

one pair seen there on the Century Run. Fish Crow: two Cementon Apr. 1. Carolina Wren: one at Cementon Mar. 28 only report. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** this species has been very hard to locate lately so it is noteworthy that two groups found separate birds on the Century Run. Eastern Bluebird: well-reported with six on the Century Run and numerous others around; eggs laid Apr. 25 Cambridge (ND). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: continues to increase in number in the area; max. eight Apr. 28 and one pair building a nest at Black-creek Marsh May 9 (R. Marx). A shrike (sp.?) paid a brief visit to a Chatham feeder Mar. 13.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: continues what seems to be a slow increase in numbers and range expansion. Solitary Vireo: in contrast, seems to be decreasing somewhat. As a group, the warblers were well represented in variety but poor in volume. Many species were noted by only one or two observers with one or two individuals constituting the entire season's report. The birds seemed to have skipped right over our area. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Columbia Co. had its second Prothonotary in as many years, this time in Ghent May 17-19 (B & HG). Other warblers reported were: Worm-eating: the Indian Ladder bird was back again to the relief of three Century Run groups. Golden-winged: only one CR group was able to locate this otherwise fairly common bird. "Brewster's": four reported from widely separated locations including one at the same location along the Colonie bike trail where one was located last year. "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER:** one very persistent male at 5-Rivers Environmental Education Center was found on May 8 by Bill Lawson. **ORANGE-CROWNED:** found on the Century Run for the second time, the last one being in 1959. **YELLOW-THROATED:** one seen briefly at E. Glenville May 9, unfortunately did not stay around (S. Shadow). Cerulean: one singing on Campbell Isl. May 10 (PC). Pine: only one reported on the CR; two or three reports from the Albany Pine Bush. Prairie: widespread and increasing in numbers lately. Louisiana Waterthrush: a very early singing bird was at 5-Rivers Apr. 12 (AM). Mourning Warbler: a transient banded in 1978 was recaptured at Vischer Ferry again this year on May 17 (RPY). Yellow-breasted Chat: only one report of one on the Century Run.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: reported from Cocksackie and Chatham, both mid-May. No. Oriole: a female banded at Vischer Ferry in 1972 was recaptured there May 17 making it almost nine years old, at least! Indigo Bunting: a record early arrival date was set by a male visiting a feeder at Siena College on Apr. 16 staying around for only four days (A. Ross). Grasshopper Sparrow: a singing male was found at Cocksackie mid-May (KA); and a small colony of about six pairs was at the Exit 26 (Rotterdam) Interchange late-May (PC). Henslow's Sparrow: in addition to the 5-Rivers colony, reports come from Black-creek Marsh and Altamont. Vesper Sparrow: seven reports received—often goes unreported. Lincoln's Sparrow: only one group reported this species on the Century Run; 11 banded at Vischer Ferry in May. Snow Bunting: 50 Apr. 15 Schoharie Tpk. (C & R LaForce).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

In most ways this was a relatively normal spring in terms of weather, foliage and birds. The drought of last winter ended in mid-March with a heavy wet snow of about six inches on March 13-14. April was wet with more than three inches of rain on the ninth. Widespread flooding occurred throughout the Region, es-

pecially along some of the Catskill streams. April temperatures were rather cool through mid-month, and then were normal to above. At least one day of each weekend in May was rainy. Foliage was about a week early.

Most March migrants were late. Blackbirds, which usually arrive in late February, did not arrive until the end of the first week of March. The first big warbler movements did not occur until May 3, 4 and 5. Several other smaller movements were noted later in the month. The hawk watch at Hook Mt. was manned 31 days from Feb. 14 thru May 10. The results are in the report. Most birders felt that warbler movements were excellent even though several species were far below normal. Several active birders reported seeing only one or a few Bay-breasteds, Blackburnians or Magnolias. Wading birds were poor in numbers, although there were a few less common species found. The shorebird migration was almost nonexistent, but several good reports did come from central Orange. Rarities included in the report are: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, Peregrine, Willet, both white-winged gulls, California Gull, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Summer Tanager.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Robert F. Deed, Walter Friton, Florence Germond, Mary & Jim Key, Helen Manson, Ken & Joan McDermott, Brian Schiefer, Benton Seguin, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Marion Van Wagner, Otis Waterman, Hans Weber.

Abbreviations used: First four or five letters of each county; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; mob—many observers; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: the usual few high flying migrants dur May. No unusual concentrations. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Orange L Mar. 29; inc. to two by Mar. 30 (Diane Bradley, mob). One Ashokan Apr. 7 (AB). Horned Grebe: passed thru in good numbers. One Bashakill May 31 was very late (BS). Double-crested Cormorant: one Kingston Pt. Apr. 5 was very early, but more normal were the five on the Hudson off Dunderberg May 10 (EDT). Green Heron: one Kingston Apr. 15 was early. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an ad. May 17-18 near Goshen was most unusual (mob). Cattle Egret: only report five at Purchase May 23. Great Egret: always uncommon in spring, one Kingston Pt. May 13 (AB). Black-crowned Night Heron: one Piermont May 31, another Goshen May 17. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** returned to MC by Apr. 19. At least five nests there in May. Am. Bittern: unusually scarce. **GLOSSY IBIS:** always rare. Rock had its sixth record with one bird at Piermont Pier Apr. 20 (Peter Derven). Mute Swan: continues to increase. Numbers excellent. Nesting now on many ponds in the northern part of the Region. Several pairs on the nest by the last week of March, with young hatched by the first week of May. Eleven non-breeders on the Hudson at CB on May 28. Canada Goose: once again numbers were extremely high. Max 3,000 to 5,000 at Amenia and Pine Plains in March. Breeding everywhere, but mortality in young was very high. Brant: one at Amenia Apr. 4-5 was unusual that early. More than 3,000 obs. over Mine Rd. USMA May 16. 60 birds still there on May 20. Snow Goose: more than 400 over Hook Mt. Apr. 6. Obs. same date over Kingston at 10:15 p.m. where they reflected city lights (AB). 83 at Wawarsing Apr. 2, and more than 100 over Wappingers Falls Apr. 20. Three birds at Amenia Mar. 11 may well have wintered in the area. Gadwall: more wintering birds on Rock L than ever before. Max 26 there by Mar. 23. Pintail: better than usual numbers. Max. 10 at Goshen Mar. 23. No. Shoveler: two pair at Goshen Apr. 15. Wood Duck: residents in good numbers by end of period. Max. 24 on Bear Mt. Lakes Apr. 5 (BS). Excellent use of nest boxes at Bashakill by end of period. Redhead: always rare, first Mar. 12 at Wappingers Cr. max eight Kays Pd. Dutch Mar. 28.

Last four there Mar. 31. Ring-necked Duck: arr. Mar. 10 Orange L; max 77 there Mar. 23. Last report Bashakill May 2. Canvasback: max. more than 2,000 Esopus Meadow Mar. 9. Last there Apr. 6. Lesser Scaup: max. 30 CB Mar. 26. Com. Goldeneye: exc. numbers in Mar. max. 71 near Vanderburgh Cove Mar. 25. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: a male and female at Ashokan Apr. 2 (AB), remained in area thru Apr. 5 (mob). Oldsquaw: 8 at Montgomery Mar. 29. Last, a male at Orange L May 14 was quite late. Hooded Merganser: a female at Bashakill May 13 and another May 23 near Tamarack were both near Wood Duck boxes. No breeding proven. Com. Merganser: rose to "encouraging numbers; the best in 25 years." (RD). 500 at Stony Pt. Jan. 30 inc to more than 700 by Mar. 3. Red-breasted Merganser: six Ashokan Mar. 17 were normal. A pair on the Hudson off Dutch Apr. 6, and six at CB Apr. 5.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The 31 day hawk watch at Hook Mt. from Feb. 14 thru May 10 had the following results: Goshawk: 1; Sharp-shinned: 293; Cooper's: 6; Red-tailed: 92, Red-shouldered: 42; Broad-winged: 1,383 (max, 771 on May 2); Marsh Hawk: eight; Osprey: 34; **PEREGRINE**: one Apr. 26; Merlin: four; Am. Kestrel: 384 (208 on Apr. 12); Unidentified: 26; Total 2,287. Turkey Vulture: first arr at N.J. border Mar. 4. In excellent numbers by mid-Mar. Goshawk: several scattered reports each month thru Region. Numbers slightly better than usual. Sharp-shinned Hawk: the bird that hunted the Pleasant Valley feeder of MVW remained thru Apr. Cooper's Hawk: more than usual, but numbers very low. Red-tailed Hawk: more than usual. Many active nests by Mar. 20. One melanistic bird in Dutch May 11. Red-shouldered Hawk: a few more reports than usual; two at Moonbeams Sanct., Howells, could be a mated pair. Broad-winged Hawk: many reports of nests. First migrants arr. early, Apr. 12-14. Rough-legged Hawk: two at Hyde Park Apr. 21 were quite late, especially interesting since so few were reported last winter. Bald Eagle: one ad. over Stillwell L Apr. 27 (Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Treacy) and an imm. over P'kpsie May 24 (Tom Storey). **PEREGRINE FALCON**: flashed by an office window in Purchase on Apr. 10 (John Gee). Merlin: more reports than ever. One Verbank Apr. 25 was pursuing a Mockingbird. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up thru Region. Must be the high in their cycle. Bobwhite: only report one near Stissing Apr. 23. Still hanging on. Turkey: more reports than ever from all regions. Finally reported from southern part of Region with one near Palisades P'kway in Pomona in early Mar., and a female sitting on 17 eggs in northern West. (Berna Weissman). Clapper Rail: heard at MC on Apr. 23. Virginia Rail: as many as five at Iona Is. Apr. 6. One at Stissing Mar. 21 was still there from winter. Black-bellied Plover: only report one Sharon Sta. Apr. 29. Am. Woodcock: usual numbers in usual areas. Com. Snipe: ab 35 along Black Meadow Rd., Chester, Apr. 7. Upland Sandpiper: first two arr. Stewart Airport Apr. 29, a week late. Several still there at end of period; four est. Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill by May 8. Solitary Sandpiper: an early bird at Purchase Apr. 20. **WILLET**: unusual anytime, one Bashakill May 6 (BS). Purple Sandpiper: 21 at MC Apr. 19. Pectoral Sandpiper: all reports Dutch. First May 5, max eight May 11, last four East Pk. May 14 (MVW). Short-billed Dowitcher: five at Goshen May 16, always rare inland. **GLAUCOUS GULL**: one Stony Pt. Mar. 30 (EDT). **ICELAND GULL**: one uptown Kingston area, away from the Hudson Mar. 2-10 (Bob Terwilliger). Great Black-backed Gull: outnumbers Herrings by five to one in the mid-Hudson area. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: the Rockland L bird was observed again Mar. 26 and 29. Now in excellent ad. plumage. Ring-billed Gull: more than 100 birds working a Dutch Co. farm in Mar. Abundant all month there. Laughing Gull: in varying numbers along L.I. Sound from Apr. 6. Bonaparte's Gull: good numbers along L.I. Sound thru Apr. Usual early Apr. birds reported from CB, max 30 there Apr. 8, 28 on Ashokan Apr. 14.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves: seem more abund. than ever. Exc. numbers. Cuckoos: exc. numbers. Even more than last year. A wealth of Tent Caterpillars dur. Apr. and May, and what appears to be a banner year for Gypsy Moths should be very supportive. Look for even larger numbers next year. Owls: in spite of critical comments by last winter's Highlights editor, numbers of all species continue steady, with no exceptional fluctuations in numbers, if anything more reports this season. Great Horned: nesting in the

Pond Gut area of Dutch, in the same nest used two years ago which was used by a Goshawk three years ago. Young left by Apr. 23. Barred: sev. reports. One at Highland Falls May 20 where it had never been heard before. Breeding pairs at Winding Hills Pk., Montgomery, and at Walden where the parents were obs successfully defending a single young against dogs. Whip-poor-will: arr. sev. areas third week of Apr.; numbers normal. Com. Nighthawk: good spring flight, max 51 at PL May 19. Chimney Swift: first early May, about two wks late. Numbers normal. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: missed by many, very few reports. Best number 14 on Waterman Census, May 17. Pileated Woodpecker: BS reports numbers up in Oran with five or six birds each trip. Most reporters feel numbers low. Red-bellied Woodpecker: holding its own, and possibly increasing. Red-headed Woodpecker: Pearl River bird of last winter was found dead in Feb., probably a cat. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very few.

FLYCATCHERS--STARLINGS: Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewees and Willow Flycatchers were up in numbers, but Eastern Kingbirds and Great Crested Flycatchers were down to ab. 10% of normal. An early Eastern Phoebe was at Hook Mt. Mar. 19. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one PL May 17 was early, another at Forest Glen near P'kpsie May 13-19. Acadian Flycatcher: fewer than in recent years, but still good. Only one in Bashakill May 24 where sev. pair nested in recent years. Two Pond Gut May 31, and one Rye Nature Center May 17. Willow Flycatcher: first near Washingtonville May 21. At least five at Bashakill to end of period. Olive-sided Flycatcher: an early bird at Cruger's Is. May 10, and one on Gidley Rd., Dutch May 6. Tree Swallow: first Hook Mt. Mar. 20. An unusual event of nine found dead in a bluebird box, and ten in another in Dutch dur. May. Barn Swallow: first Apr. 3 Hook Mt. Cliff Swallow: only a few reported. Usual colonies in central Oran seem abandoned (BS). Purple Martin: first Apr. 3 Hook Mt. Arr. Bullville, Apr. 4. Blue Jay: residents continue low, but good migration obs. first half of May. Fish Crow: more than usual; exc. in eastern Oran. Max 11 Mar. 27 at Washington L., Newburgh. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only report one in Dutch Apr. 30. Brown Creeper: max ten in song at Ashokan Apr. 3. House Wren: five in the Rye area Apr. 13. Winter Wren: one at MC Apr. 6 and another in song near Mine Rd., USMA May 10. Carolina Wren: numbers came thru the mild winter well. An adult feeding two fledglings at Dunderberg May 17. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first PL Apr. 29. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** one Shunpike, Town of Washington, Dutch May 14-18. Responded to tape by singing steadily (FG, mob). Gray Catbird: several winter birds made it to spring. Migrants arr. on time. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none reported from Rock. One P'kpsie May 9 was the only report. Eastern Bluebird: first young hatched May 1 in Dutch, 76 nestlings banded by end of period there. Appear to be heavy losses due to Blow Flies. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr on schedule thru Region Apr. 12-13. Golden-crowned Kinglet: six reports from Dutch dur first week of Apr. No reports of nesters as we've had recently.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: always a good find, one Mine Rd., USMA from May 7-14. Three reports from Dutch: one Pawling May 3, and two others Forest Glen and Skidmore Sanct. May 13. Yellow-throated Vireo: seems down compared to recent years. Solitary Vireo: numbers up; at least ten in the Thompson Pd. area Apr. 23, and 14 reports dur. May in Dutch. Warbling Vireo: numbers up compared to highs of recent years. RFD found eight on May 19 and six on May 23. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** more than ever before, with several in the northern part of the Region. One singing steadily May 12 near Red Hook (FG, MVW, EP). Another May 7 behind Hurley Town Hall (AB). One at Pali-sades, Rock May 30; and one at Rye Nature Center May 30. Worm-eating Warbler: best numbers in some years. Two or three found regularly at Black Rock Forest near Cornwall, and another thru early May at Bashakill. Several reports from Rock. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Cruger's Is. May 10 (AB). "Lawrence's" Warbler: a singing male obs on Mine Rd., USMA May 12 (KM). Obs there again May 19 (EDT). Tennessee and Nashville Warblers: lower than usual. No. Parula: BS says numbers good although several observers missed them entirely. Cape May Warbler: never really abundant. One or two found by most birders on most trips. Yellow-rumped Warbler: four reports from Dutch dur Mar. Possibly wintering

birds. Cerulean Warbler: numbers down, but reported sparingly from usual locations in Dutch and Oran. Blackpoll Warbler: very low numbers compared with most years. Pine Warbler: best showing in east West in many years. At least eight reports there, four from Dutch and three in Oran. Last at Bashakill May 13 and Black Rock Forest May 14. Ovenbird: first May 2 Bashakill. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: more than ever before. One Rye Nature Center May 13-19; one Armonk May 17; one Marshlands Conservancy May 26. A singing male seen at Dunderberg Mt. May 17; one seen and heard Shunpike Dutch May 14-22; and another Cedar Valley May 20; one Mine Rd., USMA May 14. Mourning Warbler: the usual few reports. One Mine Rd. USMA May 14-16; another Winding Hills Pk., Montgomery May 17; a pair at Bashakill May 24.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: First migrant blackbirds arr. Mar. 6, 7; almost three weeks late. Bobolink: also late, but one at Salt Point May 4 was early. Heavy influx May 12-14. **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: always rare. An imm. in Dutch Apr. 20 was very early. One at P'kpsie May 2 and two at different parts of Stanfordville May 18-21, one Galeville May 17; and two Mine Rd. USMA May 24. No. Oriole: one Mar. 31 at Applewood Dutch was early (Czecher Terhune). **SUMMER TANAGER**: an ad. male calling at Rye Nature Center May 16 and a sub-adult male at Winding Hills Pk., Montgomery May 15 could be the first records for the Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: exc. numbers and on time. Indigo Bunting: A very early male Apr. 29-30 at Stissing. Evening Grosbeak: numbers very low as they were all winter. Last, a single bird on Waterman Census May 17. Purple Finch: numbers low with the exception of 20-30 month of May in Dutch. House Finch: huge numbers of last year diminished greatly this spring, but certainly not threatened. 145 on Waterman Census May 17 was up from 74 in 1979 and the first two in 1965. Rufous-sided Towhee: several made it thru the winter. One near Pleasant Valley was singing from Mar. 8. Grasshopper Sparrow: usual few at Westbrookville from May 6. Dutch birds arr. May 14. Dark-eyed Junco: last May 8 at Pine Ridge, Wappingers, and May 3 at Ft. Montgomery. Tree Sparrow: numbers severely down thru winter into spring. Last Rye Apr. 22 and Pleasant Valley Apr. 9. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wawarsing Apr. 8. Last migrant near P'kpsie May 20. White-throated Sparrow: last migrant left P'kpsie area May 20. Lincoln's Sparrow: usual few reports, one Palisades May 9, another Wawarsing May 10, another Red Hook May 12, another Pleasant Valley May 15-16, and one at Vassar Farms May 11. Snow Bunting: only report four birds in Dutch Mar. 15.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, NY 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The first day of the spring season was the coldest day of the winter with a reading of 10° F, the "most frigid March 1st in 29 years," said the National Weather Service. March went on to become the wettest March in 104 years, with precipitation totaling 10.41 inches against an average of 3.73. April continued the pattern with 8.26 inches of rain (average 3.30) the second wettest in history, thereby ending fears of drought as a result of the dry winter. Temperatures were average in March and two degrees warmer than average during April. The May rains were largely confined to weekdays giving weekend birders a break this year.

Warbler migration seemed good this year, and more widespread, in compari-