

Sparrow migration was generally an excellent one, the extreme dates being May 9 and May 23. A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at a bird bath at New Concord on May 21, and another was heard there on May 24 (Radke).

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

REGION 9—DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

The Hudson Valley experienced a rather odd migration pattern during the spring of 1958, continually reflecting weather conditions that were for the most part adverse to good migration. We recall how the Atlantic coastal storms of March got the early spring migrants off to a poor and late start in many instances, and contrary to what might be expected the successive flights of birds through April and most of May never fully recovered to what could be considered their normal composure. Climatic pressures were such that there were abnormal amounts of wind from the northwest quadrant during the spring months, and this, of course, tended to hold things back by creating the adverse conditions in the form of storms and winds. There was some relief with the spring-like spell of mid-April, but even then many birds continued scarce and late. The end of April found Slide Mountain in the Catskills nearly covered with two to three feet of snow and with almost no spring arrivals to the summit area. Migrants of early May were mostly slow in coming, and not until around May 11 did a good wave occur. Another was noted around May 17 and by May 21 the migration was about over. Oddly enough then, we found geese migrating heavily in May instead of April. Hawks showed up in far better numbers in April than in March. There was a heavy unprecedented flight of Blue Jays during May. An upset was indicated by many of the earlier passerine birds coming in with the arrivals of some later date. This made for a mixed-up picture of our spring migration. In thirty years of birding around Rockland County, Bob Deed says it has been one of the strangest migrations he has ever seen.

Outstanding on the rarity list are two unusual warblers, a Prothonotary in Westchester County and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Ulster County. A Cattle Egret was seen near Goshen, Orange County.

Loons — Ducks: A Snowy Egret in adult plumage put in an appearance at the Todd Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester on Apr 21 (Edward Kurka, Michel Rodack). On May 2 near Goshen, Orange County, Martha Earl was called by a local farmer to see "a big white bird" that was walking about among the cows in his pasture. The bird turned out to be a **Cattle Egret**, which is beginning to appear over more of the Northeast. This bird was also seen by two other birders, Laura Craft and Emily Akers.

Many belated flights of Canada Geese were observed going over the region. On May 9 a single Snow Goose was seen in a flock of Canadas as they flew over Lomontville, Ulster County (Henry & Ilse Dunbar). Some late dates were established for the following ducks in Rockland: Canvasbacks on Lake De Forest, Apr 13 (Mr. and Mrs. R. Deed) and the Ruddy Duck at Piermont Pier, May 17 (Steffenses, Treacy, Deignan). An Oldsquaw female was found on Congers Lake, Rockland, Apr 20 (Mr. and Mrs. F. Steffens).

Hawks — Owls: Although there was some hawk movement noted in March, better movements were witnessed at various times in April. Killdeers were scarce. Two White-rumped Sandpipers were observed in a flock of Red-backed Sandpipers on May 26 at the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar, Al Feldman). The latter sandpiper is a first record for Ulster County. The owl status seemed unchanged.

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