

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

Peter Post summed up this spring (and the term is used loosely) by saying, "It was the worst spring I've seen in 17 years of birding." He's been saying this for years but this year most observers tended to agree with him. Many Big Days weren't. They were more like Christmas Counts. Temperatures ranged far below normal for the months of April and May. The rain for these two months removed all traces, and memories, of the five-year drought. Vegetation was almost two weeks behind that of a normal spring.

The only waves of any importance were on May 18 and 28. These days were only considered good because other days had been so poor. The early records (see Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler) were even more amazing than they would be in a normal year. The rarities did not seem to be particularly lacking. They included Cattle Egret, Snipe sp?, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Carolina Chickadee, Boat-tailed Grackle.

Contributors frequently cited: AB—Albert Bell; JB—John Bull; IC—Irving Cantor; RC—Richard Cohen; BC—Barbara Conolly; AD—Aline Dove; OD—Orville Dunning; RL—Roy Latham; WN—William Norse; RP—Richard Plunkett; PP—Peter Post; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JT—Joanne Trimble.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; AMNH—American Museum of Natural History; LTP—Linnaean Pelagic Trip. Only the first word is used for Central Park, Hempstead State Park, Inwood Hill Park, Jones Beach State Park and Riis Park.

LOONS—DUCKS: Sooty Shearwater: between ten and 20 May 28 (LPT). Cattle Egret: May 26 thru end of period JBWR (WN). Glossy Ibis: three May 3 Van Cortlandt Pk (WN)—unusual inland, third record for the park. Whistling Swan: Mar 3 Orient (RL); Apr 2 JBWR (WN). Snow Goose: May 30 JBWR (WN, IC)—except for summering birds, latest date for Region. European Teal: drake May 14 JBWR (R. Arbib, JB et al). Canvasback: a pair thru end of period JBWR (WN, IC)—extremely late. Lesser Scaup: to May 14 Central (PP).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Apr 28 Hempstead (BC); May 3 Alley Pond Pk (AB, BC, AD, OD). King Rail: Apr 29-May 14 JBWR (mob). Virginia Rail: one May 9-18 Central (mob)—feeding on worms in exposed situation. Unidentified Snipe: Apr 30 Riis (WN)—"Flushed a snipe from a *dry* grassy field. It flew up *silently* and with a *direct* low flight. It appeared heavier in build than a Common Snipe and I thought it had *more white* in the tail. It gained altitude rapidly and left in a northerly direction, never to return, so the observation was incomplete"—italics by regional editor. These details closely fit the description of the Great Snipe (*Capella media*), a European species which has been recorded only twice on this side of the Atlantic: one seen and photographed at Cape May, N.J. on Sept 7, 1963, and a much older Canadian record mentioned in the A.O.U. checklist. Upland Plover: arr Apr 23 (three) at Mitchell Field (AB). Red Phalarope: May 7 JBWR (H. Johnson). Wilson's Phalarope: female May 7-13 JBWR (mob). Northern Phalarope: eight May 28 (LPT).

Parasitic Jaeger: one May 28 (LPT). Jaeger sp?: Apr 23, probably Parasitics, off Riis Pk (IC). Glaucous Gull: Apr 25, Pilgrim State Hospital (BT, JT). Iceland Gull: at least six individuals Apr 22-30 Central (PP); Apr 30 JBWR (WN); three remained at Pilgrim State Hospital until May 7 (JT, BT). "White-winged" Gull: variously identified as a Glaucous or Iceland Gull was more likely an albino Herring Gull, May 28 Captree (LPT). Lesser Black-backed Gull: Apr 16 JBWR (WN)—

"a changing sub-adult gull, probably a Lesser Black-backed . . . size of Herring Gull, but slenderer. Head and underparts very white, upper back with scaly effect, mantle dark brown with black or dark slate feathers coming in. Bill slenderer than Herring Gull's, legs flesh color. Slightly faster wingbeat than Herring Gull. In all it resembled a Great Black-backed Gull of the same stage but much smaller." Great Horned Owl: pairs nested at both Pelham Bay Pk and Glen Cove (O. Heck et al)—two young were fledged at Glen Cove.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: building nest May 28 Mill Neck (AB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Apr 16 Roosevelt (C. Ward, E. Levine); Apr 23 Jones (A. Cruz, L. Mills); May 4 Atlantic Beach (RC); May 15–20 Forest Pk (A. Cruz et al); May 20 Hempstead (A. Cruz). Acadian Flycatcher: May 24 Inwood (WN)- singing. **Carolina Chickadee:** chickadee seen singing Carolina's song Apr 26 Inwood (WN)- if correctly identified this would constitute the first Regional record. Tufted Titmouse: pair Apr 10–17 Northport (E. Mudge). Brown Creeper: singing bird May 20 Matinecock (AB)- very late, attempting to breed? House Wren: Apr 20 Central (RP)- very early. Short-billed Marsh Wren: May 26 JBWR (WN). Brown Thrasher: nest found as early as May 10 Central (PP). Eastern Bluebird: May 24 Inwood (WN) - late transient.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: three May 28 Inwood (WN)- very late. Philadelphia Vireo: May 23, 24, 28 Inwood (WN)- rare in spring.

Warblers: Black-and-white: male Apr 3 Orient (RL)- earliest Regional record. Prothonotary: female May 20 Kalbfleisch Research Station, Huntington (W. Lanyon) -collected, specimen at AMNH. Worm-eating: netted May 6 and 21 Atlantic Beach (RC)- rare coastal migrant. "Brewster's": May 22–27 Port Washington (Mrs. E. Forquer, AD, RC, AB). "Lawrence's": May 21–27 Matinecock (AB et al). Orange-crowned: May 15 Inwood (WN); May 11–13 Central (RP, M. Kleinbaum). Cerulean: May 29 Inwood (WN). **Chestnut-sided:** Apr 16 Central (H. & B. Drescher)- earliest Regional record by 9 days. Kentucky: May 1 Central (mob); May 16 Inwood (WN, R. Zaboly). Mourning: male May 30–31 Northport (E. Mudge). Hooded: May 13 Matinecock (AB); three May 14 Alley Pond Pk (AB et al). Canada: female May 1 Central (mob)- extremely early.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: up to 100 May 14–19 Lattingtown (AB et al). Orchard Oriole: sub-adult male May 3 Alley Pond Pk (AD, BC, AB, OD); two sub-adult males May 14 Far Rockaway (JB); male May 28 Inwood (WN). Rusty Blackbird: May 17 Central (WN)- very late. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** male early Apr thru end of period, Far Rockaway (Mrs. Robert Berman, Mrs. Jean Sorman, JB et al)- second state record. Summer Tanager: female May 28 Inwood (WN)- seen in comparison to female Scarlets. Dickcissel: singing male May 13–14 Far Rockaway (JB et al). Red Crossbill: young male May 16 Central (PP). Oregon Junco: Apr 2 Riis (WN)- "male *oreganus*." White-crowned Sparrow: always a number present from Apr 28 to late May, max 18, Central (PP, RP); at least six May 28 JBWR (F. Heath, S. Anes)- extremely late. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 28 Inwood (WN)- late.

ADDENDUM: Two records were inadvertently omitted from the Winter Season report- **Red Phalarope:** Jan 28 Montauk (P. Baicich, Queens Co Bird Club)- excellent photographs examined by the editor leave no doubt as to its identity- first Regional winter record. **Least Tern:** Mar 11 JBWR (H. Mortensen) observed flying, sitting and even calling, earliest Regional record by six weeks.

Note: Summer season ends Aug 15, reports should follow closely.

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