

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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It was a cold, late spring in eastern New York. Much of March and the first half of April were cold and cloudy. However, observers reported that most local breeding birds arrived on average schedules and in typical numbers. Ken Able reported that he found migrants essentially absent in

Berne. Others reported average (that is, low) numbers for many species of transients as in recent years. A warm spell 15 Apr was ended with snow on 16 Apr. Bob Yunick reports that the snow grounded migrating Dark-eyed Junco, producing large numbers at feeders in Schenectady.

Three nesting pairs of Bald Eagles were present in the Region, two of them new. Both of the new pairs included a four year old bird, the age when they start coming into breeding condition. Nests were built but no eggs were laid by those new pairs. Locations of the nests are, of course, being kept quiet, but we can report that the new nests were in Albany and Columbia counties. The third nest, in Schoharie County, has been active for two years and fledged one chick this year.

A pair of **Cerulean Warblers** were seen from 14 May through the end of June on Spier Falls Road, SARA, and are listed as probable breeders. **Orchard Oriole** provided increased sightings this season, with an adult male present at Five Rivers Center in Delmar from 15 May through the end of the period (probably nesting). A female was seen with the male on two occasions, and an immature male seen nearby on one occasion. This species was also reported on 6 May in Niskayuna in GREE on 9, 20 and 26 May in WASH (possibly the same bird), and on 27 May at Vischer Ferry.

There were a number of reports of rarities this season, including **Great Cormorant**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Caspian Tern**, **Northern Hawk Owl**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. An **European Goldfinch** of unknown origin was present at a Guilderland, ALBA, feeder from late December to mid March. Word of this bird was received from the feeder operator shortly after the bird disappeared, but the occurrence was substantiated by a clear photograph.

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Abbreviations: BCWMA – Black Creek Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; FiveR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake, SARA; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr Four-mile Pt GREE 26 Apr; one Upper Blenheim-Gilboa Res 11 May (DC), late. **Com. Loon:** last 18 Alcove Res ALBA 18 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max. 81 Lock 7 Mohawk R SCHE 26 Apr (RY). **GREAT CORMORANT:** two Hudson R GREE 9 May (RG), has become almost annual. **Horned Grebe:** arr SaraL 4 Apr; max 75 SaraL 12 Apr (JG). **Red-necked Grebe:** max eight SaraL 12 Apr. **Great Egret:** one

Basic Creek Res 9 Apr (LP), unusual in spring. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: one Hudson R GREE 26 Apr; two Hudson R GREE 29 Apr, only two reports. **GLOSSY IBIS**: two at a Saratoga sod farm 3 May; one in a wet area along Rt. 5 between Scotia and Amsterdam 12-14 Apr. **Mute Swan**: pair nesting at new location Round L SARA; two L George 26-30 May (LM); northward expansion. **Snow Goose**: arr 75 Fort Miller 13 Mar (BP); max 1,200 Amsterdam 15 Mar (TP), six blue morph. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: male SaraL 7 Apr, Visher Ferry 19 Apr. **Canvasback**: max 1,000 Hudson R 18 Mar. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: female Fort Miller 15 Mar; male SaraL 30 Mar.

Turkey Vulture: arr six Catskill 10 Mar. **Osprey**: max 13 Hudson R GREE 4 May (RG), 16 Hudson R GREE 9 May. **Bald Eagle**: *intro*; max four Hudson R 17 Mar; 31 reports for the period. **Cooper's Hawk**: max five Berne 23 Apr to 1 May (KA) seemed numerous. **Wild Turkey**: reports continue to increase from many locations; max 50 Gallupville 14 Mar (RB) in backyard. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last two WASH 15 Mar and three RENS 15 Mar. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr one SARA 3 May; one W River Road SARA 7 May on; three Knox Airport ALBA 23 May. **Laughing Gull**: one Hudson R ALBA 30 May (TC), rare. **Bonaparte's Gull**: only two reports, one Fort Miller 12 Apr, one SaraL 16 May. **THAYER'S GULL**: one Colonie Landfill 5 Mar (RG), only report. **Iceland Gull**: only two locations, one 4-15 Mar Fort Miller; one 2nd winter plumage Colonie Landfill ALBA through early May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one Colonie Landfill 13 Mar (PF) only report. **Glaucous Gull**: one Colonie Landfill ALBA 13 Mar (PF) only report. **CASPIAN TERN**: one VFNHP 11 Apr (GR), only report. **Com. Tern**: arr four Hudson R GREE 9 May. **Black Tern**: one Alcove Res ALBA 18 May; one Thirteenth L WARR 27 May; one Tomhannock Res 10 May, scarce.

Black-billed Cuckoo: six reports, scarce. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: two reports, scarce. **Snowy Owl**: last Fort Edward 8 Mar. **N. HAWK OWL**: one remained near Fort Ann through 4 Mar. **Short-eared Owl**: last eight Fort Edward 6 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Petersburg 3 Mar (AR) only report. **Whip-poor-will**: arr Hague 9 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one N Hampton 30 May, only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: 46 reported, 30 from COLU, greatest concentration GREE and COLU, increasing.

Fish Crow: one Saratoga SP 19 Apr; one Collin's L SCHE 17 Mar, extending range. **Com. Raven**: pair again nesting at Thatcher SP. **Carolina Wren**: numerous reports, increasing and extending range; one L George Village 15 Mar. **Sedge Wren**: one FiveR 3 May (DW), first record for site,

seen once only. **Marsh Wren:** arr BCWMA 16 May, late. **E. Bluebird:** overwintered in Region. **Swainson's Thrush:** only sightings, one Berne 24 May (KA); one FiveR 20 May; one L Desolation SARA 23 May. **Wood Thrush:** arr Saratoga State Park 23 Apr. **N. Shrike:** lingered Moreau to 1 Mar, Black Creek Marsh to 14 Mar, Delmar to 18 Mar, near Saratoga Springs to 29 Mar and near Fort Ann to 12 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr one VFNHP; one FiveR 13 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Coxsackie 2 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** only three reports ALBA and SCHE, no dates. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr FiveR 16 May. **Cape May Warbler:** arr Basic Creek Res 27 Apr. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** usual high numbers. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Hague 30 Apr. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** *intro*. **Am. Redstart:** arr two Coxsackie 25 Apr. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr FiveR 16 Apr. **Mourning Warbler:** Spier Falls SARA 27 May only report. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one FiveR 10 June only report, called for only two days, not seen again.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Gallupville 3 May (RB), very early. **Vesper Sparrow:** overwintered WASH (RG). **Fox Sparrow:** arr Rotterdam 12 Mar, very numerous and lingered longer than usual, nine at a feeder at one time FiveR 12 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one FiveR 13 May only report. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one Hague 20 Mar, wintering bird? **Snow Bunting:** ten Jefferson 22 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** male Latham 14 Apr, remained several days with a flock of Red-winged Blackbird. **Rusty Blackbird:** two SARA 7 May, only report, unusually scarce. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** *intro*. **Purple Finch:** more numerous than usual Mar and Apr. **House Finch:** absent from several feeders where usually common ALBA Mar. **Pine Siskin:** good numbers FiveR all season, lingering later than usual. **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** seen daily through end of period Petersburg, male observed feeding female, courting behavior?

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