

REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN MANSON

A record breaking hot spell in mid March sent temperatures soaring into the 80s and provided some early spring peeper records for the Hudson Valley. However, the promise of an early spring was dashed by three inches of snow at the month's end. Waterfowl migration on the Hudson River was generally poor, although some inland ponds brought forth some good sightings. Eastern Bluebird began nesting in March but some did not succeed due to cold wet weather and lack of insects. Later nestings were mostly successful. April was generally cool although temperatures averaged 3.5° higher than normal. Some birds were at least

a week late but a flurry of activity in late April brought in some good migrants. May seemed to be either rainy or windy and generally cool, which made birding hard. The leaves were pretty well out by the time most census runs were done in mid month and, though most were in, warblers were hard to see. A few species were late arriving.

Humpo Marsh continues to add surprises. This year a Black Tern was seen. Mallard and Wood Duck hatched young and both Green-backed and Great Blue Heron persisted but as yet no nests have been found.

Steve Stanne reports while out in a boat in the Hudson River just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge he saw a **shearwater**. He was in mid channel and the bird was moving up river off the east shore. A brief view through 7x50 binoculars allowed the following observation: "Wednesday, April 11, 3:15 pm. a small shearwater flying north on the Hudson off Kingsland Pt Park in N. Terrytown - low glide over water followed by a climb - rapid wing beats, stiffly held wings - then another glide; at a distance all I could make out was dark, almost black upper parts, white underparts and wing linings - no other distinguishing pattern or marks on wings or body such as darker cap or white at base of tail" He was not able to distinguish between Manx and Audubon's Shearwaters on the basis of the field marks seen but the season as well as both species' seasonal occurrence in the northeast suggest Manx Shearwater. This interesting observation must remain a tentative record only.

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Abbreviations: EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club; HMHW - Hook Mt Hawkwatch; MPHWH - Mount Peter Hawkwatch; SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society; WMC - Waterman May Census, 12 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Rondout Res 11 Apr (JW), one West Branch Res 12 Apr (FB), one White L 12 Apr (AJ). Pied-billed Grebe: most areas by mid Mar. Horned Grebe: three, one in Alt plumage, Ashakan Res 6 Apr (DH), one 31 Mar. Round Pd, DUTC (JMK). **Red-necked Grebe**: one Round Pd 7-18 Mar (DF, MY), one Orange L 24 Mar (KMCD). **Shearwater sp**: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: three Upper Toronto Res 10 Apr (AJ), first she has ever seen there; well observed on the Hudson R. Am. Bittern: three WMC, one Valkill 18 Apr (DH); few noted (JPT). Least Bittern: none! Great Blue Heron: many singles noted; on nests Tamarack 11 Mar, one on nest between lanes of Taconic Parkway DUTC; seven on nests and on ground Warwick 25 Mar (ET); also noted at nests Stissing. Green-backed Heron: very few (JPT), six WMC, one Dover Plains 25

Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one 19-20 L Walton (BM). Tundra Swan: one overhead honking like a goose Monticello 30 Apr (AB). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Greenland race Round Pd 6-16 Mar (MY, DF, ET). Snow Goose: 300-400 overhead Hartland 28 Mar (M & TM); ten 11-31 Mar Round Pd DUTC; good night flights. Brant: large transits up the Hudson R evening 8 Mar (ET). **Barnacle Goose:** one Round Pd 6-11 Mar. Canada Goose: many wintered; return flights mid Mar, nesting early Apr. Wood Duck: abundant SULL, ORAN: 40-50 Bashakill 31 Mar, 60 WMC. Green-winged Teal: 29 DUTC Mar-Apr. Am. Black Duck: female with nine y Wappingers Creek (MVW), normal throughout Region. N. Pintail: four Neversink R through Mar, six Round Pd 11 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: two Bashakill 12 May, eight central DUTC mid Apr, two L Walton 22 Apr. N. Shoveler: four 6 1/2 Mile Station 17 Mar (JPT); one Wassaic 17 Mar (DF, MY). Am Wigeon: two L Walton 7 Mar, four Round Pd 17 Mar. Canvasback: max 20 Hudson R in Mar (OTW), scarce; four Round Pd. Redhead: four Round Pd 16 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: good numbers most areas, max 50 Abels Pd, 60 Round Pd. Greater Scaup: three L Oniad DUTC Apr; six Hudson R 6 Apr; four Orange L 31 Apr. Lesser Scaup: observed Hudson R 24 Mar (JBNHS). Oldsquaw: one Hudson R 6 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: 15 Hudson R Mar two Travers Marsh DUTC 27 Mar. Bufflehead: two Bashakill 31 Mar, six Beaver Dam Pd 10 Mar (VF), four Kenoza L 20 Apr (DH); seven Kays Pd 11 Mar. Hooded Merganser: six Beaver Dam Pd 2 Mar (SCAS), nesting in Wood Duck box Stissing (TH). Com. Merganser: good migration PUTN (FB) and DUTC (OTW); 40 Rondout Res 27 Swan L (SCAS). Red-breasted Merganser: good migration PUTN, stayed well into Apr (FB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** three HMHW, two flying north with 12 Turkey Vultures Iona I 22 Mar (ET); three over Wisner Farm ORAN 7 Mar. Turkey Vulture: 80 at a roost Ellenville 16 Mar. Osprey: arr Neversink Res 2 Mar, very early (JPT), 60 HMHW, 79 MPHWH Apr; two Bashakill 19 May, two WMC. Bald Eagle: one HMHW, three MPHWH; one pair hatched two young SULL; imm Bashakill all spring; scattered singles several SULL sites; ad Ashokan Res 4 Mar (DH); one 23 May, one Wawarsing 16-19 Mar (JO), two MPHWH; scattered sightings DUTC Mar, Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 99 MPHWH, 361 HMHW, several reports at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: 18 HMHW, five MPHWH, nesting for second year Millbrook area. N. Goshawk: two WMC, one HMHW, one Taconic 14 Apr (BM). Red-shouldered Hawk: 66 HMHW, one over Newburg 19 May (JPT), one MPHWH, one Valkill 27 Mar, one Ferncliff DUTC 9 May. Broad-winged Hawk: 1784 HMHW, 974 MPHWH, five WMC, 30 Tamarack and Pleasant Valley 20 Apr, 40 over Hudson R 26 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: nesting most areas. Rough-legged Hawk: several at three SULL locales early Mar; one Pond Gut DUTC 10 Mar. Golden Eagle: one Rhinebeck 2 Mar, eating squirrel. Am. Kestrel: 158 HMHW, 14 MPHWH, 14 WMC; seem normal or better in DUTC. Merlin: nine HMHW, five MPHWH, injured bird found in Carmel, taken to Green Chimney farm to have its broken wing mended, it survived but probably will not be released. Peregrine Falcon: one MPHWH, one HMHW; Dr. Heinz Meng reports an extensive survey is being planned to determine if any pairs are settling in the

Shawangunk Mts, where it is hoped that they will return to the old nesting sites that were last used in 1957. Ruffed Grouse: 12 WMC. Wild Turkey: good sightings continue most areas. **King Rail**: two WMC from marsh near Pine Plains. Virginia Rail: reported from Bashakill, scattered areas DUTC. Greater Yellowlegs: three WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two Amenias 6 Apr. Solitary Sandpiper: one Bashakill 12 May, 29 WMC. Spotted Sandpiper: 24 WMC. Upland Sandpiper: two pair on territory Blue Chip Farm 25 Apr. Least Sandpiper: 12 WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: four Blue Chip Farm 25 Apr, two WMC. Dunlin: one Amenias 18 May. Com. Snipe: three or four displaying and winnowing upper Cape Rd 26 Apr (VF). Am. Woodcock: displaying Claryville 16 Mar. Com. Tern: seven WMC. Black Tern: one Humpo Marsh 7 May, one Bashakill 19 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: calling Carmel 9 May, ten WMC; scarce? SULL, ORAN (JPT). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: four WMC. E. Screech-Owl: very few reported. Great Horned Owl: fairly well reported. Barred Owl: one WMC, one Valkill 14-28 (DH). Short-eared Owl: three Pine I 4 Mar (ET), five Gailville Airport 10 Mar, put on a fine show (JPT). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Claryville 1 Mar (SCAS) where they breed. Com. Nighthawk: many DUTC 25 May, 14 WMC. Whip-poor-will: common Bashakill, one WMC, one calling one night only Moores Mills, persistent at Stissing Mt. Red-headed Woodpecker: few sightings most areas, one Poughkeepsie 26-27 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Vassar College 10 Mar. N. Flicker: big migration through Fahnestock Park 11-12 Apr (FB).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Dunderburg Mt 8 May (ET), record early; one WMC, one Bashakill 19 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Bangall DUTC 24 May (MVW). Acadian Flycatcher: two Deep Hollow 25 May, where they nest, arr 22 May SULL. Alder Flycatcher: three at three locales central DUTC. E. Kingbird: arr DUTC 25 Apr. Purple Martin: two or three small colonies DUTC. Com. Raven: several reports SULL, one Millbrook 24 Apr, one WMC at Dover Furnace. Red-breasted Nuthatch: common winter feeder resident, stayed well into spring. Carolina Wren: good numbers throughout Region. House Wren: most returned by 20 Apr. Winter Wren: singing several places DUTC and SULL Mar-May. Marsh Wren: six Tivoli Bay 26 May (DH), eight WMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one WMC, eastern DUTC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: most arrived mid Apr. E. Bluebird: widespread and pleasantly common, *intro*. **Mountain Bluebird**: one N. Terrytown 20 Apr (Robert Lewis). **Townsend's Solitaire**: the bird first discovered in e DUTC by Marion VanWagner, Mary Yegella, Jean Beck and Dot Fleury (whose names I omitted in the last report) was last seen 13 Mar. Gray-cheeked Thrush: few noted in transit (JPT). Swainson's Thrush: very few DUTC, one singing 17-18 May (BM). Hermit Thrush: very quiet. Brown Thrasher: 22 WMC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: second record Mine Torne Rd 22 Apr (EMBC) did not stay; pair Haight Hill through May (MVW, EP), one Vassar Farm 1 May. Solitary Vireo: nest building Pond Gut 8 May. Philadelphia Vireo: two Bashakill 28 Apr, one Ferncliff 24 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: two Buttercup

Sanctuary DUTC, very scarce most areas. Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler: one "Lawrence's" Vassar Campus Apr-May. Cerulean Warbler: three males fighting for territory Ferncliff 9 May, colony heard regularly Doodletown early May (ET). Prothonotary Warbler: one 18 May Bashakill (EMBC). Louisiana Waterthrush: arr on time DUTC 13 Apr and Doodletown 20 Apr (ET). Kentucky Warbler: one Doodletown Cemetery 15 May. Mourning Warbler: one 23 May Valkill (DH); one Bashakill 19 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Pawling 28 Apr, very early; most arrived first week of May. Indigo Bunting: arr two Mine Rd 28 Apr, at least two weeks early (ET). Am. Tree Sparrow: last 25 Apr. Fox Sparrow: lingered through Mar and into early Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: two reports totaling three birds. White-crowned Sparrow: five WMC. Dark-eyed Junco: singing Deep Hollow DUTC late May, where they nest. E. Meadowlark: good spring population. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: well described male 12-13 May Iona I with Red-winged Blackbird (ET). Rusty Blackbird: heavy transit early Mar (JPT), scarce DUTC. Orchard Oriole: one Stewart Airport 29 Apr (OCAS). Purple Finch: low numbers most areas, 30 at feeder Apr, three pair May (FG). White-winged Crossbill: flock of 50± in Catskills ULST 7 Apr (Bill Swabb). Evening Grosbeak: regular at feeders SULL, ORAN, few into Mar; max 30 at De Bruce (JPT).

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