

est Central Bridge 18 Apr, banded 56. Black-throated Green Warbler: CR eight, banded two. Blackburnian Warbler: CR four, singing male Hollowville 10 May, banded two. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CR ten, banded five. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Schenectady 25 May. Blackpoll Warbler: CR two, Albany 30 May, banded two. Pine Warbler: CR two. Prairie Warbler: CR seven. Palm Warbler: one Central Bridge May, Hudson 30 Apr. Ovenbird: CR 11, max three Central Bridge May, banded four. No. Waterthrush: CR eight, max four Engleville May, banded 21. Louisiana Waterthrush: CR eight, one Delmar 6 May. Mourning Warbler: banded two. Com. Yellowthroat: CR 12, earliest Livingston 10 May, banded 31. Wilson's Warbler: CR three, banded three. Canada Warbler: CR seven, banded 15. Am. Redstart: CR 11, four reports, max 20 Schodack 29 May, banded 23.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CR 12. Bobolink: CR ten, two Catskill 7 May. E. Meadowlark: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Red-winged Blackbird: CR 12, major flight began 17 Mar, banded 17. Orchard Oriole: CR two, including three in Niskayuna, one NB 9 May. No. Oriole: CR 12, earliest Old Chatham 23 Apr (Ed Reilly), banded eight. Rusty Blackbird: two Schoharie 18 Apr, one Saratoga 24 Apr Ghent, 25-30 Apr, 15 Albany 5 May. Com. Grackle: CR 12, banded five. Brown-headed Cowbird: CR 12, banded 13. Scarlet Tanager: CR ten, two singing males Hollowville 10 May, two Seward May, banded one. Cardinal: CR 12, scarce in Schenectady, banded 12. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CR 11, max eight Schodack 29 May. Indigo Bunting: CR one, three reports including pair at Hollowville feeder 10 May, banded one. Evening Grosbeak: CR eight, 18 reports, returned to Jenny L in Apr, banded 269. Purple Finch: CR eight, 16 reports thru, banded 67. House Finch: CR 12, banding numbers down in Schenectady, banded 68. Pine Grosbeak: three reports from Columbia Co in Mar, Canaan 2-5 Apr (VA). The pair of Hoary Redpolls wintering at Scott Terrill's feeder in Altamont were still there 11 Apr. The Com. Redpoll flight was late, peaking 5-15 Apr, banded 796 in Apr. Pine Siskin: CR 11, 16 reports mostly in Apr, peak flight in Schenectady 6-15 May, banded 669. Am. Goldfinch: CR 12, poor winter showing in Schenectady, banded 128. Red Crossbill: CR one, one Niskayuna 7 Apr, 11 Delmar 1 May, two Schenectady 5 May, one 17 May. White-winged Crossbill: Troy 9-18 Mar (AR). Rufous-sided Towhee: CR 11, earliest three Central Bridge 28 Apr, banded five. Savannah Sparrow: CR eight, four reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: CR four. Henslow's Sparrow: CR two, one Delmar 1 May. Vesper Sparrow: CR four, six reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr, max seven Delmar 20 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: CR nine, returned to Jenny L 27 Mar and breeding in May, banded 100. Tree Sparrow: migrated through Jenny L 27 Mar-24 Apr, banded eight. Chipping Sparrow: CR nine, 12 reports, earliest Hudson 19 Mar, banded one. Field Sparrow: CR nine, eight reports, earliest Central Bridge 18 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: CR seven, three reports 10-16 May. White-throated Sparrow: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Fox Sparrow: ten reports, earliest one Schenectady 27 Mar, latest two Central Bridge 6 Apr, banded two. Lincoln's Sparrow: CR one, banded eight. Swamp Sparrow: CR ten, banded nine. Song Sparrow: CR 12, banded 32. Snow Bunting: Castleton and Ghent 1-20 Mar.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After one of the roughest winters on record, spring was more normal, March was cold, but normally so. Although the ice on the Hudson was quite thick, it

broke up in early February with floes continuing through much of March. The numbers of waterfowl swimming about between the floes in the Esopus Light area was truly extraordinary. Thousands of individuals of many species were observed there through much of March, including a beautiful drake Barrow's Goldeneye. April would have been a very normal month except for the blizzard of 6 April which dropped anywhere from eight to fifteen inches of snow, depending where you were. Temperatures dived into the twenties, and most migrants that had returned were hard put to survive. Robins especially seemed hard hit, with many foraging in the open roadways and being killed by cars. Feeders swarmed with northern finches, especially redpolls and siskins. There were two reports of grackles preying upon finches and killing them for food. Temperatures progressed about 10° F. per week thru April until the last week brought 70° F. weather. Foliage was early and showed little damage from last year's Gypsy Moths. The exceptions were White Pine and hemlock with many of the latter dying. Flowering shrubs and trees were in their glory, and seldom if ever looked better. But—where were the birds?

Birders waited and waited for the waves that never came. There were days when migrants were more numerous than others, but never the spectacular throngs that birders yearn for and have a right to expect in May. Several described the season as the "worst ever." Most said it was poor, and only two said it was "good" or "better than average." Conversations often gravitated to the species still unseen rather than finds recently made. None could venture a reason for the poor showing. Perhaps weather patterns to the south had some effect. Certainly we can't blame it on the Gypsy Moths of last year, although they did have a damaging effect on the seed and acorn crop. Perhaps the spraying of pesticides might have done some harm; but more of that was done this year than last, and much too late in the season to affect the migration. Precipitation was normal to better until the middle of May when the rains came. It rained at least a part of every weekend thru mid-June, keeping many birders at home.

As mentioned earlier, the waterfowl passage was good, but the hawk movement was poor. Flycatchers were generally late and in poor numbers. Swallows were more normal, but there are indications that the early migrant trees suffered from the blizzard of 6 April. Bluebirds also took quite a loss, with many young and adults killed and eggs frozen in the nest. Winter finches were about in good numbers early in the season, and were replaced by good numbers of migrant sparrows.

The bird of the season has to be a frigatebird (sp?) observed flying across the border from New Jersey into New York. The Common Eider, King Eider and European Wigeon are close runners up, and the Swainson's Warbler and Western Meadowlark could be candidates were their identification more tangible. Let's hope those who discovered them will submit verification reports to the NYSARC for a ruling.

Contributors and Observers: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Florence Germonds, Ken & Joan McDermott, Vaughn Morrison, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Basha-Bashakill Swamp, Sull Co; CB-Cornwall Bay; KP-Kingston Point; MC-Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL-Playland, Rye; PP-Piermont Pier; USMA-

U.S. Military Academy; WMC—Waterman May Census, Sull Co 15 May; the first four or five letters of each of the counties in the region.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: more than usual, all Apr, first three on Hudson at Esopus 3 Apr, max 40 Ashokan 13 Apr. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one winter-plumaged bird 22 Mar at CB. Horned Grebe: few reports, three Ashokan 23-25 Apr, one Basha 2 May. Double-crested Cormorant: max 13 PP 22 Apr were six days later than prev early date, reported from Esopus 15-16 May. A frigatebird of unknown species was obs at Northvale, NJ 7 Apr by Mr. Lee Bjong, flying northward into New York only a few yards away. Great Blue Heron: both heronries in Dutch unoccupied this year; a new breeding location in Basha where about ten active nests were observed. Fourteen nests near Jeffersonville in early Apr were also new. Cattle Egret: unreported for the last few years, one 17 Apr in Dutch. Great Egret: rare in spring, only one on WMC. Another at Kingston Pt the same date may well have been the same bird. Snowy Egret: five at PL 4 Apr were early, one at Croton Pt 10 and 27 May was more normal, one at Kingston Point 15 May. **LOUISIANA HERON:** one PL 8-13 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: one at West Haverstraw 27 May was an imm at the same location where a newly hatched one was observed in June of last year. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one or two at MC in early Apr disappeared after the blizzard of 6 Apr and did not reappear until 29 Apr, only to find a pair of Great Horned Owls nesting near their traditional nest site. They did not nest this spring, and the small colony of the last few years may be lost. Am. Bittern: calling in Hackensack sw, West Nyack 14 and 31 May where they have not been heard since 1967. Regularly heard at Basha from mid-Apr. Glossy Ibis: more than usual, single birds at MC and PL thru Apr and May. Rock had its seventh record with one at Nyack 25 Apr and another was in Dutch 21-22 Apr. Mute Swan: numbers still good. Seventeen unmated birds were at Croton Point Bay in mid-May, and at least six more were at CB. Brant: returning to the good numbers of several years ago, heavy passage from most areas 18-26 May. One flock heard in the dark passing over Warren Sod Farm the night of 14 May. More than 300 settled on Ashokan 18 May. Snow Goose: a few scattered singles reported in mid-Apr, max 500 in a field near Pleasant Valley at 8:00 a.m. 31 Mar inc to more than 1000 by noon, inc were four blue morphs. All were gone by 2:30 p.m. Gadwall: sev remained on Rock L thru 12 May, sev reports of transients in Mar in Dutch and at CB. Pintail: more than usual. Two males and two females at CB 22 Mar, max at 6½ Station Rd. Goshen 28 Mar, two at Cruger's I 3 May. **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** a male at CB 21 Mar was a first for Oran and probably the region (KJM). Verification report submitted to NYSARC. Am. Wigeon: good passage, last 12 Apr in Dutch on the Hudson R. No. Shoveler: three CB 14 Mar and six on Rio Res 28 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: excellent numbers, last the late date of 8 May in Dutch. Canvasback: more than 1000 at KP 21 Mar, last at MC 11 Apr. Greater Scaup: more than 2,000 at PL in mid-Apr, last two at Cruger's I 13 May. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** a drake discovered on Hudson at Esopus 16 Mar by AB was still there 20 Mar, obs in both Dutch and Ulst Cos, a first record for Dutch. Oldsquaw: as many as 50 at PL 11 Apr, first Esopus 13 Mar. **COM. EIDER:** an ad drake and female off PL 21 and 27 May is the second West record, the first at Ossining in 1894. **KING EIDER:** a subadult male off PL and Rye Beach 13-26 May, is the first West record. White-winged Scoter: 20 on the east basin of Ashokan 25 Apr. Hooded Merganser: a record 300 on the Hudson from Wappingers to Esopus 15 Mar. We have just received word from Berna Weissman that Steve Buzzanco banded a female on eggs in a Wood Duck box at Basha the spring of 1980 and recaptured her again on eggs in 1981. Unfortunately he is not banding this year, but a female has been obs there thru the month of May. Com. Merganser: more than 500 from Wappingers to Esopus 15 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: a male with nine females on Orange L 8-9 Apr, and as many as five were at Esopus in mid-Mar. At least five more were at CB in mid-Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: only two reports. One thru Apr near Pound Ridge, and another near Oakland Valley 3 May. Cooper's Hawk: one found dead near Jeffersonville 13 Apr, another at Basha 15 May, and one on a nest at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, obs on

13-15 May. Red-tailed Hawk: exc numbers, many reports of nesting and related behavior. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual, anywhere from two to four in each co. No evidence of breeding. Broad-winged Hawk: no peak movement reported, but numbers normal at end of period. Bald Eagle: more spring birds than usual. Several imm and ad working the ice floes in the mid-Hudson region thru Mar. Late info from DEC on winter numbers indicate 21 ad and 19 imm in the Sull Co Reservoir area. All were gone by the first week of Apr. Osprey: continues to improve, seen repeatedly thru the period in the Hackensack Swamp area of West Nyack and Blauevelt where it has summered for years, but has not been known to breed. An exceptionally early bird was at Wappinger's Cr 15 Mar, a peak of nine at Basha 24 Apr. PEREGRINE FALCON: only report one male near Castle Pt. Hosp 30 Mar (VM). Am. Kestrel: almost everyone reports numbers lower, should be watched for change in status. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up, drumming along Mine Rd, USMA from mid-Apr. Turkey: continues to improve, now found regularly in the Ashokan area, and heard thru May along Mine Rd USMA. One male seen there 11 Apr. Clapper Rail: returned to marsh at MC by 29 Apr. Com. Gallinule: a pair at Hackensack sw. West Nyack obs 21 and 28 May. There are three or four breeding records for that location, but no evidence this year. First two at Basha 25 Mar, in exc numbers there by end of period. Semipalmated Plover: one at PP 14 and 25 May, only eight prev spring records for Rock. Ruddy Turnstone: Rock had its fourth spring record when five were at PP 25 May. Am. Woodcock: probably suffered from 6 Apr blizzard, but no evidence of that. Numbers seemed good thru May. Com. Snipe: max 25 at Millbrook School 17 Mar. Upland Sandpiper: rare in West. One at Pound Ridge 25 Apr. eight at Orange Co Airport near Montgomery 29 May, was a good count in a new location. Solitary Sandpiper: max more than 40 at a Wurtsboro chicken farm 15 May. Purple Sandpiper: about 21 were still at PL 14 May. Decreased to eight on 21 May with the last there 22 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: unusual in spring, one near Stone Ridge 17 May (Bob Terwilliger). Dunlin: seven at PP 24 May was Rock seventh spring record. Short-billed Dowitcher: Rock had its fourth spring record when a flock of 68 were obs at PP 24 May. Three still there 25 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two on WMC were the first since 1974. Gulls: it appears that Great Black-backed outnumber Herring in the lower Hudson Valley. The latter are actually hard to find at times, away from the dumps and landfills. Ring-billed Gull: the spring thaw brought more than 600 to feed on farm fields in central Orange Co 20 Mar. Laughing Gull: first two on Hudson above the Bronx on 4 May. Bonaparte's Gull: Bob Terwilliger had a max of 25 near Kingston Pt. Lighthouse 21 Apr. CASPIAN TERN: first report in years of one at PL 14 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues in exc numbers. Monk Parakeet: unreported for several years, three or four obs the second week of Apr along Rt 9W in Piermont (Mrs. Charles C. Windisch). Cuckoos: exc return after last year's feast of caterpillars, both species arr 7 May in Dutch. Yellow-billed obs on nest in Kingston 23 May. Great Horned Owl: two near New City fought off a pair of Red-tails for possession of nest in late Feb. Three grown young there by 25 Apr. Long-eared Owl: one apparently car-killed at PL 18 Apr. Saw-whet Owl: one 13-14 Mar Stonykill, Dutch was obs again 11 Apr (VM). CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: one calling at MC 25 May, the second West record, the first being at Port Chester 26 June 1963. Com. Nighthawk: numbers good, more than 250 over Mine Rd 16 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: unreported in Rock and uncommon elsewhere, max three Mine Rd USMA 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: numbers down in Rock from highs of six years ago in Rock, normal elsewhere. One being pursued by a Red-headed near Pine Bush 2 May. A male and female at a nest hole at Basha 15 May were displaced by starlings a week later.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: came in on time in mid-Mar and did not seem to suffer much from the 6 Apr blizzard. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 9 May near P'kpsie was early; three other Dutch reports by month's end. Acadian Flycatcher: three Dutch reports on 20 and 29 May were the only ones. Absent from usual locations at Basha and in the Catskills. Willow Flycatcher: quite late, in usual locations after 21 May. Alder

Flycatcher: only report one 30 May Basha. Least Flycatcher: one believed to be this species was found chasing a phoebe near Weyants Pond, USMA 17 Apr (EDT), very early. Good numbers passing thru after mid-May, but few remained at the end of the period. Tree Swallow: first 13 Mar at CB, never any large movement reported. 6 Apr storm may have harmed them. FG reports 75 of this species dead in nest boxes in early May. Barn Swallow: arr Dutch 21 Apr, normal. Cliff Swallow: several back at Cross River Res dam in late Apr, ten at Ashokan dividing weir 25 Apr and nesting there by 15 May. Purple Martin: colony at Excelsior Farm near Bullville seems to be driven out by House Sparrows. Blue Jay: low numbers of winter were inc by an exc migration, especially along the Hudson thru early May. Com. Crow: RFD had the unusual opportunity of watching a pair build on 2 Apr. Parents were feeding 29 Apr, and young were gone by 24 May. Fish Crow: up to ten at MC in mid-Apr and seven were at Vassar Col 29 Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: an unusual report of two pair nesting in bluebird houses in Dutch during May. Boreal Chickadee: only report of one in spruces near aerator at Ashokan 25 Apr. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers in Apr continued into May. One carrying nesting material into hole at Tallman Mt. Pk, Piermont 25 Apr, another nesting Ashokan 22 May. At least five reports from Dutch during May. Brown Creeper: more than usual, one obs building at Ashokan 25 Apr. House Wren: first Town of Newburgh 20 Apr. Carolina Wren: numbers down, very few reports and most of these along the Hudson. Mockingbird: 43 on WMC was below normal, first on that count in 1961. Am. Robin: first migrants 13 Mar, large flocks from 20 Mar thru 6 Apr blizzard played havoc with starvation and car-kills, as many searched for food along open roadways. Gray-cheeked Thrush: usual few all mid-May. E. Bluebird: nesting on trails by 6 Mar. Numbers were good but heavy loss of young after 6 Apr storm. FG hopes that numbers will be made up in second and third nestings. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr on time in exc numbers, reported everywhere from mid-Apr. Kinglets: numbers low, peaked at MC with six Golden-crowned and eight Ruby-crowned. No reports of nesting this spring. Water Pipit: only report seven at Ashokan 27 Mar, there must have been others. Cedar Waxwing: never common in spring, a few more this year than most. Nesting activity obs at Basha 22 May and in Bear Mt. Pk, 28 May. No. Shrike: none. Loggerhead Shrike: only report one Wana-sink L, Sull 6 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: a few more than usual, one very early on 20 Apr at West Haverstraw, one Mine Rd USMA 11 May was there thru period, four in Dutch from 9 May. Warbling Vireo: RFD reports the greatest number in 55 years of birding. On 27 May he had 20 Warbling and one Red-eyed in the West Haverstraw area. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** a beautiful male found by Mike Evanyke in mid-morning 25 Apr at Basha remained thru the day for many viewers; gone the next day. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** one in a small swamp atop Illinois Mt 15 May. Obs by Dave Deyo and Chris Davis. Location is in the Town of Lloyd, Ulst Co near Rt. 299, no details forthcoming—a first for the region. Golden-winged Warbler: numbers down, only two on WMC which averaged 15 during the 1960's. Blue-winged Warbler: first 26 Apr Verbank; numbers normal and seems to be replacing the Golden-winged in much of its territory. **"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** one Basha from 15 May. **"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER:** one Mine Rd from 8 May-8 June was in the company of a female Blue-winged which was carrying nesting material 15-16 May, no nest found. Another was at Rye Nature Center 11 May, and at the Meyer Preserve, Bedford, 14 May. Cape May Warbler: numbers much lower than most years, most birders saw one or two for the season. Yellow-rumped Warbler: first report 17 Apr along Mine Rd. USMA, hundreds there 1 May, scarce elsewhere. Cerulean Warbler: back in most of its regular haunts. Obs 13 May at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, a new location. Bay-breasted Warbler: also lower than most years, many birders missed it completely. Pine Warbler: obs nesting near Askokan 25 Apr. Prairie Warbler: obs in the Ashokan area by FM 17 Apr, early. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one male Basha 22 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** a female at Middletown Res 16 May (JT). Mourning Warbler: only one at Basha 22 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report one 15 May near Westbrookville. Hooded Warbler: only report

one on WMC. Wilson's Warbler: KM reports them as the only warbler in greater than usual numbers. He found as many as three at a time on each trip in May. Canada Warbler: numbers low except in the Peekamoose Mt. Rd. area where FM found them common, first Mine Rd USMA 8 May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: in their usual places and numbers at the end of the period. Two pair at Rockland L 12 May inc to 150 the next day. A similar flock at Thiels a few hours later may well have been the same birds. E. Meadowlark: continues its low decline. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** a report of one at Stewart Airport 12 May, but no details—could be our third Orange record. Orchard Oriole: more than usual, at least seven in Dutch and 11 from Rock, three from Oran and one from Sull. Scarlet Tanager: numbers way down from recent years, late arriving. Indigo Bunting: usual locations and numbers, an extremely early bird was at a Rye feeder from 18-27 Apr. Purple Finch: continues to decline, now a hard bird to find in the wild. House Finch: too many, WMC had 143 with the first two birds appearing on that count in 1965. Pine Grosbeak: last in Dutch 6 Apr. **HOARY REDPOLL:** one occasionally turns up one if he looks at enough Commons. MVW had one of each at her feeder in Pleasant Valley 19-20 Mar, obs by many. Com. Redpoll: last at Pleasant Valley 11 Apr. Exc numbers thru Mar and at feeders dur and after the 6 Apr storm. Pine Siskin: exc numbers continued thru May, a few still around at the end of the period. Breeding should be looked for since it has occurred south of us on Staten I. Crossbills: both species well represented in Mar. More White-wings than Red, but the latter well-represented. Last report a flock of eight Reds in the Town of Ramapo 26 Mar. Savannah Sparrow: one Mine Rd USMA 25 Apr was an unusual location. Grasshopper Sparrow: sev reports at Galeville Airport, Wallkill. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** back at Galeville Airport this year. Three or four there thru June, and one reporter had as many as 15 birds. Dark-eyed Junco: last Mine Rd USMA 24 Apr. Tree Sparrow: left most areas by 17-19 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: the wintering bird at Vaughn Morrison's feeder in Wappingers Falls remained thru Mar. Spring arr in Dutch 7, 8 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: peak 13-14 May when six to eight birds were reported by sev birders independently. Last reports in Dutch 22, 24 May, WMC had 20. Lincoln's Sparrow: a few more than usual. First two birds on WMC, last one at Dunderberg Mt. 26 May. Snow Bunting: last 300 in Dutch 9 Mar, and 25 at Sull Co Comm Coll 12 Mar.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The season got off to a slow start, with eight out of the first ten days of March being colder than normal. The weather then heated up rapidly over the next few days with the warmest day of the month the 12th. This warm spell brought in many early migrants. Temperatures stayed above normal for most of the rest of the month except for a brief cold snap on the 27th and 28th, with the temperature dropping to 22° F. on 28 March, the coldest reading of the month. But this was just a taste of things to come. March closed warmer than normal with a monthly average less than a degree above normal. This warm spell spilled over into early April. On the 4th things started to get cold again and on the 6th the blizzard hit. Over nine and a half inches of snow fell in New York City and temperatures dropped to record lows. The daily mean for 7 April was