

REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After an unusually warm February, March and April were colder than average. The last week of April brought a warming trend, but by that time foliage and birds were a good week to two weeks behind schedule. May, though more normal, was also a bit cooler than usual. Snow fell on 9, 13 and 28 March; but was completely melted by 1 April. Four inches of rain on 5 April caused widespread flooding, and very likely wiped out the early ground nesters such as American Woodcock. Each week in May had some rain with floods returning on 28-31 May when more than *nine inches* fell - just in time to catch the ground nesters who by this time would probably have tried again. May alone had more than 11 inches of precipitation, this in a region where less than 45 inches is the *yearly* average. One good thing about the rain, though, was the flooded fields especially in Ulster and Dutchess which lured shorebirds to stop and feed.

The big news in the report is another addition to the NYS checklist from Dutchess Co; their third addition in a little over a year. This spring, herons put on a good show. Waterfowl went thru in late winter, and the only ducks of note were the unusual numbers of N. Pintails and Oldsquaws. The only hawkwatch was an impromptu thing during the third week of April at Mt. Peter, but it was enough to initiate a more organized count next spring. Judy Cinquina had a "bang-up" day on 27 April when in five hours she logged 1,365 birds including: 1,269 Broad-wings, 46 Sharp-shins, 16 Ospreys, 6 Northern Harriers and 15 American Kestrels. For quality she had one Peregrine and two Merlins. The appearance of a Black Vulture there in March caused some excitement. Bald Eagles lingered in their usual wintering areas until quite late and were still being reported until mid-May. Wild Turkeys are now regularly reported in the eastern and southern parts of the Region. Cuckoos went largely unreported, probably due to the absence of their favorite caterpillars. Owls were reported in good numbers, especially Barred and Great Horned. Most species of flycatchers were late, and finches and sparrows with a few exceptions were largely unnoteworthy. Warblers came in on 30 April and again on 12 May. After the latter date they stayed in such good numbers that subsequent waves were not noticed. By 22 May the bulk of northern migrants were gone, and those birders who waited for the usual late May waves were disappointed. Probably due to the poor weather there were none. The migration that began so late, ended early; and by the last week of May we were into the lazy days of summer birding.

The new bird for New York State is a Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) at a feeder in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. See report for details. Other rarities were relatively few and included: Red-necked Grebe, the white egrets, Tricolored Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Vulture, Lesser Golden-Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Red Crossbill.

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Abbreviations: EP-Esopus Point; KP-Kingston Point; PL-Playland, Rye; PP-Piermont Pier; WMC-Waterman May Census, Dutchess Co. May 12; and the first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: max four Grassy Sprain, West 11 May. Very few reports from Ashokan this season probably due to the silt-laden water from spring floods. On 20 May FM observed a pair calling in courtship for several minutes only to take off and fly NE out of sight. Horned Grebe: missed by most birders. Only reports one Rio Res. 24 March and seven Kiamasha 18 April. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** more reports than usual. One at PL 12 March increased to two by April and three by 23 April. Two were on Croton Res 13 March. Single April individuals were on Middletown Res and Kiamasha. Max was 11 at Bashakill 16 April. Great Cormorant: among the few dozen at PL 12 March was a single bird with a white head and neck broken by a thick black eyeline that curled behind the eye and formed a chin strap on the white throat. Double-crested Cormorant: continues its increase on the Hudson. Three at Stony Point 9 April increased to 60 there one week later. Another 60 were south of there at PP on 28 April. Unusual inland reports with one at Bashakill 11 April and 14 April, five Swinging Bridge Res 14 April and 10 Kiamasha 20 April. Great Blue Heron: after several years of losses in Dutch, this spring produced three new nesting locations; about 20 nests observed in the Shunpike-Tamarack area. Three more nests in the Stockbriar area where in recent years two attempts at nesting were deserted. On 24 May four birds were observed building two nests at Tamarack, and by 1 June there were four nests. Great Egret: always unusual in spring, one at Thorndale, Dutch 18 April. Snowy Egret: one Cruger's I on WMC was the first record for that count. **TRICOLORED HERON:** what could be Sull's first record was a single adult at Bashakill 29 April (JT, EDT, *et al.*). One flying over Piermont Marsh 8 May was the second record since 7 May 1976 at the PP (PD). Cattle Egret: one MC 15 May. Two 30 April Woodstock Rd Dutch. One Day Rd, Hamptonburgh 30 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arrived in coastal West 25 March. One Vassar L, Dutch 15 May. Four at KP 27 April (RT). Glossy Ibis: always rare away from coast. One on WMC was the second record for that count. More to be expected were the single birds at MC on 20 April and 5 May. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** the Jan bird found by DF and MY at Round Pd Amenia was observed there thru mid-April when there were two on 27 April. They remained until 18 May. Snow Goose: RT reports "thousands" over KP on 10 April. 64 reported over Saugerties that same date. Two flocks of 106 and 158 over Wawarsing on 10 April. Brant: large mid-May movements of most years unreported, must have gone thru unnoticed. Wood Duck: more than 70 reports in March in Dutch. WMC had 48, the highest number for that count since 52 in 1978. Green-winged Teal: a male and female together in a puddle along Rt 17K at Bullville 23 May were very late for migrants, but no evidence of breeding was found. N. Pintail: more than usual. Max an extraordinary 40 on the Hudson at EP 18 March. Canvasback: although the bulk moved north in Feb, as many as 500 were still in the EP area from 11-20 March. Greater Scaup: a male at PP 8 May was very late. Late spring and summer scaup there are usually Lesser. Oldsquaw: also more than usual; latest were two at Ashokan 13 May. Black Scoter: 25 at Esopus Light 24 March. White-winged Scoter: three at Ashokan 9-18 May. Bufflehead: last report one at Garrison's Pd, Fort Montgomery 8 May. Com. Merganser: numbers still good into April. Last a female at Ashokan 18 May. No evidence of nesting. Red-breasted Merganser: none on the Hudson where they usually pass thru in March. Only reports were Rio Res three on 17 March and Mongaup where there were two on 10 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one with several Turkey Vultures below Mt. Peter at Warwick 10 March (Dennis Murphy and Highland Audubon Society of NJ). Hopefully we can soon look for it with some regularity in spring. Osprey max 15 at Bashakill 13 April. One lingered there till 19 May; failed to use the breeding platforms provided by DEC. Bald Eagle: remained into spring in most wintering locations. Five at Iona 16 March (LEM), last at Ashokan an imm wearing a yellow tag with green center 2 May. Last at Rondout 12 May, and at Mongaup 27 April. Sharp-shinned Hawk: continued working Dutch feeders thru April. Cooper's Hawk: exc numbers. Single birds reported most areas April and May. A beautiful male was killed when it hit a window in Pleasant Valley in April. A possible nesting record at Cruger's I in May, and two on WMC were the first since 1976. N. Goshawk: only report a female at Pound Ridge Res 6 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual. RFD reports them as common as Red-tails in Rock, but this is not the case elsewhere. Nests observed in Putnam Valley 27 April and several active nests observed in the Ashokan area. Broad-winged Hawk: in addition to the flight mentioned in the introduction, 105 were over Campbell Hall that same day of 27 April. Rough-legged Hawk: three at Bashakill 22 March, the last at Wappinger's L 7 April. Merlin: one 10-11 April at Rhinebeck. Peregrine Falcon: one moving thru Gardner Hollow, Dutch 27 April. Another made a pass at a Bald Eagle at Iona 16 March. One was at Bashakill 22 March. Wild Turkey: now regular in Dutch. Five on WMC for the fourth census record. Com. Moorhen: in all the years TB has birded maritime West he has never found this species. He is getting closer, however, this spring he found the leg of one under a Great Horned Owl's nest at MC. **LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** rare in spring. One near Wurtsboro 12-13 May (VF, BB). Willet: two at PP 8 May (PD). This was the fourth record for that location. Purple Sandpiper: still at Milton Pt 18 May. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one in a flooded field near Kingston 15-16 May (RT). Another was along Black Meadow Road, Chester 16-17 May (JFF). Bonaparte's Gull: one Bashakill 14 April, four Ashokan 12 May. Ring-billed Gull: more than a thousand at Beacon 19 March, 280 at Kiamasha 1 April. Iceland Gull: a second year bird at KP 17 March; another imm off PL 9 March remained to 25 March. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** the Harbor Island Park bird in Mamaroneck which returned with the thaw remained there till at least 12 March. Great Black-backed Gull: observed regularly now in numbers well up river in Ulst and Dutch. **FORSTER'S TERN:** an adult in breeding plumage at Cornwall Bay 9 May where another was observed in the spring of '83. Black Tern: two at Bashakill 9 May, one at Great Vly near Saugerties 12 May and again 19 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: numbers of both species severely down. Only one or two birds reported by people who bird daily thru the period. Unreported in many parts of the Region. Barred Owl: reported from seven areas in Dutch. Calling repeatedly there thru May. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Grassy Sprain, West 1 March. Another survived an encounter with a picture window near Red Hook on 3 April. Com. Nighthawk: very poor migration. Only two or three birds reported from 21-27 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers appear very low. Woodpeckers: most species in good numbers with the exception of Red-headed and Pileated. Red-headed Woodpecker: always unusual in Rock. An adult at the Tank Farm, Palisades 15 May. Another was at a feeder in Dutch 11-20 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: ten reports in March in Dutch. A pair observed all month of March in Wappingers. Pileated Woodpecker: Dutch had the best results with nine in May and 18 in April. Very few reported elsewhere in the Region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: singing at Weyants Pd, USMA 13 May. Another was on Mine Rd nearby 15 May, and another was at Doodletown 17 May. E. Wood-Pewee: late in all areas. Numbers normal at end of period. Acadian Flycatcher: unreported most areas. One at Rye Nature Center 22 May. One Grassy Sprain, West 23 May were the only reports. Least Flycatcher: RD reports them returning to areas of Rock where they were absent for the last few years. Purple Martin: late returning, but numbers

appear normal. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 20 on WMC was a record for that count. Cliff Swallow: observed in very good numbers at Bashakill where they breed nearby, 18 on WMC where they are usually missed. About 40 were nesting on the dam at Cross River Res 10 May. Fish Crow: heard in the Bashakill 2 May where they were not found previously. Two more at Wawarsing a few miles up the valley from Bashakill on 6 May. Black-capped Chickadee: WMC had a record high of 135; that count usually averages 80. Tufted Titmouse: WMC had 61; usual average is 30. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Dutch had excellent numbers migrating thru on 26 May. One observed at Sharparoon 26 May smearing pitch around a partly dug hole; nesting not proven by end of period. Winter Wren: singing at Thompson Pd and Deep Hollow, Dutch. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two at Pawling 18 May were very late for migrants, but nesting not proven. A late bird at Weyant's Pd 1 May was with a flock of Ruby-crowns. E. Bluebird: FG and her co-workers report heavy losses of young along her Dutch Co. trail, probably due to poor weather in May. Cedar Waxwing: observed building in the same tree as last year in the Bashakill 26 May. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one near museum at Pound Ridge Res 24 May was the only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: four Grassy Sprain, West 20 May. One Pawling 3-15 May, one Bashakill 2, 23 May. Philadelphia Vireo: unreported. Red-eyed Vireo: late arr and numbers well below normal. Blue-winged Warbler: continues to increase while the Golden-winged decreases thru the Region. WMC had 54 Blue-wings but only one Golden-wing. The latter has had a steady decline since a high of 32 in 1974. Nashville Warbler: eight at Grassy Sprain 6 May was a good number for such an early date. Magnolia Warbler: excellent numbers thru third week of May. "Most ever" in Dutch this spring. Yellow-rumped Warbler: continued in excellent numbers thru mid-May which was late for so many. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 12 Grassy Sprain 16 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: an extremely early bird 11 April at Tallman Mt. Pk (Victor Schwartz), the fourth record for Rock. One Rye Nature Center 20 May, one Bashakill 12 May. Pine Warbler: one Cross River Res 13 May. A singing male, it was either a very late migrant or a possible breeder. Arr Ashokan 29 April, late. A female observed carrying nesting material there 21 May. Blackpoll Warbler: one early bird at Dunderberg 30 April. Cerulean Warbler: RFD reports them everywhere in Rock 21 May. At least six were at his home in S Nyack, and three or four at Tallman Mt. Two more were along Rt. 9 W in Nyack. On 22 May he observed 15 in a six block walk thru Nyack, but they were gone the next day. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one Bashakill 12 May; another Malden-on-Hudson 19 May. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one Rye Nature Center 11-21 May, one Grassy Sprain 11 May. Mourning Warbler: one Rye Nature Center 25 May, and two there 26 May. One at MC 26 May. A male at Tamarack, Dutch 16 May. Hooded Warbler: TB reports a few at coastal West beginning with one at Rye Nature Center 29 April. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at PL 12-18 May, one Purchase from 24 May, one at Grassy Sprain 11 May, one Pleasant Valley, Dutch 7 May; and another Pawling 15 May. One was at Bashakill 13 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **SUMMER TANAGER**: one observed at close range for several minutes at Wawarsing 14 May. One at Brinton Brook Pk, Croton 21 May, one Grassy Sprain 5 May. **BLUE GROSBEEK**: one Grassy Sprain 11 May was the only report. Am. Tree Sparrow: most gone by mid-April. One still at a Pleasant Valley feeder on 30 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: usual few mid-May reports of single birds scattered thru region, one exceptional report of seven birds observed in a two hour walk thru Tallman Mt. Pk (N. S. Halmi). White-crowned Sparrow: one early bird at Mt. Kisco 3 May, numbers down thru Region. Dark-eyed Junco: one very late bird at Bashakill 19 May. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: a female at Great Vly north of Saugerties on 24 March (Steve Chorvas). Orchard Oriole: RFD reports a wave on 12 May with two singing in S Nyack and one in Upper Nyack. The S Nyack birds remained thru 17 May where last year a pair nested and brought off young. **BRAMBLING**: an imm male of this Palearctic species was at a Pleasant Valley feeder from 1 thru 27 March and was verified and photographed by several Water-

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-