

eating: nesting usual location Dunderberg Mt., Rock. Golden-winged: especially numerous in Ulst. Brewster's: one, courted by Golden-wing, Basha Kill May 11 (MBC). Parula: scarce; Mabel Little found none all season in Putn and N. West. Magnolia: most late, and very few at that. Cerulean: more than ever before—mid May yielded 3 or 4 per trip; a male courting a female at Weyant's Pond, USMA May 18, no proven nesting however; persisted in good numbers thru end of season. Blackburnian: very few reported. Blackpoll: arr as expected in late May, but numbers very low. Pine: most records in the past during Apr; this year only two—one May 18, (AJ) and one May 21 (MK), both Dutch. Prairie: absent from most of its usual haunts, numbers unusually low. Louisiana Waterthrush: one, Dunderberg Mt. Apr 14, very early. Hooded: fewer reported than usual, but nesting in usual locations. Wilson's: unreported from most areas, numbers unusually low. Canada: another species missed completely by some active birders, very poor for this normally abundant species. Am. Redstart: very late, but numbers good in late May; only one reported on WBC census on May 11.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Icterids: most species normal to better except Rusty Blackbird which has been below normal all year. Bobolink: especially good numbers. Red-winged Blackbird: flock of more than 1,000 males reported at New Hamburg, Dutch May 22, unusually late for migrants (OW). Orchard Oriole: a few more than usual, most nesting birds on location. Baltimore Oriole: down from previous years, but still good. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: far below normal numbers, and arr generally late. Indigo Bunting: late, first May 14; numbers normal in late May. Evening Grosbeak: two, Apr 10 at Cornwall (A,BM); 36 through month of Apr Millbrook, Dutch; four, May 16 Stanfordville, Dutch. Purple Finch: much better numbers than in recent years. House Finch: continues to increase; male and female feeding an imm at Cornwall, first nesting for that area; Dutch had about 30 dur Apr and May mostly in the Poughkeepsie area. **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** one, in flock of Am. Goldfinches at a feeder in New City Park Apr 3 & 4 was reported by Ruth Steffens who knows the species well from her stay in Bermuda; same bird also reported by a non-birder at a feeder nearby on Mar 30, 31—a new species for Rock. Pine Siskin: unreported. Savannah Sparrow: WBC reported 61 on May 11 census, very high. Grasshopper Sparrow: first Rock report since fall of 1954—one May 21 at Nauraushaun (JD); scarce in Dutch—only two, May 13. Slate-colored Junco: last, four May 8—late. Tree Sparrow: last report Apr 12–18 in Dutch. Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 5, early; normal after mid-Apr thru most of season; numbers down in S Putn. and N West (ML). **HARRIS' SPARROW:** bird of last winter at Dover Plains, lingered til May 2, went into fine adult plumage before leaving. White-crowned Sparrow: less than usual; first, two, May 5; peak, May 17. White-throated Sparrow: poor flight compared to most years. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report, one found dead at Plutarch, Ulst on May 18 (Heinz Meng). Song Sparrow: usual good numbers.

Summer reports due Sept 1.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928.

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM POST

It is difficult to summarize continually poor seasons. All active observers agreed that this one was just short of being really dismal.

What are the reasons for these poor seasons? Are bird populations declining? This could be a reality—a long drought followed by last summer's wet, stormy weather, habitat destruction, the ubiquitous insecticides do little good. However, radar studies show that large migrations of birds pass unseen unless the proper weather conditions

prevail. (See Nisbet and Drury, 1967, "Scanning the Sky-Birds on Radar" and "Weather and Migration" *Mass. Audubon*, summer and autumn issues.)

Ideal meteorological barriers to migration produced two good days this spring—May 3 and May 17, both Fridays. On the 3rd a strong flow of tropical air met cold air and rain formed from Washington northeast to Boston. These conditions produced a large arrival of terns and also the earliest-recorded Olive-sided Flycatcher. On the 17th, moderate southwest winds brought warm air from the Gulf of Mexico into New York along the east side of a cold front extending along the Appalachians. Birds reaching our area on the dawn of the 17th found their passage blocked by a second cold front lying across Long Island. Richard Cohen, who was mist-netting migrants daily at his home in Atlantic Beach, recorded his highest total this spring on the 17th. His total was 145 birds, of which 100 were warblers. The top three species were: 34 Yellowthroats, 21 Catbirds, and 13 Redstarts. He also banded all five species of *Hylocichla* and a Worm-eating Warbler, a rare coastal migrant.

Like last year, this spring ended on a sad note. It began raining on May 28, and by the morning of the 29th, 4.88 inches had fallen. On the afternoon of the 29th, Frank Enders and Will Post found two washed-out Virginia Rail nests (one contained four just-hatched young and four eggs, all drowned); also inundated: two Red-winged Blackbird and two Seaside Sparrow nests. On an early June 1st visit to Lawrence Marsh, Davis found several washed-out Clapper Rail nests and there was evidence that the heron rookery had suffered damage. Higher-nesting passerines such as the Tree Swallows at Tobay appear to have suffered no damage.

May temperatures were 2.8 degrees below average. The temperature was above normal on only four days. Rainfall in May was 7.06 inches, 3.5 inches above normal.

There were few rarities this spring, but a pair of Saw-whet Owls nested in a bird box at Tobay. A Saw-whet nest was last found in the Region in 1879. Intensive field work at Oak Beach by Post and Enders revealed the presence of Black Rails. This species has been recorded breeding in our Region only three times, once at Oak Beach in 1937.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; AtlB—Atlantic Beach. Only the first word is used for Captree State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Contributors frequently cited: LBT—Linnaean Boat Trip (R.Harrison, R.Grant, T.Davis *et al*) off Jones Beach; FE—Frank Enders; TD—Thomas Davis; GR—Gilbert Raynor; RC—Richard Cohen; WP—William Post; BC—Barbara Connolly; AD—Aline Dove; OD—Orville Dunning.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two, Jun 2 (LBT)—late migrants. Red-throated Loon: two, Jun 2 (LBT)—late migrants. Sooty Shearwater: five, Jun 2 (LBT). Wilson's Petrel: 20, Jun 2 (LBT). Gannet: adult, Jun 2 (LBT)—late for adult. Glossy Ibis: appeared everywhere in large numbers; max counts—185, early May, Rockaway and Brookville Blvds., Queens Co. (H.Hirschbein, B.Berliner *et al*)—highest Regional count; 95, May 6, Oak Beach marshes (WP). European Widgeon: drake, Apr 20—thru period, JBWR (mob)—latest Regional record. King Eider: hen, Jun 1, JBWR (M.Kleinbaum *et al*)—a straggler at this season, perhaps blown inshore by the May 29 storm.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Apr 1, Far Rockaway (J.Bull); Apr 3, JBWR (J.Bull). Broad-winged Hawk: territorial pair, May 26, Brookville (BC). Virginia Rail: at least ten pairs are breeding at Oak Beach in a salt marsh; six nests have been found (FE,WP). Sora Rail: one trapped and banded at Oak Beach May 4. Black Rail: the "kik-kik-kerrr" call of this species was first heard at Oak Beach on Apr 30 (WP,FE). (This call is not to be confused with the "tic-tic-tic-McGreer" call of the Virginia Rail). On May 4 a Black Rail was netted and banded at Oak Beach (FE,TD). Clapper Rail: a nest with ten eggs on May 30 survived the high waters of May 28–29 at Oak Beach. An estimated ten-twelve pairs were heard call-

ing from the dike at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—“Although I remained until 9:15 p.m., this was the only rail species heard.” American Oystercatcher: pair May 22, JBWR (E.Janvrin, H.Isham *et al.*)—late migrants? Piping Plover: nest with two eggs, Apr 18, Jones (D.Cooper)—earliest Regional egg date by six days. Am. Woodcock: four broods were raised at JBWR (H.Johnson); a singing male was heard near the dike at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—a local breeder in our area, especially near the coast. Stilt Sandpiper: Apr 23, Oak Beach (WP)—always rare in spring, and this one very early. Earliest in Bull are Apr 13 and 26. Upland Plover: arr Apr 14 at Mitchell Field; by May 4, population was 16, including seven pair (R.Cioffi). Willet: Apr 16, Lawrence Marsh (D.Cooper)—earliest Regional record. Northern Phalarope: three, Jun 2, LBT.

Pomarine Jaeger: light-phase bird, Jun 2, LBT. Great Black-backed Gull: at Captree, birds began laying eggs on Apr 26; individuals were still laying as late as Jun 8 (TD). Herring Gull: at Captree birds began laying eggs on Apr 27 (TD)—earliest Regional egg date. Glaucous Gull: May 15-Jun 3, JBWR (mob). Common Tern: breeding birds returned to the Jones Beach—Captree strip on May 3 (TD). Caspian Tern: May 11, Mecox (GR)—rare spring migrant. Great Horned Owl: three pairs nested in the Glen Cove—Oyster Bay area (O.Heck). Short-eared Owl: May 15, Moriches Inlet (GR)—late. Saw-whet Owl: nested in a bird box at Tobay (R.Barth, F.Schaeffer *et al.*)—see Field Note in this issue.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: May 15, Cutchogue, “present for 4-5 days previously” (P.Stoutenburgh *vide* GR)—the only report received. Red-headed Woodpecker: May 5, Tobay (T.Lauro, B.Reeves). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 4, Prospect Pk (J.Yrizarry)—earliest Regional record. Tree Swallow: Jun 2, LBT—seen 14 miles from nearest land. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jun 4, Lloyd Neck (AD,BC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: Apr 21, Freeport (C.Ward, H. Hirschbein)—earliest Regional record. Philadelphia: singles banded at AtIB on May 18 and 23 (RC). Warbling: Apr 29, Van Cortlandt Pk (W.Norse)—early.

Warblers: Prothonotary: female, May 21, Belmont L State Pk (K.Malone). Golden-winged: singing male, May 26, Sagamore Hill (BC,AD,OD)—rare on L.I., has never bred. Cerulean: May 19, Lattington (RC). Yellow-throated: Apr 21, Bronx Botanical Gardens (S.Ozard, E.MacGuire, D.Rafferty). Kentucky: May 17, Rye (R.Arbib); May 28, Alley Pond Pk (OD). Mourning: female banded at AtIB on May 31 (RC)—rare on coast in spring. Hooded: male banded at AtIB on May 6 (RC)—rare coastal migrant.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: a sub-adult male and a female, May 4, Yaphank (GR). Boat-tailed Grackle: the bird mentioned in the winter report remained in Far Rockaway thru the period (Mrs.J.Sorman). Summer Tanager: three reports—May 3, Alley Pond Pk (R.Robertson); male, May 5, Central Pk (C. Austin); sub-adult male, May 11, Central Pk (H.Tetrault, P.Tozzi *et al.*). Ipswich Sparrow: Apr 13, Moriches Inlet (GR)—very late. White-throated Sparrow: an uninjured, banded bird remained at AtIB to Jun 1, at least (RC). Lincoln's Sparrow: banded at AtIB on Jun 1 (RC)—extremely late but perhaps an overlooked species during late May; Cohen also has records for May 27, 1966 and May 28, 1967 (two birds). Swamp Sparrow: a singing male, maybe territorial, was heard at Lawrence Marsh on May 29 (TD)—rare coastal breeder. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows: mist-netting at Oak Beach showed that the first heavy movement of Seasides into the region took place Apr 30-May 1, of Sharp-tails May 3-May 4. Overwintering Seasides were singing as early as Mar 27. An egg was found in the oviduct of a Seaside netted on May 4 (WP,FE).

Note: Please have summer reports in by Aug 22.

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