

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

March followed the unusually warm pattern from the winter season. The month came in 9.1° F warmer than normal. Poughkeepsie reached a high of 82° on 9 March. Three other days saw highs in the seventies. There was no “ice-out” on the ponds since there was no ice to begin with. Only 1.0" of rain fell; the norm is 3.6". Dutchess County received 5" of snow in early April, and the month was best noted for temperature swings. The first day of April reached 78° and then temperatures dropped below freezing on the 4th. The low for 6 April was only 19°. Temperatures slowly climbed the next two weeks, and 22 April hit a high of 81°. Temperatures then dropped again with a low of 35° on 28 April. Rainfall totaled only 2.2", about 1.5" below normal. The wide swings in temperatures averaged out to normal. The first week of May was wet, with almost 2" of rain. The rest of the month was dry and totaled over an inch below normal for the month. Leaf-out did not occur until the end of the first week in the southern part of Westchester. This is historically average, but much later than typically seen in the last 15-20 years where earlier and earlier springs were the trend. The month ended very warm, with temps in the high eighties and low nineties for the last seven days.

Many species arrived earlier than their average dates. Ten species set new early arrival dates, and sixteen species of warblers arrived by the end of April. Osprey and Eastern Phoebe had already arrived in February. Blue-winged Teal and Northern Rough-winged Swallow arrived in March! Other species setting new arrival dates were Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Cape May Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Bobolink.

A few Greater White-fronted Geese continued from their winter locations into March. An adult drake Barrow's Goldeneye was found at Glasco Mini Park on 6 March by Deb Ferguson and Frank Murphy. Another Barrow's Goldeneye was located in the same mixed flock of about 30 Common Goldeneye the next day. The two Barrow's were often seen in close proximity to each other. At least one bird remained until 13 March.

Horned and Red-necked Grebes were reported in good numbers inland, an unusual occurrence. Glossy Ibis also appeared inland at the Bashakill Deli fields for a day.

The once rare Willet is now common in spring and summer along the Long Island Sound shore. A Whimbrel in Marshlands Conservancy was a good find. An early Upland Sandpiper was discovered in the grass field at Warren Sod Farm by Matt Zeitler on 29 March.

There was a great push of terns up the Hudson River and further inland in May. It included a number of Caspian, Common, and Forster's Terns.

Red-headed Woodpecker reports are way up. The Weston Swamp Colony has branched out to other nearby locations over the last couple of years, and each county is now reporting them. Both Dutchess and Westchester Counties may soon have breeding pairs.

The Lark Sparrow that overwintered in Croton Point Park lingered well into spring and was last seen 10 April. A male **Western Tanager** appeared visiting a feeder on Lucas Avenue Extension in Hurley on 23 March and was seen by many up until 10 April. Photographs were obtained. The **Bullock's Oriole** that was found in Milton, Ulster County in February stayed until 8 March.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Kathleen Ashman, Scott Baldinger, John Barton, Ryan Bass, Daniel Barkley, Trudy Battaly, Alan Beebe, Gail Benson, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonnano, Mira Bowin, Tom Burke, Deborah Busby, Barbara Butler, Sue Caler, Sean Camillieri, David Cartmel, Steve Chorvas, Jim Clinton, Mary Collier, John Collins, Chris Cording, Matt Corsaro, Dale Dancis, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Ruth DeFord, Peter DeGiglio, Bruce Dudley, Philippa Dunne, Evan Edelbaum, Larry Federman, Deb Ferguson, Tom Fiore, Dorothy Fleury, Valerie Freer, Eamon Freiburger, Marge Gorton, M. Grant, David Grover, Frank Guida, John Haas, Dawn Hannay, Ken Harris, David Hayes, Susan Joseph, George Kappus, Kateri Kosek, Deborah Kral, Mike Kravatz, Pola Kuhn, Michael Lavin, Paul Lewis, Karen Maloy, Barbara Mansell, John McBride, Kenneth McDermott, Caroline McDonald, Kevin McGrath, Karen Miller, Pete Morris, Frank Murphy, Pat Murray, Megan Napoli, Bruce Nott, Russ O'Malley, Drew Panko, Carena Pooth, Deborah Powell, Laurie Preisendanz, Jessica Prockup, Bill Purcell, Bruce Rennie, Carol Resch, Eric Reubel, Charles Roberto, Susan Rogers, Jane Rossman, Jack Rothman, Joseph Ruggeri, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Lynn Salmon, Justin Schmidt, Peter Schoenberger, Steve Schuyler, Linda Scrima, Elisa Shaw, Carlotta Shearson, Jarvis Shirky, Bob Shriber, Bob Smith, Zack Smith, Anne Swaim, Susan Tendy, Herb Thompson, Kelvin Thomson, Wendy Tocci, Larry Trachtenberg, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Deb Weltsch, Sandra Wright, Mathew Zeitler.

ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Blue Chip Farms 1-5 Mar; 7 Black Dirt Region 6, 7 Mar (MZ); Amenia 7 Mar (CV); 4 Black Dirt Region 10 Mar (BN); Bashakill 10-12 Mar (JH); Black Dirt Region 15-16 Mar.
Brant: 1000 over Saugerties 12 May.
Cackling Goose: Black Dirt Region 6, 7 Mar (MZ); Bashakill 8 Mar (JH).
Tundra Swan: 6 Amenia 1-7 Mar.
Eurasian Wigeon: EGR 13 Mar (GB, TBu)
Blue-winged Teal: 2 Amenia 7 Mar (CP, CV), record early arrival; 2 CPP 10 Apr; 2 Sharon Station 29 Apr.
N. Pintail: Rockefeller SP 22 Apr (EE), late.
Green-winged Teal: max 45 Bashakill 30 Mar; 11 CPP 10 Apr.
Redhead: 2 EGR 12 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 160 Bashakill 5 Mar.
Surf Scoter: EGR 25 Mar; Kingston Pt 4 May (JCI).
White-winged Scoter: max 130 EGR 12 Mar; Ashokan Res 13 Apr; 10 Ashokan Res 30 Apr; Wickham L, Warwick 1-2 May; 3 Cornwall Bay 3 May; 4 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse 2,3 May.
Black Scoter: 2 EGR 11 Mar-14 Apr; 7 Ashokan Res 17 Mar; 10 Ashokan Res 30 Mar.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Glasco Mini Park 6 Mar (DFe, FM); 2 Glasco Mini Park 7 Mar (FM, SSc, BSm); Glasco Mini Park 8-13 Mar.
Ring-necked Pheasant: Bashakill 8 Mar; DUTC reports may be released birds
Ruffed Grouse: one report from DUTC, Poets Walk 18 Apr; many reports from ULST.
Red-throated Loon: Kingston 4 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: Amenia 7 May.
Horned Grebe: max 29 EGR 30 Mar; 13 Morningside P 12 Apr (JH); 5 Ashokan Res 13 Apr; Cross R Res 2 May (SeC).
Red-necked Grebe: Ashokan Res 12 Mar(PS); Swan L 12 Apr (JH); 4 Saugerties 20 Apr(AB, DC); 4 Ashokan Res 1-4 May (MD, JP, JCI); Port Ewen/Kingston Pt 4,6 May (DH, MD).
N. Gannet: 20 EGR 27 Mar, 10 Apr; max 24 EGR 14 Apr.
Am. Bittern: arr Great Vly 12 Apr; Bashakill 18 Apr; MC 14 May.
Least Bittern: 2 Great Vly 14 May.
Great Egret: arr New Rochelle & EGR 23 Mar.
Snowy Egret: arr MC 31 Mar.
Little Blue Heron: MC 26 Apr.

Green Heron: arr Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 7 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr Aiello Park, New Rochelle 9 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: 7 Bashakill 7 May (ReD, MGo, VF, MCol); MC 14, 27 May (MBoc, TBu).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr 25 Feb, record early arrival; Cornwall 14 Mar (ST).

Mississippi Kite: Doodletown 10 May (JCo, CR); Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 30 May (JA).

N. Goshawk: Kingston 12, 30 Mar, 23 Apr, 5 May; Saugerties 1 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hopewell Junction 31 Mar (KK).

Golden Eagle: Bashakill 4 Mar; Mashomack 30 Mar.

Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 2, 9, 13, 16, 21,23 May.

Virginia Rail: arr 28 Feb, record early arrival.

Sora: Great Vly 1, 14 May; Bashakill 2 May.

C. Gallinule: arr Fancher Davidge Park, Middletown 9 Apr; Amenia 22 Apr; Bashakill 27 Apr; Great Vly 27 Apr; West Branch Res 3 May; max 4 Bashakill 2 May; Great Vly 14 May 3 Amenia 19 May.

Am. Coot: White Plains Reservoir 14-17 May.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Amenia 8 Mar (JRos); 2 Fishkill 12 Mar (RM); SGNWR 18, 29 Apr (KMa); Bashakill 7 May (JH, LV, SB).

Black-bellied Plover: Kingston 2 May; 1-2 MC 9-27 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr MC 16 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: arr EGR 19 Mar; max 7 Rye 19,31 Mar, 17 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Black Creek Preserve, Esopus 1 Apr (MGr), record early arrival date.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Chodikee L 22 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr New Paltz 13 Mar; 20 MC 25 Apr.

Willet: MC 26 Apr, 4, 14, 23, 25, 27 May; 2 MC 29 Apr, 24 May

Lesser Yellowlegs: MC 21 Apr

Upland Sandpiper: arr early Black Dirt Region 29 Mar (MZ, BN, LSc, KMCD); arr SGNWR 29 Apr.

Whimbrel: MC 25 May (TBu, GB).

Ruddy Turnstone: 5 Rye 30 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 3-9 EGR 2, 7, 11 Apr; 2 EGR 13 May (MBoc).

Least Sandpiper: arr MC 26 Apr.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Citgo Pond, Goshen 2 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr MC 16 May

Wilson's Snipe: Kingston Pt 8 Mar; CPP 6 Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: Kiamesha L 17 Mar; 2 Neversink Res 3 Apr; 10 EGR 14 Apr; Round Pond 14 Apr; 7 Kingston Pt 16 Apr; 6 Kingston Pt 3, 5 May.

Iceland Gull: Kingston Pt 8 Mar (FM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Woodbourne 2 Mar; Kingston Pt 4 May (JP, PS, MD, JCI).

Caspian Tern: widespread influx the first few days of May; 11-13 Kingston Pt 2-3 May (KMcD, CM, MD, PS); 1-5 Croton-on-Hudson 2-7 May (LT, AS, CR); 2 Kingston 5 May; MC 5 May (GB); MC 5, 10 May (JRu).

Com. Tern: 10 Kingston Pt 3 May (CM); Morningside P 4 May (JH); Mashomack, Pine Plains 5 May (DK), unusual locations.

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 26, 27 Apr, 5, 7, 10, 13 May; 6-8 Kingston Pt 4-5 May (PS, JP); 2-6 Mills-Norrie SP 4-5 May (SJ, CP, BM), unusual locations

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 9 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Rockland SP 11 Apr (BP), record early arrival.

Barn Owl: Blue Chip Farm 14 May (JP).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 5 banded Harriman SP 6-7 Mar (DPa, TBA); 2 Willow 19, 22 Mar; 2 juv Sterling Forest 21, 31 May.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 3 Bashakill 12 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr Gardiner 23 Apr; 3 Wurtsboro 30 Apr, 12 May; Mamaroneck 4 May; Dover 14-31 May; 7 Gardiner 19 May.

Chimney Swift: arr New City 19 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Mt Vernon 20 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 Swartekill Creek 1 Mar; 6 Weston Swamp 7 Mar; pr Red Hook 20 Mar; 1-2 Rhinebeck 23 Mar-30 Apr, 10 Apr; 1-2 Fancher Davidge P, Middletown 27, 31 Mar, 9, 13 Apr; 2 Muscoot Farm 27 Apr-26 May; Peach Hill 30 Apr; East Fishkill 27 Apr; Doodletown 7 May; Annsville Creek, Peekskill 10 May; Claryville 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 nest building Mountain Lakes Park 12 May (ER, SW, RuD), be the first breeding record for Westchester County.

Monk Parakeet: 14 Aiello Park, New Rochelle 9 Apr; 2 Rye 27 Apr; 5 Yonkers 1 May; MC 25 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CPP 8 May; Annandale 13 May; Harriman SP 17 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1-2 Bashakill 15, 16 May; Rye Nature Center 16-19 May; Wappingers L 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Hurley 13 May

Alder Flycatcher: arr Millbrook & Woodstock 14 May

Willow Flycatcher: arr Kingston 8 May

Least Flycatcher: arr Bashakill 26 Apr.

E. Phoebe: arr 29 Feb, record early arrival; East Irvington Nature Preserve & CPP 10 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Woodstock 4 May

White-eyed Vireo: arr Peach Hill 27 Apr; Kinston 8 May, unusual location.

Warbling Vireo: max 20 Thompson P 10 May; some obs thought number up.

Philadelphia Vireo: Great Vly 14 May

Tree Swallow: 5 CPP 9 Mar; 25 Bashakill 12 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Newburgh 20 Mar (BN), record early arrival; pr gathering nesting material Millerton 27 Mar, early.

Bank Swallow: 100 Wassaic 14 May (BB).

Marsh Wren: Vassar Farm 22 Apr; Kingston Pt 23 Apr; 2 Tivoli Bay 25 Apr; Great Vly 28 Apr; Pawling 30 Apr; 1-2 MC 13-24 May; 6 Tivoli Bays 13 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: thru 14 May; 9 Peach Hill 10 May (ES).

Veery: arr Warwick 17 Apr; max 21 Wassaic 25 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 13 May; Ulster Park 14 May; RNC 16 May; 2 Tackamack P, Orangetown 22 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: 3 Slide Mt 26 May (TF); 2 Cornell Mt 26 May (TF).

Am. Pipit: 2 West Hurley 17 Mar; 52 Callicoon 18 Mar; 15 CPP 19 Mar; Sharon Station 4 Apr; 2 Walkill 4 Apr; 20 Bashakill 4 Apr; 35 SGNWR 3 May; Kingston 5 May.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Peach Hill 28 April; 4 Sterling Forest 31 May.

"Brewster's Warbler": Peach Hill 9 May (JCI).

"Lawrence's Warbler": Kakiat 14 May (MK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Bashakill 27 Apr (LV, SB).

Mourning Warbler: Kingston 8 May; Bashakill 15 May; Ulster P 17 May; Woodstock 17 May; Buttercup East 21 May; New Paltz 21

May; Peach Hill 22 May; LaGrangeville 27 May; RNC 28 May.
Kentucky Warbler: 1-2 Doodletown 8-27 May (SeC, DH).
Hooded Warbler: max 13 Minnewaska SP 10 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr m & f Kingston **28 Apr** (MD), record early arrival; Peach Hill 8 May; 4 Kingston 9 May; 4 Saugerties 11 May; Wappingers 14 May; 2 Bashakill 14 May; Valley Farm Road 17 May; RNC 17 May; Buttercup West 19 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Reese P 7 May; Bashakill 14 May; 2 MC 14 May; 3 Bashakill 15 May; 4 Peach Hill 20 May; RNC 25 May
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Lake Walton 21 Apr (JM), early.
Canada Warbler: max 5 Kakiat P 17 May (CW).
Yellow-breasted Chat: Bashakill 21 May; CIES 29, 30 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 Bashakill 28 Mar.
LARK SPARROW: CPP 1 Mar – 10 Apr, continuing bird from winter, mob.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 7 SGNWR 21 May.
Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 14, 25 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: many rep Apr & May; max 4 Cruger I 8 May; 4 Saugerties 9 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: last migrant Peach Hill 9 May.
Summer Tanager: Rye Nature Center 18, 19 May (GB, TBU, JRot).
Scarlet Tanager: pr South Mt **6 Apr** (CM), record early arrival; Hopewell Junction 10 Apr (LP).
WESTERN TANAGER: Hurley 23 Mar – 10 Apr (MCor, MBow, MDD, PS, WT, StC, FM), photos.
Indigo Bunting: arr High Falls & Mohonk 28 Apr; next High Falls & Mohonk 18 Apr (MN).
Bobolink: arr Highland lake SP **17 Apr** (DPo), record early arrival; max 40 SGNWR 25 May (JH).
Boat-tailed Grackle: male singing MC 29 Apr (TBU)
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: Milton 1-8 Mar (KMCD).
Pine Siskin: many reports from ULST Mar & Apr; 2 Red Hook 10 Apr; Ulster P 1, 14 May; 13 Parksville 3 May; 2 Milan 24 May (SJ)