

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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From the ground observer's point of view, it was another very lackluster spring migration. The breeders showed up on or ahead of schedule. Interestingly, some species were noted on breeding areas in the Adirondacks earlier than they were reported in the Capital District and other places in the southern part of the Region. This suggests that, given the ideal weather conditions for migration that prevailed, many birds shot directly to breeding areas instead of dribbling northward more slowly. Such behavior could at least partly explain the scarcity of

transient passerines, many of which were virtually absent. Usually common species like Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers could have been missed entirely; Yunick banded only one Swainson's Thrush and other active observers failed to record it during the spring.

At least some of this can be attributed to the weather, which was overall unseasonably fair, warm and free of precipitation throughout the period. March continued the trend begun last winter. Temperatures in Albany averaged nearly 4° above normal and precipitation was light. Only 3.3 inches of snow fell, leaving the season total nearly three feet below normal. April and May were the eleventh and twelfth consecutive months with above normal temperatures (4.6° and 5.7° above average, respectively). In Albany, the last freezing temperature was recorded on 14 Apr and there was no snowfall. Rainfall was 1.2 inches above normal in April. Water bodies opened up incredibly early. May was the warmest since 1944. The temperature reached or exceeded 80° on 16 days, including 10 of the last 11 days of the month. These warm temperatures were accompanied by fair weather and southerly winds. No wonder migrants passed through rapidly and without noticeable concentrations. As one would expect, there were a number of early arrivals, but nothing like last spring.

One of the rarest birds ever recorded in this Region was spotted by Bob Boehm and Kate Beale while driving home from work on the rainy late afternoon of 22 March. Standing on a residential lawn in the Town of New Scotland ALBA with some Killdeer was a male **Northern Lapwing**. Unfortunately for searchers over the next few days, the bird was not seen again. Other rarities reported were *Plegadis ibis*, **Sandhill Crane**, **Laughing Gull**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **White-eyed Vireo**.

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Abbreviations: BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BICrM - Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HudR - Hudson R; SaraL - Saratoga L.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one HudR at Ft. Edward 5 Mar (BP), early. Pied-billed Grebe: 11 reports. Horned Grebe: arr BCRes 10 Apr (BBu). Double-crested Cormorant: 45 Catskill 26 Mar (PFC), large number. Am. Bittern: max 10+ BICrM 12 May (BBu), large number. Great Blue Heron: arr Kinderhook L 21 Mar (RLH). Great Egret: singles Hudson 6 Apr (AL), Greenfield 9 Apr (CF), Castleton 1 May

(PFC), rare in spring. Black-crowned Night-Heron: three New Baltimore 6 May (RPG). *Plegadis* sp.: 8 flying up HudR at New Baltimore 6 May (RPG). Tundra Swan: fly-over FiveR 13 Apr (AM). Snow Goose: max 2000 Ft Miller (BP); one BCRes 7 May (RLH), late. Greater White-fronted Goose: 1,2 Ft. Miller 9,25 Mar (BP), annual in Region recently. Canada Goose: max 5000 Ft. Miller 5 Mar (BP). Wood Duck: arr 3 Mar, record early. Blue-winged Teal: two Livingston COLU 8 Mar (BC), early. Canvasback: 300+ Greendale COLU (PFC), large number. Redhead: three reports; two BCRes 7 May (RLH), late. Ring-necked Duck: 95 TomR 31 Mar (PFC), large number. Oldsquaw: two BCRes 6 Apr (BBu); two Ft. Edward 9 Apr (BP); migrants passing over Thirteenth L WARR midnight 26-27 Apr (KPA). Hooded Merganser: nested Goeffrey's Pd COLU; female with brood 8 May (BC). Com. Merganser: two females Alcove Res ALBA 17 May (KPA), late if migrants.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Kinderhook 1 Mar (AL), early. Osprey: early arr COLU 16 Mar (JC), 24 Mar (WS). Bald Eagle: 12 reports. N. Harrier: probable breeding Stuyvesant (RLH, AL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 14 reports. N. Goshawk: nest Battenville (JS), pair Thacher Pk 10 May (BB, KB). Red-shouldered Hawk: suspected nesting Greenfield (CF); nesting Jenny L (RPY). Rough-legged Hawk: one Stockport Station COLU 26 Apr (BC), late. Merlin: three reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: several WASH (JS) and one Cocksackie 7 Apr (AR), only reports; continues very scarce. **Sandhill Crane**: singles Altamont 24 May (BS), Fonda 26 May (SP). Com. Moorhen: only reports from BlCrM and Carter L WASH. Am. Coot: one BCRes 17 May (KPA), only report. **N. Lapwing**: intro (BB, KB; ph KPA; NYSARC). Solitary Sandpiper: one Slingerlands 25 Mar (BBu), record early. Upland Sandpiper: four reports SARA, WASH, MONT. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr sod farm Bemis Heights 30 Mar (BP), record early. Am. Woodcock: arr E Schodack 1 Mar (PFC), early. **Laughing Gull**: one Cohoes 18 May (CG, mob). Caspian Tern: two Stockport Station COLU 20 Apr (fide BC). Com. Tern: one BlCrM 8 May (KPA, mob). Black Tern: one BCRes 17,19 May (KPA,AM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: few reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr mid May, very few reports. Barn Owl: one Stuyvesant 30 Mar, 2 Apr (RLH), only report. Snowy Owl: Clark Rd, Moreau SARA to 1 Mar (BP). Long-eared Owl: one FiveR 26 Apr-5 May (BBu, AM). Short-eared Owl: last WASH 25 Mar (PS). Chimney Swift: arr Niskayuna 25 Apr (RPY), early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Glenville, Hague (DH) 1 May, early. Red-headed Woodpecker: singles after 10 Apr COLU (JC), Edenburg SARA 18 May (BP). Red-bellied Woodpecker: male near Amsterdam to 29 Mar (RPY).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded Vischer Ferry 18 May (RPY), rarely detected in spring. Purple Martin: two Kinderhook 23 Apr (AL), only report. Fish Crow: continues to increase; 17 Slingerlands 29 Mar (WS). Com. Raven: Thacher Pk all season, carrying nesting material 31 Mar (BB, KB); nest with three young New Lebanon 18 May (KD, EG); two Cherry

Plain 27 Apr (PFC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: minor irruption Schenectady (RPY), attempted nesting FiveR (AM). Carolina Wren: seems to be expanding northward and doing well; Stillwater 2,3 Mar (BP); Eagleville WASH (JS). House Wren: arr Schodack Center 16 Apr (PFC), very early. Marsh Wren: arr BICrM 20 Apr (BBu), early. Veery: one Cherry Plain 27 Apr (PFC), early. Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports. Swainson's Thrush: generally very scarce; only one banded Vischer Ferry (RPY), but noted frequently Schodack Center (PFC). Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Greenfield 1 Mar (CF). N. Shrike: four reports, last Raymertown 24 Mar (PFC). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one New Baltimore 23 Mar (BC), first local report in years.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: single males BICrM 11 May (BBu), L Taghkanic SP 18 May (KS). Yellow-throated Vireo: arr SARA 29 Apr (BP), early. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Berne 28 Apr (KPA), early. Tennessee Warbler: scarce. Nashville Warbler: arr Hillsdale 27 Apr (BC), early. Cape May Warbler: one Hillsdale 25 Apr (BC), record early. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Cherry Plain 27 Apr (PFC), early. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Greenfield 19,20 Apr (CF), very early. Blackpoll Warbler: scarce. Cerulean Warbler: singles Copake 27 May (BC), Cranesville MONT 30 May (TP), first since 1978 in latter area where formerly bred. Black-and-white Warbler: Thirteenth L WARR 27 Apr (KPA), early so far north.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: male Berne 7 May (KPA), early. Am. Tree Sparrow: various localities to 19 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: two-five Saratoga Battlefield Nat Hist P 5 May on; Saratoga Airport 15 May (AM). Henslow's Sparrow: arr Altamont 3 May (BJ). Lincoln's Sparrow: one Carter L 14 Apr (JS), early, only report. Dark-eyed Junco: good migration Schenectady with 30 Apr early last date; continues scarce Jenny L SARA where formerly bred commonly (RPY). Orchard Oriole: male Stuyvesant 23 Apr on (PFC, RLH); others Poestenkill 9 May, Battenville WASH 10 May (JS), Vischer Ferry 11 May. House Finch: numbers continue way down Schenectady; where RPY could band hundreds several years ago, he banded six in Mar, seven in Apr, none in May. Red Crossbill: nine Austerlitz 3 Apr (*fide* BC) and eight dead on road near Corinth 6 Apr suggest brief passage. Com. Redpoll: four Greenfield 14 Apr (CF), only report. Pine Siskin: scattered small numbers Mar-Apr, last 6 May. Evening Grosbeak: small numbers, max 70 Greenfield 15 Mar (CF), last 18 May.

Addendum: **N. Hawk Owl**: Warrensburg 27 Jan (JCB *fide* JCMP).

Erratum: In the fall, 1990, report (*Kingbird*, 41:57) the 10,000 Snow Geese were in fact Canada Geese.

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