

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The entire spring season was warm and dry, especially in the northern half of the Region. March started with a warm first week, with temperatures reaching into the 60s. The latter half was cooler, but Poughkeepsie still ended 4°F above normal. Rain was well below normal, with Poughkeepsie coming in at 1.9", 1.7" below normal. In the southern area, the month's temperature and rain were closer to normal, with White Plains 0.5° warmer and 0.9" drier than normal. April and May continued as March. Poughkeepsie reached 89° on 19 April and was 3.7° warmer and 1.2" drier than normal. May was the same, coming in 0.7° warmer but 2.2" drier than normal. Sullivan County did have a cool spell the last week of May, with lows in Rockport in the 30s each night. Despite the warm and dry weather, migration was lackluster. Many people reported that common migrant numbers were down.

Steven Kahl found surprisingly good numbers of Tundra Swans at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. There were 13 on 6 and 7 March and 18 on the 19th. Renee Davis and John Sauchuck found an injured White-winged Scoter in Swan Lake on 26 March. The bird was rehabbed and released two days latter. Tom Burke recorded 145 White-winged Scoters at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on

18 April along with a single Black Scoter, two Northern Gannets and 62 Red-necked Grebes; 31 grebes were seen at one time. Two were seen flying in a White-winged Scoter flock. Another unusual duck for Sullivan County was a Long-tailed Duck at the Bashakill on 21 March.

Edith G. Read Sanctuary was the site for a few of our rare gulls. The highlight was a Little Gull on 11 April. A week earlier, an Iceland Gull, a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Glaucous Gull were found. Another Glaucous Gull was in Memorial Park, Nyack on 15, 17-18 March. A Black Tern turned up at the Bashakill 21 May.

Ken McDermott found 14 Long-eared Owls in a hemlock grove in Montgomery 1 March, continuing the good numbers seen in the past winter.

The best find of the season was a very cooperative Sedge Wren found in New Paltz by Christine Guarino on 16 May that remained through the period. Many people had their life looks at this tame bird.

The warbler migration was disappointing; numbers appeared low. I received no reports of Cape May Warbler. There were two "Brewster's" Warblers and three "Lawrence's" Warblers reported. Prothonotary and Kentucky warblers made a good showing, with Prothonotaries found in Westchester and Orange counties. Kentucky Warblers were found in Westchester, Sullivan, Dutchess and Rockland counties.

There was only a single report of Summer Tanager, a singing bird at Marshlands Conservancy on 15 May.

Common Redpolls stayed until March in Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess counties. Pine Siskins lingered into April as far south as Bronxville in Westchester County, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Sullivan and Dutchess counties in April.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill River NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 65 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 30 Table Mt 27 Mar; 350 Upper Cape Pd 4 Apr; Vanderburg Cove 1 May; Warwick 21 May.
Canada Goose: 5600 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 2000 Stissing L 9 Mar.
Brant: 1000 Claryville 6 Apr.
Tundra Swan: 13 WRNWR 6-7 Mar (SK); 18 WRNWR 19 Mar (SK).
Wood Duck: 48 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 72 WRNWR 8 Mar; 85 Bashakill 11 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 116 WRNWR 19 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 EGR 3 Apr; 2 Bashakill 4 Apr; 2 Upper Kays Pd DUTC 7 Apr; 9 WRNWR 15 May.
N. Shoveler: WRNWR 6-7 Mar.
N. Pintail: 290 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 500 WRNWR 24 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: 246 WRNWR 6-7 Mar; 655 WRNWR 21 Mar.
Canvasback: 1000 East Kingston 7 Mar.
Redhead: 2 Esopus Meadows 3 Mar; 4 Cohecton 4 Mar; 2 WRNWR 6-10 Mar; 8 Redwing 15-16 Mar; last Redwing 21 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 110 Twin I L DUTC 14 Mar; 356 WRNWR 15 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 200 EGR 12 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: 250 EGR 3 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: Swan L 26 Mar (JS, RD); 145 EGR 18 Apr (TB).
Black Scoter: EGR 18 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: 20 EGR 16 Mar; Bashakill 21 Mar (JH, ABo, ED, RD); 170 EGR 11 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: 50 Bashakill 11 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 350 Sprain Res 10

Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 60 MC 17 Apr.

Red-throated Loon: 65 EGR 20 Mar; 70 EGR 3 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: 3 Tamarack L 7 Apr; Bashakill 11 Apr.

Horned Grebe: Redwing Beekman 15-20 Mar; Vanderburgh Cove 15 Mar; 8 Bashakill 21 Mar; Ashokan Res 17 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 62 EGR 18 Apr (TB).

N. Gannet: 3 EGR 16 Mar; 6 EGR 3 Apr; 4 EGR 16 Apr; 2 EGR 18 Apr.

Great Cormorant: EGR 19 May.

Am. Bittern: Bashakill 11 Apr; Doodletown 13 May.

Least Bittern: Bashakill 23 May.

Great Egret: arr 20 Mar.

Snowy Egret: EGR 4 Apr.

Green Heron: Piermont Pier 17 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 7 May (TB); Larchmont Res 10 May (MB).

Black Vulture: 8 Bear Mt SP 13 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 12 Esopus Meadows 3 Mar; still 2 CPP 18 Mar; 8 Mongaup Res 20 Mar; ad on nest Ashokan Res 1 May.

N. Harrier: 8-16 WRNWR 1 Mar-10 Apr; 5-10 SGNWR 1 Mar-10 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Rhinebeck 21 Mar; Verplank 29 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 18 Apr

Rough-legged Hawk: Amenia 14 Mar; Thompson Pd 5 Apr.

Golden Eagle: 2 Stissing Mt 13 Mar; Thompson Pd 5 Apr.

Merlin: Napanoch 2 Mar; Ellenville 11

Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 eggs Newburgh-Beacon Bridge 12 Apr; 3 chicks there 10 May.

Clapper Rail: 3 MC 1, 25 May.

Sora: Thompson Pd 11 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: 13 MC 19-20 May.

Semipalmated Plover: 15 WRNWR 21 May; 8 MC 24 May.

Killdeer: arr 18 Mar; 10 WRNWR 21 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 3 Apr; 9 Milton Pt 4 Apr; 3 MC 27 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 20 MC 1 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: EGR 11, 17 Apr; MC 19 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: 12 WRNWR 10 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: 15 WRNWR 21 May

Ruddy Turnstone: 8 EGR 27 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 WRNWR 21 May; 10 MC 24 May.

Least Sandpiper: 50 WRNWR 21 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 35 EGR 18 Apr; 70 EGR 1 May.

Dunlin: Tivoli Bay 12 May; 20 WRNWR 21 May.

Wilson's Snipe: WRNWR 6-7 Mar.

Little Gull: EGR 11 Apr (TB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 160 EGR 3 Apr (TB).

Iceland Gull: EGR 3-4 Apr (TB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 EGR 4 Apr (TB).

Glaucous Gull: Memorial P Nyack 15, 17-18 Mar (ET, CW); EGR 3 Apr (TB).

Com. Tern: arr 18 Apr.

Forster's Tern: 3-4 MC 1-4 May.

Least Tern: MC 4 May.

Black Tern: Bashakill 21 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: EGR 4 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 6 May.

Long-eared Owl: 14 Montgomery 1 Mar (KM); 1-2 Baird P 22-26 Mar; Norrie Pt 27 Mar; 1-4 Domin Farm 1 Mar-18 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 7-9 SGNWR 6-7, 11 Mar; WRNWR 6-7 Mar; Pugsley Hill Rd Amenia 28 Mar; still 2 SGNWR 10 Apr; Claryville 20 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Pawling Nature Preserve 1 Mar; 1-3 Thompsons Pd 1-9, 14, 24 Mar; Loch Sheldrake 13-14 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: 78 Mt Vernon 23 May.

Whip-poor-will: MC 15 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farm 2 May thru (JH, RD); Humpo Marsh New Paltz 12 May (LA, SCho, FM).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Rye 10, 19 May; Esopus 12 May; Doodletown 13-16 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 12 May.

Alder Flycatcher: Warwick ORAN 15-20 May; MC 22-28 May.

E. Kingbird: Ward Pound Ridge 18 Apr (SW).

White-eyed Vireo: arr Doodletown 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: Camp Taconic 8 May (JC).

Purple Martin: 50 New Paltz 24 May.

Tree Swallow: 300 Bashakill 11 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 40 Larchmont Res 25 Apr.

Bank Swallow: 100 Amenia 29 May.

Cliff Swallow: 15 Cross River 18 Apr.

Sedge Wren: New Paltz 16 May thru (CG).

Marsh Wren: 9 MC 19 May.

Gray-cheeked / Bicknell's Thrush: RNC 20 May; MC 26 May.

Gray Catbird: arr north 30 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr 19 Apr.

Cedar Waxwing: many reports May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Mine Rd 13 May; Harriman SP 15 May; Port Orange Rd 15 May; Vassar Farms 29 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Mohonk Preserve 6 May (JV); Vassar Farms 25 May (BM).
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Kakiat P 10 May; Mine Rd 15-16 May (SD); Clinton 28 May (BBo).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 26 Mar; 50 Saugerties 19 Apr (SC).
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr; RNC 7 May; Camp Taconic 8 May; Ward Pound Ridge 15 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: Liberty Marsh 8 Mar (LHa), overwintering; arr MC 18 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: Larchmont Res 1 May (LS); Port Orange Rd 23 May (SM, PL).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Doodletown 2 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Saugerties 17 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: RNC 11 May (TB); Bashakill 13-23 May (BBu, CP, VF); Vassar Farms 14, 25 May (BM); Norrie Pt 26 May (KD).
Mourning Warbler: Deep Hollow 12 May; MC 22-28 May; Bashakill 23 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 13-16 May; 2 Doodletown 21-22 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: MC 15 May (MB).
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Harlen Valley

Rail Trail 24 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Warwick ORAN 15 May.
Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-4 MC 25-28 May.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 20, 25 May.
Seaside Sparrow: MC 1, 13 May.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: 2 MC 11 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: Ellenville 5 Mar; arr Red Hook 30 Apr.
Dark-eyed Junco: last wintering 16 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: White Sulphur Springs 15 Mar (JW ph); arr RNC 17 Apr.
Bobolink: 23 CPP 18 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: 3000 New Paltz 1-2 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: 3 SGNWR 6-7 Mar; 8 Ellenville 18 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: 50 Bashakill 11 Apr.
Com. Grackle: 200 EGR 4 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr 27 Apr; 6 Rockefeller SP 6-13 May (ABI); many other reports from each county.
Com. Redpoll: 11-40 Rhinebeck 5-19 Mar; 12 Grahamsville 12 Mar (JW); 400 East branch Neversink R Denning 27 Mar (SC, FM).
Pine Siskin: Bronxville 1 Apr (ABI); 5 Claryville 13 Apr (JW); 3 Poughquag 17 Apr (CP); 2 Kerhonkson 26 Apr (ASt).
Evening Grosbeak: 8 Claryville 3 Apr (JW); sev Verbank 28 Apr (BB).

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