

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started out cold with half the days in March being ten degrees cooler than normal. This left snow cover to continue into the third week of March; much different than the past few years, but closer to normal over the long run. Precipitation for the month was normal. Despite the cold start, three species set record arrival dates with Tree Swallows showing up in February, Northern Rough-winged Swallow on 29 March, and Chimney Swift on 7 April. April was dry until 3.5" fell in White Plains on 30 April. Temperatures were near normal. Many of the early warblers arrived between 25 and 27 April, which is near the average return time. Leaf out was late, occurring the second week in May, making for some great viewing opportunities. May was drier than normal with average temperatures. There were no unusually warm days this spring season. Overall the season had a good variety of birds, but, with one exception, no major rarities were found.

Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, and Tundra Swan were all reported, mainly in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County. These birds seem to be annual now. A **"Black" Brant** was photographed in the harbor off Marshlands Conservancy in Rye 14 and 15 May with about 30 Atlantic Brant. This may be the first report of this type in Westchester County. The Rye Eurasian Wigeon persisted into early April. Another bird was seen at the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge on 6 April. All three scoter species were reported inland, a trend in the past few years. Even a Barrow's Goldeneye was in the Hudson River for four days off George Greer Memorial Beach, Ulster County from 29 March to 1 April.

Lance Verderame viewed an incredible 25 Red-throated Loons on Kiamesha Lake on 15 April, put down by heavy rain and strong winds. Continuing this inland trend, both Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe were well reported. Two Cattle Egrets were found, one in Piermont and the other at Croton Point Park; both in May.

Not so surprising based on the last couple of years, a **Mississippi Kite** was briefly observed by Tom Burke, mainly as a silhouette as it glided over a hilltop opening at the Rye Nature Center on 21 May.

A King Rail was found at Liberty Marsh at the end of May, and good numbers of Common Gallinule returned to the Bashakill for, hopefully, a successful breeding season. Sandhill Cranes were found near Ulster Park, Saugerties Lighthouse, and Mohonk Preserve.

Once rare in Westchester County (nine reports pre-1990), Willet sightings continue to increase, mostly from the Long Island Sound shore. Shorebirds such as Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs successfully overwintered in good numbers. American Woodcock arrived late, with the first report on 9 March.

A variety of gulls and terns were found this spring with many up the Hudson River. Bonaparte's Gulls, Caspian Terns, and Forster's Tern were reported in good numbers. More notable were a Lesser-Black-backed Gull in Kingston in April and a Black Tern in Pine Plains mid-May.

Winter's Snowy Owl and Red-headed Woodpecker invasions left birds lingering well into spring. The last owl report was 5 April in Warwick.

Passerine migration was basically on time with few surprises. The only southern overshoots consisted of two Prothonotary Warblers, one in Larchmont on 5 May and another at Dennings Point on 9 May, and a male Summer Tanager photographed at Lenoir Nature Preserve 13 April.

Westchester County's first **Boat-tailed Grackle** was found in 1994, but none were found again until 2007. Since then there have been nine more records before this spring and four this year, almost always at either Edith G. Read Sanctuary or Marshlands Conservancy, both in the Town of Rye. Next question is, will they breed in the marshes one day?

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BDR – Black Dirt Region; CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: BDR 13, 16, 17 Mar (JH, MZ); 6 New Hampton 16 Mar (CM,MZ); 2 BDR 20,21 Mar (JH, MZ).

Snow Goose: 8000 BDR 20 Mar (JH).

Brant: max 7250 flying north in groups in the evening Mt Vernon 25 May.

“BLACK” BRANT: MC 14, 15 May (TB, BSh, ph).

Cackling Goose: BDR 4, 6, 19, 21 Mar (JH, MZ); Wallkill NWR 15 Mar (RMa); Stone Ridge Pond 23-30 Mar (MD, JP, PS); 2 Bashakill 23 Mar (JH, LV, SB).

Tundra Swan: 1-3 BDR 10, 18-27 Mar (JH); 6 Camel Farm 18 Mar.

Wood Duck: 150 Wallkill NWR 27 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rye 1 Mar – 4 Apr (TB); Wallkill NWR 6 Apr (TB, GBe).

Blue-winged Teal: arr Newburgh 20 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 120 Liberty Marsh 12 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 Liberty Marsh 27 Apr.

Redhead: max 6 Rondout Res 1 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: 200 Lake Tappan 24 Mar; 345 Bashakill 3 Apr; North Tivoli Bay 27 May.

Surf Scoter: Port Ewen 9 Apr (WT, JP, PS); 8 EGR 13 Apr; Saugerties 26 Apr (FM); 3 EGR 7 May.

White-winged Scoter: Saugerties Lighthouse 22-23 Mar; EGR 30 Mar; MC 3 Apr; 7 EGR 25 Apr; 5 Saugerties 26 Apr (FM); 2 Ashokan Res 26 Apr; 5 EGR 7 May; 3 Port Jervis Res 17 May (KMc).

Black Scoter: 8 Pine Plains 16 May (JA,APo).

Long-tailed Duck: max 80 EGR 13 Apr.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: George Greer Memorial Beach, Ulster 29 Mar – 1 Apr (MD, PS, JP, WT)

Red-breasted Merganser: Bashakill 6, 8, 9 Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: CPP 12-20 May (LT).

Red-throated Loon: 11 EGR 14 Apr; 25 Kiamesha L 15 Apr (LV); 2 Neversink Res 30 Apr.

Com. Loon: max 10 EGR 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Bashakill 4 Apr.

Horned Grebe: Piermont Marsh 31 Mar; 43 Bashakill 2 Apr (JH); 24 Bashakill 5 Apr; 46 EGR 6 Apr; Nyack Beach 7 Apr; 2 CPP 3 May; 2 MC 11 May; Bashakill 22 May; North Tivoli Bay 27 May; Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 28-29 May (CP, HT).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Rye 1 Mar; Rye 2 Mar; 4 Piermont Pier 10 Mar (EM); Kensico Res 11 Mar; Algonquin P 20-31 Mar; Dennings Point 1

May (AiL); Orange Lake 2 May (BN); EGR 6 May; 5 EGR 7 May; 2 EGR 10 May.

N. Gannet: EGR 29 Mar 3, 7, 9, 13, 16 Apr; MC 3 Apr.

Great Cormorant: EGR 6, 7 May, late.

Am. Bittern: Kakiat P 12 Apr; EGR 25 Apr.

Least Bittern: Cruger I 12 May; Tivoli Bay 12 May; 3 Bashakill 21 May; with nesting material Piermont Marsh 23, 25 May (KQ).

Great Egret: arr EGR 12 Mar.

Snowy Egret: arr Rye 2 Apr.

Cattle Egret: Piermont 5 May; CPP 20, 22 May.

Green Heron: arr Crestwood L Tuckahoe 14 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr MC 8 May.

Glossy Ibis: 3 Piermont Pier 7 Apr.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr Mamaroneck Harbor 17 Mar.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: RNC 21 May (TB), *intro.*

Bald Eagle: max 30 CPP 1 Mar.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 Hook Mt 28 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Forsyth Nature Center 20 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Patterson 27 Mar; 33 Mount Peter 13 Apr; 150 Hook Mt 28 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: new nest on building in downtown Yonkers 20 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: numerous reports from northern counties; max 6 SGNWR 8 Mar.

Golden Eagle: Storm King Mt 1-10 Mar; Overlook Mt 11 Mar; Clinton Hollow 16, 19 Mar; Milan 24 Mar; Clinton Hollow 23 Apr.

King Rail: Liberty Marsh 28 May (SA).

Virginia Rail: arr Tivoli Bay 5 Apr.

Sora: arr Bashakill 26 Apr; Great Swamp, Pawling 18 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr Bashakill 28 Apr; 2 Pine Plains 16 May; 9 Bashakill 21 May.

Am. Coot: Wallkill R NWR 7, 13 May; Mountain Lake P 11 May.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Ulster Park 1-5, 9 Mar (SB, DK); 6 Saugerties Lighthouse Apr 1 (FMu); 3 Mohonk Preserve 25 Apr (BH).

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 Rye 12 Mar; 5 Rye 23 Mar; 6 Rye 4 Apr; 2 EGR 15 Apr; MC 2 May; 2 EGR 6 May; 2 MC 8,16 May; 5 MC 28 May.

Black-bellied Plover: CPP 28 May.

Semipalmated Plover: CPP 15 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Ashokan Reservoir 12 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Amenia 5 Apr.

Willet: 3 MC 17 Apr; 2 MC 18-29 Apr; EGR 28 May; 2 MC 30 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Bashakill 11 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 SGNWR 3 May; 5 Blue Chip Farm 18 May; Orange County Airport 20, 26 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: 4 CPP 10 May; Piermont Pier 10 Mar; 3 MC 16 May.
Dunlin: Piermont Pier 8 Apr; CPP 8, 10 May; 2 MC 14 May; 8 Kingston Pt 26 May.
Purple Sandpiper: last 2 EGR 22 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Poughkeepsie 2 May; 15 CPP 3 May; 119 CPP 10 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Camel Farm 6 Apr; Pine Island 4 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Bashakill 1 May.
Am. Woodcock: arr late Bashakill 9 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Bashakill 8 Apr; 6-11 Croton Bay 19 Apr-17 May; 13 Ashokan Res 26 Apr; 7 Piermont Pier 27 Apr; 21 Kingston Pt 27 Apr; 12 EGR 7 May; Piermont Marsh 23 May; Reese P 26 May.
Laughing Gull: arr MC 2 May; CPP 10 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Kingston Pt 3, 6, 8, 13 Apr (WT, JP, PS, MD).
Least Tern: 1-2 MC 13, 15, 19, 27-30 May.
Caspian Tern: Glenmere Lake 3, 8 Apr; 2 Piermont Pier 8 Apr, ph; Kingston Pt 8 Apr, 6 May; 2 CPP 8 Apr; CPP 26 Apr; 2 Kingston Pt 28 Apr.
Black Tern: Pine Plains 15 May (CV, DK, BM, JD, CP).
Forster's Tern: arr 2 MC 14 Apr; Kingston Pt 26 Apr; 2 Piermont Marsh 23 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 9 May.
Snowy Owl: BDR 4-11 Mar; Kingston Pt 15 Mar; 4-5 BDR 16-21 Mar; BDR 22, 25 Mar; Red hook 25 Mar; Sanfordville Rd 5 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: 12 SGNWR 9 Mar; last SGNWR 12 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Piermont Marsh 31 Mar; Saugerties 30 May (RMi).
Com. Nighthawk: arr Ulster, Wappinger 10 May; max 23 Bashakill 29 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr Wurtsboro 28 Apr; Stonykill 13 May; 6 Bashakill 17 May; 2 Dover Plains 23 May; 2 Milan 27 May
Chimney Swift: 20 Rosendale 7 Apr; 7 Mt Kisco 14 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: CPP 1 Mar - 28 Apr; Staatsburgh 1 Mar - 4 May; 2-3 Weston Road Swamp 9 Mar, 11 Apr; Rockefeller SP Preserve 15 Mar; Rye 3, 4 Apr.
Merlin: CPP 11-24 Mar; Millbrook 20 Mar; Bashakill 22 Mar.

MONK PARAKEET: 5 New Rochelle 26 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1-2 Doodletown 17-26 May; Sterling Forest 25 May; Hopeland 25 May; North Mabbettsville 26 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Peach Hill 8 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Peach Hill 17 May; Bashakill 16, 17, 23 May; Sterling F 17 May; RNC 23 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: 2 Nuclear L 21 May; 3 Pawling NP 25 May; RNC 27 May.
Alder Flycatcher: Kenneth Wilson SP 7 May; Tivoli Bay 16 May; Iona Island 23 May.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 28 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Ferncliff 14 May; Bashakill 25 May; Doodletown 30 May.
Horned Lark: 100 BDR 19 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Rockefeller SP 29 Mar (EE).
Cliff Swallow: 40 Cross R. Res 25 May.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce, only 3 reports in March.
Marsh Wren: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 5 Apr; Kingston Pt 27, 28 Apr; 10 North Tivoli Bay 10 May; 15 Constitution Marsh 23 May; 3 MC 29 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 13, 14 May; 2 RNC 21 May; MC 21, 22 May; RNC 22, 28, 29 May; Doodletown 24-17 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: 8 Slide Mt 26 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Warwick 7, 8, 18, 19 Mar; Goshen 2 Apr.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 Mills-Norrie SP 27 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr MC 5 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 9 May; 6 Sterling F SP 17 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
"Lawrence's Warbler": Buttercup S 11-30 May (CB, AP).
Prothonotary Warbler: Sheldrake L, Larchmont 5 May (TG); Dennings Pt 9 May, ph (AiL).
Mourning Warbler: Peach Hill Park, Poughkeepsie 14-17 May; Doodletown 17, 24, 25, 27 May; 2 Bashakill 20, 25 May; RNC 22 May; Buttercup 24-29 May; Sterling F 24 May; Fahnestock SP 29 May.
Kentucky Warbler: 1-2 Doodletown 17-30 May; Larchmont Res 11 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr 2 May; max 20 Doodletown 19 May.

Cape May Warbler: good number of reports.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 4 May; max 15
Doodletown 19 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: well reported.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 20 Buttercup
Farm 25 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 2 Apr; sightings lasted to
mid May.
Pine Warbler: arr Tarrytown L 28 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 17 May;
Sterling Forest 24, 25 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: 20 CPP 5 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr SGNWR 12 Apr;
EGR 10 May; max 8 SGNWR 11 May; 3 CPP
24 May; 2 Pine Plains 25 May.

Fox Sparrow: 12 Tallman Mt SP 17 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Kripplebush
Creek 23 Mar; Dennings Pt 7 Apr; CPP 1, 12
Apr; many reports in May; max 15 Bashakill 9
May.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: f Stanfordville 1-
10 Mar; 2 Apr (DK), continuing from last
season.
Summer Tanager: Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers
13 Apr (MB), ph.
Bobolink: arr 2 May.
Boat-tailed Grackle: EGR 21 Apr (EE), video;
EGR 6 May (TB, BSh); MC 4, 11 May (JM).
Orchard Oriole: arr MC 28 Apr.
Pine Siskin: 4 Ellenville 5 Mar.

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