

REGION 9 —DELAWARE—HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Rains and melting precipitation for March totaled slightly over 3.2", drier than usual. April and May saw about 3.75" and 4.50" respectively which is above average. March continued the warm trend of February except for one cold spell during the middle of the month. April was near normal except for one severe warm spell between the 13th and 22nd when temperatures reached the high 90's. May was almost normal except for a severe cold period again in mid-month which dropped nighttime temperatures to the high 30's F (3+° C) in the lowlands, and above freezing in higher elevations.

The warmth of mid-April brought out the leaves and flowers nearly two to three weeks in advance of what they should have been, obscuring the view of warblers traveling through high in the trees. The cold of mid-May destroyed many buds and blossoms, ruining the apple farming of the mid-Hudson Valley. Its effect on bird life is still to be seen. In spite of the early foliage, local breeding birds generally arrived on time. But the constant lament of the local birders was "Where are the transients?" Many went virtually unseen, or were observed only in ones and twos for the entire period. Residents were normal in numbers.

A spring hawk watch at Hook Mountain has been organized and totaled 18 hours in Feb., 32 hours in March and 167 hours in April. The results of this effort are included in the report.

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Abbreviations: BBC—Burroughs Natural History Society Bird Count, May 16; MBC—Mearns Bird Club Bird Count, May 15; WBC—Waterman Bird Club Bird Count, May 15; HMW—Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 3 Kiamesha L. Apr. 27. Several reports for Oran and Dutch, all Apr. and May. Red-throated Loon: 2 Croton Pt. May 9 (WH). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 on MBC and another on WBC, 20 miles apart on the Hudson R. Great Blue Heron: Dutch heronries doing well; 8 near Thompson Pd, and 12 near Tamarack. A new, small colony at Jeffersonville, Dutch (MB). Great Egret: 1 near Pleasant Valley Apr. 24. Snowy Egret: 5, Moodna Marsh May 12 (AM). Least Bittern: Early return to Moodna Marsh May 2 (ET). Mute Swan: max 27, Hudson R near Croton Pt. May 24. Brant: 300 over Stanfordville May 12 were very early (TH). The 1,000 or more over Highland Falls May 23 was more usual (Rita Treacy). Snow Goose: better than usual numbers scattered thru entire period. Max 300 May 22 Rhinebeck Bridge. Pintail: 12 Goshen Mar. 21. More than 100 Mar. 14 was the most ever seen in Dutch at one time. Only 11 there 1 week later. Blue-winged Teal: very uncommon in late May. 1 Goshen May 15, and 1 all month at Thompson Pd. Redhead: 11 reported in Dutch mid-March. Ring-necked Duck: up to 100 at Basher Kill Mar. 23 (MB). Oldsquaw: 1 Wappinger L. thru Mar. 30. Ruddy Duck: 1 May 15-21 at Goshen.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 2 nesting Town of Bethel, Sull May 27 (MB). BLACK VULTURE: 1 obs by Brother Michael Billings over Rt. 55 in Dutch Apr. 22 might well be the same bird obs at HMW Apr. 24. Goshawk: more spring reports than usual. 7 on HMW, 4 of which passed btw Apr. 5-10. The last there was Apr. 17. 1 Cornwall Apr. 18, and 1 Mohonk L May 16. 2 Apr. 7 Pond Gut Dutch were calling and circling together. Possibly a mated pair. Cooper's Hawk: 6 Apr. records on HMW, 4 btw Apr. 11-16. 1 Cornwall Mar. 20. Broad-winged Hawk: 1,220 on HMW, max 266 Apr. 17, and 223 on both Apr. 28,

29. Rough-legged Hawk: only 1, Verbank Apr. 15 (MVW). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: the 2-3 birds that wintered at Stissing were not obs after Mar. 1 on HMW Apr. 6. Bald Eagle: none on HMW but sev reports in May; 1 Rondout Res Mar. 29; imm. 1 imm Basher Kill May 14-15; 1 ad Basher Kill Mar. 17-18, 1 Mar. 1 Cruger's Is, 1 May 20 Washington Hollow, and 1 May 20 Staatsburgh.

Osprey: 75 on HMW, max 11 Apr. 16. Peregrine Falcon: 1 on HMW May 1. 1 Washington Hollow May 20 (MVW). Merlin: 1 on HMW in Mar. Ruffed Grouse: low everywhere except Dutch where it was heard "everywhere." Bobwhite: only 1 dur Apr. and May at Bangall. Turkey: usual in Sull, sev in Dutch dur Apr. and May. Apparently released last year. Virginia Rail: 1 heard near Weyant's Pd. May 10. First time that area. Am. Woodcock: All over. Nest with 4 eggs in Pleasant Valley Mar. 28. Birds on Mine Rd, USMA still in full courtship May 21. 1 ad with chick observed in Dutch Apr. 17. Common Snipe: usual good numbers. **WILLET**: 1 Cornwall Bay obs flying, walking and calling (AM). **RED KNOT**: first Ulst record from Mohonk May 25. Was injured and turned over to Heinz Meng. Pectoral Sandpiper: BBC, and 2 reports from Dutch May 11 and 16. Least Sandpiper: good in May; max 19 May 24 Croton Pt. Short-billed Dowitcher: BBC and WBC. The latter 12-14 birds at Pleasant Valley (MVW). **GLAUCOUS GULL**: 1 Croton Pt. Mar. 31 and Apr. 3. **ICELAND GULL**: 1 imm Cornwall Bay Mar. 13, 21 (EDT). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Basher Kill May 5 (MB).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues high. Barred Owl: 1 heard Basher Kill Apr. 14 (EDT). Long-eared Owl: 1 Apr. 23 Pleasant Valley. Whip-poor-will: 1 in weakened condition Apr. 29 was revived by Irma Dewitt of New Paltz and released. Com. Nighthawk: max May 17 Dutch. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: at least 15 reports in Dutch dur May. First Apr. 21 Kripplebush was very early (FH). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 daily thru Mar. in Pkpsie. 1 at Pocantico Hills May 10 where they nested last year. Red-headed Woodpecker: always rare, 1 month of May at suet East Park (FG).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Apr. 16 Pkpsie was very early (OW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 1 May 22 Dover. Acadian Flycatcher: sev May reports in Dutch. 1 May 11 near Lithgow. 2 May 22 Dover, and 1 May 26 Lithgow. Least Flycatcher: 1 Mohonk L Apr. 18 was early. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 BBC, 1 May 24 Ferncliff and 1 May 26 Lithgow. Horned Lark: 100 Mar. 26 near Red Hook; 6 May 27 Dutch Co. Airport. Tree Swallow: first Mar. 20 Cruger's Is, and Mar. 21 Basher Kill. Rough-winged Swallow: 4 Wurtsboro Apr. 8. **GRAY JAY**: Wintering bird departed after first week of May, Moore's Mills. Fish Crow: more than usual; resident at usual locations. A new location established at Highland Falls from Apr. 4. Boreal Chickadee: 1 Willowemoc Apr. 10. Brown Creeper: singing May 26 near Lithgow. Carolina Wren: exceptional winter success. Brown Thrasher: 1 thru Mar. Pkpsie. E. Bluebird: nest-box program in Dutch having good results. Golden-crowned Kinglet: a pr May 22 and 28 at Sharparoon singing; 1 in spruce grove at N end of Kensico Res May 25 where several summered last year. Water Pipit: obs on BBC and WBC. 20 on latter count. Northern Shrike: 1 Mar. 2 Pt Valley (MVW); 1 Mar. 25 Basher Kill.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: No marked movements obs thru entire period. White-eyed Vireo: 1 May 22 near Weyant's Pd; 1 Croton Pt. May 24. Solitary Vireo: 4 Dutch reports in May; 1 May 22, 26 were very late. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 15 Dutch (Bill Consiglio) and another Basher Kill May 22 (EDT). Worm-eating Warbler: 4 at Elmsford Ridge btwn Elmsford and Tarrytown May 11 (WH). Golden-winged Warbler: numbers down. Blue-winged Warbler: 1 near Mohonk Apr. 25 was early. Brewster's Warbler: 1 Lithgow in May (BS). Lawrence's Warbler: 1 Weyant's Pd. May 10 (EDT); 1 May 25 Pleasantville (WH). Tennessee Warbler: numbers very high on WBC. Cape May Warbler: max 6 on Elmsford Ridge May 11. Cerulean Warbler: back at Weyant's Pd by May 10; did not return to Cruger's Is this year; only 2 pr nesting at Mt. Rutsen where 3 pr were found last year; obs in 2 areas of Ulst on BBC. Pine Warbler: 1 Red Oaks Mill Mar. 30 (JMK). Prairie Warbler: up over last year. Breeding in usual palces. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: singing loudly on south end of Elmsford Ridge May 11-31 (WH). Mourning Warbler: only 1 Amenia May 28 (WTS). Yellow-breasted

Chat; continues to decrease; only reports 1 Wawarsing May 8 (JCO), another near Weyant's Pd May 15.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: first May 5 Applewood, Dutch. Numbers good. ORCHARD ORIOLE: more than usual, but still rare. 1 on BBC and another at USMA, West Point May 15 (ET); 1 in Dutch week of May 24. Indigo Bunting: on time and in excellent numbers. Evening Grosbeak: a flock of over 200 May 4 at Wawarsing. Last there May 18 (JCO). 1 Monticello May 10 and another Basher Kill May 15. Common Redpoll: 30 at Divine Corners Mar. 13-16. Last Apr. 12 Frost Valley (MB). Pine Siskin: remained in numbers thru mid-May. Last at Sharparoon, Dutch near Dover May 22. Red Crossbill: 1 at Mohonk L on BBC. A pr with young recently fledged June 2 Middletown (JT). Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 on MBC and another on WBC. Dark-eyed Junco: heard singing at Lithgow May 26 where it has often been nesting. Tree Sparrow: most disappeared April 14-16 dur heat wave; 1 May 1 in Dutch was very late (HM). White-crowned Sparrow: 2 thru Mar. 30 at Chester; numbers good in Dutch dur May, but not so elsewhere. White-throated Sparrow: exc numbers thru winter and spring. Snow Bunting: last 4 Gretna Rd. Dutch Mar. 17 (MVW). Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO and BARBARA J. SPENCER

Weather data for the period.

	Av. High Temp.	Av. Low Temp.	Precip.
March	52.0 ⁰ F	36.8 ⁰ F	2.96 in.
April	64.7 ⁰ F	45.2 ⁰ F	2.80 in.
May	69.6 ⁰ F	50.7 ⁰ F	4.77 in.

Disappointed and concerned observers on Long Island are considering the possibility that the "Silent Spring" arrived this year. Warbler migration was nearly absent from all areas east of Forest Park, Queens. Even such well known spring migrant traps as Central Park, and Alley Pond Park in Queens were unusually quiet this year. Flycatchers were in low numbers as well, as insectivorous species in general were hard to find.

Extremes of weather were experienced during the period with temperatures dropping below freezing in mid-April followed by a week of ninety-degree heat through the third week in April, with concomitant drought. Early May was cold and wet.

Hopes, raised by sightings of three and four individuals on April 10 and 11, that an isolated breeding population of European Goldfinches had been discovered at the Muttontown Preserve, were deflated when an eager goldfinch hunter met a binocularless man who was also searching for the birds. His interest was in their survival through recent cold nights; he said that he had released six birds, three males and three females, in early April. Apparently the birds had been obtained legally at considerable expense and effort. All were in good health at time of release with the possible exception of one bird. The males were singing. He said that he had released the birds because they were nervous cage birds, difficult to breed in captivity. He had hoped that they would find congenial habitat at Muttontown. (This man also breeds canaries and Zebra Finches, so don't get too excited if you see any little black and white birds!)

Perhaps the most cooperative bird of the season was a Saw-whet Owl that spent a week during March in the ornamental shrubs around Peter Cooper Village on 23rd Street in New