

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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After the warmest winter on record, March came in as the hottest March on record. Poughkeepsie was 11.6° F above normal, and only 1.2" of precipitation fell in the month. On sixteen days the high was over 60°; nine day over 70°, with 19 & 22 March reaching 79°. The City had six consecutive days above 70° from 18-23 March; the period was nicknamed "Summer in March." April also averaged warmer and drier for the month, with Poughkeepsie reaching a summerlike high of 91° on 16 April. Many avian arrival dates were much earlier than average. May continued the trend with the month 6.1° warmer but with average rainfall. Summerlike highs of 80° or more were recorded on twelve days.

The weather caused many flowering plants to bloom early. The northern and higher elevations of the Region had a hard freeze, with temperatures below 28°, on the morning of 27 March. This caused widespread damage to those flowering plants.

Rob Stone found a **BARNACLE GOOSE** in New Hampton, Orange County on 1 March. The bird stayed in the area until the 4th. A Greater White-

fronted Goose was found in the same area on 3 & 4 March. Another Greater White-fronted Goose that wintered just south of the Region in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx moved just north into Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers on 30 March and was seen on and off into early May. A female Hooded Merganser with five young was discovered in northern Westchester County and reported on 7 May. This is only the second confirmed breeding in the county; the last was in 1966. There was a spectacular fallout of waterfowl on 1 April. Of particular note was a total of 13 Red-breasted Mergansers spread out over Sullivan County. Good numbers of White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-necked Grebe were also reported inland that day.

A Saw Mill River Audubon field trip to Sterling Forest on 26 May found a **MISSISSIPPI KITE** at the visitor's center. It was seen carrying a stick from tree to tree at the main parking lot. The following day birders realized that it was building a nest. On Monday a second bird was found, and the pair was observed mating. If the pair is successful, it will be Orange County's and the Region's first breeding record.

Ken McDermott and Danny Messina found a pair of Sandhill Cranes in Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR on the early date of 19 March. Four Sandhills were reported by Gabrielle Isenbrand flying north over Saugerties on 22 April.

A first winter **LITTLE GULL** was reported from Saugerties Lighthouse, Esopus Creek 26 April.

It looks like Common Ravens are now breeding in the entire Region. Andrew Block reported them from downtown New Rochelle. Breeding was later confirmed. Rich Guthrie reported a Common Raven possibly carrying food for young from a downtown White Plains parking lot on 13 March.

Rain and favorable winds brought a major fallout on 2 May. John Haas, Arlene Borko, Renee Davis, and Scott Baldinger tallied 95 species, with 24 warbler species, at the Bashakill. A very early male Mourning Warbler was the highlight. Rob Stone had an equally good day at Elk Brox Park, Port Jervis.

Jack Pisani reported on eBird a White-winged Crossbill in Pleasantville, Westchester County. A documentation photo sent in confirmed a young male White-winged Crossbill.

Other notable species include: Northern Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; EBNP – Esopus Bend Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; UCMC – Ulster County May Census.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Breezy Hill Rd, New Hampton 3,4 Mar (KM,RSt); Tibbetts Brook P, Yonkers 30, 31 Mar, 1,3,7 Apr, 3,4,5,8 May (ABa,APi, MB,BV).

Snow Goose: 1000 Shawangunk Ridge 11 Mar; 550 Cooley Rd 15 Mar; 160 Swan L 15 Mar; 120 Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary 12 May.

Brant: 80 EGR 2 Mar; 2000 Kingston 12 May; 3800 MC 13 May; 3000 Saugerties 18 May.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Pierce Rd, New Hampton 1-4 Mar (RSt,KM,DaM,CW).

Mute Swan: 200 Bashakill 10-12 Mar.

Tundra Swan: Pierce Rd, New Hampton 2 Mar (KM,DaM,CW).

Blue-winged Teal: Tivoli Bays WMA 24 Mar; 4 Bashakill 14 Apr; 6 Bashakill 15 Apr; 4 EBNP 22, 24 Apr.

N. Pintail: good numbers during Mar in SULL and ORAN; max 159 Bashakill 6 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 75 Bashakill 29 Mar.

Redhead: 3 Chadwick L P 25 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 466 Yankee L 8 Mar.

Greater Scaup: 7000 EGR 2 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: 500 EGR 4 Mar.

Surf Scoter: 1-2 EGR 9, 24 Mar (TB).

White-winged Scoter: 53 EGR 26 Mar(TB); Saugerties 1 Apr (SRo); Kingston Point 1 Apr (SRo); 2 Esopus 1 Apr (MDe); 3 Kiamesha L 1 Apr (ScB, JHaa, ABor, LV); Wolf L 1 Apr (JHaa, ABor); 21 EGR 14 Apr, 2 Yankee L 6 May (JHaa); 17-20 Neversink Res 8,9 May (JHaa).

Long-tailed Duck: 16 Glasco SP, Saugerties 31 Mar; 6 Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties 31 Mar; 30 Neversink Res 31 Mar; 22 Kiamesha L 1 Apr; Yankee L 6 May; Neversink Res 8, 9 May.

Bufflehead: 156 Sullivan Co 1 Apr; 25 Kiamesha L 5 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: 7 Yankee L 16 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: f with 5 yg Katonah 7 May; 2 Kingston Reservoir 12 May.

Com. Merganser: 102 Swan L 11 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: Washington L, Newburgh 2 Mar; 2 Bashakill 2 Mar; 13 Sullivan Co 1 Apr; 2 PP 13 May.

N. Bobwhite: Greig Farm, Red Hook 18 May (PS).

Ring-necked Pheasant: reports from SULL & DUTC; 1 rep ULST.

Red-throated Loon: max 56 EGR 1 Apr.

Com. Loon: 12 Neversink Res 8 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 Bashakill 26 Mar; The Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 12 May.

Horned Grebe: 27 EGR 23 Mar; 15 Kiamesha L 31 Mar, 4 Swan L 1 Apr; 2 Ashokan Reservoir 12 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 4 EGR 17 Mar (TB); EGR 25,26 Mar, 1,12,13 Apr (TB, BV); 2 Glasco SP, Saugerties 31 Mar (PS); 2 Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties 1 Apr (SRo); Esopus Meadows, Esopus 1 Apr (MDe); 3 Kiamesha L 1 Apr (ScB, JHaa, LV).

N. Gannet: 2-3 EGR 9,13,16,17,24,25,29 Mar; MC 23,24,29 Mar; 22 EGR 15 Apr.

Am. Bittern: 3 Tivoli Bays WMA 24 Mar; Woodbourne 1 Apr; 2 Bashakill 20 Apr; 4 Bashakill 12 May.

Least Bittern: Sleightsburg 7 May; Kingston Pt 12 May.

Great Egret: arr Pleasantville 21 Mar; Wurtsboro 1 Apr.

Snowy Egret: arr EGR, MC 24 Mar.

Little Blue Heron: Rosendale 30 Mar (AM); PUTN 21 Apr (ES).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 5 New Rochelle 19 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Mississippi Kite: Sterling Forest 26,27 Mar (AS,KM); 2 Sterling Forest 28-31 May (JC), first record ORAN.

N. Harrier: 8 SGNWR 11 Mar; 9 SGNWR 12 Mar.

N. Goshawk: Cooley Rd 5 Apr; 2 Bashakill 20 Apr; 2 Kingston 26 Apr; 1 Wurtsboro 6 May; Wittenberg 12 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Fallsburg 30 Mar; no reports from Hook Mt.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 SGNWR 11, 12 Mar.

Golden Eagle: imm Bashakill 26 Mar; Tivoli 26 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: 25 CPP 5 Apr (LL).

Clapper Rail: MC 29 Mar, 15, 25, 31 May.

Sora: 1-2 Bashakill 12, 17, 19 May; 6 at ½ Staion Marsh 19 May; 2 New Paltz 26 May.

Com. Gallinule: Bashakill 25 Apr; New Paltz 11 May; The Great Vly, Saugerties 12 May; max 15 Bashakill 23 May (JH).

Sandhill Crane: 2 Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR 19 Mar (KM, DaM); 4 flying north, Saugerties 22 Apr (GI).

Black-bellied Plover: 2 PP 22 May; max 15 MC 26 May.

Semipalmated Plover: 39 MC 23 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: arr Rye 15 Mar; 5 EGR 17 Mar, 28 Apr; 6 Rye 13 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 7 Kingston Reservoir 1 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 MC 30 Mar.

Willet: MC 16, 19, 26 Apr; 3 MC 25 May (BV, TB).

Upland Sandpiper: CPP 13 Apr; 1-3 Blue Chip Farm 5-31 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 EGR 6 Apr; PP 24 May.

Pectoral sandpiper: Wallkill R NWR 21 Apr.

Purple Sandpiper: 5 EGR 31 Mar.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 17 SGNWR 22 May; 25 MC 23 May.

Wilson's Snipe: 4 CPP 13 Mar.

Am. Woodcock: 9 CPP 13 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Swan L 1 Apr; 27 EGR 13 Apr; Kingston Point 1 May; 6 Sleightsburg Spit 7 May; Ashokan Res 12 May; 15 PP 16 May.

Little Gull: 1st winter Saugerties Lighthouse, Esopus Creek 26 Apr (BR).

Laughing Gull: arr MC 22 May.

Herring Gull: leucistic ind Five I P, New Rochelle 5 Apr (BV).

Iceland Gull: Newburgh 27 Mar (CM).

Caspian Tern: Kingston Point 1, 7 May (FM, MDe, PS).

Least Tern: 1-3 MC 10, 15, 19, 25, 29 May.

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 30 Apr.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: New Rochelle 12, 19 May

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Val Kil 30 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 1-2 SGNWR 11, 20 Mar; Parksville 24 Mar.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 3 Wurtsboro 19 Apr; Woodstock 4 May; Onteora SP, Kingston 12 May; Mamaronock 21 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-6 Beaver Swamp, Weston Rd, Highland 18, 25 Mar-31 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Doodletown 11, 12, 26 May; CIES 12 May; Woodstock 13 May; Rockefeller SP 17 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Irvington Woods 6 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: RNC 10 May; Poughkeepsie 17 May; Stissing 19 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hurley 9, 12 May; Wurtsboro 14, 15 May; 3 Sterling Forest 19 May; Pawling Nature Reserve 20, 27 May; 3 Clarence Fahnestock SP 30 May.

Alder Flycatcher: 6 at ½ Station Marsh 6 May.

N. Shrike: Wallkill NWR 4 Mar (JS).

White-eyed Vireo: arr Clough Preserve, Patterson 26 Apr.

Com. Raven: carrying food White Plains 13 Mar (RG); nesting in New Rochelle, yg 12 May (AB).

Horned Lark: 2 CPP 10 Mar; 21 Neversink Res 28 Mar.

Purple Martin: 5 New Paltz 5 Apr; 45 Thruway Toll Plaza, New Paltz 13 Apr; 10 Rosendale 2 May; 4 Pleasant Valley 25 Apr; 15 Jenkinstown Rd, New Paltz 4 May.

Tree Swallow: 25 CPP 8 Mar; 500 Saugerties 8 Mar; 100 CPP 13 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Saugerties 30 Mar.

Bank Swallow: 100 Mill Dam Rd, Stone Ridge 12 May; 100 Fishkill 12 May.

Cliff Swallow: 30 Livingston Manor late Apr-May.

Winter Wren: Sterling Forest 5 May.

Marsh Wren: Tivoli Bay 24 Mar; Bashakill 3 May; 3 MC 13, 23 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 13 Mar Kingston.

Veery: arr RNC 2 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: MC 16, 19 May (TB).

Bicknell's Thrush: 7 near Slide Mt 13 May (TF).

Swainson's Thrush: arr RNC 3 May.

Hermit Thrush: 12 CPP 14 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr Bashakill 4 Apr, overwinters in southern Region 9.

Am. Pipit: few CPP 13, 17, Mar.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Tallman SP 27 Apr; 10 Sterling Forest 5 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 3 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: RNC Apr 14; 12 Bashakill 2 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Poughkeepsie Cemetery 4 May; 5 Sterling Forest 5 May; Bashakill 4, 5, 6 May; Saugerties 12 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CIES 21 Mar (APo); Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr (AA); 8 Bashakill 2 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Bashakill 3 May (JHaa); Mine Rd 5 May (DK, DR).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Bashakill 2 May (JHaa, ABor, RD, ScB).

Black-and-white Warbler: 15 Bashakill 2 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Linneer P 11 May (DD, DT); Sleightsburg Spit, Ulster 13 May (JY).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Bashakill 28 Apr (JHaa, ABor, ScB); Bashakill 28 Apr (StB).

Nashville Warbler: Wurtsboro 16 Apr; 6 Bashakill 2 May; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

Mourning Warbler: male Linear P, Wurtsboro 2 May (JHaa, ABor, RD, ScB), very early; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 7 May; Rockefeller SP 8 May; EBNP 11, 12 May; Rye 23 May; Poughkeepsie 23 May; Sterling Forest 27 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Tibbetts Brook P, Yonkers 4 May; 2 Doodletown 9, 12 May; Mine Rd 11 May -thru.

Com. Yellowthroat: Saugerties 24 Mar; Clough Preserve, Patterson 26 Apr; 20 Bashakill 2 May.

Hooded Warbler: Doodletown 28 Apr; 14 Sterling Forest 5 May.

Am. Redstart: 15 Bashakill 2 May.

Cape May Warbler: Kingston 6 May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 9 May; 2 Tibbetts Brook P 12 May; 5 entrance to EBNP 12 May; other reports from 8-12 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 21 Apr; 5 Doodletown 28 Apr; 10 Sterling Forest 5 May.

N. Parula: Slide Mt 14 Apr; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 20 Bashakill 2 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 Elk Brox P 2 May; 2 RNC 7 May; New Paltz 8 May; 2 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 9 May; West Park 11 May; 2 Rockefeller 12 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: 6 Bashakill 2 May; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

Yellow Warbler: CIES 29 Mar (APo); Wurtsboro 17 Apr; 30 Bashakill 2 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 Bashakill 2 May; 15 Bashakill 2 May.

Pine Warbler: overwintered Lenoir Preserve 1-20 Mar; arr Westmoreland Sanctuary 17 Mar.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 100’s Bashakill 2 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr (AA), very early; 7 Sterling Forest 5 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 6 Bashakill 2 May; 15 Elk Brox P 2 May.

Canada Warbler: 3 Bashakill 2 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr northern Region 9 on 27 Mar.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Buttercup S 8 Apr.

Field Sparrow: MC 7, 17, 24 Mar; Bashakill 22 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: Montgomery 7 Apr; 3 Saugerties 8 Apr; 2 CPP 14 Apr; Bashakill 15 Apr; Livingston Manor 15 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: few rep in Mar and many in May; Bashakill 1 May; 4 Millbrook 22 Kingston 4 May; 4 Woodstock 4 May; 3 Galeville Town Park 9 May; 2 Doodletown.

Dark-eyed Junco: few lingered in Rhinebeck till 8 May.

Blue Grosbeak: Storm King Art Center, Mountainville 29 Apr (DP).

E. Meadowlark: 2 Rockefeller SP 12 Mar; 12 SGNWR 31 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 100 Bashakill 29 Mar; 100 Bashakill 7 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr Rockefeller SP 25 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 13 Cooley Bog 26 Mar; 14 Cooley Bog 1 Apr; Pleasantville 16, 17 May (JP).

Com. Redpoll: 2 Kingston 8 Apr (MDe); White Plains 18 Apr; Livingston Manor 26 Apr (KH).

Pine Siskin: 48 Monticello 5 Mar; 100 Cooley Bog 15 Mar; 4 Balsam Lake Mtn. summit, Hardenburgh 25 Mar; 40 Cooley Bog 26 Mar, 1 Apr; 18 Roscoe 5 Apr.

EXOTICS – ESCAPES

Egyptian Goose: 2 Harbor Island P in Mamaroneck 20, 21 Mar (DB).

