

SPRING MIGRATION ON GREAT GULL ISLAND, 1974

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In the spring of 1974 I began banding migrants on Great Gull Island, (GGI) in Suffolk county, N.Y. on the 8th of April. This is the first year migrants have been netted daily before the first of June.

Small numbers of non-resident birds have been seen or netted almost daily through June and July in previous years. In this paper I have arbitrarily selected a cut-off date of June 30th for spring migration to eliminate confusion between late spring migrants, post breeding wanderers and early "fall" migrants. Using Bull (1964, 1970) as a guide I have listed selected banding (b) and sight (s) records which are either early or uncommon for the New York area. Numbers in parentheses represent the number of individuals seen or banded on a given date. Sight records bear the name of the observer.

King Eider: June 19 (1 s, Franck); immature male. Bull (1964:142, 1970:13) mentions two June records for this species and considers it rare after early April.

Peregrine Falcon: An adult was flushed from the rocks at the western end of the island on May 14. (s, Van't Hof)

Acadian Flycatcher: Single individuals were netted and banded on May 18; retrapped on the following day, 30, June 4, 5, 6. All were identified by using the key in Phillips *et. al.* (1966). The bird banded June 6 was recaptured on June 7 and died shortly afterward. It was prepared as a study skin, and its identification confirmed by Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon. It is obvious that the Long Island status of this species has changed remarkably since Bull's account (1964:295-296) was written; he knew of only two spring and one fall Long Island specimens since 1932. It should be noted that there are four previous records (Duffy and LaFarge, 1973) for this species on GGI; June 20, 1968 (1 b), June 12, 1972 (1 b), and June 4, 1973 (1 b).

Least Flycatcher: One banded on April 22 is among the earliest dates for the New York area (Bull, 1964:300).

Hermit Thrush: Of 23 individuals of this species banded between April 12 and May 1, six were second-year birds as indicated by retained white-spotted juvenile wing coverts; after May 1, none of the Hermit Thrushes handled showed these spots.

Golden-winged Warbler: A female was banded and photographed on May 25 and seen again on May 26. (s, LeCroy) This individual had a yellow wash on the breast, a probable indication of introgression of Blue-winged Warbler genes (Parkes, 1951:11; Short, 1963:150).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Bull 1964:382) gives the earliest spring date for this species in the New York area as April 15. An individual was seen on GGI on April 3. (s, Raynor) On April 19, a specimen was found in somewhat decomposed condition. It was identified by Dr. Kenneth

C. Parkes as *Dendroica dominica albilora* (formerly called "Sycamore Warbler"), and is apparently the third New York State specimen of this subspecies. Detailed discussions of the New York status of this species and its two local subspecies are given by Parkes (1953) and Bull (1964: 381-382).

Northern Waterthrush: The earliest date known to Bull (1964:389) for the New York area for this species was April 14. One was seen on GGI on April 7 (s, Van't Hof) and netted and banded on April 8.

Kentucky Warbler: This species is rare in the Long Island area, and Bull (1964:391) knew of no spring dates earlier than May 1 for anywhere in the New York area. A female was banded on GGI on April 29.

Mourning Warbler: May 17 (1 b), 24 (1 s, Van't Hof), 29 (1 s, Van't Hof), 30 (1 netted but not banded), June 5, (1 b), 6 (1 b). These are normal spring dates for this species in the New York area (Bull, 1934: 394-395). This species is considered rare to uncommon as a spring migrant (Bull, 1964; 395).

Orchard Oriole: An adult male was seen May 13 (s, Van't Hof). Bull (1964:405) states that this species is rare to uncommon spring migrant in the New York area.

Savannah Sparrow: One of the field-identifiable subspecies *princeps* ("Ipswich Sparrow") was seen on April 13 (s, Van't Hof), a fairly late date for this form in the New York area (Bull, 1964:443).

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FIELD NOTES

Cinnamon Teal Sighted at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: On the morning of April 1, 1974, I encountered three teal on a small pond near the southeast edge of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. This site is adjacent to a forested area which is part of an experimental green-tree impoundment operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The impoundment lies south of N.Y. Routes 5 and 20 and is bordered by the Seneca/Cayuga Canal to the south, the N.Y. Barge Canal on the east, and N.Y. Route 89 to the west.

Approaching the pond from the south, bright sunlight illuminated the brilliant plumage of a single Cinnamon Teal drake (*Anas cyanoptera*). I had never seen this species previously, but its identity seemed unmistakable. Accompanying the Cinnamon drake was what at first appeared to be a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). Further observation, however, revealed that the Cinnamon drake carefully and continuously positioned himself between the female and the Blue-wing drake, and frequently pursued the intruding Blue-wing whenever he approached too closely. Since the females of these two species are indistinguishable in the field, the possibility existed that a pair of Cinnamon Teal may have been present. No inciting by the female was noted. Opportunity for photographs was excellent and several photos were taken for documentation. I made the accompanying photo (Fig. 1) at this time.

I notified refuge personnel by radio and soon Robert Gustafson, Wildlife Biologist, Vern Dewey, Biological Technician, Rod Outwait, Maintenance Worker, and Mr. Walter Benning, who was fortunately visiting refuge headquarters at the time, arrived. The Cinnamon drake and his apparent mate were amazingly tolerant of our presence—much more so than Blue-winged Teal would have been under similar circumstances. During a second sighting, on April 3rd, the pair had moved to a small ditch adjacent to River Road about half a mile from the first sighting. Here, I was able to study the teal (pair?) at distances of as close as 20-30 feet.

In discussion with Mr. Benning and refuge personnel, it is significant to note one peculiarity about the Cinnamon drake that aroused our curiosity. Close scrutiny of the drake revealed the presence of a small white "dash" mark immediately in front of the eye. This mark was situated at the apex of a blue-gray, tear-drop shaped mask that encompassed the eye and tapered to the nape of the neck; it was very similar to the mask which appears on the Green-winged Teal drake (*Anas crecca*). The existence of such a marking suggested that perhaps a cross between the two species had occurred. To my knowledge hybridization between *A. cyanoptera* and *A. crecca* has not been reported in the literature.