

AFN Spring Migration, 1964

March started with extremely warm temperatures, but colder weather obtained after the first week and the month ended with record minimum temperatures in the last week, resulting in a 5° deficit in the average. April was slightly colder than normal but very windy and had the highest average wind speeds since 1955. May was warmer than normal and rather dry. During the first week wind storms were the rule and considerable damage resulted. Mrs. Gladys Black at Pleasantville observed some damage to nests.

In general the migration here was not characterized by large waves, but there were some unusually early arrivals.

On 6 June Albert Berkowitz and I watched an Arctic Loon at the Imp. Res. for 30 minutes at rather close range with a scope and in excellent light. The bird remained in view during the entire time so the bill and other features could be clearly seen. Plumage resembled the "Juvenal late summer and winter" description in the "Handbook."

*Summer*

The 3 swans near Van Meter at the end of March were described by a conservation officer as Trumpeter, but this is debatable. A reverse migration of Blue and Snow Geese was noticed on 6 April. The waterfowl migration was about normal with unusually large numbers of Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. Some Wood Ducks were reported a week earlier than any previous date.

Shorebirds in the main were early: an American Woodcock seen on 20 March was 6 weeks early. Lesser Yellow-legs were unusually numerous.

Doves and both cuckoos fewer than last year.

E. Kingbirds were seen early, 2 on 6 April.

Purple Martins came just before the unusually cold weather at the end of March and could hardly have survived.

Few Wood and Hermit Thrushes, but Swainson's and Gray-cheeked at least normal.

Only one warbler wave - Myrtle and Palm on 30 April. A fair sprinkling of species during the season, but numbers of most individuals low.

Bobolinks more numerous than in other years.

A Lark Bunting singing male on 24 May by Elizabeth Peck near Granger, just northwest of here.

*Woody Burn*

*7 June 1964*