

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The season started out very dry. Only 0.6 inches of precipitation fell in White Plains in March, four inches short of normal. Poughkeepsie saw just over an inch. Fortunately this meant no late winter or spring blizzards. Poughkeepsie saw three inches of snow on 2 March followed by temperatures dropping to 6°F on the 3rd. A week later saw temperatures climb into the low seventies on the 10th, almost 30 degrees higher than the normal high. The warm temperatures remained for a week. The last half of the month remained normal but with little precipitation. April had normal precipitation but averaged two degrees warmer. There were no weather patterns to bring in early migrants. Most arrival dates were normal. May started out dry, but on 11 May a “cut off low”, a large low pressure system over the Great Lakes, got separated from the jet stream and with no upper level winds to push it along moved very slowly for 4 days. The counter-clockwise flow of air around the low drew copious amounts of moist oceanic air over New England. The result was major flooding in New England. White Plains was deluged by 3.4 inches of rain on the 12th, Poughkeepsie had just under an inch of rain. They fared much better than some parts of New England which had over 10 inches on the 14th and 15th. This system may have brought Dutchess County's first county record for **Red Phalarope** on 13 May on the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club's May census.

Another highlight of the season was the discovery of three new species to breed in Westchester County. James Vellozzi discovered breeding **N. Saw-whet Owls** in Armonk. First discovered in March, owlets were seen on 17 May. The nest hole was monitored by James, and, with the help of Trudy Batterly and Drew Panko, five young were banded.

Evan Mark reported a single **Great Blue Heron nest** on Tarrytown Reservoir. Kelli Jewell and I check on the nest in late May; no chicks were seen, but they appeared to be sitting on eggs. The nest eventually produced four young herons. The third was finally a **Bald Eagle nest** for Westchester County. As reported in the Hudson River Almanac by Steve Joule and Tom

Lake, this new Bald Eagle nest, designated NY124, is now the southernmost on the tidalwater Hudson. Two chicks were banded in late May.

Valerie Freer located a Red-necked Grebe at Morningside Park between Hurllyville and Loch Sheldrake on 5 April. She decided to see what else may have come in at other lakes and found another Red-necked at Kiamesha Lake in Monticello and still another on Swan Lake near Liberty.

John Hass was observing a Bald Eagle at the Bashakill on 11 April when it suddenly dove into the marsh and put up a large bird. As the bird banked into the sunlight to out maneuver the eagle he saw bright chestnut with glossy green wings; a Glossy Ibis. He made several phone calls, and the bird remained and was viewed by others. This is the third record for Sullivan County.

In early May, an odd-looking warbler was reported from Doodletown Road at the first turn on the trail up from Route 9W. Lloyd Spitalnik reported that at times it would sing a typical American Redstart song but at other times would add an extra syllable or two. He was also able to photograph it and to place images on the web. The bird had two wing bars, lacked the orange patches on the sides of the breast, and the wings and tail were gray and the tail was short. It appears to be a hybrid of an American Redstart and an unknown other warbler.

Other notable species include: Sandhill Crane, Black Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, MC Marshlands Conservancy, RNC-Rye Nature Center.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: flock overhead Rhinebeck 29 Mar; 6 Neversink Res 24 April.
Brant: 1100 MC 7 May; 2500 flying overhead in evening, Mt Vernon 21 May.
Mute Swan: on nest Chadwick Lake, Newburgh 7 Mar.
Wood Duck: 463 Bashakill 18 Apr.
Gadwall: 80 Rockland L 22 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 30 Saugerties 10 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: Lake Walton 17 May.
N. Pintail: 3 Rhinebeck 5 Mar; 5 Tivoli Bay 10 Mar; 6 Pine Planes 11 Mar; Bashakill 17 Apr.
Redhead: 18 Rockland Lake 8 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 100 Saugerties 10 Mar; 77 L Walton 17 Mar; 8 Livingston Manor 13 Apr; Millbrook 3 May; Ashokan Res 10 May; Kiamesha L 13 May.
Greater Scaup: 500 EGR 11 Mar; Dutchess May census 13 May.
Lesser Scaup: 100 EGR 11 Mar; 2 Swan Lake 20 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: 22 EGR 9 Apr.
Black Scoter: 6-10, 13 Sylvan Lake, Beekman 30 Mar; 3 EGR 2 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: 80 EGR 26 Mar; 4 Morningside Park 1 Apr; 4 Neversink Reservoir 8 Apr; Kingston Point Beach 13 May.
Bufflehead: 60 Rockland L 29 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: 10 EGR 26 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 30 Bowline Town Park 11 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: Beacon River Park 5 Mar; Rondout Res 8 Apr; Piermont Pier 19 May.
Ruddy Duck: 60 Rockland L 22 Mar.
Red-throated Loon: 6 EGR 26 Mar; 12 EGR 5 Apr.
Com. Loon: 8 EGR 26 Mar; Neversink Res 30 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: Lake Walton 17 May.
Horned Grebe: 7 EGR 26 Mar; Neversink Reservoir 1,2 Apr (JH); 24 EGR 2 Apr (TB).
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 1 Mar, 2,9 Apr (TB); Norrie Pt 18-19 Mar. (P&BJ); Morningside Park 5 Apr (VF); Kiamesha Lake 5 Apr (JH); Liberty 5 Apr (JH); diff birds

N. Gannet: 2 MC 6 Apr.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 12 Apr; Nyack 15 Apr; sev Bashakill 13 May; 2 Dutchess May census 13 May.
Least Bittern: Piermont Pier 30 Apr (A&DW); Bashakill 24 May (JDi, TF).
Great Egret: EGR 1; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 18 Apr.
Snowy Egret: arr 8 Apr.
Little Blue Heron: EGR 9 May; Dutchess May census 13 May; Fishkill 27 May (ES).
Cattle Egret: Dutchess May census 13 May.
Green Heron: arr 10 Apr Pawling.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: EGR 24 Apr.
Glossy Ibis: EGR 2 Apr; Bashakill 11 Apr (JH, RD, AB, VF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: on nests in DUTC by March; 6 imm, 6 Bowline Town Park 11 Mar; 1 ad Pawling 11 Mar; first nest for WEST, see intro.
N. Goshawk: Hyde Park 15 Mar; Westbrookville 3 Apr; Doodletown 6 May; Neversink R 13 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 10 Apr; 12 Hook Mt 12 Apr; 530 Hook Mt 15 Apr; 320 Hook Mt 16 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Stissing Mt 8, 18 Mar (CV); 1 imm Pawling 11 Mar (BB, CP).
Merlin: Smithfield 1 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Poughkeepsie RR bridge 5 Mar, 28 Apr; 2 New Paltz 15 May.
Clapper Rail: MC 27 Apr.
Sora: Saugerties 15 Apr (SC); 4 Dutchess May census 13 May; Piermont Pier 19 May; East Fishkill 2,3 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr Bashakill 24 Apr.
Am. Coot: 40 Sylvan L 9 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: Walkkill River NWR 8-10, 13 May (RSt).
Black-bellied Plover: 2-6 MC 18, 24, 25, 30 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: Pine Plains 8, 9, 16 Apr (BB).
Semipalmated Plover: 24 Swinging Bridge Res 24, 25 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: EGR 20 Mar; 2 EGR 26 Mar; 6 EGR 2 Apr; 2 MC 20, 28 Apr; 3 EGR 19 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 19 MC 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Orange County Airport 17 Apr; Blue Chip Farm 19 Apr; Blue Chip Farm 13 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 19 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 Swinging Bridge Res 25 May.
Least Sandpiper: 50 Swinging Bridge Res 13-25 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 Swinging Bridge Res 25-27 May (JH).
Pectoral sandpiper: Pine Plains 24 Apr.
Purple Sandpiper: 20 EGR 9 Mar; 2 EGR 19 May.
Dunlin: Woodbourne 14 May; 2 Swinging Bridge Res 23-25 May (JH).
Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: 36 Montgomery 8 Apr (CM); 10 Rhinebeck 9 Apr; 14 Bashakill 18 Apr.
RED PHALAROPE: Dutchess May census 13 May, 1st DUTC record.
Laughing Gull: 4 EGR 5 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Neversink Res 13 Apr (LV).
Com. Tern: 30 Rye 7 May; 100 Rye 8 May.
Forster's Tern: 3 MC 9,27 Apr; 3 EGR 18 May; 2 MC 23 May.
Least Tern: 8 MC 18 May; MC 31 May.
Black Tern: Bashakill 17 May (KMc, JH, RD, VF).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: good numbers.
Long-eared Owl: Dutchess May census 13 May.
Short-eared Owl: Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge 27 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Armonk 15 Mar (JV), breeding, see *intro*.
Whip-poor-will: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 12 Apr; Tallman SP 26 Apr; 3 Westbrookeville 28 Apr; Coldspring 13 May.
Chimney Swift: 50 Poughkeepsie 24 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farm 16,19 Apr, 13 May; Saugerties 18 Apr; New Paltz 28 Apr; 2 New Paltz 16 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RNC 18 May; Doodletown 23 May; Verbank 25 May; Baskakill 27 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Bashakill 19 May; MC 22 May; RNC 23 May; Yankee L 23 May; RNC 25 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 20 May; 5 Bashakill 28 May.
Alder Flycatcher: expected reports from Bashakill and Sterling Forrest; Verbank 25 May; Croton Point 26 May.
Willow Flycatcher: Doodletown 5 May.
E. Phoebe: arr 5 Mar, ties early date.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 28 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Ontario Lake State Park 11 May (HH); Dutchess May census 13 May; New Paltz 16 May (GN).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 22 Apr, early.
Am. Crow: roost of 8000-10,000 Poughkeepsie 5 Mar (CV).
Fish Crow: arr 5 Mar.
Horned Lark: 67 Plankenhorn Fm 3 Mar.
Bank Swallow: 200 Fishkill 4 May (ES).
Winter Wren: 6 Denning 10 May.
Marsh Wren: Thompson Pd 8 Mar, an early, well-seen bird (CV); MC 14 Apr; Saugerties 15 Apr; 3 Tivoli Bay 7 May; Pawling early May; Constitution Marsh 13, 26 May; Bashakill 13,17,22 May; 10 MC 25 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Dutchess May census 13 May; RNC May 24; 2 MC 26 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: singing and seen well RNC 22 May (TB).
Am. Robin: mostly white with orange breast Yonkers 12 Apr (BS).
Am. Pipit: 15 Blue Chip Farm 13 May; 2 Neversink Res 11 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 26 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: reports from Sterling Forrest, Mine Road and Linear Park.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Mine Road 26,31 May (BG,DG); Tivoli Bays 9 May (JC); Hopewell Jct 18 (PF).

"Brewster's" Warbler: Mohonk Preserve 5 May; Dutchess May census 13 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Pawling 10 Apr (SG).

Nashville Warbler: at feeder 12 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: Doodletown 5 May (BL); Bashakill 13 May (JD, SS); Wurtsboro 14 May; Amenia 21 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Dutchess May census 13 May.

Pine Warbler: arr 15 Mar, early.

Prairie Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Palm Warbler: 50 Rockland Lake SP 26 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 13 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 27 Apr; Ashokan Reservoir 16 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 9 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: Hastings-on-Hudson 12 May; Bashakill 13,24,27 May; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 13 May; RNC 25,26 May; 2 MC 26 May; Sundown 29 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Port Orange Rd 17 May (KMc).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 11 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Montgomery 18 Apr (CM); Neversink 23 Apr (RD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Saugerties 13 May (PS).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Croton Point 16 May (LB); MC 18 May; 3 MC 25,31 May.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 27 Apr, 5 May.

Savannah Sparrow: 15 Orange County Airport 17 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: numerous reports in May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 at feeder 14 Apr (S&PG).

Rusty Blackbird: 15 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 11 March; 18 Town of Washington 17 Mar, 2 HVRT 14 Mar CV; 28 New City 14 Mar; Buttercup West 29 Mar; still present Bashakill 4 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr 25 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: Bronxville 21 Mar (ABI).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Rockland L 22 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: 50 Loch Sheldrake, 7,9 Mar (RSh,KMc); 2 Parksville 5 Apr; Livingston Manor 5 Apr (LV).

Pine Siskin: Livingston Manor 1,17 Apr; Rhinebeck 12 Apr; Claryville 14 Apr; 10 Pleasant Valley all May; 5 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 26 Parksville early Apr (SR).

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