on Apr. 20 at Katonah, Westchester (Stanley O. Grierson) and May 13 at Lake Kitchawan, in the same region (Helen and Arthur Weeks). Spring records for the Carolina Wren in Ulster County are reported.

A Mockingbird turned up in Monticello, Sullivan County, on May 16 (Edward McBride). The Mockingbird in New City, Rockland, left the Frank Steffens home on Apr. 14. All spring, a Catbird in partial albino state attracted attention at the feeding station of Mrs. Anne Comas in South Somers, near Bedford. It had white head and tail, white mottling on wings and back, pink feet, red-brown eyes.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered in the Whiteport area of Ulster County until May 9 (Dunbar, Hough). Cedar Waxwings were very scarce in Ulster this spring, but two Migrant Shrikes were seen near Stone Ridge on Apr. 2 (Hough).

Rockland County enjoyed its second occurrence on record of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, May 17 near New City (Mrs. Frank Steffens). It turned out that there was a pair of birds with a nest practically completed on that date, and incubation under way a week later.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Many early dates were recorded in Rockland County: Yellow-throated Vireo, two weeks early on Apr. 21 (Kelsey); Blue-headed Vireo, equalling the early date of Apr. 18 (Mrs. Steffens); Lawrence's Warbler, May 1 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper); Yellow Warbler, Apr. 21 (Mrs. Steffens); Black-throated Green Warbler, ten days early on Apr. 18 (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens); Prairie Warbler, May 1 (Deed); Ovenbird, two weeks early on Apr. 10, Rockland Audubon Society field trip; Yellow-breasted Chat, May 2 (RAS trip); Hooded Warbler, May 2 (RAS trip).

Rare finds in Rockland included the second and third records of the Prothonotary Warbler, Apr. 19 to Apr. 22 at Congers Lake (Mrs. Steffens) and May 3 at the Lamont Sanctuary (Eugene R. Brown), and the third and fourth records of the Cerulean Warbler, Apr. 27 at New City (Mrs. Steffens) and Apr. 29 at the Lamont Sanctuary (Mrs. William G. Irving). Lawrence's Warblers were seen several times, and a Brewster's on May 5 at Valley Cottage (Dr. Hopper).

In Westchester, the Louisiana Water-thrush arrived Apr. 10 at Katonah (William Russell) and Apr. 11 at Pound Ridge (Stanley Grierson).

In Ulster, the Nashville Warbler was rather early, Apr. 26, at Kripplebush (Hough); the Parula Warbler was more numerous than usual; the Blackburnian Warbler was early, Apr. 23, at Mohonk (Smiley); and the Louisiana Water-thrush was very early, Apr. 7, at Lomontville (Henry Dunbar).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole reached Stone Ridge, Ulster, on May 12 (Hough). The Cardinal is apparently expanding its breeding range to the Kripplebush area this season (Hough). Purple Finches were scarce in Ulster this season. A very early date for Indigo Bunting is Apr. 30 near Nyack (Dow, Hill).

The Dickcissel at Katonah, Westchester, reported in the April Kingbird, was last seen on Apr. 15 (Mrs. William Grierson), a full adult male by that time. And the Black-headed Grosbeak that had arrived at the Grierson feeding station on Feb. 26 left the feeding station on Apr. 24. It was seen once later, nearby, on May 15.

The Vesper Sparrow arrived Apr. 15 in Ulster at New Paltz (Dr. Pyle) and Apr. 19 in Westchester at Katonah (Stanley Grierson). Henslow's Sparrow was recorded Apr. 19 at New Paltz (Dr. Pyle) and Apr. 21 at Kripplebush (Hough). The last Tree Sparrow at Mohonk was on Apr. 14 (Smiley). White-crowned Sparrows were seen in Ulster from May 3 to May 25 (Hough).

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REGION 10 — LONG ISLAND

Spring-like weather in mid-February brought early flocks of Red-wings and Grackles. No severe freezing weather came later to deter migration. April species arrived on time, with some few individuals appearing early. The land bird migration proved excellent in the aggregate although it took numerous observers to present the entire picture. For example, John Bull, Jr. of Far Rockaway, remarks that there were practically no Kinglets or early Warblers in this usually fertile flyway, although excellent flights were recorded late in May. This proves the attracting value of the magnificent chestnut oaks in his area, after they had burst into leaf.

An infiltration in early May and several fairly good waves in the latter half of the month made up a large part of the warbler migration. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., of Freeport, reported a flight of several hundred small migrants in Woodmere woods, May 2, mostly Myrtle and Parula Warblers. A large flight of Bay-breasted Warblers, with a maximum of about 50, was reported by John Mayer and George Rose on May 22. More than usual numbers of this species were also reported from other areas on the same day, along with fair numbers of Wilson's Warblers.

Among water-birds, there was no spectacular flight of loons or grebes. Gannets passed northward off Long Island in mid-April. Differing from last year there were few early rarities reported among shore birds such as phalaropes and godwits. Terns and skimmers appeared in goodly numbers on their nesting grounds at Short Beach. Red-backed Sandpipers lingered into mid-May in breeding plumage. There was a large flight of Black-bellied Plovers and Knots coming through on western Long Island on June 1, but by June 12 migration was about over.

LOONS — DUCKS: Few reports on lingering Grebes and Loons; one Red-throated Loon, Oyster Bay, April 21. There were eight Sooty Shearwaters off Moriches Inlet, May 29. A White Pelican, first discovered at Brookhaven and later at Moriches, may have been the same bird that stayed at Mill Neck for over a year, leaving there last winter. Three European Cormorants at Jones Beach (with white flanks noted) in flock of Double-crested Cormorants. First Snowy Egret, Broad Channel, April 17; a Cattle Egret appeared at East Moriches, May 17 and remained 10 days (Mrs. J. Lukert, R. Wilcox). Up to 300 Brant remained through May, with one albino seen at Merrick, May 15. Canada Geese came through around April 1, with 300 flying over East Williston. Six Snow Geese were seen on the short side of the V-formation of 50 Canada Geese near the lead bird over Jones Beach pond, March 26 (J. Elliott).

There were several European Teal spring records: Jones Beach, Patchogue, Bald-