



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The spring season was very dry and seemed to be only one month long due to March acting like winter and May acting like summer. March started out very cold and stayed cold, prolonging the longer than normal winter season. The month averaged out to 4.3° F below normal. Poughkeepsie dipped to - 2° on 6 March. Even late March had lows in the upper teens. Most lakes and ponds stayed frozen through the month. Only 2.2" of precipitation fell, 1.4" less than normal. April was also dry with 2.2" of precipitation, 1.6" less than normal. Temperatures varied greatly with Poughkeepsie hitting a low of 24° the first two days of the month and soaring to a high of 81° on 18 April. Temperatures for the month averaged out to normal. Temperatures in the 30s and 40s on 22 and 23 April made it feel as if spring would never come. Leaf out started 30 April in southern Westchester and continued north, then into the higher elevations the first two weeks of May. This is slightly early historically, but late compared to the last twenty years. The heat was turned on in May. It was reported to be the second warmest on record at the average 6.6° above normal. Temperatures were above average for 23 days in the month, hitting highs of 89° on the 8th, 10th, 11th and 26th. Less than 2" of rain fell, where the average is 4.7".

6 March brought some interesting waterfowl to the Hudson River Valley. Julia Fuhr observed and photographed 11 Tundra Swans heading north over Verplank. Evan Edelbaum found a female Common Eider off Piermont Pier the same day. The eider was seen later by Carol Weiss to confirm the identification. A blue morph Ross's Goose found by John Haas and a white morph found by Rob Stone were present together in New Hampton on 18 March. Mark DeDea found and gave a good description of a female Barrow's Goldeneye seen on the Hudson River from George Freer Memorial Beach in Port Ewen on 4 April. It

was seen by a number of other birders. The only evening flight of scoters, mainly White-winged, occurred on 2 May, in Long Island Sound.

There were two reports of fly-by **Swallow-tailed Kites** in mid-May. The first was seen by Andrew Block at Untermeyer Park in Yonkers on 11 May. John Askildsen watched a Swallow-tailed Kite fly over Route 44/Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, just above tree level, in a west/southwesterly direction two days later on 13 May. A Mississippi Kite was seen on Ironwood Road, Sterling Forest on 16 May by a number of observers. This is not too far away from where they tried to nest a few years back.

Continuing the trend of increased sightings, Willets were found at Marshlands Conservancy on 18 and 27 May. A Sanderling, which is a very rare species in spring, appeared at Edith G Read Preserve in Rye on 3 and 15 March. Bruce Nott found a phalarope on Orange Lake on 22 May. The bird was relocated the following day and identified as a breeding-plumaged female Red-necked Phalarope. A few other birders arrived and were able to photograph the bird.

Are Bonaparte's Gulls making a comeback on the Hudson? They were once fairly common on the Hudson during the middle of the last century but became uncommon or rare inland. There were a number of scattered reports this spring from every county, with a flock of 38-40 off Stony Point on 29 April. Tom Burke found a Great Black-backed Gull holding the leg of a Redhead on an offshore rock off Edith G Read Preserve in Rye on 15 March. The gull held on for 15 minutes while the duck frantically flapped until exhausted. The gull then started taking it apart.

Curt McDermott found a **CRESTED CARACARA** feeding on a carcass on River Road in Montgomery, Orange County on 10 April. The word was spread and many people got to see the bird over the weekend. It relocated to nearby Scott's Corners Golf Course area and was seen each day until the 16th. The bird was not banded but was missing its left eye. It was possibly sighted in Bullville on 20 April.

Moving along to the passerines, our five species of swallows all arrived a week or more earlier than their historical averages. Jeff Seneca photographed a male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne on 23 April. The bird was identified from the photo the next day. Efforts to relocate the bird were unsuccessful. This is Westchester County's second record. The first was near Cross River Reservoir 6 August 1962. Larry Trachtenburg found and photographed a female Boat-tailed Grackle at Croton Point Park on 5 April. Sightings in Westchester have increased in the last five years, usually along the shore of Long Island Sound.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Wigeon, Red-necked Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and European Goldfinch.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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: Pine Island 18, 22 Mar (RS, JHaa, MZ, Sca); Mashomack 21-24 Apr, 5 May (SJ, BM).

Snow Goose: 27 Parksville 25 Mar; 8 Valhalla 30 Mar; 275 Forsyth Nature Center 2 Apr; 50 Ellenville 5 Apr.

ROSS'S X SNOW GOOSE: white & blue morphs New Hampton 18, 19 Mar (RS, JHaa).

Cackling Goose: Mashomack, Pine Plains 15 Apr (LM, BM, AP); 2 Mashomack 21 Apr (BM, AP, SJ).

Tundra Swan: 11 Verplank 6 Mar (JF), ph; 8-12 Camel Farm 18, 19, 28, 29 Mar (RS, JHaa), Pine Plains 29 Mar (JCI, J&AD, DK, AL, BM, CP, AP, SR, HT); Buttercup West 1 Apr; 2 Hurley 3 Apr (WT, JP).

Eurasian Wigeon: EGR 2, 3, 5, 16 Apr (SC, AS).

N. Pintail: max 150 Wallkill River NWR 1 Apr.

Redhead: 2-4 Croton Bay 1-11 Mar; Rondout Res 7 Mar; 2 Rondout Res 20-22 Mar; one taken by a Black-backed Gull EGR 15 Mar, *intro*.

Ring-necked Duck: 467 Bashakill 6 Apr.

Surf Scoter: Kingston Pt 2 Apr (JCI); 2 EGR 3-7 Apr (AS); 2 EGR 2 May.

White-winged Scoter: Piermont Pier 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 Mar (EE, CWe, JCI); Port Ewen 3-11 Apr; 40 EGR 13 Apr; 2 Black Creek Preserve 17 Apr; 89 EGR & 212 Kiamasha L 19 May (JHaa).

Black Scoter: EGR 30 Mar (AS)

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Piermont Pier 14 Mar; 32 EGR 3 Apr; 4 Bashakill 7 Apr; 9 Mongaup Falls Res 7 Apr; 2 Abel's P, Vernbank 10-11 Apr; Red Wing 14 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: George Freer Memorial Beach, Ulster 4, 5, 9 Apr (MD, FM, DFe, JCI, JP, DHay).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Yankee L 24 May.

Horned Grebe: 16 EGR 25 Mar; 6 New Hamburg 4 Apr; 10 Bashakill 7 Apr; Piermont Pier 1 May; New Rochelle 2 May.

Red-necked Grebe: Piermont Pier 9 Mar; North Salem 9,10 Mar; 3 Bashakill 7 Apr; Bashakill 9 Apr; Saugerties 11-12 Apr; EGR 21 Apr; 2 Glenmere L 23 Apr; 2 Kiamasha L 23 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr Tibbets Brook P, Yonkers 8, 17 Apr; Amenia 14, 19, 26 Apr; Bashakill 16 Apr; Angle Fly Preserve, Katonah 17 Apr; Cruger Island Road 30 Apr; Amenia 1-30 May; 2 Bashakill 5 May.

Least Bittern: Amenia 5 May.

Great Egret: arr Stony point 2 Apr.

Snowy Egret: arr MC 5 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: Hommocks Conservation Area. Larchmont 19 Apr (KMcG).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Titus Millpond, New Rochelle 26 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: Kakiat P 24 May (DHan).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr Piermont Pier 7 Mar, early (VK); CPP 28 Mar.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Untermyer Park, Yonkers 11 May (ABl); Millbrook 13 May (JAs), *intro*.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 16 May (JGl, TS, PMo, TD, PA).

N. Goshawk: Tivoli Bays 22 Mar; Parksville 24 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Carmel 25 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: Liberty 29 Mar.

Golden Eagle: Callicoon 2 Mar; Bashakill 13 Mar; Mongaup 22 Mar; Buttercup 11 Apr; Sterling Forest 3 May.

Clapper Rail: The Great Vly, Saugerties 26-28 Apr (JP, PS, WT, MD); 2 MC 27, 29 May.

Sora: arr Bashakill 6 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr Bashakill 22 Apr; Amenia 1, 2, 7, 11, 17 May; 4 Bashakill 1 May.

Sandhill Crane: Forsyth Nature Center 2 Apr (MD, JP); SGNWR 9 May (JP); Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge 10 May (DHay).

Semipalmated Plover: 17 MC 5, 22 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: arr EGR 30 Mar; 4 MC 29 May.

Willet: MC 18, 27 May (TB).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 SGNWR 25 Apr; 4 Blue Chip Farm 17, 24 May; CPP 3 May (CR).

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 EGR 16 Apr.

Sanderling: EGR 3, 15 Mar (TB, BF, JHaa, JoB).

Dunlin: 6-12 EGR 8 Mar.

Purple Sandpiper: 6 Rye 25 Apr.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 22 May (CWe, GB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne 14 Apr (JS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Strever Farm 1 May.

Am. Woodcock: arr late Ulster Park 14 Mar (MD); 12 CPP 26 Mar.

Red-necked Phalarope: Orange L 22-24 May (BN, MZ, JHaa); Piermont Pier 23 May (LP).

Bonaparte's Gull: reports from all counties in Apr; max 56 EGR 18 Apr; max inland 38 Stony Point 29 Apr.

Iceland Gull: Fishkill 7 Mar (JCl).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Newburgh 10 Mar (MZ, BN); Kigston Pt 16 Mar (MD); Kingston Pt 2 Apr (JCl); 2 Kingston Pt 5 Apr (MD).

Caspian Tern: Kingston Pt 7, 12 Apr (JCl, MD, JP, FM); Piermont Pier 21 Apr (EE).

Forster's Tern: arr MC 4 May; 6 MC 11 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 5 Doodletown 30 May (TH).

Short-eared Owl: SGNWR 18 Mar; 3 SGNWR 27.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Millbrook School R 10 May (DD); Bashakill 16 May (JDi, SS).

E. Whip-poor-will: arr Pine Kill R. Wurtsboro 25 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr early Rockland SP 16 Apr (AW).

Red-headed Woodpecker: New Rochelle 7 Apr; 5 Weston Swamp 16, 30 Apr; Muscoot Farm 17, 22, 27 May.

CRESTED CARACARA: Montgomery 10-16 Apr (CM, mob), *intro*.

Monk Parakeet: 7 New Rochelle 26 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Rye Nature Center 12 May; Wurtsboro 13 May; Buttercup East 14 May; Peach Hill 15 May; CPP 18 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rye Nature Center 18, 27 May.

N. Shrike: SGNWR 29 Mar (JY).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 8 Bashakill 1 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Twin Lake P 27 Apr, photo, early (SO); Doodletown 7 May; Kakiat P 7 May; StonyKill 8 May.

Purple Martin: arr early Kingston Pt 8 Apr (MD, WT); 40 New Paltz 7 May.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr early White Plains 3 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr early Montgomery 10 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr MC 15 Apr; 40 Cross River Res 9 May.

Barn Swallow: arr Rosendale 4 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 22 Doodletown 29 Apr.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 9 May; 2 Reese Sanc 10 May; MC 18 May; 3 together MC 19 May (TB).

Bicknell's Thrush: singing and calling Rye Nature Center 19 May (TB).

Am. Pipit: 6-12 Liberty Marsh 29 Mar; 2 EGR 3 Apr; Apollo Plaza 9 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 8 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary East 1 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Bashakill 9 May; Linear P 13 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 30 Apr.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Kakiat P 17, 24 May (MC, MK); Buttercup 17-30 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Glen Woods, Pelham 26 Apr (MRo).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Rockefeller SP Preserve 30 Apr (EE); Buttercup Sanctuary, East 2, 3, 4 May (CP, MRy, AP, BM, HT); Doodletown 3 May (LT); Sterling Forest 15 May (MRa, DL).

Mourning Warbler: Bashakill 12-14 May; Buttercup 15 May; Peach Hill 21, 23 May; Kakiat P 24 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Doodletown 10, 24, 25, 30 May (DHay).

Com. Yellowthroat: arr early SGNWR 2 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr Doodletown 29 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: 4 Ferncliff 6 May; 4 Peach Hill 4-13 May; 2 Bashakill 7 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Muscoot Farm 22 Apr; arr Doodletown 29 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Kingston Pt 29 Mar.

Yellow-throated Warbler: River Road, Callicoon 23-27 Apr (RCr).

Prairie Warbler: arr 6 ½ Station Marsh 13 Apr.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: photographed Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne 23 Apr, 2nd WEST record (JS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Bashakill 7 May (JHaa, ScB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Ward Pound Ridge 16 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Benedict Park 18 Apr; Wappinger Falls 25 Apr; Millbrook 15 May; 2 CPP 25 May.

Seaside Sparrow: CPP 10 May (CR), photo.

Fox Sparrow: Hillside 3 May (WT), late.

Blue Grosbeak: Muscoot Farm 20-23 Apr (RG, AS); 2 Berkshire R, Dover Plains 27 May (AP, SJ, BM).

Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 2, 15, 16 Apr (TB); f CPP 5 Apr (LT), ph.

Orchard Oriole: arr Irvington 29 Apr

Red Crossbill: 4 Liberty 24 Mar (JHaa, ScB, BF).

Com. Redpoll: 10 Tivoli Bays 1 Mar; 5 Katonah 2 Mar; 1-4 Bashakill 5-27 Mar; 2 Neversink 5 Mar; Rock Hill 5 Mar; Monticello 5 Mar; 3 Parksville 5 Mar; 6 Livingston Manor 5 Mar; CPP 7 Mar; 2 Saugerties 7 Mar; Pruyne Sanctuary 8 Mar; Scott's Corner 13 Mar; 4 Livingston manor 24 Mar; 2 Monticello 5 Apr; Walden 11 Apr; Milan 29, 30 Apr.

Pine Siskin: lingered into May; Katonah 4 May; Rhinebeck 5 May; 2 Salt Point 6 May; Croton 9 May; 2 Ossining 15 May (MN).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: Beekman 27 Apr.