

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The average monthly temperatures for the spring period were close to normal for all three months. However, the overall feeling was that the season was late and cold despite the statistics. Actually, it was mostly bland because of the lack of rain. March did have wide temperatures swings with the low reaching 20°F on the night of 10 Mar, but rising to a high of 70°F three days later. April and May on the other hand closely followed their norms. Precipitation was a different matter. March's rainfall was 1.26 inches against a norm of 4.08; April's 2.29 against 4.20 and May's 2.84 against 4.42. With no April showers, the season had 6.31 inches of rain less than normal. The rain, when it came, was mostly in mid week. On the weekends when most birders were out, the weather was not conducive for grounding migrants.

John P. Askildsen summarized an extraordinary pelagic trip he led to Block Canyon on 4 Mar. These notes are printed with his permission. His words tell it all. "Fifty birders in all participated in this trip. The weather was cooperative. We experienced temperatures ranging from the upper 30s to the low 40s. The water temperature ranged from 37 to 43°F as well. Seas were 3 to 5 feet. Winds were out of the ese at 15 mph. Skies were generally overcast with some broken sunshine. The bird list follows: Northern Fulmar - 58 (all light morph); Northern Gannet - 75; *Great Skua* - 1 (adult 63 miles out at north end of Block Canyon); Black-legged Kittiwake - 110; Dovekie - 300 (largest flock 45-50 individuals); *Common Murre* - 13 (a new one day record); Thick-billed Murre - 2; unidentified murre - 4; Razorbill - 71; *Atlantic Puffin* - 58 (54 imm, 4 ad, a new west Atlantic one day record high count outside the breeding grounds); large alcid unidentified to species - 5. The *Great Skua* was found amongst hundreds of *Great Black backed Gull*, lesser numbers of *Herring Gull* and approximately 15 *Northern Fulmar* that were loitering around a commercial trawler. After 'stealing' the birds from the trawler, we watched the beast for about one half hour and then finally left it."

On 19 Mar Steve Walter came up to the eager birders hoping to see a *Ross's Gull*, which appeared for the consecutive second year (details under species accounts), and informed the watchful group that an Eared Grebe was in the surf west of the Pt. Lookout beaches. A horde of birders immediately departed for the site. They came, they saw, and ran back. When the stragglers arrived (your editors among them), they also

found the bird in a large group of Horned Grebe. Being more patient, this later group had the added pleasure of finding a Red-necked Grebe that the first group overlooked in their haste. We know of no instance when all three grebes have occurred in the Northeast together in the same flock. The three species offered an unprecedented opportunity to study and compare field marks. In addition large numbers of Piping Plover were all but overlooked by the throngs looking for the Ross's Gull.

On the evening of 21 Apr the fog rolled in with SW winds. Pat Lindsay, birding with Andy Baldelli, reported from Robert Moses SP on the following morning that from 7:00 AM until about noon, the air was literally filled with warblers, sparrows and other songbirds zipping by overhead. The large majority did not land but, apparently because of the fog, flew low along the median at or below tree level, at times barely missing their heads. At about 10:30 the fog began to lift and a few of the birds began to land. Among the birds then seen were Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, several Indigo Bunting, and two Orchard Oriole. This phenomenon was restricted to the one location. At both Captree SP just across Fire Island Inlet and at Jones Beach SP 20 miles to the west, it was just foggy and no birds were moving. The same situation existed at Pt Lookout further west across the Jones Beach Inlet. But there in the fog, Bob Kurtz reported 47 Purple Sandpiper on one jetty that held a scant half-dozen just a few days before. His unexpected land birds finds were a Cerulean Warbler on one jetty, a Worm-eating Warbler on another, but almost no other birds.

Reports and our own observations indicate that Cape May Warbler and Tennessee Warbler continue to be scarce.

The DEC has begun to introduce Wild Turkey into this Region again. This latest experiment started two years ago with the release of 30 birds to Hither Hills SP, 20 to South Haven County Park and an additional 20 the following year. The birds are alive and well at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Others are at Connetquot SP. The last experiment, in NASS, required massive feeding. The birds became tame, a nuisance to the surrounding communities, and they were subsequently removed.

Rarities for the season include Eared Grebe, Northern Fulmar, *Mississippi Kite*, *Sandhill Crane*, *Northern Lapwing*, Curlew Sandpiper, *Long-tailed Jaeger*, *Great Skua*, *Ross's Gull*, Dovekie, *Common Murre*, Thick-billed Murre, *Atlantic Puffin*, *White-winged Dove*, *Pileated Woodpecker* and Varied Thrush.

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Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CP - Central Park; CLP - Clove Lake Park, Staten Island; CRSP - Connetquot River State Park; DEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; FI - Fire Island; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBWE - Jones Beach WEST End; LI - Long Island; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PtL - Pt Lookout side of Jones Inlet; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; VCP - Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

Spring reports: **Red-necked Grebe:** one PtL 19 Mar. **Eared Grebe:** one PtL 19 Mar. **N. Fulmar:** *intro.* **Sooty Shearwater:** large numbers migrating close to shore 28 May, from east to west 60+ 200 yards off ShIn (RK), 100+ FI Lighthouse where wind s at 15 mph (PM), 40+ in one hour flying east CB (KF); others from shore Mecox, ShIn, Democrat Pt 21-24 May. **Brown Pelican:** three Jones Inlet 30 Apr (NYRBA), record early, first for spring season. **Wood Duck:** nine ducklings Crocheron Pd Bayside Queens (SW), new site since the Atlas project. **Green-winged Teal:** Eurasian race Amityville 3 Mar (NYRBA), JFKWS 26 Mar (Bob Hines). **Eurasian Wigeon:** Mill Dam Pd Huntington through period (HB), a few others. **Tufted Duck:** E. Islip 26 Mar-2 Apr (Peter Murphy). **Harlequin Duck:** eight wintered at PtL, last Apr 26. **Oldsquaw:** 2000 PtL to Nassau Beach 25 Mar (KF).

Turkey Vulture: VCP 26 Mar (CJ), two Montauk Pt 26 Mar (JF), Shoreham 11 Apr, Calverton 16 Apr (BP), GKP 17 Apr (HF). **Osprey:** at least three active nests s shore NASS, one at JBWR; widespread and numerous early sightings. **Mississippi Kite:** Hampton Bays 20 May (Hugh McGuinness). **Bald Eagle:** ShIn 6 May (NYRBA), Heckscher P Huntington 19 May (KF). **Broad-winged Hawk:** Riverhead 29 Apr (PM), Orient Pt 22 May (PB). **Peregrine Falcon:** 11 active pairs (not all in our Region), four attempting to nest on buildings and seven on bridges in greater New York City area. **Wild Turkey:** *intro.* **Sora:** VCP 16-18 Apr (CJ). **Sandhill Crane:** wintered Mecox to 18 Mar (NYRBA). **N. Lapwing:** wintered Bridgehampton to 18 Mar (NYRBA). **Am. Golden-Plover:** JBWR 15 May (NYRBA). **Piping Plover:** 31 on the sand bar at PtL 22 Mar (EL), 29 on 25 Mar, large numbers for one site. **Upland Sandpiper:** CP 22 May (NYRBA). **Whimbrel:** three ShIn 6 and 21 May, CP 12 May

(NYRBA). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: max 42 Mecox Bay 22 May (PA), good numbers, others reported. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: JBWR 1 Apr (Sylvia & David Deifik). **Curlew Sandpiper**: JBWR 13 May (Steve Golladay). **Stilt Sandpiper**: ShIn 21 May (NYRBA). **Ruff**: ShIn 6-9 May (AL, mob). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: four Massapequa Preserve 25 Mar (RK). **Parasitic Jaeger**: w ShIn 20 May (NYRBA). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: w ShIn 21 May (AL, mob). **Great Skua**: intro. **Little Gull**: max five ad, one imm PtL 18 Mar (RK); ad, imm seen through Mar, others in mid Apr. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: PtL 1 Mar (JQ) to 13 Apr (mob). **Iceland Gull**: last 11 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: last Smithtown 9 Apr (NYRBA). **Glaucous Gull**: ShIn 17 Mar (NYRBA). **Ross's Gull**: ad PtL 12, 13, 18, 22, 29 Mar, 6, 13 Apr (RK, NYSARC); one, presumably the same bird, FI Inlet 16 Apr (Angus Wilson). **Gull-billed Tern**: two JBWR after mid May (mob), two Oak Beach 23 May (PB). **Dovekie**: intro. **Com. Murre**: intro. **Thick-billed Murre**: intro. **Atlantic Puffin**: intro.

White-winged Dove: Long Beach feeder 20-26 May (Edward & Loretta Eaton *vide* AL). **Long-eared Owl**: CP 10 Apr (NYRBA). **Short-eared Owl**: JFKWS 16 Mar (PM), Sunken Meadow SP 11 Apr (NYRBA). **Chuck-will's-widow**: Riverhead 29 Apr (NYRBA), Oak Beach 13 May (RK). **Whip-poor-will**: ten Caumsett SP 13 May (RK). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: CP 8 May (NYRBA). **Pileated Woodpecker**: VCP 31 Mar (CJ), first Regional report since 1982.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 12 and 17 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: CP 12 and 23 May (NYRBA), Forest P 20 May (NYRBA). **Acadian Flycatcher**: CP and HLSP 18 May, others after (NYRBA). **Purple Martin**: returned to Lemon Creek SI 9 Apr (*vide* HF). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: virtually absent this winter, few migrants; Bayside 7 Mar, Jones Beach 30 Apr. **Wood Thrush**: wintered Manhattan to 15 Mar (NYRBA). **Varied Thrush**: wintered Brooklyn to 24 Mar (NYRBA). **Am. Pipit**: two PtL 22 Mar (EL).

Yellow-throated Vireo: RMSP 9 Apr (NYRBA), early. **Philadelphia Vireo**: CP 15 May, PP 20 May JBWR 20 May (NYRBA). **Golden-winged Warbler**: CP 12 May (NYRBA). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type CLP 4 May (Ann Purcell *vide* HF). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: PP 13 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: CP 21 Apr; High Rock SI 27 Apr (Howie Fisher); HLSP 4 May. **Pine Warbler**: max seven CRSP 1 Apr, ten HLSP 9 Apr, most reports of more than one per day, more than usual. **Cerulean Warbler**: PtL 21 Apr, ALLEY Pd P 29 Apr, Seatuck NWR 4 May (JF), a few others. **Prothonotary Warbler**: RMSP 29 Apr, Wolfe's Pd P 30 Apr (HF), JBWR 4 May (Larry Plotnick), two JBWR 7 May (KF), VCP 6 May (CJ), CP 12 May;

increasing. **Worm-eating Warbler:** PtL 21 Apr, scattered reports. **Kentucky Warbler:** CP to RMSP 29 Apr-27 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** a few reports.

Summer Tanager: CP 8 May, PP 13 May, Wading River 16 May (PG), Forest P 20 May. **Blue Grosbeak:** JBWE 30 Apr (KF), CLP 8 May (Gloria Deppe *fide* HF), RMSP 10 May (JF), Heckscher SP 14 May (PM), two RMSP 22 May (PB, Randy Moore), others. **Vesper Sparrow:** VCP 12 Mar (CJ). **White-crowned Sparrow:** six at feeder Jamesport 26 Mar (BP), either very early or wintered; Gambel's race Orient Pt 25 Mar (AL). **Lapland Longspur:** GKP 19 mar (HF). **Bobolink:** VCP 12 May (CJ), others from various LI locations in May. **Rusty Blackbird:** two Alley Pd P 30 Apr (KF), late. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** several near Ponquogue bridge (PG), perhaps a potential breeding nucleus; good numbers at JBWR.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* 44:251; 1994: **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one Clover L P 20 Apr 94 (Ray Matarazzo *fide* HF) should read **Prothonotary Warbler**. Add **Yellow-throated Warbler:** High Rock SI 14 Apr (John Flynn).

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