

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The spring season started out wet. March had an above average 4.62 inches of rain. This was followed by a long dry spell that continued through April and into the first half of May. April only recorded 1.80 inches of rain at Westchester Airport. Late April was warm and sunny. An early migration was anticipated but never materialized. There were weather problems to the south. A series of weather systems moving by south of the Region prevented any large movement of migrants. The first week of May was gray with heavy clouds and intermittent showers. The first good push of migrants did not occur until 9-12 May, quite late.

Wayne Kocher and his wife found an ailing loon in basic plumage off Iona Island on 15 May. The bird was photographed and eventually died. Kocher alertly took the bird to Croton Point Nature Center. It was frozen and eventually picked up by the American Museum of Natural History. The initial pictures indicated a possible Pacific/ Arctic Loon, but further examination of the specimen revealed it to be a Red-throated Loon with an atypical bill. As Manny Levine pointed out in a correspondence with me, "Basic-plumaged *pacifica* type loons should be very carefully studied and unless every diagnostic clue is very apparent, should be called loon sp. John Bull was probably very correct in not accepting any sight records of basic-plumaged Pacific Loons."

Frank Alpert reported a phalarope off Piermont Pier on 31 May. Due to its distance off the pier, birders could only tell it was a phalarope. Fortunately, a boater went out and approached close enough to report back all the field marks of a Red-necked Phalarope.

A Chuck-will's-widow was reported from Croton Point Park 24 April, apparently only Westchester's third record.

Sullivan County recorded its first Yellow-headed Blackbird, an adult male in Bradley 30 March- 4 April.

Other highlights include: Red-headed Woodpecker, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, GA-Galeville Airport, HMHW-Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP-Kakiat Park, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PNR Pawling Nature Preserve, PP-Piermont Pier, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWMC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club May Census, SCASFT-Sullivan County Audubon Society Field Trip.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: Handful of inland reports in DUTC, ROCK, SULL.

Red-throated Loon: 1 Iona Marsh 12-15 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 3 EGR 18 Apr.

N. Gannets: max 15 EGR 27 Mar; few

EGR 3 Apr (LHVBL); 89 EGR 11 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 1 CP 26 Mar (LHVBL).

Am. Bittern: 1 MC 30 Apr; 3-4 Bashakill 16-31 May; 1 MC 4 May.

Least Bittern: 1 George's Island 15 May; 1 MC 29 May.

Great Egret: first 1 Rye 25 Mar.

Snowy Egret: first 2 MC 31 Mar.

Little Blue Heron: 1 EGR 1 Apr; 1 MC 4 Apr.

Cattle Egret: 3 along Route 84, ORAN 29 May

Green Heron: arr 20 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: 1 MC 10 May.

Black Vulture: 5 Bear Mt 7 Mar; 5

Teatown Reservation 19 Mar; 1 New

Paltz 20 Mar; 2 South Salem 5 Apr; 1

HMHW 17 Apr; 3 Doodletown 1 May; 3

Doodletown 22 May; 2 Cold Spring 22 May.

Snow Goose: max 50 DUTC 13 Apr.

Wood Duck: arr 3 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 Bashakill 7 Apr; 2

Rockland Lake 26 Apr.

N. Pintail: 50 Six-and-a-half Station

Marsh 19 Mar (LHVBL), more numerous this year.

Redhead: 4-5 Abel's Pond DUTC 5-14 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 70 Lake Walton DUTC mid Mar.

Surf Scoter: 2 Rye 16 Apr; 3 EGR 1 May.

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 16 Apr; 1 EGR 1 May.

Oldsquaw: max 180 Rye 24 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 30 Bashakill 11 Mar.

Com. Merganser: 680 Chadwick Lake 31 Mar (LHVBL); 2 DUTC thru May (EP).
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Hyde Park 1 Apr

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: first Cape Pond SULL 26 Mar; 24 HMHW 17 Apr; 2 nesting at Bashakill, pair attempting to breed at MC.

Bald Eagle: many lingered to Apr, reports from each county; on nest at Bashakill 20 Apr (SCASFT); 1 DUTC 15 May; 1 Cold Spring 22 May.

N. Harrier: few Oil City Rd ORAN 10 Mar (LHVBL); 4 HMHW 17 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 58 HMHW 18 Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: 10 HMHW 17 Apr.

N. Goshawk: 1 Stissing Mt 8 Mar (LHVBL); 1 Grahamsville early Apr; 1 Bashakill 9 May (RTWBC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: nests found in SULL; 1 Lake Oniad DUTC 14 Mar; 1 Myers Corners 31 Mar; 2 HMHW 17 Apr; nesting and feeding young Stonykill Apr-May.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Dutchess Mall 11 Mar early (BB); 1 Baird Park 31 Mar; 1 Cornwall 5 Apr (LHVBL); 1142 HMHW 17 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: 8 HMHW 17 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Youngsville early Mar; 1 Depot Hill DUTC 28 Apr, very late (CP)

Golden Eagle: 1 Claryville 5-6 Mar; 1-2 Stissing Mt 6,8,13, 20 Mar (LHVBL); 1 overhead DUTC 27 Apr.

Am. Kestrel: 20 HMHW 17 Apr.

Merlin: 1 EGR 26 Mar; 1 EGR 17 Apr; 1 HMHW 18 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 Bear Mt Bridge 1, 29-30 Apr; 1 Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge 24 Apr; nesting in Millbrook.

Ruffed Grouse: 1 Brinton Brook 20 Apr (LHVBL); 1 Doodletown 10 May.

Clapper Rail: few MC 4 Apr (LHVBL); 1 Iona Marsh 14 May.

Virginia Rail: 10 Bashakill 27 Apr.

Sora: 3 Bashakill 27 Apr; 1 George's Island 5 May.

Black-bellied Plover: max 10 MC 18

May.

Semipalmated Plover: 1 CP 25 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: 1 EGR 28 Mar; few MC 4 Apr (LHVBL).

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 MC 4 Apr; 1 CP 17 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 PP 3 Apr; 1 White Sulphur Springs SULL 1 May; 1 Bronx River, Yonkers 14 May; 1 DUTC 15, 18 May; 1 CP 1 25 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 PP 26 Apr.

Willet: 1 Cold Spring 22 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 26 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: max 2 Blue Chip Farm and 3 GA 30 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: few Cold Spring 22 May; few CP 25 May.

Least Sandpiper: 16 DUTC 15 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Yonkers 14 May; 4 Poughkeepsie 18 May.

Purple Sandpiper: last 12 EGR 1 May.

Com. Snipe: 1 DUTC 1 Mar; 17 Bullville ORAN 13 Apr (LHVBL); 2 CP 17 Apr; 1 White Sulphur Springs SULL 1 May.

Red-necked Phalarope: 1 off Piermont Pier 31 May (FA).

Laughing Gull: 2 MC 21 Apr; 1 Fishkill 8 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 EGR 3 Apr.

Iceland Gull: 1 Woodbourne 3 Mar; 2 Woodbourne 1 Apr.

Glaucous Gull: 1 Woodbourne 24 Mar.

Com. Tern: arr MC 10 May.

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 2 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from each county

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Wappinger 9 May; 1 Doodletown 12,29 May; 1 East Irvington Nature Preserve 14 May; 1 Cold Spring 22 May; 1 Bashakill 29 May.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Kensico Res 11-26 Mar; 1 Abel's Pond 22 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: 15 Oil City Rd ORAN 10,15 Mar (LHVBL).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 4 reports from SULL

Com. Nighthawk: arr 14 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: 1 CP 24 Apr (LHVBL).

Whip-poor-will: Bashakill 22 May; 1

DUTC 15 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 27 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 27 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 CP thru (LHVBL); 1 Amenias 6 May; 1 Bashakill 9 May (RTWBC); pair nesting Esopus (SS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many reports in Apr; 2 drumming DUTC 22 May

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Doodletown 10,22,29 May; 1 DUTC 12 May; 1 Yonkers 15 May; 1 Vassar Farms 20 May; 1 Bashakill 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 13 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 PNR 13,22 May; 1 Doodletown 10 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: 1 Doodletown 28 May; 1 Bashakill 29 May.
Alder Flycatcher: 4 reports from DUTC; 1 MC 27,28 May; 1 Pound Ridge 24-31 May; 1 Neversink Preserve 29 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 16 Apr.
E. Phoebe: arr Bashakill 5 Mar.
E. Kingbird: 2 Bashakill 27 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 7 May, some commented that numbers were low.
N. Shrike: 1 Warwick 17 Mar (LHVBL).
White-eyed Vireo: arr 28 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Doodletown 1 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: 1 Rockland Lake 26 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 DUTC 15 May (RTWMC).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 6 May.
Fish Crow: 1 Bashakill 13 Apr (LHVBL).
Com. Raven: reports from each county; 2 displaying Hook Mt 3 Apr (LHVBL); pair courting Mountainville ORAN 17 Apr; 1 Mine Rd ORAN 2 May.
Horned Lark: 2 DUTC 15 May.
Purple Martin: 1 Bashakill 20 Apr; 3 Milewood Rd DUTC 21 Apr; 4 pair Verbank May.
Tree Swallow: arr 18 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 10 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 19 Apr

Cliff Swallow: 1 CP 6 Apr (LHVBL), nesting colony for second year.
Barn Swallow: arr 18 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Lenoir Preserve 21 Apr, migrant.
Brown Creeper: arr 1 Apr.
House Wren: arr 26 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 6 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: abundant last two weeks of April.; last 1 Vassar Farm 27 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 10 Apr.
E. Bluebird: nest with four eggs DUTC 17 Mar (RTWBC)
Veery: arr 29 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 Bashakill 9 May (RTWBC); 1 Hastings 15 May; 1 Yonkers 15 May; 3 DUTC 15 May; 1 RNC 12, 14, 16 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 9 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 28 Apr.).
Gray Catbird: arr 17 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr 17 Apr.
American Pipit: 6 CP 26 Mar (LHVBL).
Cedar Waxwing: max 90 IBM DUTC 24 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Katonah 12 May; 1 Bashakill 22,31 May; harder to find in the usual places.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Doodletown 19 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 10 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 28 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr PP 3 Apr (LHVBL).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr KP 6 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 10 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 29 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 20 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 7 May.
Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 Somers, Amawalk Reservoir Outlet 18 Apr (LHVBL).
Pine Warbler: arr 1 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr Yorktown Heights 6

Apr; last 15 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arrived 7 May; few sightings this spring.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 9 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr at Doodletown 1 May; 1 Fahnestock SP 8 May; 1 Rockefeller SP 13 May; 2 DUTC 15 May; max 9 Doodletown 12 May, 6 Bashakill 28 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 23 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr 1 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 14 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr 6 May.

N. Waterthrush: 1 Doodletown 1 Apr (LHVBL).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arrived 22 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: 1 MC 12 May; 1 Vasser Farm 15-24 May; 1 Doodletown 15, 22 May; 1 Fort Montgomery ORAN 23 May.

Mourning Warbler: 1 DUTC 15 May; 3 Doodletown 22 May; 1 Doodletown 29 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 17 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: 1 Kent Cliffs 27 Apr.

Wilson's Warbler: 1 PP 2 May; 1 Bashakill 9 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 10 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Doodletown 10 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: 1 RNC 24, 26 May (MB,TB).

Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 May.

E. Towhee: arr 6 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 22 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr 27 Feb.

Field Sparrow: 1 Yorktown Heights 6 Apr (LHVBL).

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Hurleyville 6-7 Apr; 1 DUTC 24 Apr; 2 Youngsville 26 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: few CP 17 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Pound Ridge 24 May.

Seaside Sparrow: 1 MC 27 May.

Fox Sparrow: scattered reports in each month.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 DUTC 16 Apr; 1 SULL feeder 27-28 Apr; 1 DUTC 7,8 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Wawarsing early Mar; 1 DUTC 31 Mar; 1 Ellenville early Apr; reports from WEST, ROCK, DUTC in May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 3 DUTC 15 May.

Snow Bunting: max 13 SULL 11 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 2 Liberty 28 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 Doodletown 10 May.

Indigo Bunting: 1 Croton-on-Hudson 13 Apr (LHVBL).

E. Meadowlark: arr 7 Apr; 1 CP 24 Apr.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1ad male Bradley 30 Mar- 4 Apr (AL,RD,VF,LH,MG,MC), first record for SULL.

Rusty Blackbird: 1 DUTC 7 Mar; 1 Bashakill 18 Apr; 1 MC 28 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: 1 Rockland Lake 26 Apr; 1 Newburgh late Apr; max 3 Bronx River 28 May; many other reports in May, increasing.

Baltimore Oriole: 1 f DUTC 10 Apr, early; most arr 28 Apr.

Purple Finch: 5 DUTC 6 Mar; 1 DUTC 30 Mar; 2 DUTC 15 May.

Am. Goldfinch: 50 ULST feeder Apr.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 DUTC feeder 30 Apr

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