

REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The weather for March was mostly cloudy, cool but not cold. Little rain and three or four inches of snow, which did not last, fell. The Hudson River was fully open in February and by 1 Mar all the ponds were open. Ducks passed through quickly. April was cool and rainy and spring seemed slow. However, many migrants had returned on schedule by the month's end. The warmest May in half a century brought average rainfall and early blooms for apples, lilacs, maples and, especially, Black Locust, which covered the valley with a white cloud of blossoms. Trees leafed out early and by mid month, when the census runs were scheduled, it was nearly impossible to see the warblers we had awaited so long. Due to the early spring and early haying, we were concerned about fledging success of field-nesting birds. One young farmer noted a male Bobolink on a weed stalk and the female dropping down into the grass. The farmer mowed a large swath around the area. Then up flew the female followed by her newly fledged young, much to the farmer's delight.

Returning from shopping on 20 Apr, Tom and Ann Gilbert of Red Hook saw what appeared to be a Great Blue Heron in a field in a nearby farm. On second look they saw that it was actually an unidentified heron or crane. After calling several persons and consulting the field guides the bird was identified as a Common Crane. The word went out and people came from all over. The bird was most obliging as it fed in the field, and the farmer was also obliging as the cars lined the road. Unfortunately, the crane proved to be an escape from a game farm 75 miles away in Delaware County. The bird lingered till 2 May. As far as we know it was never captured and returned to its Crane Ranch home.

Ed Treacy found an albino Red-tailed Hawk on a fence post along Upper Wisner Road, Warwick, on 5 Mar. It had a streaked crown, a few dark feathers across the belly, a few dark feathers in its wings, and a salmon-colored tail with 4-5 evenly spaced white feathers.

Mary and Jim Key, who live on a wooded ridge south of Poughkeepsie, were alerted by a neighbor on 4 April that a pair of large hawks were nesting in their back yard. They observed a pair of Red-shouldered Hawk at the nest site. On 12 April a pair of Broad-winged Hawk returned and tried to claim their nest but the Red-shouldered

Hawk pair stood firm and continued to nest. The Keys, their neighbors and other interested people watched as the hawks raised three young, feeding them Red Squirrels and chipmunks. The birds fledged in mid June. There are very few nestings of Red-shouldered Hawk in Dutchess County and even fewer that can be watched from the back yard of a neighbors home.

Contributors: Sally & Gordon Barnes, Frank Brown, Barbara Butler, Dot Fleury, Padraic French, Florence Germond, Thelma Haight, David Hayes, Carol Jack, Alice Jones, Susan Joseph, Jim & Mary Key, Sandy Koonce, Helen Manson, Barbara Michelin, Russ O'Malley, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spenser, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

Abbreviations: ARes - Ashokan Res; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch; MPHW - Mount Peter Hawk Watch; WMC - Waterman Bird Club Census, 11 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Hudson R DUTC 27 Mar, peak passage 11-14 Apr (JPT). Pied-Billed Grebe: one 22 Apr Bashakill, one PUTN 5 Mar, eight DUTC Mar. Horned Grebe: one ARes 1 Apr (DH). Double-crested Cormorant: six WMC; three Tamarack 29 May, unusual inland sighting; pair courting 26 Apr (FB). Am. Bittern: one Tivoli Bay 7 Apr, two 6 May (AJ); virtually unrecorded SULL-ORAN. Least Bittern: two seen, another heard Moodra Marsh Cornwall Bay 27 May (ET); two WMC. Great Blue Heron: six active heronries DUTC. Great Egret: one Green Fly Swamp, Fishkill 19 May. Green-backed Heron: more noted but still uncommon SULL-ORAN; 12 WMC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one WMC, one Bangall-Amenia area 3 May. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: one Wiccopee 25 Apr (JMK OW). Glossy Ibis: one passed Bashakill 17 May, two flying over Apr (AJ). Snow Goose: 30 on 7 Mar, few other small flocks, 25 SULL 26 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Mud Pd 10-17 Mar, one Round Pd 2-15 Mar. Brant: ten WMC, 300 over Mine Road USMA early May (ET); max 100 going due n over Pleasant Valley 29 May (EP). Wood Duck: 72 WMC, normal most areas; seven y Cruger I 12 May (SJ). Green-winged Teal: nine Tivoli Bay 7 Apr, 30 Bashakill 22 Apr. Am. Black Duck: seems normal most areas. N. Pintail: 45 around DUTC Mar; local max 30 Round Pd 2 Mar (SK), high. Blue-winged Teal: six Craft Pd 5 Apr; two Tivoli Bay 6 May; five Fishkill 6 May (ROM). Am. Wigeon: one WMC, four Dietrich L 5-6 Apr, two Craft Pd 9 Apr; four Kays Pd 21-29 Apr. Canvasback: max 600 Hudson R 6 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: 300 throughout DUTC Mar; 16 Kenozia L 9 Mar, few through Apr. Lesser Scaup: four L Carmel 25 Mar; few noted DUTC; six ARes 26 Apr. Oldsquaw: ten Hudson R 27 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: 13 DUTC Mar. Bufflehead: one L Carmel 13 Mar; seven Kenozia L 3 Mar, 14 on 1 Apr. Hooded Merganser: 15 around DUTC Mar; pair nesting in Wood Duck box Stissing Apr (TH); three Dover Furnace 3 Mar (SK). Com. Merganser: 60 Dietrich L 3 Mar, many there through Apr; two Kenozia L through 16 Apr; 300 E Branch Res 7 Mar

(FB). Red-breasted Merganser: pair Bog Brook Res 3 Apr (FB). Ruddy Duck: two L Carmel 25 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: four feeding and flying over field Warwick 10 Mar (ET); five roosting with Turkey Vultures 3 Mar; two HMHW 28 Apr; two MPH 13 & 28 Apr, probably not migrants (JPT); one WMC, a first. Turkey Vulture: max 115 roost Stony Pt (D Metraux). Osprey: total 81 HMHW, two WMC, peak 31 MPH 19 Apr. Bald Eagle: total five HMHW; four ad, one imm Rio Res 3 Mar; two second year imm Bashakill 11 May; two Vanderburg Cove 5 Mar; one Stissing Mt 18 Apr. N. Harrier: total 43 HMHW; one ARes 1 Apr; pair Waterbury Hill 30 Mar (HM); two WMC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 281 HMHW, max 34 on 23 Apr; max 53 MPH 19 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: total 35 HMHW, ten MPH 19 Apr, pair nesting Bangall Road and Dogwood Hill DUTC; six WMC. N. Goshawk: one HMHW; one MPH 13 Apr; one Bashakill 11 May; one Sheafe Road 5 Mar; two Hunns L 31 Mar. Red-shouldered Hawk: max four MPH 19 Apr; total 60 HMHW; two pair nesting DUTC; *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: total 1853 HMHW, max 547 MPH 19 Apr, good flights 10-12 Apr ULST (SS). Red-tailed Hawk: 53 HMHW; *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: light morph flying and hovering over field Warwick 19 Apr (ET), late. Golden Eagle: one HMHW 25 Mar. Am. Kestrel: total 185 HMHW, excellent number; 36 MPH 13-28 Apr; settling into nesting areas DUTC. Merlin: one 20 Mar Bard College (WBC); one 10 Apr one 19 Apr (MVW), total 25 HMHW. Peregrine Falcon: singles HMHW 4, 16 and 23 Apr; one MPH 15 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues scarce except near Game Farms and Hunting Preserves. Ruffed Grouse: 16 WMC; often seen with young. Wild Turkey: two 6-10 Apr; one unexpectedly exploded out of bushes Hook Mt (PF), three Faunstock Pk 14 Apr, doing well DUTC, SULL, ORAN. N. Bobwhite: six WMC. Virginia Rail: five WMC, continues good numbers (JPT). Sora: heard Humpo Marsh (SS), continues good numbers (JPT), three WMC. Com. Moorhen: two WMC. Am Coot: max 20 L Walton 8 Apr. Com. Crane: *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: one WMC, five Vanderburg Cove Apr. Greater Yellowlegs: two WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: one McEnroe's Farm 22-28 Apr; two Bashakill 22 Apr; also at Humpo Marsh. Solitary Sandpiper: max 25 WMC, four Rhinebeck 12 May (SJ). Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 WMC. Least Sandpiper: max eight WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: one 10 yards off Lime Kiln Road, Slate Hill 24 Mar (ET), very early; two WMC. Dunlin: one 16 Apr (DF). Com. Snipe: max five Red Hook 21 Apr. Am Woodcock: four WMC; still displaying 10 May along Mine Road (ET). Bonaparte's Gull: one standing on shore Conn's Hook, then flew up the Hudson R 12 May (ET). Ring-billed Gull: peak passage Mar with thousands around landfills, malls *etc.*, numbers continue to rise (JPT). Herring Gull: few linger Cornwall Bay to 18 May. Glaucous Gull: one Bashakill 3 Mar (D.J. Bradley). Com. Tern: one flying up Hudson R at Cornwall Bay 18 May. **Forster's Tern:** one Bashakill 22 Apr (DH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four WMC, few noted

(JPT). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one WMC, several reports (WBC); few SULL-ORAN. E. Screech-Owl: two ad, one y Rhinebeck 30 May (SJ). Great Horned Owl: two WMC. Barred Owl: two Valkill 31 May, three WMC. Short-eared Owl: one flew over and into trees HMHW 25 Mar (H. Martin). N. Saw-whet Owl: one found dead along Rt 9 Fishkill 20 Mar (ROM). Com. Nighthawk: five WMC. Whip-poor-will: three WMC; common Bashakill 17-18 May, locally in Hudson Highlands. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one 14 Apr on red azaleas Dover Plains, early; good numbers late Apr and May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two Dennings Pt (ROM). Pileated Woodpecker: good numbers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: five in four reports, last Thompson Pd 22 May (WBC). E. Wood-Pewee: eight WMC. Acadian Flycatcher: arr WMC, four Deep Hollow 17 May (JPT), where they nest, very local. Alder Flycatcher: scarce due to declining habitat (JPT), one Bog Hollow 19 May (DF), one Vassar Farm (SK). Horned Lark: four WMC, one feeding streaked juv Greig Farm, Red Hook (MVW EP). Purple Martin: barely holding their own, only three colonies left, one with two pair (JPT); two Milewood Road 25 Apr, then four pair, less than last year (HM); two other small colonies DUTC. Tree Swallow: arr nine 31 Mar, slow in coming. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 16 WMC, nesting under bridges in drain holes. Bank Swallows: seem to be nesting well. Cliff Swallow: very scarce DUTC, noted ARES 15 & 16 Apr, nest in SULL, ORAN. Barn Swallow: 50 on 29 Apr, late arriving but plentiful. Fish Crow: continue their outpost away from the Hudson R SULL, ORAN. Com. Raven: one quartering the wind HMHW 18 Mar, straight line flight, silent (PF); none for DUTC. Black-capped Chickadee: one with pure white tail at a feeder 10 Mar into Apr (ET). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nest building and FY Millbrook, observed putting pitch all around the outside of the nest hole. Brown Creeper: five WMC, no nest building activity even though they breed here. Carolina Wren: nesting in a two quart pitcher on a garden fence, fledged y 24 May (FG). Winter Wren: one Fishkill 31 Mar; breeding Deep Hollow DUTC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five WMC. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 23 WMC. E. Bluebird: so many wintered that it's hard to tell when the migrants return, nesting well. 75 WMC. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Bashakill 12 May, one New Paltz 15 May. Swainson's Thrush: four WMC; one Deep Hollow 9 May. Hermit Thrush: one singing Brockway Road 18 Apr (HM). Am. Robin: scarce and late arr, plentiful after 19 Mar. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: two Bashakill 12 May; three WMC, several singing DUTC. Solitary Vireo: two Bashakill 11 May; 16 WMC, breeds DUTC; one 24 May Faunstock Pk. Philadelphia Vireo: one WMC, one Bashakill 12 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Dover Plains 2 May; one WMC; one Olive, ULST 26 May. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: single "Brewster's" Cruger I 12 May (SJ), singing Mine Road 10 May and at a different location 19 May (EY). Tennessee Warbler: seemed scarce DUTC. Nashville Warbler: few noted (JPT). N. Parula Warbler: 11 WMC. Yellow Warbler: arr Bowdoin P 24 Apr, early. Magnolia Warbler: few through May, two Bashakill 12 May. Cape May Warbler: scarce most

areas. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 19 WMC. Palm Warbler: one Tivoli Bay 29 Apr, one WMC. Bay-breasted Warbler: max four Milan 13 May (SJ). Blackpoll Warbler: three WMC, excellent passage 11-19 May (JPT); not so DUTC, max two 14-26 May. Cerulean Warbler: singing in five different localities Doodletown 7 May, still singing 25 May (ET); observed Ferncliff where they are known to breed. Worm-eating Warbler: several localities DUTC, one on territory Bashakill 18 May. N. Waterthrush: nine WMC. Louisiana Waterthrush: arrived on target DUTC 10-11 Apr. Mourning Warbler: one Thompson Pd 22 May. Hooded Warbler: singing in four localities Doodletown May (ET); pair observed nest building and feeding young L Ellis Road, Dover Plains (MY, OW); pair on territory W Clove Mt Road (HM); male singing Nellie Hill Nature Conservancy area. Wilson's Warbler: one WMC, very scarce. Canada Warbler: best numbers in recent years (JPT); scarce DUTC. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male 21-24 May (OW, mob), a rare find for this Region.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: good numbers all over. Indigo Bunting: most arr late; 12 WMC. Am. Tree Sparrow: last two Fishkill 3 Apr (ROM). Vesper Sparrow: none! Savannah Sparrow: few reported. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Hopewell Junction 19 Apr (PF), two 5 May Milan only reports. Henslow's Sparrow: none! Fox Sparrow: ten reported 9-31 Mar, one 1-7 Apr DUTC. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reported 9-11 May. Swamp Sparrow: seems to be doing well in suitable habitat. White-throated Sparrow: lingered past mid May. White-crowned Sparrow: 19 WMC; last 19 May. Dark-eyed Junco: migrants left early May, pair with y in nest W Clove Mt Road (HM). Bobolink: arr a bit late. Orchard Oriole: pair Dover Plains 19 May, no nest noted; also reported Stissing and Vassar Farm. Purple Finch: very scarce at feeders. Pine Siskin: last flock SULL early Mar; 12 at feeder 18-29 Apr (JMK). European Goldfinch: one at feeder Campbell Hall 29 Mar. Evening Grosbeak: last at feeder Poughkeepsie 30 Apr.

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[This is the penultimate Regional report prepared by Helen Manson, who so graciously has accepted the task of keeping the Region 9 report going for the past four years. On behalf of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, I am pleased to extend sincere thanks to Helen for the hard work she has done and for the informative reports she has contributed to The Kingbird. Effective the fall season, 1991, the new Region 9 editor will be:

*Mr. John Askildsen, 202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506 —
The Editor]*