

REGION 10 — MARINE

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Several warm days in April started budding vegetation into leaf. There was little or no rain and several fires broke out in Staten Island and on Long Island, especially in the pine barrens, burning up hundreds of acres of pitch pines and scrub oaks, home of the Grouse, Pine and Prairie Warblers and other thicket-resorting birds. May came in warm; wet weather later took the threat of fire out of the parched woodlands and warm southerly winds prevailed. May 23 set an all time record for low temperatures and May 24 a near record. The month ended up pleasantly. Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles were present from the beginning of the period, and Grackles were gobbling young Robins at the end of the period in Seaford.

Large flights of Double-crested Cormorants flew east along the ocean front in late April and early May. Cattle Egret was comparatively rare this spring compared to 50 or more last year. There was a big flight of Northern and Red Phalaropes in the eastern bays and around Shinnecock Inlet estimated at 213 Red and 113 Northern, April 30 (D. Puleston, G. Raynor). Bluebirds are still scarce on eastern Long Island. There was a fair number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported this spring and spectacular news from Gilbert Raynor of the first Gnatcatcher nest for Long Island at Manorville, May 23, establishing this species as a resident here; also a nest was found May 24 at Noyack woods, north of Southampton (DP, GR).

Among warblers there was an abundance of the usually uncommon Bay-breasted on Long Island in some places dozens were seen May 19 and 21. Good warbler flights were noted May 11, 14, 19 and 21 on Long Island.

At Inwood (upper New York city) William Norse reported principal movement days as April 18, 22; May 4, 8-11, 14-15, 19, and 29-31. Completing migration reports, the spring sparrow migration was very poor, especially on Western Long Island. As to breeding: apparently the Brown Creeper has established itself, at least as an irregular Long Island nester, since the first nest was discovered nearly a decade ago near Smithtown by John T. Nichols, with a pair breeding this year at Yaphank, April 24 (nest not completed) and another pair carrying food at Sayville in mid-May (D. Puleston). Rarities included Purple Gallinule, Lower Westchester Co. in May (late); Swainson's Warbler, Bronx Park, N. Y. City, May 6 (G. Carleton) and Townsend's Warbler, Central Park, N. Y. City May 4 (I. Cantor).

Observers: AD — A. Dignan; JE — J. Elliott; EL — E. Levine; LLAS — Lyman Longdon Aud. Soc.; EM — E. Mudge; WN — W. Norse; DP — D. Puleston; GR — G. Raynor; CW — C. Ward; MW — M. Wheat.

Abbreviations: Jam B — Jamaica Bay.

Loons—Ducks: Loons: regular in migration, one or two reports of Red-necked Grebe; Cormorant flights regular; Gannets passed through rapidly. White Heron appeared very early with March and April records and Common and Snowies were on Jones Beach nesting ground in late April up to the end of the period. Several April Little Blue Herons reported; Louisiana Heron regular now in April, with one or two records from the middle of the month. Cattle Egret scarce, maximum two at Jam B, May 5 (WN), singles at Hewlett, May 12 (R. Sloss); same date Sayville (DP). The high count of Glossy Ibis was 29 at Jam B May 4 (WN, R. Fisher); four over Freeport, May 27 (CW). Ducks were down a bit in migration from other years. Gadwall apparently breeding at Jones Beach Sanctuary pond; there was a fair flight of ducks at Jam B with some to be reported later as nesting. European Widgeon and Common Teal, which were rather regular some two decades ago, are now apparently non-existent.

The Wood Duck is apparently breeding at Yaphank and Mill Neck. The large Scoter flocks usually seen in huge rafts in April at Jones Beach were missing.

Hawks—Owls: Rather rare were Accipiters among the Buteos, Broad-winged Hawk scarce in North Shore woods where plentiful a decade ago. Red-tailed Hawk: Hempstead, May 14 (CW); Red-shouldered at Wading River, May 11 (GR). There were a couple of records of Peregrine Falcon on western L.I.; Pigeon Hawk scarce;

Sparrow Hawk regularly resident. King Rail: Pelham, May 12 (WN); Sora, Jones Beach, May 5 (AD). No record of Black or Yellow Rails. Oystercatcher: Moriches, five, latter part of May (DP); three eggs May 26 (GR); chick out May 30 (DP). Golden Plover: two May 19 Northport (Mrs. E. McMullen). Upland Plover: seven on dairy farm, Apr 28 N. Sayville (DP, GR). Hudsonian Curlew: two at Moriches, Apr 27 (GR). Willett: Shinnecock, 20 on Apr 30 (GR). Besides the large flight of Phalaropes mentioned above there were several small flocks at Jam B (LLAS); 26 Northern Phalaropes and one Curlew Sandpiper, May 18, Short Beach, (EL); Wilson's Phalarope, in breeding plumage, Apr 27 and one or two other reports. Glaucous Gull: at Jam B, May 30 (WN, H. Johnson). Herring Gull: estimated at about 1,500 nesting at Captree, near Oak Beach. Laughing Gull: regular. Common Tern: appeared on time as did Least Terns, both were on nesting grounds at Jones Beach at end of period. Black Tern: one at Inwood, May 15, rare there (WN). Both Cuckoos fairly regular in north shore woods; one or two Barn Owls and Screech Owls resident. Great Horned Owl: several records, Upton, Noyack, three young seen (GR).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chimney Swift common this spring; Nighthawk rare on Long Island, one or two regular at Eastchester (Westchester Co.), late May (J. Elliott, Jr.). Among Woodpeckers there was a Red-bellied at Brookhaven, Apr 24-25 (DP). Red-headed Woodpecker: Jones Beach May 12 (CW). Crested Flycatcher: Seaford, May 15 (JE). Acadian Flycatcher: singing in Inwood, May 8 (WN). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Inwood May 18 (WN); Northport, May 26 (GR); Northport, May 15 (EM); Roosevelt, May 19 (CW).

Barn and Rough-winged Swallows arrived by mid-to late April and the first Purple Martin arrived at Manorville colony, Apr 13. Tufted Titmouse: several still present. Red-breasted Nuthatch very scarce. There was a late Winter Wren at Inwood, May 15 (WN). There were about a half-dozen Mockingbird reports over Western and Central L.I. The Veery was fairly common and now breeding on north shore. Bluebird continued scarce, with one at Manorville, Apr 5 and one at Upton, Apr 25. Besides the above mentioned nesting of Gnatcatchers, several were seen at Sayville in early to mid-May.

Vireo—Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: Oyster Bay, latter part of period (JE, MW). Several reports of Philadelphia Vireo. Warbling at Sayville and Huntington. Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers scarce. Worm-eating Warbler: one at Yaphank and one at Sayville (GR) May 11, one at Hempstead (CW) also on May 14 (AD). Golden-winged Warbler: two birds May 10, Sayville (DP), was the maximum; also an Orange-crowned at Yaphank, May 24, (DP). Cerulean Warbler: Sayville, May 16, four (max); male singing at Noyack May 24 (DP). Practically all the common warblers came through in good abundance, including Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Cape May and even the Tennessee, which was very gratifying compared to recent years. Yellow-breasted Chat: 10 at Northport, May 30 (EM). Kentucky Warbler, singing male at Inwood, May 14-15 (WN). Hooded Warbler: records from Sayville (DP), Hempstead, Massapequa (JE), Roosevelt (CW), all around mid-May.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Orchard Oriole, singles, Brookhaven, Apr 22 and Apr 26, also May 14 & 28 (DP, GR); Seaford, May 8 (JE). There was a fair flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and lingering Evening Grosbeaks to May 12 at Manorville. One speculates as to the effect of insecticides around our wastelands and the agricultural areas where wintering sparrows do much feeding. Could there be some relationship between this and the scarcity of our spring migrants which some years ago flooded the countryside, as last fall Roy Latham of Orient reported many dead Savannah Sparrows bordering fields which had been sprayed for aphids on brussels sprouts.

Late Tree Sparrow, May 5, Jones Beach (AD); a Lincoln's Sparrow, May 12 was reported at Hewlett (B. Berliner).

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Note: All contributors in Region 10 will please, in the future, send their reports to Mr. Peter W. Post, 575 West 183d Street, New York 33. Mr. Post together with Mr. Guy Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, New York 25, will compile the seasonal regional report for The Kingbird.

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