

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN ASKILDSEN

This spring's weather was almost the exact opposite of last spring's. Last year we had a warm, dry season with many blue sky days, allowing many birds to migrate over us nonstop. This year we experienced prolonged periods of clouds, rain and mist accompanied often by easterly and sometimes by northerly winds, and cool temperatures. Away from the south shore of Region 10, this type of spring weather spells disaster, and it was, in some respects. Towns on Long Island Sound such as Rye, where this editor does quite a bit of his spring birding, probably had the worst spring migration ever on modern record. Migrants were in severe shortage. Locations such as the Rye Nature Center, which should be teeming with birds were void of them, save one occasion. Where did the birds go, one asks? When fronts from the north arrived in the Region in early May, many migrants naturally shifted their migration south of Region 9. In early May, when the Rye Nature Center yielded exactly three species of warbler, parks on the south shore of Long Island and in New York City were enjoying up to 25 species of warbler. Later in May we experienced prolonged periods of east winds which pushed the migration away from the coastal areas of Region 9 into the interior. Impressive reports were received from counties such as DUTC, where both a good migration as well as seasonal rarities were found.

The Red-necked Grebe migration in Long Island Sound commenced on 12 Apr with two individuals noted by Tom Burke that evening from Rye's Edith G. Read Sanctuary. The migration peaked at the same location, with 23 on 26 Apr and 124 on 28 Apr. Several individuals were reported at sites such as DUTC away from Long Island Sound this spring.

Of special interest is the continued range expansion of several species. Valerie Freer reports the return of Osprey to Region 9 as a breeding species. A pair has successfully nested at Bashakill Marsh in SULL, and another nest was discovered in ULST. This species has spent too many years *in absentia*. Perhaps it is time we pay closer attention to the summering birds along the Hudson River. Common Raven established a nest site near the Appalachian Trail in DUTC. This first breeding record for DUTC extends its breeding range in Region 9 east of the Hudson River for the first time in modern history. Once again there were numerous (12) reports of **Black**

Vulture west of the Hudson River, with a heavy concentration along the New York-New Jersey border. One bird was reported from Cold Spring PUTN in May. Wild Turkey is expanding its range southward in WEST seemingly at a rapid rate. Sightings were noted from as far south as Yonkers! Pretty soon the Yankees won't be the only turkeys in the Bronx!

Notable rarities for the spring season include some holdovers from winter. An adult **Northern Gannet** was observed off Rye Playland on 19 Apr by Tom Burke. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found in northern Dutchess Co. on 4 Mar by Dot Fleury. The **Tufted Duck** previously reported at Rye Playland Lake departed in very late February for Greenwich (Conn) Harbor. It was later rediscovered by Tom Burke at Rye Playland Lake on 16-20 Apr. The previously reported **Eurasian Wigeon** in Rye remained at the Marshlands Conservancy until 1 Apr according to Tom Burke. Five **Whimbrel** were seen flying north over the Bashakill Marsh SULL on 16 May, much to the surprise of numerous observers including Ed Treacy, John P. Tramontano and the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club. A breeding plumaged Black Tern was seen flying past Rye Playland on 25 Apr by Tom Burke. This observation is the only record for the entire Region this spring for this imperiled species. Two **Yellow-throated Warbler** were seen in DUTC, with one being seen on 7 May by Helen Manson and another individual was well observed on 17 May by Russ O'Malley. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at the Rye Nature Center on 22 May by Tom Burke. Finally the much celebrated **Lark Sparrow** at SUNY Purchase WEST was last seen on 5 Mar (*fide* Dr. James Utter).

Contributors: John P. Askildsen, Andrew Baldelli, Trudy Battaly (TB), Frank Bonnano (FB), Lysle Brinker, Jackie Bruskin, Thomas W. Burke (TWB), Barbara Butler, Bob Connor, Evan Edelbaum, Dot Fleury, M. Francis, Valerie Freer, Andrew Guthrie, Steve Hanaburgh, David Hayes, Jackie Jones, Susan Joseph, Jed Keil (JKI), Jim & Mary Key (J&MK), Dorie Knipp, Russ O'Malley, Helen Manson, Ken McDermott, Hugh Mc Guinness, Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club (EAMBC), Thomas H. Meyer, Drew Panko, Robert Schultz, M. Seilingo, Ken Soltesz, Sullivan County Audubon Society (SCAS), John P. Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Dr. James Utter, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club (RTWBC)

Abbreviations: Bash - Bashakill Marsh; EGRS - Edith G. Read Sanctuary; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch; MC - Rye Marshlands Conservancy; RNC - Rye Nature Center; RPl - Rye Playland; USMA - United States Military Academy (West Point), ORAN.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** max 13 Kensico Res WEST 11 Apr (JPA). **Red-necked Grebe:** *intro.* **N. GANNET:** *intro.* **Great Cormorant:** one ROCK, 6 May (EDT), rare away from Long Island Sound; last Rye 10 May. **Am. Bittern:** only five reported. **Least Bittern:** scarce, only reported from Hudson R marshes PUTN. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC 3 May (TWB). **Glossy Ibis:** arr MC 25 Apr. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** *intro.* **Snow Goose:** max several flocks of 500 n part of Region late Mar. **Brant:** max several thousand Hudson R 15-16 May (EAMBC); 400 MC 19 May. **Canada Goose:** max 5000 in DUTC 5 Mar. **Green-winged Teal:** arr MC 5 Mar; male EURASIAN race MC 30-31 Mar (TWB, LB), another 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN 15 Mar (KM, MB). **EURASIAN WIGEON:** *intro.* **Redhead:** one 12 DUTC Mar; one WEST 23 Apr (DP, TB). **TUFTED DUCK:** *intro.* **Greater Scaup:** max 2000 RPI 8 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** max 200 RPI 8 Apr. **Black Scoter:** two RPI 27 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** six Bash 16 May (JPT, EAMBC), one DUTC 25 Apr (CP). max 125 RPI 26 Apr (TWB). **Hooded Merganser:** Bash throughout period, thought to be nesting in Wood Duck boxes. **Com. Merganser:** established territories Delaware R drainage basin area SULL.

BLACK VULTURE: *intro.* **Turkey Vulture:** 19 migrating past HMHW 23 Feb. **Osprey:** arr n WEST 15 Mar; max 20 HMHW on 13 Mar. **N. Goshawk:** total three HMHW. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr DUTC 31 Mar (ROM), early; arr HMHW 13 Apr, max 1010 on 23 Apr, season total 1679. **Rough-legged Hawk:** last SULL 18 May (VP). **Golden Eagle:** pair last seen Stissing Mtn DUTC 5 Mar; subad BASH 10 May (JPT), late. **Am. Kestrel:** better than average numbers; total 244 HMHW. **Merlin:** total 21 HMHW; one Bash 17 May. **Peregrine Falcon:** ad took Mourning Dove EGR 21 Apr (KS); total five HMHW. **Wild Turkey:** *intro.* **Virginia Rail:** max eight Bash early May. **Sora:** regular at 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN (JPT, VE); max two MC during May (TWB). **Am. Oystercatcher:** pair RPI 11 Apr (JPA). **Solitary Sandpiper:** one RPI 11 Apr (JPA), early. **Willet:** one RPI 16 May (TWB). **Upland Sandpiper:** ten Blue Chip Farms ULST 23 Apr (EDT). **WHIMBREL:** *intro.* **Ruddy Turnstone:** 17 MC 1 Mar. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** two MC 18-24 May (TWB). **Purple Sandpiper:** last RPI 9 May (TWB). **Dunlin:** last two MC 23 May (TWB). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** seven MC 18 May (TWB). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 150 MC 19 May (TWB). **Laughing Gull:** arr RPI 11 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** last eight Rye 26 Apr; ten Hudson R ORAN 27 Apr- (EDT). **Ice1and Gull:** imm RPI 25-28 Apr (TWB). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** two Rye departed by 8 Apr (TWB); ad Rockland L SP 7 Mar (MS, MF, EDT). **Com. Tern:** arr RPI 3 May. **Least Tern:** arr MC 25 Apr.

Black-billed Cuckoo: scarce, but singles widespread. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** widespread in low numbers. **Barn Owl:** one EGR all season (KS, TWB); one reportedly hit by car DUTC 29 Apr (SH) apparently recovered and flew away. **Barred Owl:** strong numbers reported from n sections of Region. **Long-eared Owl:** one Thompson Pd Preserve DUTC 8-27 Apr (BC, EDT, mob); two wintered ORAN through 15 Mar (JPT). **Short-eared Owl:** one Bash 25 Apr (SCAS), rare there in spring. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one at Thompson Pd DUTC remained through 4 Mar (EDT, DK). **Whip-poor-will:** arr MC 22 Apr, early. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** ad Norrie Pt SP, DUTC during Mar; one Blue Chip Farms ULST 23 May (TWB). **Pileated Woodpecker:** one MC 1 May (TWB), rare on coast.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: small numbers mid to late May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Rye 18-19 May (TWB), one Newburgh 19 May (KM). **Acadian Flycatcher:** one DUTC 28 May, one Rye 26 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** max three Bash late May (JPA, TWB). **Least Flycatcher:** arr ORAN 15 Apr (JPT), early. **Horned Lark:** 300 Warren Sod Farm ORAN 22 Mar (JPT). **Tree Swallow:** arr ORAN late Mar. **Fish Crow:** arr at inland locations in ORAN and n WEST late Mar; pair arr n WEST 25 Mar, presumed nesting (JPA). **Com. Raven:** *intro*. **Carolina Wren:** continues in unprecedented numbers (JPA). **Marsh Wren:** populations stable in Hudson R marshes. **Veery:** arr Bash 28 Apr, early; low numbers reported along coast in May. **Swainson's Thrush:** numbers low. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** several s WEST late May (TWB). **Hermit Thrush:** two singing USMA on 20 May (EDT), no previous breeding records at this site; two singing Bash 23 May (JPT), presumed to be breeders. **Wood Thrush:** widespread in healthy numbers.

White-eyed Vireo: arr Rye 3 May; one Newburgh 6 May, uncommon away from coast. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one DUTC 4 May (JMK). **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Rye 26 Apr. **Golden-winged Warbler:** four Bash 15 May (TWB). one USMA 10 May (JPA, AG). **Cape May Warbler:** very scarce. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** *intro*. **Cerulean Warbler:** one n WEST 9 May (THM), unusual site; normal numbers USMA. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** *intro*. **Ovenbird:** one n WEST 5 Apr (JJ, JB), very early. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Bear Mtn SP 9-31 May (JK, mob). **Mourning Warbler:** one Bear Mtn SP 28 May (EDT, mob), one DUTC 26 May (HM). **Hooded Warbler:** reported in good numbers from entire Region except SULL and ULST. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one RPI 1 Mar (TWB); one Bash 20 May (AB, HMcG).

Scarlet Tanager: low numbers reported from coast. **Blue Grosbeak:** one seen well Rockefeller SP s WEST 24 Apr (EE). **Chipping Sparrow:** arr DUTC 21 Mar, ORAN 22 Mar, **Vesper Sparrow:** two central WEST 12 Mar and 25 Apr (DP, TB), two Blue Chip Farms ULST 15 May (TWB). **LARK SPARROW:** *intro*.

Grasshopper Sparrow: one Galeville Airport 23 May (TWB), one DUTC 16 May (SK). **Henslow's Sparrow:** none. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two MC 13 May (TWB). **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC 14-22 May (TWB), declining. **Fox Sparrow:** 30 foraging on plowed road edge at USMA 22 Mar (EDT); good numbers reported from many locations. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one USMA 18 May (EDT). **White-throated Sparrow:** three on territory ULST by 13 May (VE). **White-crowned Sparrow:** widespread scattered reports. **Bobolink:** scarce. **Rusty Blackbird:** small numbers reported from Bash through late Apr. **Orchard Oriole:** widespread singles; "colony" Bash (JPT). **Pine Siskin:** flocks of five to 30 widespread until early Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** small groups in n part of Region through early Apr; pair SULL Catskills 15 May may be nesting.

Exotics: Chukar: one Valhalla WEST 15-22 Apr (DP, TB).

Addendum: LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: one DUTC 15 Feb (Susan Joseph).

202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506