

REGION 10-MARINE

Seymour Schiff
603 Mead Terrace,
S. Hempstead, NY 11550
Alvin Wollin
4 Meadow Lane,
Rockville, Centre, NY 11570

A plot of actual daily high and low temperatures for the entire season almost fit perfectly into the long term charts depicting normal weather. Talk about dull! Except for a small cold spell in early March, a warm spell toward the end of April, and a relatively warm period at the end of May, this was almost a textbook pattern. Rainfall was normal except for April when less than half the normal precipitation fell. No rain also meant no fronts.

A "blocking" pattern prevailed over most of the Northeast from late April and continued for most of May. It resulted in winds that blew from the east or northeast for much of the time and pushed the usual storms coming up the coast out to sea to our south or off to the north. It also effectively moved the migrants away from our Region. We did have birds, but they came late and not in the numbers usually seen during early and mid May. Shorebirds were on the low side during the migration both here and throughout the Northeast.

We have seen some trends in the Region based solely on our personal observation. Birds experiencing potential breeding range extensions or continued extensions include Double-crested Cormorant, Chuck-will's-widow, Pileated Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Boat-tailed Grackle and Orchard Oriole,. Wintering birds no longer rare include Lesser Black-backed Gull.

The wintering Bonaparte's Gulls in the Region almost always attract a few uncommon gulls such as Little and Back-headed gulls. All appear to increase during the early spring. It's possible that the increase represents migrants in addition to lingering winter birds.

A sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** was seen at a Forest Park, Queens water hole on 25 May by Jeff Rabkin.

While monitoring the Piping Plover nesting at Cupsogue Beach in Westhampton Dunes, the ranger found a **Wilson's Plover**. It was discovered on 4 May and stayed until the 5th.

Hugh McGuinness found a Least Sandpiper still in basic plumage at Sagaponack on 29 March. This species is rare before May and the date ties the earliest arrival date.

A third year **Black-tailed Gull** was discovered 6 May at Breezy Point by Paul Buckley and Shaibal Mitra. This will be the second record for the State, if approved by NYSARC.

A **White-winged Dove** came to Edward and Loretta Eaton's feeder in Long Beach 3-5 May. This same feeder last attracted this species 20-26 May 1995.

Henry F. Flamm ,who supplies information on birding on Staten Island, reported that Cliff Hagen had seen a Pileated Woodpecker in Clove Lake Park on 28 April. He indicated that this was the second sighting for Staten Island, both recently.

A Northern Parula was discovered in Hempstead Lake State Park by Matt Bayer on 15 April, a very early date.

A female **Painted Bunting** was found in Prospect Park by Peter Dorosh 24 March and remained until 6 April. It was seen by dozens of birders.

To round out the season, rare and uncommon birds that wintered and continued into the spring included **Sandhill Crane**, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tufted Duck and **Mew Gull**(*Larus c. canus*) the race popularly called Common Gull in Europe.

In terms of the exotic, an internet post by Marie Winn reported on a flock of parrots first observed in Central Park on March 18 by Tom Fiore. They remained to the 31st. Per her note, " They have been positively identified by several observers, including Marc Morrone of Parrots of the World, as Mitred Conures, [*Aratinga mitrata*]. This species is native to the mountains of Argentina and Peru in geographic areas with climate not all that unlike ours, i.e. cold in the winter. There are at least 17 birds in this flock, and they have been noisily ranging through the park feeding mainly on last year's hackberries."

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, John P. Askildsen, Matt Bayer, Steven Biasetti, Howard Boltson, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Ralph Cioffi, Mike Cooper, Peter Dorosh, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Paul H. Gillen, Andrew Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Rick Kedenburg, David W. Klauber, Greg Kunkel, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Hugh McGuinness, Shaibal Mitra, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Jeff Rabkin, Don Riepe, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Marie Winn, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; DP-Democrat Pt, FI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; FTP-Fort Pond, Montauk; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; HP-Hook Pond, Southampton; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SG-Sagaponack; SGP-Sagg Pond, Bridgehampton; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS

Sooty Shearwater: RMSP 15 May; CB 15 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: at least 64 nests at Stony Brook Mill Pond (DF).
Tricolored Heron: JBWR from 27 Mar.
Cattle Egret: feeding in newly plowed field, Mattituck 21 Apr; SI 15 May.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: pair constructed a nest in HLSP.
Greater White-fronted Goose: HP thru 20 Mar.
Snow Goose: 7 blue morph JBWR 12 Mar (SW).
Brant: Black morph FBF 28 Mar.
Eurasian Wigeon: several wintered, 1 Southampton thru 25 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: Eurasian race, JBWR 2 Mar.
Tufted Duck: 1 male Halsey Neck Pond Halsey Neck, Southampton; 1 male Cooper's Pond, Southampton 13 Mar; 1 there thru 1 Apr.
King Eider: 2-3 MP during Mar; off Montauk Village 15 May.
Com. Eider: 550 MP 6 Mar.
Harlequin Duck: wintering birds remained into Spring; numbers increased in late Mar and remained to mid Apr and later; 13 PL 31 Mar-18 Apr; 12 MP 28 Mar; 3 Horton Pt, No. Fork, LI; 8 Atlantic Beach 6 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: sub-adult Forest Park water hole 25 May (JR).
Bald Eagle: JBWR 29 Mar; CP 21 Apr;

SHIN 24 Apr; Ft Tilden 9 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: nested again on building facing CP.

Ruffed Grouse: Quogue mid May.

Sandhill Crane: continued in Orient fields to 18 Mar.

Am. Golden-Plover: SHIN 11 Apr; SGP 21-30 Apr; SHIN 24 Apr.

WILSON'S PLOVER: Westhampton Dunes 4-5 May (per AL).

Semipalmated Plover: SG 4 Apr, first report (HMG).

Piping Plover: 2 Center Island Beach 8 Mar (RK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: SG from 27 Mar.

Whimbrel: MEB 18-20 Apr; 1-2 SHIN 24 Apr - 23 May; CB 15 May.

Least Sandpiper: SG 29 Mar (HMG), ties earliest record.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SG 27 Mar.

Stilt Sandpiper: SGP 19 Apr (HMG); 2 SGP 21 Apr to 2 May; SGP 20 May.

Ruff: 1 SGP 19 Apr; 2 SGP 27 Apr-3 May; 1 SGP to 11 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 14 May.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 FTP 8 May.

Little Gull: 1-3 PL 14 Mar to 2 May, in Bonaparte's Gull flock; 2 MEB 27-28 Mar; HP 1 Apr; SHIN 3 Apr.

Black-headed Gull: 1-2 PL 13 Mar - 25 Apr, in Bonaparte's Gull flock; Agawam Pond, Southampton 7 Mar; 2 SAG 19 Apr; 1 SAG 2 May; MEB 6 Apr; 2 Georgica Pond 5 Apr; 1 Georgica Pond 4 May.

BLACK-TAILED GULL: 3rd year Breezy Pt 6 May (PB, SM).

MEW GULL: 1st winter continued SHIN thru 23 Mar (AL).

Iceland Gull: thru 2 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: thru 16 May

Glaucous Gull: HP 6 Mar; 2 MP 6 Mar; 1 MP 28 Mar; JBCH 20 Apr; SHIN 24 Apr, 3 May; FTP 8 May.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 adults, 2 imm SHIN 14 Mar.

Gull-billed Tern: 5 JBWE 9 May, 2 pair stayed a week and then departed presumably to nest on bay islands.

Caspian Tern: almost continuously with numbers as follows: 1 MEB 9 Apr, 2 on 18 Apr, 3 on 25 Apr; 1 SGP 11 Apr, 2 on 2 May, and 7 on 5 May.

Royal Tern: Westhampton Dunes 15 May.

Com. Tern: 18 Apr thru.

Forster's Tern: PL Feb thru.

Black Tern: arr DP 4 May.

Dovekie: off Hither Hills 14 Mar; off SHIN 14 Mar.

Com. Murre: picked up alive Napeague early Mar, died.

Razorbill: 8 MP 6 Mar; 40+ MP 14 Mar; 10 SHIN 14 Mar; 12 Easthampton 8 Apr.

Atlantic Puffin: landed on boat 70 miles off MP ~21 Mar, brought in for rehab.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: feeder, Long Beach 3-5 May (Edward and Loretta Eaton).

Monk Parakeet: 3 PP 30 Mar.

Chuck-will's-widow: SI 15 May, Oak Beach 15 May; Devon, northeast of Amagansett late May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: the 10 original wintering birds were reduced to 8 by the start of the season, some remained to nest in CP.

Pileated Woodpecker: CLP 28 Apr (CH *fide* HF).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: first 11 May, CP, and PP.

N. Shrike: Dune road, W. of SHIN 8-17 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: Clove Laurel, SI 22 May.

Purple Martin: arr RMSP 21 Mar.

Barn Swallow: arr SG 21 Mar.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: almost no wintering birds and almost no migrants.

Marsh Wren: 2 heard singing Accabonac Marsh 30 Mar (*fide* HMG).

Bicknell's Thrush: JBWR south garden 15 May (TB, *et al*).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 9, 13 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: NY City parks from 28 Mar - 9 May.

N. Parula: HLSP 15 Apr, very early (MB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: PP 11-19 Apr.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 CP 6 May; PP 8 May; 2 PP 9 May; JBWR 10 May; FP 23 May; more reports this year.

Prothonotary Warbler: Riverhead 22 May; PP 31 May.

Kentucky Warbler: from 7 May city parks, JBWE; a few others.

Mourning Warbler: 12 May thru.

Hooded Warbler: 17 Apr thru.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: scattered individuals NY City parks and south shore LI 12 May thru.

Clay-colored Sparrow: JBCH 10 May (JF).

Vesper Sparrow: NY City parks early Apr - early May; others.

Harris's Sparrow: Bridgehampton 7 Mar - 12 May (JA *et al*).

White-crowned Sparrow: *gambelii* subspecies Bridgehampton in wintering flock of this species 10 Mar - 1 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: up to 12 St. Charles Cemetery early to late Mar.

Blue Grosbeak: 6-8 Jones Beach strip 17 Apr, others same week; CB 6 May; CP 12 May, Riverhead 15 May; PP 25 May.

PAINTED BUNTING: female PP 25 Mar - 6 Apr (PD *et al*).

Boat-tailed Grackle: reports from SI, JBWR, JBCH, CB, SHIN.

EXOTICS

Mitred Conure: 17 CP 18-31 Mar.

syschiff@ascensionet.com