

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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After one of the warmest winters on record, many birders were itching for spring. All were disappointed when May arrived. It was a migration of low numbers and few rarities.

Average temperatures were just about a degree above normal for each month. Rainfall was well above normal. Each month had over 5 inches of rain, combining for just over 16.5 inches of rain for the period. Average rainfall for the three month is 11.2 inches.

March had only one late winter rarity, an Eared Grebe was still off Larchmont on 6 March.

A late snow of 5 to 8 inches fell on the Region on 22 March. Five days later we were in the low 80s and had a spring heat wave from 27-31 March. The early warm weather brought in the first Palm Warbler on 27 March. This was a new spring arrival record for Region 9.

Many expected an early migration since the vegetation was a full two weeks ahead. A few individuals did show up to set more spring arrival records. Individual birds that set them included: Eastern Wood-Pewee on 11 April, Yellow-throated Vireo on 18 April, Bobolink on 22 April, Black-billed Cuckoo and Warbling Vireo on 25 April, and Red-eyed Vireo on 27 April. Other early birds were notable this spring. A Green Heron was found in Wappingers Creek on 24 March. Louisiana Waterthrush was found in Bashakill 1 April, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher the next day at Kakiat Park, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Teatown Reservation 4 April.

The bulk of birds kept on their normal schedules or were a bit late. Many birders commented on the poor numbers of migrants, especially thrushes. A stalled low to the west stayed for over a week, making the end of April and the first 12 days of May quite wet. This, along with the advanced vegetation, may have spurred many migrants to hurry to their breeding grounds and skip many of the migration hot spots.

Black Vultures reportedly nested last year in the Shawangunks. The same site was apparently occupied again this year. The observer is being asked to submit the details, including his photographs, to NYSARC. Peregrine Falcons are nesting on Millbrook Mountain after a 40 year absence (JBNHS).

Certain species are expected along Long Island Sound in Westchester, but a few of these birds found their way inland. A Glossy Ibis was found in Montgomery on 12 April, a nice find for Orange County. A Dunlin was reported from Dutchess on 18 April.

Other noteworthy birds include: Caspian Tern found at Piermont Pier on 15 May and Blue Grosbeaks - one in Katonah 25 April and one in Dutchess 16

May. The Dutchess bird was the first county record of an adult male. A Yellow-throated Warbler returned to the same location on the Mongaup River, and another, possibly two, were seen at Doddletown on 30 April and 15 May.

Winter finches continued into the late winter and spring. Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were well reported.

Other highlights included: King Rail, Iceland Gull, Northern Shrike, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager.

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Abbreviations: CPP - Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, GA - Galeville Airport, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP - Kakiat Park, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PP-Piermont Pier, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: a few scattered reports on inland lakes Apr and early May.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 EGR 12 Apr (TB); 1 MC 12 Apr (LHVBL); 1 EGR 2 May (TB).

Eared Grebe: 1 Larchmont 6 Mar(TB).

N. Gannet: 1-3 EGR 5,20,22 Mar (TB); 1 Larchmont 10 Mar (LHVBL); 3-18 EGR 3-12 Apr (TB).

Great Cormorant: 1 Port Ewen 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Am. Bittern: 3 Bashakill 15 May.

Great Blue Heron: 8 nests Sandanona May.

Great Egret: 2 EGR 5 Apr.

Snowy Egret: 1 PP 12 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: 1 MC 19 May (TB).

Cattle Egret: 1 EGR 2-10 May (TB,LHVBL); 1 PP 2 May (LHVBL).

Green Heron: 1 Wappingers Creek 24 March (MK), early.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1 MC 4,26 May (LHVBL,TB)

Glossy Ibis: 1 Montgomery 12 Apr (LHVBL).

Black Vulture: 11 GA 1 Mar, flying north (JT); reports from each county.

Snow Goose: scattered reports from each county in Mar and Apr; 1 blue morph DUTC 21 Apr.

Wood Duck: 170 Bashakill 15 Mar (VF,RD).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Bashakill 4 Apr.

Redhead: 2 CPP 4 Apr.

Ring-necked Duck: many reports, quite common this year; 156 Bashakill 15 Mar; 200 Pound Pond 16 Mar; 140 Ellenville 13 Apr; 200 Round Pond, DUTC 11 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: fly-bys EGR 12 Apr; 10 EGR 27 Apr; 30 CPP 16 May.

Oldsquaw: 30 EGR 4 Apr, other scattered reports at EGR Apr; 1 EGR 20 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: common along Sound; few reported from the Hudson (unusual); 1 CPP 27 Mar (LHVBL); 2 PP 3 Apr (CW); 1PP 12 Apr (CW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 MC 21 Mar; 2 MC 12 Apr, engaged in courtship behavior; 2 nesting at Bashakill.

Bald Eagle: 2 SULL., standing on a nest in a White Pine (LHVBL); 1 Roundout 14 Mar; 1 MC 18 Apr.

N. Harrier: 1 GA 1-7, 14 Mar.

N. Goshawk: 1 Doodletown 28 Mar (BS,GP); 1 Pound Ridge 9 May (TB).

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Hook Mt. 3 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 DUTC 14 Mar (AFr).

Golden Eagle: 3 Stissing Mt. 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Am. Kestrel: 8 CPP 4 Apr.

Merlin: 1 EGR 9 Mar (LHVBL); 1 MC 10 Mar (TB); other sightings in Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 Millbrook Mt 1 May (JBNHS); 1 DUTC 13 May; 1 Bear Mt Bridge 15 May (ET).

N. Bobwhite: 6 Pawling 15 May (SG); 1 Ward Pound Ridge 30 May (SW).

Clapper Rail: arr 18 Apr.

Virginia Rail: 1 Ellenville 13 Apr; good numbers and well reported from usual spots.

King Rail: 1 MC 29 Apr.

Sora: 1CPP 2-6 May (LHVBL).

Am. Oystercatcher: 1 EGR 10, 22 Mar (TB).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 21 Mar.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 9 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 May.

Willet: 2 MC 4 May (TB).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Rombout Road 23 Apr (CV).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 pair Orange Co Airport 16 May; 1 Blue Chip Farm 16 May (ET)

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 PP 16 May (FB,TH,VP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: few CPP 16 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 17 Apr.

Purple Sandpiper: 1 PP 15 May (CW,AW,DW,JTo).

Dunlin: 1 DUTC 18 Apr (DF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 18 Apr; 1 PP 16 May (FB,TH,VP).

Com. Snipe: 1 PP 31 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Port Ewen 22 Apr (LHVBL); 1 Cornwall 16 May (JT).

Iceland Gull: 1 Napanoch 11 Apr (VF); 1 Ashokan 16 Apr (LHVBL); 3 Woodbourne 23 Apr (VF,RD,RS,LH).

Caspian Tern: 2 PP 15 May (JP, RC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 1 Yonkers 30 May (MB).

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 25 Apr, new spring arrival record.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 16 May.

Barn Owl: 1 Charles Wells Rd, Ulster Heights 1 May (HT).

Long-eared Owl: 1 DUTC 5, 13 May (JA).

Short-eared Owl: 6 GA 1-7 Mar (LHVBL).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 WEST 2 May.

Whip-poor-will: 2 Piermont 15 May

(FB,TH,VP); 1 Bashakill 16 May; 2

Mohonk Preserve 30 May (JBNHS).

Chimney Swift: arr 16 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Doodletown 14 May; 1 Blue Chip Farm 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Rombout Rd 23 Mar; 1 DUTC 28 Mar; 1 Cape Pond 1 Apr; 1 Red Hook 3, 7, 8 Apr; 1 KP 4 Apr; 1 RNC 11 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Wurtsboro 16 May (SCAS); 1 Westchester Community College 22 May (DP); 1 Doodletown 23 May (CL); 1 Pawling 25 May (CP).

E. Wood-Pewee: 1 Woodstock 11 Apr (BC,AF), new spring arrival record.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Rye Nature Preserve 23 May (LHVBL); 1 Harriman SP 22 May; 1 DUTC 31 May (MV).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 Bashakill 16 May; 1 Doodletown 23 May; 1 Harriman SP 26 May; 2 DUTC 27 May; 1 Pawling 31 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 16 May

Least Flycatcher: arr 9 May

E. Phoebe: arr 26 Mar.

E. Kingbird: arr 25 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 30 Apr.

N. Shrike: 1 GA 1-7 Mar (ET,LHVBL).

White-eyed Vireo: arr 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 17 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 18 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Warbling Vireo: arr 25 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Pawling 16 May (SG).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 27 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Com. Raven: 2 Stissing Mt. 7 Mar; 1 DUTC 31 Apr; 1 Woodstock 7 Apr; 1 Thompson Pd 13, 20 May.
Purple Martin: arr 18 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr 13 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Teatown Reservation 4 Apr (LHVBL), early.
Bank Swallow: arr 27 Apr; 100 Route 119 & 50, Pine Plains, nesting
Barn Swallow: arr 18 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 18 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: stayed to beginning of May.
House Wren: arr 18 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 29 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 27 Mar.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 KP 2 Apr (LHVBL), early.
Veery: arr 2 May
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 1 Doodletown 16 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 16 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr 9 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr 29 Apr.
E. Bluebird: 1 GA 1-7 Mar.
Am. Pipit: 1 Stringham Road, DUTC 1 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: very common this spring,

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 ORAN 31 Mar (LHVBL), early.
Golden-winged Warbler: Port Orange Road 16 May (LHVBL); 1 Stissing Mt 21 May; 1 Tarrytown Lakes 21 May (DP).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Doodletown 16 May (LHVBL).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 16 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 1 May
N. Parula: arr 29 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 9 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 25 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 9 May
Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 Doodletown 30 Apr, 15 May (LHVBL, IG); 1 Mongaup R, SULL/ORAN Border 16 May (JT,SCAS), same location as last year.
Pine Warbler: arr 27 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr 27 Mar, new spring arrival record.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 16 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: 5 Doodletown 9 May (LHVBL); 5 DUTC 16 May (RTWBC); 1 Bashakill 24 May (LHVBL).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 18 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 30 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Great Swamp 21 May (LHVBL).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 May.
Ovenbird: arr 25 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 6 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Bashakill 1 Apr (LG), early.
Kentucky Warbler: 1 Pawling 15,16 May(SG).
Mourning Warbler: 1 Port Orange Road 16 May (LHVBL); 1 Doodletown 23 May (LHVBL); 1 Bashakill 24 May (LHVBL); 1 Harriman SP 26 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr. 30 Apr; 12 Doodletown 14 May (TF,DH).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 16 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 16 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Vassar Farm 16-26 May (RTWBC,HVRBA), probably nesting.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: 1 RNC 22 May (TB).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 May.
E. Towhee: arr 14 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 27 Mar.
Field Sparrow: arr 26 Mar.
Savannah Sparrow: arr 6 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 7 Galeville 24 May (LHVBL).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 MC 18 May
Seaside Sparrow: 1 MC 3 May (TB).

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Tivoli 1 May (CC).

Dark-eyed Junco: 1 "Pink-sided morph" no details Putnam Valley 15 Mar (LHVBL); 1-2 Thompson Pd 13-16 May, nesting (MV).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 25 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 Katonah 25 Apr (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 16 May, 1st county record of adult male (BH,FH,RTWBC).

Indigo Bunting: arr 2 May.

Bobolink: arr 22 Apr, new spring arrival record.

E. Meadowlark: few GA 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Rusty Blackbird: many reports Mar and Apr.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 1 MC 11 Apr (LHVBL).

Orchard Oriole: many scattered reports, numbers increasing.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 30 Apr.

Purple Finch: few at feeders in DUTC (RTWBC); 15 KP 8 Mar (LHVBL); 1 RNC 1 May.

Red Crossbill: reported only from SULL feeders; 4 Roscoe 20 Mar and 20 Apr (MG); 2 Neversink 9 Apr; 4 Neversink 14 Apr

(SP); 4 Summitville 15 Mar - 15 Apr (AG,FG).

White-winged Crossbill: 15 Vassar Campus 19-20 Mar (LS); 6 Cape Pond 10 Apr (MC,VF); 5 Pound Ridge 13-21 Apr (LHVBL); 2 Poughkeepsie 26 April; 2 present through May; 6 Ellenville 13 Apr (LHVBL).

Com. Redpolls: numerous reports in Mar, Apr; 100 Clinton early Mar (LHVBL); 600 Thompson Pond Preserve 7 Mar (LHVBL).

Pine Siskin: scattered reports from ULST in Mar; 5 Roscoe 16 Mar; 1 Hilldale Rd SULL 13 Apr; 2 ORAN 19-20 Apr; 2 DUTC 20 Apr; 1-3 Woodstock 4 -26 May; 1 RNC 13 May.

Evening Grosbeak: many reports in early March, especially in SULL, including 130 Swan Lake (KC); 3 Katonah 19 Apr (LHVBL); 15 ORAN feeder, mid Apr; few at feeders DUTC 22-26 Apr.; 1 New Paltz 8 May.

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