

REGION 10 — MARINE

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Although April weather for the most part was cold and damp a surprising number of early bird records came in, some bordering on first dates for the region. May proved a record-breaking month for bird migration and many observers remarked that they had not seen such large numbers and diversified species in many years. Early May was unseasonably cold, but with the hot weekend of May 12-13, phenomenal numbers appeared and counts were above average through the end of the month. Migration along the coast was also retarded and water birds lingered in many cases into late spring. Big-day counts were successful with a maximum of around 160 species in the third week of May. On May 13, 28 species of warblers were counted from Lawrence to Far Rockaway (J. Bull). One striking feature of spring was the general occurrence of the Yellow-throated Warbler; numbers of White-crowned Sparrows reported in Central Park, N. Y. C. were phenomenal and Nashville Warblers were also reported as unusually abundant on different days (E. Eisenmann).

LOONS — DUCKS: There were no reports of Sooty Shearwater, although abundant last spring; Gannets moved through to the end of the period with 29 over a mile stretch at Moriches, May 30 (Elliott). Double-crested Cormorants moved northward in long, stringy flocks into late May. Both Snowy and American Egrets were present at Jones Beach in late April; a Least Bittern was found at Baldwin, Apr 17. Many northern breeding ducks, including Scaup, Ring-necked, Golden-eye and Scoters lingered into late April; Gadwall stayed on the Jones Beach pond very late and two Shovellers were still present in the Jamaica Bay sanctuary through May.

HAWKS — OWLS: Three migrant Red-tailed Hawks at Orient, Apr 1; Broad-winged appeared at Northport Apr 28; latest Rough-legged, Jones Beach, Apr 14 (Brooklyn Bird Club); late Pigeon Hawk, Shinnecock, May 26 (R. Wilcox). Two King Rails were present at Lawrence, May 6; a Purple Gallinule in weakened condition was found at Westhampton Beach, Apr 19, died later (R. Wilcox). Some shore birds appeared early with Hudsonian Curlew at Jamaica Bay Apr 7; Upland Plover passed over that area Apr 22 (Bull). Five Willet were seen at Mecox, May 11 (Wilcox). Purple Sandpiper broke all spring records with individuals remaining at Moriches jetty to May 30 (Elliott) and at Atlantic Beach jetty to June 2 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). There were several records of Northern Phalarope from Apr 30 and two Red Phalaropes were reported from Jones Beach around May 25; outstanding were two, possibly three Ruffs at Jamaica Bay during May. There were 350 Bonaparte's Gulls at Dyker Beach Apr 19 (I. Alperin); on May 26 five were present at Mecox and two Caspian Terns on May 12 (Wilcox); a Black Tern was seen at Jam. Bay, May 12 (R. Grant).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Nighthawk appeared early with one present Apr 19 at Hempstead (Mrs. E. W. Teale) and one at Brookhaven, Apr 23 (D. Puleston). Unusual was a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Hempstead, May 24 (Teale, Miss H. Sullivan). Flycatchers came through with Olive-sided as late as May 30 and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Far Rockaway the same day. A small flight of Rough-winged Swallows were present at Mill Neck Apr 29; five Martins at Sayville Apr 26 (J. T. Nichols); Magpie at Montauk Apr 5 (D. Guthrie). Three Tufted Titmouse records: Woodmere, Mill Neck and Northport. Red-breasted Nuthatch stayed until May 25 with one at Lawrence (Bull, Eisenmann). One Mockingbird record: Manorville, Apr 2 (G. Raynor). First Gnatcatcher appeared at Central Park, Apr 18 and was regularly reported afterward with scattered records from Wading River to N. Y. City. A few Shrikes came through in April, records mostly from Eastern Long Island.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo was found at Riis Park Apr 28; Warbling Vireo eastward to Massapequa during May: Cape May, Blackburnian

and Bay-breasted Warblers were reported more common than usual in the Port Washington area (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). First Yellow-throated Warbler Apr 24, at Hempstead (A. Wollin); also reported May 2-8 at Central Park, Van Cortland Park, Dyker Beach (Eisenmann). Tennessee Warbler came through to the end of the month. Louisiana Water-thrush showed up in late April. Mourning Warbler at Jones Beach May 19 (Elliott), and present in Springfield, May 30 (Mayer, Rose); also two at Northport, same day (E. Mudge). An early Hooded Warbler was seen at Brookhaven Apr 23, and remained to May 1 (Puleston, Raynor). Maximum flight of Canada Warblers with an estimated 50 at Mill Neck May 20 (Elliott).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Nine Bobolinks at Brookhaven, May 4 (Puleston); Orchard Oriole very scarce and seemingly more so each year. One record: male singing at Far Rockaway May 25. First record of Scarlet Tanager was early, with one seen at Welfare Island Apr 10 and one at Van Cortlandt Park Apr 28. An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak looked strangely out of place feeding on the bare ground Apr 21 at Jones Beach. The bird, a male, was streaked black and white on the head and the spring plumage had not approached the breeding stage (Baldwin Bird Club). There was also a pair of early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at a West Hempstead feeding station for several days from Apr 16 (E. Morgan).

There was one spring Dickcissel report, May 14-19 at Port Washington (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). Evening Grosbeak lingered into May with three or four reports: latest, Jones Beach May 25, three (Bull) and Manhattan Beach June 2, one (Mayer, Rose). The House Finch has extended its range into Brooklyn, present at Sheepshead Bay Apr 19 (Alperin). There were a few records of Redpolls in April; latest Red Crossbill record — 12 present at Jones Beach on Apr 21 (Baldwin Bird Club). Five Juncos remained at Garden City to Apr 29 (Nichols); White-throated Sparrow was last seen at Port Washington May 21 and a week earlier several reports of Lincoln's Sparrow came in from Western Long Island.

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