

KNOPF 6/2/81

Marble Rock Spring Migration Report

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- ✓ Little Blue Heron                      Saw one on May 7. It lit on the road between the two lagoon ponds and stood quietly for some time, so I had time for a really good look.
- Ducks: They were fairly numerous on the lagoon ponds this <sup>Spring</sup> ~~spring~~. I identified 14 different species. Missed all three of the Mergansers, not unusual except for the Common Merganser. The ones I feel worth commenting on were:
  - Green-winged Teal                      Though not numerous I did see more than the unusual number from May 24 to April 25.
  - Blue-winged Teal                      Most numerous of all the different species. First seen on March 29 and still a ~~pair~~ <sup>pair</sup>, at least, here ~~in~~ in late May. Counted 85 on the ponds on April 17.
  - Lesser Scaup                              These two species seemed to go into reverse this year. The Lesser Scaup were much less numerous than usual and the Ring Necks much more numerous. As a rule I am scanning a flock of Scaup ~~is~~ looking for a duck with that white shaft <sup>up</sup> front. This year I found myself scanning the Ring-necks for a duck without it. Saw Ring-necks on March 13 and my first Scaup on March 21st. The Ring-necks left early in April and the Scaup late in the month.
  - Ring-Neck
- Other varieties or species of ducks seen in numbers varying from one to ten were: Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate (Am. Widgeon), Shoveller, Wood Duck (nesting in this area), Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck, and Redhead.
- Hawks: Guess I haven't much to say on hawks, they haven't been here as in some years. Have seen the Red-tail several times as well as a Coopers and Kestrel. Saw a Broad-Wing on April 27 and a ~~Red-shouldered~~ <sup>Red-shouldered</sup> ~~xxxxxxixixixixix~~ on May 15.
- ✓ Osprey, guess this one is in the the hawk category. Saw one on April 20 and 27 and May 20.

The ponds at the lagoon attracted the shorebirds again this spring.

- ✓ Piping Plover                              One with other shorebirds on May 7 and 12.
- Killdeer                                      The first of the family to arrive==don't seem to be as many as a few years ago.
- Common Snipe--                              Saw my first one this year on Jan. 19. The next date was March 24, which would have been more a true migration date. Have several records from then on to the first part of April. Found six down in the ~~xxx~~ lagoon pond area on March ~~19~~. 29.
- Spotted Sandpiper                              First seen on April ~~29xxxx27x~~ 29 Common here.
- Solitary Sandpiper                              April 28 (one) Have a few May records also.  
*Lesser Yellowlegs*                              April 17 - May 12                      Numbers good.
- Long-billed Dowitcher                              May 7                      Two seen that day and again on May 12.
- Stilt Sandpiper*                                      May 19 (one)
- Wilson's Phalarope                              May 1                      Two that day and again on May 12.
- ✓ Northern Phalarope                              May 14 (one)  
*Dunlin*                                      Two on May 13 + 14  
*Least Sandpiper*                              quite numerous

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✓ Black Tern First seen on May 7. ~~They were~~ A few were seen feeding over the ponds during May. Counted about 25 feeding there on the 25th of ~~the~~ May.

Mourning Dove Think they may be doing better in this locality than in some.

Cuckoos So far I have only heard them, but they seem to be quite widespread. Of course I can't say which species I am hearing.

Red-headed Woodpecker No complaint as to numbers of these. *(Although not numerous)*

Flycatchers, we seem to have plenty of these, Don't know as I have heard quite as many Wood Pewees as usual. I think all the others species are or have been present. Identified an Olive-sided by those white feather tufts on May 27.

Tree Swallows Started arriving on March 29 and ~~by~~ a few were still here in late May. They were really ~~many~~ numerous some days during the peak of their migration.

House Wrens Seem quite numerous. Hear them ~~in~~ in all the areas I go birding as well as here at home.

Brown Thrasher Wish they were as numerous as in the past, but they just aren't.

Catbird. More numerous than I had expected after my lack of records last fall. I can't complain about their numbers.

~~Thrushes~~  
Thrushes There must be disaster in this field.

Hermit Thrush April 13 (one), April 14 (two) here at home in ~~the~~ back yard. Then on May 13 I found one in the trees <sup>at</sup> southeast of the lagoon.

Swainson's Thrush One on May 4 and 15.

Gray-cheeked Thrush One on May 11, 16 and 22.

Veery (Willow Thrush) One in may yard May 9 to 12.

Eastern Bluebird Scarce, do have a few sightings and think a pair may be going to nest south of town.

Golden-crowned Kinglet About as they have been the past few years. My dates, March 29 to April 7.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet The scarcest this year that I have ever seen them. April 4 to May 16.

Warblers---April 29 was a good warbler day and I thought here comes an early migration of Warblers. Then nothing until May 12 for me. On May 12 I ~~was~~ had gone out early (about six of little after) and wasn't finding anything unusual when in the tree area along the river southwest from the lagoon. Then about ninety I realized there were a few warblers in the trees to the south of me. Soon decided the ~~of~~ warblers were really coming, and guessed they would be going along in those trees. I had guessed right and added seven to my list before leaving the area. In ~~all~~ all I saw 19 different warblers that day. Went out ~~later~~ in the afternoon and found a Northern Waterthrush for my list. Waterthrushes have been scarce this spring. So far haven't seen a Louisiana.

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Spring Migration.

- Black-and-white Warbler      Didn't seem as numerous as usual.
- Yellow Warbler              Understand these are getting scarce, but still seem them here.
- Myrtle Warbler              The first to arrive as usual. April 20 was my first date. Gone by the middle of the ~~month~~<sup>month</sup>, last date ~~May~~<sup>May</sup> 14 except the one I found on the 20th.
- Yellow-rumped
- Ovenbird                      May 11,12,13 and 21    I would say these are a little scarce.
- Mourning Warbler            May 16 and several times after that. <sup>be</sup> ~~one~~ this is one of those that should be noted.
- ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler    May 20    The big thrill among the warblers this year for me as it was a new one for my life list. Found it in our town park.

Other species of Warblers seen: Blue-winged, Brewsters, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Black-burnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Palm, Yellow-throat, Wilson's, Canada, American Redstart.

Vireos--Sorry I didn't get them before the warblers as I should have. Most I have seen are <sup>red</sup>ed-eyes. Did find a Yellow-throated on May 20 and a Warbling on the 16. There have also been Philadelphias here.

Meadow Larks: Have heard the Eastern down in area southeast of the lagoon. The Western are there in larger numbers, but I fear for the survival of the Meadow-Lark. You just don't see them out in the country as we used to.

✓ Rusty Blackbird              Found a flock on March 14. Would say these are not as numerous as in the past.

Yellow-headed Blackbird      It is not unusual to see one or more fly over uttering their squack when I am in the lagoon area. I see them more often than in the past, but maybe it is because I am in the right place at the right time.

Cowbird                      Wish these weren't quite so numerous. <sup>are</sup> It seem to ~~be~~ their numbers are increasing. Have even had them at my feeders.

Sparrows--Don't know as I have any special comment on these. Would probably agree with any reports that may come in as <sup>the</sup> the numbers changing in the various species.

*So far I haven't seen a Hummingbird or a Nighthawk  
Had 137 species on my May list and  
have 160 species on the 1981 list - neither  
broke my previous records.*

North

Passive  
land with  
some  
trees

low open area  
the  
Boobies  
like

This is a poor map but shows my main birding area.



The longer I look at it the worse it looks. - but does provide good birding within walking distance.

There are trees along the river

Steve Knapp  
Mabee Rock  
Iowa