

REGION 10 — MARINE

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April and May were cold and very backward. May 27 was bitterly cold and damp, but the weather moderated by the end of the month. The principal April flights in Inwood Park, New York City, were on the 25th and 26th (W. Norse). Around New York City and western Long Island the best spring flight came on May 8 and 9, with 21 species of warblers counted May 8 and 27 on May 9 at Hempstead Lake State Park where birds reportedly flooded the trees.

Several hundred White-crowned Sparrows were estimated at Jones Beach on May 9; also "thrushes of every description abounded at the beach, there were literally ten Catbirds in every bush, Towhees by the hundreds, Thrashers everywhere, and almost too many White-throats to Count" — (M. Levine).

Apparently this wave failed to materialize on central and eastern Long Island. At Brookhaven "May 25 was the only good day" — (D. Puleston). Further east at Manorville Gilbert Raynor wrote "spring migration very late and poor, no good waves observed." At the extreme eastern tip of the north fork at Orient, Roy Latham reported a "dull spring," except for more Orchard Orioles than in recent years and a European Goldfinch on May 30, his first record for the area.

Unusual Long Island May records included widespread reports of Red Crossbills and four records of Blue Grosbeaks.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons passed through early with only scattered May reports. Three Red-necked Grebes were at Rockaway on Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose). There were few if any records of shearwaters or petrels in April and May, and the special Linnaean Society pelagic trip on May 28, so productive a year ago, turned out a complete failure with not even a Wilson's Petrel sighted by the seasick occupants of the two wave-tossed boats. The Gannet flight was over in the early part of the period, and large flocks of Double-crested Cormorants were passing through by mid-April. There was one Great Cormorant at Rockaway on Apr 15. Five Common Egrets, three Snowy Egrets, and about 100 Black-crowned Night Herons were in the nesting pines along Ocean Boulevard, Jones Beach, by Apr 8; a later count (May 6) totaled some 110 Snowy and 25 Common Egrets (Elliott), and there were 13 Snowy Egrets at Shinnecock on May 20 (G. Raynor). Two Little Blue Herons were at Sagaponack on May 30, and there were three Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Mt. Sinai on breeding location (G. Raynor). A Cattle Egret and a Louisiana Heron were seen at Montauk on Apr 4 (D. Guthrie), and another Cattle Egret was at Riverhead on Apr 15 and May 10 (H. Evans). Two other Louisiana Herons appeared on eastern Long Island, one at Quogue on May 20 (Puleston) and one at Shinnecock on the same date (Raynor).

Ducks had generally moved out by late April. Two Blue-winged Teal were seen at Sagaponack on May 30 (Raynor), and there were two Oldsquaws at Gilgo on May 14 (Puleston). Perhaps the largest scoter flights recorded this spring were at Montauk on Apr 4, with an estimated 3,000 White-winged, 2,000 Surf, and 5,000 Common seen around the Point (D. Guthrie). A Common Teal was found at Jones Beach with about 40 to 50 Green-winged Teal; the bird was present from Apr 5 to 8 and was seen by numerous observers.

Hawks — Owls: The accipiter flight was poor. Red-tailed Hawks were regularly reported in the Manorville region, and there were several reports of Broadwings in early April. Six active Osprey nests were noted at Shelter Island in mid-April (Mrs. Benedict). A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Orient on Apr 5 (Latham), and two other Pigeon Hawks were reported in May, one at Bayville and one at Hempstead Lake State Park (Levine, Ward). Peregrine Falcons were rather rare; there was one at Brookhaven on May 20 (Puleston).

A King Rail was recorded at Meadowbrook Causeway on May 9 (Levine), and a Common Gallinule was at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose). There was a good flight of yellowlegs along the north shore in early May. Other shorebird records included 25 Piping Plover at Moriches Apr 4 (Guthrie), six Willet at Shinnecock on May 20 (Gaynor), two Solitary Sandpipers at Wading River on May 7, a White-rumped Sandpiper seen at Shinnecock on May 20, and a Northern Phalarope female at Quogue on May 30 (Puleston). Otherwise phalaropes and other shorebirds were scarce to the end of the period with no real rarities appearing.

An Iceland Gull stayed at Inwood Park until May 5 (Norse, Kallman). Two Laughing Gulls appeared at Rockaway Apr 15 (Mayer, Rose), and there was one at Orient on Apr 23 (Latham). Three Common Terns were sighted at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15, a week or two before the general flight. Least Terns appeared abundantly at Zach's Bay in early May.

Some alcid winter mortality was indicated by the two Razor-billed Auks and one Common Murre found dead at Moriches on Apr 4 (Guthrie). There was a fair flight of cuckoos in May. The Long-eared Owl was at Brookhaven on Apr 23 (Puleston).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The first Whip-poor-will was at Manorville on Apr 27 (Raynor). Nighthawks were scarce. Eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers turned up at Lawrence on Apr 15, and very unusual was a Pileated Woodpecker which turned up at Inwood Park on Apr 23 (Norse, Kallman).

A late Kingbird at Orient on May 20 resorted to following a tractor for disturbed insects. The first Phoebe was at Orient on Apr 4 (Latham). Swallow records included three Rough-wings at Wading River on May 7, 15 Barn Swallows at Jamaica Bay on Apr 15 (Meyer, Rose), and Purple Martins at Roosevelt the same day (C. Ward).

Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were all very scarce. There was a good flight of Hermit Thrushes. The first Swainson's Thrush was at Jones Beach on Apr 27 (Elliott). Bluebirds continued rare. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Orient on May 12 (Latham), and the species was present at Inwood from Apr 24 to May 22 (Norse). There was a good flight of Cedar Waxwings on eastern Long Island. A late Water Pipit was at Orient on Apr 28 (Latham).

Vireos — Warblers: The Yellow-throated Vireo was at Brookhaven on May 8 (Puleston), and there were two at Cold Spring Harbor on May 29 (Raynor). White-eyed Vireos were plentiful, and there were several Warbling Vireos.

A Prothonotary Warbler was seen at Yaphank on May 7 (Puleston et al). Two Worm-eating Warblers were seen at Hempstead on May 8 (Ward, Levine, Sullivan, Hirshbein). Golden-winged Warblers were at Hempstead and Jones Beach May 8 and 9 (Levine) and at Mt. Sinai May 13 (Raynor). A Cerulean Warbler was at Hempstead on May 8 (Hirshbein, Levine, Sullivan). Most Warblers were seen at Brookhaven on May 25, including three Bay-breasted two Wilson's and a big flight of female Pine Warblers (Puleston). The Kentucky Warbler was at Hempstead May 9 (Levine, Wollin) and at Inwood May 14 (Kallman). The earliest Hooded Warbler was at Inwood on Apr 28 (Norse), but there was one at Hempstead on May 8 and 9 (Dignan, Simon, Snider, Sullivan, Ward) and one at Brookhaven on May 5 and May 14 (Puleston).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: There were a few western Long Island Orchard Oriole records, a pair at Brookhaven on May 9 and 12 (Puleston) and several at Orient on May 7 (Latham). Rusty Blackbirds moved through Inwood during the first half of May (Norse); usually scarce on the south shore of Long Island, there was one at Roosevelt on May 7 (Levine, Ward). A Bobolink was at Jamaica Bay on May 6 (Norse). The earliest Scarlet Tanager was at Orient May 17 (Latham). Summer Tanager records included three at Wading River, May 14, also two at Yaphank May 17 (Puleston). Three Blue Grosbeaks were at Patchogue, one Apr 27-30, one until May 3, and one May 11-13, all banded (W. Terry). One was banded at Center Moriches about May 1 (Wilcox), and Singles were at Riis Park May 10 and at Inwood May 13 (Norse). There was a Dickcissel at Brookhaven May 11-16 (Puleston).

Red Crossbill records included 12 on Loop Causeway Apr 8 (Levine, Ward), four at Brookhaven May 25 (Puleston), and one at Upton May 25 (Raynor). A single European Goldfinch was at Orient on May 30 (Latham). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Point Lookout on May 8 (Carleton), and there were a half dozen or more records of Lincoln's Sparrows May 7-9 at Jones Beach and Riis Park.

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