

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

One might think that the only reason this spring season seemed to advance as rapidly as it did was because of continued comparison with the abnormally cold spring of 1967. But it actually was a rapidly advancing season. Early May saw the foliage anywhere from two to three weeks ahead of schedule. March and April temperatures must have been among the warmest ever with May being more normal. Precipitation was normal to above for March and April, but May was extremely wet, approaching double the average rainfall for the month.

Most birders looked forward to a good migration with an eagerness in direct proportion to the favorable weather they hoped would bring it on. They were only to have their hopes dashed by a slow uneventful progression of species across the land. There were no visible waves; only a few good days afield, and very few at that.

Many species of waterfowl remained remarkably late, especially the diving ducks. Some species of vireos, warblers and swallows, usually common, were very scarce throughout the entire Region. Other species of birds were only down locally, their scarcity not representative of the whole region. The period did have its few rarities as the report will show.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; Putn—Putnam Co; West—Westchester Co; Rock—Rockland Co; MBC—Mearns Bird Club; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; USMA—United States Military Academy.

Contributors: RD—Robert F. Deed; JD—James Demes; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; J,MK—James and Mary Key; ML—Mabel Little; HM—Helen Manson; JM—John Marsh; A,BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pink; JS—Jim Southward; F,RS—Frank & Ruth Steffens; W&TS—William & Trixie Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; ET—Ed Treacy; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two, Apr 13 Cornwall Bay (A,BM), increasing to six Apr 14 (ET); one, same date, Conn's Hook, Hudson R (ET); two in Dutch during May—one each May 11 and 21. Horned Grebe: Mar movement continued thru first week of Apr; last, four Apr 9 New Hamburg. Pied-billed Grebe: although it breeds in Northwest portion, it is not commonly found elsewhere in late spring and summer; one, May 13 Nauraushaun Res.—rather late for Rock. Double-crested Cormorant: another rare spring record—three, May 21 Hyde Pk (mob). Great Blue Heron: more spring records than in recent years; nine active nests at Tamarack Swamp near Millbrook, Dutch. *CATTLE EGRET*: first Ulst record Apr 8 at Kripplebush (FH); subsequent sightings by Valerie Freer in early May near Kerhonkson; one appeared in the same pasture near New City, Rock on May 14 as it has on that date for the past four years (RD); two at Upton L May 18, (Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Sheldon). *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: second record in Dutch—one, Apr 27 Crugers Is. (Margaret Bowman). Least Bittern: usual few reports from localities in Oran, Dutch, and Sull. American Bittern: more reports than usual. *GLOSSY IBIS*: one, Tri-Loba Hill Sanct., Katonah Apr 5 (SG); four, May 19 over Piermont Pier and Marsh (RD and family); first record for both counties.

Mute Swan: one, Cornwall Bay Apr 2-7; large population in West and Rock for past several years, refuses to spread northward. Canada Goose: excellent migration continued thru Apr, some flocks sizeable—300 over Cornwall, Apr 13, (MBC); WBC reports at least 12 pair nesting in Dutch; many more nesting thru lake regions of Bear Mt. Pk and USMS, West Point—appears to be best nesting season in recent years. Brant: peak movement May 19—from 7:15 pm till dark 16 flocks counted over Hudson at Cornwall, some with as few as 150 and others with as many as 600; con-

servative est. about 6,100 birds; flights also reported from Dutch from May 19 thru 26. Snow Goose: 45, Apr 6 Thompson Pond, Dutch; 150, Apr 7 Stissing (TH,VP); one Apr 14 Swift Pond near Amenias (J,MK).

Mallard and Black Duck: normal. Gadwall: Apr 12 near Millbrook (JS). Pintail: three, Apr 7, and two, Apr 10, near L Walton, Dutch (JS). Green-winged Teal: more scarce than usual. Blue-winged Teal: normal; observed with young on Naurau-shaun Res. May 13 (RD). Am. Widgeon: scarce thru Region; WBC reports one pair in Dutch. Shoveler: always rare—one male, ninth record for Rock, on Naurau-shaun Res Mar 30—all previous records Rock L since 1963 (RD); two males and one female photographed near Poughkeepsie Apr 1 & 2. Wood Duck: mother led eight young from nesting box near Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah, May 17 (SG); normal numbers thru Region. Ring-necked Duck: fewer than usual; last Apr 30, Dutch (WBC). Scaup: Lingered very late but in low numbers; last May 18, Sylvan L (OW). Common Goldeneye: one pair May 11 Crugers Is. (OW)—very late. Buffle-head: a female at Piermont Pier till May 19, a new late date for Rock (RD); 17 on May 4 at Crugers Is and Rhinecliff was a very late date for Dutch. Oldsquaw: only report, one, Apr 25 Morgan L Dutch (AJ,J&MK). *WHITE-WINGED SCOTER*: one, Apr 14, Millbrook (CT); two, May 4, Rhinecliff (OW *et al*); one May 18, Peekskill (ET,PJ). *SURF SCOTER*: three, May 17 Rhinecliff (AJ,MK). *COMMON SCOTER*: three, May 19, and three more May 25 at Rhinecliff (EP,FG). All scoter species are rare. Ruddy Duck: seven Piermont Pier May 19 (RD). Hooded Merganser: unusually scarce this season, only four found in Dutch. Common Merganser: last two May 4 Crugers Is. Red-breasted Merganser: usually reported only in Mar; good movement of last Mar continued into Apr with five Apr 7 and six Apr 8 Crugers Is. (Robert Wright, Don Davis).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Normal. **GOSHAWK**: nesting pair discovered near Grahamsville, Sull Apr 6 by Jerome Kerner, later photographed by Ken Niven and Marty Borko. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Coopers Hawks: none reported: Red-tailed Hawk: usual to better nesting numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: WBC reports two pair regularly observed in Dutch—nesting not proven. Broad-winged Hawk: arr in good numbers Apr 21, nesting normal. Rough-legged Hawk: all Apr records were from Dutch—six in Apr, last on 20th at Pine Plains. Bald Eagle: one imm near Chester Apr 27 (MBC); one adult May 18 USMA, West Pt (ET,PJ,F&RS). Marsh Hawk: very few spring reports; four during Apr in Dutch, last Apr 30; one Rock May 13(RD). Osprey: numbers normal, first Apr 9 in Dutch; reported from several areas Apr 13. Sparrow Hawk: low in some locations but normal elsewhere. Full day of birding by RD in Rock May 13 produced none. Another full day of birding across the whole of Oran May 18 produced none. Ruffed Grouse: numbers normal, but lower than last year; appears scarce in the Carmel area of Putn (ML). Bobwhite: a few birds in vicinity of Mt. Kisko; WBC reports about 20 or more thru season; small numbers holding their own in Oran. **KING RAIL**: one, Iona Is. May 18 observed from auto at about 20 ft. for 15 min., all marks noted (ET,PJ). Virginia and Sora Rails: no significant change in numbers. Coot: less than normal.

Semipalmated Plover: always rare in spring—two, May 12–26 north of Poughkeepsie (EP); one, May 18–22, Lagrangeville (OW); one, May 18 Howells, Oran (Peg Moon). American Woodcock: good numbers Common Snipe: good numbers, breeding usual locations. Upland Plover: eight at VanHaster Farm, Hamptonburgh, by Apr 20. Yellowlegs: good flight for both species—more than 50 Greater, and 16 Lesser in Dutch during May. Pectoral Sandpiper: largest spring movement on record; 14 on Apr 18 at Stormville (HM *et al*); six at Hamptonburgh on Apr 20 increasing to two or three dozen by end of following week; last, 27, May 24, Poughkeepsie (AJ). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: usual spring numbers. **DUNLIN**: one adult in spring plumage, May 10–13 Poughkeepsie (mob); four at Piermont Pier May 14 (RD)—sixth record for Rock since 1957. Gulls: resident species

normal. *GLAUCOUS GULL*: one, Apr 7, Crugers Is. (JM), well described. Laughing Gull: arr Cornwall Bay May 10, two May 12-18 (A,BM). Bonaparte's Gull: one, Nauraushaun Res Apr 6 (JD); more than 60 in varying plumages at Crugers Is (no date given) (EP,OW *et al*). Common Tern: Hudson R at Cornwall, one Apr 28, very early date for entire Region—observed standing and flying at 100 yds, with 25× scope (ET); four, May 17 Rhinecliff (AJ,MK); two, May 19 Rhinecliff (EP,FG). Black Tern: one, May 11 Pine Plains (TH,W&TS). Cuckoo: both species rather scarce. Owls: residents normal.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: unreported from most areas; one, May 10 Pine Plains, only record. Common Nighthawk: good flight; six, May 19 Cornwall (A,BM); excellent flight over Dutch May 15-30, peak, May 23. Chimney Swift: first Apr 23 in Dutch; normal that county, low in Putn and N West. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very few reported; only six Dutch records during May, first May 11. Belted Kingfisher: normal. *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: more reports than usual; a pair at Nauraushaun from Apr 6-May 18—seventh spring record in Rock since 1957; one, heard and seen on several occasions Apr 14-May 18 at Dunderberg Mt., Rock (ET); one west of New Paltz in May (Heinz Meng). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: unreported for past several years in Rock, but normal to less elsewhere. Hairy Woodpecker: scarce in Cornwall area (A,BM), though not elsewhere. Flycatchers: low in Putn, but normal elsewhere. Kingbird: normal to better, Great Crested Flycatcher: first, May 6; numbers less than usual but not abnormal. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three reports all Dutch—first, May 17; last, May 22. Trail's Flycatcher: only two reports—singles May 18, Iona Is. (ET) and May 22 Poughkeepsie (AJ). Least Flycatcher: normal. Wood Pewee: first, from several locations May 18; only five in Dutch for whole month of May. Horned Lark: 13, May 11, Dutch (WBC). Most species of swallows normal. Tree Swallow very late and very limited in numbers when compared to usual. Purple Martin: unreported most areas after severe kills of last two springs; only one colony active in Oran, that at Middlehope (Carrie Camright).

Blue Jay: normal; a strange late May migration taking place from May 20—June 1. Fish Crow: four reports from Dutch; one Apr 30 Cornwall, Oran. Black-capped Chickadee: unusually scarce some areas, normal others. Tufted Titmouse: normal. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Dutch Apr 6, one Apr 19; found nesting at L Mohonk—long suspected, now proven (Dan Smiley). Brown Creeper: normal; one, May 18, Mine Rd, USMA, West Pt (F,RS). Winter Wren: three May reports, Thompson Pond Roosevelt estate, Dutch. Carolina Wren: one, May 16 Standfordville (FG); one, May 4-11 Crugers Is. (OW *et al*). Mockingbird: at least four at Cornwall; rapid increase of last few years seems to have tapered off. Hermit Thrush: normal. Swainson's Thrush: very poor numbers—late, and few. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one, May 11, only report. Veery: very low in Putn, N. West, and Dutch, normal elsewhere. Eastern Bluebird: good nesting, continues to hold. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: good numbers, nesting in usual locations. Both species of kinglet very low. Iris Dean, a very active birder, had only one Ruby-crowned the entire season. Water Pipit: more than 100 Apr 20, Millbrook (OW); 25, May 4 Moore's Mills (EP); two May 13, E. Park (Tom Gilbert). Cedar Waxwing: remains scarce throughout Region. Loggerhead Shrike: only one, Apr 1 at Amenia (W,TS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: more than usual in S. Oran—at least three singing on Mine Rd. USMA near Weyant's Pond thru late May. Yellow-throated Vireo: very scarce; WBC reports only 15 May records. Solitary Vireo: as usual only a few reported, all normal Apr dates. Red-eyed Vireo: arr very late, completely missed on WBC census May 11; only 11 reported thru month of May in Dutch. Warbling Vireo: better than usual; actually outnumbered Red-eyed Vireo on May 13 in Rock; WBC reports this species as the only normal one.

Warblers: *PROTHONOTARY*: one, Napanoch Apr 23 (Chandler Young). Worm-

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