

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN MAPES

It was generally a disappointing spring for migrants as well as winter finches. The weather was on a roller coaster, with March colder than normal, April and May warmer than normal. March was the fourth snowiest on record, with the Blizzard of '93 giving us 22 inches at Albany on 13 Mar. The storm did not seem to unduly stress wintering birds, however. No mortality from the storm was reported. A high temperature of 65°F was recorded there on 27 Mar.

The Snowy Owl present last winter at Fort Edward Wash remained through 30 Mar. One other sighting was reported to the Birdline of Eastern New York (formerly Dial-a-Bird) on 1 Apr at Mariaville L SCHE.

Early migrants were delayed by the late winter weather, with Red-winged Blackbird appearing at Delmar on 8 Mar, the second latest return in 17 years of records at that site. In contrast, some late migrants were early. Warmer than usual temperatures and clear weather during the first 12 days of May might be responsible for some migrants skipping by some favorite birding areas. Cape May Warbler was especially scarce at Five Rivers Center, where they are usually plentiful in the Norway Spruce trees. Willow and Alder Flycatchers were more than a week earlier than average at Delmar.

Red-breasted Nuthatch is nesting at lower elevation than previously noted at Five Rivers Center in Delmar and at Lisha Kill Preserve in Niskayuna. A male Winter Wren attempted nesting at Five Rivers Center, a first for the location (elevation 200 feet). The bird was observed carrying nesting material into an area of overhanging roots along a stream. He apparently did not attract a mate and was not seen after early May. A male lingered at this location until late May in 1992. A pair of Orchard Oriole nested at Five Rivers Center this season, and the male was observed feeding three fledglings. The pair was present at the site during nesting season in 1992, but nesting was not confirmed for that year.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not reported at all. Several reporters noted a scarcity of House Finch at feeders. This was true at Five Rivers Center in Delmar, with only 6 to 8 birds feeding where there are normally 25 to 30. Robert Yunick reported them very scarce at his feeder in Schenectady, where there were no more than 4-5 at a time.

The rarity of the season was a **American Swallow-tailed Kite** seen soaring over Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on 10 May by Bob Budliger and Jean Wigen. The bird was moving rapidly to the north, and no other sightings of it were confirmed. A Glossy Ibis was found on 16 Apr at Bemis Heights SARA by Barb Putnam. A male Eurasian Wigeon was reported at that location on 4 Apr by Bill Graham, and another Eurasian Wigeon, possibly the same individual, was seen at Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve 1-3 Apr. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen and heard on the SUNY Albany campus on 19 May by Dr. Ken Able and Nancy Martin, who provided a detailed description.

Contributors: Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports; reports to Birdline of Eastern New York; Ken Able, Bob Boehm, John Colborn, Tim Colborn, Paul Connor, Walter Ellison, Craig Fosdick, Bill Graham, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Bill Lee, Alan A. Mapes (AAM), Andrew Mason (AM); Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Barb Putnam, Alice Ross, Paul Saffold, Jim Sotis, Scott Stoner, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA – Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; FREEC – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP – Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; VFNP – Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr Stillwater 21 Mar (NM), last three SaraL 15 May (BL). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr VFNP 10 Apr (NM), max four Basic Creek 15 May (NM). **Horned Grebe:** six SaraL 24 Apr (BP) only report, scarce. **Red-necked Grebe:** only two reports, four Northumberland 14 Apr (BP), five Ft Miller 14 Apr (BP). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Lock 7 SCHE 10 Apr (NM), max 20 Hudson R COLU 17 Apr (BC). **Am. Bittern:** max four BCWMA 27 Apr (NM). **Least Bittern:** one Carter L after 11 May (JS), only report. **Great Egret:** one Hudson R at Moreau 18 Apr (BP) only report, unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** two reports, two Livingston 17 Apr (BC), three Hudson R COLU 28 May (BC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Denton Preserve WASH 19 Apr (BP) only report. **Glossy Ibis:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** max 100 Hudson R at Germantown 20 Mar (BC). **Tundra Swan:** ad Ft Miller 26-31 Mar (BP) only report. **Snow Goose:** arr 65 Ft Edward 27 Mar (NM). **Wood Duck:** max 22 Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (PC). **Green-winged Teal:** arr Hudson R RENS, SARA and WASH 27 Mar, max eight Ft Edward (NM). **N. Pintail:** max 15 Ft Edward 27 Mar. **Gadwall:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (NM), max five Bemis Heights 4 Apr

(BP). **Eurasian Wigeon:** *intro*. **Am. Wigeon:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (BC), last two 25 Apr VFNP (TC). **Canvasback:** arr and max 30 Hudson R COLU 20 Mar (BC), last two Ft Miller 4 Apr (JG). **Ring-necked Duck:** max 28 VFNP 17 Apr (NM), last VFNP 25 Apr (TC). **Greater Scaup:** three reports, four Hudson R RENS 27 Mar–10 Apr (BC), two Hudson R WASH 27 Mar (BP&NM), one Hudson R SARA 27 Mar (NM). **Lesser Scaup:** two reports, two Hudson R WASH 27 Mar (NM), one Hudson R RENS 3–10 Apr (BC). **Oldsquaw:** arr and max 16 Northumberland 3 Apr (BP). **White-winged Scoter:** two reports, three Hudson R WASH 3 Apr (BP), three Alcove Res ALBA 15 May (NM). **Com. Goldeneye:** last 10 Hudson R COLU 18 Apr (BC). **Bufflehead:** arr two Mohawk R SARA 21 Mar (NM), last two Basic Creek Res ALBA 1 May (NM). **Hooded Merganser:** arr Ft Miller 20 Mar (BP), max 19 Greenwich 27 Mar (NM), last BCWMA 15 May (NM). **Com. Merganser:** two pair Jenny L SARA 22 May (RY), nesting?. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (BC), last Mohawk R SCHE 10 Apr (NM).

Turkey Vulture: continues to increase in many parts of Region. **Bald Eagle:** 15 reports, max three Conklinville Dam SARA 1 Mar (PS). **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** *intro* (NYSARC). **N. Harrier:** scarce at FREEC during the period where it is usually seen daily, only three reports from other locations. **N. Goshawk:** three reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** three reports, arr Moreau 26 Mar (BP). **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Guilderland 18 Apr (NM), max 16 migrants FREEC 19 Apr (RB). **Rough-legged Hawk:** nine reports, max two Ft Edward 3 Apr (JG), last there 4 Apr (BP). **Merlin:** one Gansevoort 5 Apr (BLENY) only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** four reports, female Albany 16 Apr (NM), ad male Jenny L SARA 8 May (RY), one Watervliet 16 May, pair Friend's Pt near Hague 26 May (LM). **Virginia Rail:** max nine BCWMA 27 Apr (NM). **Com. Moorhen:** five reports. **Greater Yellowlegs:** first and max six Bemis Heights 16 Apr (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** nine Bemis Heights 8 May (BP) only report. **Upland Sandpiper:** three reports, one Saratoga Battlefield NHP after 12 May (BP), one Knox after 21 May (KA), one Moreau 29 May (NM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one Bemis Heights 22 May (BP) only report. **Least Sandpiper:** two reports, max seven Bemis Heights 7 May (BP), two BCWMA 15 May (NM). **Am. Woodcock:** arr at four scattered locations. **Bonaparte's Gull:** two reports, two Mohawk R SCHE 11 Apr (RY), one SaraL 15 May (NM). **Iceland Gull:** three reports, one Hudson R COLU 6 Mar (NM), one Mohawk R SCHE 21 Mar (NM), one Hudson R GREE 28 Mar (RG). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one Hudson R

GREE 28 Mar (RG), only report. **Caspian Tern**: one Hudson R COLU 3 May (BC).

Black-billed Cuckoo: very scarce, reported by four of nine Big Day teams 15 May (RY&AAM). **Snowy Owl**: *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Petersburg 7 and 22 Mar (AR), one Thirteenth L WARR 5 May (KA), only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: reported by two of nine teams on Century Run 15 May, no other reports. **Whip-poor-will**: reported by two of nine teams 15 May, no other reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two reports, male Florida 22 May (BL), two Kingsbury WASH 30 May (BG). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: numerous reports from lower elevations around the region. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr Hague 20 Apr (LM), arr Petersburg 22 Apr (AR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one SARA 27 May (JG) only report. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: *intro*. **Horned Lark**: max 22 Saratoga 21 Mar (NM). **Purple Martin**: reports from only two locations, Hague after 4 May (LM), number not stated; five SaraL 15 May (NM). **Fish Crow**: max six Guilderland 19 Apr (NM). **Com. Raven**: nine reports, two nesting Thatcher SP ALBA 1 May (NM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: *intro*. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 14 Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **Winter Wren**: *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: none. **Swainson's Thrush**: seven reports total. **N. Shrike**: last BCWMA 14 Apr (BB), late.

Yellow-throated Vireo: five reports. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one Guilderland 11 May (NM) only report. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr Guilderland 30 Apr (NM). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Berne 4 May (KA), three reports total. **Tennessee Warbler**: much reduced numbers at FREEC (AAM). **N. Parula**: only two reports, one Guilderland 7 May, one Thatcher SP ALBA 15 May, both (NM). **Yellow Warbler**: max 20 VFNP 8 May (BLENY). **Prairie Warbler**: arr FREEC 5 May (AAM). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: more numerous at FREEC than usual this year. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr three Olana 15 May (BC), max six Castleton I RENS 22 May (BC). **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Bash Bish Falls SP COLU 8 May (BC), only report. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr FREEC 16 Apr (AAM), max six Guilderland 5, 10 May (NM). **Mourning Warbler**: three Hadley 15 May (BP) only report. **Wilson's Warbler**: one VFNP 9 May (SS), only report. **Canada Warbler**: max eight Jefferson 14 May (AM). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one FREEC 15 May (JC), only report.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: scarce at Jenny L (RY) and at FREEC (AAM). **Indigo Bunting**: arr male at feeder Berne 23-25 Apr (KA). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: one Gallupville 7 Apr (BB) first, very early; max

four Albany 24 Apr (NM). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: good numbers wintering near Amsterdam (RY), last Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **Chipping Sparrow**: max 25 Albany 23 Apr (NM). **Field Sparrow**: arr L Taghkanic COLU 10 Apr (BC). **Vesper Sparrow**: arr Guilderland 6 May (NM), male Glen MONT 22 May (BL), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr SBNHP 12 May (BP), max three there 29 May (BL). **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr SBNHP 3 May (JG), max two there after 8 May (BP), only location reported. **Fox Sparrow**: max two Livingston 13 Mar (BC), scarce at FREEC (AAM), only two other reports, last Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **White-crowned Sparrow**: one wintering Stockport 6 Mar (NM). **Snow Bunting**: max 300 Schuylerville 6 Mar (BP), last 30 Ft Edward 3 Apr (NM). **Red-winged Blackbird**: arr male Stockport 6 Mar (NM). **Rusty Blackbird**: arr 24 n SCHO 17 Apr (BB), max 500 SaraL 24 Apr (BP). **Orchard Oriole**: arr FREEC 4 May (AAM), pairs reported from FREEC and Kingsbury 22 May (RG), *intro*. **N. Oriole**: arr three males, one female Guilderland 3 May (NM). **House Finch**: *intro*. **Purple Finch**: frequent at Guilderland feeder through 24 May, low numbers Jenny L SARA. **Red Crossbill**: two reports, two E Berne 20 Mar (KA), two Gilboa 18 Apr (BB). **Pine Siskin**: very scarce throughout Region, only three reports; last Berne 28 Apr (KA), max nine Hunter (NM). **Evening Grosbeak**: very scarce, regular at feeders only at Petersburg with 30 through 20 Mar (AR) and Jenny L with max 50 on 8 May (RY) and five ad in breeding condition banded 23 May.

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