

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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The spring season was progressing normally and portended to be one of the better ones of recent years. April saw an ever milder temperature spreading across the land, and the birds were responding with most early species coming in as expected.

Then came May. The season did an "about face" and with a few exceptional days "marched" back into winter. Many observers told of watching the few warblers that were about on May 8 & 9 through a mixture of falling rain, sleet and snow. Foliage was almost completely arrested for many species of plants, and mid-May saw leaf conditions at least two weeks behind in development. The cold weather held through the last week of May with temperature highs reaching only the mid-fifties. Precipitation held close to, or slightly above, normal with an inordinate amount of it snow. Some snow could still be found in the higher Catskills as late as June 1.

The migration was also delayed by about two or three weeks with only a few species proving the exception. It was very likely the temperature which caused no noticeably large waves. Movements were broad in time and numbers, with the best birding coming from May 20-30 instead of from the 6-15. A record number of late dates were reported with many migrants still present at the end of the period.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester Co.; Rock—Rockland Co; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: usual April reports; sev birds in May, but no sizeable overflights as reported most years. **Red-throated Loon**: one Apr 23 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT). Horned Grebe: more than usual; scattered Apr records in Dutch; max 12 Glenmere L. near Chester (PJ; A, BM) and 46 Cornwall-on-Hudson, same date, (EDT). Double-crested Cormorant: very unusual in spring— one Apr 16 Tamarack Swamp, Millbrook, Dutch (JM, OW, FG). Herons and Allies, continue desperately low for some species. Great Blue Heron: somewhat better than low of last year; 16 Apr and 12 May records in Dutch (WBC); several in Tomahawk L area thru season; two Mar 19 West Nyack; from one to several observed regularly in N. West. **Cattle Egret**: one L DeForest May 13-14 (F, RS); one Hamptonburgh, Oran May 21 (A, BM). Common Egret: rarely reported in spring; one Blooming Grove, Oran, Apr 9-10 (ME); one Cruger's Is. Dutch, Apr 30 (JM) and May 11 (WBC). Snowy Egret: also rare in spring, five May 17 Pine Plains (WBC); one May 26 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT). Black-crowned Night Heron: one West Point Apr 17 (PJ); one May 6 Cruger's Is. Dutch; one May 13, south of Poughkeepsie (WBC). American Bittern: fairly good year compared to most; six Apr reports and four in May in Dutch; single Apr birds in West, Rock, and Oran.

Mute Swan: nine, Stillwell L., West Point, May 22 (PJ). Canada Goose: exceptionally fine flight in Apr, over 1,800 Dutch alone; each county in Region reports at least a dozen nesting pairs, with many young by end of season. Brant: many reports from May 13 on; max about 4,500 May 22 Highland Falls (EDT).

Snow Goose: 500 Apr 9 Stissing, Dutch (TH); 150 same date West Point (EDT); 125 Nyack, late date of May 27. (RFD) Mallard: breeders reported low, especially in Putnam Co (ML). Pintail: all reports Apr, max 20 Apr 8 Cruger's Is. (WBC). Green-winged Teal: few reports other than Dutch, where there were 23 in Apr and nine in May; one pair remained thru end of season. **European Widgeon:** one Apr 1 Cruger's Is. (OW, JM), observed at 500 yds with 30x scope. American Widgeon: very scarce this spring. Wood Duck: numbers down; first residents arr Tri-Loba Hill Res., Katonah Mar 30 (SG). Redhead: only report, single bird at Cruger's Is. Apr 1 (OW, JM). Ring-necked Duck: five at Naurauschaun Res, Rock, May 1—tied late date for RAS; two in Dutch on May 10 were very late. Canvasback: numbers improved this spring; one to end of season on Hudson at Cornwall. Common Goldeneye: max 17 Apr 23 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT). Bufflehead: one May 13 Brown's Pd, Newburgh (A, BM)—very late. Oldsquaw: only report, one pair Tomahawk L. Oran Apr 10 (ME). White-winged Scoter: unusual anytime; 14 Crugers Is. May 13 (EP, MV, PG). Ruddy Duck: one female with aforementioned Scoters. Hooded Merganser: one female, Todd Sanct., Katonah, May 7 (SG). Common Merganser: numbers better this spring than recently; three females May 20 Cruger's Is, and pair continued thru end of season at Cornwall-on-Hudson. Red-breasted Merganser: three at Piermont Pier, Mar 12—latest date by 10 days for RAS; one male Apr 8 Cruger's Is. (EP, OW, MV), must be the latest date for Dutch.

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports for season from various parts of Dutch. Broad-winged Hawk: large movement Apr 16—more than 1000 over Pleasant Valley Dutch (MV), 100 over Millbrook Village, 158 at Tamarack Swamp (OW), 600 Kripplebush, Ulst (FH). A most unusual spectacle for spring. The flights continued until Apr 28 when 10 were observed in the Maybrook area and 15 at Hamptonburgh, Oran (ME). Rough-legged Hawk: one late bird Apr 8 (late) Bangall, Dutch (JM, TH). Bald Eagle: one adult found dead in a tree in Sloatsburgh May 19 (EG). Osprey: very good migration reports from most areas. Apr 16 hawk flight produced eight at Tamarack Swamp, Dutch (OW), and 16 at Kripplebush, Ulst (FH). Peregrine Falcon: only two reports— one at Kripplebush Apr 16 (FH) and one May 3 at E. Park (AJ et al). Bobwhite: very scarce—only two reported, one from West and one from Rock. Common Gallinule: usual dates, numbers, and places. Coot: more scarce than high of last winter would suggest.

Semipalmated Plover: two May 28; four May 29, Millbrook (VP, TH). Common Snipe: six Tri-Loba Hill Sanct., Katonah, Apr 2 (SG); 20+ at Campbell Hall Apr 14 (ME). Upland Plover: returned to Hamptonburgh, Oran, Apr 25. (ME) Solitary Sandpiper: unusually late arr, and numbers low. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 14 (early) five at Campbell Hall, Oran; one Apr 15, Vanderverg Cove, Dutch. White-rumped Sandpiper: three at Naurauschaun Res. May 4 (JD). Least Sandpiper: fewer than usual. Dunlin: one Naurauschaun Res. May 3 & 4 (JD); one May 16 Middletown (Barbara Peters); one May 16 Pine Plains (TH). Short-billed Dowitcher: one May 20 Hamptonburgh (EDT, ME, PJ, A & BM); nine May 27 East Pk, Dutch, (TG, OW, et al); **62** May 27 Pine Plains (VP, TH). Laughing Gull: two Apr 22, on Hudson R at Cornwall (EDT). Bonaparte's Gull: one Apr 22, Hudson R at Cornwall (EDT), number increased to four and these remained until May 21 (A, BM), one May 20 Cruger's Is., Dutch (EP, OW, et al). Common Tern: 23 May 16 Hudson R at Cornwall, four remained till May 20 (A, BM), one May 16 Pine Plains, Dutch—unusual inland from river. Black Tern: several reported from Dutch, from May 10 thru May 20; several more at Hamptonburgh, Oran, May 20 (EDT, et al) Cuckoo: both species reported very late in most areas, and unreported in Rock; numbers very low. Screech Owl: none from most areas; one nesting in a box at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah Apr 11 (SG). Great Horned Owl: nested for second year at Stony Point, one full fledged young still on nest Apr 28; three on WBC census May 13.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: very few reports, one Oran and two Dutch. Common Nighthawk: good flight from May 20 on in Dutch, max 15 May 28 Green Haven (EB). Chimney Swift: late by 10 days in Dutch arr May 12; early in Ulst, at High Falls, Apr 19; normal elsewhere. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: unusual number—more than 15 in one flowering cherry tree Dutch, May 21 (EB). Yellow-shafted Flicker: numerous by Apr 1. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one male of last winter remained at Standfordville thru May 17 (FG); one noted near New Paltz May 13. Red-headed Woodpecker: increasingly reported away from known breeding areas during May. **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** one female Apr 8 Rhinecliff—probably wintered from the condition of the Hemlocks in its vicinity. Eastern Kingbird: first, two May 4—late by seven to ten days. Great Crested Flycatcher: appeared to be quite late although could have been reluctance to call during cold weather; not in numbers until May 20. E. Phoebe: numbers lower than last year. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: unusually heavy flight, many reported from most areas; fourteen reports in Dutch thru May, last May 30. Trail's Flycatcher: one, Thompson Pd. May 17, and one Millbrook Boys' School May 28—only reports. Least Flycatcher: scarce till May 20, and tended to be silent. E. Wood Pewee: few thru end of period. Olive-sided Flycatcher: usual few reports received.

Most species of swallows were normal, except Purple Martin which failed to arr at many breeding areas, and few were reported. Fish Crow: usual Dutch reports; one in Apr, Vassar College one May Dover Plains. Red-breasted Nuthatch: none reported. House Wren: apparently completely recovered from low of several years ago. Winter Wren: one Apr 29 Millbrook; one May 8 Red Oaks Mill. Carolina Wren: unreported from most areas; three Apr records in Dutch; two May 13 Cruger's Is. (WBC). Mockingbird: numbers good thru Region; appears to be nesting heavily. Brown Thrasher: first, Apr 14; numbers normal after May 3. Robin: normal heavy migration in mid-Apr; nested early, young off nest as early as May 15 in Stone Ridge (FH). Wood Thrush: late most areas, not many till May 6, then numbers lower than usual. Hermit Thrush: came thru in good numbers, and stayed on in cold weather, last May 18 Dutch. Swainson's Thrush: fewer than usual. Gray-cheeked Thrush: scarce, as usual. Eastern Bluebird: migration normal; nesting success very poor. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: reported from usual areas, but numbers lower this year; first report for Mohonk region of Ulst this year, May 17 (DS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: unusually heavy flight, starting Apr 9 in Kripplebush area, and continuing thru May 17. Water Pipit: all reports second week of May, very few observed. Cedar Waxwing: all areas report numbers low. Loggerhead Shrike: only report—one Apr 29 Dover (AJ et al).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one May 13 Wingdale, Dutch (FG) first record for county since 1963. Yellow-throated Vireo: late arr and then scarce for such a common nester. Solitary Vireo: arr on time Apr 16, but remained quite late; last May 17 Rock, May 18 Dutch, May 21 Oran. Red-eyed Vireo: arr very late as last year first about May 16; very uncommon thru end of period. Warbling Vireo: late; numbers good by May 25.

Warblers: usual Palms and Myrtles during Apr. No large waves, small numbers appeared May 17, 23, 27, 28. Best from May 20–30. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one May 13 at Innisfree, near Millbrook, Dutch. (Thomas Logan); one May 14 at Centenary, Rock (F, RS). Worm-eating: scarce as usual; seems to be resident on Hudson face of Dunderberg Mt., Rock, with several singing there thru late May (EDT). Golden-winged: scarce thru May. Blue-winged: numbers low early, better last half of May. Brewster's: two reports; one May 3–17 Pleasant Valley (MV); one Basha Kill, RAS field trip May 21. Lawrence's: only report, one May 18 Pine

Plains (Bessie Klink). Tennessee: more common than usual in early May in Rock (RFD); appeared late in Dutch; numbers low thru rest of Region. Orange-crowned: one May 12 Red Oaks Mill (MK). Nashville: fewer in Putnam but normal elsewhere; remained late, May 30 last in Rock. Parula: not many, last also May 30, Rock. Yellow: normal. Magnolia: numbers good, also late date of May 30, Rock. Cape May: scarce all season. Black-throated Blue: much less than last year, latest May 20, Dutch, record late date of May 30, Rock. Myrtle: plentiful thru entire season. Black-throated Green: scarce thru much of Region, but normal in some areas. Cerulean: residents late by two weeks in Dutch; only reports elsewhere—one at Nauraushaun May 5 (JD), one at South Nyack May 11 (RFD), two at Turkey Hill Pond, Bear Mt. Pk May 13 (ERB). Chestnut-sided: not common until after May 22. Bay-breasted: all reports between May 20 and 30; normal numbers.

Blackpoll: quite scarce compared to most years; arr late; last May 30. Pine: often unreported—two Apr 18–29 Red Oaks Mill. (MK); one Apr 6 Poughkeepsie (AJ). Prairie: late arr by 10 days in Dutch; best movement near May 27–30. Palm: normal Apr movement from 16–30. Waterthrushes: less than normal for both species. Mourning: best year in memory, many reports from most areas; first May 13, Millbrook, Dutch; max two May 21 Basha Kill, RAS field trip, and two Thompson Pd. Dutch (EP, MV). Yellowthroat: normal most areas after May 17. Yellow-breasted Chat: absent from most areas; only report, one Kripplebush May 21 (FH). Hooded: very few reports, absent from many breeding spots. Wilson's: normal to unusually common from May 12–17. Canada: extremely scarce till May 18; then abundant thru May 30. American Redstart: same as Canada, but not nearly as plentiful; numbers continued low thru end of period.

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: Bobolink: as widespread as usual, but numbers off this year. **Western Meadowlark:** discovered at Hamptonburgh May 20 (EDT, ME, PJ, A, BM), continued thru end of period singing continuously each day. Orchard Oriole: more reports than usual, but still uncommon; first May 5 New City (Robert Connor). Baltimore Oriole: wintering bird of last report remained at Millbrook thru Apr; most arr on time, but were quiet thru cool May weather. Rusty Blackbird: unusually scarce this spring. Scarlet Tanager: arr late in many areas; unusual cold weather last week of May weakened many which were found killed or wandering on area highways. Suspect disaster is widespread, although unreported by several correspondents.

Cardinal: unusual early nest record reported—two young several days old observed in nest when snow parted branches on Apr 24 Cornwall, confirmed Apr 26 (A, BM), found dead May 1. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr on time but numbers lower than usual—half as many as usual reported on WBC census May 13. Indigo Bunting: unusual early date of May 5 Cornwall (CC); almost no others till May 19, scarce thru end of period. Purple Finch: a poor spring following a poor winter. House Finch: numbers good thru season; heavy nesting indicated; well established in Dutch; one pair established at New Paltz. Pine Siskin: no reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr on time, numbers normal, but unusually quiet.

Sparrows: Savannah: plentiful thru last week of Apr. Grasshopper: fewer in areas where resident. Vesper: few; most Apr 15–16. Slate-colored Junco: two resident Dover Plains thru end of period. Tree: last, one Apr 29 Dutch (WBC). Chipping: arr Mohonk Apr 15, generally late elsewhere and numbers low till after May 7. **Harris' Sparrow:** bird of winter report last seen at Kripplebush, Ulst May 18 (FH). White-crowned: first Apr 9 Ridgebury, Oran (Mildred Arfman); max 71, May 13 Dutch (WBC); 35 mist netted at Millbrook May 13; last May 21. Fox: good March flight continued with last, two, Apr 15. Lincoln's: very rare; one May 14–16 Standfordville (FG); two May 18 Cruger's Is. (EP). Swamp and Song: normal.

Summer reports due Sept. 1.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928