

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started out warm, with Poughkeepsie reaching 65° F on 1 March, but then plunged into one of the coldest Marches on record. A late winter freeze started on 10 March and continued for two weeks. Poughkeepsie hit a low of 6° on the 13th. During this cold snap a Nor'easter dumped 8 to 20 inches of snow and sleet on the Region on 14 March. Poughkeepsie dipped into the teens on 14 days during the month and came in 4.1° below normal. This stalled any further blooming of early plants like forsythia, as well as any early leaf-out in April. Precipitation was above normal at 5.3". April was the complete opposite, with temperatures 4.3° above normal and only 2.54" of precipitation. A good movement of migrants arrived on 28 April, with temperatures in the Region reaching the mid-eighties. May averaged out to normal temperature and precipitation but was colder than normal for the first half. Poughkeepsie saw lows in the 30s from 8 to 12 May. A blocking weather system made migration slow for early May. Leaf-out was historically on time starting 5 May in southern Westchester and proceeded quickly north. This is later than average for the past 20 years. The second half was warm, with temperatures in the 90s on 17 and 18 May.

Scott Baldinger found a distant swan at the Bashakill on 12 April. Initially identified as a Tundra Swan, Bruce Nott and Linda Scrima were able to photograph it that evening as it moved closer. After viewing the photos John Haas believed it was a Trumpeter Swan. Further discussion between birders concluded that it was indeed a Trumpeter, Sullivan County's first record of this bird. As with all Trumpeters, whether it's a wild bird, an escape, or an offspring of the birds now breeding in northern New York is anybody's guess. The bird was not marked or banded. All three scoters as well as Red-breasted Merganser made appearances inland. Glossy Ibis were found in Warwick, Otter Creel Preserve, and the Black Dirt Region in April. They were also seen in the more expected location of Marshlands Conservancy.

Jeff Gerlach spotted a Swallow-tailed Kite over Hopewell Junction on 20 May. It flew in and circled two large sycamore trees for a minute or two. It appeared to be catching insects from the tree leaves and branches before flying off. Unfortunately, no picture was obtained. Continuing the theme of inland rarities, an American Oystercatcher was at Piermont Pier 21 March and two Red-necked Phalarope were at the Camel Farm in Orange County on 30-31 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker continue becoming more widespread as both were reported in nearly all counties into late

May. A Northern Shrike was a one-day wonder photographed in Rockefeller Preserve on 4 April.

The first appearances of many warblers were early although none set any record early dates. Prothonotary Warblers were found at the Cary Institute from 27 April until mid May and at D&H Linear Park on 18 May.

An Ipswich Sparrow was discovered at Croton Point Park on 8 March and was last seen on the 12th. In very encouraging news, a Henslow's Sparrow returned to Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge on 23 May and continued into June. The last time Henslow's Sparrow bred here was in 1993, and the species last appeared without breeding in 2001 and 2002. Close by in the same fields, a Dickcissel was found a few days earlier on 20 May and also continued into June.

Other notable species include: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, King Rail, Sandhill Crane, Lapland Longspur, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Nelson's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Boat-tailed Grackle, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 700 Bashakill 24 Mar.

Ross's x Snow Goose: Blue Chip Farm 2 Mar (DF, DO).

Cackling Goose: Tarrytown Lakes 17 Mar (EG).

TRUMPETER SWAN: Bashakill 12-18 Apr (SB, BN, JH, VF, KMcD), ph, 1st SULL record, *intro*.

Wood Duck: max 450 Bashakill 27 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: a few lingered to late May.

Surf Scoter: Esopus 3, 9 Mar (PSc, KW); Port Ewen 18-3 Mar (MD, DF, PSc, WT); 3 Kingston Pt 1 Apr (WT); 2 Kiamesha L 21 Apr (JH,SB,BM).

White-winged Scoter: 3 Ashokan Res 26 Mar (PSc); Glenmere L 1 May (MZ, KA); 96 EGR 1 May (GB); Cornwall Bay 2 May (BN); Kiamesha L 21 Apr, 2 May (JH); 27 Neversink Res 2 May (JH); Yankee L 2 May (JH); 20 Esopus 20 May (GT).

Black Scoter: Kingston Pt 1 Apr (WT); Bannerman's I 20 Apr (KMcD).

Long-tailed Duck: EGR 1 May, late.

Bufflehead: Ashokan Res 12 May, latest?

Red-breasted Merganser: more inland & late records than usual; Croton Falls Res 14 Apr (SC); Wickham L 1 May (MZ); 9 EGR 1 May (GB); Cornwall Bay 2 May (BN); Saugerties Lighthouse 19 May; Neversink R 29 May (JH).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Bashakill 20 Apr.

Ruffed Grouse: Bashakill 24 Apr; 2 Woodstock 29 Apr; Wolf brook 15 May; 3 Woodstock 20 May; Buttercup East 21 May.

Red-throated Loon: few lingered to late May.

Horned Grebe: 9 Bashakill 5 Apr; Croton R 22 May.

Red-necked Grebe: Staatsburgh 21 Mar (CP); 8 Saugerties 1 Apr (PSc); 3 Morningside P 8 Apr (JH); 3 Ashokan Res 14 Apr (PSc).

Least Bittern: arr 2 Amenia 30 Apr; Great Vly 5 May; 2 Sharon Stn 2 May; Tivoli Bays 29 May.

Great Egret: arr Kensico Res 25 Mar; 2 Congers 26 Mar.

Little Blue Heron: MC 2-13 May; Kingston Res 24-26 May (MD, WT, PSc).

Tricolored Heron: MC 13-23 Apr (GB, TB).

Cattle Egret: Piermont Pier 26 May (LPi).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr New Rochelle 14 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: Warwick 7 Apr (LS); Otter Creel Preserve 9 Apr (SMc); 2 Black Dirt Region 9 Apr (Abu, LF, JD); 1-2 MC 13, 20, 30 Apr, 3-10 May (GB).

HAWKS - LARIDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Hopewell Jct 20 May (JGe), *intro*.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Bashakill 2 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: Callicoon 25 Mar.

Golden Eagle: 1-2 Dover 4, 11, 21, 22 Mar; Amenia 5 Mar; Dover Plains 13 Mar; Stanfordville 24 Mar, 1 Apr.

Clapper Rail: MC 1 May.

King Rail: Great Vly WMA 23 Apr (PSc, FM, KMcD).

Sandhill Crane: 3 Walden 5 Mar (KMcD); 3 Warwick 18 Mar (DM); 3 SGNWR 24 Mar (CS); 4 Wallkill 26-28 Mar, 1 Apr (CMc,KMcD,GB); Rhinebeck 31 Mar (JSc); 6 Fishkill 7 Apr (LPo); 2 Liberty March 9 Apr (WE); Bashakill 10 May (KF, SFe).

Black-bellied Plover: 4 Kinston 6 May; Morningside P 13 May; 3 Wallkill R NWR 20 May; 3 Piermont Pier 29 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 7 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: Piermont Pier 21 Mar (EE); 4 EGR 25 Mar.

Willet: MC 13, 17 Apr (TB,GB,AS).

Upland Sandpiper: arr SGNWR 13 Apr; max 1.

Ruddy Turnstone: Piermont Pier 21 May (LP).

Dunlin: 2 MC 1 May (GB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Camel Farm 7 May (RSt, MZ, LS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Fancher Davidge P, Middletown 30 Mar.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 38 Blue Chip Farm 26 May (JoB, CS).
Wilson's Snipe: max 11 CPP 26 Mar (CR).
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Camel Farm 30, 31 May (MZ, JH, KMi)
Bonaparte's Gull: 6 EGR 11 Mar; Wickham L 27 Mar; Bashakill 6 Apr; 12 Kingston Pt 7 Apr; 2 Neversink Res 12 Apr, 12 May; 20 Piermont Pier 13 Apr; 9 Esopus 15 Apr; max 40 Ashokan Res 15 Apr; 3 CPP 20 Apr; Newburgh 20 Apr; 3 Kiamasha L 21 Apr.
Laughing Gull: arr MC 13 Apr.
Iceland Gull: 2 Millerton 2 Mar (JAs).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Beacon 5 Mar (CuM); Port Ewen 5 Apr (MD); CPP 9 Apr (AS); Newburgh 20 May (KMcd).
Caspian Tern: Bashakill 5 Apr; Sauuerties 14 Apr; CPP 17 Apr; 3 Kingston 20 Apr; Kingston 6, 7 May; CPP 30-31 May.
Com. Tern: Yankee L 21 Apr (JH); Neversink Res 5 May (JH).
Forster's Tern: MC 19 Apr.
Black Skimmer: CPP 30-31 May (AS).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Pochuk Mt State Forest 29 Apr.
Barn Owl: New Paltz 16 Mar (LW, KMo).
Short-eared Owl: CPP 20 Mar (CR).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Callicoon 27 Mar (RC); Slide Mt 23 May (LD).
Com. Nighthawk: arr Mount Vernon 2 May; max 402 Bashakill 18 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr Warwarsing 11 Apr; Woodstock 28 Apr; Wallkill 30 Apr; Dover 8 May; Kingston 12,13 May; Bedford 17 May; max 4 Bashakill 12 May; Esopus 23 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: becoming more widespread especially in ULS;. Wappinger Falls 27 Mar; 2 Weston Marsh 13 Apr; Mt Kisco 30 Apr; 2 Muscoto Farm 1 May; max 3 Harcourt Sanc 8 May; Millbrook 11-13 May; Saxon Woods 16 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: now reported all counties to late May.
Monk Parakeet: 14 New Rochelle 23 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Doodletown 17 May; Woodstock 17 May; New Paltz 21 May; Lloyd 21 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Wallkill R NWR 22 May; Peach Hill 28 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 17 May.

N. Shrike: Rockefeller Preserve 4 Apr (AS).
White-eyed Vireo: arr Teatown L 17 Apr; SGNWR 24 May.
Purple Martin: arr 5 Montgomery 18 Apr; max 40 New Paltz 17 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Rockefeller SP 10 May; Rye Nature Center 11 May; Ulster Park 13 May; Esopus 18 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Sterling Forest 30 Apr (PW.PL, SMi).
Am. Pipit: 20 SGNWR 2 Mar.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: O'Leary Farm, Salt Point 18 Mar (BB).
Snow Bunting: max 36 Ashokan Res 19 Mar.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Lamont Campus 25 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Woodstock 3 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Wassaic 29 Apr.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr Peach Hill P 24 Apr.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Esopus 2-14 May (MCor, WT)
Prothonotary Warbler: Cary Institute 27, 29 Apr, 1-2, 15 May (AP, CP, HT, CS, DK); D&H Linear P 18 May (TB, GB).
Orange-crowned Warbler: New Paltz 2 May (ZS).
Mourning Warbler: Stony Kill Farm 4 May; Woodstock 14-15 May; Doodletown 20 May; New Paltz 21 May; Warwarsing 28 May.
Kentucky Warbler: Buttercup West 20 May (BMa); Sterling Forest 19 May (KMcd).
Hooded Warbler: arr Doodletown 28 Apr.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Saugerties 27 Apr (SC), Reg record early.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 28 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 11 Apr, Reg record early.
Yellow-throated Warbler: Eastchester 12 May (JaB).
Prairie Warbler: arr Bashakill & Rockefeller 25 Apr.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 17 May; Tuxedo Park 18 May; Wallkill River NWR 20-28 May; Peach Hill 22 May; Sterling Forest SP 27-28 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: arr Bashakill 3 Apr; CPP 12 Apr; Amenia 5, 13 May; 2 Greig Fm 10, 28 May.
"Ipswich" Sparrow: CPP 8, 12 Mar (VH, KV, JV)

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 SGNWR 26 Apr; max 12 SGNWR 27 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: SGNWR 23-31 May (FM, KMcD, MZ).

Nelson's Sparrow: SGNWR 22 May (PR), ph.

Fox Sparrow: max 13 CPP 18 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bashakill 28 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Bedford 1 May; Linington Manor 2 May; Yankee L 2 May; 4 Wurstboro 5 May; CPP 23 May.

Summer Tanager: Lake Grove Cemetery 9, 10 May (LS).

Dickcissel: SGNWR 20-31 May (KMa).

Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 15, 22 May (GB, DJ, TB).

Orchard Oriole: arr CPP 24 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: Middletown ,10, 12, 14, 30 Mar (KMi), overwintered.

Red Crossbill: 8-20 Esopus 23-24, 31 May (RW).

White-winged Crossbill: 3 Hyde Park 22, 26 Apr (GP, RSe).

Com. Redpoll: 4 Kiamesha L 5 Apr

Pine Siskin: 25 Woodbourne 5 Apr; max 40 Mohonk House 16 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: 10-15 Stone Ridge 1 Mar-24 Apr (PA, MR, JM); 2 Ellenville 5 Mar; 5 Clintondale 14 Mar (JJ); 10 Parksville 29 Mar; 18 Parksville 13, 18 May (SB, JH, KMi); 2 Salisbury Mills 14 May (LR).