

REGION 10—MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

Unfortunately, limitations on space permit only the most cursory and general remarks concerning an analysis of the spring migration. Because of intimate ties with the weather it is suggested that the reader examine the following data in this light with the aid of a weather map. If we appear to place undue emphasis on the New York City parks it is because most of our information comes from here. It is well known that the migration often differs substantially from place to place within Region 10. Not only do the numbers of migrants (especially wood warblers) decrease as one moves towards Montauk, but conditions along the coast (even in New York City) often differs markedly from the New York City parks.

In general, April was poor. In New York City's Central Park the best day was April 17, with large numbers of Sapsuckers, Phoebe's, Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The arrivals on this date included Black and White Warblers, Solitary Vireos, Towhees, and a House Wren. A two day movement on April 23 and 24, in addition to more of the same species as on the 17th, saw the arrival of Whip-poor-will, Wood Thrushes and Hooded Warblers. Yellow, Blackburnian, and Prairie Warblers, and Ovenbird arrived in Central Park on the 24th, while a Baltimore Oriole occurred in Brooklyn on the same date. This late April movement has in recent years included a few recurring species which are normally considered later migrants.

A prolonged cold period of easterly winds and rain during late April and early May brought migration to a virtual standstill. On May 7 the "dam broke"; the great bulk of migrants passing through between this latter date and May 12. After May 21 the migration dropped off sharply. Practically every May migrant arrived on the 7th; in most cases females arriving simultaneously with males. Although every day between the 7th and 12th was good (i.e. over 21 species of warblers per day in Central Park) and saw a complete changeover in birds, the peak day in terms of absolute numbers of individuals differed from place to place, probably reflecting local conditions; 70 species including 21 species of warblers in Central Park on the 7th (GT, PP); 80 species including 25 species of warblers in Inwood Hill Park on the 12th (WN); and 90 species including 29 species of warblers (of ca. 1,000 individuals) in Van Cortlandt Park on the 13th (MG).

In these reports we have for the most part tried to refrain from using terms of qualitative abundance by giving absolute figures. In the spring, however, obtaining accurate estimates is more difficult. Most of our maximum numbers in fall come from the coastal strip, where the low, scattered vegetation permits fairly reliable counts to be made. The following, therefore, are but mere impressions of the relative abundance of some species gained by a number of active observers. Crested Flycatchers, Phoebe's, Creepers, Black and White, Tennessee, Wilson's and Canada Warblers and Orchard Orioles came through in good numbers, while Cuckoos, Least/Alder Flycatchers, Pewees and Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers were considered to be unusually low.

The outstanding rarities were Cinnamon Teal, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Magpie, Varied Thrush and Townsend's Warbler. Also noteworthy were spring records of Forster's Tern and Orange-crowned Warbler and the attempted nesting of Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations used: Max — maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; LLASB — Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulletin; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; in the following locations only the first word is used — Central Park, Inwood Hill Park, Van Cortlandt Park, Riis Park, Jones Beach and Greenwood Cemetery.

Contributors frequently cited: IA — Irwin Alperin; PB — Paul Buckley; JB — John Bull; IC — Irving Cantor; GC — Geoffrey Carleton; TD — Tom Davis; EE — Eugene Eisenmann; FE — Frank Enders; RF — Robert Fisher; MG — Michael Gochfeld; JH — Joe Horowitz; MK — Michael Kleinbaum; RL — Roy Latham; EL — Emanuel Levine; KM — Kevin Malone; LM — Lee Morgan; JN — Joe Neilsen; WN — William Norse; RP — Richard Plunkett; PP — Peter Post; DP — Dennis Puleston; DR — Daniel Rafferty; GR — Gilbert Raynor; TR — Tom Robben; RS — Richard Sloss; SS — Si Stepin-off; WT — Walter Terry; GT — Guy Tudor; CW — Cornelius Ward; LW — LeRoy Wilcox; CY — Charles Young.

Loons — Ducks: Red-necked Grebe: Apr 19, Rockaway Beach (RP, RF, GC). Wilson's Petrel: May 22, Shinnecock (SS). Cattle Egret: Apr 16-19, Brookhaven (DP); May 9, Jones (PP, TD, LM); May 10, JBWR (TD, R. Sutton); May 11, Van (CY). Louisiana Heron: Apr 11, JBWR (mob) — arrival. Little Blue Heron: Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, TD, LM) — in rookery. Green Heron: max 24, May 21, JBWR (MG). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: five, Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, LM, TD) — in rookery; six, May 16, Mount Sinai (GR). American Bittern: May 8, Central (mob); May 10, Greenwood (JN) — both migrants. Glossy Ibis: four, Apr 11, JBWR (mob) — arrival; max at JBWR 24 (H. Johnson); three, Apr 19, Lawrence (TD, FE); seven, Apr 29-May 1, Cutchogue (P. Stoutenburgh *vide* GR); May 30, Tobay (GC) — latter three only reports away from JBWR.

Canada Goose: movement on Apr 17 — 150, Inwood (WN) and 150, Upton (GR). Brant: 2500-3000, JBWR (mob) — through third week in May; movement (flying over) on May 21 — 1650, JBWR (MG, GT) and 1000+, New Rochelle (TR). Snow/Blue Goose: 85 flying over, Apr 4, JBWR (FE); 87 with one Blue, Apr 11, JBWR (mob); 50 flying over, Apr 12, JBWR (RP); three with two Blues, Apr 18-19, JBWR (MG, TD, FE); May 23-24, Carmen's River (DP) — late migrant. Mallard: two broods with 16 young by end of period, JBWR (FE). Black Duck: at least 16 broods totaling 83 young by end of period, JBWR (FE). Green-winged Teal: max 97, Apr 4, JBWR (FE). Cinnamon Teal: male, May 20 through period, JBWR (mob) — photographed in color. While the possibility of an escape cannot be ruled out, there are several indications that this bird is wild. It was wary at first, is free-flying and has not been banded. It was seen actively courting a female Blue-winged Teal. Of the eight records east of the Mississippi River, 1960-63 (*vide* Aud. Field Notes), one-half have appeared in late Apr and May. Wood Duck: two migrants, May 13, Tobay (EL, RS); four migrants, May 17, Greenwood (JN). Ring-necked Duck: one pair, Apr 19, JBWR (FE) — rare here. Canvasback: two males remained to end of period at JBWR (mob). Lesser Scaup: one male courting a female Scaup, May 31, JBWR (WN). Bufflehead: 120, May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); two males remained until May 22 at JBWR (PP). Old-squaw: max 3000+, Apr 3, Jones (KM). King Eider: Apr 18, Montauk (IC). Common Merganser: Apr 18, JBWR (MG) — late.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: May 1, Yaphank (IA). Red-tailed Hawk: Apr 5, Jones (EL, CW) — "that's the hawk migration this spring". Peregrine Falcon: Apr 11, World's Fair (PP); Apr 17, Van (MG); May 10, JBWR (TD). Pigeon Hawk: May 5, Central (PP); May 12, Van (S. Friedman) — only inland reports. King Rail: May 28, Brookhaven (DP). Sora: Apr 11, JBWR (SS) — early. Common Gallinule: Apr 11, JBWR (SS, TD, LM) — arrival; Apr 23, Van (F. Heath, PP) — migrant.

Oystercatcher: one pair, Apr 18-mid May, Shinnecock (GR, LW); one pair, Moriches (LW) — neither pair attempted to nest. Killdeer: max 6, May 24, JBWR (GR) — very scarce compared to former years. Golden Plover: Apr 18, Moriches Inlet (LLASB); May 21, JBWR (MG, GT); May 23, JBWR (WN) — recorded annually in spring in recent years. Woodcock: "Holding its own if not increasing as a breeder; annual census produced nine compared to usual four-six, May 4, Manorville." (GR). Whimbrel: May 10, JBWR (TD). Upland Plover: one or three, May 22, Suffolk Co. AFB (SS);

May 25-28, Eastport (GR). Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 19, JBWR (WN) — early. Willet: May 24, JBWR (GR); May 31, Tobay (JB, EE). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12, Apr 18, JBWR (LM, TD). Least Sandpiper: max 125+, May 9, JBWR (MK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1000, May 16, JBWR (MG). Western Sandpiper: May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); two, May 13, JBWR (WN); May 16, JBWR (MK); May 31, JBWR (WN) — rare in spring. Ruff: male, May 17, JBWR (WN). Northern Phalarope: female, May 13, JBWR (WN); male, May 27, JBWR (FE, GC) — regular here in spring since 1956. Wilson's Phalarope: female, Apr 25, JBWR (mob); male, May 13, JBWR (WN); two females and a male, May 28 to end of period, JBWR (mob) — regular here in spring since 1960.

Glaucous Gull: Apr 4, Tobay (CW, EL); May 1, Smith Point (IA). Iceland Gull: very scarce during spring period; only four reports, latest May 4. Little Gull: the bird at Jones Inlet mentioned in the previous report remained until Apr 12 (MK). Forster's Tern: May 10, JBWR (RP, L. Mackenzie) — well observed; extremely rare in spring. Roseate Tern: May 8, Jones (SS); May 17, JBWR (WN) — migrants. Black-billed Cuckoo: very scarce as migrants in city parks; "None found breeding in Westchester Co., especially unusual" (TR).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Pileated Woodpecker: Apr 24, Bronx Park (DR, W. Hackett) — four other records from city parks (Manhattan and Bronx), all in April (see Aud. Field Notes: 15 (5):454, 1961; 16 (4):393, 1962). At least three pairs nesting within Region 10 (S. Westchester Co.). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Apr 19, Greenwood (JN); Apr 23, Van (MG, S. Friedman) — recorded annually, late Apr to mid-May, in city parks since 1959; flight year in 1962 (7-10 reports). Red-headed Woodpecker: Apr 25-May 16, Forest Park (mob); additional reports from Long Island — six individuals seen between May 9-13, and three between May 17-24; unusual spring movement, especially on Long Island.

Eastern Kingbird: Apr 17, Orient (RL) — early. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: adult, May 11, Short Beach (H. F. Koster) — of six previous records, four were in spring (see Linnaean Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 7, 1961). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: unusually early movement — 11 reports from city parks between May 8 (two), Central (GT, PP, MG, TR) to May 18; only one report during the species' normal migration period! Empidonax (sp): Apr 24, Central (SS) — early. Acadian Flycatcher: May 2, Van (WN); May 6, Bronx Park (SS). Least Flycatcher: "No breeders found in Westchester Co. Five years ago this would have been unbelievable" (TR). All active observers reported that Empidonax Flycatchers (except Yellow-bellied) were very scarce; one person saw only four individuals all spring in the city parks, and Puleston states that he failed to find a single one on Long Island. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 12, Inwood (WN) — early.

Horned Lark: one recently fledged young, Apr 12, Short Beach (MG). Barn Swallow: Apr 4, Northport (E. McMullen) — early. Cliff Swallow: two, March 29, Riis (S. Schiff) — extremely early. Purple Martin: first arrivals at Manorville breeding colony on Apr 10 (GR). Magpie: Apr 4-5, Short Beach (PB, RF, KM, CW) — far too many records in recent years to be all escapes; most of them fall within the migration period. Tufted Titmouse: three pairs, Roosevelt (CW) — "probably breeding". Red-breasted Nuthatch: good return flight, May 7-17; max 6, May 13, Jones and Riis (GT). Brown Creeper: max 20, Apr 24, Central (GT); two, May 26, Manorville (GR) — late. House Wren: Apr 17, Central (GC, PP) — early. Carolina Wren: May 8, Marine Park (MG, JH) — straggler in this area; six-seven, Northport area (E. Mudge). Short-billed Marsh Wren: May 17, Manorville (GR).

Varied Thrush: Apr 17, Orient (RL) — see Field Note Section for details. Wood Thrush: five reports in city parks on Apr 23-24. Swainson's Thrush: the peak movement occurred on the night of May 7-8 when hundreds were heard passing over New York City before dawn (JH, GT). Observations in Central Park that morning indicated that a small number of Gray-cheeked

Thrushes accompanied this flight in a ratio of about one to seven. Veery: peak movement occurred on May 7 — max 35, Central (GT) and 16, Van (MG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: increasing steadily in recent years; Apr 4-May 11; max five, Apr 27, Central (PP). Water Pipit: May 13, Jones (EL, RS) — late. Cedar Waxwing: May 9, Bronx Park (WN) — early migrant. Loggerhead Shrike: Apr 11, JBWR (S. Komito); Apr 23, Idlewild (JB) — rare in spring.

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: Apr 18, Montauk (IC) — very early. Yellow-throated Vireo: territorial male, Apr 25, Sprain Ridge (TR) — early; May 26, Manorville (GR) — late. Blue-headed Vireo: max eight, May 7, Central (PP). Philadelphia Vireo: three reports on May 17: Sayville (WT), Manorville (GR) and Springfield Gardens, Queens (J. Mayer); May 19, Central (LM); May 24, Inwood (WN) — rare in spring, but more common than formerly. Warbling Vireo: territorial male, Apr 24, Van (SS) — very early; May 8, JBWR (MG, JH); May 13, Riis (TR); May 17, E. Marion (GR); May 29, Cold Spring Harbor (GR) — considered very rare on Long Island at any time.

Black and White Warbler: good early movement — widespread arrival on Apr 17. Prothonotary Warbler: May 4, Van (SS, CY); May 9, Roosevelt (EL, CW, et al). Golden-winged Warbler: max four, May 13, Van (MG); May 5, Great Neck (A. Dove, et al *fide* LLASB) — rare on Long Island. "Brewster's" Warbler: May 9, Central (mob). Tennessee Warbler: max 20, May 12, Inwood (WN) — more common every spring. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 12, Inwood (WN) — very rare in spring. Parula Warbler: max 62, May 13, Van (MG). Magnolia Warbler: max 39, May 13, Van (MG). Cape May Warbler: max three, May 8, Central (GT) — early arrival, but quite low this spring. Myrtle Warbler: max 98, May 13, Van (MG). Townsend's Warbler: adult male, May 9, Bronx Park (SS, CY, DR, M. Russak, T. Peszel, S. Hamers) — fourth record for Region 10 and state; third within almost a year! There are only three other records east of the Mississippi River!! (see Linnaean Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1964). Cerulean Warbler: female, May 10, Roosevelt (CW, EL, et al); male, May 12, Central (MK, GC); female, May 13, Van (MG); male, May 16, Alley Pond Park (LLASB); male, May 23, Van (WN) — more common every spring. Blackburnian Warbler: Apr 24, Central (GC, MK, et al) — early. Yellow-throated Warbler: May 3, Central (SS, et al); May 7, Midwood, Brooklyn (E. Sawyer). Blackpoll Warbler: max 37, May 13, Van (MG). Palm Warbler: May 13, Van (MG) — late. Ovenbird: Apr 24, Central (GT) — early. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 18, Central (PP) — early. Louisiana Waterthrush: arrival Apr 11, Lawrence (PP, LM, TD); May 24, Central (PP, LM, RP) — singing; May 29, Fort Salonga (GR) — latter two late. Kentucky Warbler: May 7, Central (mob); May 10, Roosevelt (CW, EL, et al); May 10, Hempstead (G. & D. Clifford *fide* CW); May 21, Inwood (WN). Mourning Warbler: May 13, Van (MG) — early; at least seven other reports from New York City. Yellowthroat: max 200+, May 17, Idlewild (PP, LM). Hooded Warbler: Apr 23, JBWR (SS); Apr 23, Inwood (WN); Apr 24, Forest Park (TD); Apr 26, Central (GC, PP, SS) — early movement. Wilson's Warbler: arrival May 5, Van (JH). Canada Warbler: 25, May 7, Central (GT, PP) — arrival; max 55, May 13, Van (MG).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: best flight in years; 12 individuals in New York City parks — May 6-May 11; max three, May 7, Central (GT, PP, E. Gonzalez); six Long Island reports — May 9-16 and 30. Of 13 birds in which the plumage was noted, six were adult males, three were immature males and four were females. In most years immature males predominate. Baltimore Oriole: Apr 24, Parkslope, Brooklyn (O. Raymond) — early; max 20, May 13, Van (MG). Scarlet Tanager: max 15, May 13, Van (MG). Summer Tanager: female, May 13, Van (MG).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 35+, May 9, Riis (MK). Indigo Bunting: "Breeding seems greater than usual; I counted 12 pairs on 20 acres in Yonkers in last week of May" (TR). Dickcissel: one at feeder, Apr 1-10, Scarsdale (Mrs. R. Heffron *fide* M. Cornwell); two males at feeder, Apr 5-15, Port Washington (Mrs. C. Lewis *fide* LLASB); migrant, May 9, JBWR (IC).

Ipswich Sparrow: departure Apr 12, JBWR (MK). Grasshopper Sparrow: two, May 9, Idlewild (GC). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: May 9, Idlewild (EE). Seaside Sparrow: May 1, Central (SS); three individuals on May 9 — Idlewild (GC), Central (GC, PP), Riis (MK); May 13, Riis (GT). The latter three species have been considered very rare on migration away from breeding localities. Slate-colored Junco: May 11 (late), St. Paul's Churchyard (J. Zupan). Tree Sparrow: five, Apr 12 (late), JBWR (MK). White-crowned Sparrow: 31 individuals reported May 7-11, very few afterwards; max 9, May 9, Kissena Park (MK). White-throated Sparrow: max 650, May 10, Greenwood (JN). Fox Sparrow: May 5 (late), Manorville (GR). Lincoln's Sparrow: 11 individuals seen in city parks, May 7-11; only four reported later. Snow Bunting: five, Apr 5 (late), Jones (MK).

REPORTING REGIONS

