

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: none. Solitary Vireo: a few in usual nesting areas. Yellow-throated Vireo: 48 WMC. Philadelphia Vireo: two BS 16 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Wappingers 3 May. Brewster's Warbler: two WMC, several Oran. Golden-winged Warbler: one Ferncliff 6 May (WBC). Nashville Warbler: scarce and late. Magnolia Warbler: last 25 May (MVW). Blackburnian Warbler: scarce and late. Pine Warbler: two 20-21 Apr (JMK). Palm Warbler: Bay-breasted Warbler: one bathing in small stream 22 May (MVW, EP). Blackpoll Warbler: never very many. Cerulean Warbler: singles Ferncliff 6 May, Pawling 16 May. Worm-eating Warbler: arr 6 May, many areas Dutc. N. Waterthrush: Tamarack, Deep Hollow and Wassaic. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 16 May Pond Gut on time. Kentucky Warbler: singing BS 16 May, Tamarack 18 May, nest building Pawling 16 May. Wilson's Warbler: nearly missed Dutc.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: late most areas. Am. Tree Sparrow: left feeders very early by mid Apr. Chipping Sparrow: arr very early 6 Apr (HM). Vesper Sparrow: very scarce. Savannah Sparrow: few. Grasshopper Sparrow: missed Dutc. Fox Sparrow: scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: none. Swamp Sparrow: good numbers in most marshy areas. White-throated Sparrow: stayed through May Dutc. White-crowned Sparrow: very few. Bobolink: very plentiful. E. Meadowlark: good number open farm areas. Brewer's Blackbird: three males carefully studied Goshen 30 Mar (WFA). Orchard Oriole: local BS, Sod Farm (JT). Purple Finch: relatively few (JT), few at most feeders end of Apr, 30 or more (FG). Com. Redpoll: at most feeder during Mar. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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Spring 1987 started warmer (mean March temperatures 3.8 degrees above normal) and somewhat wetter (0.7" above normal) than average with a minor snowfall mid-month. The weather deteriorated in April with temperatures normal but precipitation 64% above average. This seemed to retard the movement of early spring migrants into our Region. The first migrant wave occurred on 30 Apr with seven species of warbler in Central Park. May was slightly warmer than average and very dry with only 1.45" of rain. This lack of precipitation may have been responsible for the early arrival of several normally late spring migrants, i.e., Cape May, Blackpoll, and Mourning Warblers. The "wave" aspect of migration was exhibited in a strong manner to Levine on 2-3 May. He reported "the western portion of the Jones Beach strip on 2 May was awash with flocks of White-throated Sparrows.... Each flock also showed a number of Chipping Sparrows in its midst. In addition to these, there were high numbers of Rufous-sided Towhees and Brown Thrashers scratching around in the brush. However, the weather did not hold for the night of 2 May, the wind turned cold and from the northeast and on 3 May...Jones Beach [was] devoid of the good numbers of dicky birds that were present the day before."

A Red-necked Grebe, extremely rare in Manhattan, was on the Central Park Reservoir 15-29 Mar, prompting speculation that it was the same individual recorded there in late April 1986. This was one of very few spring reports after an above average winter for the species in our Region. The report of three Am. Bitterns certainly constituted an amazing spectacle for Central Park 6 May. Green-winged Teal lingered this year; a male was on Goethal's Bridge Pond with a male Blue-winged Teal 31 May. Morris reports that "these two swam around in circles like a mated pair;" certainly an interesting behavior. As many as three male but no female Eurasian Wigeon were reported at the usual localities on western Long Island. We urge contributors to look carefully at female wigeons, particularly those consorting with male Eurasian Wigeon, since rufous morph female Eurasian Wigeon are distinguishable in the field. Additional reports could delineate more clearly the abundance and distribution of this Old World species in the Region.

The last N. Harrier reported away from known breeding sites was seen by Hook at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 6 May. This bird probably was a migrant as N. Harriers which breed in the Region usually are on eggs by then. There were numerous reports of Peregrine Falcons, including the pair that wintered in midtown Manhattan. A report of a pair seen in late March at the Triborough Bridge may have involved these birds; however, no further activity was noted at the site.

A **KING RAIL** was found alive at 53rd Street and Third Avenue, Manhattan by Leukering 26 May. The bird evidently had hit a building and subsequently was turned over to a licensed rehabilitator. The Virginia Rail found 11 Apr at Acabonack was thought to have wintered there. Although the species is regularly seen in winter, it is not known conclusively whether it overwinters. A Com. Moorhen at Ridgewood Reservoir 2 May may have been the first of very few seen this spring.

Morris continued his spring shorebird survey for the fifth year at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. High counts of six of the seven most common species, in comparison to his four-year average highs, were notably low, the exception being Red Knot. In accord with these lower numbers he found only one Lesser Yellow-legs and no Pectoral Sandpipers all season. Two Basic plumaged dowitchers, thought to be Long-billed by gestalt, were reported at Montauk 4-5 Apr by McGuinness. The species is extremely rare as a spring migrant in the Region but these could have been wintering birds. Two other two Basic plumaged dowitchers, seen at Watermill 5 Apr, were thought by McGuinness to be Short-billeds. The date, although early, falls within previously published dates for spring migrants (Bull 1964).

A pelagic trip, sponsored by the Okeanos Foundation on 28-29 May, recorded an extraordinary four species of *Stercorariinae*. In addition to the regularly occurring Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, participants enjoyed a **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** and a **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**. Several observers commented on the low numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls, yet the species lingered into late May, with the last reported being an immature at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on the 22nd. Three reports of Forster's Terns included an immature at Quantuck Creek, Quogue, on the exceptionally early date of 6 Mar. This may have been a wintering

bird, as the species has been found with increasing regularity during the winter months in coastal areas south of New York. An **ATLANTIC PUFFIN** was found dead on a southern Long Island beach in late May. Bull (1974) lists only eight records for the state, all but one on Long Island.

In addition to the aforementioned Am. Bitterns in Central Park, a female Chuck-will's-widow and a male Whip-poor-will were roosting approximately five feet apart, one above the other, in the same tree 6 May. Leukering managed to get both in the same binocular field (which was difficult at the requisite close range). It was a good spring in Central Park for Whip-poor-will with two other individuals reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue at a low population ebb with only four reports, including the first of the season in Pelham Bay Park in early April. Red-bellied Woodpeckers, however, continue their increase in the Region with individuals reported from many locations on the south shore of Long Island, where they have been rare historically, in May including *four* at Jones Beach on the seventh and Jamaica Bay's first ever on the 17th. The male present in Central Park last year was joined by a female during the Winter. They were observed excavating a nest hole this spring, thus providing the first nesting record for the park.

Fish Crows returned in March to Central Park, at which site they nested for the first time in 1986. All of the regularly occurring species of vireos and warblers had arrived by early May, including a Mourning Warbler on the very early date of 9 May at Greenwood Cemetery followed by one at Forest Park on 10 May. Two "Lawrence's" (one Staten Island on 3 May and one at Riverhead 8 May), four "Brewster's", and five Cerulean (all between 2-8 May) Warblers graced the Region. The migration of Pine Warblers through our Region usually starts in late March and peaks some time in April. Numbers of this species were very depressed this year. Possibility the mid-March snowfall was to blame. Mid-March should see Pine Warblers moving through the Middle Atlantic states as far north as central New Jersey. The precipitation dropped here 11-12 Mar was the tail end of a storm that lashed those states with up to a foot of snow. Birds that had been moving north on the warm air of early March had to retreat south or perish. Many of them undoubtedly perished.

The bird of the season was doubtless the first Regional "more than one day" **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** since the first state record in 1950. Burke *et al.* found it singing in Forest Park on 26 May and it was located by others the next day. The bird could only be found by tracking it while it sang. A waterthrush reported as a Northern on 12 Apr was probably a Louisiana. This species is by far more likely in April than Northern. It was a good season for Louisiana Waterthrush with the first an early bird on 3 Apr at Muttontown. Another was on Staten Island, where rare, 12 Apr; as many as eight were in Central Park during the season, including three there 14 May; and a couple were banded on Great Gull Island 16-17 May. A male **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**, almost unheard of here in spring, was seen and heard in full song by Adamo at Wading River 9 May, which is a record early date. The usual scattering of Yellow-breasted Chats included one each at Greenwood Cemetery and Prospect Park on 9 May.

A large influx of Indigo Buntings at Jones Beach on the fairly early date of 19 Apr brought with it a few male Blue Grosbeak. One was seen by Levine and

Richard Sloss on the 19th and one to three were reported there for the next few days. The continual increase in Boat-tailed Grackle numbers has apparently spawned a new breeding colony at Tobay. Brook Lauro reported their presence and possible breeding status in early May and a male was seen by birdathoners there 17 May.

Cardueline finches provided some excitement this spring for many birders. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin moved through in March in good numbers after a very strong showing last Winter. Of even more interest was a Pine Siskin at Jones Beach on the very late date of 28 May. There is a strong possibility that this bird was moving north after having bred to the south or even at Jones Beach. In Leukering's experience in Cincinnati, Ohio, Pine Siskin occasionally stay to breed in early spring after strong winter flights and then disappear, presumably moving north, after mid-May. Evening Grosbeak were "in virtually every New York City park in late April to mid-May" and were even found on the American Museum of Natural History grounds on 7 May.

Again, we urge all those birding in Region 10 to send us seasonal reports. We especially appreciate reports of common species in low or high numbers, time spans and peaks of migration, and interesting behavioral observations. We would like to thank Susan Roney Drennan for reviewing a draft of this report.

Abbreviations: APP-Alley Pond Park; CP-Central Park; FP-Forest Park; GGI-Great Gull Island; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch-Jones Beach; LI-Long Island; PP-Prospect Park; Pkwy - Parkway; SI-Staten Island; WEJB-West End Jones Beach.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: *intro*. Sooty Shearwater: one off JBch 9 May (J. Askildsen), possible record early date. Am. Bittern: *intro*. Great Egret: one CP late Apr (TL), unusual location. Snowy Egret: two Howard Beach 2 Mar (*fide* QCBC), possible record early date. Little Blue Heron: one JBWR 1 Apr (TH), very early. Tundra Swan: last five Mecox Bay 8 Mar (NYRBA). Green-winged Teal: *intro*. Blue-winged Teal: to at least 22 Mar Pond X, Lawrence (NYRBA). Eurasian Wigeon: *intro*. Redhead: four (m, 3f) JBWR 22 Mar (mob), unusual number for locale. Ring-necked Duck: seven JBWR 22 Mar (mob), very high for locale. Com. Eider: last Montauk 5 Apr (HM). King Eider: last Montauk 30 May (NYRBA), also late. Black Scoter: max 3000 Montauk 5 Apr (HM). White-winged Scoter: max 10,000+ Montauk 7 Mar & 4-5 Apr (HM).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Montauk 7 Mar (NYRBA), early & unusual e LI. Bald Eagle: im Muttontown 9 Mar (*fide* LLAS), unusual LI; one JBWR 24 May (NYRBA), late & uncommon at locale. N. Harrier: *intro*. N. Goshawk: im JBWR 14 Mar (*fide* QCBC); im Muttontown 1 Apr (*fide* LLAS), only reports. Rough-legged Hawk: last Meadowbrook Pkwy, JBch 19 Apr (NYRBA). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **KING RAIL**: *intro*. Virginia Rail: *intro*. Com. Moorhen: *intro*. Black-bellied Plover: max 600 (31% below average max for four years ['82, '83, '85, '86]) JBWR 10 May (AM). Semipalmated Plover: one WEJB 15 Mar (NYRBA), may be record early; max 656 (down 31%) JBWR 2 May (AM). Piping Plover: one WEJB 7 Mar (TL, S. Drennan, P. Meyer), early. Am. Oystercatcher: arr Shinnecock 2 Mar (NYRBA); max 24 JBWR 23 Apr (AM). Upland Sandpiper: one Pelham Bay P 14 May (NYRBA), rare locale for date. Whimbrel: arr JBWR 26 Apr

Turnstone: max 217 (down 40%) JBWR 31 May (AM). Red Knot: max 350 (up 33%) JBWR 25 May (AM). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1227 (down 61%) JBWR 31 May (AM). W. Sandpiper: one WEJB to 15 Mar (S. Walter). Least Sandpiper: max 38 (down 82%) JBWR 10 May (AM). White-rumped Sandpiper: arr one 11 May Great Kills P (AM). Dunlin: max 500 (down 27%) JBWR 10 May (TL, JW, TB, *fide* AM). Ruff: f Mecox Bay 17 May (TL, JD, AS). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr JBWR 2 May (AM): max 22 JBWR 25-31 May (AM). Long-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. Com. Snipe: max 17 Wainscott Pd 11 Apr. Pomarine Jaeger: *intro*. Parasitic Jaeger: *intro*. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**: *intro*. **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**: *intro*. Laughing Gull: arr Flushing 3 Apr (IS). Little Gull: ad Jones Inlet 7-29 Mar & 14 Apr (mob), only report. Com. Black-headed Gull: im Jones Inlet 7-15 Mar (mob); one Patchogue 21 Mar (NYRBA), uncommon migrant. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: im JBWR 10 May (TL, TB, JW); two im SI 16 May (AM), late. Gull-billed Tern: one WEJB 2 & 9 May (EL); two JBWR 10 & 15 May (NYRBA); one in Cedar Beach tern colony 17 May (TL, JD, AS). Caspian Tern: two Mecox Bay 22 Apr (NYRBA), only report. Roseate Tern: arr WEJB 2 May (EL). Forster's Tern: *intro*. Least Tern: arr WEJB 2 May (EL). **ATLANTIC PUFFIN**: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeet: one JBch 23 Mar (*fide* QCBC), only report. *Amazona* sp.: one CP Mar-Apr (TL *et al.*), not a Red-crowned and an obvious escapee. Snowy Owl: two WEJB to 21 Mar (NYRBA). Long-eared Owl: one JBWR 17-23 Mar (TH), only report. Short-eared Owl: one JBch to 21 Apr (LS). Chuck-will's-widow: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: *intro*. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Fish Crow: *intro*. E. Bluebird: one JBch 25 May (AW, EL), late & at unusual locale.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one CP 7 May (J. Pitocchelli); one JBWR 17 May (G. Tudor), casual spring migrant. "Brewster's" Warbler: *intro*. "Lawrence's" Warbler: *intro*. Golden-winged Warbler: one PP 9 May (NYRBA); one CP 11 May (NYRBA), rare spring migrant. Yellow-throated Warbler: m CP 4 May (TL); one JBWR 28 May (TH); one Cross Bay Blvd. n of JBWR late May (NYRBA), rare. Cerulean Warbler: *intro*. Prothonotary Warbler: one High Rock P, SI 3 May; one APP 5-6 May; one JBWR 7 May; f JBWR 25-26 May; f CP 30 May (all NYRBA), rare spring migrant. Worm-eating Warbler: arr CP 30 Apr. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**: *intro*. Louisiana Waterthrush: *intro*. Kentucky Warbler: one FP 9 May (NYRBA); two FP 27 May (NYRBA), rare spring migrant. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: *intro*. Mourning Warbler: *intro*. Hooded Warbler: arr APP 1 May (*fide* QCBC). Yellow-breasted Chat: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: six reports including one Shinnecock 18 Apr (NYRBA), uncommon spring migrant. Blue Grosbeak: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: *intro*. Seaside Sparrow: one banded GGI early May (H. Hays), unusual locale. Snow Bunting: last Glen Cove 6 May (*fide* LLAS). Bobolink: one banded GGI early May (H. Hays), unusual locale. Boat-tailed Grackle: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: im m APP 8 May (*fide* QCBC); im m CP 15 May, rare spring migrant. Red Crossbill: one e LI 6 Mar (HM), only report. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

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[This report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue of *The Kingbird*.]

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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In contrast to the cold, snowy weather of late November, December was quite mild at Binghamton. The weatherman was right when he predicted a fifty-five percent chance that the entire Northeast would be warmer than normal. There were 25 days in December with a mean temperature above the norm and no white Christmas for the first time in four years! Only 5.2 inches of snow, low temperatures of 6 and 9 degrees, and mean temperatures well below the norm on 12 and 13 Dec, respectively, reminded us that winter would soon officially arrive. The 9.2 inches of snow in December was less than the November snowfall! This changed abruptly with 12.5 inches on 2 Jan! Regular snowfall continued through January; every storm seemed to hit us. By the end of the month 43.1 inches of snow had fallen at Binghamton, surpassing the previous January record of 41 inches in 1978. There was only one period of severe cold from 23 to 28 Jan during which the mean temperature was six to seventeen degrees below the norm, and lows reached -3 degrees.

Average to above average temperatures returned for the first half of February, but the snow continued with an accumulation of 7.2 inches by 13 Feb. An abrupt change occurred when a storm on 9 and 10 February finally missed us. There were twelve consecutive days of below normal mean temperatures and essentially no more snow. Record breaking low temperatures of -10 F and -7 degrees on 15 and 16 Feb, respectively, were recorded at Binghamton. The rest of the month was quite sunny with nearly normal temperatures. By the end of February, normally quite snowy, only 9.2 inches of snow had fallen. Our weatherman claimed that the winter so far was decent with above average temperatures except for only two periods of extreme cold. However, not every Regional resident, except for skiers, agreed with that assessment, because the 74 inches of snow was more than usual.

The diversity of waterfowl was lower than normal, probably due to the cold weather during the waterfowl count period in January and the early cold period in November which apparently pushed waterfowl south. The number of species was the lowest in nine seasons. Diving ducks, such as Bufflehead, Redhead, Canvasback, and scaup, normally reported about fifty percent of the time, were notably absent.

Over-wintering Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles were present in average numbers. The Cannonsville Reservoir and west branch of the Delaware River continue to be a good location for wintering Bald Eagles due to the concentrations of waterfowl, mostly Mallards and Black Ducks, on the open water. Accipiters again took advantage of the "grocery stores" provided by bird feeders. Mildred Clark reported a Mourning Dove killed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Delhi,