

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

This is the first reporting period in some time when the temperature approached some degree of normalcy. March averaged 1.4°F below normal, April 1.9°F below normal and May 1.5°F below normal. As for April showers, they were two inches short of normal, while precipitation was close to the norm for the other two months in the period. These comparisons are useful, but don't tell of the cool (make that cold) or wet weekends (following dry weekdays) during this season, when most of us were out birding. Therefore, it is not too surprising that we received mixed reports of the spring migration from our contributors. Most observers thought that the migration was poor and the birds few. Some did see more than the usual number of the not so common birds; for these observers, it was a good spring.

In spite of the cool weather, this year's spring migration seemed to peak earlier than in recent years. "Big days" were earlier in May this year and the migration just petered out afterwards. On the whole, the migration was over by the Memorial Day weekend, even though that legal holiday was

very early this year. Some "big day" results are of note. The Moriches Bay Audubon Society held a Birdathon on May 16. Twenty-two observers in five parties covered a diversity of habitats from woods to ocean. At the height of the migration, they found a group total of 175 species, quite a respectable number. While the total number of species is impressive, and the waterfowl were appropriately represented in the totals, there was a relative paucity of land birds - no *Empidonax*, only 18 species of warblers, few thrushes which were not local nesting birds and not many sparrow species or individuals. Our own findings in the field this spring produced similar results.

An oil spill in the Mecox/East Hampton area on or about 8 Mar produced a considerable number of oiled and dead birds. The Okeanos Foundation made a great effort to rehabilitate those birds which were picked up. Tony Lauro supplied totals of birds picked up alive (via Tom Burke of the NYRBA) and are as follows: Red-throated Loon 1, Common Loon 2, Horned Grebe 1 (died), Northern Gannet 3 (died), Dovekie 1, **Common Murre** 23, Thick-billed Murre 6, Razorbill 39 and **Black Guillemot** 1 (died).

The exceptionally large numbers of full Alternate plumaged Common Loon and Horned Grebe in our area was notable this season. It is not uncommon to see an occasional Alternate plumaged Common Loon, but it is unusual to have to search through a dozen birds in Jones Inlet to find a Common Loon in Basic plumage during the mid to late April period. Ralph Cioffi saw a pair of Alternate plumaged Great Cormorant on the north shore at Morgan Beach on 30 Mar. While all three species linger through the spring season, they typically remain in their dull winter garb. To round out these anomalies, a Scarlet Tanager with the usual scarlet replaced by an iridescent cadmium yellow (this plumage is described in Bent) was seen in early May at Hempstead Lake SP and sent a few birders looking for bird books from exotic places (eds.).

The Peregrine Falcon continues to thrive on the artificial cliffs of the New York city area. Our Region now has nine potential nest sites, seven of which were used. Nineteen chicks were produced and as of mid June, 14 had fledged, half from the bridge sites (details summarized from NYCAERIES, Saul Frank, editor). The pair which roosted on the water tower at Jones Beach this winter departed prior to the breeding season.

We often are asked who to notify in the case of sightings of dyed and/or color-banded shorebirds and waterfowl. The address is: International Shorebird Surveys, % Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345.

The most common reason for NYSARC dismissal of reports, such as a potential first breeding record of Summer Tanager in the Region and the State, is due to insufficient details. The merits of this example itself are of secondary importance, and we suggest that birders familiarize themselves with some of the recent articles on preparing reports of unusual birds, such as the one which appeared in the June issue of *Birding* (24(3):145-160; 1992).

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Abbreviations: DPt - Democrat Point; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; SPtCP - Smith Point County Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet.

Spring reports: **PACIFIC LOON:** one Alt picked up in a field nw Riverhead and released LI Sound 23 Apr (ph, NYRBA). **Red-necked Grebe:** one MPt 4 Mar (JR) and 9 Mar (JF); two Sea Cliff 24 Mar (Barbara Spencer); one JBWE 29 Mar; two PL 12 Apr. **Greater Shearwater:** one from Okeanos boat 24 May. **Sooty Shearwater:** 30+ ShIn 18 May (HMG); 250± SUFF s shore 24 May (NYRBA), five Jones Beach and one Cedar Beach 25 May, eight feeding in Fire I In 27 May (JF), two Fire I In 31 May; numbers close to shore unprecedented in recent years. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** several from Okeanos boat 24 May. **BROWN PELICAN:** 15 Jones Inlet 23 May, six there 24 May (NYRBA). **Great Cormorant:** *intro*, some to end of season. **ANHINGA:** a soaring bird Central P 28 Apr (Joseph DiCostanzo, NYSARC), first for New York if accepted. **Am. Bittern:** one HLSP in a tree overlooking a wooded stream 12 Apr (mob). **Least Bittern:** one Clover Lake P, Staten I 9 May (HF). **WHITE-FACED IBIS:** one JBWR 10 May (Jim Clinton, Jr.). **Tundra Swan:** up to four Hook Pd, E Hampton 1-21 Mar (JR); six MeB 8 Mar (NYRBA). **Snow Goose:** blue morph Scuttlehole 21 Mar (JR). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Silver L, Baldwin 22-23 Mar (BB); two Elda Pd, N Babylon 1 Mar-11 Apr; one Mastic 1 Mar- 11 Apr; one Fort Salonga 29 Mar. **Tufted Duck:** single Patchogue 8-14 Mar; Peconic R, Riverhead 26 Mar; E Hampton 21 Mar-4 Apr (NYRBA). **Com. Eider:** 6-20 MPt 1-15 Mar, one DPt 25-26 Apr (NYRBA). **King Eider:** one PL 4 Apr (NYRBA). **Harlequin Duck:** one-two MPt 1-7 Mar, twelve PL 1 Mar (SS, AW), nine PL 5 Apr (NYRBA).

Turkey Vulture: one Northville 12 and 22 Mar (Mary Laura Lamont), one HLSP 15 Mar (S Shore Audubon Field Trip), three Orient 3 Apr (JF), one New Hyde P 6 Apr (BB), three Shinnecock Hills 7 Apr (HMG), one Port Washington Sand Pits 14 Apr (Betty Forquer). **Red-tailed Hawk:** nest found in Central P, bird incubating 29 Mar (JB). **Bald Eagle:** one HLSP 15 Mar (S Shore Audubon Field Trip), one Three Mile Harbor 9 Apr, one Calverton 30 May (PM). **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **Ruffed Grouse:** male heard drumming at Hunter's Garden, Eastport 5 May (HMG). **Clapper Rail:** arr 21 Mar. **Black Rail:** breeding in the marshes on the south shore Suff (mob). **Lesser Golden-Plover:** one E Quogue 30-31 Mar (Carl Starace), others various sites in May. **Semipalmated Plover:** three wintered at Dosoris Pd, Glen Cove (RC). **Am. Oystercatcher:** arr 11 Mar; 25 ShIn 30 Mar, increasingly arriving in large numbers early in the season. **Upland Sandpiper:** two JBWE 21 Apr, one Fire I 3 May. **Whimbrel:** one Dune Road 9 May (JR), one DPt 10 May, two ShIn 11 May, others later. **Hudsonian Godwit:** one JBWR 7 May (SS, AW, mob). **Marbled Godwit:** one ShIn 6-26 Apr (mob), one JBWR 8-18 May (NYRBA). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** several after 12 May. **Stilt Sandpiper:** one MeB 12 May (NYRBA). **Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR mid to late May. **Parasitic Jaeger:** one DPt 9 May (NYRBA). **Little Gull:** one Amagansett 14-29 Mar (NYRBA). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** imm ShIn 1 Mar-11 May, ad ShIn 1 Mar-4 Apr, one Jones Inlet 29 Mar-5 Apr, one Captree 4 Apr. **Iceland Gull:** six Queens to MPt early Mar to mid April, last ShIn to mid May (PG, mob). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad Welwyn Preserve 11 Mar (RC), Jones Inlet Mar (mob), the latter bird had a pink blush on its breast. **Glaucous Gull:** singles MPt 4 Mar (JR) and 9 Mar (JF); 2 year Tobay 7 Mar (DT, BH), one Fort Tiden 28 Mar (SW), one Bridgehampton 11 Apr, one GKP 24 May. **Caspian Tern:** one MeB 21 Apr (PG), 29 Apr (JR) to 12 May; one ShIn 13 May (BA); one Twin Lakes Preserve, Massapequa 23 Apr (PM), one HLSP 26 Apr (Ken Fuestel), the latter two records away from the ocean. **Forster's Tern:** JBWR early May. **Black Tern:** singles JBWR to Southhampton in May. **Dovekie:** *intro*. **COM. MURRE:** *intro*; oiled bird Fort Pd, Montauk 24 May. **Thick-billed Murre:** *intro*. **Razorbill:** *intro*; 30 MPt 7 Mar, last there 20 Mar. **BLACK GUILLEMOT:** *intro*, two off Breezy Pt 28 Mar.

Black-billed Cuckoo: very few. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** very few after arr 23 May. **Snowy Owl:** one Cedar Beach to 2 Mar, a pair lingered Atlantic Beach to 6 Mar, one Eastport 10 Mar (JR), one College Pt, Queens 30 Mar (NYRBA). **Chuck-will's-widow:** one Riverhead 29 Apr (JR), one calling there 18 May (HMG), one GKP 18 May (NYRBA). **Whip-poor-will:** six north

of Amagansett 18 May (HMG). **Chimney Swift**: one Hampton Bays 1 Apr (HMG), record early. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Central P 3-7 May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: a few from 14 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: some from 18-29 May (NYRBA). **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr 18 May. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: one along dunes at Gilgo 21 May (David Mizrahi). **Am. Crow**: earliest egg date 30 Mar (JB). **Am. Pipit**: 50 Cox Lane, Cutchogue 6 Mar (PG). **Veery**: one HLSP 18 Apr (EL), early. **N. Shrike**: Northville 2 Mar (Mary Laura Lamont *fide* JR).

Philadelphia Vireo: one Central P 14-15 May, one JBWR 24 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Central P 1 May, a few others in parks to 9 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: one Brewster's type JBWR 7 May (SS, mob); one Lawrence's type APP 2 May (JR). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Central P 1-3 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: one AUDUBON's race Jones Beach 15 Mar (EL). **Cerulean Warbler**: singles from Central P to JBWE from 1 May to 17 May (NYRBA). **Prothonotary Warbler**: singles from 27 Apr Staten I, Central P, Bronx, Queens, NASS. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr 24 Apr, increased numbers reported from Staten I 9-19 May (HF). **Kentucky Warbler**: arr 23 Apr in New York city parks, also Sunken Meadow on Fire I. **Hooded Warbler**: arr 23 Apr. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: a few.

Summer Tanager: at least a dozen records from 22 Apr. **Scarlet Tanager**: *intro*. **Blue Grosbeak**: one Gilgo Beach 26 Apr (AL). **Vesper Sparrow**: a few. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: a few. **Lapland Longspur**: two SPtCP to 8 Mar (JR). **Boat-tailed Grackle**: JBWR, Jones Beach, Cedar Beach, SPtCP, regular in small numbers, but no increase noticed this year.

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