

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

The season's weather can be described as a roller coaster of extreme highs and lows, dryness and heavy rain. Although March came in with average rainfall and was only 1.2° cooler than normal, the second week saw extreme cold, with Poughkeepsie reaching lows in the single digits 6-9 March. Five days later the city warmed to 75°. This was quickly followed by another cold snap. The rest of March and the first half of April was very dry, with relative humidity levels reaching the teens. There was another cold snap 5-12 April, and this is probably the reason so few early migrants were seen relative to the same period in the past few years. Three days later brought a Nor'easter up the coast. Poughkeepsie saw 5" of rain in two days, New Rochelle saw 7.75", and much of lower Westchester County saw record floods. White Plains had 12.8" of rain for the month, nearly four times normal. April was the second wettest month on record – remarkable since the first half was so dry. The first week of May was cool and dry, retarding many migrants. Many people felt that migration was one to two weeks behind. May remained extremely dry, with only 1.37" of rain for Poughkeepsie compared with the normal 4.73". The season ended hot, reaching 90° degrees on the 25th and 31st.

Overall the migration season was disappointing. Migration seemed late, and observers reported that migrant numbers were way down. Fortunately many of the winter season's highlights lingered, and the season had a number of notable birds.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported by Bill Robinson on Shagbark Pond in Centerville in Town of Saugerties, Ulster County on the evening of 1 May. Steve Chorvas was able to confirm the identification. The swan had two yellow wing tags with the number 047. Two Tundra Swans were found 20 March on Oil City Road.

Two Cackling Geese were reported, one at Marshlands Conservancy on 13 March and the other on Missionland Road, Pine Island on 25 March.

John Haas noticed a fallout of waterfowl in Sullivan County while birding in a storm 12 April. Combined, Kiamesha and Yankee Lakes had nine Common Loons, three Red-necked Grebes, eight Horned Grebes, seven White winged Scoters, along with plenty of Bufflehead, Common Mergansers, and Ring-necked Ducks. Other Red-necked Grebes and White-winged Scoters were reported inland elsewhere after this storm.

The April Nor'easter brought in two Red-throated Loons to Rhinecliff on 17 April.

Doug and Mike Gochfeld reported a probable nesting Black Vulture in Westchester County near Crompond/Mohegan Lake in mid May.

The highlight of the migration was a subadult **Mississippi Kite** seen soaring over Doodletown Road in the early evening of 12 May. A group of birders participating in a weekend birdathon observed the bird for 2 -3 minutes circling overhead near the cemetery just above the pond.

The **Slaty-backed Gull**, which made sporadic appearances in Sullivan County at the Monticello landfill in February, was found 3 March at the flooded Apollo Plaza off Rte 17 by John Haas and Ken and Curt McDermott. This was the first time it was seen outside the landfill and the first at a publicly accessible location. The site also included one Lesser Black-backed, one Glaucous, and four Iceland gulls. The Slaty-backed remained for twenty minutes until all the gulls took flight and flew into the landfill. The next day many birders went to the Apollo Plaza to try for the Slaty-backed Gull, which failed to make an appearance. Then Renee Davis, who had left Apollo Plaza earlier in the morning to search for a Red-headed Woodpecker that has been reported over the years in New Paltz, called to report that she had found presumably the same Slaty-backed Gull in a corn field near New Paltz on Rte 299. A mass exodus of birders headed out and drove a little over 40 miles only to find that the gulls had lifted off ten minutes before they arrived, kettled over New Paltz, and soared off. Renee did manage a few photographs to confirm the ID as a Slaty-backed Gull, a first record for Ulster County. The gull reappeared for its last sightings on the 10 and 21 March.

A Little Gull was found at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Westchester County on 18 April.

The Piermont Snowy Owl remained at the pier daily until 10 March. Possibly the same bird returned later in the month and was last seen 7 April.

The most peculiar sighting for the season goes to a Whip-poor-will found sleeping on a Volvo in a car dealership on 6 April in Poughkeepsie. Its photo made the local paper the next day.

A Bicknell's Thrush was heard singing at Marshlands Conservancy not far from a singing Gray-cheeked Thrush on 22 May, providing a nice comparison.

A first spring male **Blue Grosbeak** was discovered in Orange County 18 May by Ken McDermott. A NYSARC report was submitted. This will be the first documented record for Orange County.

The **Bullock's Oriole** in Phoenicia remained until at least 18 March.

Other notable species include: Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Jane Alexander, John Askildsen, Scott Baldinger, Gail Benson, Michael Bochnik, Jackie Bogardus, Jacqueline Bruskin, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Tammy Carey, Steve M. Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Josh Clague, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Joe DiCostanzo, Jean Dorman, Tom Fiore, Brendan Fogarty, Valerie Freer, Doug Gochfeld, Richard Gershon, Scott Graber, Christine Guarino, Andy Guthrie, Sue Gyscek, John Haas, David Hayes, Keith Hedgecock, Dan Heglund, John Ike, Kelli Jewell, Rodney Johnson, Ken Kijewski, Jeff Kimball, Bob Lewis, Evan Mark, Hugh Martin, Chuck McAlexander, Ken McDermott, Curt McDermott, Tully McElrath, Phil Meisner, Barbara & Allan Michelin, Mona Payton, Bill Robinson, John Roosenberg, Edith & Barry Rosen, Mickey Scilingo, Ann Shaw, Dave Sime, Sean Sime, Ed Spaeth, Lloyd Spitalnik, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Larry Trachtenberg, James Vellozzi, Chet Vincent, Steve Walter, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells, Robert Williams, John Workman.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP -- Croton Point Park; EGR -- Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC -- Marshlands Conservancy; RNC -- Rye Nature Center; SGNWR -- Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Blue Chip Farm, Walkill 25-29 Mar (TB, GB, CG).

Snow Goose: scattered reports in March, April.

Brant: Fishkill 22 Mar; 110 EGR 26 Mar; 200 MC 12 May; 200 Nyack 21 May.

Cackling Goose: MC 13 Mar (TB); Missionland Road, Pine Island 25 Mar (KM).

Trumpeter Swan: Centerville, Town of Saugerties 1 May (BR, SC).

Tundra Swan: 2 Oil City Road 20 Mar (KM).

Wood Duck: 50 Bashakill 13 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 12 May.

Blue-winged Teal: 8 Bashakill 12 Apr; 2 Tarrytown Lakes 13 Apr; 1 Piermont 28 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: 80 Pine Plains 31 Mar (RG); 46 Briscoe L 3 Apr.

Redhead: 2 Walden 19 May (KM), late.

Ring-necked Duck: 100 Clove Valley 24 Mar; 100 Yankee L 12 Apr; 100 Bashakill 12 Apr; 2 Bashakill 12, 15, 19 May;

Saugerties 12 May. **White-winged Scoter:** 3 Kiamasha L 12 April (JH); 4 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); Ashokan Res 12 May (SC, LA, JBo, JR).

Long-tailed Duck: 40 EGR 31 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: Somers 30 May.

Com. Merganser: 150 Yankee L 12 Apr.

Red-throated Loon: 2 Rhinecliff 17 Apr (RJ), after Nor'Easter; 7 EGR 19 Apr.

Com. Loon: 5 Kiamesha L 12 April (JH); 4 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); 8 EGR 26 Apr.
Horned Grebe: Bashakill 25,26 Mar; 2 Six-and-a-half Station Rd, Goshen 25 Mar; Dennings Point 30 Mar, 3 Apr; 4 Kiamesha L 12 April; 4 Yankee L 12 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: Orange L, Newburgh 25 Mar (KM); 3 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); 4 Yankee L 13-14 Apr (JH); 2 Swan L 13, 14 Apr (RD, VF, MC, JH); Kauneonga L 14 Apr (JH).
N. Gannet: 4 EGR 18 Apr.
Least Bittern: Bashakill 12 May.
Great Egret: Milon 8 Apr.
Glossy Ibis: 2 Pine Island 26 Apr; 2 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 12 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: first, Bashakill 30 Mar.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: subad Doddletown 12 May (JDi, JDo, CMcA, JK, AS ,DS, SS).
N. Harrier: 6 SGNWR 11 Mar; Bashakill 19 May.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 74 Hook Mt 21 Apr.
N. Goshawk: Ward Pound Ridge 20 Mar; Verbank 7 Apr; Roscoe 10 Apr; Val-Kill 22 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 36 Hook Mt 11 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: 384 Hook Mt 21 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 SGNWR 11 Mar; Monticello 12 Mar.
Golden Eagle: 2 Stissing Mt 8 Mar.
Am. Kestrel: 77 Hook Mt 21 Apr; Millbrook 4 May.
Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 12, 15, 29 May.
Sora: 4 MC May.
Com. Moorhen: good numbers at Bashakill.
Sandhill Crane: New Paltz 13 May (JC).
Black-bellied Plover: 4 MC 16, 17 May; 10 MC 21 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: 3 Missionland Road, Pine Island 26 Apr (KM).
Semipalmated Plover: 10 MC 15 May.
Am. Oystercatcher: 4 EGR 20 Mar, 22 May; 4 EGR 13 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 9 MC 23, 30 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Sharon Springs 10 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: DUTCHESS 11 Apr, early
Willet: 2 MC 12 May.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 Blue Chip Farm 12 May; 2 Blue Chip Farm 12 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: 4 MC 22 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Kingston Point 12 May; MC 15, 16 May.
Purple Sandpiper: 15 EGR 26 Mar.
Dunlin: 4 Rhinebeck 27 Apr; 7 Missionland Road, Pine Island 26 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 MC 4, 7 May.
Wilson's Snipe: 51 Blue Chip Farm 29 Mar.
Laughing Gull: arr EGR 26 Apr
LITTLE GULL: 1 ad EGR 18 Apr (TB).
Bonaparte's Gull: 12 Beacon 6 Apr; 220 EGR 15 Apr; 25 Newburgh 18 Apr; Bashakill 12, 21 Apr; Kiamesha L 14,28 Apr; 3 CPP 5 May; 2 Kingston Pt beach 12 May.
Iceland Gull: 4 Monticello 3 Mar; Monticello 10, 12, 19 Mar; EGR 26 Apr (TB).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Monticello 1, 3-12 Mar; 2 EGR 1 Apr (AG).
Glaucous Gull: Monticello 21 Mar (JH, VF, RD); New Paltz 19 Apr (CG).
SLATY-BACKED GULL: Monticello 3, 10, 21 Mar (JH, KM, CMcD, VF, RD); New Paltz 4 Mar (RD), 1st record for ULST, see *intro*.
Com. Tern: 10 Rye 4 May; 60 EGR 30 May.
Forster's Tern: 4 MC 30 Apr, 2 pairs courting.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: not many around compared with Yellow-billed.
Snowy Owl: PP 1-10, 29, 30 March, 6, 7 Apr (DC, A&DW).
Long-eared Owl: MC 18 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: 2 SGNWR 11 Mar.
Whip-poor-will: Poughkeepsie 6 Apr, see *intro*; few Bashakill 12 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Pawling 1-31 Mar; LaGrange 4 Mar; Blue Chip Farm 12 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Torne Road, West Point 13 May; Doodletown 17 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Torne Road, West Point 13 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Bashakill 12 May.
N. Shrike: Ellenville 2 Mar (PM); Wappingers 24, 25, 31 Mar (TC, RW, B&AM).
Horned Lark: 50 Union Vale 7 Mar.
Cliff Swallow: 30 Cross River Res 28 May.
Marsh Wren: MC 3, 4 May; 8 MC 29 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: singing MC 16 May (JBr); singing MC 21, 22 May (TB).
Bicknell's Thrush: Doodletown 4 May (BL); singing MC 22 May (TB).
Gray-cheeked /Bicknell's Thrush: Harriman SP 6 May; ULST 12 May; Bashakill 18 May.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Bashakill 12 May; 3 Linear Park 20 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Mine Torne Road, West Point 10-14 May (KK, KM).
Orange-crowned Warbler: Rye Nature Center 2 May (TB).
Cape May Warbler: Bashakill 19 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: Rockland Lake SP 1, 2 May (CW, A&DW).
Kentucky Warbler: MC 14,15 May (TB); Rye Nature Center 17 May (TB).
Mourning Warbler: arr 12 May, early; MC 15, 22 May; 2 Bashakill 20 May; Rye Nature Center 21 May.
Hooded Warbler: 28 Apr; Phillipstown May 6.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 16 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr 17 Apr; 18 Peach Hill 28 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Bashakill 12, 28 Apr.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 22 May; 3 MC 29 May.
Seaside Sparrow: MC 17, 22 May.
Fox Sparrow: many reports after snowstorm 16 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Claryville 21 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Sharon Station 18 Mar; Stormville 19 Apr; Rhinebeck 28 Apr; Hyde Park 29-30 Apr; Rye 3, 4 May; Iona I 19 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: lingered south longer than usual, still around on last week of Apr.
Lapland Longspur: Missionland Road, Pine Island 20 Mar (KM).
Snow Bunting: 25 Monticello 1 Mar; 5 Sharon Station 18 Mar (CV); Wurtsboro 12 May (SGr), late.
BLUE GROSBEAK: 1st spring male Orange County 18 May (KM), 1st documented record for ORAN, report to NYSARC.
Rusty Blackbird: 22 Tamarack 10 Apr.
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: Phoenicia 1-18 March (DHe, m.o.b.).
Pine Siskin: Greenfield Park 5 Mar; few Livingston Manor 5 Apr.

(973) 252-2712 (w) (914) 237-9331 (h)
E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com

