

REGION 9 — HUDSON—DELAWARE

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The above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation from the winter persisted during March. The farther south in the Region, the less was the precipitation; in lower WEST precipitation was three inches lower than normal. However in ULST precipitation was normal or close to it. The Region received no snowfall during the March. Temperatures ranged from 3-4°F above normal throughout the Region. The lack of precipitation throughout the Region intensified in April. Most of the southern parts of the Region experienced mild drought conditions, but parts of SULL received near normal rainfall. Temperatures in April were slightly below normal. The beginning of the month was more like winter than spring, with two very strong cold fronts plowing through the area. Temperatures moderated towards the end of the month but still remained cool. May began with colder than normal temperatures and with over a week of relentless northwest winds. The middle and end of the month, however, brought warmer than normal temperatures balancing the cool temperatures in the beginning of the month bringing the average temperature to within 1° of normal.

The cool temperatures in the early spring delayed the migration by about a week. During April and the first week of May, migrants trickled through. A week of northwest winds in early May finally broke during the night of 11 May with a warm front and a day of rain. This brought a fantastic fallout of migrants throughout the entire Region. Reports of over 23 species of warblers were not uncommon. From then on southern winds transformed what started out as a lackluster migration to a very exciting spring migration.

Many unusual species were reported. Notable waterfowl reports include the first Regional breeding record of Northern Shoveler, and sightings of Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon and Black Scoter. The Region's first and second *Common Black-headed Gull* outdid an unexpected Glaucous Gull. Both Caspian and Black Terns were found in the Region. A *Mississippi Kite* was reported. The bumper crop of tent caterpillars has resulted in good numbers of both cuckoo species being reported throughout the Region. A Barn Owl was an excellent find. An overwintering *Boreal Chickadee* barely persisted into April. Doodletown Road ROCK had a banner year. Hooded and Cerulean Warblers arrived there on 28 Apr, a week behind last year, but their numbers exceeded those of last year. A Kentucky Warbler and up to two

Golden-winged Warbler spent the month of May in the area of the reservoir. One of the Golden-winged Warbler was observed fighting with a "Brewster's" Warbler. The best of many warbler reports elsewhere were Orange-crowned Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, *Yellow-throated Warbler*, and the rarest warbler was a *Connecticut Warbler*. However, neither Purple Finch nor Evening Grosbeak was reported.

Other highlights included Red-necked Grebe, Northern Gannet, Least Bittern, *Black Vulture*, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Clapper Rail, White-rumped Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Blue Grosbeak* and Seaside Sparrow.

Observers: John Askildsen, Frank Bonanno, Diatha Bradley, Thomas W. Burke, Valerie Freer, Sibyll Gilbert, Dawn Hannay, Tom Harten, David Matsushita, Helen Manson, Gail Mihocko, Christopher A. Nadaseski, Vincent Plogtar, Ed Treacy, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Ken Soltesz, Selden Spencer, John Suggs, John Tramontaro, Michael Usai, Joe Wallace, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Gene Weinstein, Chet Vincent.

Abbreviations: EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye, WEST; JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; KRes - Kensico Reservoir, WEST; LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; RNC - Rye Nature Center, WEST; RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, DUTC.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** 44 Ashokan Res 13 Apr, 42 Ashokan after 20 Apr (CN). **Red-throated Loon:** one EGR 15 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** 23 EGR 15 Mar; nine Ashokan 6 Apr; one KRes 25 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** two EGR 15 Mar, one EGR 26 Mar (TB), three EGR 3 May (MU). **N. Gannet:** two EGR 11 Mar, one EGR 2 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr EGR 13 Mar, max 40 EGR 20 May, colony of nine at WEST Branch Res WEST (MU), up from last year. **Am. Bittern:** one DUTC 13 May; one Fishkill 16 May. **Least Bittern:** two Kingston Pt Lagoon 13 May; one Constitution Marsh ROCK 14 May. **Great Egret:** arr two EGR 26 Mar. **Snowy Egret:** arr MC 30 Mar; max 25 MC 11 May. **Cattle Egret:** 20 Verplank DUTC 21 May (RTWBC). **Green Heron:** one EGR 23 Apr, y scattered; **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two EGR 28 Mar, one KRes 29 Mar; **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** up to five MC after 21 May. **Glossy Ibis:** 13 MC 23 Apr, one MC 21 May. **Tundra Swan:** four Round Pd DUTC 15 Mar (LHVBL). **Snow Goose:** one MC 26 May (TB). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one N Manursing I Rye 2-4 Mar (TB). **Green-winged Teal:** max 17 MC 20 Apr, four MC 4 May. **N. Pintail:** last EGR 9 Apr. **N. Shoveler:** pair with a chick Rockland L SP 20 May (FB,

DH, TH VP), first Regional breeding; one Bashakill SULL 11 Apr. **Am. Wigeon**: one Ashokan Res 31 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: male MC 16 Mar (MU). **Redhead**: one Rockland L SP 13 Mar (FB). **Greater Scaup**: six Ashokan Res 20 Apr (CN); last EGR 20 May. **Lesser Scaup**: 200 EGR 16 Apr; one Ashokan 20 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: 50 EGR 2 Apr. **Black Scoter**: two EGR 21 Mar (TB). **White-winged Scoter**: ten EGR 3 May (MU); four EGR 11 May (TB); one Ashokan Res 18 May (CN). **Bufflehead**: last EGR 14 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 22 Ashokan Res 28 Apr, one EGR 3 May. **Com. Merganser**: two EGR 8 May.

Black Vulture: one Bear Mt and Dootletown Rd after 24 Mar, many observations Shawunquunks ULST through period, breeding suspected. **Mississippi Kite**: subad Pleasantville WEST 27 May (JW, NYSARC). **Bald Eagle**: ten Rio-Mangaup Res SULL, four migrating by Hook Mt Rock 7 Mar; two Bashakill SULL 11-25 Apr. **N. Harrier**: one KRes 11 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: one MC 16 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr 7 Apr. **Golden Eagle**: one Stissing Mt 13 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: two Newburgh-Beacon Bridge area through period, nest with four young Tappan Zee Bridge (CN, MU, NYSDEC). **Clapper Rail**: three MC 18 May (TB). **Virginia Rail**: one MC 23 May; one Iona I 26 May. **Sora**: one Iona I 26 May. **Com. Moorhen**: one Dietrich 21 May, two Stissing L DUTC 21 May (RTWBC). **Black-bellied Plover**: max eight MC 19, 23 May. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 15 MC 23 May. **Am. Oystercatcher**: two Milton Harbor, one EGR 3 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 12 MC 17 Apr, ten MC 11, 20, 23 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max three MC 20 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last RNC 18 May. **Willet**: two MC 12 May (MC). **Spotted Sandpiper**: one MC 11 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Galeville 4 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: three EGR 8 Mar. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 20 MC 13 May. **Least Sandpiper**: arr MC 4 Apr, early, max 30 MC 12 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: two MC 25 May, one MC 26 May, max four. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr MC 4 Mar, early; four MC 8-20 Apr, last MC 18 May. **Purple Sandpiper**: 25 EGR 20 May. **Dunlin**: four MC 23 May, one MC 11 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: six MC 26 May, five MC 25 May. **Com. Snipe**: three calling ULST 24 Mar, one irregular MC 9 Apr-12 May. **Am. Woodcock**: six MC 13 Mar. **Laughing Gull**: one Playland Rye 11 May, two MC 11 May. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: one Moodna Creek, ORAN on 5-27 Mar (DB), first for Region; one Kiamesha L SULL 15 Mar (VF). **Bonaparte's Gull**: six EGR 9 Apr, nine Kiamesha L SULL 24 Apr (VF). **Ring-billed Gull**: 2200 Ashokan Res 16 Mar, 2000 Ashokan Res 13 Apr (CN). **Herring Gull**: 1000 Ashokan Res 13 Apr, 500 Ashokan Res 16 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one EGR 21 Mar. **Glaucous Gull**: imm with 50 Herring Gull on factory roof Stoney Pt Rock 31 Mar (MU), later seen feeding at Haverstraw Landfill. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 200

Ashokan Res 6, 13 Apr. **Caspian Tern**: one Kingston Pt Lagoon 13 May. **Forster's Tern**: five MC 21 May, two MC 11 and 30 May. **Least Tern**: two MC 21 May. **Black Tern**: three ad in large flock of migrant Com. Tern EGR 12 May (MU); one Great Valley ULST 13 May (JBNHS).

Black-billed Cuckoo; good numbers after mid May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: good numbers. **Barn Owl**: Claryville SULL 24 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: max nine Galeville 3 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one SULL 12 May (VF). **Com. Nighthawk**: two MC 19, 23 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Bashakill SULL 14 May. **Chimney Swift**: big movement MC 12 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Bluechip Farms ULST after 11 Apr. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: two RNC 9 Apr, one Ashokan 13 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: four singles, last Muscoot Farm WEST 21 May (MU). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**; one EGR 13 May (KS). **Acadian Flycatcher**; one Blauvelt 22 May (FB). **E. Phoebe**: one MC 25 Mar; one Rye 18 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: one RNC 11 May. **Purple Martin**: one MC 4 and 20 May. **Tree Swallow**: 16 KRes 28 Mar. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: one MC 12 Apr, two Cross R Res 16 Apr. **Cliff Swallow**; arr KRes 17 Apr, 44 Cross R Res 12 May. **Com. Raven**: one Doodletown Road 21 May; one Bear Mt 26 Apr, ten nests Shawunquunks ULST (GM). **Fish Crow**: arr MC 2 Mar, nest KRes. **Boreal Chickadee**: remained at feeder Patterson PUTN to 1 Apr (HP). **Brown Creeper**: three RNC 9 Apr. **Carolina Wren**: scarce throughout Region. **House Wren**: one RNC 28 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr KRes 4 Apr; two KRes 3 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: two RNC 18 Apr. **Veery**: many RNC 12 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: several Rye 12 May. **Hermit Thrush**: one RNC 28 Apr, movement 9 May. **Wood Thrush**: four MC 31 May.

White-eyed Vireo: one MC 28 Apr, one Doodletown Road thru period. **Solitary Vireo**: four RNC 12 Apr, two RNC 20 Apr, one MC 28 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one RNC 12 May. **Warbling Vireo**: one EGR 12 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one Rockefeller SP 13 May (DM). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one RNC 28 Apr. **Tennessee Warbler**: max 12 Doodletown 19 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr (MU); singing male Bashakill SULL 12 May (JT); one Doodletown 21 May (LHVBL). **Nashville Warbler**: one RNC 12, 18 May. **Yellow Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: several Rye 11, 12, 18, 17 and 20 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: several Rye early May; **Cape May Warbler**: one Rye 12 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: several RNC after 12 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**; arr 4 Mar, last 20 May (RTWBC). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: several Rye 12 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max five RNC 18 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler** one Pocantico Hills WEST 12 May. **Pine Warbler**: several KRes 26 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr, two RNC 12 May. **Palm Warbler**: one KRes 11 Apr, one

Cross R Res 16 Apr; three RNC 18 Apr. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: many RNC 18 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Doodletown 28 Apr. **Black-and-white Warbler**: one RNC 20 Apr. **Am. Redstart**: a few Rye 12 May. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr 3 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one Bashakill SULL 12 May (JS). **N. Waterthrush**: one Rye 11, 19 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr 7 Apr; one PR 16 Apr, one Doodletown 19 May. **Kentucky Warbler**: one Doodletown after 4 May. **Mourning Warbler**: one Doodletown 19, 24 May; one Grandview ROCK 19-21 May; one RNC 23, 24, 26, 31 May; many reports 26 May. **Connecticut Warbler**: one RTWBC May Census DUTC (Chet Vincent). **Hooded Warbler**: arr Doodletown 28 Apr. **Canada Warbler**: several Rye 12 May, many reports 21 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Iona I 31 May (FB), one Doodletown 14 May.

Scarlet Tanager: six RNC 17, 20 May, four 12 May. **Blue Grosbeak**: imm Monticello 13 May (GW). **Indigo Bunting**: one RNC 11-12 May, two EGR 25 May. **Field Sparrow**: three ULST 1 Apr, three MC 3 May; **Vesper Sparrow**: ULST 26 May. **Savannah Sparrow**: five MC 21 Apr; several Rye 12 May, two singing males Muscoot Farm WEST 21 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Oil City Road ORAN 4 May. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one MC 4 May, two on 18 May. **Seaside Sparrow**: one MC 19 May. **Fox Sparrow**: one ULST 10 Mar (JBNHS). **Swamp Sparrow**: one MC 7 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: 30 RNC 9 Apr, 20 RNC 5 May. **Bobolink**: max 200 DUTC 13 May (RTWBC). **E. Meadowlark**: two KRes 29 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: 20 Kariat P 1 Apr. **Orchard Oriole**: one Rye 13 May. **N. Oriole**: five MC 18 May.

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