

REGION 8 — HUDSON MOHAWK

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March saw the continuation of the harsh weather experienced since late December. The month was colder than normal, with only days of spring like temperatures on 23 and 29 Mar, when the mercury climbed into the 60s. The mean temperature was 33.1°F, 1.2° below normal. Sunshine averaged a normal 53%, but seven days were totally without sunshine. Snowy weather continued well into March, with 19.1 inches total snowfall, 8.5 inches greater than normal. A snowstorm on 3 Mar

produced 10.9 Mar and snow fell on 16 days. There were still significant amounts of snow on the ground at the end of the month. The seasonal snowfall of 88.1 inches was close to the top ten snowiest winters recorded. April averaged a welcome 48.2°F, 1.8° above average, with the temperature going above 80° on 15 and 27 Apr. Bob Yunick commented that the nearly 50° temperature spread on 15 Apr drove many of early migrants on north. Sunshine averaged 58%, 4% greater than normal. Precipitation in April was 3.45 inches, about a half inch above normal. May averaged 56.4°F, 1.2° cooler than normal. Although there were five days with above 80° readings, a low of 33°F on 28 May produced scattered frost. Sunshine averaged 58%, 3% above normal. Rain in May totaled 3.27 inches, barely below normal. There were at least traces of rain on 22 days.

The lasting snow cover and cold weather certainly had their effect on early migrants. A Virginia Rail was seen briefly in Chatham on 23 Mar as it flew out of a rapidly flowing stream bed and landed in the snow. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle were not reported in the Albany area until 10 Mar, more than a week later than usual. Large numbers of gulls, Herring and Great Black-backed in the thousands in about 1:4 ratio, remained on the Mohawk River well into April. The ice didn't go out of northern Lake George until 23 Apr, preventing an earlier northward migration.

Later migrants seemed to arrive on a normal timetable. There were three major fallout days. On 1 May Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin reported finding 13 warbler species. The early part of 14 May offered great spring birding for Big-Day teams. Walter and Nancy reported 16 species of warblers both in Guilderland and at Thacher Park. Unfortunately by 10:00 AM it had become very windy so birding late in the day was accomplished only with difficulty. A low pressure system which occurred from 15-19 May produced a major passerine grounding, 17 and 18 May being particularly productive. The morning of 17 May was foggy, and in the Skidmore woods bird song could be heard everywhere. Normally high canopy species could easily be seen low in the trees. Fourteen warbler species were reported from Nott Road Park.

Rarities sighted during the period included Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Brown; Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Bill Graham; Jane Graves; Bill Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason

(AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Barb Putnam; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FREEC - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, Cohoes, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** two Collins L SCHE 18 Apr (C. George to BEN); one Stockport 21 Apr (ADBC); two BCRes 1 May (P. Johnson); one TomRes 19 May (WE), late. **Com. Loon:** arr Green I ALBA 20 Mar (BEN); 90 SaraL 19 Apr (WE, NM), large number; one Thirteenth L WARR 30 Apr (KA), first day after ice out; last four BCRes 14 May (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr River Road WASH 26 Mar (JG); seven reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr Fort Miller 20 Mar (JS); one Round L SARA 26 May (BP), late. **Red-necked Grebe:** six reports, max seven SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Greenport 2 Apr (BC); max 45 Round L SARA 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Am. Bittern:** max three BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM). **Least Bittern:** one Carter L WASH 31 May (JS), only report. **Great Egret:** one Hillsdale 14 May (ADBC), only report, unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** one Harrington Pd RENS 26 Apr (S. Kelly). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one calling overhead at dusk PISP 30 Apr (WE, NM), only report. **Glossy Ibis:** ad eating worms from rain pool Staats I Schodack RENS 16 Apr (WE). **Mute Swan:** one Hudson R Moreau SARA 11 Mar (BP), only report. **Snow Goose:** arr 24 Fort Miller 26 Mar (BP); max 1000 FtE 31 Mar (WB, JG). **Brant:** 1200-1500 near Exit 12 Northway SARA 16 May (WE, NM) forced low by rain/clouds. **Wood Duck:** max 37 Rennselaer/Schodack 27 Mar (WE, NM). **N. Pintail:** max 25 Rennselaer/Schodack 27 Mar (WE, NM). **Am. Wigeon:** arr Coxsackie 13 Mar (BC). **Canvasback:** female Coxsackie 13 Mar (BC); 25 Stuyvesant 27 Mar (WE, NM). **Redhead:** none. **Ring-necked Duck:** 120 Schodack Creek Poolsburg COLU 4 Apr (PC), large number. **Greater Scaup:** six Stuyvesant 27 Mar (WE, NM), only report. **Lesser Scaup:** five reports. **Oldsquaw:** one L George WARR 8 Apr (BP); three SaraL 15 Apr (JG); one SaraL 14 May (WE, NM). **Black Scoter:** female Cohoes 19-22 Mar (RB, WE, NM), same bird that overwintered.

White-winged Scoter: one Hudson R Moreau SARA 26 Mar (BP); two TomRes 19 May (WE). **Com. Goldeneye:** last 33 SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** imm male Cohoes 22-23 Mar (RB, WE, NM); male Stockport Station COLU 30 Mar (ADBC). **Bufflehead:** four Cohoes 2-22 Mar (RB); last 11 SaraL 24 Apr (BP). **Hooded Merganser:** arr two Castleton on Hudson 12 Mar (WE, NM); two nesting in wood duck boxes Carter L WASH 28 May (Jeff Duxbury *fide* JS). **Com. Merganser:** max 140 Round L SARA 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr Hudson R Moreau SARA 26 Mar (BP); last two SaraL 14 May (WE, NM).

Turkey Vulture: arr Cocksackie 12 Mar (BC). **Osprey:** pair Carter L WASH 14 May (Jeff Duxbury *fide* JS). **Bald Eagle:** nineteen reports. **N. Goshawk:** eight reports include pair at nest Battenville 24 May (Ron Renoni *fide* JS) female observed on nest 31 May (JS). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Jenny L SARA 1 Apr (RY), probably breeding. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Schodack Center 15 Apr (PC). **Rough-legged Hawk:** last FtE 2 Apr (BP). **Merlin:** three reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** singles State Plaza Albany 11 Apr (BEN); one VFNP 25 Apr (BEN); one Fort Miller 1 May (BP); one L George WARR 21 May (WB). **Virginia Rail:** max seven BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM); six Carter L WASH 28 May (JS); *intro*. **Com. Moorhen:** two BCWMA 14 May (WE, NM); four Carter L WASH 16 May (JS), up to ten by 29 May. **Am. Coot:** none. **Greater Yellowlegs:** three Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 24 Apr, max 16 on 5 May (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** seven Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 1 May (BP); one Berne 14 May (WE, NM). **Upland Sandpiper:** one FtE 15 May (BP), only report, late? **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** four Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 20 May (BP), only report. **Least Sandpiper:** four reports. **Dunlin:** two Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 14 May (BP), only report. **Bonaparte's Gull:** ad, seven imm Colonie 24 Apr (WE), only report. **Iceland Gull:** three reports. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad SI 12 Mar (WE, NM); ad Colonie 19 Mar (WE, NM). **Glaucous Gull:** five reports. **Black Tern:** two Riverview Road Crescent ALBA 14 May (WE, NM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Guilderland 14 May (WE, NM), FREEC 21 May (BEN), Schodack Center 25 May (PC), Tower Road SARA 29 May (JG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** none. **Short-eared Owl:** last FtE 28 Mar (BP). **Com. Nighthawk:** one Rexford 28 May (B. Grossman to BEN), only report. **Whip-poor-will:** one heard in trees behind 100 Pine Ave. Albany 23 Apr (Dan Conner *fide* PC), only report. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Florida 27 May (T. Palmer to BEN), only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** four reports; numbers down.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Castleton I Schodack RENS 13 May (WE, NM); one Cambridge 21 May (JS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Schodack Center 24 May (PC). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** one Chatham 24 Apr (ADBC), early. **E. Kingbird:** one Ghent 26 Apr (ADBC), early. **Purple Martin:** two Broadalbin 11 May (LF); twelve SaraL 14 May (JG). **Fish Crow:** seven reports, believed nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; five nestlings White Creek WASH 15 Apr (Doug Reed *fide* JS). **Carolina Wren:** one Schodack Center 2 Mar, 22 Apr (PC), generally scarce after harsh winter. **Winter Wren:** two Watervliet Res ALBA 9 Apr (WE, NM); one Saratoga Spa SP after 24 Apr (JG, G. Hanson to BEN), nesting? **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max twelve NRP 19 Apr (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird:** overwintered in Region. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one Greenport 14 May (ADBC), only report. **Swainson's Thrush:** three reports; numerous nocturnal migrants heard Schodack RENS night of 25 May (PC). **Am. Pipit:** 20 Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 17 Apr (JG). **Cedar Waxwing:** max 60 Rennselaer/Schodack RENS 27 Mar (WE, NM).

Philadelphia Vireo: one Greenport 14 May (ADBC), only report. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Austerlitz 30 Apr (ADBC). **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Berne 5 May (KA); one SNHP 14 May (BP). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** "Brewster's" type PISP 1 May (WE, NM), Guilderland 14 May (WE, NM). **Nashville Warbler:** max ten ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **N. Parula Warbler:** "seemed to be lots this spring" (KA). **Yellow Warbler:** max 21 VFNP 14 May (JG). **Magnolia Warbler:** max ten ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **Cape May Warbler:** only two reports. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 30 NRP 17 May (WE, NM). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max five Skidmore SARA 1 May (JG). **Prothonotary Warbler:** one Hague 5 May (LM), no details. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Hillsdale 4 Apr (ADBC) early; one Chestertown 28 Apr (Merry Baker *fide* M Peterson). **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Greenport 14 May (ADBC); one Thacher P ALBA 14 May (WE, NM); one Moreau SARA 31 May (BP). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Copake 14 May (ADBC) only report. **Ovenbird:** max eight Skidmore SARA 4 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush:** one Guilderland 29 May (WE, NM) late. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr NRP 12 Apr (WE, NM); max five NRP 17 May (WE, NM). **Mourning Warbler:** one Mecos 19 May (LF); one Hadley SARA 21 May (BP). **Wilson's Warbler:** three reports. **Canada Warbler:** max six Thacher P ALBA 14 May (WE, NM)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: six reports; max six+ Livingston COLU 1 May (BC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** one on a Century Run on May 14 (no details), very late. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 20 Easton 12 Mar (BP). **Field**

Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 25 Mar (BC). **Vesper Sparrow:** one Guilderland 9 Apr (WE, NM); one Chatham 21, 26 Apr (ADBC), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one Northumberland 16 May (G. Recer to BEN); one Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 23 May (B. Lee to BEN). **Henslow's Sparrow:** two SBNHP 14 May (JG, BP). **Fox Sparrow:** six reports of singles. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr Guilderland 9 Apr (WE, NM); max 18 BCWMA 23 Apr (WE, NM). **White-throated Sparrow:** last transients at feeder Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **White-crowned Sparrow:** last one Mayfield 18 May (LF). **Lapland Longspur:** last two FtE 11 Mar (BP). **Snow Bunting:** last one FtE 28 Mar. **Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Loudonville 10 Mar (FM) late. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr three VFNP 27 Apr (JG), max 60 SaraL 17 Apr (WE, NM). **Orchard Oriole:** one Stuyvesant 10 May (ADBC); one Ann Lee Pd ALBA 11 May (FM, mob). **Pine Grosbeak:** two FREEC 3 Mar (RB). **Purple Finch:** seven reports; low numbers Jenny L SARA (RY). **Red Crossbill:** 43 Stillwater 10 Apr (BP); 15 Pine Bush, Albany 8 May (WE, NM); two Pine Bush 14 May (WE, NM). **White-winged Crossbill:** no reports. **Com. Redpoll:** widely reported; max 300+ Saratoga Springs 7 Apr, last on 28 Apr (JG). **Pine Siskin:** six reports after mid Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** widely reported; max 100+ Locust Grove Road SARA 7 Apr (JG).

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