

in good numbers near Mountain View and there were Purple Finches in abundance in the forest areas such as Paul Smiths. House Finch is being seen at Elizabethtown and Wadhams (GC, JP, DS). There were many late Pine Grosbeaks but the few at Essex 16 May were the last seen (CS1). CD has photos of this species feeding at a sunflower station. HOARY RED-POLLS were at feeders at Cadyville, Elizabethtown, Gabriels, Keene, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake. The great influx of Com. Redpolls lingered into May with the last individual being seen 10 May at Tupper (CD). 21 Pine Siskins were banded at Crown Point (JP). A few White-winged Crossbills were seen. The last was a single at Tupper 10 Apr. Red Crossbills were at Lewis 31 May (EJ, JP). Vesper Sparrow is in residence in good numbers at Bay Pond and was fairly widely reported. Field Sparrow reports are better than in the past. Fox Sparrow: one at Paradox 19 Apr (MB) and one at Tupper 20 Apr (CD). There were plenty of Lincoln's Sparrows. Two were banded at Crown Point. Seven were at Ferd's Bog 8 May and they were noted in many other localities. Four Lapland Longspurs and about 50 Snow Buntings passed thru Clinton Co 6 Mar (MG).

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Winter held a firm grip on Region 8 until 12 March when bright sunshine and warm air suddenly released the first flows of melting snow and spring migrants. 74 crows streamed past Columbia-Greene in blackbird formation that day and Killdeer returned to their breeding ground in Ghent on 13 March, exactly one month earlier than last year. Robins arrived in Schenectady en masse a few days later and by the 17th the annual endless procession of blackbirds could be viewed along the Hudson River at the Rip VanWinkle Bridge.

With a bleary-eyed inspection of the morning weather on 6 April one could have felt themselves to be taking the brunt of a belated April Fool's joke. But that was just the beginning of a storm of blizzard proportions that besieged our area for two days, dropped an average of 18 inches of snow, drove frenzied birds to feeders in desperation and littered the highways with those less fortunate. A month later heavy flights were noted with the hot weather of 11-13 May.

Highlights of the season include a Caspian Tern in Niskayuna, numbers of loons and grebes, Common Ravens nesting at Lake George, a resident Red-bellied Woodpecker at Ken Able's feeder, Prothonotary Warblers possibly breeding at Black Creek Marsh, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warbler reported, and Chimney Swifts returning on schedule to Lake Luzerne on 6 May for their annual welcoming celebration.

Among the 18 species reported only on the 15 May Century Run were White-rumped Sandpiper and Merlin. Upland Sandpiper and Worm-eating Warbler also made the list again, but among the missing were Short-billed Marsh Wren and Cerulean Warbler, so that the total count for the season was down from last year's 212 to 207. This report includes records from 12 groups, 11 from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and one from Schoharie Co.

A Mourning Warbler banded by Bob Yunick at Vischer's Ferry and another banded by Dick Guthrie in New Baltimore both had an incomplete eye ring suggesting Macgillivray's Warbler. Both banders checked identification with wing measurements and were impressed by the persistence of this juvenal characteristic in an "after hatch year" bird. Banding activities have also indicated that House Finches may be decreasing in suburban areas while increasing in atypical habitat away from buildings. Banding records in this report are totals from Vischer's Ferry, Schenectady, Jenny Lake and New Baltimore.

The single Henslow's Sparrow found at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on 1 May unfortunately did not stay. This possibly signals an end to this previously productive colony. Reproductive difficulty is also suspected when all of the male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded and sighted at Vischer's Ferry were adults with no second year males in evidence. Further, Osprey numbers were notably down on the Hudson River and the only Barn Owl reported was a bird found dead in a barn during the Century Run in Cossackie.

In keeping with past reports of trivia, we present the albino and celebrity birds of the season. The albino of the season is an Am. Robin who retained its red breast for an appearance in Tannersville in late May, while the celebrity of the season is a female Red-necked Grebe who had local news coverage after she was grounded at Schenectady on 4 March. She was banded on 9 March and subsequently flown to Long Island for release, to the amusement of local birders who expected to see this disgruntled bird wearily retracing her northward path.

In perhaps another dramatic demonstration of the incompatibility of human technology with wildlife, a Great Horned Owl was found in a state of self-inflicted crucifixion with wings outstretched and impaled on a barbed wire fence. According to Doug Bush of Catskill, who found and released the greatly weakened bird, it had hit the fence with enough force to spin the bird, thus wrapping the skin of the wings tightly around the wire. Apparently it isn't only the high towers that take a toll.

Good Birding, and may a Golden Plover plop into your clover.

Abbreviations: CR—Century Run 15 May, followed by a number indicating the number of groups reporting that species; HR—Hudson River between Albany and Hudson; NB—New Baltimore.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: CR three, one Hudson 12 Apr, 15 Saratoga 24 Apr. A flock of five Red-throated Loons at Saratoga L was found by three CR groups. Red-necked Grebe: CR one Saratoga, female Schenectady 4 Mar, two Saratoga 24 Apr. Horned Grebe: one HR 3 Apr, one NB in May. Pied-billed Grebe: CR one; HR 25 Mar, two Stony Creek Res 4-11 Apr, one Schoharie 11 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: CR two, Germantown 14-24 Apr. Great Blue Heron: CR six, seven reports max seven Schoharie 11 Apr. Green Heron: CR eight; seven reports, earliest Ghent 22 Apr. A CATTLE EGRET seen in Elsmere, Albany Co, among some dairy cows on 30 May is the first regional report since the fall of

1979. Black-crowned Night Heron: one NB early May. Am. Bittern: CR six. Canada Goose: CR nine; fledged young Manorton 10 May; 20 reports, max 200 Schoharie Apr. Brant: CR one, several flocks of 30 or more flew over NB especially at night in May. Snow Goose: 25 migrating over Schodack 3 Apr, two Saratoga 4 Apr, Hudson 25 Mar. Mallard: CR 12, two breeding pairs Jenny L, 30 reports max 400 HR 3 Apr. Black Duck: CR eight; 25 reports max 300 HR 3 Apr. Gadwall: two Coeymans 14 Mar, Stockport 27 Mar, two Watervliet Res 5 Apr. Pintail: nine reports, max 16 Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Green-winged Teal: CR one; ten reports, max 4 Mohawk R 28 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: CR three, nine reports, max eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Am. Wigeon: ten reports, max five Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Wood Duck: CR nine; 15 reports max ten Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Redhead: Hudson 10-29 Mar, one Embough Bay 30 Mar, one Stuyvesant 3-26 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: 12 reports, max 66 HR 3 Apr. Canvasback: CR two; four reports max 81 HR 3 Apr. Greater Scaup: CR one at Embough Bay; nine reports, max ten Saratoga 24 Apr. Lesser Scaup: CR one at Niskayuna, Stuyvesant 10 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: CR one, 12 reports, max 14 HR 3 Apr. Bufflehead: 12 reports, max 25 Saratoga 24 Apr. White-winged Scoter: CR one, one NB 21 Mar. Hooded Merganser: 17 reports, max 12 Embough Bay 30 Mar. Com. Merganser: CR two; possibly nesting at Jenny L, 15 reports in Mar and Apr, max 40 NB. Red-breasted Merganser: CR one, one NB Mar, three Saratoga 24 Apr.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: CR seven, 15 reports beginning with one at Chatham 20 Mar. Goshawk: CR one, one NB 20 Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CR two; 11 individuals reported thru. Cooper's Hawk: CR two, eight individuals thru. Red-tailed Hawk: CR ten, 15 reports max, six HR 3 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: CR two. Broad-winged Hawk: CR three; courtship flight Jenny L 30 May; six reports. Rough-legged Hawk: four reports, latest Chatham 14 Apr (ET). Bald Eagle: Castleton 14 Apr (JC). Marsh Hawk: CR one, nine reports thru. Osprey: CR four, 11 reports, max eight NB late Apr. Ken Able saw the only Merlin for the period on 15 May. Am. Kestrel: CR 11, 16 reports thru. Ruffed Grouse: CR seven, 12 reports, max five Central Bridge May. Bobwhite: CR one; Castleton 30 Mar, one Glenville 12 Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: CR three, 11 reports, numbers down in Hollowville according to one resident. Turkey: reported consistently in Columbia Co thru. Virginia Rail: CR eight. Sora: CR three. Com. Gallinule: CR four. Am. Coot: Hudson 18 Mar. Killdeer: CR ten, 18 reports, fledgling Charlton 20 May. Am. Woodcock: CR six, 15 reports, a display flight was observed by an evening biology class at Columbia-Greene on 12 Apr and a nest with four eggs was discovered by another class two days later. Com. Snipe: CR six, Castleton 26 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: CR three. Spotted Sandpiper: CR nine, several Schoharie in May, one Schodack 29 May. Solitary Sandpiper: CR six, Ghent 30 Apr, four Manorton 10 May, three Sharon 15 May for the CR. Greater Yellowlegs: CR two; four Embough Bay 17 Apr, two Manorton 10 May; two Seward 14 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: CR one; Castleton 26-29 Apr, four Manorton 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Castleton 2 Apr, Stockport 18 Mar. White-rumped Sandpiper: CR one. Least Sandpiper: CR five, ten Manorton 10 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR one. Great Black-backed Gull: CR six, ten reports, max 11 HR 3 Apr. Herring Gull: CR six, 15 reports, max 200 Duaneburg 20 Mar. Ring-billed Gull: CR seven, at least ten flocks of several hundred were found in fields and landfills in Columbia and Greene Cos in late Mar, max 500 Claverack 21 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: CR one, 45 Embough Bay 17 Apr, eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Com. Tern: one NB 10 May. **CASPIAN TERN:** one Niskayuna 14 May (RG). Black Tern: CR one.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CR 11. Mourning Dove: CR 12, possibly breeding in atypical habitat, forest clearing 1250 feet Jenny L; banded three. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one NB 9 May. Black-billed Cuckoo: CR six, five reports, earliest NB 12 May. Screech Owl: CR five, two reports in Mar and two found dead on the highway Vischer's Ferry 12 Mar. and NB 11 Apr. Great Horned Owl: CR nine, two young Albany 13 May, eight reports thru. Barred Owl: CR three, Kinderhook 9 Mar. Whip-poor-will: CR two, two Albany 13 May, NB 15-30 May. Com. Nighthawk: CR three. Chimney Swift: CR 12, nine reports beginning Niskayuna 26 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: only a few at Jenny L in May, one Leeds late May. Belted Kingfisher: CR ten, nine reports beginning with two HR

3 Apr. Com. Flicker: CR ten, 16 reports, banded six. Pileated Woodpecker: CR nine, 12 reports, max two Saratoga 24 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ken Able's feeder bird was tallied by two CR participants; Hudson 24 Mar-21 Apr (A & TB). Red-headed Woodpecker: CR three, five reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CR eight including one in Seward; Chatham 8-15 Apr, Albany 30 May. Hairy Woodpecker: CR 11, 11 reports, banded four. Downy Woodpecker: CR 11, 15 reports, banded three.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: CR 11, two reports in May. Great Crested Flycatcher: CR ten, three reports, max four Central Bridge May, banded one. E. Phoebe: CR one, 13 reports with at least three from Columbia Co in Mar. Willow Flycatcher: CR, one, one Schodack 29 May. Alder Flycatcher: CR three, banded three Traill's Flycatchers. Least Flycatcher: CR 12, four reports, banded seven. E. Wood Pewee: CR five, three reports, max three Schodack 29 May. Horned Lark: CR two, Ghent Mar, Castleton thru 13 Apr. Tree Swallow: CR 12, nesting Jenny L, 12 reports, earliest three HR 3 Apr. Bank Swallow: CR 12, active nesting colony found in sand quarry Livingston 10 May, seven Saratoga 24 Apr. Rough-winged Swallow: CR ten, seven reports beginning in Apr. Barn Swallow: CR 11, several Central Bridge 18 Apr. Cliff Swallow: CR three. Purple Martin: CR three. Blue Jay: CR 12, banded 24. Com. Raven: nesting at Tongue Mountain, Lake George (RG). Com. Crow: CR 12, max 74 Hudson 12 Mar. Fish Crow: two NB early May (RG). Black-capped Chickadee: CR 11, wintering Jenny L, numbers declined rapidly in Apr where 147 were banded over the winter, second only to last year's record invasion. A chickadee with a white crown and bill and reduced bib was seen in Greenville 5 May (RG). Tufted Titmouse: CR ten, 13 reports. White-breasted Nuthatch: CR 12, 15 reports, banded one. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CR six, did not invade for two years in a row as did the chickadees, banded eight. Brown Creeper: CR four, Castleton 29 Mar, Canaan 31 Mar, Spencertown 13 Apr. House Wren: CR 12, eight reports max four Central Bridge 28 Apr, banded three. Winter Wren: CR one, E. Poestenkill 2 May (AR). Long-billed Marsh Wren: CR six. Mockingbird: CR eight, ten reports. Gray Catbird: CR 12, banded 70. Brown Thrasher: CR ten, ten reports, earliest Hudson 6 Mar. Am. Robin: CR 12, major spring arrivals 15-30 Mar, banded 31. Wood Thrush: CR 12, singing in Blue Stores 10 May. Hermit Thrush: CR six, earliest one Central Bridge 14 Apr, banded one. Swainson's Thrush: CR four, banded eight in May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: CR one, banded two in May. Veery: CR ten, earliest one Hudson 3 May, banded 13. E. Bluebird: CR nine, 12 reports, max 15 Central Bridge Apr where visiting a nest box. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR ten, six reports, earliest Embough Bay 17 Apr, max four Schodack 29 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Central Bridge 11 Apr, Hudson 11 Apr, Chatham 22 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CR two, eight reports 17 Apr-15 May, banded two. A flock of about 100 Water Pipits was found in Coxsackie 15 May by Ken Able. At least one Bohemian Waxwing was in a flock of about 60 waxwings in Glenville 22 Apr (B. Havens *file* RY). Cedar Waxwing: CR three, three reports, max 15 Schodack 29 May. Starling: CR 12, banded five.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: CR eight, three Schodack 29 May, Albany 30 May. Solitary Vireo: CR six, earliest Chatham 26 Apr, banded one. Red-eyed Vireo: CR ten, max four Schodack 29 May, banded one. Warbling Vireo: CR 12, one Albany 10 May, three Schodack 29 May, banded four. Black-and-white Warbler: CR six, two Central Bridge May, banded two. A male **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was found singing at Black Creek Marsh 16 May by Scott Peters and the bird was found with a female on 30 May by Bob Budliger. Worm-eating Warbler: CR three. Golden-winged Warbler: CR seven, banded one. Blue-winged Warbler: CR nine, max five Central Bridge May; banded one. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Alcove Res. 30 May (NF); banded one NB. For the third year in a row "Lawrence's" Warbler appeared at Five Rivers in Delmar on 8 May. Tennessee Warbler: CR nine, banded eight. Nashville Warbler: CR six, banded six. No. Parula: CR three, banded three. Yellow Warbler: CR 12, earliest Ghent 30 Apr, banded 45. Magnolia Warbler: CR two, banded five. Cape May Warbler: CR six. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CR seven, one Troy 7 May, Albany 30 May, banded two. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CR 12, earli-

est Central Bridge 18 Apr, banded 56. Black-throated Green Warbler: CR eight, banded two. Blackburnian Warbler: CR four, singing male Hollowville 10 May, banded two. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CR ten, banded five. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Schenectady 25 May. Blackpoll Warbler: CR two, Albany 30 May, banded two. Pine Warbler: CR two. Prairie Warbler: CR seven. Palm Warbler: one Central Bridge May, Hudson 30 Apr. Ovenbird: CR 11, max three Central Bridge May, banded four. No. Waterthrush: CR eight, max four Engleville May, banded 21. Louisiana Waterthrush: CR eight, one Delmar 6 May. Mourning Warbler: banded two. Com. Yellowthroat: CR 12, earliest Livingston 10 May, banded 31. Wilson's Warbler: CR three, banded three. Canada Warbler: CR seven, banded 15. Am. Redstart: CR 11, four reports, max 20 Schodack 29 May, banded 23.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CR 12. Bobolink: CR ten, two Catskill 7 May. E. Meadowlark: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Red-winged Blackbird: CR 12, major flight began 17 Mar, banded 17. Orchard Oriole: CR two, including three in Niskayuna, one NB 9 May. No. Oriole: CR 12, earliest Old Chatham 23 Apr (Ed Reilly), banded eight. Rusty Blackbird: two Schoharie 18 Apr, one Saratoga 24 Apr Ghent, 25-30 Apr, 15 Albany 5 May. Com. Grackle: CR 12, banded five. Brown-headed Cowbird: CR 12, banded 13. Scarlet Tanager: CR ten, two singing males Hollowville 10 May, two Seward May, banded one. Cardinal: CR 12, scarce in Schenectady, banded 12. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CR 11, max eight Schodack 29 May. Indigo Bunting: CR one, three reports including pair at Hollowville feeder 10 May, banded one. Evening Grosbeak: CR eight, 18 reports, returned to Jenny L in Apr, banded 269. Purple Finch: CR eight, 16 reports thru, banded 67. House Finch: CR 12, banding numbers down in Schenectady, banded 68. Pine Grosbeak: three reports from Columbia Co in Mar, Canaan 2-5 Apr (VA). The pair of Hoary Redpolls wintering at Scott Terrill's feeder in Altamont were still there 11 Apr. The Com. Redpoll flight was late, peaking 5-15 Apr, banded 796 in Apr. Pine Siskin: CR 11, 16 reports mostly in Apr, peak flight in Schenectady 6-15 May, banded 669. Am. Goldfinch: CR 12, poor winter showing in Schenectady, banded 128. Red Crossbill: CR one, one Niskayuna 7 Apr, 11 Delmar 1 May, two Schenectady 5 May, one 17 May. White-winged Crossbill: Troy 9-18 Mar (AR). Rufous-sided Towhee: CR 11, earliest three Central Bridge 28 Apr, banded five. Savannah Sparrow: CR eight, four reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: CR four. Henslow's Sparrow: CR two, one Delmar 1 May. Vesper Sparrow: CR four, six reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr, max seven Delmar 20 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: CR nine, returned to Jenny L 27 Mar and breeding in May, banded 100. Tree Sparrow: migrated through Jenny L 27 Mar-24 Apr, banded eight. Chipping Sparrow: CR nine, 12 reports, earliest Hudson 19 Mar, banded one. Field Sparrow: CR nine, eight reports, earliest Central Bridge 18 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: CR seven, three reports 10-16 May. White-throated Sparrow: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Fox Sparrow: ten reports, earliest one Schenectady 27 Mar, latest two Central Bridge 6 Apr, banded two. Lincoln's Sparrow: CR one, banded eight. Swamp Sparrow: CR ten, banded nine. Song Sparrow: CR 12, banded 32. Snow Bunting: Castleton and Ghent 1-20 Mar.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After one of the roughest winters on record, spring was more normal, March was cold, but normally so. Although the ice on the Hudson was quite thick, it