

ever in the last ten years. Evening Grosbeaks are still around and Purple Finches are singing in most places. 30 Pine Siskins were at Ferd's Bog May 12 and a few thru the period at Tupper. A few Rufous-sided Towhees were noted. Bay Pond has plenty of Vesper Sparrows on the burn. Field and White-crowned Sparrows were rather scarce. No Fox Sparrows reported. Lincoln's Sparrows are enjoying an upsurge. They are in excellent numbers. Swamp Sparrows are also doing well.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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When it rains it pours! Or so it must have seemed to sixty or so sodden birders with foggy lenses and squeaky sneakers standing in some soggy swamp spishing sullen sparrows. Yes, it rained on our Century Run day, May 19; but the rain held off until most birders were well into their pre-dawn marsh search of rails and bitterns and the like. The rain held down the individual group totals, but hard work and healthy competitive drive brought up the regional day total. Each group contributed at least one species to the regional compilation. While the highest number of species tallied by one group was a paltry 113, the combined efforts of all ten groups produced a grand total of 165 species (HMBC & ADBC combined).

The Century Run is both an enjoyable and important event on the birding calendar. In addition to the social and competitive nature of the day, it offers an opportunity for participants to become reacquainted with some of the scarcer or more secretive species that they might otherwise have been missed through the year. Finally, and to many the most important contribution, are the records generated by the intensive effort put forth through the day. As will be shown below, many species are represented in this report only from the Century Run.

The temperature averaged below normal through the period while precipitation was well above the norm. The minimum temperature for the Region was 4° F. (-16° C.) on March 15 and the maximum was 97° F. (37° C.) on May 9. Central Rensselaer County had 13 inches of snow in April.

Highlights of the season include Snowy Egret, Gadwall, Bald Eagle, Red Phalarope, Barn Owl, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Fish Crow, Prothonotary Warbler, and a high number of Orchard Orioles.

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Abbreviations used here include: Col—Columbia County; CR—Century Run, HR—Hudson River, NB—New Baltimore, SL—Saratoga Lake, VF—Vischer Ferry.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: scattered dates & locations; Apr. 7 thru May 19; four CR groups found some at Alcove Res., SL & Col Co. Red-throated Loon: one Galway Lk Apr. 30. Pied-billed Grebe: one Apr. 11 thru May 19 (PC). Double-crested Cormorant: reports continue to increase in area incl. one Four-Mile Point, Greene Co. Apr. 21; one Albany Apr. 26 (L. Jackson); 14 Four-Mile Point May 27 and 14 NB May 29. Great Blue Heron: found by only two CR groups; also four HR at NB May 31, flying NE in loose group (late migrants?). Green Heron: Apr. 30 Scotia thru May 31; eight CR groups. **SNOWY EGRET:** one Hudson May 18 (A & TB). Snow Goose: May 1 and 23, max 25 Col. Co (JC, KD & EG). Least Bittern: two Rensselaer Marshes May 28 (PC). Am. Bittern: only reports were from five CR groups. Canada Goose: known to be in the area thru period, but nesting reported only from Five-Rivers. Mallard: max 350 Stockport vic. Apr. 7 (PC). Black Duck: max 500 Papscaanee Cr Mar. 18 (PC); **GADWALL:** three Vosburghs Marsh Apr. 21 (RPG); also Castleton May 22, 28 (JC). Pintail: 30 Papscaanee Cr. Apr. 1; and Hudson Apr. 8 (A & TB). Green-winged Teal: Apr. 1 50 thru May 28 two; max 60 Apr. 7 Stockport (PC). Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 7 four thru Apr. 21 six+; one CR group (ADBC). Am. Wigeon: 25 Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 (PC) thru Apr. 31 ten (JC). Wood Duck: 16 Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 thru period; six CR groups. Ring-necked Duck: Apr. 5 thru May 19; one CR group. Greater Scaup: only report is from one CR group. Com. Goldeneye: rather scarce this year; one in Cohoes found by two CR groups. Bufflehead: Apr. 7 thru CR where two groups found the same bird on SL. Oldsquaw: Apr. 6 & 7 11 HR at Rensselaer. White-winged Scoter: three Galway L Apr. 30. Red-breasted Merganser: only report is from Col. Co. Apr. 27 (KD & EG). Com. Merganser: lots of reports Mar. 18 thru CR (two groups). Hooded Merganser: only two reports; a pair each at Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 and Vosburghs Apr. 21.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two Mar. 27 thru period; only one CR group. Goshawk: reported nesting near West Kill; but nest broken up by some logging operations; one banded NB Mar. 8; CR two groups (same bird?) Partridge Run Wildlife area. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports, Mar. 18 thru Apr. 29; no May reports, curious. Cooper's Hawk: six reports, Mar. 10 Cox thru May 20 Gilboa (GC) & May 22 NB. Red-tailed Hawk: thru period; representative numbers: four Apr. 7; eight along Northway bet. Albany & Glens Falls Apr. 27; six CR groups. Red-shouldered Hawk: only reports: Mar. 22 Castleton (JC); May 17 So. Gilboa (GC); nesting mid-May Grapeville (BC). Rough-legged Hawk: thru Apr. 5 Cox and Apr. 8 Chatham (WA). Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 16 Schodack Ctr. (PC) thru period; only one CR group. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm Apr. 15 HR 1½ mi. N. of Castleton (PC). Marsh Hawk: numerous reports Mar. 4 thru May 29; only one CR group (ADBC). Osprey: 15 reports clustered bet. Apr. 13 & Apr. 29; single reports thru CR (one group) and May 28. **MERLIN:** one feeder raider, So. Gilboa Apr. 4 thru 10 (four times) (GC). Am. Kestrel: thru period; 11 banded Col. & Greene Co. Mar. 3 thru Apr. 7 (RPG); four taking Garter Snakes coming out of hibernation, Germantown Apr. 7. Ruffed Grouse: thru period; few reports; five CR groups. Bobwhite: Apr. 25 Chatham & May 19 Hudson. Turkey: reports from Col. Co. Apr. 15 thru May 23. Virginia Rail: Apr. 15 Papscaanee Cr (PC) thru May 28 Black Cr. Sora: Papscaanee Cr May 13 (PC) two CR gr. & one Black Cr. May 28 (C. & RLaf). Com. Gallinule: Apr. 17 Castleton (JC) thru period; five CR gr. Am. Woodcock: Mar. 15 thru; only two CR groups found any. Com. Snipe: Apr. 7 thru CR (four groups); max ten Papscaanee Cr (PC). Upland Sandpiper: reported only from Cocksackie Flats mid-May thru; CR one group. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr. 23 thru; eight CR gr. Solitary Sandpiper: May 1 thru May 22; only two CR gr. Lesser Yellowlegs: only reports two Ancram May 5 and May 12 Hudson. Greater Yellowlegs: five CR group reports represent two birds, one of which remained very obligingly at the same location on SL for four groups to count it for the day. Pectoral Sandpiper: only report is from the CR with only one group listing. Least Sandpiper: four CR gr and May 22 thru 31 Castleton (JC) only reports. **RED PHALAROPE:** the Region's third record and first Spring occurrence and the State's second inland Spring record was a breeding-plumaged female found at Gardina's pond in Ghent Col. Co. May 20 (B & HG, KD).

Dunlin: one CR group reported this species at VF. Great Black-backed Gull: thru period; max 29 Apr. 5 Coeymans; five CR groups; one imm was seen harassing an Osprey Apr. 28 at Stockport, apparently trying to steal a fish. The effort was for naught as the Osprey, after a while, suddenly quickened its pace and easily outdistanced the gull. Black Tern: one Oohm's Pond May 22 & 23 (JC). Com. Tern: only reports are from CR where three groups found the species on SL & Alcove Res.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: encouraging, with numerous reports beginning in mid-May; found by six CR groups. Black-billed Cuckoo: also encouraging, with an increase in the number of reports over the last few years; max five May 28 Black Cr (C. & RLaf). **BARN OWL:** again nesting in a silo at Cocksackie Flats. Screech Owl: relatively few reports; three CR groups, one in Wood Duck nest box Vosburghs late May. Great Horned Owl: ten reported incl. three CR groups. **GREAT GRAY OWL:** the remnants of the spectacular visitation; one remained thru Apr. 5. Three March reports incl one at NB, one photographed and later believed shot at Voorheesville Mar. 20; and one seen by dozens of people at McDonald's hamburger stand in Clifton Park Mar. 28. The spectacular invasion ended on a rather unhappy note in that the last reported individual was found at VF on Mar. 30 too weak to fly. The bird was captured on Apr. 5 and turned over to a veterinarian where it later died; specimen in NYS Museum. Barred Owl: one Mar. and 5 May reports incl. two CR groups. **LONG-EARED OWL:** one was called out of Luther Woods, Saratoga Co. for the CR by one group. This is the first report of this species in a long time. Saw-whet Owl: thanks to Lester Thomas, one was heard late at night in Lk Luzerne, Warren Co. on the CR by one group. Whip-poor-will: only report is from three CR groups. Com. Nighthawk: arrived in mid-May in time for five groups to find it on the CR; also May 21 thru Col. Co. Chimney Swift: two early Apr. 8 thru period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: only two CR groups. Pileated Woodpecker: nine incl three CR groups. Red-headed Woodpecker: two along the Mitzenkill Col. Co. on the CR. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only report is of one on CR. Hairy Woodpecker: thru period; six CR groups. Downy Woodpecker: thru period; eight CR groups.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Willow Flycatcher: May 13 thru; max 10+ May 28 Schodack Marsh (PC); six CR groups. Alder Flycatcher: none reported. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two reports, both from Chatham, May 12 and 19. Horned Lark: only two CR groups, one of which found a pair nesting in Col. Co. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr. 21 thru; six CR groups. Barn Swallow: Apr. 21 thru; nine CR groups. Cliff Swallow: only three CR groups. Purple Martin: Apr. 18 thru; five CR groups. Blue Jay: loose flocks totaling hundreds still migrating along the HR on the late date of May 27. Com. Crow: one seen taking a Garter Snake from a lawn Apr. 7 (RPG). **FISH CROW:** one, possibly two around Lansingburg, Rensselaer Co. thru May (RPG & PF). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce thru period; only one CR group report. Winter Wren: four CR groups found the same bird singing at Thatcher Pk. Long-billed Marsh Wren: found at their usual haunts Black Cr & Schodack. Wood Thrush: 18 banded NB May 7 thru; nine CR groups. Swainson's Thrush: very few reports; May 12 thru May 22; four CR groups. Veery: May 4 thru period; nine CR groups. Eastern Bluebird: a dozen reports Chatham to Corinth Mar. 18 thru. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr. 21 Vosburghs thru; five CR groups. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only report is one from CR. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only reports are birds banded at NB & VF Apr. 21 thru May 5. Water Pipit: 4 Apr. 8 NB & 32 Apr. 9 Castleton, No. Shrike: Apr. 8 Castleton (JC).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: fairly common along Hudson Valley May 5 thru; frequent along Schoharie Cr mid-May (GC). Solitary Vireo: May 2 thru; only one CR group found any. Philadelphia Vireo: May 19 Olana only report. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** an extraordinary story of one male defending a territory around a socket in an electrical fixture *inside* a very busy truck maintenance garage in Chatham, mid-May thru early June when it finally gave up and left. Other warblers: Worm-eating: only reports are

from two groups on CR. Golden-winged: 11 reports are from May 7 thru; three banded in NB. Blue-winged: 18 reports incl. seven CR groups and eight banded NB plus the return of a male with bright yellow wing bars banded last fall. Tennessee: plentiful; 30 May 13 Schodack (PC); five CR groups. Nashville: May 7 thru; generally scarcer than usual. No. Parula: only two reports; May 8 and May 19 (CR). Yellow: very numerous; 21 banded VF; 25 Schodack May 25; nine CR groups. Magnolia: May 8 thru; few reports; only four CR groups. Cape May: only one CR group; very few six other reports. Black-throated Blue: May 5 thru; five CR groups. Blackburnian: May 8 thru three CR groups. Chestnut-sided: May 8 thru; nine CR groups. Bay-breasted: only one CR group; two Col. Co. reports. Blackpoll: arrived in time for the CR (three gr); thru May 28. Pine: two CR groups found this species in the Luther Woods. Prairie: rather widespread as six CR groups report them; one banded NB. Palm: Apr. 21 Vosburghs thru May 5 (banded VF). Ovenbird: nine CR groups; other reports from May 8. No. Waterthrush: Apr. 28 W Glenville (DH) thru; seven CR groups. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 22 Buskirk (J Davis) thru five CR groups. Com. Yellowthroat: May 3 thru; max 20 May 28 Schodack; nine CR groups. Yellow-breasted Chat: two CR groups incl. three at Black Cr. Wilson's: two banded Wilson Powell Sanct. May 13; another NB May 17. Canada: plentiful; seven CR groups; three banded NB; one VF mid-May. Am. Redstart: nine CR groups; six banded VF; five banded NB mid-May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: five total reports incl. a pair nesting in Colonie and one second-year male banded in Selkirk (RPG), also two CR groups. No. Oriole: May 7 thru; nine CR groups; five banded NB. Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 1 thru May 19. Indigo Bunting: early arrival Apr. 27 (JC); regular after mid-May. Evening Grosbeak: thru May 19 CR 2 groups. Purple Finch: several early May. House Finch: seven CR groups; no nests of this early nester reported. Com. Redpoll: a few thru Apr. 10 & 20 (JC & BHG). Pine Siskin: two at feeder, Cambridge Apr. 9 (ND); and Ghent Apr. 20. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; nine nests or singing males, mid-May Cox. Flats. Grasshopper Sparrow: two CR groups and singing male Cox. Flats late May. Henslow's Sparrow: the Five Rivers colony attracted four CR groups and managed to survive a horde of Boy Scouts camping in the same field. Vesper Sparrow: only reports come from Col. Co. Apr. 27 thru period with an impressive five reported on the CR. Field Sparrow: Apr. thru period; eight CR groups. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 8 thru CR (six Col. Co.). White-throated Sparrow: March thru period; 45 banded VF May 4, 15, 18. Fox Sparrow: one Apr. 4 Schodack (PC) only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 (two banded VF) and May 27 NB. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; max 21 Schodack Apr. 21 (PC). Song Sparrow: thru period. Snow Bunting: 500 Castleton Mar. 2 (JC).

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

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Weather patterns were rather uneventful this spring of 1979. Most shallow lakes were free of ice by March 1, and the Hudson River and deeper lakes were free by the end of the first week of the period. There was no appreciable snow thru March and April, and the warm weather brought out foliage at least a week before schedule. What rain fell did so largely on the weekends, keeping many birders at home. The last week of May was very wet, flooding many areas.