

May 13; 2 May 17 East Park, Dutch (TG). Rusty Blackbird: only a few, max 30 Apr 17 Bashakill (MB). Common Grackle: an unusual record of 1 nesting in hole in a deciduous tree about 6 ft. off ground at Weyants Pd May 18 (EDT). Scarlet Tanager: first May 11, late; numbers good; kill of northern New England not observed this far south. Indigo Bunting: first May 8 Weyants Pd; numbers good at end of period. DICKCISSEL: 1 adult in excellent plumage Pok Apr 1-16, feeding with House Sparrows at home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Seift (OW). Evening Grosbeak; numbers dwindling in May; left just before most censuses. Common Redpoll: good wintering numbers continued thru April; last May 7 near Pok (MJK). Pine Siskin: thought they'd never leave; exc numbers thru latter May; last May 24, Dutch. White-winged Crossbill: thru season till May 17 at Millbrook (R. Davis). Savannah Sparrow. numbers reduced; down to 11 on WC from avg of 20. Grasshopper Sparrow: always low; a healthy 7 on WC. Vesper Sparrow: at Cornwall Apr 12; very few reports thereafter. Dark-eyed Junco: very common first week of Apr; resident at end of period at Deep Hollow, Dutch where they have been known to nest in the past. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: one single adult at Rockefeller Inst, Town of Washington, Dutch from May 25 thru end of period (RS, Don Kroodsma). White-crowned Sparrow: good migration; 10 on WC; last May 20. White-throated Sparrow: Excellent movement first week of May; last May 19 in most areas. Fox Sparrow: 2 late dates of Apr 23 and 25 in Dutch. (Westchester birders and bird clubs: we are presently getting no reports from your area. Help!)

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

HUGH D. MCGUINNESS AND PETER M. POLSHEK

Erratic fluctuations in the weather characterized the spring of 1974. Throughout March and April periods of mild temperature and fair winds — ostensibly the herald of the new season — were unexpectedly followed by cold air masses from the northwest which rendered a reversion to winter weather. The effects of the abrupt changes were apparent: many species arrived well ahead of schedule, however, the precocious nature of the migration never developed into more than a smattering of early arrivals, for each cold wave precluded the possibilities of an advanced migration. Typical of the entire season was the situation in late April when the migration was farther advanced than it has been in years. Many early-May migrants, such as Blue-winged, Parula, and Yellow Warblers etc., were represented in moderate numbers, but northerly winds in early May countered the early push, resulting in other species (e.g. Red-eyed Vireo, Redstart, and Indigo Bunting) not arriving in normal numbers until later than expected. Warm southerly pushes occurred on Ap 3, 4, 15, 21, 28, 29, May 2, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, & 26.

On the roseate side this season were: 1) scattered reports of Red-shouldered Hawk in NYC parks, including one breeding attempt 2) early optimistic signs concerning the viability of Osprey eggs 3) good numbers of White-rumped Sandpiper 4) species with a southern affinity continued to increase as spring migrants, most notably: Chuck-will's-widow; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Prothonotary, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers; and Summer Tanager 5) large numbers of certain northern breeders including Olive-sided Flycatcher; Nashville, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Tennessee, Cape-May, and Mourning Warblers; and Lincoln's Sparrow 6) good numbers of Red-headed Woodpecker 7) continued eastward expansion of Tufted Titmouse on LI. On the

dismal side were low numbers of Pied-Billed Grebe, Cattle Egret, Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Rarities included in this report are: Northern Fulmar; Purple Gallinule; Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Ruff; Gull-billed Tern Philadelphia Vireo; and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations: APP—Alley Pond Park; BBG—Bronx Botanical Gardens; CP—Central Park; CRSP—Connetquot River State Park; FP—Forest Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; OB—Oak Beach; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; TPS—Tobay Pond Sanctuary.

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PELAGIC: Only 1 trip was taken to Cox's Ledge with the following results; May 26 (THD,PMP,PL,AL et al): 4 *NORTHERN FULMAR*; 1 Greater Shearwater; 40 Sooty Shearwater; 1 Manx Shearwater; 8 Gannet; 92 Wilson's Storm-Petrel; 8 Northern Phalarope; 1 Pomarine Jaeger; 2 Parasitic Jaeger; 3 unidentified Jaeger.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: thru-Apr 18 OB (mob)-on latter date bird was in full breeding plumage. Great Cormorant: 8 Ap 7 Rye (TWB). Cattle Egret: arr Ap 6 Brookhaven (DP) and Lawrence (JA,RK)—generally quite scarce this spring. Little Blue Heron: arr Mar 31 OB (R); 10 Ap 7 OB (THD et al)-Bull (1964) lists this species as rare before late April, however, the data from recent years indicates that this species arrives in our area by early April, being rare before then. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 3 nests Rye (TWB)-rare away from the coast. Brant: stayed very late in large numbers e.g. 3000 May 26 around west pond area of JBWR (JA,HM). Green-winged Teal: 300+ Ap 18 OB,TPS (HM,ROP). Canvasback: thru May 16 JBWR (THD). Bufflehead: 400 Ap 28 JBWR (TWB,HM); 200+ May 6 JBWR (THD)—these birds were observed in the evening coming to roost on the west pond; high numbers at these late dates reflect the increase in numbers of this bird in recent years. Harlequin Duck: thru Ap 7 RMSP (mob). Common Eider: adult male Apr 26 thru period JBWR (mob)-the fact that this bird was seen on the west pond courting female Mallards indicate that this bird may have been an escape.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: May 26 Lawrence (JA,TWB,HM)-rare on LI. Red-shouldered Hawk: in NYC: May 15 CP (RFP); 2 May 28 APP (OD, LJS); in late March a nest was found in BBG about 100 yards north of Fordham Road. Despite the caution observed by local birdwatchers, the birds seemed undisturbed by pedestrians who used the two nearby footpaths. By early April the birds were incubating and the young were expected in late April. Unfortunately, the inevitable occurred when, on Ap 27, three broken eggs and a nearby ladder indicated that some misguided soul had vandalized the nest. The NYC parks department once again exhibited their bureaucratic obdurateness and general incompetence when they refused to close the small section of the park needed to protect the birds. Osprey: 31 active nests on Gardiner's I (DP)-same number as

last year; 9 nests on Plum I (DP)-up 1 from last year; 1 nest CRSP; total: 41 active nests; DP reports there are no cracked eggs as of June 5 at Gardiner's or Plum and this is indeed optimistic; any reader knowing of any Osprey nest, successful or unsuccessful, is urged to send details for inclusion in next report. Peregrine Falcon: Mar 31 Bridgehampton (JA); May 11 JBWR (R Hines, RK)-a rather sad total.

King Rail: May 26 Lawrence (JA,TWB,HM,SJS). Virginia Rail: only one breeding locale in area at OB; details in summer report; any other breeding locales should be reported. Black Rail: May 19 OBZ (THD,DWF); 2 May 26 OB (TWB,HM, SJB); 3 May 30 OB (JA,HM); details in summer report *PURPLE GALLINULE*: May 18-23 Quogue (B Connolly et al)-bird was in a back-yard, seen among the lilacs. Whimbrel: Ap 21 JBWR (M Kleinbaum); May 21 TPS WB,LJS)-only reports; it seems odd that a bird so common 100 miles south at Brigantine, should be only occasional in our area in spring. Upland Plover: 3-6 Ap 24 Hofstra (R Hines, RK); Ap 27 JBWR (R Hines). Willet: Ap 18 OB (HM,ROP) early. Purple Sandpiper: 21 Ap 2 Rye (TWB). White-rumped Sandpiper: 40 May 22 OB (HM)-good numbers after mid-May. Long-billed Dowitcher: Ap 28 JBWR (TWR,HM)-the bird circled the west pond uttering a single thin "keek" known to the observers as Long-billed: For arguments on separation of the calls see BIRDING March-April 1973 Vol V #2. *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER*: May 18 JBWR (CF Young)-very rare in spring. *RUFF*. imm male May 19-22 OB (THD,DWF); female May 25 JBWR (JA,TWB,RK,HM,SJS). Wilson's Phalarope: female Ap 30 TPS (FF et al); 2 May 19 OB (THD,DWT et al).

Glaucous Gull: Ap 7-May 14 JBWR (mob); Ap 28 Highland Park, Qns (JA,TWB,HM); May 26 Lido Beach (TWB,HM,SJS)-all birds were 2nd year. Iceland Gull: 1st year Ap 7 JBWR (DWF et al); 2nd year May 20 Montauk (PMP,PL et al). Black-headed Gull: sub-adult May 12 Fire Inlet (AL) Little Gull: 4 sub-adult May 12 Fire I Inlet (AL). Kittiwake: Ap 14 Shinnecock (GSR)-late. *GULL-BILLED TERN*: May 18 JBWR (THD,DWF). Royal Tern: May 25 Sagaponack L (THD et al)-very early. Caspian Tern: 2 Ap 27 Hempstead Lake State Park (THD,PL,PMP)-very early, and only report. Black Tern: 2 May 12 Fire I Inlet (AL)-only report. Mourning Dove: eggs discovered on Mar 7 constitute the earliest regional egg date (R Giffen). Barn Owl: 1 ad, 2 juv May 18 Long Beach (WB,LJS). Short-eared Owl: nesting Long Beach (WB,LJS)-only report of this disappearing breeder.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Chuck-will's-widow belated report of an individual found dead on May 21 1973 Kennedy Airport (A: Moorhouse); calling bird May 18-25 Richmond Valley, SI (Susan Kerber, H Fischer); calling bird May 25 thru per OB (PMP,PL et al); male May 1 Highland Park, Qns (THD); with three reports this spring this bird is proving itself regular in our region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: six reports received from NYC parks including 2 mid-May thru period FP (mob)-breeding likely; this bird is known to be resident on mid LI but lack of information leaves its status undetermined. Red-headed Woodpecker: 9 reports from Ap 30 and May 5-22; were migrants; plus a lingering wintering bird thru May 10 E Islip (L Ford); total: 10, is excellent for spring. Acadian Flycatcher: 4 reports May 14-June 3. Alder Flycatcher: May 26 (RFP)-only report. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 8 reports from NYC parks from May 18-30. Cliff Swallow: 2 Ap 30 Lawrence (RK; May 5 JBWR (RK); rarely reported in our area except in early fall. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Ap 4 Great Neck (B Wenoker); 20 Ap 20 CP (DWF et al)-highest regional number; numbers were high throughout area this spring. Cedar Waxwing: at two NYC parks a late flight was noted: at CP: 4 May 22; 4 May 25-26; 10 May 28 (all RFP); 25 May 25; 15 May 26 (both HM).

VIREOS--WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: arr Ap 21 JBWR (mob) and RMSP (DBF). Yellow-throated Vireo: May 20-27 Hempstead Lake State Park (THD, RK)-very early; June 3 CP (RFP)-very late. Solitary Vireo; arr Ap 21 CP (BWB); dep May 26 CP (RFP)- unusually late *PHILADELPHIA VIREO* May 23 Rye (TWB, HM)-very rare in spring; bird was seen well, black lores noted.

Prothonotary Warbler: 8 individuals; 7 males; arr male Ap 4-21 Northport (A McKay); male found dead Ap 6 Oakdale (G Bergen); male found dead Ap 10 CRSP (G Lawton)-these three reports are quite early; max 2 May 11 CP (mob). Golden-winged Warbler: 4 reports all from Queens Co May 1-18. Tennessee Warbler: high numbers everywhere; 40+ May 18 FP (THD)-highest, regional spring count. Nashville Warbler: 25 May 5 FP (THD, PMP, RWS)-new spring maxima. Orange-crowned Warbler: Ap 4-10 BBG (H Trowbridge et al); May 12 RMSP (DBF). Magnolia Warbler: high numbers esp during late May. Cape May Warbler: arr Ap 27 CP (L&L Goldman)-early; Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Ap 17 CP (BWB)-very early. Yellow-rumped Warbler: stayed in large numbers later than usual, being quite common thru mid-May; 250 Ap 29 CP (HM). Black-throated Green Warbler: Bull (1964) calls this one of the most common migrants; it was rare to see more than three or four of these in a day this spring. Cerulean Warbler: 12 reports; arr female Ap 29-30 CP (mob); dep May 27 Montauk (GSR); max 2 May 11 and May 18 FP (THD et al). Yellow-throated Warbler: 9 reports is the highest spring total for this region; Ap 3 Great Gull I (GSR)-May 19 FP (JA). Bay-breasted Warbler: arr female Ap 21 Hempstead Lake State Park (S Schiff, A Wollin); male Ap 30 CP (HM, PMP)-earliest arrivals by 9 and 1 day (s) respectively; 25 May 16 CP (PMP); 50 May 18 PP (THD)-regional spring maxima. Pine Warbler: good numbers reported throughout NYC parks where this species become uncommon over the last couple of years; max 5 Ap 6 CP (BWB) as compared to one individual the entire spring of '73. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Ap 6 BBG (M Shechtman)-early; May 4 Yaphank (GSR)-rare on LI; dep May 18 FP (THD, DWF)-very late, rare as a migrant after late Ap. Kentucky Warbler: the flight of this bird can only be described as an explosion; 15 individuals, 10 males, 2 females, 3 unknown; May 1-24; max 2 males May 12 APP (mob); 3 males May 18 FP (JA, THD). Mourning Warbler: 13 individuals, 12 males; 8 individuals at CP, from May 20-June 6 with 3 males May 29-31, and two males June 4; also 2 males May 25 FP (JA). Yellow-breasted Chat: 7 individuals from May 9 thru per; max 2 May 18 Rockway (J Bull). Hooded Warbler: arr Ap 11 Great Neck (G Flynn)-very early; max 3 May 11 FP (THD et al); 13 individuals. Canada Warbler: Ap 24 CP (B Stafford)-2nd earliest record.

BLACKBIRDS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: 10 May 25 Rye (TWB); 10+ nesting Purchase (TWB). Orchard Oriole: arr imm male Ap 25 CP (BWB) 3rd earliest date; May 18 CP (RFP). Summer Tanager: 16 individuals, 10 sub-adult males, 2 males, 1 female, 3 unknown; max 2 May 11 APP (mob)-continues to increase as a spring migrant. Blue Grosbeak: female May 18 FP (JA); 24 APP (LJS). Evening Grosbeak: dep 2 May 13 CP (RFP) and May 18 Millneck (fide RC). Common Redpoll: thru Ap 8 Seacliff (B Spencer). Pine Siskin: thru May 29 Islip (C Kibby)-at feeder. Red Crossbill: 90 Ap 7 RMSP (THD); pair seen mating at CRSP on May 6, about 5 pairs believed to be in that area (DP). White-winged Crossbill: 60 Ap 7 RMSP (THD); 6-10 Ap 18 Gilgo Beach (HM, ROP); female thru May 5 Babylon (J Smith)-at feeder.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Ap 7 Bye (George Kappus)-very early. Dark-eyed Junco: May 18 CP (RFP)-late. *GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW*: Ap 13 Shoreham (Henry Halama fide GSR)-only details given were that the bird was an adult, appeared at a feeder, and that the observer had previous experience with

the bird; this is the second regional occurrence. Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 May 14 CP (PL et al)-high. Swamp Sparrow: 25 Ap 29 CP (HM)-high.

ADDENDA: to the winter 1973-74 report should be added one Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Merlin bringing the individual numbers to 7,5,5 respectively, the last being exceptional. Tree Sparrow: 380 Feb 3 JBWR (HM).

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WINTER REPORT RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR MAY ISSUE

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The rapid pace during most of November, of successive cold-fronts moving through our area had slowed down by December, leaving the region prone to rash fluctuations in the weather. In the interim between cold-fronts, warm southern air masses moved into the area producing unseasonably mild temperatures. The almost weekly clash of cold and warm air resulted in precipitation — snow and freezing rain often preceding a cold spell. Cold spells were characterized by harsh northwesterly winds and temperatures in the teens and below, and warm spells consisted of light winds with temperatures above 45°, sometimes above 60°. The results of these fluctuations were that for a period of about a week, ponds and lakes would be frozen, and the ground would be covered with snow or ice, thus, shutting off the food supply for many wintering birds; then, for a period of about a week, ponds and lakes would be frozen, and the ground would be covered with snow or ice, thus, shutting off the food supply for many wintering birds; then, for a similar length of time these supplies would reopen.

How the bizarre weather affected wintering avian populations is difficult to analyze. Waterfowl, especially dabblers, seemed to be higher in numbers, probably due to their ability to withstand the cold spells by feeding in open bays and estuaries. A severe ice-storm on Dec 16-17, which crippled the western half of the region, must have had an adverse effect on wintering passerines, and to a slower but more persevering extent, so must have the other cold periods. The general trend among this winter's populations, especially of the species at the northern limit of their winter range, was above normal numbers in early December which thinned towards the norm by mid February.

An unprecedented "flight" of Lesser Black-backed Gulls occurred from mid-December to mid-January. During this time no less than six individuals were present in the region: three in northern Bronx and southern Westchester; at least two in the vicinity of Montauk; and one bird at Jamacia Bay Refuge. Coincident, were a large number of reports of white-winged gulls, and, like the Lesser Black-backed Gull, the frequency of reports declined in the latter half of January. It is possible that the incursion of rarer indicates the occurrence of a large-scale southward movement of gulls; however, this conjecture is at best difficult to prove, for the numbers of the commoner gulls go unnoticed by most observers.

Most of the Red Crossbills that participated in November's flight moved through the area. Only a few small scattered wintering flocks were reported, except along the outer beaches where, through January, a continuation of the flight occurred when favorable conditions prevailed. Pine Siskin — another abundant transient last