

Sparrow: two WMC. Swamp Sparrow: heard 7 Mar. White-throated Sparrow: at feeders through Mar, numbers built up through Apr, most gone by mid May. White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers, 17 WMC. Snow Bunting: last flock of 20 Blue Hill, SULL 19 Apr. E. Meadowlark: good numbers Apr, May. Orchard Oriole: few noted ORAN, SULL, one Basha 16 May. Purple Finch: few at feeders Mar, Apr, very scarce most areas. Pine Siskin: one at feeder Salt Pt 20 Mar, only report. Evening Grosbeak: ten DeBruce early Apr, 12 through early May, one Wurtsboro 27 Apr, two Claryville 10 May.

Moore's Mills, RD4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF & ALVIN WOLLIN

After the warm dry winter, the spring started in a perfectly normal fashion. Both the mean temperature and rainfall for March and April were just about normal. The temperature even managed to get over 80°F. at the end of March although it never reached those heights in April. Rainfall for the two months was an aggregate of 1.22" over the norm of about 8 inches, an insignificant amount after the past winter's lack of precipitation. However, May was another story. On 16 May 3.35" of rain fell in Central Park during a 30 hour period, almost equalling the expected total for the entire month. This storm left only 0.75" at Montauk but eastern Suffolk Co. experienced a deluge with a maximum of 6.15" at Dix Hills, the heaviest downpour since hurricane Connie in 1955. May had a total precipitation of 10.24 inches as measured at the Central Park weather station and a lot of wet days. For those of us on Long Island May's precipitation was probably heavier than in the city. For the first time in some years, streams and ponds in Southern Nassau Co. approached their former levels before the storm sewer system became operable. Did the raising of the water table help the birding? Did the rain hurt the birding? Our contributors reported lackluster results and the universal observation that there are fewer small birds these days.

Two of the best birds of the season were seen by the same person on the same day! On 21 May, Tony Lauro was in the same general area of *Elaeagnus* shrubs at Robert Moses State Park which produced last fall's Western Tanager. Then, the birds fed on the berries. Now the shrubs were in bloom and drew an assortment of insects which the birds were feeding on. In this spring group of tanagers and thrushes were two rare western birds more likely to be seen in November rather than May, an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and an **Audubon's Warbler**, the western race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Both birds are very rare in the fall and unprecedented at this time of year. Another even rarer bird of the fall, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was seen and photographed two miles west of Oak Beach Inn on 7 May by Dick Cartwright. While the first two birds were preceded by the substantial rain storm that came from the west on 16 May, the latter bird just appeared without any unusual weather phenomenon. Explanation anyone? To round out our spring rarities list, a **Wilson's Plover** was seen at JBWR on 19 May by Geoff LeBaron, Susan Drennan, *et al.*

The only report of a pelagic trip came from Michael O'Brien. We report his findings here in their entirety. The Okeanos Whale Watch trip out of Montauk on 20 May produced 14 Common Loon, ten Northern Fulmar, three Greater Shearwater, 83 Sooty Shearwater, two Manx Shearwater, 113 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 30 Northern Gannet, six Red-necked Phalarope, and 351 Red Phalarope.

The summary report of the Spring Shorebird Survey at JBWS comes courtesy of Arthur Morris and David Mizrahi: "The Spring maxima for Black-bellied Plover and Red Knot were about 50% above the 6-year average maxima. The Spring maxima for Semipalmated Sandpiper and Semipalmated Plover were down 72% and 67% when compared to the 6-year average maxima. Maximum counts for the six most common migrant species were down 27% as compared to the 6-year average. There was no distinct peak. No White-rumped Sandpipers were noted through 6 Jun; a few are usually present in very late May and early Jun."

A number of winter birds lingered into the spring reporting season. They are reported in their proper places below. These records come primarily from Tom Burke, the voice of the NYRBA.

Watching the flock of Bonaparte's Gulls which frequent the tip of Captree State Park, as they feed and call in the surf on the waning tide, is one of the delights of winter birding. This flock can number as many as several thousand but usually is in the hundreds. These gulls also attract Little and Common Black-headed Gulls. Both species were seen with them throughout most of the month of March with a maximum of four of the former on 13 Mar.

We had more rain on the weekends in May this year, so there was less opportunity to be out during the height of the migration. Even so, few birders spoke of large lists of warblers on any one day, highs in the low twenties being the usual maximum. This in contrast to the past when 25 or more was a common occurrence on a big day. The numbers for individual species are also down. This comment applies not only to warblers, but to all small migrant birds.

The Jones Beach Checklist has been prepared by a group of experienced Long Island birders in conjunction with the NY State Dept of Parks and is available at various offices in the park. It covers the entire strip to Captree and is quite good. If you ask for one at the Beach, make sure you get the right list. The park attendants gave us the Staten Island list.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Aline Dove, Henry F. Flamm, Paul H. Gillen, Dave Kunstler, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Michael O'Brien, Brenda Renshaw, Herbert H. Roth, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; CP - Central Park; LI - Long Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; FP - Forest Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PP - Prospect Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SPtP - Smith Point Park; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: N. Fulmar: *intro*. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: one Oak Beach 27 May (NYRBA). Oldsquaw: 4500 moving past JBch Inlet 11 Mar (SW). Snow Goose: 160 JBWS 4 Mar (Tom Preston). Barnacle Goose: one at Cold Spring H last seen 1 Mar. Harlequin Duck: nine at Ditch Plains 3 Mar (SW), one Lawrence 28 Mar. White-winged Scoter: causeway at

Orient Point 13 May (BA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: six Riverhead 31 Mar (PG), one Welwyn Preserve 1 Apr (Lois Linberg), two Muttontown Preserve 1 Apr (Allen Lindberg), one Wading R 7 Apr (BA), one Lawrence 10 Apr, one APP 21 Apr, one HLSP 22 Apr (Tom Preston), one FP 26 May, [a small invasion or a new Spring migration route]. N. Goshawk: one wintered in CP till 2 Apr, seen eating an Am. Woodcock on 19 Mar (BR). Red-shouldered Hawk: APP 15 May (S. Deifik, J. Rubin). Rough-legged Hawk: JBWS 3 Mar, BFB 10 Mar. **Wilson's Plover:** *intro.* Whimbrel: two ShIn 25 Apr (MO'B). Red-necked Phalarope: female in alternate plumage JBWE 31 May (AM), *intro.* Red Phalarope: *intro.* Iceland Gull: one Ditch Plains 4 Mar, one adult ShIn 31 Mar, one Hempstead H 1 Apr. Little Gull: *intro.* Com. Black-headed Gull: *intro.* Iceland Gull: one to two birds ShIn 3 Mar to 3 Apr. Gull-billed Tern: pair in Com. Tern colony at JBWE 25 May (SS, AW), seen early June but did not appear to have nested; MeB 30-31 May. Caspian Tern: one MeB 19 April (PG, MO'B). Royal Tern: three MeB 30 May. **Arctic Tern:** one sitting with Common Terns Mecox Inlet 14 May (Joe DiCostanzo). Black Tern: Jones Inlet 6 and 14 May, two Goethal's Bridge Pd, SI 11 May (AM). Thick-billed Murre: one swam up to the beach SPtP 5 Mar (Bob Kurtz).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: BFB 1 Mar, one SPtP 5 Mar. Chuck-will's-widow: one CP 14 May (AM). Red-headed Woodpecker: one wintered in CP to 19 Apr. Pileated Woodpecker: Bronx 17 Mar, Hunter I early Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** *intro.* **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** *intro.* American Robin: partial albino Caumsett SP Apr-May (DK). **Loggerhead Shrike:** one Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside 10 Apr (John Bull).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: a few early May records all from NYC parks. Brewster's Warbler: CP 13 May. Lawrence's Warbler: PP 7 May, Queens 11 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: Van Cortland P 27 Apr, PP 8 May. **Audubon's Warbler:** *intro.* Yellow-throated Warbler: one PP 22 Apr, one Mattituck 3 May (Aline Dove). Cerulean Warbler: a few early to mid May records all from NYC parks. Prothonotary Warbler: several records NASS and SUFF, range extension? Worm-eating Warbler: max four HLSP 7 May (Matt Bayer), plus various other records. Kentucky Warbler: a few early to mid May records all from NYC parks. Mourning Warbler: arr PP 8 May. Hooded Warbler: one very early JBCh 6-13 Apr (AW).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: a number of NYC and NASS records. Blue Grosbeak: singles Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, and CP 7 May. Dickcissel: one wintered Whitestone to 23 Apr, one Brooklyn feeder 28 Feb, 5 Mar. Lark Sparrow: one w end JBCh 18 May (Rex Stanford). Harris Sparrow: one at a Brooklyn feeder until early April. Bobolink: a number of scattered records. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Shinnecock Bay 11 Apr (MO'B). Rusty Blackbird: 50+ Shu Swamp 22 Apr (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). Boat-tailed Grackle: seen regularly on SI this May, further range extension?

ERRATA: The Yellow Rail reported 10 Sep 88 should be 13 Sep 88. Turkey Vulture record of 23 Sep attributed to A. Bell should be A. Lindberg.

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