

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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March was cool and wet, with temperatures averaging 4°F below normal. The Region was doused with 1.5 -2.5" above average total precipitation, with Westchester being the wettest at 6.28". Liberty had 17 days with at least a trace of snowfall and had over 24" for the month. Snow cover remained in parts of Sullivan County until mid April. April, on the other hand, was dry. Poughkeepsie only had 1" of rain and other areas had less than 2". Remarkably, it was in the 80s the third week of April. This calm, warm weather may be the reason why many observers reported seeing over a dozen species of warblers before the first of May. The dry spell continued through mid May and included an early mini- heat wave arriving on 1 May and lasting to 4 May, with Poughkeepsie reaching over 90° on three of those days. The latter half of May was wet, putting a damper on late migration.

Five Red-necked Grebes were off Rye on 21 and 25 April. The Eurasian nominate form of Green-winged Teal was found at Croton Falls Reservoir on 7 April. An impressive migration of White-winged Scoters, with over 600 counted, and Long-tailed Ducks was observed off Rye the evening of 17 April. A flock of 360 Long-tailed Ducks and 190 scoters rose from the water at 7 p.m. and headed out of the Sound.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked at Hook Mountain early this year, with 917 on 14 April. The normal peak is usually at least a few days later.

Tom Burke observed a bird that looked like a King Rail at Marshlands Conservancy 10 May. He thought it might be a female King Rail or a hybrid King X Clapper. It was join by another that seemed definitely to be a King Rail on 11 May and both were seen intermittently thereafter.

By far, the best bird of the season was a **Ruff**, believed to be a reeve, found at Blue Chip Farm just south of the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR on 19 May. One observer submitted a good, detailed drawing of the bird. I encourage anyone else who was lucky enough to see the bird to submit his or her observations to NYSARC.

The only Iceland Gull report came from Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 6 March.

Late winter sightings included two Northern Shrikes, one near Pine Island, Orange County on 11 May and another in Pine Plains, Dutchess County also on the 11th. The latter bird lingered to the next day. A trip up Slide Mountain on 27 May produced at least 5 Bicknell's Thrushes. Notable warblers included a Kentucky at the Bashakill on 12 May and two Yellow-throated, one at the traditional spot on the Sullivan/Orange County border near the Delaware River on 11 May and one in Dobbs Ferry on 12 May. Forty-five Snow Buntings were found in Dutchess County 15 March.

Other notable sightings included Least Bittern and Glossy Ibis at Bashakill 4 May, another Least Bittern at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye 9 May, Little Blue Heron in Dutchess on 7 May and a Summer Tanager at the Rye Nature Center 27 May.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

DMC – Dutchess County May Census; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; KP – Kakiat P; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: several Bashakill 4 May.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 14 Apr; 5 EGR 21, 25 Apr.
N. Gannet: 1-2 EGR 17, 21, 31 Mar; 5 EGR 7 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: Hudson River, DUTC 30 Mar, early for this far up the river.
Am. Bittern: several Bashakill 4 May.
Least Bittern: Bashakill 4 May (TF, KW); MC 9-28 May (TB).
Great Blue Heron: 70 DMC 12 May; 15 on nests in median of Taconic State Pkwy, DUTC 14 Mar; 6 PP 24 Mar.
Great Egret: arr 21 Mar.
Snowy Egret: arr New Rochelle 3 Apr.
Little Blue Heron: Plueffer Pd DUTC 7 Apr (BR, ER); EGR 21 Apr; Pleasant Valley 3 May.

Cattle Egret: Pine Plains 13 Apr (JC); Bashakill 5 May.
Green Heron: arr 28 Apr; 11 DMC 12 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 EGR 21 Mar; 6 mouth of Wappingers Creek 21 May.
Glossy Ibis: Bashakill 4 May (TF, KW).
Black Vulture: 3 Baird P 14 Mar; 12 Nellie Hill County P DUTC 12 May.
Snow Goose: 400 Round Pd 12 Mar.
Canada Goose: 5000 Round Pd 3 Mar.
Green-winged "Common" Teal: Croton Falls Res 7 Apr (BL).
Ring-necked Duck: 24 Vandenburg Cove 15 Mar; 21 EGR 18 Mar; 25 Bashakill 30 Mar; 30 Millbrook 7 Apr.
Greater Scaup: only 100 EGR 31 Mar, low for this location.
Lesser Scaup: 600 EGR 18 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: 624 EGR 17 Apr;

16 EGR 24 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 60 EGR 17 Mar; 400 EGR 17 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: 2 DMC 12 May; fem with 5 yg Sharpshoon County P DUTC 24 May.

Ruddy Duck: 860 PP 3 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: EGR 24 Mar; 62 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 30 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 20 Hook Mt 14 Apr; nesting at MC and Bashakill.

Bald Eagle: numerous sightings, mostly from the Hudson; nesting at Bashakill.

N. Harrier: 15 Hook Mt 9 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 43 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 50 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 69 Hook Mt 14 Apr.

Cooper's hawk: nest Ulster Landing P 17 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Horseshoe L Mar-Apr; Parksville 10 Mar; Stissing Mt 25 Mar; DMC 12 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 9 Apr; 476 Hook Mt 13 Apr; 907 Hook Mt 14 Apr (early high numbers); 345 Hook Mt 22 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: Youngsville early Mar; Waterbury Hill Rd, DUTC 3 Mar.

Golden Eagle: imm Mongaup Falls 19 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: 190 Hook Mt 9 Apr; 90 Hook Mt 13 Apr.

Merlin: 4 Hook Mt 9 Apr; Doodletown Rd 22 Apr.

N. Bobwhite: DMC 12 May.

Clapper Rail: MC 9, 10, 14 May.

King Rail: 1 or 2 MC 10, 11 May and after (TB); *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: 5 MC 17 May.

Semipalmated Plover: 7 MC 10 May; 2 DMC 12 May.

Killdeer: nest with 2 eggs ROCK 8 Apr.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 31 Mar, 21, 28 Apr; 2 with 2 yg EGR 12 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 5 EGR 21 Apr; 16 MC 7 May; 4 DMC 12 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 EGR 21 Apr; 3

DMC 12 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 May; 11 DMC 12 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 May.

Upland Sandpiper: ULST 12 May; Millbrook 17 Apr (JB); Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May (NYRBA).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 MC 17 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 DMC 12 May.

Pectoral sandpiper: 6 DMC 12 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 20 EGR 31 Mar; 2 EGR 12 May.

RUFF: reeve, Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May (TB).

Com. Snipe: PP 12 Mar; 2 DUTC 12 Mar.

Laughing Gull: arr 2 MC 7 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: 6 EGR 31 Mar; 70 EGR 14 Apr.

Iceland Gull: EGR 6 Mar.

Com. Tern: arr 2 MC 2 May; 30 EGR 12 May.

Least Tern: arr 2 MC 10 May; 10 MC 14 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: few Bloomingburg 26 Apr.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 4 May; 3 DMC 12 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 29 Apr; MC 24 May; common this year.

Barred Owl: 10 DMC 12 May.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Youngsville 8 Apr; 2 Swan L 10 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Rye 11 May; several Bashakill 20 May.

Whip-poor-will: several Bashakill 20 May; DMC 12 May.

Chimney Swift: arr Hook Mt 14 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 2 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hyde Park 6-13 May; Blue Chip Farm ULST 19 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: DMC 12 May;

MC 12-14 May; Vassar Farm 17 May (BB); Bashakill 20 May; RNC 27 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Bashakill 20 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Bashakill 20 May; Pawling Nature Preserve 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: Vassar Farm 17, 20, 29 May; 2 Bashakill 20 May; MC 24 May; Union Vale County P 29 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 12 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 1 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Hook Mt 20 Mar; 3 Buttercup Sanctuary 21 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 30 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr 25 Apr.
N. Shrike: Pine Plains 11, 12 Mar (TF, ND); ORAN 11 Mar (J&MY).
White-eyed Vireo: arr MC 28 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 30 Apr.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 24 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: DMC 12 May; ULST 12 May (JBNHS).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 4 May.
Com. Raven: nesting near Hook Mt and Thompson Pd Preserve.
Horned Lark: 19 Pine Plains 11 Mar.
Purple Martin: 9 DMC 12 May; 2 Millwood Rd T Washington DUTC 23 Apr; 2 pairs there all May.
Tree Swallow: 7 PP 24 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Hook Mt 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 14 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: 6 Cross River Res 22 Apr; 40 there 27 May.
Barn Swallow: arr 14 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Rye 4, 6 Mar, 23, 24 Apr, 10 May; 2 Holiday Hills 10 Mar.
House Wren: arr Cape Pd SULL 10 Apr, early (VF).
Marsh Wren: arr 3 MC 2 May; 13 DMC 12 May; 4 Cruger I Rd 14 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 14 Apr.
Veery: arr 4 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: DUTC 29 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: 5 Slide Mt 27 May (RD, JH).
Swainson's Thrush: arr 9 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 4 May.
Am. Pipit: 20 DMC 12 May.
Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere end of May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 22 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Bashakill 4 May; few Sterling Forest 6 May; DMC 12 May; Vassar Farm 17-20 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Ulster Landing P 27 Apr (MD).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 4 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 27 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 13 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: DMC 12 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 23 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 27 Apr.
Yellow-throated Warbler: SULL/ORAN border near Delaware Ri 11 May (JT); Dobbs Ferry 12 May (MB).
Pine Warbler: arr High Tor SP 7 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 4 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 5 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 9 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 9 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 22 Apr; Hastings-on-Hudson 12 May; "good" numbers at Doodletown 6 May (NYRBA); 2 Amenia 9 May; 2 DMC 12 May; Amenia 14 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 21 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 24 Apr.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 7 May.
Ovenbird: arr 30 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 23 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: Vassar Farm 10-29 May (PR); Bashakill 12 May (JT).

Mourning Warbler: MC 16, 14, 25 May; Bashakill 20 May; RNC 24, 26 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: "good" numbers at Doodletown 6 May (NYRBA).

Wilson's Warbler: arr 11 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 8 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: RNC 27 May (TB).

Scarlet Tanager: arr 3 May.

E. Towhee: arr n counties 22 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr DUTC 6 Apr; arr ROCK 7 Apr.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 MC 9 May.

Seaside Sparrow: 2 MC 21 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 14, 24 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 13 DMC 12

May; 3 Rombout Rd DUTC 18 Mar; 3 Iona I 1 May; many other May reports.

Snow Bunting: 45 Greigs DUTC 15 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 30 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr 30 Apr.

Bobolink: 148 DMC 12 May.

E. Meadowlark: 12 DMC 12 May.

Rusty Blackbird: Rye 6 Mar; Holiday Hills 10 Mar; 3 Clinton Corners 16 Mar; 3 Horseshoe L 28 Mar; few KP 15 Apr; Bashakill 27 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr 29 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 28 Apr.

Purple Finch: 10 DMC 12 May; most reports from SULL.

Evening Grosbeak: female at DUTC feeder 17 Apr (BB).

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