

man Bird Club members, two of whom have experienced the bird before. For personal reasons the owner, a nonbirder, refused other visitors and demanded secrecy. Documentation has been forwarded to NYSARC, and if accepted will add another species to the NYS List (EP, OW, MVW, MJK). Purple Finch: numbers up during May after a very poor winter. *RED CROSSBILL*: one on WMC. Reported twice on that count in past years: two in 1964 and three in 1973. Com. Redpoll: only report two at Stissing 14 March. Pine Siskin: around in small numbers at feeder during May, last in Dutch 25 May. Evening Grosbeak: March saw 20 at each of three feeders in Dutch, last 12-14 May in Sull.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

It was a wet spring for the second consecutive year, but it didn't come close to matching last year's deluges. March was generally cool, particularly the period 8-13 March when temperatures rarely got above freezing; nearly seven inches of snow fell on the 8th and 9th. With measurable amounts of rain on nearly half the days of the month, the total rainfall of 6.30 inches was 2.08 above normal. A warm spell the 15th-20th brought the first small wave of migrants, but cool weather from the 23rd on slowed things down again and helped to put the month's average temperature at 36.7° F, 4.7° below normal. The first half of April continued damp with over six inches of rain by the 16th and less than half an inch thru the rest of the month; the total of 6.62 inches was 2.86 above normal. Overall, April temperatures were close to normal, with the average varying from the norm by more than ten degrees only on the 23rd when it was 12° below normal during the height of a cold spell the 22nd-25th. The month's average was only 0.5° below normal. Warm weather 5-7 April brought a number of arrivals, including some record and near record dates for flycatchers and Summer Tanager. The next significant movement of migrants occurred on the 16th-17th. Warm weather on the last couple of days of the month brought the first major wave of migrants to the Region including many warblers. May was pretty close to average in temperature and rainfall until the last four days of the month when record rains hit New England. The month's total of 9.74 inches of rain was 5.98 above normal with over five inches of that coming on the 28th-31st. The average temperature for the month was only 0.8° below normal. Numbers of migrants on 1-2 May seemed to be mainly fallout from the late-April movement mentioned above. There was a modest movement accompanying warm weather on the 11th-13th. A cold spell the 14th-18th put a damper on migration, but when it broke on the 19th migration picked up again. Overall, the spring migration could be described as average to good. Nothing really stands out sharply from the rest, except perhaps the good numbers of some southern species like Prothonot-

ary and Yellow-throated Warblers and Blue Grosbeaks. Summer Tanagers, however, did not repeat last year's record invasion.

Rarities: Sandwich Tern, Great Gray Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; SP-State Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob-many observers.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The storms at the end of the season brought Sooty Shearwaters to the beaches with eight at Mecox and 12 at Shinnecock 27 May (MK) and 19 at Ammagansett 29 May (AW). Single Least Bitterns were found in several locations in early- to mid-May: 5 May at JBWR, where they have been regular in recent springs (TWB), and much more surprisingly at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI (AM) and Central Pk (L. Rosenberg), both on 15 May. Warm weather 20-22 March before the cold, wet weather of the 28th and 29th brought returning Great and Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis. Tundra Swans lingered into late-March with three each at JBWR 18 March (M & A Penzer) and Manorville 26 March (JJR). Also lingering were four Snow Geese at JBWR 24 May (J. Viglietta). In the early evening of 21 May flocks of Brant, totaling 1,375 birds, were noted flying over Riverdale (WS). Two male Eurasian Wigeons were reported: 4 March at Phelps's Pd, N Babylon (FF) and 17 March at Lyndhurst (SBD). The female Tufted Duck at the Central Pk reservoir reported in the winter season just made it into the spring with the last report received on 1 March. Another holdover from the winter were the six Harlequin Ducks at Jones Inlet 4 March (mob). Other lingering waterfowl included a male Oldsquaw at Tobay 10 April (FF) and a pair of Bufflehead at Great Kills, SI 19 May (mob).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Relatively rare for the Region was a Black Vulture over Mt. Peter, SI on 11 March (D. Murphy). Single Turkey Vultures were reported over Sea Cliff 23 March (A. Bell), Lawrence 1 May (A. Bisk), Rockville Ctr 16 May (AW) and HLSP 17 May (AW); the last two sightings were possibly of the same individual. Nesting Ospreys returned again to Connetquot RSP and Seatuck in Islip this spring (FF); on 7 April 27 Ospreys were counted between Mattituck and Orient Pt (JJR). Two Bald Eagles were reported this spring: 23-24 May at High Rock, SI (H. Fischer) and 25-27 May at JBWR (mob). A N. Goshawk was at HLSP 27 March (AW). Single Merlins were found along Dune Rd 5 May (JJR) and at JBWR 13 May (J. Bull). A pair of Peregrine Falcons were seen in courtship display at JFK Airport 16 March (HR), but it is not known if they returned this spring to the Verrazano and Throgs Neck Bridges. Black Rails again returned to Oak Bch marsh where they were heard calling 20 May (RK). A Lesser Golden-Plover, rare in the spring, was found at JFK Airport 14 May (S. Chevalier). Two Semipalmated Plovers at Jones Inlet 17 March (SBD) were record early arrivals by one day. Piping Plovers returned at their normal time in mid- to late-March. Two. Am. Oystercatchers at JFK Airport 19 March were early but not a record (HR). Eight Solitary Sandpipers at Goethals' Bridge Pd 19 May (GB) was a good number for a single location. Upland Sandpipers arrived in mid-April with one at the Cedar Bch Golf Course 10-14 April (FF) and two along the Ocean Causeway 14 April (FF). Whimbrels are fairly uncommon in the spring in this Region so the following two observations are noteworthy: six on Dune Rd, near the Ponquogue bridge 5 May (JJR) and 19 at Great Kills, SI 21 May (B & M Paul). A single Red Knot at Zach's Bay 31 March (SBD) was a good early spring find. A count of 65 Purple Sandpipers on Jones Bch 20 May (RK) was quite high for so late. Another good count was 2,000 Dunlin on Jones Bch 20 March (LS, W. Baumann). Two Curlew Sandpipers were found, both in breeding plumage, 25

May JBWR (H. Martin) and 29 May Nassau Bch Pk (ML). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported: a female in breeding plumage 6 May JBWR (mob) and a male 20 May Jones Bch (RK). Two Little Gulls, an adult and an imm were at Jones Inlet 18 March (SBD) and another two were at Great Kills 6 May (AM). Three Iceland Gulls were reported during the spring: 31 March Mt. Loretto, SI (AM), 14 April Westhampton (J. Lamoreux), and 22 April Jones Bch (GD). Another fallout of the late May storms was an imm Black-legged Kittiwake at Shinnecock Inlet (MK). Two Gull-billed Terns were at JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT). Caspian Terns are uncommon in the Region in spring so three reports totalling five birds is above normal: three at Mecox Bay 17 April (PG), and singles at Gilgo 19 April (AW) and JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT). Even rarer in the spring was a Royal Tern at Great Kills 28 May (AM). A **SANDWICH TERN** stopped in briefly at the Common and Roseate Tern colony on Great Gull I on 25 May (M & P King); the first Com. Tern of the season was seen there 20 April (JD). Small numbers of Black Terns were reported in the Region around 20 May (mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: According to the NYC Rare Bird Alert both species of cuckoos were way down this year with very few reports received (TWB). A Great Horned Owl was seen with two young in Roslyn 15 March (H. Roth). The **GREAT GRAY OWL** reported in the winter season was last seen in Brookville on 27 March (*fide* BJS). Three Chuck-will's-widows were heard calling 13 May at Oak Bch (JD, AS) where they have bred for at least the last eight years; another was heard at Heckscher SP the same night (JD, AS); one at JBWR 10 May (R. Machover) was a first record there and another was at Ridge 22 May (JJR). The warm weather at the end of April brought a slightly early Ruby-throated Hummingbird to Wading River 30 April (RA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported this spring, among others: Great Gull I picked up its first ever 20 May (T. Male), and two were at Cutchogue 3 May (RA), but the best place to find them was Forest Pk where three pairs were seen thru the spring, perhaps nesting?

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported in good numbers throughout the Region from mid-May on with the peak for a single location three at Forest Pk 20 May (TWB, GT). An early Acadian Flycatcher was at Forest Pk 6 May (B. Weissman). A Willow Flycatcher was on territory in the Thorne Preserve in W. Bay Shore 22 May (FF). E. Phoebes arrived with the warm spell of 20 March. The warm weather of 5-6 April brought with it some record early flycatchers: a Great Crested Flycatcher at Oak Bch 6 April (MEE); and single E. Kingbirds at Mattituck (J. S. Ruscica) and Jamesport (*fide* BJS) on 7 April and at Jones Bch on 8 April (*fide* TWB). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was in Locust Valley 2-5 May (J. Shumsky, *et al*). Two Purple Martins returned to their breeding colony at Lemon Creek, SI on the somewhat early date of 6 April (AM). On 12 April 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Forest Pk (R. Wolfert), a good number for the spring. Over 100 migrant Am. Robins were noted on the Van Cortlandt Pk Golf Course 22 March (WS).

VIREOS-WARBLED: High numbers of vireos were found at Alley Pd Pk on 3 May with 20 Solitaries and five Yellow-throateds both very high counts (LS). Yellow-throateds were widely reported throughout the Region during May. In contrast, at least one observer felt that Red-eyed Vireos were less numerous this spring (GB). Golden-winged Warblers, rare in this Region, were at Forest Pk 6 May and Central Pk 11-13 May (mob). Three Orange-crowned Warblers, a rare spring migrant, were reported: 28 April Central Pk (mob), 6 May Forest Pk (GT), and 12 May JBWR (RA). A record early Cape May Warbler was found at the West End, Jones Bch on 19 April (AW). It was a banner spring for Yellow-throated Warblers with eight to ten individuals reported, including: individuals in Prospect Pk 19 April-5 May (JY, J. Maraio), Tobay 28 April and 5 May (A J Lauro) and Central Pk 27 April and 5 May (mob), among others. Cerulean Warblers were also fairly widely reported with individuals found in most of the major city parks. It was also a good year for Prothonotary

Warblers with perhaps ten individuals reported, the first being singles at Wading River marsh (RA) and Seatuck (R. Halbeisen) on 10 April thru, a male at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI on 5 May (AM) with an amazing four birds reported in Prospect Pk 16 April (JY). Six to seven Kentucky Warblers were reported, starting with one in Prospect Pk on 25 April (JY) thru, one at Southard's Pd, Babylon on 29 May (FF). Eight reports of Mourning Warblers were received from 13 May Forest Pk (JD, AS) to 28 May Buck's Hollow, SI (GB). Hooded Warblers were reported in good numbers throughout the Region. A Yellow-breasted Chat was at JBWR 6-20 May (mob) with scattered reports of individuals in other areas also.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Approx. ten Summer Tanagers were reported, far below last year's total; the first was on the near record date of 7 April at Forest Pk (GD). A somewhat early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Forest Pk 17 April (GD). Over a dozen Blue Grosbeaks were reported this spring, well above average, with the earliest a male at Brookhaven 21 April (JJR). Indigo Buntings, usually rare before May, staged a virtual April flight this spring with the first a record early molting male at Jones Inlet 9 April (SBD); another four were on Jones Bch 19 April (AW) at a time when normally even one would be unusual. A Vesper Sparrow was at Heyerdahl's Hill, SI 19 May (AM). A flock of approx. 30 Bobolinks was at Riverhed 16 May (RA). After this past winter's reports Boat-tailed Grackles at JBWR are hardly surprising, but still eight on Ruffle Bar in Jamaica Bay on 3 May (R. Cook) and five at the West Pd, JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT) are good numbers. Single singing male Orchard Orioles were noted at Van Cortlandt Pk on 30 April and 27 May (WS) and a "pair" was seen at Wading River 10 May (RA). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks lingered at feeders in Islip till mid-May (FF). Finally, a pair of European Goldfinches were seen in Shoreham 26 May (H. Halama, T. Droisen); these are almost certainly recent escapes but since there was a breeding population of introduced birds on LI until the 1950's they may breed again.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.

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