

Swifts — Shrikes: Now and then an individual of a species is apparently able to break through the weather barrier and appear as an early migrant. A Chimney Swift appeared in Rockland on Apr 22 (Treacy), which is early even in a more favorable year. The mid-April flight of Flickers was noticeably good in some areas. An early Kingbird appeared near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Apr 30 (Robert Pyle), but most birds were reported as later than usual. The Phoebe was late in arriving and when it did appear its numbers were way down in comparison to a more normal year. As far as could be ascertained they did not regain much with the advancing season.

At the Westmoorland Sanctuary, Mount Kisco, Westchester, on May 22 Stanley Grierson et al found Tree Swallows using a Wood Duck's box for nesting. The while region seemed to witness the large movement of Blue Jays, especially the May flights. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen migrating late in some instances. Although the Robins were slow in coming, their final numbers seemed to be normal. Most observers report a low in the number of Bluebirds. A singing Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by many observers near Congers, Rockland County, on May 16-17. A pair nested there in 1954. Both Kinglets appeared in very poor numbers this spring, and there were almost no reports received on the Pipit.

Vireos — Warblers: Except for a few early individuals, the vireos and warblers were rather spotty in their arrival during the first few days of May. In some areas good waves were noted around May 11 and May 17. Some observers had poor results with the migrant waves in their localities, indicating perhaps the general lateness and rapidity with which many birds went through. Irregardless of the migration pattern as a whole, alert birders will always find something interesting and often turn up unusual occurrences. So it happened down in Westchester when certain members of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, persisting in their birding activities, turned up a Prothonotary Warbler at Briarcliff Manor. The bird (a male) was discovered on May 26 by Kirk Browning of North Tarrytown, checked by Lester Walsh and reported to Joseph Malone, who recorded it. Although this visitor from the southland has been reported on a few occasions from southern New York, it has never been established as a breeding species. The above male was seen carrying nesting material into an old woodpecker's hole in a dead willow stump along the Pocantico River. No female, however, was evident at this period.

Many of the more usual warblers were quite numerous during the height of the May migration. This included the Worm-eating, Tennessee, Parula, Bay-breasted and others. The Palm Warbler on the other hand remained scarce. On May 17, while running up a high list for the day, Henry and Ilse Dunbar of Lomontville, Ulster County, carefully identified as a Yellow-throated Warbler found near Port Ewen, just south of Kingston. This is a first record for this southern warbler in Ulster County and makes another extension point of its occurrence in the Hudson Valley.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks seemed to occur in flocks more often this year. A young male Orchard Oriole appeared at Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on May 2 (F. Hough). Most of the region reported a high abundance of Cowbirds. Evening Grosbeaks lingered in Ulster County to at least May 25 (C. Young). Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were both late and scarce. Savannah Sparrows arrived at Kripplebush, Ulster County, on Apr 12, one day later than in 1957 (F. H.). Chipping Sparrows were late in arriving and seemed to be down in numbers. White-crowned Sparrows arrived a little late. White-throats were also late and not as abundant as they sometimes are. Only one report was made on the Lincoln's Sparrow, one near Kripplebush on May 17 (F. H.). It was nearly April before the Song Sparrows began to fill up the singing posts. This is unusually late for this great songster.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Spring migration began with blackbirds and Cowbirds appearing at about the usual time — mid to late February. Large numbers of Redwinged Blackbirds came through in mid-March, but the sparrow migration was very disappointing. The normal small late March flocks of Song, Field and Tree Sparrows attending the grassy borders along the ocean boulevards were

noticeably absent. The usual few Vesper Sparrows were not seen and Ipswich Sparrows passed through rapidly, the reason no doubt being the extreme scarcity of grass and weed-seeds following last summer's drastic drought.

As the northward movement advanced into April, long periods of wet weather caused one of the worst recorded spring flights in years and a great scarcity of Phoebes, House Wrens, Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. Late April and early May were so wet that Purple Martin colonies suffered drastically with observers reporting from a dozen up to fifty casualties in various colonies. Many of these dead adults were found on the ground and others in the nesting boxes. Highlighting the migration was the tremendous flight of thousands of Phalaropes around April 28 and 29 in Moriches and Shinnecock Bays. The late April flight of Indigo Buntings and the western Long Island May 4 flight of both Orioles and Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks were phenomenal. The latter was along the outer beaches, Ruis Park to Oak Beach.

Loons — Ducks: The Loon and Gannet flights were about normal; three or four Common Loons at Great River in late April were badly oiled (perhaps the cause of other lingering Loons) and there were several Horned Grebes in attractive spring plumage. An estimated 1,000 Wilson's Petrels and 12 Sooty Shearwaters were seen on a pelagic trip 20-40 miles off the south shore of Long Island on May 31 (P. Buckley).

There were numerous reports of the Snowy Egret but a scarcity of Common Egrets and Little Blue Herons. At least three reports came in of Glossy Ibis from May 7 to May 31: one bird near Outer Bridge, Staten Island, May 7 (R. Preisick); two or more at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 22-24 (Caretaker Johnson, numerous observers), and two at Oak Orchard on May 31 (Dr. and Mrs. H. Kimball). No Whistling Swans were recorded. The Snow Goose was reported at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on May 17 and 26 (Buckley, Johnson, Mayer). A male European, or Common, Teal was seen on May 1 by numerous observers, and there was a late adult male King Eider at Atlantic Beach on Apr 4 (G. Russell). Several Ruddy Ducks were present in late May at Jamaica Bay. Generally the duck flight was rather poor and the poorest wintering and spring flight of Ring-necked Ducks in years.

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was at Brookhaven May 20 (D. Puleston). There were several reports of Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks, but very few of Red-shoulders to date.

There was a scarcity of Rail records. A Purple Gallinule was at Jamaica Bay May 14-16. A flight of Turnstones, Knots and Black-bellied Plovers was observed on Western Long Island in late May. Other shorebirds: Willet, Shinnecock, Apr 29, five (Wilcox); Purple Sandpiper, Jones Inlet Breakwater, May 31, three (Buckley); 1,500-2,000 Phalaropes on Moriches Bay Apr 28 (Mrs. Lukert). On Apr 29 Wilcox's figures were 3,728 (the great majority Red Phalaropes) from Remsenberg to Shinnecock Inlet, and 19 dead were picked up after striking wires near bridges at Westhampton while flying from bay to ocean. On a boat three and a half miles south of Moriches Inlet Apr 30 Wilcox counted 256 on the water and 15 small flocks flying southward. One report of Wilson's Phalarope: Jamaica Bay, May 22, a female (Johnson). Several Glaucous Gull records, including one at Orient Apr 10. A Caspian Tern was at Orient May 21 (R. Latham).

Swifts — Shrikes: Swifts and Tree, Barn, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and especially Purple Martins suffered in severe wet weather and appear fewer than normal. Red-bellied Woodpecker: three reports in May — Woodmere, Hempstead, and Forest Park. The scarcity of land birds which winter in the southern and Gulf states was phenomenal. Reports of most observers tell of extremely few Phoebes, Wrens, Kinglets, Brown Creepers and Hermit Thrushes, as well as resident Carolina Wrens, of which Latham reports a scarcity at Greenport this spring.

Latham, at Orient, reported only one Hermit Thrush and one Bluebird. A peculiar record was the finding of a Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird (as well as a Kentucky Warbler) in about one-half mile of woods along Meadowbrook, near Roosevelt (Miss H. Sullivan, Mrs. E. W. Teale).

The Gnatcatcher was fairly common, especially on western Long Island near Hempstead.

Vireos — Warblers: Most Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from the north shore (Elliott). Two Warbling Vireos were at Southold May 26 (Alperin). The White-eyed Vireo was less abundant than usual.

Several Prothonotary Warbler records at Hempstead; Brewster's Warbler at West Gilgo, May 4 (Buckley, Carleton, Grant); Golden-winged Warbler, Brookhaven, May 8 (Puleston). There was a fair flight of warblers at Hempstead on May 12 with Worm-eating, Wilson's and Canada reported. A Chat was seen at Garden City May 6 (J. T. Nichols). At Orient, Latham saw only five migrating warblers: a Prairie on May 1 and the other four after the middle of the month. The end of the month on western Long Island was unproductive for warblers, and altogether it was a highly unsatisfactory spring for abundance of individuals.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: There was a large coastal flight of land birds May 4, mainly on western Long Island. At least seven Orchard Orioles were noted, five in one tree at Point Lookout, and eight male Bobolinks were singing at Riis Park (R. Grant); Summer Tanager, Van Cortlandt Park, Apr 12 (Linnaean field trip); two Scarlet Tanagers were present at Hempstead May 4 (A. Wollin); an abundance of Rose-breasted Grosbeak from May 4 to May 12 on western Long Island: maximum, 50 from Riis Park to Jones Beach May 4 (Buckley, Carleton, Grant); also present were an estimated 50 Evening Grosbeaks westward from Gilgo the same day, and 15 were seen at Oak Beach (Kimballs).

Other records: Blue Grosbeak, Jamaica Bay, Apr 26, one (Carleton); White-winged Crossbill, Great River, Apr 17, two (Wilcox); Indigo Bunting: about a half dozen pairs were reported in late April, or about three weeks ahead of their usual appearance. Last Pine Siskin, Hempstead, Apr 25, three (Muller). A Lark Sparrow — rare in spring — was seen at Captree May 27 (Alperin); Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows appeared abundantly at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in late May. The British Goldfinch has been unrecorded so far.

Following are a few additional March reports which did not appear in the previous summary: Snow Goose, Mecox, Mar 1, three (R. Wilcox); one Black Vulture, Westhampton, Mar 9 (Wilcox); two Rough-legged Hawks, Brookhaven, Mar 18-28 (Puleston); Piping Plover, Sagaponack, Mar 8 (Wilcox). Snowy Owl, Montauk, Mar 23 and two pairs of Great Horned Owls, eastern Long Island (Puleston); late March Saw-whet and Long-eared Owl at Jones Beach (Queens County Bird Club).

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