

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The late spring was reflected in the tardiness of land birds arriving from the south and even by May 1 no great spring northern movement had been recognized by our observers. On May 2, however, a fair migration came through on western Long Island when 112 species were counted principally from Woodmere to Brooklyn. About a week later, May 10, three groups of Lyman Langdon Audubon Society members covered western Long Island for a total of 114 species.

Scarce again this year were House and Winter Wrens, Phoebe, both kinglets and Brown Creeper, especially in eastern Suffolk County. Dennis Puleston, of Brookhaven, reported a drastic cut in populations. Especially scarce were the above mentioned, Bluebird, Prairie, Black and White, and Yellow Warblers. He saw more Scarlet Tanagers than usual and believes the resident Carolina Wren is staging a comeback from the 1958 low.

Among water birds, Jamaica Bay sanctuary had, in the early half of April, both Common and Snowy Egrets, and on the 18th of the month five Glossy Ibises were seen flying into the marshes and four were seen on May 3. Also one of the best early May lingering flock of ducks, including a dozen or more Bufflehead, were present on the pond, and Lapland Longspurs lingered on a sandy flat into early May.

On the north fork of extreme eastern Long Island at Orient, Roy Latham reported no Bluebirds, Phoebe, Meadowlarks or Northern Horned Larks this spring, but he did have two Indigo Buntings during the week of Apr 10.

Loons — Ducks: Loon flight normal with few lingerers. Horned Grebes stayed at Jamaica Bay sanctuary into late April; one, May 2 (Mayer, Rose). There was a good flight of Double-crested Cormorants, with about 300 on the morning of Apr 25 flying over Great River.

Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets and a Louisiana Heron were feeding together on the edge of the sanctuary pond at Jamaica Bay in late April; these along with several Glossy Ibises around Apr 25 caused one observer to suggest that a southern heron colony had come to long island. Maximum Glossy Ibises: five, Apr 18, Jamaica Bay Sanctuary (Queens County Bird Club). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were normal in numbers and distributed eastward to Mt. Sinai. A Mute Swan nest with seven eggs was found at Great River Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club). Snow Goose: big day for this species on Apr 5, with an estimated 700 seen flying over the south shore at Babylon in the morning (Alperin) and 24 were counted at Massapequa in the evening of the same day (Darrow). Ducks lingering at Jamaica Bay into very early May included several Blue-winged Teal, eight or 10 Buffleheads, a half dozen shoveler and over 100 Scaup; besides this over 500 Brant were in the adjacent bay. Wood Duck: three were at Lawrence Apr 11 (Bull); three were seen at Hempstead in mid-May (C. Ward), and three were at Northport throughout the spring (Mudge). King Eider: Mt. Sinai, May 16, one in immature plumage (Puleston). Hooded Merganser: Lawrence, Apr 11, six (Bull).

Hawks — Owls: Hawk flights were light, as is usual on Long Island; two Broad-winged Hawks were at Great River on Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club) and Bald Eagle was at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 2 (Mayer, Rose). A Pigeon Hawk was reported from Brookhaven Apr 24 (Puleston). A King Rail was seen at Far Rockaway May 18 (Bull), and a Yellow Rail was heard calling nightly from Apr 23 to Apr 29 at Brookhaven (Puleston). The Common Gallinule was reported at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 2 (Mayer, Rose). Piping Plovers arrived at Jamaica Bay in early April; the Willet was early in same area with one on Apr 19 (Bull). There was a fair flight of shore birds including peep, Greater Yellow-legs, and Black-bellied Plover on May 2 at Jamaica Bay, when 100 or more terns, both Least and Common, were seen on

the flats. Practically all Dunlin had left by May 1. No western Long Island reports this year of Phalaropes have been turned in. The Solitary Sandpiper was moving through Upton May 15 (Puleston). There were no White-winged Gulls. There were several reports of Laughing Gulls along the North Shore. Black Skimmers arrived in fair numbers about May 1. There were few reports of Jaegers or the accompanying species of shearwaters, but these usually show up later than the end of the period. However, three Sooty Shearwaters were seen on May 31 at Shinnecock (Puleston).

There were two Barn Owls at East Hampton on Apr 1 (Heck, Fischer), and a pair of Great Horned Owls, with two young in the nest, was observed in April on eastern Long Island. A Saw-whet Owl was at East Hampton on Apr 1 (Heck, Larrabee).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: There were only sporadic reports of the Nighthawk. The first Whip-poor-will was one calling on a roof at Orient on Apr 21 (Latham). Chimney Swifts seemed fairly plentiful. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was first seen in Northport on May 4 (Mudge). Sapsuckers were scarce this spring.

The Crested Flycatcher was quite common, but in general the flycatcher migration was poor. Rough-winged Swallows arrived at Springfield Apr 25, and Purple Martins put in an appearance at Brookhaven on Apr 16. There was a slight movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Alley Pond on Apr 12, but there was otherwise a scarcity of this species and the Golden-crowned as well. The season was also poor for House and Winter Wrens. Latham reported no Carolina Wrens heard in Greenport or Orient. There were several Mockingbird reports, with one singing at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary during May. Wood Thrushes were fairly numerous, but Hermit Thrushes were less common than normal on eastern Long Island. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from half a dozen areas, and this species was found in New Rochelle from late April into May (Hastings). About mid-May Hastings also reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a rare species this spring. There were practically no reports of Water Pipits or shrikes.

Vireos — Warblers: The first Solitary Vireo was at Idlewild Apr 25 (Mayer, Rose). Very few Yellow-throated Vireos were seen. The White-eyed Vireo appeared very early with one at Great River on Apr 25 (Baldwin Bird Club). The Pine, Prairie, and Black and White Warblers were very scarce on eastern Long Island, but fair numbers of Prairies passed through western Long Island in early May. About a dozen species of warblers, including a Hooded, were counted on May 3.

There were several records of Prothonotary Warbler from May 6, one in Hempstead (Ward) to May 17 and 18 at Far Rockaway (Levine, Bull). A remarkable showing of rare warblers appeared at Far Rockaway in the tops of tall oak trees. In this area there was a Worm-eating on May 9 and 10, a Cerulean and a Kentucky Warbler on May 13, and a Yellow-throated Warbler on May 9 (Bull). The Yellow-throated Warbler was also seen May 10 (Bull, Eisenmann). Six Louisiana Waterthrushes on the south shore at Idlewild on Apr 25 was phenomenal. Two were seen in mid to late May in Suffolk County at both Upton and Fort Solonga (Puleston). Puleston also had four Blackpoll Warblers on the fairly early date of May 7 at Brookhaven and a singing Mourning Warbler at Yaphank on May 15. Two Tennessee Warblers were at Northport on May 11. Two others, together with a Hooded and a pair of Worm-eaters, were there on May 14 (Mudge). Wilson's Warblers came through about mid-May on western Long Island, and the easternmost Suffolk record was one at Crystal Brook, near Pt. Jefferson, on May 16 (Puleston). A Kentucky Warbler was seen at Port Washington on May 15 (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), and one was at Harrison from May 25 to 28 (Hastings).

Blackbird — Sparrows: There were several Bobolink reports. A few reports on the Orchard Oriole came through from along the south shore, and one was seen at Port Washington. Although there were a thousand or more Cowbirds on western Long Island on the Christmas count, they apparently were no more plentiful than usual during the nesting season. Scarlet Tanagers were numerous in Suffolk County. A Summer Tanager was at Wading River on May 9 (Puleston), and one was reported at Woodmere on May 3 (Dignan, Levine, Ward). An adult male Blue Grosbeak was singing at Port Washington on May 24 (Dove, Gillan). There was a very unusual Red Crossbill record of five birds at Jones Beach on May 17 (Levine, Jacobson). Several Ipswich Sparrows lingered into late April at Jamaica Bay with one seen Apr 18 (Elliott, Dignan) and another on Apr 25 (Mayer, Rose). The Chipping Sparrow appeared at Brookhaven on Apr 11. The last Tree Sparrow was at Jamaica Bay, also on Apr 11. Five Lapland Longspurs at Jamaica Bay on May 2 were the last reported for the period (Elliott, Mayer, Rose).

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