

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started out with consistent average temperatures. There were no extremes, unlike last year's "summer in March." The northern part of the Region did have two significant snowfalls; Poughkeepsie had seven inches of snow on 8 March and five inches on 19 March. As expected the Region saw large numbers of birds at feeders on 19 March. The month came in a bit dry, with only 2.8" of precipitation, 0.8" below normal.

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April was similar, notable for no hard freezes. The year did not have its first seventy-degree day till 10 April. Sullivan County also experienced a major fallout that morning. Thunderstorms moved in from the west overnight, dropping birds out of the sky. Lance Verderame and John Haas recorded 72 species. Highlights of that day included Tundra Swans, White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Horned Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, and Bonaparte's Gulls. The month was also very dry, with only 2.3" whereas the norm is 3.8".

May was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. A strong "blocking" Omega high pressure system set up over Greenland on 1 May, blocking the normal west-to-east progression of weather systems. Region 9 had beautiful weather, but few migrants. A storm then formed over the Southeast US when an extreme loop in the jet stream got cut off from the main flow on 4-5 May, forming a "cutoff low". This storm slowly drifted east over the Southeast U.S and then finally up to the Northeast, bringing four days of inclement weather and further retarding migration. Many birders commented that it was the worst migration ever. Even so the season did feature some great birds.

The **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** found in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County in late February was relocated during the first three days of March. John Haas found a **ROSS'S GOOSE** at the Camel Farm in the Black Dirt Region in a large flock of Snow Geese on 7 March; two days later it was found again along with three Tundra Swans. There were likely two different Ross's Geese that day, with a report of a first winter bird, then later an adult. Last winter's Larchmont Reservoir **BARNACLE GOOSE** was re-found on 10 and 24 March and had also temporarily relocated to nearby Reservoir Number 2 in Eastchester from 20-22 March.

Two Northern Bobwhite reports were received, from Sullivan and Dutchess Counties. The origins of these birds are unknown, but they are likely escapes or stocked.

A new breeding colony of Great Blue Herons in Bedford became well known after an article in the newspaper. Great Blue Heron is a rare breeder in Westchester; the only other known nesting was that of a single successful nest in Tarrytown in 2006. Apparently, this colony of twenty nests has been in existence for 2-3 years. Scott Baldinger and Lance Verderame found the first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron of the season at the Bashakill on 20 April. Not only is this an early date but an unusual location as well. It was only the third record for Sullivan County.

A **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was reported on the New York State Rare Bird Alert as flying over Hartsdale, Westchester County on the evening of 25 April. It is the fourth report for the county; but none have been accepted by NYSARC. There are two accepted NYSARC reports for Region 9, both from Rockland in 1985 and 2008. Thomas Millard also observed one in northern New Jersey on 26 May and eventually observed it just north of the state line at Liberty Marsh.

A King Rail, found on 19 May, could be seen and heard on West Camp Road, Great Vly Wildlife Management Area, in Malden, near Saugerties. This

cooperative bird continued into June. Sandhill Crane sightings continue to increase with reports from four counties.

Tom Burke and Gale Benson found a male **SMITH'S LONGSPUR** in breeding plumage at Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge on 28 April. The bird was watched running through clumps of grass and was flushed twice and rattled both times. It was recognizably photographed. The bird was then seen on and off by many observers over the next two days; better photos were later obtained. It is only the third record for the species in New York State.

Carol Weiss and five other birders were rewarded with the spectacle of a huge roost of blackbirds on 13 March at Tallman Marsh when a mixed flock of blackbirds flew over the ridge and down into the marsh in front of them. They could hear their wings swooshing as the birds passed overhead. Some flocks dropped directly into the reeds, while others spiraled around for a bit before choosing a spot. There were flocks of 50 to 100 and flocks of 100-300 birds. There was a single Peregrine Falcon flying through the flocks. When it was all over, they estimated 20,000-50,000 blackbirds. The lower number is reported in the species accounts. Later, about 9 p.m., the roost was so loud outside that all the neighbors were standing on their back porches wondering what was going on.

Jacqueline Bruskin had an unusual inland find, a Boat-tailed Grackle in Eastchester 13 April. It is only the sixth report from Westchester Count and the first away from Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, the site of all the other sightings.

Winter finches lasted into the first part of spring, with White-winged Crossbills lingering at Marshlands Conservancy to late April. Also notable was the wintering Hoary Redpoll at a feeder in Bashakill, staying until 6 March. Nearly absent in recent years, it was good to see some Evening Grosbeaks reported.

Another noteworthy aspect of the season was a collection of what can be called "late lingerers", birds that are usually gone in the southern part of the Region by 1 May. They included; Horned Grebe, American Coot, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin. The lack of good migration weather is probably to blame. Other notable species not noted above include Greater White-fronted Goose, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Prothonotary Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak.

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.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Pink-footed Goose: Black Dirt Region 1, 2, 3 Mar (JH, JL).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Black Dirt Region 3 Mar (JL); Rudd P, Millerton 20 Mar (CV).

Snow Goose: 2500 Wurtsboro 10 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE (r9): 1-2 Black Dirt Region 7, 9, 10 Mar (RS, JH, MZ).

Brant: 1300 Mount Vernon 15 May (KB).

BARNACLE GOOSE: Larchmont Res 10, 24 Mar (DBI, BV); Reservoir Number 2 Eastchester 20-22 Mar (ACa).

CAACKLING GOOSE (R9): Black Dirt Region 3, 4 Mar (AG, JH); Larchmont Res 24, 26, 27 Mar (BV).

Tundra Swan: 3 Black Dirt Region 3, 7, 10 Mar (JH); 2 Neversink Res 10 Apr (JH); Glenmere L 15 Apr (MZ).

Wood Duck: 115 Bashakill 23 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: Piermont Pier 20 May, late.

Ring-necked Duck: 600 Bashakill 26 Mar; Bontecou L 15 May, late.

White-winged Scoter: Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr; 9 Swan L 10 Apr; Sleightsburgh 1 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr. 25 Neversink Res 10 Apr; 9 Swan L 10 Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Tivoli Bay 27, 29, 30 Apr; Wurtsboro 28 Apr.

Wild Turkey: 39 New Windsor 28 Mar.

N. Bobwhite: Wurtsboro 24 Apr (RD, SB); Buttercup Sanc 27 Apr (SR).

Red-throated Loon: Rhinecliff 17 Mar; 12 CPP 13 Apr.

Horned Grebe: 6 Yankee Lake 10 Apr; 18 Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr; 11 Kiamesha Lake 11 Apr; 15 Swan L 11 Apr; Ashokan Res 18 May, late.

Red-necked Grebe: EGR 14 Mar (AW); Lake Oniad, Myers Corner 18 Mar (DK); 3 Yankee Lake 10 Apr (JH); Bashakill 11 Apr (SB); 3 Morningside P 13 Apr (LV); CPP 13 Apr (CR, PP); Kingston Pt 20 Apr (MD).

N. Gannet: 2 MC 2 Apr; 32 MC 16 Apr.

Am. Bittern: Red Hook 26 Apr; 1-2 Tivoli Bay 23-27 Apr; Bashakill 3 May; Buttercup S 4 May; Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 5 May.

Least Bittern: Sleightsburg 20 Apr; Kingston Pt 11 May; Tivoli Bay 11 May; Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 20-31 May; 2 Piermont 27 May.

Great Blue Heron: 20 nests Bedford 6 May.

Great Egret: arr 25 Mar.

Snowy Egret: arr Piermont Pier 3 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: Piermont Pier 8 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr Bashakill 20 Apr (DM,SB,LV), unusual for SULL; Washington lake, New Windsor 29 May (BN), unusual for ORAN.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 15 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Hartsdale 25 Apr (NYRBA), 4th report for WEST, but no NYSARC accepted records; Liberty Marsh 26 May (TMI).

Bald Eagle: 10 Bashakill 2 Mar.

N. Goshawk: more reports than normal.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 14 Apr; 70 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: SGNWR 4, 5 Apr; Tivoli Bay 2, 7 May.

Golden Eagle: Storm King 2,3 Mar; Mashomack 11, 16 Mar; 3 Stissing L 29 Mar; Buttercup Preserve West 3 Apr.

King Rail: Great Vly, Saugerties 19-31 May, photo (KM, CuM, SB, JH, WT, DK).

Virginia Rail: 3 Bashakill 8 Apr.

Sora: Bashakill 4,10,20 May; Great Vly, Saugerties 28-31 May.

Com. Gallinule: Great Vly 30 Apr; 4 Bashakill 2 May; Harlem Valley Rail Trail 4 May; max 12 Bashakill 23,31 May.

Am. Coot: Larchmont Res 18 May (TG), late for WEST.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Franny Reese SP 20 Mar (MS); CPP 18 Apr, ph (JBo); 4 Poughquag 18 Apr; Saugerties 31 May (ABe&DBe, DFe, SCh, WT).

Black-bellied Plover: CPP 28 Apr.

Am. Oystercatcher: MC 24, 25 Mar; 1-5 MC 5, 6, 14, 15, 24, 30 Apr.

Willet: 2-3 Hen I, MC 24, 30 Apr (EE, ASw, BD).

Upland Sandpiper: arr Blue Chip Farm 18 Apr; 4 SGNWR 29 Apr; 2 Orange Co Airport 18 May; 5 Blue Chip Farm 19 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: Piermont Pier 15 May (GB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 5-7 Wallkill NWR 22, 26 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 Black Dirt Region 15 Mar (JC); 16 Wallkill River NWR 22 Apr (JC).

Dunlin: 6 1/2 Station Rd. Sanctuary 20 Apr (BN).

Stilt Sandpiper: Wallkill NWR 22 May (RS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: few Piermont 27 May.

Wilson's Snipe: 5 Bashakill 8 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: Wallkill NWR 18 Apr (SB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 7 Yankee Lake 10 Apr; 54 Neversink Res 10 Apr; 19 CPP 14 Apr; 2 Sleightsburg 11 May; Piermont Pier 16 May.

Laughing Gull: CPP 13 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Larchmont 4 Mar (TG).

Least Tern: MC 11 May.

Caspian Tern: Kingston Point 13 Apr (FM); Kiamasha Lake 20 Apr (LV); Tivoli 17 May (AM, MK, JE), first confirmed record for DUTCH, 3 previous reports.

Forster's Tern: arr MC 30 Apr; 2 Piermont Pier 20 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: decent numbers after 15 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: decent numbers after 10 May.

Barn Owl: Orange 22 Apr (DS).

Short-eared Owl: 6-8 SGNWR 2-30 Mar; CPP 7 Apr.

N Saw-whet Owl: Gardiner 28 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: max 30 Brinckerhoff 20 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 4 Pine Kill Rd, Wurtsboro 30 Apr; 3 Woodstock 11, 15 May; 2 Sterling Forest 17 May; Lake Welch 18 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2-4 Weston Rd Swamp 3, 17 Mar, 2 Apr; Ellenville 5 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mountain Lakes P 12 May, late for WEST (DP).

Am. Kestrel: 30 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Monk Parakeet: 30 Aiello Park, New Rochelle.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cary IES 10 May; 1-2 Doodletown 16-19, 25-27 May; Sterling Forest 17 May; Rockefeller Preserve 27 May; Stewart State Forest 27 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Reese Sanc 12 May; Millbrook 17 May; Kakiat SP 19 May; Muscoot Farm 19 May; Forsyth Nature Center 22 May; Doodletown 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 11 May.

N. Shrike: Strauss Marsh 3, 5 Mar (CV, AP, AL); Rockefeller Lane, Town of Red Hook 29 Mar (MD, SR).

White-eyed Vireo: arr 19 Apr Larchmont Res.

Philadelphia Vireo: no reports

Horned Lark: max 50 Perry Corners 22 Mar.

Marsh Wren: Bashakill 10 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: MC 17 May, late for WEST (FG, TB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Reese Sanc 12 May; Doodletown 13 May; Bashakill 21, 22 May.

Gray Catbird: arr 21 Apr, seems late or few overwintered.

Am. Pipit: 4 Red Hook 5 Apr; Morningside P 12 May; Apollo Plaza 21 May.

Cedar Waxwing: not common this spring.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Turtle Bay Rd, New Hampton 3 Mar (AW).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: SGNWR 28-30 Apr (GBE, TB, mob), 3rd NYS record.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Rockefeller 25 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 8 Apr

Golden-winged Warbler: Cantine's Island, Esopus Creek 21 Apr; 3 Sterling Forest 7 May; 6 Ironwood Rd, Streling Forest 12 May; Bashakill 13 May; 2 Mine R 26 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 24 Apr.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Tivoli Bay 28-30 Apr, 1, 6, 24 May (ES).

Prothonotary Warbler: Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 10, 18 May (WS, LD, Dfa).

Mourning Warbler: Woodstock 16, 17, 29 May; Bashakill 17-18, 20-21 Sterling Forest 18, 19 May; Onteora Lake 18 May; Saugerties 20 May; Breakneck Ridge 20 May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 22 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Rockefeller SP 10 May; Doodletown 12-14, 18, 19, 22 May; Woodstock 20 May; Sterling Forest 26 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 28 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: 2 L. Paradise 12 May; 2-3 Peach Hill 12-14 May; 2 Nuclear L 12, 15 May; 2 Kingston 14 May; Ferncliff Forest 15 May; Doodletown 17 May; Forsyth Nature Center 17 May; Sterling Forest 18 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 29 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Mabbettsville 12, 13 May; 2 Peach Hill 13, 14 May; Nuclear L 15 May; Ferncliff Forest 15 May; Lewisboro 16 May; Sterling Forest 17-18 May; Rockefeller SP 17-18 May; Bashakill 18 May.

Palm Warbler: 26 Rockefeller SP 9 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 64 Rockefeller SP 25 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr 21 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 17 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 21.

Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 CPP 8,9,17 Apr; Bashakill 11, 19, 21 Apr; Kingston Point 13, 20 Apr; Red Hook 14, 26 Apr; Millbrook 21 Apr; SGNWR 30 Apr..

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2-5 SGNWR 29 Apr, 18-31 May; 2 SGNWR 10, 11 May; 2 Red Hook 19,20 May; 3 CPP 21-31 May; Pine Plains 31 May.

Fox Sparrow: 12 Bashakill 14 Mar; last 22 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: scattered reports in Mar and Apr; good numbers in May; max 8 Millbrook 18 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: Muscoot Farm 6 May; Irvington 15 May.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Stanford 18, 31 Mar (DK), ph.

Blue Grosbeak: MC 17 May (FG, TB).

Blackbird,sp: 20,000 Tallman Marsh 13 Mar (CW), *intro*.

E. Meadowlark: 4 SGNWR 4 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: 155 Bashakill 25 Mar; 100 Great Vly 10 Apr.

Boat-tailed Grackle: Eastchester 13 April, unusual inland location (JBr); MC 26 Apr (NYRBA).

Orchard Oriole: arr 26 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 8-20 MC 20-30 Mar, 2, 14, 16, 26 Apr; 2 Larchmont 22 Mar; 22 Leatherstocking Trail, Larchmont 4 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: 315 Parksville 14 Mar; 32 Liberty 5 Apr; 4 Livingston Manor 30 Apr.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 at feeder Bashakill 2, 6 Mar (SB, JH).

Pine Siskin: some numbers moved through mid-May.

Evening Grosbeak: MC 19 Mar; 4 Millbrook 6 Apr (AP); Millbrook 27 Apr(AP); 2 Peach Hill 14 May (ES).

EXOTICS

Egyptian Goose: pair Harrison 8 Apr (ET).