

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The spring was very wet but not as cool as everyone expected. The season started with temperatures in the teens on 2 March, with Poughkeepsie dipping to 10° F on 4 March. Temperatures quickly climbed and were in the seventies by 18 March. White Plains recorded 7.4" of precipitation in March mainly from two storms; both resulted in extensive flooding. A storm on 6 March dumped 2.8", and a storm from 10 to 11 March added 3.1". April continued wet, with 7.1" recorded for White Plains, 2.6" above normal. The last few days saw high temperatures into the lower eighties resulting in the month being 2° warmer than normal. This warm humid spell brought in many first arrivals. May was a mirror image of April. Half of the days had at least a trace of rain. Good migrant days were few and far between. Nearly 7" of rain fell in White Plains for May, and temperatures were 2° warmer than normal.

An early highlight of the season was a goose bonanza centered in the Black Dirt region of Orange County. It started on 2 March when John Haas, Rob Stone, and Bob Cotter noticed a huge flock of Snow Geese just east of the observation area for Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR. The flock was estimated between 2500 and 3000 birds. Rob Stone then found eight Greater White-fronted Geese just off Lower Road near Pine Island. He shortly found a ninth Greater White-fronted Goose at the Pine Island Turf Nursery. In addition, another flock of 3000 Snow Geese was at Missionlands Road. Nearly 10,000 Canada Geese were in the area. The next morning John Haas found nearly the same number of Canada and Snow Geese in the area, and five of the Greater White-fronted Geese. In addition, one "Blue" Snow Goose and a Cackling Goose were found along with some sort of hybrid goose and a leucistic Canada

Goose. The next day, with John and Rob keeping in touch with one another, they found at least twelve Greater White-fronted Geese in the area. After John left, Rob sifted through the massive Snow Goose flock that had resettled in the Turf Nursery and found a Ross's Goose. Later in the day Ken McDermott discovered a Barnacle Goose at the golf course in Pine Island and, along with his son Curt, observed it until nightfall.

The weekend then brought in many more observers. On Saturday, Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese numbers were down, but the number of Snow Geese at the Pine Island Turf Nursery rose to 8,000 with at least twenty-two of them blue morph. The highlights of the day were three Ross's Geese, including a rare blue morph individual found by Curt McDermott (see photo, page 244). In addition to the geese, a total of ten Tundra Swans were found between the turf nursery and the local golf course. The Barnacle Goose and three Cackling Geese were also found that day. On Sunday at least nine different Ross's Geese were observed by many, including the blue morph. Only three Greater White-fronted Geese were found and the Barnacle Goose was absent. Although out of state, it is worth mentioning that a Pink-footed Goose was present in nearby Bergen County, New Jersey during the same period. Heavy rains and flooding in the area then diminished the bonanza during the next few days.

Two months later, Rob Stone found five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks off Oil City Road at the Wallkill NWR on 23 May. A few other birders were able to view the birds that day. No leg bands were seen. The birds were later found just south of the area in New Jersey but returned to the New York side in the late evening. They were present in the area until 26 May.

Benjamin Van Doren found a shearwater, a possible Manx Shearwater, on 17 May while watching Long Island Sound from Read Sanctuary in Rye.

Four Sandhill Cranes were observed flying overhead in Rhinebeck on 12 April. A pair was off Houston Road in Goshen on 13 April, and Ken Witkowski and Jim Schlickenrieder spotted a pair flying over while viewing the Black-bellied Ducks at Wallkill on 24 May.

Arie Gilbert and the Queens County Bird Club had a Mississippi Kite at the deli fields at the Bashakill on 22 May. A good flight of north bound hawks occurred 21 April at Hook Mountain in Nyack. A total of 787 hawks were counted as migrants and included 712 Broad-winged Hawks and 45 Sharp-shinned Hawks. Jim Clinton reported a Swallow-tailed Kite on 2 May over Bulls Head Road and Centre Road in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County. It was heading southwest.

John Hass has been touting birding during south-southwest storms for years in Sullivan County. One such storm on 4 May certainly paid off. He hit the water areas first before the rains stopped. A Red-necked Grebe greeted him at Kiamesha Lake. Morningside Park revealed a Black Tern. At Neversink Reservoir seven Bonaparte's Gulls were found along with another Black Tern. A lone Bonaparte's Gull was at Swan Lake. Then it was on to the Bashakill, where a third Black Tern was found along with sixteen species of warblers highlighted by Tennessee and Cerulean Warblers.

The Varied Thrush found in late December in Wurtsboro stayed for the first three days in March to make the spring report.

Tait Johansson found a singing Dickcissel at Muscoot Farm in Somers on 22 May as he led a morning bird walk. The bird did take off and flew northwest; it could not be relocated. Another Dickcissel was found at Marshlands Conservancy on 29 May.

Ken McDermott photographed and documented an adult male European Goldfinch of unknown origin that first appeared on 21 February at a home feeder outside Pine Bush in Orange County. The bird stayed until 3 May.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Wigeon, American White Pelican, American Golden-Plover, Boat-tailed Grackle, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook; CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 9 Pine I 2, 3 Mar (RSt); 12 Pine I 4 Mar; 3 Pine I 5 Mar; few Skinner Lane, Goshen NY 6-12 Mar (RSt).
Snow Goose: 3500-5000 Wallkill NWF 2,3 Mar (JHaa, BC, RSt); blue-morph Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa); 8000, 22 blue morph Pine I 5 Mar (JHaa, KM); 800 Bashakill 12 Mar; Neversink Res 16 May.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R9): Pine Island 4 Mar (RSt); 3, one blue morph Pine Island 5 Mar (CM, JHaa); 9, one blue morph Pine Island 6 Mar (CM, JHaa, TB, KM); 5 Pine Island 7 Mar.
Brant: 300 Bashakill 12 Mar; 1500 Norrie Pt 25 May, 6:00 - 7:40 PM.
BARNACLE GOOSE: Pine I 4,5 Mar (KM, CM, JHaa).

CAACKLING GOOSE (R9): Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa); 3 Pine I 5 Mar (SSM).
Canada Goose: 11000 Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa).
Tundra Swan: 10 Pine I area 5 Mar (JHaa); 7 Skinner Ln, Goshen 5 Mar (KM), same birds from Pine I?; Fishkill 18 Mar.
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK: 5 Wallkill NWR 23-26 May (RSt, KM, mob).
Wood Duck: 200 Bashakill 4 Apr.
Eurasian Wigeon: Bashakill 3 Apr (JHaa), 2nd SULL record.
Blue-winged Teal: 6 Linear Park, Wurtsboro 27 Apr.
N. Pintail: 150 Wallkill NWF 2 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: 30 Pine I 5 Mar; 60 Tivoli Bay 22 Mar.
Redhead: Bashakill 14-18 Mar; Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP 24-25 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 50 Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP 9 Mar; 55 Stissing L 12 Mar, 6 Apr.
Greater Scaup: 120 EGR 4 Mar; 1-2 EGR 8, 12, 13 May.
Lesser Scaup: 350 EGR 15 Mar.
Surf Scoter: 60 EGR 5 Mar (TB); 2 Wolf Lake 3 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: 400 EGR 5 Mar; Neversink Res 17 Apr; 9 Kiamesha L 15, 16 May.
Long-tailed Duck: Bashakill 23 Mar; max 75 EGR 10 Apr.
Bufflehead: 88 EGR 18 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: max 45 EGR 15 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 1-3 CEIS 8, 11, 13, 20, 26 May.
Red-breasted Merganser: Wappinger L 2 Apr; Saugerties Lighthouse 18 Apr; 4-5 Beacon 26 Apr, 12 May.
N. Bobwhite: Claryville 5 Mar, early Apr (CB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports from DUTC only.
Red-throated Loon: max 15 EGR 10 Apr; Rye 2 May.
Com. Loon: max 8 EGR 14 Mar; 2 EGR 18 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: few at Bashakill in May, returning after failed nesting in past two years due to flooding.
Horned Grebe: 4 Bashakill 12 Mar; max 24 EGR 15 Mar; Millerton 17 Mar; Sylvan L 22 Mar; Tivoli Bay 22 Mar; Redwing P 22 Mar; 23 Kiamesha L 23 Apr; Saugerties Lighthouse 10, 18 Apr; Bashakill 14 May.
Red-necked Grebe: Esopus Point 5 Mar; 3 EGR 14, 30, 31 Mar, 2, 3, 15 Apr; Bashakill 22 Mar; Bashakill 4 Apr; Kiamesha L 4 May.
SHEARWATER, sp (R9): Rye 17 May (BV), *intro*.

N. Gannet: 14 EGR 14 Mar; 33 EGR 15 Apr.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: Saugerties 31 May (Hudson-Mohawk Birdline).
Am. Bittern: Tivoli Bay 23, 26 Apr; Bashakill 24 Apr; 4 Bashakill 14 May; CIES 20 May.
Least Bittern: MC 30 Apr; Thompson P 21 May; Bashakill 22 May.
Great Egret: arr 18 Mar Rockland L; Millbrook 3 May AP; Bashakill 6, 14 Apr, 15 May; Wingdale 28 May E&BR.
Snowy Egret: arr EGR 3 Apr.
Tricolored Heron: Bashakill 28 Apr (JHaa), 2nd SULL record.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 23 EGR 9 Apr.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Rhinebeck 2 May (JCLI).
MISSISSIPPI KITE: Bashakill 22 May (AG), 4th SULL record.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 45 Hook Mt 21 Apr.
N. Goshawk: Poughkeepsie 12 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr CEIS 12 Mar; Hook Mt 14 Apr; 712 Hook Mt 21 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: Wallkill NWF 2 Mar; 2 Red Hook 4 Mar; 4 Pine I 5 Mar.
Golden Eagle: Thompson P 12 Mar; Stissing 18 Mar; Bashakill 20 Mar.
Clapper Rail: MC 19, 20 May.
Virginia Rail: 2-4 Thompson Pd 16 Apr thru; Bashakill 24 Apr;
Sora: Bashakill 14 May, only report.
Com. Moorhen: MC 14-15 Apr; 10 Bashakill 3 May; 6 Bashakill 22 May; higher numbers at Bashakill than last few years.
Sandhill Crane: 4 flying over Hudson R, Rhinebeck 12 Apr (JClo); 2 Houston Rd, Goshen 13 Apr (KM); Wallkill NWR 24 May (KW,JS).
Black-bellied Plover: 4 Skinner Lane, Goshen 22 May; 3 MC 23 May; 3 Red Hook 22 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: flyover Port Chester 20 May (JA).
Semipalmated Plover: 3 Rye 13 May.
Killdeer: 3 Montgomery 2 Mar.
Am. Oystercatcher: arr MC 17 Mar; 5 Rye 2 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: Saugerties and Iona I 19 Apr; 5 Bashakill 14 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: Bronx R 29 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: 30 MC 8 Apr.
Willet: EGR 27 Apr; MC 5, 6, 8, 19 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: MC 8 Apr; Pine Plains 1 May; Piermont Pier 15-24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: Bluechip Farm 8 May; 3 Bluechip Farm 24 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 EGR 11 May; 6 EGR 13 May; 2 Piermont Pier 15-24 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 15 Piermont Pier 15-24 May.

Least Sandpiper: 2 MC 3 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Bashakill 22 May.

Purple Sandpiper: last 3 EGR 19 Apr.

Dunlin: MC 29 Apr; 4 Piermont Pier 15-24 May; 8 Wallkill NWR 23 May; 22 Wallkill NWR 24 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 Piermont Pier 15-24 May; 23 MC 19 May; 22 Wallkill NWR 23 May.

Wilson's Snipe: 6 CPP 5 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: MC 4 Mar; 8 Montgomery 8 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 10 EGR 12 Apr; 2 Yankee L 28 Apr; 14 Rye 2 May; 7 Neversink Res 4 May; Swan L 4 May; EGR 17 May.

Laughing Gull: 2 Stanfordville 20 Apr (AP); MC 5 May; 2 Staatsburg 8 May (StB, DGo).

Glaucous Gull: imm Rye 8 May (TB).

Least Tern: arr MC 30 Apr; 9 MC 5 May.

Caspian Tern: Bashakill 26 Apr (BS), 3rd SULL record.

Black Tern: Morningside Park May 4 (JHaa); Neversink Reservoir May 4 (JHaa); Bashakill May 4 (JHaa).

Com. Tern: 40 MC 2 May; 60 MC 8 May; Bashakill 22 May (JH).

Forster's Tern: arr MC 15 Apr (TG); 6 MC 8 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 12 Aiello P, New Rochelle 20 Mar.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 7 May.

Barn Owl: 2 Tallman SP 14 May (TD, CH).

Long-eared Owl: 2 Piermont Pier 4 Mar; Piermont Pier 7-9 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Bashakill 11, 12 Mar; Westbrookville 13 May (JHaa, ABo).

Com. Nighthawk: arr Mt Vernon 24 Apr.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 30 May; 2 Dover Plains 4 May; 9 Bashakill area 14 May; Pine Plains 17 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 Weston Rd, New Paltz/Esopus town line mid May (MD); Yankee L 12-19 May (JHaa); Red Hook 22 May (MD).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 7 May; CIES 12, 13 May; Doodletown Rd 14 May; Milan 20-21 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Wurtsboro 14 May; Thompson P 21 May; RNC 25 May; MC 26, 31 May; Sterling Forest 29 May; 3 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Bashakill 1 May (JH), Reg record early; 20 Bashakill 26 May.

White-eyed Vireo: arr Rockefeller SP 26 Apr; Stewart Buffer land, Coldenham 29 Apr; Poughkeepsie 3 May; CIES 6 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: Stony Kill 10 May.

Horned Lark: 50 Pine I 5 Mar.

Purple Martin: Rye 27 Apr; 2 Rockland Country Club 14 May (DC), first nesting in Rockland in many years.

Tree Swallow: 5 Pine I 4 Mar; 52 CPP 20 Mar.

Marsh Wren: Tivoli Bay 26 Apr.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill 16 May.

VARIED THRUSH: Wurtsboro 1-3 Mar (JHaa).

Brown Thrasher: DUTC 1-6 Mar, over wintered.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 15 Freemont Center 2 Mar.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 24 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Linear Park, Wurtsboro 5, 7, 9 May; Harriman State Park 8 May; Bashakill 11 May; 6 Sterling Forest 11 May; 3 Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 14 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Linear Park, Wurtsboro 5, 8 May; 2 Mine Road 28 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Doodletown 26 Apr (MKr); Staatsburg 7, 8, 10 May (StB, DGo, DKr).

Tennessee Warbler: 9 Doodletown 15 May.

N. Parula: 20 Rockland L 3 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 28 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

Cape May Warbler: Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Tarrytown L 4 May; Bashakill 6 May; Rhinebeck 10 May; RNC 10 May; MC 19 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Bashakill 24 Apr (AA), Reg record early; many reports on 26 Apr; 26 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 85 Tibbett Brook park 26 Apr; 200 Rockland L 3 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Ashokan Res 17 Apr (FM); Larchmont Res 19 Apr (TG).

Pine Warbler: arr Kakiat P 17 Mar.

Prairie Warbler: arr 24 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Buttercup West 27, 29 Apr, 1, 3 May; 2 Rockefeller 6 May; Bashakill 7 May; Stony Kill 10 May; Vassar Fm 10 May; RNC 13, 20 May; Doodletown Rd 25 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Tarrytown 24 Apr; 2 Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill May 4; 15 Doodletown 15 May.

Am. Redstart: arr Buttercup Sanc 20 Apr (AP, mob), Reg record early; 30 Doodletown 15 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 24 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 7 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: Rockefeller 13-22 May (EM); Hunt-Parker Sanctuary, Bedford 24 May

(TJ); RNC 25 May (TB); 2 Rockefeller 30 May (EE).

Mourning Warbler: Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill 7, 15 May; Rockefeller Preserve 13 Apr; Doodletown Rd 25 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 24 Apr; Bashakill 7 May; 28 Doodletown 15 May; 3 North Castle 28 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Dennings Point **30 Apr** (H), Reg record early; Sarah Lawrence College, Yonkers 2 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Reese P, Wappinger **20 Apr** (KH), Reg record early.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Rockefeller P 4 Apr; 3 CPP 5 Apr; Tamarack Preserve 14 May; 2 Red Hook 21 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 15 Apr; Red Hook 21, 25 May.

Nelson's Sparrow: MC 24 May (BV).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 MC 20 May.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 29 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: Millerton 17 Mar; Bashakill 4 May; Spring Valley 6 May; Sterling Forest 11 May; 7 Bashakill 11 May; 6 Hurleyville 11 May; Mount Vernon 12 May; Milan 21 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 114 Parksville 5 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: Rockefeller SP 29 Apr, 1 May (EM).

Indigo Bunting: Saugerties 12 Apr; 15 Sterling Forest 29 May (MM).

Dickcissel: Muscoot Farm 22 May (TJ); MC 29 May (BV).

E. Meadowlark: arr StonyKill 17 Mar; 8 Youngsville 22 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 20 Westbrookville 15 Mar; 30 Bashakill 7 Apr; 30 CEIS 8 Apr; Tamarack Preserve 14 May.

Boat-tailed Grackle: m singing MC 2 Apr (TB).

Orchard Oriole: 3 Tarrytown L 24 Apr; 3 Bashakill 6 May; many other sightings.

White-winged Crossbill: Lake Lincolndale 5 Mar (JHan); Roscoe 5, 16, 29 Mar, 10 Apr (MG, RG); Nyack 9 Mar (CW, GBr).

Com. Redpoll: scattered reports in Mar from SULL and DUTC; 38 Claryville 5 Mar; 52 Bashakill 9 Mar; last 5 Parksville 1 Apr (SRa).

Pine Siskin: 25 Bashakill 9 Mar; 25 Woodbourne 26 Apr, 14 May; MC 24 May.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (R9): ad m Pine Bush 21 Feb – 3 May (KM), origin?, likely escape.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Parksville 5 Mar (SRa); 4 Claryville 26 Mar; 5 Parksville 7 Apr (SRa); 8 Claryville early Apr (CB).

EXOTICS

Chukar: Bashakill 15 Apr (ScB, LV)



Figure 7. Dark morph Ross's Goose, Pine Island, *Orange*, 5 Mar 11, © Curt McDermott. The dark morph of Ross's Goose is much rarer than that of Snow Goose ("Blue" Goose). This bird was part of an exceptional aggregation of rare waterfowl described in detail in Mike Bochnik's Region 9 report, pp. 274-279.