

REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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We will start by summing up the Spring migration in two short sentences. The vegetation was very early. The birds arrived late, hidden in dense foliage.

Spring continued the trend of the unusually warm winter. The first six months of 1998 were the warmest on record. Rainfall for the six months was almost enough for a full year. There were 12 consecutive days of rain in the first half of May at the height of the migration. We would have thought the warm weather would bring early bugs and early migrants. Instead we had a late and sparse migration in the Region.

We did see a very few extraordinary fallouts of birds, but only in a remarkably localized pattern. If you were in the wrong place or stayed home because of the prolific rain, you easily missed the migration. Warblers were late; sparrows were few and far between, and shorebirds were erratic. In a number of areas where shorebirds normally stop, high water flooded the edge areas leaving the birds no place to rest.

Many birds were seen well beyond their usual dates. Either more birders were out later in the spring to catch up for the rainy period or there really was a late migration. In any event, we'll have more to say about late migrants in the summer report.

Both Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle sightings continue to increase. While still uncommon, both are now regularly seen in migration. Also, some of the less common warblers were seen in greater than usual numbers, for example, Cerulean and Hooded warblers.

Very interesting spring reports were: Leach's Storm-Petrel from the Staten Island Ferry crossing New York Bay from Staten Island to lower Manhattan (no details submitted); a female Barrow's Goldeneye in the bay opposite the Fire Island light house; increased sightings of Bald Eagle; Wild Turkey in both Van Cortland Park, Bronx and Central Park; **Purple Gallinule** found in a yard at Breezy Pt.; **American Avocet** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; **Black-necked Stilt** in Lawrence; Red Phalarope at Shinnecock; **Thayer's Gull** at Point Lookout; Sedge Wren at Jamaica Bay; **White-winged Dove** at Gilgo; Pileated Woodpecker in Van Cortland Park, Bronx; Northern Shrike on the east end of Fire Island; a Golden-Winged Warbler in Central Park; and a Clay-Colored Sparrow at Quogue, perhaps the one that wintered, and also one at Jones Beach.

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Abbreviations: CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; MOR-Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; SH-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; VCP-Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx; WP-Wellwyn Preserve, Glen Cove.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: wintering birds lingered into the spring.

Sooty Shearwater: S. of Block Island 11 Apr (DF); Georgica 17 May (NYRBA).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: from Staten Island Ferry 12 May (RV). (details??)

Double-crested Cormorant: 37 nests Stony Brook 7 May, 53 by 3 Jun (DF).

Turkey Vulture: 8 Shelter Island 3 Apr; VCP 12 May; SI 16 May; others Eastern LI.

"Black" Brant: *Branta bernicula niger*, the western subspecies Riis Park to 12 Apr.

Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: *Anas c. crecca*, the nominate subspecies JBWR 5 Apr.

Tufted Duck: Patchogue to 15 Mar.

Barrow's Goldeneye: FI bay side opposite the lighthouse first week Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: WP 12 Mar SI 1 May (CH); PP 24 May; Whitestone 19 May; others.

Wild Turkey: VCP 17 Mar; CP 10 May.

PURPLE GALLINULE: imm found in yard in Breezy Pt approx 22 Mar, died in rehab, specimen to Don Reipe of JBWR.

Piping Plover: first report PL 12 Mar.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Lawrence 21 May.

AMERICAN AVOCET: JBWR 7-13 May.

Marbled Godwit: JBWR 26 Apr; SH 26 Apr, 9, 31 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 Sore Thumb 24 May; Riverhead 25 May; 2 there 26 May.

Red Phalarope: female alt plumage SH 15 May (ES).

Little Gull: Agwam Pond 7 Mar; Breezy Pt 8 Mar; PL 26 Mar.

Black-headed Gull: SH 6 Mar to May; PL through Mar.

THAYER'S GULL: ad PL 22 Mar (AG, AnW).

Iceland Gull: 6 SH 15 Mar; other single sightings.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: several.

Glaucous Gull: SH to 13 May.

Gull-billed Tern: 3-8 JBWE mid Mar thru.

Caspian Tern: JBWR 18 Apr; MEB 21 Apr; FI 5 May; CP 5 May.

Royal Tern: SH 21 May.

Razorbill: 258 large alcids counted in a 45 minute period moving past Agwam Pond 8 Mar (TB) - 25 of these were close enough to identify as this species. The balance were probably Razorbills as well; 30 large alcids S. of Block Island 11 Apr (DF) - 16 this species with balance probably the same.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Gilgo 17 May (AL).

Long-eared Owl: CP 1 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: FBF 15 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Wading River calling 3:00 AM 16 May (BA).

Chuck-will's-widow: Long Pond, SI 26 Apr (PB, CH); also CB and Riverhead as in prior years.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 CP to 12 Apr, fewer later; Zachs Bay 30 Apr to 3 May.

Pileated Woodpecker: VCP 13 May (DK).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: Riverhead 9 May (BA).

Northern Shrike: Short Beach, Smithtown 1-8 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: late May.

Sedge Wren: JBWR 16 May (P. Joost et al).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 29 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 2 Lido Beach 1 Mar; PP 14-18 Apr.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Inwood Hill Park 2 Mar, may have wintered.

Yellow-throated Warbler: JBWR 16 May.

Cerulean Warbler: PP 25 Apr; CP 30 Apr; HLSP 30 Apr; others.

Prothonotary Warbler: SI 24 Apr; others.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS:

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Clay-colored Sparrow: East Quogue 13 May (ES); JBWE 25 May (AG).

Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco: (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) JBWE 8 Mar (SS), NYSARC report in preparation.

Lapland Longspur: 6 JBWE to 15 Mar.

Blue Grosbeak: CB 2 May; JBCH 2 May; JBWR 16 and 24 May; others.

Dickcissel: CP 12 May.

Bobolink: singing HLSP 7 May.

Rusty Blackbird: 45 Shu Swamp 1 Mar; 600 Van Cortland swamp 25 Mar (DK).

Red Crossbill: 20 Quogue 7 Mar; 8 JBWE 22 Mar; 10 MEC early May.

White-winged Crossbill: scattered reports of large numbers thru Mar.

European Goldfinch: Peconic feeder 19 May (LF).

Evening Grosbeak: scattered reports of single birds visiting feeders thru.