

REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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The season started with an exceptionally warm month, although there were few extremes. March averaged 4.8°F above normal, with only one day above 70°. April averaged 1.5° above normal, with one day at 76° and two more barely above 70°. May averaged slightly above normal, with three days at or over 90°F. The overall effect was not so much of warmth, but of not being cold. There was less than normal precipitation the first two months and more the last, with the rains falling mainly mid-week.

As was to be expected, the warm March brought a number of early migrants in the first part of April. Then uncooperative winds slowed the migration to a trickle. However, the weekend of 29-30 April produced good flights, followed by a major flight on 2 May and lesser one on 5 May. These movements occurred throughout the Region, from the New York City parks to the East End.

The flight of 2 May was especially noteworthy for the huge numbers of first sightings in the city parks for thrushes, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks and orioles. Normally early migrants arrived late this year and late ones arrived early.

In early May a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, a rare visitor to the eastern seaboard, appeared off the coast of Massachusetts. On 15 May, it (or, perhaps, another) was found on the beach on Fire Island in a flock of Herring Gulls. . It ultimately flew out to sea. On 21 May an albatross of this species was seen flying along the Garden State Parkway. Then on 23 May one was seen on the bay shore in New Jersey. Our local sighting made the New York Times. There are two accepted previous records for NYS, the first in Region 10 on 29 May, 1960 and the second, a hurricane-related record in Region 9 on 10 August, 1976 at Croton Pt, 25 miles up the Hudson River. For full coverage of this occurrence and the status of all sightings away from the Niagara R. since Andrlé's paper – one at Dunkirk Harbor

albatross reports in NY see the article in this issue.

On 30 April Andy Baldelli and Hugh McGuinness saw a lone Manx Shearwater flying east about 500 feet offshore at Georgica. Another was reported by Louis DeMarco off the Rockaway Inlet jetty on 20 May.

A **White-faced Ibis** was found at Jones Beach State Park 27 May by Andy Guthrie. The bird was seen sporadically afterwards.

A **Black Vulture**, present in the Montauk area since last season, was observed circling there on 4 March and later was seen feeding on raccoon road-kill along the Montauk Highway 1/4 to 1/2 miles from the Point. It was seen in the area until 12 March. On 30 March a bird was observed at Gilgo

The less common wintering geese and ducks in the Region remained long enough to be counted in this season. The Greater White-fronted Goose in a huge flock of Canada Geese north of Riverhead was still present on 4 March. Eurasian Wigeons were found at Prospect Park 4 March, Patchogue 12 March, and Coram 12 March. On 5 March, a "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was on the West Pond at JBWR.

A drake Tufted Duck was found 4 March on Cooper's Neck Pond in Southampton. Cooper's Neck Pond is along Dune Road on the eastern side of Shinnecock Inlet. It is the middle of the three ponds, with Agawam to its east and Halsey Neck Pond to the west.

Hugh McGuinness compiled a summary of East End's recent Wild Turkey sightings by local birders, including: from Jim Clinton up to 20 birds Brookhaven National Lab present for the past 6-7 years; from Bev Prentice 6 in her neighborhood in Jamesport since January; a few reports of 2-3 birds along Sunrise Highway in the vicinity of Hampton Bay over the past two years; and a male was seen on 21 March this year on Wading River Road south of the intersection with Grumman Blvd.

A **Wilson's Plover** was found west of the inlet at Shinnecock by Gene Arpino on 19 May. It remained until the 24 May.

A **Black-necked Stilt** was found by Hugh McGuinness and Andy Baldelli at Sagaponack on 29 April. It proved to be a one-day wonder. A second was present at JBWR from 9-17 May. This species was widely reported throughout the Northeast this spring as far north as Canada.

The **Dovekie** reported last season in Jones Inlet was last seen on 9 March. Other sightings of singles occurred at Montauk Point on 11 and 14 March.

A **Black Guillemot** was found at Montauk Pt. on 5 March off the Point and then relocated directly off the restaurant pavilion later in the afternoon. Two Black Guillemots, one in breeding plumage, were seen at the Point on 11 March. Three were off Moriches Inlet 26 March.

A **Swainson's Warbler** was found in Central Park on 7 May by Ed Lam and Nick Wagerik. It was also seen and heard singing at the same location the next day by Tom Fiore.

On 24 May Sharon Bart, a Huntington Audubon field trip leader, reported a male **Painted Bunting** found singing near the picnic area at Bethpage State Park. Found in the morning, it was seen there by others until evening. The bunting was not relocated the next day.

A junco with dark lores, was banded, photographed, and released by Shai Mitra at the banding station on Fire Island on 2 May. It was believed to be a **Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco** (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*). A review of skins at the American Museum of Natural History is planned. Separation of rare western juncos of the "pink-sided" and "Oregon" types should be pursued. On 16 March, your editors saw a Dark-eyed Junco at Jones Beach with a black sharply defined hood but a pale gray rather than brownish back. The bird was probably an inter-grade of western races.

Two and perhaps more rare blackbirds visited our Region in the early spring. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found by Paul Buckley on 16 March in a large flock of starlings and cowbirds at the Dude Ranch about a half mile west of Montauk Pt. Another of the same species was photographed as it sang in a tree near the blackbird roost in Van Cortlandt Park in The Bronx on 9 March. It remained to 16 March.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP-Alley Pond Park; BNL-Brookhaven National Laboratory; CB-Cedar Beach; CM-Cow Meadow, Freeport; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; DP-Democrat Pt., FI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; FTT-Fort Tilden, Queens; GKP-Great Kills Park, SI; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; HC-Hart's Cove, East Moriches; JBWR---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MP-Montauk Point; PBP- Pelham Bay Park; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; SG-Sagaponack SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; VCP-Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: PL 5 Mar; MP 12 Mar.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: 1 FI 15 May, on the beach in a flock of Gulls.

Sooty Shearwater: 15 DP 31 May (SM).

Manx Shearwater: Georgica Pond 30 Apr; off the Rockaway Inlet Jetty 20 May.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 76 DP 31 May (SM).

Little Blue Heron: East Quogue on 6 Apr. **Tricolored Heron:** SH 16 Apr.

Cattle Egret: 2 SI 20 Apr; JBWR 18 Apr; CP 25 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: arr 2 Ridge 18 Mar.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: JBCH 27 May (AG).

BLACK VULTURE: near MP 4-5 Mar; near MP and also at the Dude Ranch 12 Mar; Gilgo 30 Mar.

Turkey Vulture: small numbers throughout Region early Mar - late May.

Greater White-fronted Goose: north of Riverhead thru 4 Mar, with Canada Geese.

Snow Goose: 500+ (3 blue morph) JBWR 5-9 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: PP 4 Mar; Patchogue 12 Mar; Coram 12 Mar.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: FBF 3 Mar; JBWR 5-14 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: 800 Tobay 15 Apr.

Tufted Duck: male Cooper's Neck Pond, Southampton 4 Mar, with 6 Redhead.

King Eider: MP thru mid Mar; off Cupsogue SP thru late May.

Harlequin Duck: Fort Pond Bay 5 Mar; 2 m, 2 fem Horton Pt.; MP thru mid Mar; 12 PL thru late Mar; Great Kills Park 25 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 800 JBWR 15 Apr (PAB, JF, SM).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: Wainscott 1 Mar; Mecox Bay 2 Mar; Water Mill 5 Mar; East Hampton in 3 or 4 locations 12 Mar.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: APP 10 May (EC et al).

Bald Eagle: PP 6, 11 May; imm CP 15 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: Sag Harbor 14 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: nested in CP again.

Rough-legged Hawk: many wintering, some into early May.

Wild Turkey: see intro for a summary of recent years' sightings.

WILSON'S PLOVER: SHIN 19-24 May (GA).

Semipalmated Plover: arr Hempstead High School baseball field 25 Apr.

Piping Plover: 3 PL 12 Mar; Clearwater Beach, Springs East Hampton 12 Mar.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: SG 29 Apr (AB, HMG); JBWR 9-17 May (KF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 Georgica Pond 2 Apr.

Whimbrel: bayside PL 18 Mar, possibly bird that wintered in the area; Dune Road, Shinnecock 29 Apr.

Least Sandpiper: Georgica Pond 23 Apr.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 6 Mecox Bay 9 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Rockaway Inlet Jetty 29 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Georgica Pond 23 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 5 May.

Laughing Gull: CP 9 Mar; PP 12 Mar;

Little Gull: Quogue 1 Mar; 2 PL 12-26 Mar; 2 CB 19 Mar.

Black-headed Gull: PL 5 Mar; 2 PL 12 Mar; 3 PL 19 Mar.

Iceland Gull: thru late Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: thru 28 May

Glaucous Gull: SHIN to mid Mar; JBCH, Field #6 1 Apr; SG 25 Apr.

Black-legged Kittiwake: PL 3 Mar; MP mid Mar.

Gull-billed Tern: 2 JBWR 6 May; 2-4 JBWE early May thru.

Caspian Tern: HLSP 18 Apr; 2-4 regularly Mecox Bay to Hook Pond 15 Apr-9 May.

Roseate Tern: SHIN 8 May.

Com. Tern: JBWE 30 Mar (AW); on sandbar inlet PL 2 Apr (SS, AW); both records extremely early, may be the same bird.

Least Tern: JBWR 26 Apr; 2 PP 10 May, an unlikely place.

Black Tern: JBWR 21 May.

Black Skimmer: 85 Plum Beach, Brooklyn 11 May (PD).

Dovekie: Jones Inlet to 4 Mar; MP 11, 14 Mar.

Razorbill: 2 PL 5 Mar; 12 MP 5 Mar.

Black Guillemot: MP 5 Mar; 2 (1 alt plumage) MP 11 Mar; 3 off Moriches Inlet 26 Mar (AL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 4 Kings Plaza shop-

ping center 5 Mar; PP 8 Mar; Green-Wood Cemetery 1 Apr.

Long-eared Owl: CP thru 18 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: FBF thru early Apr; others.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CP 2-7 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: Riverhead early May.

Chimney Swift: PP 15 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Shelter Island 13 Mar; Amagansett early May; MP 5 May; FP 6 May; Springs, East Hampton 11 May; JBWE 11 May.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 High Rock Park, SI 20 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 3 JBCH to FI 8 Mar; CP 9 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 4 Apr.

E. Kingbird: BNL 15 Apr; 75 MP 5 May (PAB).

N. Shrike: SI 11 Mar; BNL 10-19 Mar; CP 18-25 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: PP 8 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: CP 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 5, 22 May; PP 8 May; Riverhead 7 May.

Purple Martin: HC 6 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: CP 8 Apr.

Bank Swallow: CP 19 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: JBWR 23 Apr.

Barn Swallow: HC 19 Mar.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PP 2 Apr; CP 4 Apr.

Wood Thrush: CP 25 Apr.

Am. Pipit: 2 East Drive opposite the Mount Sinai Medical Center 26 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: CP 27 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Rockville Centre yard 2 May; FI 2 May, banded; CP 3, 13 May; APP 3 May.

"BREWSTER'S " WARBLER: PP 6 May; FIT 27 May.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: CP 29 Apr-1 May (TF, et al). FI 2 May (SM), banded.

Tennessee Warbler: CP 25 Apr.

Orange-crowned Warbler: HLSP 10 Apr; CP 25-27 Apr; 2 CP 7 May; CP 13 May.

Nashville Warbler: CP 25 Apr; PP 29 Apr.

N. Parula: PP 8 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: PP 29 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: CP 30 Apr.

Magnolia Warbler: PP 13 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: CP 4 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: PP 8 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: CP 26 Apr.

Yellow-throated Warbler: CP 2-7 Apr (Roger Pasquier et al *fide* TF), record early date; SI 22 Apr; CP 20, 26 Apr; PP 29 Apr, 6 May.

Prairie Warbler: CP 12 Apr (TF), early date.

Bay-breasted Warbler: CP 6 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: CP 1 May.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 1-2 May; PP 11-12, 16 May; FP 13 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: CP 29 Mar (JDC).

Am. Redstart: Line Road Calverton/Manorville 24 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 22, 30 Apr, 5, 6 May; Kissena Park 4 May; PP 5 May; JBCH 5 May; Greenport 7 May; Southard Park, Babylon 6 May thru.

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 29 Apr; HLSP 3 May; 2 Riverhead 6 May, 1 Riverhead 7 May; PP 7 May; Sag Harbor 8 May; 2 CP 10 May.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: CP 7 May (EL, NW); singing and seen CP 8 May (TF).

Ovenbird: PP 14 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: PP Apr 27; CP 1 May; PP 3 May; CP 5 May; PP 22, 29 May.

Mourning Warbler: 10 May thru.

Hooded Warbler: CP 8, 15, 28 Apr, 2 May; HLSP 13, 16 Apr; SI 22 Apr; FP 25 Apr; PP 29 Apr, 2-7, 11-12 May; unusually large numbers this year.

Wilson's Warbler: CP 4 May.

Canada Warbler: CP 30 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: mid to late May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: widespread and in increasing numbers; reports from all parts of the Region - CP, FP, PP, 4 HLSP, FI, & eastern LI thru.

Scarlet Tanager: CP 30 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: PL 5 Mar; FBF and PP 2 Apr

Lark Sparrow: 18 Mar; MP 5 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 2 May; PP 5 May; CP 24 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 9 (1 ad "GAMBEL'S") David's Lane Water Mill 18 Mar.

Dark-eyed Junco: "possible western race hybrid" JBWE 16 Mar (SS, AW);

"PINK-SIDED" JUNCO FI Bird Banding Station 2 May (SM).

Lapland Longspur: 1 along Horton Avenue just south of Sound Avenue 5 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: feeder

Springs, East Hampton 17 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: CP 3 May; PP 18 May; East Quogue 20 May; FP 21 May; JBWE 20-24 May.

Indigo Bunting: CP wintering bird present into spring.

PAINTED BUNTING: Bethpage State Park 24 May (SB).

Dickcissel: FI 9 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

west of MP 16 Mar (PAB); VCP 9-16 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 67 APP 19 Mar.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 6-12 west of the Ponquogue Bridge; CM 13 Apr; JBCH strip May.

Red Crossbill: 14 west of Tiana Beach along Dune Road 1 Mar; 3 FI 20 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 20 PL 1 Mar; feeder Quogue thru early Apr; feeder East Hampton early Apr; a few others.

Com. Redpoll: CP 17 Mar

Pine Siskin: a few at feeders to May.

Evening Grosbeak: East Quogue feeder 15 Apr; 4 PP 5-6 May; CP 8 May.

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: CP 19 May.

ADDENDA from Winter Season

Monk Parakeet: 16 JBWR 28 Feb.

Dickcissel: Bridgehampton 27 Feb.

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