

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

March brought near normal temperatures except for the weekend of 14-15 Mar, when temperatures soared to the 80's. The ice was out of the Hudson River by mid-month, out of the coves a week later and by the end of the month the ponds were free. The waterfowl count was below normal, with no large groups. Common Merganser was found in good numbers but Canvasback was down. Snow Geese were observed early in Sullivan County. Wintering hawks in Dutchess County added spice to winter birding. The gray **GYRFALCON** which first appeared at the Win Farm in Pine Plains on 10 Jan spent the next two months between that farm and the Mashomack Game Preserve until it was last seen 12 Mar. It was observed by many from all over the eastern part of the state as well as Connecticut and New Jersey. Many counted it as a life bird. The Win Farm and the Mashomack Game Preserve are in a broad flat plain just east of Stissing Mountain. There are vast fields, ponds and some wooded areas. During the winter several Rough-legged Hawks as well as Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks and a Golden Eagle were observed there.

April brought temperatures averaging between 30 and 40. April was a disappointing month. The foliage came early but not the migrants. The early spring migrants seemed to arrive about on time but those expected at the end of the month did not arrive until early May. Some of the Bluebirds in Dutchess County started nesting early and got caught in a damp, cold spell. Many of their young died in the nest boxes. However, they renested and are doing well.

May brought warmer days, heavy foliage but no warbler waves. Flycatchers, orioles, Indigo Bunting and some warblers were late. Pine Siskins stayed at feeders and Evening Grosbeaks paid a return visit and were here well into May. A **COMMON RAVEN** noted at Bashakill on 9 May and **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** turned up in both Dutchess and Orange counties. A seasonal mud puddle at the McEnroe Farm in Amenia produced some interesting shorebirds. This large shallow puddle is in a cornfield close to the road. It is there for only a few short weeks and not every year. This year, in addition to the phalarope, there were Short-billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plover, yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and various "peeps".

The conclusion seems to be that, with a few exceptions, it was a very poor spring migration.

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Abbreviations: BS - Bashakill Swamp; WMC-Waterman May Census 16 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: WMC, Lusk Res (SM), no large concentrations. Red-necked Grebe: one BS 4 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: one Tamarack 20 May, unusual inland. Am. Bittern: at usual nesting areas (JT). Least Bittern: none in Dutc. Great Blue

Heron: seem low (EP), max 10 WMC. Mute Swan: continues to nest Dutc. Snow Goose: 50 Grahamsville 8 Mar. Brant: 3-5000 over Cornwall Bay 14 May (EAMBC). Wood Duck: three nesting pair Stissing; all of several hundred boxes in use BS; female with ten y Millbrook 21 May. Green-winged Teal: 45 at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr. Am. Black Duck: pair with five y (EP). N. Pintail: one Wassiac 20 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: two WMC. N. Shoveler: five at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr. Gadwall: two Wappingers L 2 Apr. Am. Wigeon: ten at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr; five Wappingers L 11-25 Mar. Canvasback: max 100-150 Esopus 21 Mar (MVW), no large rafts. Redhead: none. Ring-necked Duck: scattered few in Hudson R and inland. Greater Scaup: ten Esopus 14-20 Mar. Lesser Scaup: five Hudson R 14 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: good numbers Hudson R. Bufflehead: max 16 on 22 Mar; two Wappingers L 1 Apr. Com. Merganser: 75 Norrie Pt 18 Mar. Ruddy Duck: one Kiamesha L 5 Apr, six L Shelldrake 29 Apr, three Abel's Pd 16 Apr (BB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: "pairs" over Mt Peter 26 Apr, Campbell Hall 28 Apr and Chester 16 May. Bald Eagle: im BS 16b May (EAMBC); ad Vandenburgh Cove 4 Mar; one Esopus Light 14 Mar (OW). N. Harrier: several Dutc Mar and Apr, one WMC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: mostly at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: single Rhinebeck 10 Mar, Amenia 13 May. N. Goshawk: two Pond Gut 20 Apr (HM). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles Moonbeam Sanctuary 16 May (JT), Quaker Hill 16 Mar (SG). Broad-winged Hawk: 16 on 20 Apr (WBC), two WMC. Red-tailed Hawk: 43 WMC. Rough-legged Hawk: none. Am. Kestrel: well reported Dutc, local breeders but remain scarce throughout Region (JT). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one transiting over Middletown 4 May (JT). **GYR-FALCON:** *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: 12 WMC. Wild Turkey: continues to do well. Sora: one Millbrook School 26 Apr (JMK). Com. Moorhen: two Stissing 9 and 23 May. Semipalmated Plover: six Amenia 17-19 May. Greater Yellowlegs: four WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two WMC. Solitary Sandpiper: many Dutc in May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr late, 23 WMC. **W. SANDPIPER:** one Chester 16 May (JT), no details. Least Sandpiper: good numbers Dutc. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 11 Amenia 20 May. Am. Woodcock: very scarce (OW). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one Amenia 8-11 May, one Chester 11 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four WMC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three WMC. Great Horned Owl: nesting near Pine Plains (MVW). Barred Owl: pair suspected nesting near Poughkeepsie. Long-eared Owl: on Quaker Hill 28 Mar (SG). Com. Nighthawk: good numbers over Dutc, 56 WMC. Whip-poor-will: singles Stissing Mt 6 and 31 May. Chimney Swift: late and half usual numbers (EP). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers seemed low, four feeding May (FG). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to expand. Red-headed Woodpecker: remains scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: scarce (JT); one WMC. E. Wood-Pewee: late, two Poughkeepsie 11 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: none Dutc or Oran, most Sull breeding sites occupied by late May. Willow Flycatcher: arr late. Horned Lark: very local at sod farms and airports. N. Bank Swallow: large numbers T Washington dump (FG). Cliff Swallow: none Dutc. Barn Swallow: late but good numbers. Fish Crow: continues to expand away from Hudson R BS and Middletown (JT). **COM. RAVEN:** *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Read Oaks Mill 15 Mar (JMK); also Pleasant Valley Apr and May (MVW). Brown Creeper: seems low, only four WMC. Carolina Wren: few along Hudson R, doing well Dutc. House Wren: late and nesting in bluebird boxes. Winter Wren: one Pond Gut 2 May no singing (HM). Marsh Wren: 18 WMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce, last Ferncliff 8 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: fair numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: most arr first week May. E. Bluebird: several new sites (JT); doing well Dutc. Veery: late, one Tyrell Rd 4 May (EP, MVW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Quaker Hill 11 and 25 May. Swainson's Thrush: few. Hermit Thrush: singing Pond Gut 2 May (HM). Wood Thrush: Brown Thrasher: late and not too plentiful. Cedar Waxwing: late but good numbers.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: 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."