

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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Weather conditions this spring tended to hold back the season somewhat, but not markedly. March was cool with normal precipitation. April was quite cool with considerable snow in the early weeks. May was slightly cooler and wetter than average. Foliage was only a few days behind the expected, but flowering shrubs and trees put on a display unequaled in your reporter's memory.

Most birders in the area say the season was "like old times." There were only a few big "pushes" through the area, and these were rather well defined. Bob Deed noticed one on May 14-15 when he heard the noises of warblers and thrushes overhead throughout the night. On May 16 he "encountered the one big, old-fashioned warbler wave I've had in recent years." Another good warbler movement was noted in Rockland on May 29. Most of the bird clubs in the area carried on their censuses or "Big Day" on Saturday, May 13 with excellent results. Record numbers of species were tallied, with some individual counts many times more than the average. The period had its rarities, but less than usual.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Rockland; John C. Orth, Bear Mt. Park and Wawarsing; Al Merritt, Cornwall; Dr. John Tramontano, Western Orange; Martin Borko, Sullivan; Fred Hough, Ulster; Otis Waterman and Eleanor Pink, Dutchess; Mabel Little, Putnam.

Observers cited: EB—Enid Butler; JD—Jeff Daley; MH—Dr. Marjorie Hopper; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Hecheber; AJ—Alice Jones; M,JK—Mary and Jim Key; HM—Helen Manson; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; EP—Eleanor Pink; DS—Dan Smiley; HS—Helen Sweeney; CT—Czecher Terhune; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MVW—Marion VanWagner; MY—Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations: RAC—Rockland Audubon Society Census—May 13; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Census—May 13; SAC—Sullivan Audubon Society Census—May 13; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Census—May 13.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: first Apr 19 over Hook Mt; 1 May 7 over Mine Rd, USMA. Single birds on RAC and MCC. 3 on SAC. *RED-NECKED GREBE*: unreported most years; 1 Apr 10 on Hudson R near Bannerman's Is (CT, MVW). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Apr 22 Hudson R off Dutch, inc to 4 by May 8; 2 there on WCC; 1 May 13 in New Paltz area (unusual away from Hudson R); 5 Apr 23 Piermont Pier. Great Blue Heron: numbers improving slightly year by year; 14 nests at Tamarack Sw, Dutch; 33 birds on WCC. Green Heron: first Apr 22 Sull. *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: rarely reported in spring; 1 imm May 10 Crugers Is. (HM). *CATTLE EGRET*: 1 May 20 Port Jervis, made quite a stir in the Middletown newspaper; 7 May 3 Wassaic, Dutch. (HS,MY). Common Egret: 1 May 5 Peekskill (JD). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, imm. Apr 15 at Tivoli; 3 on WCC. Least Bittern: 3 May 17 Cornwall; 1 May 13 thru 27 Thompson Pd Dutch. American Bittern: more than usual; 2 May 13 near Stewart Air Field, Newburgh; 2 May 18 Cornwall; 1 May 7 Pine Plains; 1 May 10 Crugers Is; 6 on WCC. *GLOSSY IBIS*: second year in a row in Oran; 1 MCC at Hamptonburgh (A,BM). Mute Swan: 5 May 10 over Bear Mt; still reluctant to spread north of Rock where there are many residents. Canada Goose: many Mar and Apr flights reported, both day and night; breeding in good numbers thru region. Brant: usual mid to late May flights reported; earliest May 18; excellent movement on May 22-23. Snow Goose: 75 Mar 29 over Hook Mt; same number, same place on Apr 8; 5 Apr 15 Crugers Is. *BLUE GOOSE*: 1 Apr 18 from Hook Mt. Gadwall: always uncommon; 6 Apr 10 Rockland L. Pintail: 5 Apr 1 and 6 Apr 15 at Crugers Is; 1 May 5 Vanderburgh Cove; all reports Dutch. Green-winged Teal remained late; May 13, 3 on MCC and 4 on WCC. Shoveler: 2 males and 1 female Apr 5 Vanderburgh

Cove; 2 Apr 15 Abels Pd, Dutch (M,JK). Wood Duck: many reports; numbers appear good. Ring-necked Duck: 6 on WCC; 1 pr thru May to June 4 at Thompson (Pd (mob). Canvasback: excellent numbers thru early April on Hudson off Dutch; rafts of up to 200 observed; 20 Apr 18; 2 on WCC. Greater Scaup: 60 on Apr. 18 and 5 on WCC. Lesser Scaup: 2 Apr 18 Hudson R at Dutch; 1 on RAC at Rockland L. Buffhead: 1 May 13 RAC in Rockland L (MH). White-winged Scoter: 2 May 8 Dutch (AJ). Ruddy Duck: last Tomahawk L, 3 Apr 23 (Mearns trip). Hooded Merganser: 2 May 10 Netherwood, Dutch, both females (MVW). Common Merganser: 3 May 13 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT,PJ). Red-breasted Merganser: all reports Dutch; 6 Apr 10; 3 Apr 18, and last 1 Apr 22.

HAWKS—OWLS: The Hook Mt Hawk Watch was manned a total of 22 days from Mar 26 thru Apr 30; their results are listed below:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Date</i>
Turkey Vulture	14	6	4/23
Goshawk	1	1	4/29
Sharp-shinned	134	23	4/19
Cooper's	1	1	4/19
Red-tailed	54	8	4/12
Red-shouldered	1	1	4/4
Broad-winged	470	167	4/18
Rough-legged	3	2	4/29
Bald Eagle	5	3	4/11 2, 4/23
Marsh	21	4	4/23
Osprey	46	8	4/18
Peregrine	4	2	4/9
Pigeon	5	2	4/23 and 4/29
Sparrow	104	40	4/18
Unidentified	35		
Total	898		

Obviously the best movements seemed to be on Apr 18, 19. The observers were Ed and Lana Mills, Pete Both, John Rex, Walter Friton, Joe Richner, and Eric Single.

Goshawk: 1 SAC; 1 ad May 27 Thompson Pd, nested there in 1970; Ulst reports occ Apr 6 near Kripplebush and Apr 19 New Paltz. Sharp-shinned Hawk: sev reports of birds hunting *Fringillids* around feeders. Broad-winged Hawk: the Apr 18 movement at Hook Mt. was repeated thru area with flocks noted in all counties. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Apr 18 migrating with Broadwings in Dutch (MVW); 3 Apr 18 near Glenham (JK); the last Dutch report Apr 23 (EP). Marsh Hawk: only reports Apr 14 Lock Sheldrake, and Apr 12 Tamarack Swamp. Osprey: very good numbers from both Hudson and inland; first Apr 12 Highland Falls. Pigeon Hawk: more reports than usual; in addition to Hook Mt reports, this species reported from Ulst (no names or dates) and 1 Apr 9 Butts Hollow Rd, Dutch (Jim Fiedler). Sparrow Hawk: a remarkable 26 on WCC which usually averages 9.

Ruffed Grouse: nest with 8 eggs obs May 22 near Doodletown, Bear Mt Pk, Rock. Bobwhite: numbers very low, but then never good; 1 Apr 19 Pleasant Valley, and another Sherow Rd., Dutch. Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 May 13 Goose Pd Mt Pk, Chester; 21 thru Apr in Dutch; 32 on WCC. Green Pheasant: 1 female Apr 6 at Verbank; and 1 Apr 1 Shunpike, Dutch. Clapper Rail: 2 Piermont Marsh on RAC. Common Gallinule: 1 RAC. Coot: 1 RAC; 1 May 29 Moodna Marsh, Oran (A,BM). Killdeer: usual numbers; nest with 2 eggs Apr 30 Pleasant Valley.

Common Snipe: more reports than usual; a few thru end of period. 1 from Feb 22 to Apr 17 Suffern; heard in courtship May 13 over Iona Marsh, and Apr 23 near Tomahawk I; more than 50 on Apr 13 Black Meadow Rd, Chester; 8-10 thru May in Dutch. Upland Plover: late returning to Hamptonburgh; first report May 6, 4 birds; 1 May 9-11 East Park, Dutch. Yellow-legs: both species May 6 at Hamptonburgh; WCC had 34 Greater and 6 Lesser; very few reports otherwise. Pectoral Sandpiper: very few; unreported most regions; 5 Apr 29 Hamptonburgh; on SAC at Monticello. Least Sandpiper: very few; 6 on WCC. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Apr 16 near Tivoli; another same date at Ashokan Res; 3 Apr 19 Cornwall Bay. Common Tern: only report 1 May 10 Crugers Is. Mourning Dove: high numbers of last few years continue; 78 on WCC; setting on nest Apr 22 in Pleasant Valley. Cuckoos: considering the abundance of caterpillars, numbers are unusually low, especially the Yellow-billed; WCC reported only 1 Black-billed and the Yellow-billed was missed completely. Barn Owl: 1 May 18 over Orange County Comm Coll campus, (Dr. John Tramontano). Screech Owl: usual reports, perhaps a few more. Great Horned Owl: more than usual; breeding at Popolopen Gorge and at Cornwall on Hudson; heard at many other locations. Short-eared Owl: 1 Apr 10 at Hook Mt (Walter Friton). Saw-whet Owl: calling at mid-day May 25 on Slide Mt (Fred Hough).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Goatsuckers: both resident species low. Whip-poor-wills arr late with only a few reported. Nighthawks were late and few with only a few exceptions; earliest May 7 Po'kpsie; most between May 17-26. Chimney Swift: first Apr 18 Hook Mt; 3 Apr 19 Dutch; WCC usually averages 100, this year only 46. Hummingbird: early date of Apr 30 Mohonk (DS). Flicker: excellent movement Apr 19, ½ hr count had 67 at Cornwall Bay (AM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: more than usual; 3 RAC South Mt Rd area of New City; 1 pr May 12 Rhinebeck; 1 May 14-15 Red Oaks Mill; and another May 10-13 East Park. Red-headed Woodpecker: numbers down but holding its own very locally; 2 in Ulst and 1 at Standfordville from Apr thru May 9. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: avoided most birders, but not completely absent; 2 reports from Sull dur Apr, first Apr 6, last May 16. Kingbird: first 3 May 7; late and numbers down. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 3; numbers normal. Phoebe: a unique report of one eating sumac berries with a Robin on a cold snowy Apr 7 in Dutch. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only report 1 May 20 Dover. Traill's Flycatcher; very few; 1 on WCC; 3 May 29 Millbrook; 1 June 2 at Wawarsing. Least Flycatcher: late and numbers low; first Apr 29 Mohonk. Pewee: first May 7 somewhat early; numbers normal for season. Swallows: most species on time or early; numbers good except for Cliff Swallow, the latter species not nesting this year in Dutch. Purple Martin: continues slow inc from kill of several years ago; 3 known nesting areas in Dutch, with a total of more than 30; a second nesting site in the vicinity of Middletown discovered this year. Fish Crow: appears academically inclined; reported from the Vassar Coll campus and the New Paltz Coll campus; also reported from 3 other locations in Dutch and at Cornwall-on-Hudson. Red-breasted Nuthatch: fewer than usual; all reports from the northern part of region. Brown Creeper: nesting at Kripplebush (FH). House Wren: first Apr 26; normal to less thereafter. Winter Wren: a few more than usual; singing thru May at the Cornwall Nature Museum; also singing Apr 16 at Thompson Pd, Dutch. Carolina Wren: 1 thru period Cornwall; perhaps 2 or 3 more in Dutch. Long-billed Marsh Wren: absent from usual haunts in mid-May; numbers normal late in month. Mockingbird: numbers good; WCC reports 26, usual avg 15. Catbird: 1 Apr 1 and Apr 8 in Pleasant Valley, probably wintered; first migrant May 1 in Dutch; normal thereafter. Brown Thrasher: first migrants Apr 19; normal. Thrushes: Mabel Little reports them unusually silent around Carmel; Veery and Wood Thrush unheard there thru end of period. Hermit Thrush: EP obs 9 Apr 30 in Dutch. Swainson's Thrush:

1, early, Apr 22 Dutch (M,JK); excellent flight there May 11-15; 28 on WCC, avg usually 15. Gray-cheeked Thrush: very few; absent from most censuses. Blue-bird: numbers down, but migrants seen several times from Hook Mt hawk watch. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: numbers better than usual; many breeding pairs scattered thru region; appeared most parts Apr 22-23. Golden-crowned Kinglet: heavy movement Apr 22 at Thompson Pd; WCC reported 18, an unusually late date. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: also heavy movement on Apr 22 at Thompson Pd and Tamarack. Pipit: few scattered reports in May; 13 at Piermont Pier on RAC; 21 in Dutch on WCC; last 1 May 19 Middletown. Loggerhead Shrike: only report, 1 Apr 16 Pugsley Hill Rd, Dutch (M,JK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: always scarce, absent from usual locations; only report 1 May 10 near Kripplebush (FH), this is the first record of its occurrence in the Rondout Valley. Solitary Vireo: unusually good numbers; first 2 Apr 22 Dutch; 27 on WCC, avg usually 2. *PHILADELPHIA VIREO*: 1 May 1-2 at Pok'psie (AJ); 1 May 13 Bashakill (EDT,PJ). Warbling Vireo: numbers down; first Apr 29 in Dutch.

Black-and-white Warbler: first Apr 19 Hook Mt. *PROTHONOTARY WARBLER*: 1 May 13 Pok'psie at IBM plant (M,JK). Golden-winged Warbler: first May 5 Red Oaks Mill (MK); numbers seem down. Blue-winged Warbler: first Apr 29 Dutch (AJ). Brewster's Warbler: only report, May 13 Dunderberg Mt (EDT,PJ). Tennessee Warbler: first May 7; common May 22 at Bashakill. Nashville Warbler: first Apr 23 Red Oaks Mill (M,JK); max of 36 on WCC. Parula Warbler: first 3 on May 1 (MK); max 42 on WCC. Magnolia Warbler: first 1 May 1 (J,MK); numbers appear down. Cape May Warbler: first May 6 several locations; max 15 on WCC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one of the best years for this species; first May 1 several locations; max 75 on WCC. Myrtle Warbler: flight reported as "gigantic" from May 5-15; more than 500 on WCC. Black-throated Green Warbler: first May 1, several locations; good flight; 49 on WCC. Cerulean Warbler: observed near Weyant's Pd, USMA but not on usual breeding territory of last few years; late in arr and scarce thru region; first May 12; only 3 nesting pair counted in Dutch; only 2 on WCC. Blackburnian Warbler: first May 1, Bashakill; reported good there and in Dutch, but absent from most areas; none on RAC, but 22 on WCC the same day. Chestnut-sided Warbler: first 2 May 1; numbers normal; 34 on WCC. Bay-breasted Warbler: a few reported; never many; first May 7. Blackpoll Warbler: first May 7; numbers good but lower than usual; only 7 on WCC. Pine Warbler: always rare and often unreported; 1 Apr 16 and 1 Apr 27. Prairie Warbler: 1 Apr 25; 27 on WCC. Ovenbird: first Apr 26 at Hook Mt; numbers good by second week of May. Louisiana Waterthrush: generally late; first May 3. *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: 1 on WCC near Fishkill (Beedy Serra, Lou Kingsley, Dave Seymour). *CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: very rare in spring 1 on WCC north of Mt Beacon (Beedy Serra et al). Mourning Warbler: always uncommon, often missed; 1 on MCC; 1 on WCC; and 1 May 16 at Nyack. Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 on MCC at Goose Pd Mt Pk where it was found last year. Wilson's Warbler: 16 on WCC was unusually high.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: absent from usual locations; 5 reported in Dutch; first May 5; majority were first year males. Baltimore Oriole: first Apr 19; good numbers from May 1 on. Rusty Blackbird: single birds on WCC and MCC were very late. Scarlet Tanager: reported late in Putn; first May 7 in Dutch; numbers normal. Indigo Bunting: sev very early dates, but numbers very low till last week of May; 3 May 3 and 1 May 4 at Chester; 2 May 5 in Dutch. *DICKCISSEL*: 1 Apr 15 in Pleasant Valley (EP). Evening Grosbeak: remained thru 3rd week of May in excellent numbers from most areas; reported on all censuses. Purple Finch: numbers better than usual; 140 on WCC; many Apr 20 in Cornwall; several flocks there with as many as 40 birds. House Finch: numbers

seem to be leveling off; 18 on WCC. Common Redpoll: from 50 to 60 on Apr 17 in Dutch; last 2 on Apr 25. Pine Siskin: continued thru third week of May in good numbers; 50 on WCC. Red Crossbill: 2 thru April (No dates) at Millbrook. White-winged Crossbill: 6 on RAC at the home of Mrs. Winston C. Perry, Sr. in Central Nyack. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 on RAC Piermont Pier; 1 May 7 Pok'psie; and 4 on WCC at Pine Plains. Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Apr 19 and thereafter at New Paltz. (Robert Pyle) Vesper Sparrow: small numbers thru Apr and into May; first 3 Apr 8 Dutch. Slate-colored Junco: last 2 May 21 Dutch. Tree Sparrow: May dates usually discounted, but 1 on RAC by P. French who should know. Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 10 Dutch; good numbers from Apr 15 on. White-crowned Sparrow: a banner year; first Apr 21 Dutch; in excellent numbers thru May; 50 on WCC which usually averages 15. Fox Sparrow: last Apr 20 in Dutch. Lincoln's Sparrow: in better numbers than usual; P. French observed 1 May 3-4 at New City; the number rose a few days later to 3, and he was astounded to find 6 on RAC, May 13, all were gone by the next day; single birds were on WCC and several other dates in mid-May.

Summer reports due Sept 1.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y., 10928