

REGION 10—MARINE

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Precipitation totals were lower than average for the city for March and April. Long Island was a half inch below normal during that period but had a wetter than usual May. Temperatures across Region 10 (R10) deviated over three degrees Fahrenheit from the mean in March, then less than two in April, and finally approached normal in May.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect birding behavior in R10, but to a much lesser degree than the prior spring. The pattern of cases was actually similar to the prior year, with a spike into the thousands in early April before declining sharply into June, but more evenly spread out across the state. Thankfully, year-on-year deaths improved drastically. An intense vaccine rollout

began in early 2021, but eligibility was expanded greatly during the period of this report. Vaccine pessimism united with vaccine optimism to deliver many people back to a fairly familiar grind. Regardless, birding had been long established to be a particularly safe escape. The pandemic did not seem to cause any major coverage issues like last year; the only possibly surprising miss for this period was the nomadic Long-eared Owl, although it was reported from a few R10 locations in the first two months of 2021. Paulagics, the little but influential company organizing pelagics to New York waters, had been on hiatus through the pandemic, but a few critical reports came in from offshore waters.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	45.8°	42.5°	+3.3°	42.4°	39.3°	+3.1°
Apr	54.6°	53.0°	+1.6°	50.9°	49.1°	+1.8°
May	62.9°	63.2°	-0.3°	59.7°	59.5°	+0.2°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	3.41"	4.36"	-0.95"	3.83"	4.34"	-0.51"
Apr	2.69"	4.50"	-1.81"	3.92"	4.44"	-0.52"
May	4.36"	3.96"	+0.40"	5.12"	3.28"	+1.84"

Some population trends for introduced species are likely worth mentioning in these reports periodically. Maximum Mute Swan counts have continued declining in recent years. **Ring-necked Pheasant** remains in a few overgrown areas and even city landfills, but is on the brink of extirpation where not restocked. This period, they were reported from Brooklyn to Suffolk, as well as on Staten Island. Northern Bobwhite are being bred and released in more and more Long Island parks, but few seem to thrive. Lately, they have been primarily reported from the East End and the North Shore as far west as Port Washington. **European Goldfinch** continue to hold on confidently to the partial greenbelt stretching from Green-Wood Cemetery to Forest Park, with occasional individuals possibly from this population seen around the greater Region. Some were reported from Floyd Bennet Field as well as an individual at a feeder in Syosset.

Overwintering individuals of note that remained into this period included a **Pink-footed Goose** in Northport, a **Mew Gull** (of the Eurasian taxon which, at the time of writing, has been split as “Common Gull” from the American taxon, “Short-billed Gull”) in western Brooklyn, **Western Tanager** in a micropark in Manhattan, and a **Varied Thrush** at a private residence in Ridge. Both eiders have been lingering into the warmer months lately. Common Eider now retains little armadas throughout the coast through the summer molt, which may not be so surprising given that their regular breeding range reaches our Region at the Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound convergence. **King Eider** sometimes sticks to these groups as in winter, but camaraderie is not solely retaining them as some are seen independent of other ducks, like the two seen around Great Kills this

period. A Harlequin Duck on **27 May** at Cupsogue was also impressively unseasonal, but not part of any obvious trend.

Early spring tends to produce a few sightings of scarce birds beginning to reposition before the migration rush. A **Golden Eagle**, which is always exceptional in the Region, was photographed migrating over Hempstead Lake in March. A **Northern Shrike** at Floyd Bennet Field was the first and only reported in R10 in 2021 up to that point. A hybrid **Eastern x Spotted Towhee** from the middle of the country was a very rare find in Northport in late April.

A few neotropical migrant songbirds beat their previous early arrival records, and Wilson's Warbler matched its previous record of **14 April**. An Olive-sided Flycatcher made its **second ever April debut on the 29th** in Central Park, beating its old record by a day. Northern Parula made its **first March appearance**, showing up on the 31st and beating its record by five days. Veery also snuck in a **record-setting March date**, beating its 15 April record by 16 days. All of the few Veery records outside of the tropics in late winter have occurred in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic areas, so perhaps this bird never left the United States. Perhaps most dramatic of all was a Chimney Swift recorded on **21 March**, eleven days before its previous early date, and one day after the official beginning of spring.

Most of the expected offshore species were tallied during transects of a NOAA vessel traversing the continental shelf edge from Hudson Canyon east on a single day in May. A nice mix of summer and winter seabirds were seen. **Northern Fulmar**, Sooty and Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, flocks of Red-necked Phalarope, Razorbill, Dovekie, and **Atlantic Puffin** were all recorded over a few hours. In addition, a **Brown Booby** was recorded, one of two noted in this report. The other spent some time around the mouth of Newark Bay, first seen from the New Jersey side before becoming visible from Staten Island. This species seems to be increasingly seen in our Region both moving offshore and lingering in quiet bays and marinas.

Regarding later arrivals, **Arctic Terns** have been findable across barrier beaches as far west as New York City in most recent years, particularly in June. On the last day of May a single bird was seen at Nickerson Beach, as were an astounding ten individuals that were carefully counted at Cupsogue. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was a spectacular find in the Pine Barrens near EPCAL in May, on the same day that a **Western Grebe** was being seen in Brooklyn. A beautiful male **Ruff** was a lucky sighting for an observer in Moriches a few days later. There were few Breeding Bird Atlas highlights for this period, but **Chuck-will's-Widow** continues to breed in selected areas of Suffolk County, including a stronghold of territorial birds on Fire Island. A video recording of **two Pileated Woodpeckers** taken by a non-birder at a private home in Mattituck in early spring made its way into MaryLaura Lamont's hands and hence into the official record here; this is an exceedingly rare species in Suffolk County. Unfortunately, there were no further reports.

A well-celebrated find was a **Wood Stork** at Westhampton that eventually developed a routine that allowed many to see it. It preceded a number of

interesting southern waders that dispersed later in the summer. However, no rarity was more thought-provoking than one that showed on April Fool's Day in Brooklyn. Doug Gochfeld reported a female "martin sp." from his morning walk around Prospect Lake. The author inquired about his unusual choice of words. It was still a bit early for Purple Martin, so had he perhaps had a candidate for that species seen poorly? The only other martin recorded in the Northeast previously had been Brown-chested, which is not likely to cause confusion and inspire use of "martin sp." It was quickly clarified that the bird resembled a Purple Martin but a few features were off, suggesting one of many neotropical candidates. Suddenly things were more serious. The bird ended up cooperating for five days, during which time it was documented by hundreds of observers. All *Progne* martins were considered, but **Gray-breasted Martin** was widely agreed to be most consistent. Neotropical martin identification is likely not fully developed and is certainly more challenging without physical forensics. Many photographs and audio samples were taken in case this identification ever needs to be revisited, but for now we will give it a name. Going forward, the community will surely find "martin sp." a rather exciting label in itself.

301 species were recorded this period.

It is with sadness that we report the death of long-time Region 10 birder, Lore Schore. The following remembrance from her son, Robin Schore of Hopewell, NJ, was conveyed to us by Lore's close friend, Mary Normandia.

Lore J. Schore died on May 14, 2021 at the age of 97. She had been a driven birder for more than 65 of those years. In her quest to populate her life-list, she traveled to all seven continents, including Antarctica. She held various positions with the Queens County Bird Club including serving as president and editing its "News & Notes". She faithfully participated in the annual NY Christmas bird counts and considered the Jamaica Bay Refuge a second home. She was most proud when her sightings were cited in the RBA. Lore spent her later years sitting at her kitchen table in New Jersey, binoculars in hand, with a broad view of her bird feeder, birdbath and wren house. Her family often quoted her eternal line, "One can never have enough owls." Her vast collection of bird books has been donated to the Bucks County (PA) Audubon Society.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CIC** - Coney Island Creek P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **PeIT** – pelagic transects near continental shelf, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall's I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **SCSP** – Shirley Chisholm SP, KING; **TP** – Timber Pt, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Cackling Goose: Belmont L SP, SUFF 2 Mar; Great Pd, SUFF 7 Mar (JSep).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sag 9 Mar (M. Doyle, D. Quinn).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Northport, SUFF 1 Mar (TS, BBo).

Mute Swan: max 100 JBWR (I. Conte), declining.

Eurasian Wigeon: Bush Terminal Piers P, KING thru 14 Mar (mob); Pepperidge L, SUFF thru Mar 27 (mob).

Canvasback: max 340 Water Mill, SUFF 6 Mar (PJL, SSM), dep TP 18 Apr (mob).

Common Eider: *intro*.

King Eider: many; max 3 PL 9-10 Apr (mob), 2 GKP thru end of period (mob), *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: MSP 13 Mar (A. Paret); 3 PL thru 1 May (mob); dep 27 May Cupsogue CP (M. Obmascik), late.

Northern Bobwhite: *intro*.

Ring-necked Pheasant: *intro*.

Wild Turkey: outside of traditional areas in RICH, eastern BRON, SUFF: Woodlawn Cemetery, BRON 30 Mar, 28 Apr (J. Burland, RA); VCP 21-28 Apr (RA); IHP 5 May thru end of period (mob).

Red-necked Grebe: PBP thru 27 Mar (RA); 2 PL 14 Mar (DCh); PB 7 May (PPau), late.

WESTERN GREBE: CIC 11-14 May (A. Ferino, mob), seen from various vantages.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 19 Apr (A. Burke), early.

Chuck-will's-Widow: max 6 Fire I, SUFF 21 May (PSw); PP 1 May (mob); Quogue, SUFF 6 May thru end of period (mob); BPt 18-21 May (R. Ellard); Ridge, SUFF 19 May (APe).

Chimney Swift: arr Crocherson P, QUEE 21 Mar (L. Weir), *intro*.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sora: 3 River Rd marshes, RICH 27 Apr – 8 May (mob); JBWR 24 May (JDi).

Upland Sandpiper: FBF 21 Apr (TPR).

Whimbrel: max 19 BPt 27 May (ABK, PPau, CFi).

Red Knot: max 80 Sunset Cove P, QUEE (MAc, CFi, RyM).

RUFF: m Moriches In, SUFF 17 May (D. DeFeo).

Western Sandpiper (Spring): Lido Beach, NASS 13 Mar (BF); JBSP 20 Mar (KFe).

Wilson's Phalarope: MF 19 May (ACi, mob); JBWR 20-25 May (mob); Macari Cow Pd, Mattituck, SUFF 26 May (BBol, JSep, JRan).

Red-necked Phalarope: max 8, PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

Parasitic Jaeger: only one, PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

jaeger sp.: 2 RMSP 29 May (ChC).

Dovekie: Georgica Hollow, SUFF 27 Mar (PMar, E. Ratner), on flats following storm; PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

Razorbill: dep, PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB), late.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB), late.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 4 MSP 7 Mar (PMar, E. Ratner), only obs this period.

Black-headed Gull: 7+ identifiable individuals, all adults except one: Old Field Pt, SUFF 14 Mar (PaD, KCo), returning for many years; RMSP 14 Mar (LN, JGI); Sheephead Bay, KING 14 Mar (HLo, MY); RI 21 Mar (DA); PP and Sunset P waterfront, KING thru 23 Mar (mob), commuting imm; SCSP, KING 26 Mar (R. Fleming); CIC 28 Mar (SBI, mob).

COMMON GULL: PP and Sunset Cove waterfront, KING thru 9 Mar (mob), commuting imm.

Caspian Tern: Joline Ave B, RICH 19 Apr (ACi), early; HSP 8 May (VG); Kings Pt, NASS 12 May (MMb); Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 14 May (TS).

Black Tern: Great Gull I, SUFF 12-15 May (D. Sibley); NB 19 May (D. Scheiman); Rockaway B, QUEE 22 May (CFi); RMSP 29 May (MNo, SAu).

Arctic Tern: *intro*, 10 Cupsogue Beach, SUFF 31 May (MMb); NB 31 May (RZ, mob).

LOONS – PARAKEET

NORTHERN FULMAR (R10): PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

Sooty Shearwater: PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

Manx Shearwater: PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB).

WOOD STORK: imm, Beaverdam Creek, SUFF 5-15 May (S, Saunders, mob), *intro*.

BROWN BOOBY: PeIT 15 May (DG, AllB); Mariner's Harbor waterfront, RICH (SWo, IG, ACi), *intro*.

American Bittern: dep Shu Swamp, NASS 3 May (CKI).

Least Bittern: max 2 Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF 23 May (JRan).

Cattle Egret: FMCP 19 Apr (JKe); CR 20 Apr (SWo, mob); PBP 25 Apr (PHo).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree I, SUFF 30 Apr thru 3 May (LNa, mob).

Black Vulture: many from across R10, NASS having the fewest with 9 reports, singles and small groups.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm HLSP 19 Mar (I. Ahuvia), ph.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: New York Botanical Garden, BRON 9 May (PSw).

Great Horned Owl: max 11 PBP 14 Apr (A. Eastwick), four nests.

Snowy Owl: handful of reports from QUEE, NASS, and SUFF; CP thru 2 Mar (mob), *intro*.

Barred Owl: PBP 27 Mar (A. Eastwick); CP throughout period (mob).

Short-eared Owl: sev in habitat in NASS, SUFF, but also migr: SCSP, KING 30 Mar (DG, SSI); RI 31 Mar (DAR); PlumbB 4 Apr (MEp, JMal).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: few: GwC 11, 19 Mar (JMal); CP 20 Mar (D. B. Yolton, M. Bellew).

Pileated Woodpecker: sev RICH and BRON; IHP 4-17 Apr (NOR, mob); APP 3 May (EMi, CV, mob); Riverside P, NEWY 16 May (L. Beausoleil); 2 Mattituck SUFF where very rare, video, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr CP 29 Apr (A. Cunningham), earliest in R10 by 1 day.

Northern Shrike: FBF 20 Mar (HLo, MEp, MY, mob).

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN: PP 1-4 Apr (DG, mob), *intro*.

VARIED THRUSH: Ridge residence, SUFF thru 18 Mar (J. Burke).

Veery: PP 31 Mar (J. Salas), *intro*.

BICKNELL's THRUSH (R10): PP 19 May (JMal, RyM, MEp), recorded; FP 24 May (SA).

Evening Grosbeak: several reports in each county, max 12 PP 7 May (RyM); dep PP 13 May (mob).

Common Redpoll: several in each county except BRON, max 15 GwC 12 Mar (M. Silber).

Red Crossbill: max 30 RMSP 1 Mar (LNa); dep Hunter's Gardens, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Pine Siskin: reports mostly from NYC to western SUFF.

Lapland Longspur: none.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Gantry Plaza, QUEE 5-8 May (S. & M. Murphy), Hallockville SP, SUFF 16 May (KJK).

American Tree Sparrow: dep PP 4 May (M. Cook).

Nelson's Sparrow: 4 PlumbB 29 May thru end of period (E. Clark, mob).

SPOTTED X EASTERN TOWHEE (hybrid): Fuchs Pd Pres, SUFF 28 Apr (TS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: CP 4, 8, 12 May (mob); FP 13 May (MNo, SAu); Dam Pd, SUFF 14 May (JSep).

Golden-winged Warbler: Todt Hill, RICH (MSh); Trout Pd P, SUFF 10 May (CGa, MGa).

"Lawrence's" Warbler (Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid): Frank Melville Pd, SUFF 30 Apr –1 May (KJK, mob); West Hills C P, SUFF 3 May (MMb).

Prothonotary Warbler: reports from all counties.

Kentucky Warbler: reported in all counties except RICH and SUFF.

Cerulean Warbler: 1-3 reports from all counties except BRON.

Northern Parula: arr CP 31 Mar (mob), *intro*.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WABLER: Prestons Pd, SUFF 14 May (BBu, mob).

Wilson's Warbler: CP 14 Apr (D. B. Yoltson), *intro*.

Summer Tanager: 2+ reports from all counties except BRON.

WESTERN TANAGER: Carl Schurz P, NEWY thru Apr 18 (mob), found in Dec.

Blue Grosbeak: reported from all counties.

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: *intro*.



Black-throated Gray Warbler, Preston's Pond, *Suffolk*, 14 May 2021, © Brenda Bull.