

from two groups on CR. Golden-winged: 11 reports are from May 7 thru; three banded in NB. Blue-winged: 18 reports incl. seven CR groups and eight banded NB plus the return of a male with bright yellow wing bars banded last fall. Tennessee: plentiful; 30 May 13 Schodack (PC); five CR groups. Nashville: May 7 thru; generally scarcer than usual. No. Parula: only two reports; May 8 and May 19 (CR). Yellow: very numerous; 21 banded VF; 25 Schodack May 25; nine CR groups. Magnolia: May 8 thru; few reports; only four CR groups. Cape May: only one CR group; very few six other reports. Black-throated Blue: May 5 thru; five CR groups. Blackburnian: May 8 thru three CR groups. Chestnut-sided: May 8 thru; nine CR groups. Bay-breasted: only one CR group; two Col. Co. reports. Blackpoll: arrived in time for the CR (three gr); thru May 28. Pine: two CR groups found this species in the Luther Woods. Prairie: rather widespread as six CR groups report them; one banded NB. Palm: Apr. 21 Vosburghs thru May 5 (banded VF). Ovenbird: nine CR groups; other reports from May 8. No. Waterthrush: Apr. 28 W Glenville (DH) thru; seven CR groups. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 22 Buskirk (J Davis) thru five CR groups. Com. Yellowthroat: May 3 thru; max 20 May 28 Schodack; nine CR groups. Yellow-breasted Chat: two CR groups incl. three at Black Cr. Wilson's: two banded Wilson Powell Sanct. May 13; another NB May 17. Canada: plentiful; seven CR groups; three banded NB; one VF mid-May. Am. Redstart: nine CR groups; six banded VF; five banded NB mid-May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: five total reports incl. a pair nesting in Colonie and one second-year male banded in Selkirk (RPG), also two CR groups. No. Oriole: May 7 thru; nine CR groups; five banded NB. Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 1 thru May 19. Indigo Bunting: early arrival Apr. 27 (JC); regular after mid-May. Evening Grosbeak: thru May 19 CR 2 groups. Purple Finch: several early May. House Finch: seven CR groups; no nests of this early nester reported. Com. Redpoll: a few thru Apr. 10 & 20 (JC & BHG). Pine Siskin: two at feeder, Cambridge Apr. 9 (ND); and Ghent Apr. 20. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; nine nests or singing males, mid-May Cox. Flats. Grasshopper Sparrow: two CR groups and singing male Cox. Flats late May. Henslow's Sparrow: the Five Rivers colony attracted four CR groups and managed to survive a horde of Boy Scouts camping in the same field. Vesper Sparrow: only reports come from Col. Co. Apr. 27 thru period with an impressive five reported on the CR. Field Sparrow: Apr. thru period; eight CR groups. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 8 thru CR (six Col. Co.). White-throated Sparrow: March thru period; 45 banded VF May 4, 15, 18. Fox Sparrow: one Apr. 4 Schodack (PC) only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 (two banded VF) and May 27 NB. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; max 21 Schodack Apr. 21 (PC). Song Sparrow: thru period. Snow Bunting: 500 Castleton Mar. 2 (JC).

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Weather patterns were rather uneventful this spring of 1979. Most shallow lakes were free of ice by March 1, and the Hudson River and deeper lakes were free by the end of the first week of the period. There was no appreciable snow thru March and April, and the warm weather brought out foliage at least a week before schedule. What rain fell did so largely on the weekends, keeping many birders at home. The last week of May was very wet, flooding many areas.

The biggest local news about birds made the national newspapers when a Newburgh farmer caused the death of an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 individuals. It seems that he spread Parathion over his frozen fields in early March in preparation for planting. Within a week the ground was littered with resident song birds and thousands of migrating blackbirds, killed by ingesting contaminated corn. There was an amusing statement in a local newspaper attributed to a DEC worker who said, "... it could have been worse but that most of the migrants had already gone thru." This I read on March 19 in a restaurant only yards away from the fatal fields as more than a million blackbirds flew over in a constant stream for more than a half hour.

Perhaps it was due to the evenness of the weather, but the migration was less than spectacular. Many species were late, and a few never did show. There were no accented duck movements, and warbler waves were reduced to a few days when there were a few more around than usual. Other passerines were even less eventful. Hawk movements had a few good days, and shorebirds were good with a few excellent finds turning up late in May. Rarities included in the report are: Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Willet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, California Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Kentucky Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Clay-colored Sparrow.

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Abbreviations: The first few letters of each county; Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; Basha—Bashakill Swamp; CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; HMHW—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; RNC—Rye Nature Center; WC—Waterman Census, Dutchess Co. May 13.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: never more than a few on Ashokan, and mostly single birds elsewhere. One Fishkill Cr. Mar. 3 was almost a month early in Dutch. Red-necked Grebe: one Mar. 5 at CB, and two Ashokan Mar. 7. Pied-billed Grebe: first Basha Mar. 24. Double-crested Cormorant: more reports than usual. An excellent flight along the L. i. Sound Apr. 21. Flocks of as many as 30 birds moving all day. A few hours count produced 1,180 from Rye to Greenwich Pt. One and two birds reported from a half dozen places along the Hudson from Esopus south. Max ten near Statensburg May 27 (AJ). Great Blue Heron: 2 Dutch heronries occupied at the start of the season were abandoned by late May—reason unknown. Cattle Egret: one at PL Mar. 25 was early. 11 Town of P'kpsie May 29 and eight Pleasant Valley the same day might have been the same birds. Snowy Egret: one PL Mar. 30 was early, as were one at CP and three at Peekskill Apr. 21. Three North Bay Crugers I May 11 were more normal. Louisiana Heron: one PL May 12 was unusual. Black-crowned Night Heron: one at PL from mid-Mar. on. 13 there by Apr. 18. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: first at MC Apr. 13. Least Bittern: only one report from Basha May 27 (KM). Glossy Ibis: more than usual. One MC Apr. 11. One North Bay Crugers I May 6. Mute Swan: continues to spread northward. Most young hatched by May 15. Canada Goose: on every pond of any size. Young out by first week of May. Brant: more than 1000 over Basha May 17. Large groups obs May 22 along the Hudson. Last 160 over Ward Pound Ridge Res. May 26. Snow Goose: more than usual. Excellent flights thru Apr. Two remained at Amenia and five to seven at Pine Plains thru May. Gadwall: unusual any time. A pair at Goshen Mar. 29 and one there Apr. 16 (BS). Pintail: several reports, all mid-Mar. Max 12

Goshen Mar. 21. Green-winged Teal: one Eurasian form at Goshen again this spring Mar. 25 thru Apr. 8 (BS). Max American form 25 Goshen Mar. 26. Am. Wigeon: max 20 Goshen Mar. 21. Redhead: max 12 Ulst Mar. 10. Ring-necked Duck: usual nos. thru Mar. Max 52 Basha Apr. 18. Canvasback: coming back to numbers of 20 years ago. More than 1300 on Hudson off Esopus Mar. 10, and 2000-3000 on Hudson off Dutch Mar. 18. Bufflehead: max 75 CB May 1. Oldsquaw: only report two Apr. 3 CB. White-winged Scoter: two males CB Apr. 5 (BS). Hooded Merganser: max 12 Basha Apr. 7. Red-breasted Merganser: max ten Ashokan Mar. 7 (AB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr most areas Mar. 13 thru 14. First in Dutch Mar. 6. One on West Clove Mt. in Apr. had a blue marker fixed to the wing. Goshawk: very few. Only two on HMHW and two others reported from Dutch. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 235 on HMHW. One continued working Dutch feeder until Apr. 27. Cooper's Hawk: only one on HMHW. Only other report Basha May 5. Red-shouldered Hawk: 25 on HMHW. Many reports of single birds thru period. Broad-winged Hawk: 440 on HMHW. First four Apr. 11. Max 75 over the Trapps at Mohonk Apr. 21 (Hans Weber). Rough-legged Hawk: six near Gardner, Mar. 3 (KM). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one from Apr. 2 thru 5 near Tamarack, Dutch. Two in mid-Apr. near West Clove Mt. One on WC at Stissing Mt. was the first for that count. Bald Eagle: two ad and one imm at Mongaup Mar. 18. One ad Basha May 17. Osprey: 45 on HMHW. First two at Crugers I Mar. 21 were very early (JMK). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** only two reports. One HMHW May 5 and another Coldenham May 27. Ruffed Grouse: seems to be improving. Heard regularly along Mine Rd. USMA thru period. Ring-necked Pheasant: RFD had three dur May in south Rock, a very rare bird there. Turkey: seen regularly in Dutch. One on WC was the first for that count. King Rail: three answered tape at Iona I. May 18 (EDT). Common Gallinule: more than 50 at Basha Apr. 24. Semipalmated Plover: seven near Amenias May 13. Two remained May 14 thru 15. Am. Woodcock: first Mar. 11 at Kingston. Common Snipe: two Kingston Mar. 1. More than 30 Chester Apr. 15. Upland Sandpiper: at least four at Wallkill from late Apr. on. **WILLET:** one on WC Crugers I was the second county record and the first for that count (OW *et al.*). Pectoral Sandpiper: five Wallkill Mar. 31, and eight Chester Apr. 15. **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** two June 1 at Amenias (FG, AJ). **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** three at Amenias May 31 thru June 1; first identified by Trixie Strauss, Helen Manson and Eleanor Pink; and photographed by Florence Germond and Alice Jones. Description and photos sent to NYSARC. If verified, it will probably be the first spring record for the state. Birds were observed in company with Least and White-rumped. Least Sandpiper: three Dutch May 14; 20 Amenias same date; two still there May 31. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Amenias May 14; 24 there May 31. **MARBLED GODWIT:** first record for Dutch June 2 thru 3 at Amenias (mob). Iceland Gull: one Wappingers Cr. Mar. 17, inc to two Mar. 19 (TS, JMK). One CP Apr. 13 thru 28 (KM). **CALIFORNIA GULL:** bird of the fall and winter at Rockland L appeared again Mar. 11 (EDT). Ring-billed Gull: max of 125 Vanderburg Cove Mar. 15. **BONAPARTE'S GULL:** more than usual. First 12 Crugers I. Mar. 21. Six CB Apr. 7. One Ashokan Apr. 12 and max 45 CB May 1.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: everywhere! A pr nested in a hanging flower pot on the porch of E. Hommel at Salt Point for the second year. Cuckoos: numbers of both species down esp Yellow-billed. Nowhere near enough to cope with the crop of tent caterpillars. Great Horned Owl: one ad on nest with one imm at Tomahawk L Apr. 8. Barred Owl: obs nesting thru late May in the city of Kingston (FM). Com. Nighthawk: first nine over Iona I. May 10. Numbers down. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late and very few. Com. Flicker: in good numbers by Mar. 23. Red-bellied Woodpecker: seem to be increasing only in Dutch where 12 were found on WC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Wawarsing Apr. 1.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: first Apr. 28 Basha. Numbers good after that date. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 3. E. Phoebe: usual mid-Mar. return, but first Rock report was May 23, and still missing from many old locations there. Yellow-

bellied Flycatcher: only report one May 17 near Thompson Pd (EP). Acadian Flycatcher: returned to usual three locations in Dutch dur late May. One near Cuddebackville May 19. Alder and Willow Flycatcher: two of each at W. Haverstraw Marsh May 22 (RFD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: first Weyant's Pd. USMA May 8. Very early (EDT). Several reports thereafter. One on WC was the first for that count. Horned Lark: one juvenile at Stewart Airport Mar. 18 (BS). Missed on WC. Tree Swallow: first three Mar. 24. Numbers normal thru Apr. Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr. 18 Basha. Barn Swallow: first Apr. 23. Cliff Swallow: first Basha May 12. Obs nesting there in new location. Purple Martin: first six in Dutch Apr. 1. Breeding at five locations there by May. Blue Jay: scarcity of feeder birds last winter continued thru spring. RFD noted a good flight of migrants thru Rock May 7 thru 9, and a heavy movement was reported in Dutch from May 25 on. Com. Crow: P'keepsie roost of several thousand last winter was down to ab 600 by Mar. 7. Fish Crow: continues to increase along Hudson to N limit of Region. First noted at Newburgh on Mar. 6. Winter Wren: regular again at Thompson Pd. and Deep Hollow where they were absent last year. Long-billed Marsh Wren: either very late or very scarce. Few reports thru end of period. Mockingbird: everywhere! Gray Catbird: first two at IBM, P'kpsie Apr. 28. Brown Thrasher: first Mar. 30 Wawarsing. Am. Robin: many from Mar. 14 on. Wood Thrush: two Apr. 22 and one Apr. 24 at Verbank were early. Hermit Thrush: eight at CP Apr. 21 was an unusual number. Swainson's Thrush: six Basha May 12. Most did not report them. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none! Veery: first Basha May 2, late and scarce elsewhere. E. Bluebird: FG reports more nesting on her "nest box trail" than ever before. Young hatched in three boxes by Apr. 24. Golden-crowned Kinglet: very scarce. Present at Camp Sharparoon on May 1 thru 16 where they tried to nest two years ago. Water Pipit: many Apr. 11 in Dutch. No. Shrike: one at Wawarsing Mar. 13 was the last after an excellent winter.

WARBLERS-VIREOS: White-eyed Vireo: a very early one at RNC Apr. 14, and another in Rye Apr. 4. Numbers up in Dutch where five were reported in May. Solitary Vireo: first Apr. 13 in Dutch. Six reports there afterward with four Apr. 30. Warbling Vireo: first in Nyack May 11. At least nine reported in Rock on May 22, and 21 on WC. Black-and-white: at RNC from Apr. 15. Worm-eating Warbler: RFD reports a fair number on Clausland Mt. from May 15. One on the Torne May 21 where it had not been found for years. Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler: 19 of the former and 133 of the latter on WC were good numbers for that early date. "Brewster's" Warbler: one on WC was a first for that count. Yellow-rumped Warbler: RFD had a flock of more than 200 near Orangeburgh May 1. Cerulean Warbler: returned to usual localities and a new location at West Park May 12 (FM). Blackburnian Warbler: RFD had one May 30 in Nyack, ties his late record for Rock lowlands set in 1967. Chestnut-sided Warbler: late arr at most usual locations. Did not appear along Mine Rd USMA, where it is usually common, until late May. Has reappeared on the hills west of Nyack where it has been absent for the past ten years. Pine Warbler: first Apr. 8 Wawarsing. Two RNC Apr. 12. Two Ashokan Apr. 22. Prairie Warbler: absent from Mine Rd. USMA where it has bred in numbers for many years. Arr Kingston Apr. 26. WC produced a phenomenal 105, almost twice their previous high. Louisiana Waterthrush: first Dutch Apr. 13. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one Basha May 12 and again May 18 (BS). Mourning Warbler: more than usual. Males in song at Wawarsing May 20, South Nyack May 29, and Deep Hollow, Dutch, May 31. Hooded Warbler: returned to the hills west of Nyack after ten years absence.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Blackbirds: (see introductory remarks). Bobolink: returned to Oran May 3 and Dutch May 5. E. Meadowlark: seems to be disappearing from Dutch along with pheasant. Fewer each year. Only 40 on WC. Red-winged Blackbird: no migrants in Feb. First few in Dutch Mar. 2. Orchard Oriole: more than usual. Obs in ten locations from last week of Apr. to mid-May. One at Stissing May 30 was nesting (TPH). Com. Grackle: as with Redwing, no Feb. migrants. Appeared with them in Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: strong decline in Mohonk area. More than 300 May 10 at Pleasant Valley. **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK:** one at Cornwall Mar. 3 (BS). Indigo Bunting: arrived mid-May in

the best numbers ever. First May 6 at Wawarsing was early. Found every few yards along Mine Rd. USMA. Evening Grosbeak: the poor numbers of last winter continued thru spring. No increase in migrants noted. Last in Dutch May 7. Purple Finch: continues to decline, especially low in the Mohonk area. Pine Siskin: low numbers of winter continued this spring. Only report one at Stissing May 2 thru 4 (TPH). Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr. 17. Normal numbers. Grasshopper Sparrow: resident in at least three areas in Dutch dur May. A pair again this year at Little Leage Field, Westbrookville from May 19 (KM). Vesper Sparrow: unreported! Dark-eyed Junco: numbers continue down in Mohonk area. Last at Wawarsing Apr. 24, and in Dutch May 6. Not found in areas of Dutch where it formerly nested. Chipping Sparrow: arr Wawarsing Apr. 13. Numbers normal thereafter. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Tom Burke obs a singing bird at Ward Pound Ridge Res. May 26 from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. Not found thereafter. White-crowned Sparrow: numbers severely reduced. Unobserved by many active birders. Dutch had only three in May, and only two reported elsewhere May 16. White-throated Sparrow: reduced winter numbers continued into spring. Left in early May. Fox Sparrow: one singing in Dutch May 13 was a very late record. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Kingston May 11 was the only report.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928.

REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Spring weather was generally mild and wet through the period; May saw almost double the normal amount of rainfall, washing out weekend birding and "big day" counts. Southerly winds in early April pushed in a few early or overshooting migrants. Expected mid-April migrants, kinglets, Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, were scarce in most areas and absent in others. Early May saw greater numbers of migrants moving through making birding in city parks rewarding. The last half of May produced limited birding because of the adverse weather.

Herbert Johnson

Birders in our area were saddened to learn of the death of Herbert Johnson, of cancer, on March 8th at the age of 68. Herb was the superintendent of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for many years, and devoted himself to creating the sanctuary we know. Perhaps we can follow the advice of Rene Dubos and "think globally and act locally," as did Herb Johnson, and make some impact on an environmental concern close to home.

An Award

Senator Proxmire presents his "Golden Fleece" award.

"Thanks a Lot"

This column is initiating a "Thanks a Lot" (we needed that kind of help) award to be awarded occasionally as the spirit moves. The first presentation goes to the *New York Times* feature writer whose article on spring birding highlighted policemen assigned to Central Park to watch bird watchers because many