

home in S. Nyack 30 Apr, another was in Dutch 25 Apr, six at Stissing 6 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: one wintered at Pleasant Valley and was still there thru the spring. Another wintered at Rye Nature Center. Numbers low at end of period. Am. Tree Sparrow: last reports one 26 Apr and two 11 Apr in Dutch. Grasshopper Sparrow: two were at Westchester Airport 31 May. The Westbrookville birds were back on territory by 21 May. Fox Sparrow: one on the extremely late date of 14 May on WMC. Lincoln's Sparrow: only two reports. One at the Basha 14 May and another on WMC the same date. White-crowned Sparrow: very few reports. Three Basha 14 May and four on WMC the same date. Snow Bunting: the only report a single bird on the Concord Golf Course, Monticello 24 Mar. Bobolink: arrived most areas 14 May. A fair-sized flock was at Rockland L as early as 2 May. E. Meadowlark: unreported in Rock where only one has been found in the last ten years. **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK**: one was found singing at Stewart Airport 31 May and was still there in late June at the time of this writing. Benton Seguin found it in the same location as the one he had for only a few minutes in mid-May last year. Rusty Blackbird: unreported except for several on Mine Rd USMA 20-26 Mar. Orchard Oriole: at least seven different birds in Rock from 6 May. Three in Dutch, two at Basha and a few more reported from Oran. Purple Finch: the excellent numbers of last winter continued thru spring. About 72 reported at seven or eight feeders in Dutch thru Apr. House Finch: continues to explode. Originally found only around houses; now found regularly in the more remote areas of the Region. **RED CROSSBILL**: two females visited a Tomahawk L feeder 25 Mar. Com. Redpoll: two at Stormville, Dutch 4 Mar. Pine Siskin: only report five at Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Pk 4 May. Evening Grosbeak: Max 107 at Woodridge, Sull in early Mar. Last at Monticello, eight, on 13 May.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The line for the Ark forms to the right. Remember, it's two by two and no pushing! Seriously, what can you say about the weather in a spring that was already the wettest on record before April was even over. For birders, the fact that it rained at some point on virtually every weekend of the season was particularly difficult. The El Niño in the tropical Pacific that was responsible for the exceptionally mild winter just past continued to play havoc with weather patterns over large portions of the globe. March reversed the old adage and came in like a lamb and went out like a lion, at least temperature-wise. In the first three weeks of March the temperature fell below normal on only two days, the 12th and the 17th, and then only by a degree. However, precipitation did not match the pleasant temperatures. It rained on ten of the first twelve days in March. The biggest rains, 3.1 inches on 18 March, preceded a big warm front that moved into the Region from the south on 19-20 March bringing a number of record early arrivals. It looked like it was going to be a very early spring following the very mild winter. It was not to be. Temperatures started dropping after the 20th and the rains just kept coming. On seven of the last ten days of March, the temperature dropped to freezing or below; the last frost had been nearly a month earlier in late February. March ended 2.6° F above normal, thanks to the early warm spell, but with a total of 10.54 inches of rain, 6.32 inches above normal.

April temperatures hovered near normal for much of the month with the exception of a cold spell from the 16th-21st, with temperatures dropping to near

freezing and .8 inch of snow on the 19th. Migration slowed to a trickle. A warming trend starting on the 26th and running till 3 May brought in many migrants. April closed with an average temperature .1° below normal. If the temperature in April was innocuous, the rest of the weather wasn't. On six days over an inch of rain fell. On 10 April, 4.31 inches fell; if it hadn't rained on any other day during the month, that alone was enough to put the month above normal. Not far behind was the 16th, when 3.29 inches fell. This latter storm brought some phalaropes to the south shore. By the end of the month 14.01 inches of rain had fallen, 10.26 above normal, and setting a new April record.

In May, the rains finally slacked off but the temperature cooled off and much of May was cooler than normal. The average for the month was 2.4° below normal and the total rainfall of 4.6 inches was only about an inch above normal. Migrants came thru in a slow steady stream with the only major wave occurring relatively late on 21-22 May. This wave particularly included very good numbers of Tennessee, Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers. Another small wave occurred at the end of the month on 29-31 May. (All weather data from New York City.)

After some record early arrivals in late March, the migration fell back into a relatively normal pattern with most migrants and nesters arriving at approximately normal dates. Observers generally termed the migration "unremarkable" or "about average." Tom Davis, doing his spring shorebird survey at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, termed the shorebird flight there "lousy" though some unusual spring migrants, Marbled Godwit and Stilt Sandpiper, turned up elsewhere. One plus of the season was the biggest influx of Summer Tanagers on record. They seemed to be everywhere in May. Another big plus and a very hopeful sign was the return of nesting Peregrine Falcons for the first time in over thirty years. Two pairs nested in New York City. At least three of the birds are known to be releases from the Cornell hacking program. At the time of this writing, both pairs appear to have successfully raised young; more about this in the summer season report. Dr. Tom Cade and his fellow workers from the Cornell program are to be congratulated for their efforts to reestablish this magnificent bird in eastern North America.

Rarities: American White Pelican, Mississippi Kite, Purple Gallinule, Pileated Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers.

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LOONS—DUCKS: A breeding-plumaged Com. Loon lingered at Brightwater 7-18 May (RL, FF). Following their scarcity during the winter, no Red-necked Grebes were reported this spring. One of the finds of the season was an AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, seen soaring over JBWR on 19 May (C. Pinnock); a case of being in the right place at the right time. Coincidentally, this is the second record for the Refuge; the first was nearly 19 years ago in the fall of 1964. A Least Bittern was found in the Edwards Ave marsh in Calverton 15 May (RA); this was the only report received for the species. All the Region's breeding heron species were in by mid to late Apr, though some arrived on record early dates in Mar. Great Egret was reported at Captree 21 Apr (FF). Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron and Tricolored

Heron were found there earlier on 18 Apr (FF). Cattle Egrets arrived a month earlier, on the record early date of 20 Mar, with individuals found at Montauk (RK) and Jones Beach (J. Lamoureux). More Cattle Egret reports than usual were received this spring, with a high count of 20 at Baiting Hollow 14 May (GSR). The same March warm spell that produced the early Cattle Egrets brought a record early Green-backed Heron to Prospect Pk, Brooklyn, on 20 Mar (*fide* J. Yrizzary). Other early Green-backs were found at Lawrence (SBD) and Alley Pond Pk, Queens (LS) on 26 Mar. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found at Tobay (FF) and JBWR (S. Lipkin) on 12 and 17 Apr, respectively. The previously mentioned March warm weather brought the season's first Glossy Ibis to Jones Beach (LS, S. Yeaton) on the relatively early, but not record date of 20 Mar. Five Tundra Swans were at Hook Pd 5 Mar (GSR). Snow Geese passed through the Region in good numbers in early to mid Apr with a high of 2,000 at JBWR on 5 Apr (DR); 900 were there 12 Apr (LS), the same day that 110 were noted migrating past Tobay (FF). A male Wood Duck was at JBWR, where they are rare, 12 May (JD, AS). The previously mentioned late March warm front brought a relatively early pair of Blue-winged Teals to Lawrence 26 Mar (SBD). Eurasian Wigeons, all males, lingered in the Region till 6 Mar at JBWR (R. Clark) and Grant Pk (SBD) and till 20 Mar at Mecox (RK). Other waterfowl lingering in the Region from the winter were a subadult male King Eider at Montauk Pt till 20 Mar (RK); a pair of Harlequin Ducks also at Montauk Pt till 1 Apr (A & A Townsend); and a male Bufflehead and two Red-breasted Mergansers at JBWR on 15 and 12 May, respectively (JD, AS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures were reported at JBWR 26 Mar (D. Knowles), two in Manhattan at the Harlem R and 181st St 1 Apr (G. Dadone), Upton 6 Apr (GSR) and near Muttontown 30 Apr (A. Townsend). A relatively early Osprey was at JBWR 14 Mar (JD). Possibly the bird, or rather birds, of the season in Region Ten were the two **MISSISSIPPI KITES** seen in flight, and being harassed by crows, over Forest Pk on 3 May (LS, Jacqueline & Jean Paul Latil). These represent the second NY State record, the first being a pair on Staten I in May-June 1979. The imm Bald Eagle reported in the winter season lingered at JBWR till 29 Mar (mob). On 1 May over 100 Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted migrating past Great Gull I at the mouth of LI Sound (JD). Several Red-shouldered Hawks, relatively uncommon on LI, were reported; singles at Yaphank 16 Mar, Upton 24 Mar, Manorville 26 Mar and two at Montauk 28 May (all GSR). There were scattered reports of migrating Merlins throughout the Region in May. Two pairs of Peregrine Falcons nested in the Region this spring; the first nesting for the species in over 30 years. Both pair nested on man-made structures, in this case NYC bridges. One pair was on the Throgs Neck Bridge and the other on the Verrazano Bridge. Black Rails were heard calling at the Oak Beach marsh on 14 and 21 May (ROP, B. Spencer); they have formerly bred in this marsh but have not been heard here in several years. A very lost **PURPLE GALLINULE** spent several days walking amongst the litter on the edge of the lake in Prospect Pk, Brooklyn, 6-9 May (mob), until it was found emaciated and with a fractured leg, apparently the victim of either a dog or a mugging. Am. Oystercatchers arrived in the Region by early Apr: one at West End, Jones Beach 7 Apr (AW) and two at JBWR 12 Apr (LS). Upland Sandpipers were found in several locations during May: two near Dix Hills (THD, *et al.*) and one at RMSP (FF, *et al.*) on 15 May and one at Mitchell Field on 21 May (SBD). A Marbled Godwit, a very rare spring migrant, was seen and heard calling in flight over Forest Pk on 22 May (J. Ash). A record early White-rumped Sandpiper was found at JBWR on 23 Apr (THD, K. Ray). Purple Sandpipers lingered at Great Gull I till 29 May (*fide* JD). Another very rare spring migrant shorebird that turned up this season was Stilt Sandpiper, four were at Oak Beach marsh 14-15 May (mob). A male Ruff was found at Orient on 22 May (J & C Hastings). Despite the lack of any reported pelagic trips, all three phalaropes were found in the Region this spring. Three male Wilson's Phalaropes were at Oak Beach marsh 14 May (RK, *et al.*). One of the many April storms was undoubtedly responsible for the other phalaropes found. On 17 Apr, a day after one major storm and only a couple of days before the next, over 50 Red Phalaropes were found at the West End, Jones Beach (AW, HH); over 60 were seen there the next day (mob). On that second day, 18 Apr, five Red-necked Phalaropes were found at Jones Beach as well as 20 unidentified Phalaropes in the Fire I inlet (AJL). Two Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported:

one at Plum Beach, Brooklyn 17 Mar (JD) and an adult in breeding plumage at JBWR 29 May (T W Burke, P Lehman, *et al.*). Iceland Gulls lingered into April and May with second year birds found on 18 Apr at 125th St. and the Hudson R in Manhattan, on 28 Apr at Great Gull I (JD) and on 15 May at Wolfe's Pond Pk, SI (GB). A Gull-billed Tern was noted on Jones Beach 19 May (AW, S. Schiff). A Caspian Tern was seen sporadically at JBWR 11-14 May (THD, *et al.*). Com. Terns arrived in late Apr with 85 at Moriches Inlet on 23 Apr (GSR), a bit early for so many. Both Com. and Roseate Terns had arrived at Great Gull I by 28 Apr (JD). The only reports of Black Terns received were of individuals seen sporadically during May at Great Gull I (*fide* JD); surely others were seen.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A pair of Great Horned Owls near Yaphank successfully raised two young (S. Pradon, *fide* FF). A Snowy Owl appeared in Broad Channel 20 Mar (DR, *et al.*), perhaps the bird that was seen intermittently at JBWR during the winter. The Long-eared Owls that wintered at JBWR lingered there until mid Apr (mob). Short-eared Owls were also reported into mid-Apr with one at JBWR 12 Apr (LS, *et al.*) and one at Shinnecock 23 Apr (GSR). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard calling at night at Manorville on 5-6 Mar (GSR). A Com. Nighthawk that didn't seem to mind contradicting its name was seen feeding with a mixed group of swallows over a farm pond in Bridgehampton in the early afternoon of 19 May (RA). Chuck-will's-widows returned again this year to the same areas they have frequented in recent years in E. Manorville (GSR) and at Oak Beach (ROP); Oak Beach was the site of the state's first known nesting of the species in 1975 and they have apparently continued to nest there ever since. A relatively early Chimney Swift was seen at the Wading River marsh on 9 Apr (RA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported throughout the Region this spring, many of them lingering in one place for extended periods: one was at Bronx Pk 20 Mar (B. Renshaw); one at JBWR 30 Apr-8 May (mob); a pair at Forest Pk 7-15 May (mob); one at Ridgewood Reservoir 8 May (THD); and one in Islip 14-25 May (*fide* FF). A **PILEATED WOODPECKER**, an extremely rare bird on LI, was found at Garvie's Pt 14 May (R. Cioffi).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebees were widely reported in the Region by 2 Apr. A record early E. Kingbird was found at Montauk Pt on 28 Mar (K. Ward). The apparently exhausted bird was approached to within a few feet. Another early E. Kingbird was at the West End, Jones Beach on 18 Apr (H. Mueller). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was seen, flying by to the west, at Gilgo on 31 May (ROP). Hundreds of Tree Swallows were reported at JBWR on 12 Apr (LS) in the wake of the big storm on the 10th. N. Rough-winged Swallows arrived about the same time with one reported at the Wading River marsh on 11 Apr (RA). At least one pair of E. Bluebirds returned to Upton where they have bred in recent years (GSR). One observer felt that Swainson's Thrushes were very common this spring (SBD); quite a difference from two years ago when they were almost lacking.

VIREOS-WARBLED: The warm front at the end of April brought White-eyed, Solitary, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos to a number of places in the Region. A record early Red-eyed Vireo was found at Forest Pk on 15 Apr (P. Bernarth). Another early arrival, though not a record, was a Blue-winged Warbler found at Tobay 12 Apr (FF). Golden-winged Warblers are always rare on LI, so one at a birdbath in Wantagh on 13 May was a good find (A & E Kretz). A wave on 21-22 May included many Tennessee Warblers with one observer estimating over 250 in Forest Pk on the latter day (THD). An Orange-crowned Warbler, a rare migrant in the spring, was in Central Pk 3 May (mob). The 22 May wave also included good numbers of Blackburnian Warblers with over 40 estimated in Forest Pk (THD). Six Yellow-throated Warblers were reported: 23 Apr Prospect Pk (J. Maraio), 30 Apr Forest Pk (mob), 1 May Central Pk (mob), 3 May Prospect Pk (T. Stiles), 5 May Central Pk (N. Wagerik) and most surprising on 28 May Central Pk (N. Halmi); this last is a bit unusual since most of the Yellow-throated Warblers that turn up in our area usually appear in late April and early May. Several observers commented on the good numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers in the 22 May wave with over 250 estimated in Forest Pk (THD) and many reported in Belmont the same day (FF). It was a good spring for Prothonotary Warblers with about a dozen reported from NYC parks and LI, the first being a very early bird at Babylon on 27

Mar-2 Apr (P & B Herlich). As usual there were scattered reports of Kentucky Warblers from NYC parks. The 21-22 May wave brought individuals to a number of eastern LI localities: Manorville (GSR) and Yaphank (FF) on 21 May and a bird banded on Great Gull I on 22 May (JD). As usual Mourning Warblers were reported from a number of locations in late May. A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on Great Gull I on 30 May (*vide* JD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanagers were widespread throughout the Region in May with at least 30 individuals reported, easily the biggest flight on record. Seven adult males were reported and many of the rest were imm males; it's possible that the sex ratio of Summer Tanagers turning up in the Region isn't really that skewed but that females are just more easily overlooked. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived a bit early with the earliest a male at a feeder in Deer Pk 21-27 Apr (FF). Good numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were reported this spring, the first a female in Cedarhurst on 23 Apr (HH); four were at Jones Beach 25-26 Apr (R. Miller), perhaps one of the same birds was at Oak Beach 28 Apr (FF), a pair at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens 28 Apr (G. Thompson) and one to four were in Central Park 3-8 May (mob). There was an unusual April flight of Indigo Buntings on the south shore starting with a male at Captree on the near record date of 12 Apr (RL), this or another was at Tobay 18 Apr (AJL), 18 were at the Jones Beach Coast Guard station 26 Apr (R. Miller) and 65 were counted the following day in the stretch between Tobay and Fire I on the Jones Beach strip (FF, J. Smith). A male PAINTED BUNTING appeared at the Helgeson's feeder in Elm Park, SI on 2 May (W & N Siebenheller, photo by S. Jenkins). Unfortunately, it was only there for one day. Two reports of Dickcissels, a very rare spring migrant, were received: 27 Apr at Gilgo (FF, *et al.*) and the same or a different individual 8 May at the Coast Guard station on Jones Beach (AW). A somewhat late Am. Tree Sparrow was on Great Gull I 28 Apr (JD). White-crowned Sparrows were very scarce this spring. Individual late lingering Dark-eyed Juncos were at RMSP 15 May (FF) and Great Gull I 24-25 May (JD). Several observers commented on the good Bobolink flight in mid to late May, particularly on eastern LI: 80-85 birds in an alfalfa field in Mattituck 17 May (AD), flocks at Mitchell Field and Short Beach (SBD) and Suffolk Community College (FF) 21 May, and 40 in Cutchogue 23 May (GSR). Six Rusty Blackbirds were in Alley Pd Pk 14 Mar (SBD). One to two male Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at JBWR from 30 Apr thru the end of May (THD). Given their poor showing during the winter an Evening Grosbeak at RMSP 29 Apr was a good find (M. Cooper).

Correction and Addition to the Winter Season Report: The Queens and Smithtown Christmas Bird Count reports were received too late for inclusion in the winter report. The Queens count was held 18 Dec and totaled 114 species including one Glossy Ibis, the only winter season report for the species. The Smithtown count was held 27 Dec and had 88 species including 20 E. Screech-Owls. Finally, Horned Lark should not have been included in the list of species in normal numbers in the introductory section of the report. They were below normal as mentioned in the main report.

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