

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The cold of last winter continued into May. Foliage was more than two weeks late, and so were many migrants. Last year lakes thawed in late February, but this year not until the weekend of April 7. Six inches of snow fell on March 16, and April and May had more than their share of precipitation. More than nine and one-half inches of rain fell in early May, thankfully much of it in mid-week. The big weekend of May 13-14 was misty and rainy, but not enough to interfere with record numbers of species on many clubs' "big day."

All contributors remarked on the lateness of the season. Florence Germond had the unusual pleasure of seeing five newly arrived Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feeding with the still present 20 Evening Grosbeaks at her home in Clinton Corners on May 9. The combination of winter residents still here and spring migrants just arriving ran up long "big day" totals for the listers. On May 13 the Ralph T. Waterman Club of Dutchess Co. had their third highest census with a total of 157 species. Their previous highs were 160 in 1972 and 158 in 1974. Otis Waterman described the season as the best warbler year since 1972. Eleanor Pink observed peak movements in Dutchess on May 11-13, and 21. Bob Deed, who has been afield almost daily since his retirement earlier this year, did not observe any marked movements in Rockland Co. until May 23, and then he found a warbler movement dominated by Tennessees: "the largest number I've seen anywhere—more than 40 birds in 2 hours." The May 13 movement was observed by many contributors. Your reporter observed 26 species of warblers along the east side of the Bashakill by noon that day.

No formal hawk watch was organized this spring, but Hook Mt. was covered for 18 days, a total of 82.5 hours. The biggest days were April 29 and 30 when 461 and 433 birds were observed. The numbers of individual species are covered in the report.

Some of the rarities for the season include: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Common (European) Teal, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Sanderling, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Summer Tanager, and Lark Bunting.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Peter Both, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Mary and Jim Key, Ken and Joan McDermott, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Roger Robb, Benton Seguin, Robert Smart (RSm), Robert Speiser (RSp), Marion VanWagner, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay, HMt.—Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; WC—Waterman Bird Club Census Dutchess Co. May 13; and the first few letters of each county.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: usually obs flying over, but this season many birds were observed on lakes and reservoirs. Several persisted thru end of period. Max seven on WC. **RED-NECKED GREBE**: one CB Mar. 20, two there Apr. 8 (KM). Horned Grebe: not many reported, but an unusual conc of 11 at 6½ Sta Rd., Goshen Apr. 7 (RR). Double-

crested Cormorant: more than usual. Ret to Croton Pt. Apr. 20. Numbers good all the way up river by mid-May. Five as far north as Esopus Lt. May 14. An unusual inland record of one on Tamarack L Dutch May 30. Great Blue Heron: first two arr Rt. 82 heronry in Dutch Mar. 13. Two at Stissing Mar. 15. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: very rare in spring. One PL Apr. 24-29 (TB). Cattle Egret: fewer than usual. First Piermont Pier Apr. 13. One Amenia Apr. 21, and another Pleasant Valley Apr. 26. Great Egret: one CB Apr. 15, one Bashakill Apr. 23-May 15; two Monticello Apr. 24, 25. Snowy Egret: four Bashakill May 13. **LOUISIANA HERON**: first Dutch record, 1 North Bay, Cruger's Is. Apr. 13 (RSm). Black-crowned Night Heron: first PL Mar. 26. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: back at breeding location at MC by Mar. 30. Two nests under obs by end of Apr. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one MC Apr. 13; one Bashakill May 12, probably the first record for Sull (KJM, ET). Canada Goose: excellent migration. Residents are legion. Breeding on almost every lake and pond. Many young hatched by May 4. Brant: 10 over Rhinecliff May 14; 500 over USMA May 19; 700 Iona I. May 22; 2000 P'ksie May 23. Snow Goose: many reports from Mar. thru Apr. into May. Max 42 Tamarack Sw. Apr. 30. Last at Briarcliff May 25, 26. Very late. Gadwall: 10 Roosevelt Est. Mar. 22. Three pr. Rockland L Apr. 15. Three Goshen Apr. 6-8. Pintail: four Roosevelt Est. Mar. 22. 25 Haight Marsh Dutch Apr. 4. Max 49 Goshen Apr. 5. **COMMON TEAL (EUROPEAN)**: one Goshen Apr. 6 (BS, EDT). Green-winged Teal: max 35 Goshen Apr. 11, Am. Wigeon: max 16 Goshen Apr. 6. Wood Duck: max 52 on WC. Redhead: two New Hamburg Mar. 3; two Ashokan Res. Mar. 12. Canvasback: 200 Iona I. Mar. 28. Greater Scaup: more than 3000 PL end of Mar. Oldsquaw: one Upper Kays, Dutch Apr. 6-8. Five Goshen Apr. 4. Max 49 Goshen Apr. 5. Four Basha Apr. 5. White-winged Scoter: one CB Apr. 7, inc to eight next day. Max 40 there May 6. Black Scoter: seven CB Apr. 1. Four there Apr. 2. Max 20 CB May 6. Hooded Merganser: first two Wappingers L Mar. 13. Inc. to 40 there by Mar. 25. 20 on Hudson off Dutch Apr. 1. Last Apr. 8. Common Merganser: max 200 Georges I' Mar. 8. Red-breasted Merganser: exc nos in Dutch thru Apr. 3. Most areas reporting one or two birds thru first week of Apr. Generally late.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: back in usual nesting areas. HMT, total seven. Max two Apr. 29. Sharp-shinned Hawk: a male and an imm still hunting feeders in Pleasant Valley thru Mar. HMT, total was 237. Max 64, Apr. 29. Cooper's Hawk: one pursuing a duck in air Apr. 14 was in turn chased from prey by crows. HMT, total eight. Max three Apr. 29. A pair in apparent courtship near Little Dam Lake, Sterling Forest. Several other reports from there and nearby Harriman Pk. Red-tailed Hawk: well reported. An albino with mate at Verbank Mar. 5. Broad-winged Hawk: first two HMT, Apr. 1. Max 355 Apr. 29 and 360 Apr. 30 at HMT. Total there 1,363. Rough-legged Hawk: last Mabbettville Apr. 22. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: the pair in the Clove area of Dutch continued to Mar. 12. One obs at Verbank Cem. Apr. 30 (Stephley VanVlack). One near Samuels Pt. in the Catskills Apr. 22 (Frank Murphey). Bald Eagle: seven Mongaup Res. Mar. 5. Three ad and one imm. at Rondout Res. Mar. 19. HMT, had one imm on Apr. 16 and another imm Apr. 30. Osprey: good nos thru period. First Apr. 7 Dutch. HMT, total 50, max 13, Apr. 29. An unusual conc of nine at Basha May 3. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one imm at HMT, Mar. 31, another imm in Dutch at Verbank Apr. 16 (Pat Redmond). Merlin: HMT, total three: one Apr. 29 and two Apr. 30. One reported in Ulst dur. Mar., no date (Heinz Meng). One Millbrook Apr. 6 (EP). One Pleasant Valley Apr. 25 (MVW). Am. Kestrel: HMT, total 111, max 42 Apr. 1. Nos good there thru rest of month. Two at Cruger's I Apr. 27, both carrying small snakes. Turkey: heard at Wawarsing Apr. 16 and 25 (JCO). King Rail: one on WC at Millbrook School. Virginia Rail: ret Iona I Apr. 8. Black-bellied Plover: one Cruger's I on WC (Eric Kiviat). First on that count since 1932. One Kingston Pt. May 13. Three May 15 Stewart Airport. Am. Woodcock: still displaying at Kingston May 28. Upland Sandpiper: three ret to Blue Chip Farm Apr. 23. Inc. to four May 13. Three at Stewart Airport May 7-12. Spotted Sandpiper: Max. 13 Croton Pt. May 10. Purple Sandpiper: two still at PL on Mar. 15. Least Sandpiper: WC had high of 266 mostly in Cruger's I area. Max Croton Point 113 May 15. Dunlin: one Kingston Pt. May 13. Five Vanderburg Cove May 14. **SANDERLING**: what appears to be the first record for Ulst, one Kingston Pt. May 14 (Hans Weber). Iceland Gull: an unusual

winter report of one inland at Rondout Res. Feb. 25—was there again Apr. 9 (JCO). Great Black-backed Gull: has become the dominant gull at CB with a max of 70 there May 25. Outnumbers all other gulls combined. Bonaparte's Gull: a flock at MC inc to 70 by Apr. 16. Departed Apr. 23, 40 at Goshen Apr. 7 was unusual inland from Hudson. Two at Cruger's I late date of May 6. One at Basha May 8 and one CB as late as May 27 (BS). **FORSTER'S TERN**: Several at Round L Monroe May 15, after sev days of SE winds. (RSm). Common Tern: one Basha May 8, inc. to two by May 15. One Vanderburg Cove May 17. **CASPIAN TERN**: one Kingston Pt. Apr. 24 (Bob Terwilliger). Black Tern: only report, one Basha May 12 (KJM, ET).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: nos exc. Young off nest in Dutch by Apr. 23. Cuckoos: nos of both species extremely high. Considering the nos of caterpillars available this spring, they should do very well. Barn Owl: two Beacon, same hollow sycamore as last year (MJK). Great Horned Owl: nesting in widely scattered areas. Nos good. Barred Owl: thought to be diminishing in recent years, but added coverage in the Harriman Pk Sterling Forest area by RSp has shown them to be in better numbers than expected. Nesting in widely scattered areas of region. Long-eared Owl: one spent Mar. 4 in a pine tree at Pleasant Valley (MVW). One still at Town of Newburgh Roost Apr. 6. Short-eared Owl: last one Wal-kill Apr. 24. Saw-whet Owl: only report: one Amenia Mar. 11. (JK, RSm). Common Night-hawk: few and very late. Chimney Swift: late thru entire area. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers severely down and very late return. Common Flicker: invasion on Apr. 11. Pileated Woodpecker: nesting by Apr. 12 at P'kpsie, very early. Red-bellied Woodpecker: wintered well—in all the usual places and a few more.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: arr 3 wks late; lower than usual. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: very few. One Congers May 22, 23. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one Basha May 25, inc to three by end of period. Hans Weber reports three singing along Coxingkill near Mohonk May 30. Usual Dutch birds did not appear this year. Willow Flycatcher: first May 20 Iona I. May 26 seems to be the big date when one was found at Basha and four in Dutch. Three at Piermont Marsh May 29, and six at Grassy Pt. May 31. Alder Flycatcher: RFD had two Haverstraw Marsh May 31. One at Basha May 26-30. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Weyant's Pd. May 10 was one day earlier than previous early date for the Region. Another in the same tree there May 23. One Basha May 13; a max of six on Balsam Cap Mt. in the Catskills May 20. Horned Lark: few reports, max 50 Stewart Airport Mar. 5. Swallows: exc movement at Croton Pt. Apr. 29., inc many Cliff. Barn Swallow: first New Hamburg Apr. 3. Purple Martin: ret to only two of six locations usually found in Dutch. Blue Jay: a massive flight in Rock May 8 with 250 every 15 min along the ridge at Hook Mt. **COMMON RAVEN**: one seen and heard over Table Mt. south of Slide May 27 (PB). Fish Crow: continues to inc up river. More abundant in Rock area, and "all around the city of P'kpsie;" an unusual flight of eight birds over Weyant's P May. White-breasted Nuthatch: generally scarce, RFD had one flycatching near Hook Mt. Apr. 10. Unusual behavior. Brown Creeper: numbers down. Max four in one tree Croton Pt. Mar. 25. House Wren: numbers up from low of last year, but very late. First Apr. 28 in Dutch. Winter Wren: continues low, only three Dutch records thru May. Carolina Wren: seems to have survived hard winter. **VARIED THRUSH**: one feeding on Sumac with Pine Grosbeaks near Mohonk in late Feb., remained thru Mar. 7 (Bob Larsen). Wood Thrush: late but in good numbers after May 11. Hermit Thrush: first Mar. 9 Red Oaks Mill (JMK). Swainson's Thrush: first May 10, low thru rest of period. Grey-cheeked Thrush: first Clausland Mt. May 11, only three on WC. E. Bluebird: Florence Germond had 36 pr. nesting by the end of May in her nest box program. **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**: 1 reported near Schultzville, Dutch Mar. 17 by Francis Van Auken. Had been there for a week when reported and remained thru Mar. 21 (mob). Third record for state. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one of the few species that arrived on time and in good numbers everywhere. Water Pipit: very few 12 near Millbrook May 1 and 10 Town of Crawford May 13. Northern Shrike: last imm Mar. 11 Newburgh (BS). Loggerhead Shrike: one near Galeville Airport Mar. 18 (EDT).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: a pr at Plutarch Sw. Town of Lloyd May 27 was quite far north. Philadelphia Vireo: one May 10 Blodgetts, near Fishkill. One singing Basha May 19. Warbling Vireo: numbers up in Rock. Four near Piermont May 29 and five Haverstraw May 31. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** 1 Hastings Apr. 24 (BW). "Lawrence's" Warbler: an unusual number of two at Ardsley and one Brinton Brook, Croton in May. Tennessee Warbler: exc nos as previously noted. Nashville Warbler: first May 11 in Dutch, last May 17 Rock. N. Parula: first May 7 Blodgetts near Fishkill. Exc nos thru May 27. Cerulean Warbler: did not return to Cruger's I, only Dutch records near Ferncliff. Good nos thru the Highlands of Oran. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one in song at Bashakill May 30 (BS). Pine Warbler: more than usual. One Basha May 11 and again May 13. Four Dutch records: first Apr. 4, others Apr. 18 and 26. One on WC was the first since 1964. Ovenbird: one Apr. 30 Mine Rd. USMA was early. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** a male near Hastings May 11 and another Basha in mid-May (no date).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: exc nos thru first half of May in usual areas. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** an ad male with several thousand grackles at E. Walden Apr. 16 (R. Widmer, EDT). Orchard Oriole: three reports from Dutch from May 10. One seen and heard at CB May 28 (EDT). Northern Oriole: first Apr. 23 Town of Crawford. Not common 'til mid-May. Rusty Blackbird: exc at Goshen thru Apr. Max there 500 Apr. 16 (RR). **SUMMER TANAGER:** a singing male at Hastings May 25 (D. McIntyre). **LARK BUNTING:** one in winter plumage from Feb. 25-Apr. 12 at a feeder in Stoney Pt. Photograph submitted (Doris Metraux). Evening Grosbeak: exc nos thru region thru mid-May. Most listers had them on "big day" counts in mid-May. Still in northern areas thru end of period. Purple Finch: exc nos of winter tapered off by end of period. Well outnumbered by House Finch. House Finch: outnumbered the House Sparrow 111 to 100 on WC. Pine Grosbeak: exc winter nos diminished in Mar. Last three near South Salem Apr. 14. Common Redpoll: peaked in Dutch around Mar. 24. Last there Apr. 10, Port Chester Apr. 14, Kingston Apr. 15 and one still at Wurtsboro May 30. Pine Siskin: cont at Kingston thru end of period. Dark-eyed Junco: more reports than usual due to late departure. Tree Sparrow: last Apr. 24. Walkill. Chipping Sparrow: one Apr. 3 Dutch was early. On time most other places. White-crowned Sparrow: fewer than usual RFD found none in Rock after daily birding in May. White-throated Sparrow: as with junco, numbers exc thru mid-May, very late departure. Fox Sparrow: one May 1, two Moore's Mills was last. Lincoln's Sparrow: a good late bird at Hackensack Sw, Blauvelt May 25. Lapland Longspur: last two Mar. 4 Walkill and one Mar. 5 Marshall's, Dutch. Snow Bunting: last five, Mar. 5 and four Mar. 6 in Dutch.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

February's unrelieved cold weather developed into a late spring. While mean temperature and rainfall approached normal for the season, spring migration and foliage were delayed at least two weeks. Weekend birders fell back on their hopes for "next weekend" until it became clear that the next weekend was almost Memorial Day and May was over. Mid-week birders fared better as the flight days in the western part of the Region, May 4, 10, and 18, occurred on Wednesday or Thursday. Incoming birds did not linger. The only expression of enthusiasm for this spring was received from a Central Park observer, Peter Post,