

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

ROBERT F. DEED

April and May were normal as to temperature, deficient as to rainfall, and generally average as to birds. On May 22 the Monticello area of Sullivan County had a late afternoon storm in which hail stones attained golf ball size. Damage was undoubtedly inflicted on early nesting birds (Wilbur P. Carr). Arrival dates were unsensational, in contrast to last year's record-breaking performance. The first big warbler wave arrived about May 1 in Rockland County (Frances Irving listed 19 species on that date near her home) and about May 5 in Ulster County (Fred Hough). All the usual rarities were noted during the May flight.

The two months were also dotted with dramatic appearances: an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in Westchester County, a Black-headed Grosbeak in Rockland, and a phenomenal flight of Brant up the Hudson Valley.

LOONS — DUCKS: On April 20, Ruth Grierson counted 26 Common Loons on Amawalk Reservoir in northern Westchester, some in courtship display. Mrs. Martha Earl of Blooming Grove, Orange County, kindly called attention to a large Great Blue Heron rookery in her locality, which several birders later visited. Another Great Blue Heron colony of 18 pair was found in Monticello, Sullivan Co., in April (Niven). An American Egret on May 14 at Blooming Grove was unusual (Edward D. Treacy).

Fred Hough reports a poor Canada Goose flight in Ulster. John C. Orth, Palisades Interstate Park naturalist, took pains to watch the Brant flights over the Hudson at Bear Mountain, with these results: May 17, more than 200; May 20, several thousand; May 21, again several thousand. A flock of about 80 flew over Nyack on May 11. Quite a record for a species that had been noted only four times previously in Rockland County!

Buffleheads, two of them, remained at Queensboro Lake, near Bear Mountain, until Apr. 21 and Green-winged Teal at Iona Island to May 1 (both reports from Orth). White-winged Scoters came unusually far up the Hudson, eight off Grand View, Rockland, on Apr. 21 (David Hill) and 11 at Bear Mountain on May 23 (Orth). Henry Dunbar found 40 American Mergansers at Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster, on Apr. 9, rather late.

A Double-crested Cormorant on Apr. 30 at Bear Mountain was rather early, however (Orth).

HAWKS — OWLS: The hawk flight was well underway by Mar. 10, according to Hough in Ulster County. He recorded the first Broad-winged Hawk on Mar. 28 at Stone Ridge. Near Bear Mountain, the first Broad-wing was on Apr. 15 (Orth). Orth also had a Pigeon Hawk on Apr. 11 and on May 4 a Turkey Vulture nest with two eggs. The first Turkey Vulture at Stone Ridge was on Mar. 1 (Hough). From Feb. 24, Treacy kept watch on a Turkey Vulture roost at Orr's Mills, Orange County; in mid-May, 35 birds occupied the roost. A pair of Kestrels nested in a box at Stanley O. Grierson's home in Katonah, Westchester, from Apr. 2 through May.

On May 5 Ed Treacy led a Rockland Audubon Society field trip to Walden to see a Great Horned Owl nest containing young.

Frances Irving recorded a new Rockland County early date, May 1, for the Black-billed Cuckoo.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in Orange County in at least two areas, Walden and Washingtonville. The prize woodpecker of the season, however, was the male Arctic Three-toed, seen on Apr. 7 in the Mianus River Gorge at New Castle, Westchester. It was studied at close range by Mrs. Anthony Anable of Stamford, Conn., and the Misses Alice and Helen Bristow of New Canaan, Conn. Allan Cruickshank commented that the only other record of this species for northern Westchester was in 1925 — Oct. 12, Nov. 6, and Dec. 11 — by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tucker of Mt. Kisco.

House Wrens seem scarce this year in the Nyack area. Black-capped Chickadees migrated northward in huge numbers in the last half of April. Red-breasted Nuthatch was last recorded in Rockland County on May 4 (Eugene R. Brown) and in Ulster County on May 8 (Daniel Smiley). Hough reports Brown Creepers scarce

this spring in Ulster County. He had some early swallow records, though: Apr. 2 for Tree Swallows, Apr. 30 for Rough-winged Swallow and Cliff Swallow, Apr. 23 for Barn Swallow.

Rockland County had its third occurrence of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, May 4 and 6 (David Hill). Cedar Waxwings were reported normally abundant in Rockland and Westchester, scarce in Ulster. A Migrant Shrike was found on Apr. 1 at Kripplebush, Ulster, by Fred Hough.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The only remarkable feature of the Warbler migration was two Cerulean Warblers in Rockland, where they have been appearing casually in recent years. On May 14, Treacy found one south of Bear Mountain; on May 15, Thomas G. Dow found another near Tappan. In contrast to last year, Palm Warblers were scarce in Ulster (Hough).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Bobolinks occupied their usual haunts in Orange and Ulster counties. An Orchard Oriole, May 11 at Stone Ridge (Hough). Mrs. Maynard Hammond of Sparrowbush, Orange County, describes a Blue Grosbeak at her feeder on May 5, mentioning the big bill and two brown wingbars.

A Black-headed Grosbeak in nearly full male plumage remained in Palisades, Rockland County, from Apr. 23 through 30, to the delight of many local birders. It was identified by Mrs. Archer Stansbury, at whose home it fed. On the late date of May 17, a Pine Siskin was killed by hitting a window at Bedford, Westchester (Grierson). The Henslow's Sparrow arrived Apr. 29 at Kripplebush, Ulster (Hough). 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — MARINE

The migration of Red-wings and Grackles, first reported in mid-February, increased around March 1, there being very little retarding weather. Throughout March and during early April, at sunset, scattered flocks aggregating hundreds of both could be seen in Southern Nassau county flying southward to spend the night on the coastal marshes in the tall phragmites.

The extreme sterility of the grassy strips along the ocean causeways resulted in sparse numbers and rapid passage of the usually abundant sparrows on the outer or barrier beaches, especially at Gilgo. In many places scarcely a grass blade or seed stalk was visible above the infiltrating white sand, due to conditions described in the May issue of *The Kingbird*. Greatly reduced numbers of Juncos, Fox and Song Sparrows were found, and an estimated 50 percent of Tree Sparrows. The Vesper Sparrow was practically unrecorded and the Ipswich Sparrow scarcer than in many years, with very few April reports.

Mid-April brought some early warblers and a few gnatcatchers. No very good flights of landbirds were reported on weekends during May. There was a good movement of rarities in Central Park, N.Y.C. The month was particularly dry, but some rain fell during the last week. Birds, generally, passed through quickly, thereby forcing an opinion from one consistent week-end birder who, after visiting the good tracts, remarked on June 5: "Migration virtually over, very unsatisfactory".

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were numerous into late April and a few lingered into June. Sooty Shearwater appeared offshore about June 2 when 95 were counted between Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets about 150 yards offshore; also one was seen at Atlantic Beach, June 4. The Gannet flight appeared light, but there were five observed at Atlantic Beach, June 4 (Mayer, Rose). On April 23 the heron count at Jones Beach consisted of four American and two Snowy Egrets and three Yellow-crowned Night Herons; first Little Blue Heron was noted at Springfield, May 8. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron appeared for several days during May in Central Park, N.Y.C.

Although 31 Gadwall were seen at Jones Beach during April, only a few remained to breed; European Teal, regularly reported in winter on Long Island a decade ago, now are much rarer and generally casual fall, or late winter and spring birds. One was present at East Patchogue in mid-February and early March and one at Jones Beach, April 2. The Blue-winged Teal was rather scarce; first report: East Patchogue, April 3. Ring-necked Duck left on time, but was common on many