

Com. Redpoll: one Tupper Lake 6 Mar (CD) only report. Pine Siskin: *intro*, apparently nesting by end of season. Am. Goldfinch: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: paired and even bringing young to feeder at Mountain View by end of season.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

[The new editor for Region 8 is: Dr. Ken Able, Department of Biology, SUNY at Albany, Albany, NY 12222.]

REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

March continued the dry snowless winter. Reservoirs continued to drop as March came in dry and mild. Just as it seemed we could stand it no longer and as tapping the Hudson River for much needed water for our Big City to the south was seriously being considered, the rains came. The floods rose and the reservoirs filled. By the end of April they were well toward the full mark. May turned out to be the wettest in many years. According to the records at the Dutchess County Airport, beginning May first it was the wettest 45 day period in 25 years. This also brought the biggest crop of mosquitoes in many years.

Except for a few early arrivals migration was slow and uneventful. Pine Warblers were especially numerous in Dutchess Co. and both cuckoos were plentiful as were the tent caterpillars. Most warblers arrived in time for the annual Spring Census and, as the trees were not in full leaf, it was easier to see them. The seasonal puddle at the McEnroe farm in Amenia again produced some good shorebirds. Humpo Marsh was once again host to rails, Common Moorhen, herons and Wood Duck. Birding between the deluges was a rewarding challenge.

Unfortunately, there were no reports from either Putnam or Westchester Counties this season.

Contributors: Jean Beck, Barbara Butler, Peggy Fasciani, Sibyll Gilbert, Susan Joseph, Alice Jones, Jim and Mary Key, Sandy Koonce, Helen Manson, Barbara Michelin, Selden Spencer, Ed Treacy, John P. Tramontano, Marion VanWagner, Otis T. Waterman, Joe Weise.

Abbreviations: Basha - Bashakill Wetlands; HMMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MPHW - Mount Peter Hawk Watch; MMC - Mearns May Census 19 May; SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society; WMC - Waterman May Census, 13 May.

LOON-DUCKS: Com. Loon: widely reported in heavy migration late Apr and early May (JPT), 11 over West Point 29 Apr, 22 over Basha 6 May. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 DUTC Apr. Horned Grebe: two Kiamesha L 22 Mar, one 6 Apr (SCAS), one in bay Beacon 5 May (JB). Double-crested Cormorant: 17 Hudson R 20 Apr, eight WMC. Am. Bittern: very scarce, one Crugers I 5 Apr, one L Vista 7 Apr, a few SULL and ORAN. Least Bittern: very few ORAN and SULL, none DUTC. Great Blue Heron: 84 WMC; 13 active nests Tamarack, 16 in Great Swamp, Pawling and five new nests along Taconic Parkway all in DUTC. **Little Blue Heron**: one Cornwall Bay 4 May, one WMC at Beacon. Snowy Egret: one Rhinebeck 20 Apr (EP). Green-backed Heron: one Vassar Farm 28 Apr, one Dennings Pt 29, 30 Apr, ten WMC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one being chased by a Green-backed Heron Basha 20

May, two DUTC 25 Apr (SK). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: ad Warwick 12 May (EMBC). **Glossy Ibis**: one Rhinebeck 29-31 Apr (SJ, HM). Mute Swan: continues to increase, pairs nesting in most ponds. Snow Goose: wintering flock in DUTC stayed until 22 Mar, few migrating flocks noted. Brant: few noted in transit. Wood Duck: nesting Humpo Marsh, noted in good numbers throughout Region. Green-winged Teal: max 50 Basha 22 Mar. Am Black Duck: 50 Basha 22 Mar, over 200 throughout DUTC Mar, 34 WMC. N. Pintail: eight Basha 21 Mar and 20 on 22 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: seven Basha 2 Apr, eight McEnroe Farm Amenia 24 Apr, four WMC. N Shoveler: one Basha 22 Mar, two Cornwall Bay 18 Mar (ET), five Crugers I 5 Apr. Gadwall: two Vanderburg Cove 18 Mar, six Wappingers L 19 Mar. Am. Wigeon: 20 Basha 22 Mar, 17 Wappingers L 17 Mar. Canvasback: 25 Norrie Pt 10 Mar (MVW). Ring-necked Duck: max 150 Basha 22 Mar, over 200 inland ponds DUTC. Greater Scaup: two Kiamesha L 23 Mar, 20 Wappingers L 17 Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 100 Wanasink SULL 16 Mar. Oldsquaw: three Basha 20 Mar, one Hopewell Junction Apr (PF). Surf Scoter: one Basha 20 May, late and rarely noted in migration (JPT). White-winged Scoter: one Basha 26 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: 14 Wappingers L 3 Mar, ten Crugers I 25 Mar, few others. Bufflehead: three SULL Mar, nine Hudson R 9 Mar. Hooded Merganser: two Neversink, four Basha Mar, max 50 DUTC Mar; female going to nest box Stissing May. Com. Merganser: 30 Rondout Res 23 Mar, max 500 off Norrie Pt 1 Mar (OTW), 20 Pawling 30 Apr. Ruddy Duck: one Dover Plains 30 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: two Warwick 19 Mar, observed well (ET), eight 20 Apr MPHW. Turkey Vulture: 60 roosting in Norway Spruce Ellenville Apr, 64 WMC. Osprey: max 20 per day transited Basha mid Apr, 47 MPHW, 82 HMHW, one Apr, two May DUTC. Bald Eagle: nesting pair Mongaup Res; six Norrie Pt 1 Mar, one Dennings Pt 30 Apr, five HMHW; several other singles. N. Harrier: several throughout DUTC Mar-May, possibly nesting (JPT), 49 HMHW, five MPHW. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 53 MPHW, 361 HMHW, many reports DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: seven MPHW, 19 HMHW; nesting pair Wappingers Falls area. N. Goshawk: one HMHW, two L Walton 17 Apr, two ad late Apr. imm noted late May (JPT). Red-shouldered Hawk: two Rhinebeck 3 Apr, singles DUTC 27 and 30 Apr. 9 HMHW, one MPHW, one Mt Cliff Rd 27 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: no large flights noted DUTC, 2084 HMHW, 221 MPHW. Red-tailed Hawk: 17 HMHW, 10 MPHW, nesting fourth year in same nest Blue Hill SULL. Golden Eagle: two HMHW. Am. Kestrel: few reported until late Mar, then good numbers DUTC, 152 HMHW, 15 MPHW. Merlin: one Hosner Mt 3-10 Apr, one MPHW, three HMHW, one WMC. Peregrine Falcon: one MPHW 27 Apr, 4 HMHW. Ring-necked Pheasant: max 17 Crugers I area 25 Mar. Ruffed Grouse: 19 WMC. Wild Turkey: 45 daily Eldred (AJ), 40 Dover Plains (DF), continues to spread and increase. N. Bobwhite: three Salt Pt 7 May. Virginia Rail: three WMC, one on occasion Millbrook School Marsh. Sora: one WBC. Com. Moorhen: one Stissing 16-19 May, eight MMC. Am Coot: one MMC. Semipalmated Plover: one WMC. Killdeer: max 25 Separate Rd 29 Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: eight WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two WMC. Solitary Sandpiper: max 37 WMC. Spotted Sandpiper: max 31 WMC. Upland Sandpiper: three MMC. Least Sandpiper: 17 WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: one WMC. Short-billed Dowitcher: one McEnroe Farm 22-23 May. Common Snipe: one Basha 27 Mar, three Separate Rd 5 May, one WMC. Am. Woodcock: three displaying Claryville 28 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: one Cornwall Bay 15 May (ET), late. Ring-billed Gull: heavy migration of ad early to mid Mar, notable migration of imm mid May (JPT). Greater Black-backed Gull: one Kiamesha L 21 Mar.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: good year, six WMC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Pawling 20 May (BB), one MMC. E. Screech-Owl: very scarce DUTC, two MCM. Great Horned Owl: at Warren Sod Farm and Pine I 27 Mar, two WMC. Barred Owl: two MMC, four WMC. Com. Nighthawk: 52 on 28 May (AJ), 15 on 26 May (SG), recorded by seven groups MMC. Whip-poor-will: one Highland Mills 30 Apr (BV), very early, did not appear in DUTC until 15 May; one calling every night except when raining for two

weeks, Moores Mills; one continued calling Verbank into June, one Stissing 27 May, very late, five MMC. Chimney Swift: four Beacon 27 Apr (JB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one 26 Apr Pleasant Valley (MVW), early; one Claryville 4 May (JW). Red-headed Woodpecker: remains very local ORAN, one Claryville, first in 18 years. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to increase, 30 WMC. Pileated Woodpecker: 14 WMC, remains common in mature woodlands.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided flycatcher: few noted ORAN and SULL, none DUTC. E. Wood-Pewee: most arrived after 15 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: missed! Acadian Flycatcher: local and late arriving, two singing and nest found Deep Hollow. Alder Flycatcher: local (JPT), one MMC. E. Kingbird: two Rhinebeck 22 Apr (SJ), early, next two Dennings Pt 30 Apr. Horned Lark: nine Blue Hill 28 Mar (JW), six WMC. Purple Martin: scout for houses on Milewood Rd 17 Apr, four pair by 29 Apr; nesting in three known places DUTC, three colonies remain intact ORAN. Tree Swallow: arrived most areas mid Apr. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arrived usual places mid Apr. Bank Swallow: nesting throughout Region. Cliff Swallow: noted by seven groups MMC, four Claryville 30 Apr, no nesting pairs noted in DUTC. Com. Raven: four pairs Catskills, two Frost Valley 28 Mar, two Halls Mills 28 Mar, on increase. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one 28 Apr on suet and again 16 May (MVW). Brown Creeper: 13 WMC. House Wren: one Millbrook 15 Apr (EP). Winter Wren: two Basha 22 Mar, three heard singing Pond Gut mid Apr, also Buttercup, Deep Hollow and Thompson P, 14 WMC. Marsh Wren: heard Moodna Marsh, Cornwall 8 Apr a full month early, probably wintered there (ET), heard Vanderburg Cove 25 May, reported by nine groups MMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two pairs on territory Middletown Res 21 May, using Norway Spruce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: peak migration 2-3 Apr (JPT); 20 WMC. Gray-cheeked Thrush: five MMC. Hermit Thrush: many reports through Apr and May. Am. Robin: arrived in flocks early Mar. Water Pipit: missed. Cedar Waxwing: good flocks Apr. N. Shrike: one along I-84 at Shenandoah 4 Mar (JB).

VERIOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm 5 May and two 15-20 May. Solitary Vireo: one Pond Gut 17-18 Apr (HM), good migration and some local nesters. Yellow-throated Vireo: 31 WMC, recorded by nine groups MMC. Philadelphia Vireo: two MMC. Blue-winged Warbler: two 1 May. Golden-winged Warbler: one WMC, seven MMC. "Brewsters" Warbler: one WMC, one MMC. Tennessee Warbler: not too plentiful. N. Parula: one Pawling 22 Apr, early. Magnolia Warbler: 17 WMC. Cape May Warbler: scarce, three MMC, one WMC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 WMC. Yellow-rumped Warbler: very abundant Apr and May. Pine Warbler: arr Pawling 19-31 Mar, one Poughkeepsie 21 Mar; daily Eldred (AJ), best migration in years. Prairie Warbler: arr Beacon 29 Apr, high numbers on May census. Palm Warbler: good migration. Bay-breasted Warbler: four MMC. Blackpoll Warbler: two WMC, recorded by nine groups MMC. Cerulean Warbler: pair WPMR 20 May, one WMC, four MMC, one Dover Plains 14 May (MY), one Tamarack 31 May, none at Ferncliff where they have nested for several years. Black-and-white Warbler: good numbers. Worm-eating Warbler: arr 5 May, nine WMC. N. Waterthrush: scarce DUTC, recorded by eight groups MMC. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pond Gut 8 Apr, good numbers. Kentucky Warbler: one Basha 26 May. Mourning Warbler: three MMC. Hooded Warbler: two Pawling 25 May (SG). Wilson's Warbler: numbers down DUTC, five MMC. Canada Warbler: two WMC, nine MMC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: one late Apr Ferncliff, fair numbers. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: early ones came to feeders. Indigo Bunting: one 5-7 May at feeder (FG), late arriving in nesting areas. Am Tree Sparrow: last 28 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr late Mar. Vesper Sparrow: singles DUTC 4 May, 15 May, 19 May. Savannah Sparrow: widespread and good numbers. Grasshopper Sparrow: several singing third week May ORAN, two heard in same large field DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: none in May, known colony will be checked in June. Fox Sparrow: singles several localities SULL mid Mar, 14 sightings through early Apr (SCAS); remained several places DUTC to end of Apr. Lincoln's

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.*