

REGION 10—MARINE

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Precipitation totals were similar to 2021: lower than average for March and April. The area had about two inches less rain than expected during that period but had a slightly wetter than average May. Temperatures across Region 10 (R10) were above normal in March and May, with stronger deviation in March, but were very nearly seasonal in April. A stationary low-pressure area to the south in mid-May kept winds strongly unfavorable for migrants, which frustrated birders, but did cause an unprecedented event which is covered below.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	43.3°	41.1°	+2.2°	42.4°	39.9°	+3.2°
Apr	50.9°	50.9°	+0.0°	50.0°	49.7°	+0.3°
May	62.2°	60.5°	+1.7°	61.7°	59.5°	+2.2°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	2.62"	3.94"	-1.32"	3.99"	4.51"	-0.52"
Apr	3.1"	3.55"	-0.45"	2.49"	4.06"	-1.57"
May	4.34"	3.66"	+0.68"	4.24"	3.28"	+0.96"

Coverage during this period more resembled the pre-pandemic efforts after two irregular springs. This is in part why this season had a higher species total, but there were also a few exciting rarities. As always, this spring report captures some notable birds that were first detected in winter or even fall and then clung tightly to a routine for many weeks. A **Pink-footed Goose** in Bridgehampton fell into this category. A **Western Tanager** again spent the winter in Carl Schurz Park in Manhattan before disappearing early in this period. A **Northern Shrike** in eastern Suffolk just made into this report by hours.

Short-distance migrant arrivals can be hard to track, as there already may be overwintering individuals present in R10 when they arrive. However, it would be otherwise challenging to explain why the few wintering **American Woodcock** in Brooklyn all gathered in Green-wood Cemetery in the first week of March, as a single observer was able to detect an impressive twenty-five individuals during their visit there. The cityscape consistently seems to disrupt this species' migration in particular.

While the rarities of April and May are somewhat expected and predictable, rarities in March can be particularly strange, or absent. This March saw nothing terribly unusual, except for a very early **Least Sandpiper** that was documented nicely at Great Kills.

Of the longer-distance migrants, most arrived within the same window as the last few years. Many species were roughly tied with their earliest dates, but fewer records were set than in 2021. The only new early date was for **Purple Martin**, which was recorded on 19 March, just beating its previous early record by a couple of days.

April saw a variety of amazing reports come in. On 2 April, a **Zone-tailed Hawk** was nicely documented flying over Brooklyn's Green-wood Cemetery. This species has been on the short list for the state for a while, with at least one individual migrating up the East Coast in several different years now and some very suggestive sight reports in R10. Thanks to the good photos taken, this species can finally be considered for the state list.

Another spectacular find was a suspicious brown *Anas* duck in southwestern Suffolk which turned out to be the state's first **Mottled Duck**. It had some sort of routine which repeatedly brought it back to a tiny pond in Amityville for over two weeks. Despite being seen flying in and out of that pond, it was never detected elsewhere. It was vigorously courting a female Mallard, which raised further questions. It was only seen once after late April, and was copulating with a Mallard. Not to spoil a future issue, but a Mottled Duck was again seen here in the fall. Did it reproduce quietly nearby or did it follow Mallards farther north?

Other really interesting April reports in Brooklyn included the county's first recorded **Black-throated Gray Warbler** on the 29th and a **White Ibis**. With an explosion of breeding White Ibis as close as southern New Jersey, this sort of sighting surely is becoming more expected. Again no spoilers, but this report ended up being the first of many in R10 in 2022. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was a spectacular flyover for a lucky observer on Staten Island, and **Mississippi Kites** continued their trend and were seen all over the Region.

In May, songbird migration was highlighted by another western warbler in Brooklyn, a **Townsend's Warbler**. This record was made even more interesting by the occurrence of another individual at the same park in September 2021. Although increasing in our area, **Painted Bunting** is still unexpected in spring, and the only observation was of a female that was documented briefly bathing in little pool in Central Park.

Other May rarities included a **King Rail** found at Timber Point in Suffolk, and a **Magnificent Frigatebird** that lingered around the eastern end of the North Fork and allowed a rare successful frigatebird chase for some who tried. Staten Island had its first **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, leaving only New York and Bronx counties to join the increasingly prosaic club. A few **Bicknell's Thrush** were carefully documented singing in the city parks, and a **Cliff x Barn Swallow hybrid** was discovered to be happy in a small Barn Swallow colony in Inwood Hill. Two single **Little Gulls** in Nassau and Suffolk are not shocking given the regular spring reports from certain sites in New Jersey, but we often go without seeing them during this period. A **Great Blue Heron** of the Floridian **Great White** variety was briefly seen at Shinnecock Inlet, and Nassau and Suffolk each had one **Black-necked Stilt**.

A few pelagic sightings were recorded this period, with one dedicated pelagic being run for the public on the *American Princess* in May. With the 2021 retirement of Paul Guris' Paulagic birding company, which handled logistics and connected birders to various fishing fleets over its long run, the community is lucky to have a local whale-watch outfitter understand the demand for seabird cruises. There tend to be few reports from offshore during spring, but they are often surprising. This pelagic turned up **Dovekie**, **Atlantic Puffin**, and **Black-capped Petrel**, which all seem unseasonal but perhaps really are not.

Although usually associated with June and July, last spring's reported included an early Arctic Tern sighting from an expected beach location. This year there were no sightings like that, but **Arctic Tern** was very suddenly available to birders all across the Northeastern US on 13 May. Northeast winds had been stifling songbird migration for several days leading up to this, and apparently frustrating northbound Arctic Terns at sea. There had been a few coastal sightings to the south and some suspect that the terns may have been unable to advance north at this time. The event was not exactly a fallout because it actually coincided with improving weather, so it is likely that some terns tried to capitalize on the wind change and power straight north over land. From there, some seemed to change their mind and follow rivers such as the Connecticut and the Hudson back south toward more open water. Groups of up to three dozen were seen at over ten locations around R10, with most being in the city, trickling down the Hudson into New York Harbor or the Long Island Sound, and none from the barrier beaches or Atlantic seawatches.

310 species were recorded this period.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica

Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PtL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RanI** – Randall's I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

MF 18 May thru end of period (D. Barbato, mob), first RICH record.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Bridgehampton SUFF 5 Mar (C. Gangemi, M. Doyle), continuing.

Cackling Goose: Cutchogue SUFF 1 Mar (B. Bolduc).

SNOW GOOSE x BRANT (hybrid):

caps/Canarsie Pier KING thru 24 Apr (mob), one continuing of former duo.

Tundra Swan: only reports: 7 CHP 16 Mar (J. Stetson), flyover flock; Orient SUFF 18 Mar (P. Lauber), feeding in field with geese.

Eurasian Wigeon: dep Bush Terminals Piers P KING 9 Apr (ABks).

MOTTLED DUCK: Ketcham's Ck SUFF 5 Apr – 15 May (E. Mutchnick, mob), *intro*.

Ring-necked Duck x Greater Scaup

(hybrid): Connetquot Ri SP Pres SUFF 5 and 13 Mar (SSM, PJL), ph.

Canvasback: max 153 Flushing QUEE (G. Vidal); several single migrants briefly at non-traditional sites in KING and SUFF in early Mar.

Redhead: max 58 Avon L, Amityville SUFF 2 Mar (L. Sanders); singles elsewhere in KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF.

King Eider: m GKP thru 24 Apr (mob); m Shinn 27 Mar (P. Hanly).

Harlequin Duck: 2 m Horton Pt, Southold SUFF 24 Mar (JSep, JRan); max 6 PtL 13 Mar (mob); Sagamore Hill NASS 4 May (A. Leidig), unusual loc.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4930 BPT 6 Mar (DG, SSi, MEp).

Barrow's Goldeneye: f Wildwood SP SUFF 7 Mar (JRan), continuing ind.

Northern Bobwhite: several reports in SUFF from known reintroductions but some in historical areas on N Fork.

Ring-necked Pheasant: individuals from RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, and SUFF.

Red-necked Grebe: few, max 9 GKP 25 Mar (SSM).

KING RAIL: Timber Point Golf Course SUFF 19 May thru (JGI, mob), possibly paired with a Clapper Rail.

Black-necked Stilt: Scallop Pd Pres SUFF 17-24 May (K. Corwin, mob); Lido Beach Passive Natural Area NASS 28 May (S. Salazar, mob).

American Golden-Plover: Ditch Plains Beach SUFF 13 Apr (C. Link), ph.

Upland Sandpiper: Eastport SUFF 1 May (S. Biasetti).

Whimbrel: <10 reports, incl the Battery NEWY 14 May (mob), flying over bay, unusual loc.

Red Knot: max 160 JBSP (SFe, KFe).

Least Sandpiper: arr GKP 13 Mar (M. Shikhman), very early, ph.

American Woodcock: max 25 GwC 6 Mar (mob), *intro*.

Red-necked Phalarope: pelagic coordinates 39.7177, -72.69724, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Red Phalarope: pelagic coordinates 39.3656, -72.2807, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: few, arr RMSP 11 May (PJL, SSM).

Dovekie: pelagic coordinates 39.49849, -72.36649, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Razorbill: dep BPT 25 Mar (DSchu, L. Scheppke).

Atlantic Puffin: pelagic coordinates 39.49849, -72.36649, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Black-headed Gull: E Hampton golf course 12 Mar (AnW); max 2 Plumb B 18 Mar (R. Payne); other reports all around coastal KING; Old Field Pt SUFF thru 20 Mar (mob).

Little Gull: Nickerson Beach NASS 14 May (JGI); Sagaponack Pd SUFF 29 May (MYu).

Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid): Governor's I NEWY 1 Apr (GW, A. Diamond).

Gull-billed Tern: arr PlumbB 26 Apr (R. Fleming).

Arctic Tern: reported from around 10 locations from all counties except QUEE and

KING, max 37 Kings Pt NASS 13 May (MMcB), *intro*.

Norther Fulmar: pelagic coordinates 40.0790, -71.3590 SUFF 7 Apr (E. Martin); pelagic coordinates 39.9834, -71.0375 SUFF 16 Apr (E. Martin).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: pelagic coordinates 39.3656, -72.2807 SUFF 23 May (mob).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Orient SUFF 24 May (JRan, mob); Gardiner's I SUFF 27 May (F. Durso), surely same ind.

Brown Pelican: Old Orchard Light RICH 21-22 May (J. Smallwood, D. Barbato), early.

GREAT BLUE HERON (GREAT WHITE): Shinnecock In SUFF 25 May (J. Ash).

Cattle Egret: OMNSA 31 Mar (mob); Quogue SUFF 17 Apr (mob); Cemetery of the Resurrection RICH 10 May (ACian, mob); MF 23 May (ACian).

WHITE IBIS: Calvert Vaux P, KING 12 Apr (J. Smith), *intro*.

Black Vulture: many BRON, NEWY, RICH, several KING, QUEE, NASS, and SUFF.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Todt Hill RICH 21 Apr (M. Shanley).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: records from all counties except BRON and QUEE.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK: GwC 2 Apr (mob), *intro*.

Pileated Woodpecker: several locations in RICH, also Planting Fields Arboretum area NASS 23 Apr -3 May (M. Watros, mob); IHP 27 April - 14 May (mob); Forest P QUEE 11 May thru end of period (K. Mirth, mob).

Northern Shrike: North Fork Pres SUFF 1 Mar (mob); continuing from winter.

Purple Martin: arr MP 19 Mar (K&A Mirth).

Barn x Cliff Swallow (hybrid): IHP 24 May thru end of period (DAR, mob), *intro*.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: CP 8-15 May (mob); CP 20-21 May (DG, M. Davis, mob);

PP 20-21 May (RyM, mob); GwC 21 May (M. Silber, JMal).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Coindre Hall SUFF 10-14 May (A. Leidig, mob); Owl's Head P KING 10 May (mob); Salt Marsh Nature Center KING 13 May (HLo, J. Kepler).

Nelson's Sparrow: PlumbB 21-28 May (MEp, mob); Salt Marsh Nature Center KING 22 May (RyM, mob); Timber Pt CP SUFF 28 May thru end of period (mob).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Pipes Cove Pres SUFF 29-30 Apr (JSep, KJK); CP 9-11 May (mob); PP 11 May (P. Merle); JBWR 15, 17 May (C. Mignone, DCh, JSch).

Prothonotary Warbler: arr APP 9 Apr (C. Wang).

Cerulean Warbler: Cold Spring Harbor Lab NASS 3 May (L. Zhang); Ft Tryon P NEWY 12 May (M. Waldron); CP 12 May (mob); Wading River yard SUFF 18 May (BBu).

Yellow-throated Wabler: arr CP 1 Apr (P. Sweet, mob).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: GwC 20-21 May (A. Kramer, C. Duhalde, mob).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: PP 29 Apr (RyM, mob), first for KING.

Summer Tanager: arr Harlem yard NEWY 21 Apr (T. Collins).

WESTERN TANAGER: Carl Schurz P NEWY thru 23 Mar (mob), overwinterer; PP 25 May (F. Wickman, mob).

Blue Grosbeak: arr RanI 4 Apr (TH).

PAINTED BUNTING: f PP 19 May (D. Barrett).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: traditional areas in KING; also E Northport feeder 2 Apr (VCh fide N. Klein); and JFK Wildlife Sanctuary NASS 27 May thru end of period (mob).

ADDENDUM TO SPRING 2021 REPORT:

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: JFK Wildlife Refuge, Tobay SUFF 28 Apr 2021 (JCar), single observer sighting well-described to PJL.



Cinnamon Teal, Groveland Flats, *Livingston*, here 29 Mar 2022, © John Gordinier.



Zone-tailed Hawk, Green-Wood Cemetery, *Kings*, 2 Apr 2022, © Seth Barr, first documented New York State record.



Arctic Terns, part of an unprecedented inland incursion in the Northeast 13 May 2022. Left, Glenmere Lake, *Orange*, © Jeanne Cimorelli; right, Basic Creek Reservoir, *Albany*, © Naomi Lloyd. See Highlights and the Region 8, 9, and 10 reports for details.