

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were generally cool throughout March, April and May. Flowering plants were as much as one to three weeks late in blooming depending on the location. Bird life seemed to respond accordingly and averaged about two weeks late in arriving. Some species were on schedule but the bulk of migrants were late. Precipitation was normal to slightly above during May. April was somewhat dry. Cooler temperatures brought snow to the higher elevations even well into May.

Birding for the season was aptly described by Bob Deed in his report and was mirrored by most other observers. He said "Two years ago the foliage and bird migration were two weeks later than usual. . . This spring the birds were again two weeks late. The birding was excellent at times, but what was strange was the lateness, and in some cases, the total absence of perfectly ordinary birds. . . ."

" . . . These are the results for one birder at least: On May 8 I still had no phoebe, house wren, catbird, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, or rose-breasted grosbeak; on that date, my first yellow warblers and yellowthroats. Only the Baltimore oriole was pretty much on time, May 2. It has been my experience over a span of 40 years that a few telltale species arrive almost invariably on May 1st, give or take two days. Aside from the oriole, they are the wood thrush (my first was on May 11), the scarlet tanager (my first was on May 15), and the rose-breasted grosbeak (my first was on May 12). The catbird and house wren never did turn up in our South Nyack neighborhood, where they are regular summer residents."

As he observed it " . . . the first major warbler wave was on May 14 . . . There was another marked wave on May 16 . . . A final wave passed through on May 27-28." Maj. John Getgood, observing around the USMA, West Point, reported waves on May 11, May 14, May 17, and an exceptionally strong movement on May 20. There were a number of rarities reported as the report will show.

Observers cited: MB—Martin Borko; EB—Eugene Brown; JD—Jeff Daley; ID—Iris Dean; RFD—Robert F. Deed; DF—Davis Finch; FG—Florence Germond; JHG—Maj. John H. Getgood; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; WH—William Howe; AJ—Alice Jones; MJK—Mary & Jim Key; HM—Helen Manson; ABM—Al & Barbara Merritt; DM—Dorothy Miller; MM—Margaret Moon; JCO—John C. Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; FRS—Frank & Ruth Steffens; B,T,S—Bill and Trixie Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; JT—John Tramontano; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MV—Marion Van Wagner.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martin Borko, William Grierson, Fred Hough, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: WBCC—Waterman Bird Club Census, May 15; RASC—Rockland Audubon Society Census, May 15; MBCC—Mearns Bird Club Census, May 15; EAMBC—Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club of Orange Co; WBC—Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point; mob—many observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: no reports of large movements as have been found in previous springs, but many reports of single birds resting on the Hudson and on various lakes. Red-throated Loon: 1 May 8 Vanderburgh Cove; 2 May 15, 16 same area; (WBCC) 1 May 31 Cornwall Bay. Red-necked Grebe. 1 Mar 30-Apr 10 Vanderburgh Cove (mob). Horned Grebe: max 15 Apr 10 Cornwall Bay (EAMBC); 1 late date May 15 Tomahawk L (MCC). Pied-billed Grebe, numbers seem down. Double-crested Cormorant: more spring reports than usual; 1 Apr 17 Crugers Is. (EP); 1 May 8, 9 Vanderburgh Cove and 18 May 16 Rhinebeck area (AJ,DF); 4 May 31 Cornwall Bay (EDT,AM). Green Heron: numbers somewhat off, but still

good. *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: 1 WBCC at Crugers Is in company with Black-crowned Night Heron, the latter species increased to 2 on May 17 (DF). Cattle Egret: a regular but rare visitor each spring; 2 WBCC Crugers Is, and 1 Pleasant Valley. Snowy Egret: very rarely reported in spring; 1 MBCC Moodna Cr; another Apr 24 near Kripplebush (Milford VanDemark). Least Bittern: 1 May 21 Thompson Pd, Dutch (DF); usual few breeders returned to Moodna Marsh in Cornwall. American Coot: usual few reports. *GLOSSY IBIS*: tremendous increase in numbers in south Jersey is now being felt in our region; the report of a dozen in the Suffern area was confirmed by Eleanor LeMaire on Apr 12, she and husband Jack kept track of 5 for two days afterward; a single bird on MBCC in Oran near Howells just over the Wallkill town line in the town of Mt. Hope (MM). *WHISTLING SWAN*: 1 May 9 Bashakill, independently reported by JHG and MB with the Sullivan Co Audubon Soc, all field marks noted by experienced birders. Canada Goose: nesting again on most lakes in the highlands; numbers would indicate high mortality of young; one large flock was heard on the night of Apr 19 passing over Mt. Kisco (Wm. Grierson). Brant: almost unreported; apparently entire flight passed thru on May 25 when several large flocks of "geese" were reported flying over Bear Mountain by park employees. Snow Geese: 75 on Apr 20 at Salt Point (CT). Pintail: max 36 Apr 10 Crugers Is (EP); 4 Apr 24 Bashakill. Green-winged Teal: WBC reports numbers up; a late pair May 4 on L Tappan (RFD). Blue-winged Teal: 2 early date of Mar 28 at Rockland L (F,RS); numbers also better than usual. American Widgeon: numbers less than usual in Dutch; observed on late date of May 4 on L Tappan, Rock. Shoveler: only report, 1 Apr 3 in Dutch. Ring-necked Duck: a new late date for Rock May 4, 2 males and a female on L Tappan (RFD). Common Goldeneye: about 6 remained thru Apr 17 on Hudson off Dutch. Bufflehead: 1, late date of May 8 at Piermont Pier (RFD). Oldsquaw: only report, 1 Apr 4 L DeForest (F,RS). *WHITE-WINGED SCOTER*: 7 May 16 Crugers Is (AJ,DF). Ruddy Duck: according to RFD seems to linger later each spring; a pair May 15 at Piermont Pier. Hooded Merganser: in good numbers thru Apr; last May 15 (WBCC). Common Merganser: in good numbers Apr 10 on Hudson at Cornwall; last, 1 May 16 Crugers Is (AJ,DF). Red-breasted Merganser: more reports than usual and later into the season; 2 Apr 15 L Tiorati (JCO); 3 Apr 24 Cornwall Bay (EDT); last, 4 May 9 Vanderburgh Cove (JD,EP).

HAWKS-OWLS: Goshawk: more reports than usual; Ed and Lana Mills in almost daily observations from mid-April to May on Hook Mt, Rock, observed this species on Apr 17, 20, 21, 30, these were migrant birds not residents; one report May 15 from south end of Stissing Mt (WBCC); it nested there last year; 1 thru Apr near the home of Mrs. Jon Morrison near Otisville, Oran, was observed chasing Blue Jays; another was at Bashakill May 4 (JT,MB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: peaked around Apr 21 with 43 observed at Hook Mt that date (Mills) Cooper's Hawk: only reports, 3 Apr 20 and 1 Apr 30 Hook Mt. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report, 1 Apr 20 Hook Mt (Mills). Broad-winged Hawk: never abundant in spring; in good numbers on migration from mid to late April at Hook Mt; max 175 May 1 (Mills); first report, 2 early date of Apr 11 Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SOG). Rough-legged Hawk: usually gone by Apr; 1 Apr 17 Black Meadow Rd, Chester (EAMVC). Bald Eagle: 2 May 17 (1 adult) at Mt. Kisco (Mrs. S. Schaeffer). Marsh Hawk: 2 Apr 17 Black Meadow Rd, Chester. Osprey: more common this spring than lows of last few years; first Apr 13 Katonah (SOG); max 9 (WBCC), last May 24 Stanfordville (MV,EP). Pigeon Hawk: only report, 2 Apr 17 Hook Mt (Mills). Ruffed Grouse: regularly reported but numbers not good. Bobwhite: only report, 1 May 26 Greenville, Oran (ID). King Rail: 3 observations in a 10 day period from May 16 at Tallman Mt Marsh, Rock (Anthony Amos); on June 5 Mr. Amos found a specimen that had been dead for some time at his residence on River Rd, Piermont. Common Gallinule: first

Apr 25 Amenia (B,TS); arr May 1 Bashakill (ID); 1 Apr 28 north end of L Tappan, Naurauschaun is worth noting. Semipalmated Plover: 1 May 14 Croton Pt (William Howe). Woodcock: courting to last week of May along Mine Rd, USMA. Common Snipe: first Apr 1 Wurtsboro (ID); more than 30 Apr 17 along Black Meadow Rd, Chester (EAMBC). Upland Plover: returned Apr 22 to Buttonwood Tree Farm, Town of Hamptonburgh where 5 were noted (JHG, DM). Spotted Sandpiper: arr late; first Apr 24 Bashakill (ID); numbers normal from first week of May. Solitary Sandpiper: first Apr 15 Pleasant Valley (MV); numbers good thru mid-May. Greater Yellowlegs: 2 Apr 27 Piermont Marsh; max 27 WBCC. Lesser Yellowlegs: only report 1 Buttonwood Tree Farm, Hamptonburgh (MBCC). Pectoral Sandpiper: only report 4 Apr 24 Otterkill at Hamptonburgh. White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 May 14 Croton Pt (Howe). Least Sandpiper: 93 May 14 at Croton Pt (Howe); 60 May 15 Piermont Pier (RASC). Dunlin: only report 1 Piermont Pier (RASC). *AMERICAN AVOCET*: 1 May 9 at Concord Golf Course in Monticello (MB & Sullivan Audubon Soc), seen at close range, unmistakable. Iceland Gull: 1 Mar 21 in first year plumage at Rockland L fishing station (F,RS). Great Black-backed Gull: about a dozen first year birds Apr 22 at Cornwall Bay (EDT). Ring-billed Gull: 21 at Crugers Is on WBCC. *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: 1 adult May 9 at Bashakill, observed by Martin Borko and members of Sullivan Audubon Soc including Pauline Chernick who has observed the bird in its breeding area in the west, all field marks well observed. Black Tern: usually unreported; 1 May 9 Amenia (B,TS); 2 WBCC Crugers Is (DF,AJ), 1 remained there to May 16. Cuckoo: both species in better than usual numbers to end of period. Great Horned Owl: 3 wintered well into spring in evergreens adjacent to Tallman Mt Park swimming pool (Amos).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr on time Apr 23 in S Nyack; numbers normal from that date. Common Nighthawk: first May 15 2 on MBCC; Fred Hough reports fewer migrating later in May than usual, this is substantiated by Stan Grierson who observed them the last 2 weeks of May at Katonah. Chimney Swift: later than usual; first Apr 28 Dutch. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Fred Hough reports them in greater numbers than usual dur migration, with more appearing to nest. Pileated Woodpecker: an unusual 13 on WBCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: the pair of last winter at the home of Mrs. John Arfmann in Ridgebury, Oran continue to feed daily at her feeder; 1 Apr 18 Stillwell L, USMA (JG,ET). Red-headed Woodpecker: after a winter of absence from its usual haunts, it returned in normal numbers in late Apr and early May; 3 May 9 on Ridge Rd, Town of Blooming Grove (JHG); 1 May 16 Stanfordville (Geo Haydock); another May 18 at Hopewell Jct (DS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numbers good this year; WBC reports 7 in Dutch dur Apr, their last May 20; an unusual occurrence of 1 June 6, 7 at Pound Ridge Reservation in West (Jon Bart). Eastern Kingbird: most reports 1 to 2 weeks late; first May 5 at Tarrytown; normal numbers by mid-May. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 5 at USMA (JHG); numbers normal after mid-May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: first May 14 at Greenville, Oran (ID); 12 observed between May 22-26 at Gedney Brook Sanct, West, 5 banded in one day (no date); WBC reports 3 May 24, 1 May 27 and 1 May 29, the latter two could be repeats. Traill's Flycatcher: 1 May 23 Salt Point; several other reports in region after that date. Least Flycatcher: first reports May 5 from Oran and Dutch; May 8 in West. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 early date of May 19 at High Tor Park; 1 May 27 Thompson Pd (HM,MK). Horned Lark: nested successfully in inner quadrangle at Ramapo Senior High, parents observed feeding 3 young thru mid-April surrounded by 1500 high school students. Tree Swallow: abundant dur the latter half of Apr in Ulst. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 early date of Apr 12 near Mianus Gorge; normal after first week of May. Barn Swallow: 2 Apr 10 Cornwall Bay, early (JHG). Cliff Swallow: 6 returned Apr 23 to nest site at Barth Hall, Camp Buckner, USMA (JHG); increasing reports from southern Ulst and Sull. Purple Martin: numbers still down from kill of several years ago; one small

colony established new at Westtown, Oran, not more than 6 birds. *BOREAL CHICK-A-DEE*: 1 observed May 1 at a window feeder at a distance of 2 ft at the home of Mrs. Truman Moon at Howells. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 on RASC in the Harriman Sect of Bear Mt Park (EB). Brown Creeper: 1 May 10 USMA; 6 on RASC and an extraordinary 18 on WBCC. House Wren: arr very late; May 11 West; May 8 Oran; numbers down, esp in S Ulst. Winter Wren: an unusual number of 7 on WBCC; 1 on MBCC. Carolina Wren: 2 Apr 25 at Rockland Lake Landing; 2 on RASC. Catbird: very late arr May 10 in West; May 5 in Oran. Brown Thrasher: arr dates more normal; first Apr 24 Oran; numbers seem down. Wood Thrush: first May 3 at Pocanico Res; not common elsewhere until after May 7. Swainson's Thrush: better than usual; WBCC had 19; first May 14 USMA (JHG); 10 on May 19 at High Tor Park (EDT). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 May 23 Pleasantville; 1 May 27 Thompson Pd, Dutch. Veery: first May 6 Armonk; numbers good by mid-May. Eastern Bluebird: seems more abundant in the vicinity of USMA this year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: first Apr 18 Weyant's Pd (JHG); 1 Apr 19 Bashakill; 5 there May 23. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: first Apr 11; many Apr 26 (JHG). Water Pipit: 6 Apr 17 Chester; 1 May 15 Otterkill in Hamptonburgh (EDT, JHG). Cedar Waxwing: very few reports; none from Rock; 50 May 20 at West Grove, USMA; 15 May 22 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah. Northern Shrike: 2 Apr 3 Cruger's Is (MV). Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Apr 17 Red Hook; and another Apr 22 Millbrook (MV); 1 Apr 4 Chester (JHG, DM).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: failed to return to Mine Rd, USMA; 3 on RASC; 1 May 17 GreenHaven Dutch; another at Mt Rutsen on WBCC; and 1 seen May 20 at Tarrytown Res. Yellow-throated Vireo: numbers very low. Solitary Vireo: 4 May 17 at Pond Gut, near Pleasant Valley (DF); 1 May 15 Mine Rd (RASC); these are very late dates. Red-eyed Vireo: first 2 May 9 Bashakill; normal numbers. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 15 (MK); 1 May 18 Pleasant Valley (MV); 1 May 19 Thompson Pd (CT); 1 May 23 Bashakill (EAMBC); these are more spring dates than ever before. Warbling Vireo: unusually common this spring; RASC had 5; WBCC 26; numbers excellent in the vicinity of Bashakill. Warblers: WBCC reports numbers best since 1966. Worm-eating Warbler: 1 of the few summer residents that arr on time and in usual numbers. Golden-winged Warbler: low in Dutch, but normal elsewhere. Blue-winged Warbler: numbers up esp in Dutch with 54 on WBCC; 32 on RASC. Brewster's Warbler: not reported in Rock since 1963; 1 May 17 at Mine Rd, USMA, just over the border in Oran (EDT). Lawrence's Warbler: not reported in Rock since 1954; obs May 18 at Mine Rd, USMA, by RS; and on May 25 by EDT. Tennessee Warbler: numbers down in Dutch. *ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*: 1 May 8 Vanderburgh Cove (EP, MV, JD). Nashville Warbler: this species unusually rare in Oran this season; common to abundant elsewhere; arr May 5 at Tarrytown Res where 13 were observed, 11 in one tree. (William Howe); 8 on RASC with 6 of them in the Harriman Sect of Bear Mt Park; 2 on May 30 near L Kanawauke and again on June 6 would indicate residence. Parula Warbler: not esp common thru most of region, but a record high was achieved on WBCC with 30 indiv. Cape May Warbler: numbers low and late. Black-throated Blue Warbler: JHG reports 18 May 11 in the vic of Weyant's Pd, USMA; WBCC had 35; earliest 1 May 7 at Bashakill (JT). Black-throated Green Warbler: numbers down; EB had 7 in the Harriman Sect of Bear Mt Park on RASC; WBCC reported 15. Cerulean Warbler: returned on May 8 to the Weyant's Pd area of USMA, once again observed building, but nest not completed; nesting still unproved. Blackburnian Warbler: arr May 2 Pleasantville; numbers down. *YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER*: 1 heard only May 11 in the vic of Poughkeepsie (AJ). Bay-breasted Warbler: although 10 reported May 17 in Dutch, numbers were well below normal. Blackpoll Warbler: 8 observed May 14 in the vicinity of Weyant's Pd; numbers good thru end of month (JHG). Pine Warbler: only report 1 Apr 13 at Tarrytown Res (Howe). Palm Warbler: numbers normal but gone by time of censuses May 15. Ovenbird: reported very

scarce in West by SOG; normal elsewhere; 56 on RASC; 29 on WBCC. Northern Waterthrush: unusually early date of Apr 13 Bull Pd, USMA (JHG); numbers good. Louisiana Waterthrush: generally late and in poor numbers *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: more reports than usual; 4 birds banded at Gedney Brook Sanct, West, by Jeff Spendelow; 1 May 19, 1 May 23, and 2 May 24; 1 was observed on May 31 on Deep Hollow Rd between Lithgow and Wassaic, Dutch (EP, et al). Connecticut Warbler: 1 WBCC in southern Dutch (M,JK). Mourning Warbler: 1 on RASC at Weyant's Pd (Adrian Dignan); 1 banded May 29 at Gedney Brook Sanct. Yellow-breasted Chat: very uncommon in recent years; more reports this year than usual; WBC reports 3 for season in Dutch; 2 on WBCC, first time on that census since 1965; 2 at Goose Pond Mt Park, Oran, on MBCC. (A,BM); 1 May 9 at Hawthorne and another May 14 in Pleasantville (Howe). Wilson's Warbler: numbers good. Canada Warbler: late and generally down; 13 on RASC, and only 9 on WBCC. American Redstart: arr about on time and numbers excellent.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 9 Buttonwood Tree Farm, Hamptonburgh (JHG); numbers good; RASC reports 87, and WBCC 80; an unusual occurrence of 12 June 1 in Valley Cottage (Mrs. T. R. Milligan). Eastern Meadowlark: not common in the highlands, but numbers exceptionally good this season; JHG reported 7 almost daily along the Mine Rd, USMA. Redwinged Blackbird: an unusual occurrence on June 10 of a male landing on and pecking the back of a White-tailed Deer that had invaded its territory (JCO). Orchard Oriole: several reported; earliest May 3, 4 at Cornwall, a young male in first year plumage. (A,BM); observed in the Chester area (Sarah Uyehelyi); 1 May 6 at Stone Ridge, Ulst, but did not stay. Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 to 2 weeks late; numbers normal by mid-May. Rusty Blackbird: only report 4 Apr 12 Weyant's Pd, USMA (JHG). Scarlet Tanager: also late and numbers low. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 5 Chappaqua, and May 11 in Oran. Indigo Bunting: arr on time May 15; normal numbers. Purple Finch: very few reports; continues scarce. House Finch: continues to increase and spread to the north and west of the region. Pine Siskin: no reports for the entire period. Grasshopper Sparrow: Anthony Amos saw and photographed 2 May 16 on Piermont Pier. Vesper Sparrow: 1 Apr 18 in Armonk; and another pair in the vicinity of Stilwell L the same date; JHG has reported this species on this date for the past 3 years, virtually the only occurrence in the highlands. Slate-colored Junco: 2 May 7 at Rockland L (EB); WBCC had 2 on May 15. Tree Sparrow: last 1 May 5 Stanfordville (FG). Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 10 Greenville, Oran (ID). White-crowned Sparrow: many reports; first May 7 Greenville (ID). White-throated Sparrow: more than 75 May 7 at Rockland L Landing (EB); last May 17 USMA (JGH). Lincoln's Sparrow: always rare; 4 reports this season, 1 May 17 Dunderberg Mt (EDT), 2 banded at Gedney Brook Sanct, West, May 22 (Jeff Spendelow), 1 May 16 Warwarsing (JCO).

Summer reports due no later than Sept. 1.
Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.F. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

As we've said before (Vol 18, No. 1: 177-178)—and will no doubt say again—large scale migrations frequently pass unseen because the proper weather conditions don't exist to ground migrating birds. Optimum migration conditions produce little more than a scattering of "arrivals" unless they are halted by a front (barricade) of colder air, rain, or fog which results in the observer's "wave." Less than ideal migration con-