

spring in the Karner barrens near Albany. A Lone Orange-crowned Warbler was carefully studied on May 10 in the Meadowdale area (Sabin).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Two Orchard Orioles were seen in Schenectady on Apr 22 (Overs), and two were also noted at Livingston on May 28 (Munson). There were several latish Rusty Blackbird reports. A pure albino Cowbird was observed in Thacher Park on May 16 (SBC). Evening Grosbeaks were last noted at Amsterdam on May 2 (Fitzgerald), but two were still at New Concord on May 7 (Radke), and a small group was at Delmar on May 10 (Madison). The departure of these birds was early this year.

A lone Pine Siskin was at Amsterdam May 9 (Fitzgerald). Five Cardinals were seen or heard together in Albany on May 10 (Baker), and there were many other reports of this increasingly common bird. Several Henslow's Sparrows were heard in the Meadowdale area on Apr 25, and this species appeared quite common there subsequently. There appeared to be a moderate May flight of White-crowned Sparrows, and one of these birds which had been present in Amsterdam since Jan 20 was banded in April (Fitzgerald). The West Sand Lake Oregon Junco finally departed on Apr 5, after an extended winter stay (Bardt). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded in Amsterdam May 9 and was present for several days thereafter. Late date for the Fox Sparrow was Apr 19 (Overs), and the Tree Sparrow was last noted at Amsterdam on Apr 26 (Fitzgerald).

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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April was slightly warmer with somewhat less than normal rainfall and with very little snow. The most noticeable weather factor in May was the dryness of the period. The migration was quite normal and mostly unimpressive from the standpoint of spectacular waves. Many observers claimed to be aware of a numerical drop in several of the flights indicating a loss of birds somewhere. In Rockland County most watchers were disappointed in the return of spring migrants there, especially flycatchers, swallows and some shorebirds. Up in Ulster County the picture was less discouraging with most of the usual birds around. Elsewhere the lack of comment on the overall picture leaves us short in telling just how much our Hudson Valley migration was off. The following species account tells us something of the migration trend, particularly the early arrivals and the off numbers of certain others. Prominent flights occurred around Apr 19, May 6 & 7 and around May 10.

Loons — Ducks: The Red-necked Grebe continued to attract attention in the lower part of our region, being found as far up as Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co. (Martha Earl). About 25 Double-crested Cormorants flew in at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co. on Apr 18 (Joseph Morlan). A definite nesting record of the wild Mute Swan was made in Rockland Co. with the location of a pair at Congers Lake. Seven young were noted on May 19 (Bob Deed). At the Cross River Reservoir in Westchester Stanley Grierson found a pair of Canada Geese with eight young on May 17. On May 23 a late flock of Canadas were migrating over the Lomontville area in Ulster Co. (Henry Dunbar). Around 500 Brant were seen over Katonah, Westchester on May 18 (S. Grierson) and about the same number on the same day at Highland Falls along the Hudson (Ed Treacy). Over 100 Snow Geese including one Blue Goose were watched by John LeMaire on Apr 5 as they were reforming their flight pattern in an area near Suffern, Rockland Co. The Blue Goose is Rockland's first record.

A pair of American Widgeon were watched at close range on a small beaver pond near Krumbille, Ulster Co. on Apr 25 (F. Hough). After several years of observing ducks on the Ashokan Res. in Ulster Co. Al Feldman finally added the Blue-winged Teal to the list. He saw one male on Apr 15.

Hawks — Owls: Little comment was made on the northward movement of hawks, excepting a fairly noticeable movement of Broad-wings during the latter part of April in the Ulster Co. area. Mrs. Geo. Little and Wm. Russell listed 40 Common Snipe on Apr 3 in the Carmel area in Putnam Co. The Spotted Sandpiper was hard to find in Rockland Co. this spring (Bob Deed et al.). The locally rare Bonaparte's Gull was found about the Ashokan Res. on May 1 by Al Feldman and along with this observation Mr. Feldman also saw a lone Black Tern, also uncommon around here. The migration of Cuckoos in the Ulster Co. part of our region was not as poor as we thought it might be. As usual, little was mentioned on the Owl populations. A very early Whip-poor-will was heard at Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 14 by Fred Hough and is our earliest date on record. John Price also heard one near New City, Rockland on Apr 21 which is still early.

Swifts — Shrikes: The Phoebe is still commonplace in Ulster Co. but is considered off in many areas in the lower part of the region. Reports received by Mrs. Earl on several Purple Martin colonies in Orange Co. indicate a very poor return this year. Like other species the Martin may have taken a setback. Early House Wrens appeared on Apr 18 in Katonah, Westchester (S. Grierson) and Apr 19 in Lomontville, Ulster (H. Dunbar). Mockingbirds were reported in Rockland (F. Steffens), Putnam & Dutchess (Mrs. G. Little; Wm. Russell) and Ulster (H. & I Dunbar) Counties. The Catbirds seemed to be up in numbers. There were no concrete signs of a severe drop in the numbers of Hermit Thrushes. Of all the birds, the Bluebird seems to show the least numbers during this period of natural (and un-natural) setbacks. Perhaps this is rather normal but most of us would just like to see more of these wonderful birds. The erection of nesting boxes in open places would certainly add to our pleasure and at least replace some of the natural nesting places lost. Both Kinglets were sparse and went through rapidly. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet spent about five days (Apr 20-25) in a solitary tamarack tree and occasionally nearby trees, at Stone Ridge, Ulster Co. (F. H.).

Vireos — Warblers: On May 9 near Valley Cottage, Rockland Co. Dr. Marjorie Hopper identified a Philadelphia Vireo making Rockland's first spring record for this elusive bird. An early Black and White Warbler appeared near Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 19 (F. Hough). The Prothonotary Warbler was again reported in Rockland Co. This one was seen on May 7 at Congers by Dr. Hopper. A modern day record for the Cerulean Warbler in Ulster County was made on May 9 by its discovery near John Burrough's Slabsides at West Park, by many members of the John Burroughs Natural History Society and John Burroughs Association. At late date more than one Cerulean was reported in the same area. The Warbler migration in general was not spectacular with many species going through rapidly. Observers working on species count ran up fair lists but indicated a sparseness of many.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: An Orchard Oriole appeared at Naurauschaun, Rockland Co. on May 4, an early date (M. Hopper). This species was not seen about the Stone Ridge area in Ulster Co. this year after being there for several years (F. H.). Baltimore Orioles were abundant and appeared as early as Apr 22 at New Paltz, Ulster Co. (Dr. Robt. Pyle). Last Evening Grosbeak was reported at New Paltz on May 17 (Dr. R. P.). Pine Siskins were generally scarce. Towhees arrived early, at Kripplebush and New Paltz, Ulster Co. on Apr 9 (F. H., R. P.).

Savannah Sparrows were in at Orange Co. on Apr 5 (M. Earl) and first appeared at Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on Apr 11 (F. Hough). Grasshopper Sparrows seemed a little late unless missed but the Henslow's Sparrow was almost two weeks late at Kripplebush, Ulster and was scarce. The first one was noted on May 10 (F. Hough). Most other sparrows were near normal. Martha Earl had good luck with the White-crowned but elsewhere they were scarce and did not linger. White-throated Sparrows also moved through rather rapidly and did not show any great build-up as sometimes witnessed by observers who are afield during the latter part of April. The Lincoln's Sparrows escaped us altogether. Fox Sparrows as a whole did not linger although Dr. Pyle reported a late one near Mohonk, Ulster Co. on May 1.

Two late March reports of interest not included in the last summary follow: A Raven stayed about Katonah, Westchester for a couple of days at the end of March and was observed by Wm. Russell. It was chased by crows. A Hermit Thrush appeared at New City, Rockland (probably migrant) on Mar 29, a rather early date (Eben Moore).

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