

4 May (MB). House Finch: arr Newcomb 18 Mar, Tupper L 25 Apr. Com. Redpoll: max flocks of 100 Newcomb and Tupper L during Mar, last Newcomb 3 Apr. **HOARY RED-POLL**: one Elizabethtown 15 Mar (KE). Pine Siskin: 20 Auger Pd 28 Mar, migrant flocks widely reported during early May. Evening Grosbeak: large flocks early May, female mate-feeding male Paradox 10 May (MB), male in display flight Elizabethtown early May (JP).

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There is no Region 8 report because we have no Region 8 Editor.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Warm days from mid-March through April brought the foliage out early. Low-land maples were in full leaf by 20 Apr, almost two weeks early. Cold days in early Mar froze the Hudson in the northern part of the Region from the 7th through the 16th, when it opened again. May was warmer than usual, but not excessively so and not enough to discourage birding.

Precipitation in Mar was largely restricted to three days in mid-month and was about a third of normal. April precipitation was only slightly above normal, but the surprise was an all day snowfall on the 23rd. Anywhere from two to eight inches fell depending on the elevation. 24 Apr was a beautiful day! Your reporter, who was counting hawks from a lawn chair perched on eight inches of snow atop Mt. Peter, watched that snow melt completely away around him by the day's end.

May was a beautiful month with well below normal precipitation. The only significant rain was about an inch that fell from the 20th to the 23rd. Although rain did little to dampen the fervor of most birders, the dearth of birds did. Several veteran correspondents expressed dismay and true concern for the continually dropping numbers of birds in recent years, and the complete absence of certain species. "Why?" was asked by many, and no answers were forthcoming.

Bob Deed reported warbler waves in Rockland during late Apr and again on 7 and 17 May, with the latter date the best. All other correspondents noted the movement on 17 May but not on the earlier dates. Luckily, 17 May coincided with the "Big Day" activities of most local clubs. The 162 species found by the Waterman Club broke their previous high of 160 for that count, set in 1972. Otis Waterman reported that most of the warblers found were moving up the Harlem Valley bordering the east side of the county and not on the west along the Hudson Valley.

The icing of the Hudson in Mar slowed the departure of a few species of

waterfowl. Hawk movements were good in Apr. Shorebirds, with the exception of Com. Snipe, were scarce. Flycatchers were down in numbers, and several species such as Acadian and Alder Flycatchers did not arrive until the end of the period. Tree Swallows arrived very early—one over the ice at Croton Falls on 11 Mar—but their numbers were wanting, as were those of the rest of that family. There were more Carolina Wrens reported during the winter than in the spring. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were missed by many. Thrushes were well below normal, but mimids were well reported. N. Mockingbird now are found everywhere. Vireos and warblers were poor both in species and in numbers. Your reporter birded almost daily and failed to find several migrant species locally. A few other species were represented by only one or two birds.

Rarities were few and far between, and their quality was not as spectacular as might be expected. Especially notable were: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Oldsquaw, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, Swallow-tailed Kite, Chukar, N. Shrike, Kentucky and Connecticut Warbler, Summer Tanager and White-winged Crossbill. What appeared to be a hybrid between Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow appeared at Denis Murphy's feeder in Warwick from 5 to 7 Apr. It superficially resembled a Black-chinned Sparrow. Its nape and back had the brown markings of a White-throat, but it had the dark gray forehead, wings and upper breast of a junco. Its throat was white. It travelled with juncos but fed much later in the evening with the White-throats, well after the juncos had gone to roost. About a dozen other hybrids of this combination are known.

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Abbreviations: MBH—Mearns Club "Break-a-hundred" 17 May; MPHWH—Mount Peter Hawk Watch; WMC—Waterman Club May Census 17 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: a few passed MPHWH late Apr; up to nine Croton Res 24 Apr-4 Jun. Pied-billed Grebe: arr two Bashakill 27 Mar. **RED-NECKED GREBE**: one Rondout Cr near the Hudson 6 Apr, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: two large flocks totaling about 140 flew north past Hood Mt 20 Apr; the usual few along the length of the Hudson to the end of the period, but numbers do not seem to be increasing and no evidence of breeding yet. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: ad Croft Pd near Pine Plains for two weeks until 20 May, second ever for WMC. **TUNDRA SWAN**: two Bashakill 22 Mar (JAr). **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: two at Sylvan L, Dutc, last seen 3 Mar. Snow Goose: one to six wintering Dutc until first week of Mar; one white and one blue morph with several hundred Canada Geese in field below MPHWH 6 Mar; strong movement over Region last half of Apr. Brant: more than 2000 over Iona the eve of 19 May; more than 160 over Middletown 20 May; 20 over Poughkeepsie 24 May. Canvasback: most left during Feb thaw; good migration Dutc in Mar, max 300 Chelsea 3 Mar and 2250 near Vanderburgh Cove 16 Mar; last Bannerman's I in the Hudson 3 May. Redhead: two Esopus Light 15 Mar (MVW), always scarce. Lesser Scaup: one with Greater WMC 17 May first for that count. **OLDSQUAW**: an amazing 20 at Ashokan 12 Apr (Burroughs Club field trip). Hooded Merganser: at least six Bashakill all period, seen standing on Wood Duck boxes on several occasions. Red-breasted Merganser: last Kiamesha L 12 Apr. Ruddy Duck: 25 Croton Pt 22 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: one Pound Ridge 28 Apr (TM), first West record; one Bear Mt SP 19 Mar; four MPHWS; two over Mine Rd, USMA, on MBH; almost unknown Regionally only a few seasons ago, now almost regular. Osprey: max 33 MPHWS 27 Apr, total 124. Bald Eagle: 27 ad and nine im DEC count by helicopter 18 Mar; many wintering birds lingered late, last Croton 7 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 173 MPHWS 27 Apr, total 444. Cooper's Hawk: max three MPHWS, total eight; active nest Weyant's Pd early May. N. Goshawk: only one MPHWS 15 Apr; apparently abandoned nesting site near Island Pd in Harriman SP. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Orr's Mills, Oran, 20 Mar, early; max 498 MPHWS 27 Apr, total 1445. Red-tailed Hawk: albino at New Hempstead along Palisades Parkway last seen 30 Mar (L & EM), apparently did well. Rough-legged Hawk: last Warwick area 20 Mar, Monticello 29 Mar. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** ad Hook Mt 13 Apr (L & EM); ad and im lingered Mongaup Res, Sull, thru 23 Mar. Am. Kestrel: numbers up Dutc but low elsewhere; max 6 MPHWS 27 Apr, total 19. Merlin: total six MPHWS; only one over Hook Mt 19 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: none reported! **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** one Mt Kisco 5 May (GD, NYSARC). **CHUKAR:** one found dead along a road Dutc 20 Apr (AJ). N. Bobwhite: Burroughs Century Day 17 May (no details); singles Pawling 21 May, Quaker Hill, Dutc, 28 May; barely hanging on. Am. Coot: two Cornwall Bay 22 Mar, unusual. Black-bellied Plover: singles MBH and WMC 17 May, latter only second for count ever. Semipalmated Plover: three Wurtsboro 17 May; two WMC. **DUNLIN:** one 6½ Sanctuary, Goshen, 17 May, new to MBH; one WMC 17 May also a first; one Croton Bay 26 May (BW). Com. Snipe: good numbers Wisner Rd, Warwick, and Black Meadow Rd, Chester, in Mar; singles Amenia 14 Apr and Hunn's L 20 Apr, very low for Dutc in Apr.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: scarce. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: record early by ten days Rockland L 13 Apr, but scarce thereafter. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles calling Goshen 1 Apr, near Saugerties all period (seen on 27 Apr); probably more widespread than suspected. Whip-poor-will: again at Iona I and along Mine Rd, USMA, locations seemingly abandoned years ago. Red-headed Woodpecker: none reported, perhaps overlooked.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Pawling 13 May, early; few reported. E. Wood-Pewee: record early by 14 days Rockland L 15 Apr. Acadian Flycatcher: arr Teatown Lake Res, West, 25 May, late; two Bashakill 31 May only other report. E. Kingbird: arr Pawling 20 Apr, early. Fish Crow: at least five in valley of Bashakill to Wawarsing for second year. Golden-crowned Kinglet: very light spring movement; pair persisted Middletown Res area through May. Water Pipit: max 100+ near Amenia 12 Apr, often missed in spring. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers, max 400 Dutc. N. **SHRIKE:** one at IBM in Ulster Twn last seen 1 Mar; one at Pound Ridge Res last seen 17 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: arr Wawarsing 30 Apr (JCO), earliest ever there; several Dutc in May including two WMC 17 May. Golden-winged Warbler: continues its decline, possibly as many former sites now are too grown up to support it. Brewster's Warbler: one Goose Pond Mt P near Chester 13-15 May; one WMC 17 May, fourth ever. Lawrence's Warbler: one WMC 17 May, third ever, only report. Pine Warbler: arr Poughkeepsie 27 Mar, earliest for Dutc by three days; two Hook Mt 20 Apr, one in pine grove on w side of Bashakill during May. Cerulean Warbler: only single pairs Ferncliff, Dutc, and at Mine Rd, USMA, where resident for years. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** singles Butler Sanctuary early May, Marist Hall, Rt 310, Putn, 17 May and Brinton Brook Sanctuary 17 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one Teatown L Res 4 May (JV!). Mourning Warbler: one mid-May at Bashakill, only report w of Hudson; one WMC 17 May fourth ever for count. Yellow-breasted Chat: singles Teatown L Res late May (RL), Bashakill 17 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **SUMMER TANAGER**: male Westmoreland Sanctuary 15 May (KW). Chipping Sparrow: arr two Pawling 21 Mar (SG), early. Henslow's Sparrow: three Galeville Airport last half of May, where several dozen formerly present; new land uses, including model airplane flying, may have reduced the colony and could cause its extirpation. Lincoln's Sparrow: one MBH, three WMC 17 May, only reports. E. Meadowlark: one Piermont Pier 20 Apr, first spring Rock record in three years. Orchard Oriole: one Upper Nyack 24 Apr, record early for Rock by six days; small "colony" Westbrookville returned in mid-May; three pairs, including a breeding im male, Dutc; high. Pine Grosbeak: seven Monticello 5 Mar, four Millerton 8 Mar, 25 SCCC 17 Mar. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**: two males bathing in a brook S Nyack 30 Mar, first since 1982; Rock has more March records than for any other month. Com. Redpoll: four Hook Mt 23 Feb, first Rock record since Jan 1983; one Higland Mills 1 Mar; 45 Dutc 1 Mar; two flocks 100± each Wisner Rd, Warwick 6 Mar; 25 Salt Point 7 Mar, last seven Pleasant Valley 17 Mar.

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[With this issue Ed Treacy, our senior Regional Editor, steps down from a long and distinguished tenure as Region 9 Editor. On behalf of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs I extend thanks for his many years of labor so faithfully contributed to *The Kingbird*. —The Editor]

The Region 10 report had not arrived in time for this issue of *The Kingbird*.