

REGION 8 — HUDSON MOHAWK

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The mild weather experienced since early winter continued during March. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature was 40°F, 5.7° warmer than average, with 53% sunshine. The 2.20 inches of precipitation was 0.73 inches below normal, with only 4.6 inches of snow, far less than the norm of 10.7 inches. By contrast, April was generally cool, averaging 43.9°F, 2.5° below average, with the temperature going above 70° only on 27 Apr. Sunshine averaged 59%, 6% greater than normal. Rainfall was again sparse, with 1.94 inches being 1.05 inches below normal. May averaged 56.9°F, 0.9 degrees cooler than normal, with 54% possible sunshine. Rainfall was 2.06 inches below the norm of 3.41 inches. May was the ninth consecutive month with below normal precipitation.

Migration this spring was notable mainly for the large number of early arrivals. American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Chimney Swift, Tree, Rough-winged and Bank Swallows, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Pine and Palm Warblers were at least one to two weeks earlier than usual. Paul Connor noted a big warbler wave in his front yard on 13 May, with nine species observed, including an Orange-crowned Warbler, both heard and seen well. 17 May brought another wave of migrants, with Black-billed Cuckoo, E. Wood-Pewee, Veery, and Scarlet Tanager being widely reported.

Regional observers reported a healthy total of 221 species. Included were 14 diurnal and six nocturnal raptor species, 14 shorebird species, and 29 warbler species. There were many sightings of both species of cuckoos and Blackpoll Warbler.

The most notable rarity of the season was *King Eider*. Other rarities sighted during the period included *Cattle Egret*, *Loggerhead Shrike*, and *Orange-crowned Warbler*.

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Abbreviations: ACA - Albany County Airport; BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonough State Forest, SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SARAL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNHP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WRes - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr two Hudson R RENS 16 Mar (BEN); one Thirteenth L WARR 14 Apr (KA), day after partial ice-out; max eight TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM); last SaraL 14 May (BP); three pairs reported L George 27 Apr-21 May (*fide* LM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Collins L SCHE 24 Mar (RP); 13 reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr Ft Miller 26 Mar (WL). **Red-necked Grebe:** singles Hudson R RENS 16 Mar, SaraL 30 Apr, Mohawk R SCHE 4 May; 14 TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM). **Great Cormorant:** imm New Baltimore 9 Mar, ad 27 Apr, two 9 May (RG to BEN). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC); max 100 PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN). **Am. Bittern:** arr BCWMA 9 Apr (W. Brooks to BEN), early; max three BCWMA 13 May (WE, NM). **Least Bittern:** one BCWMA 20 May (WL), only report. **Great Blue Heron:** max 17 BCRes 25 May (WE, NM). **Cattle Egret:** one Duanesburg 27 Apr (BEN), first report since 1990. **Green Heron:** pair building nest SUNY at Albany 8 May (WE, NM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** ad Glens Falls feeder canal WARR 13 May (Martha Connor *fide* PC); one Glenmont 16 May (AAM to BEN). **Mute Swan:** max seven Coxsackie 1 Apr (WL), numbers lower than usual. **Canada Goose:** two JL 27-28 May (RY), unusual, first observed there in May. **Snow Goose:** arr 37 Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC); approx 100 over Meco 14 Mar (LF); 300 SCHE 20 May (M. Woythal to BEN). **Brant:** two flocks heard over Berne night of 17 Apr (KA), early; 100 over Pine Bush ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **Wood Duck:** arr pair Schodack Landing RENS 8 Mar (PC), early; max 13 Hudson R Schodack to Stockport 1 Apr (WL). **Green-winged Teal:** max 50 Meadowdale 14 Apr (WE, NM), late; two BCWMA 13 May (WE to BEN); two pairs seen Carter L WASH during May; male in dense marsh flora 28 May (JS), suspected nesting s of normal breeding range. **N. Pintail:** max 30 Castleton 13 Mar (PC). **Blue-winged Teal:** very few reports. **Am. Wigeon:** arr seven Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC). **Canvasback:** 16 Coxsackie 3 Mar (RB, JG). **Redhead:** no reports. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 200 Bell's Pd COLU 11 Mar (BC). **Greater Scaup:** arr Ft Miller 11 Mar (BP to BEN). **Lesser Scaup:** five reports. **King Eider:**

second winter male Lock 8 Mohawk R T Glenville SCHE 7-9 May (RP, mob). **Oldsquaw**: two reports. **Black Scoter**: one Alcove Res ALBA 20 May (S. Stoner to BEN), only report. **Surf Scoter**: one Alcove Res ALBA 20 May (K. George to BEN), only report. **White-winged Scoter**: no reports. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 35 SaraL 8 Apr (WE, NM). **Bufflehead**: max 45 TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM); last Collins L SCHE 10 May (RP). **Hooded Merganser**: arr eight Schodack Landing RENS 8 Mar (PC); female with seven chicks W Cambridge WASH 11 May (JS). **Com. Merganser**: max 105 WRes 19 Mar (WE, NM). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max five SARAL 29 Apr (JG). **Ruddy Duck**: one New Salem Res ALBA 9 Apr (BEN); one T Northumberland SARA 30 Apr, 11 May (BP), unusual in spring.

Turkey Vulture: arr Ravena 4 Mar (W. Raup to BEN). **Osprey**: 19 reports; two Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Bald Eagle**: 17 reports, 13 ad, six imm, six unspecified. **N. Goshawk**: six reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair present throughout period Grapeville (PC); seven reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN); performing courtship behavior Meco 28 Apr (LF); heard calling several times in May at JL (RY), probably breeding. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last two FtE 26 Mar (WL). **Merlin**: female ACA 27 Apr (WE), only report. **Peregrine Falcon**: six reports, one Catskill 1 Mar (BEN); one Hague 11 Mar (F. La Pann *fide* LM); pair Route 87 Hudson R bridge ALBA 2 Apr (J./S. Gregoire); one Ravena 16 Apr (W. Raup to BEN); one SARAL 16 Apr (BEN); one Putnam Station WASH 20 May (R. Wotton *fide* LM); Hague-Putnam Station sightings possibly same individual. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: two females Brookview 4 Mar (PC). **Wild Turkey**: widely reported; high count 74 ALBA 4 Mar (RB, JG). **Virginia Rail**: arr BCWMA 2 Apr (BEN), record early; max 13 BCWMA 13 May (WE); at least six Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Com. Moorhen**: arr VFNHP 9 Apr (BEN), early; three BCWMA 7 May (WL); two VFNHP 13 May (BEN); at least eight Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Am. Coot**: two reports. **Black-bellied Plover**: two Ft. Miller WASH 20 May (BP), only report. **Semipalmated Plover**: four reports, max 13 BCRes 24-25 May (WE, NM, mob). **Greater Yellowlegs**: five reports, max six BCRes 20 Apr (RB). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr BCRes 22 Apr (KA), early; four reports. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 11 BCRes 24 May (WE, NM). **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: three reports, max five VFNHP 20 May (JG, RH). **Least Sandpiper**: six reports, max 12 BCRes 24-25 May (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr ALBA 9 Apr (BEN), early; max five BCRes 20 Apr (RB). **Dunlin**: two reports. **Com. Snipe**: max six WRes 9 Apr (M. Woythal to BEN), widely reported. **Am. Woodcock**: arr FiveR 6 Mar (RB, JG), early; max 13 Guilderland 13

May (WE). **Bonaparte's Gull**: four reports; max 20 BCRes 22 Apr (KA), 20 SARAL 14 May (BP). **Iceland Gull**: four reports; last Cohoes 20 May (WL), late. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: second-year imm SI 22 Apr, 13 May (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 400 SI 20 May (WL). **Caspian Tern**: three ad SI/PISP 22 Apr (WE, NM). **Com. Tern**: six-eight SARAL 20 May (WL). **Black Tern**: three reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Schodack Center RENS 17 May (PC), late; seven reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr Leeds 13 May (BEN); three reports. **E. Screech-Owl**: six reports. **Great Horned Owl**: three nests with young observed, ALBA and SCHE. **Barred Owl**: ten reports include four pairs. **Long-eared Owl**: one Niskayuna SCHE 5 May (WL), mobbed by crows. **Short-eared Owl**: two Knox 5 Mar (BEN); 18 FtE/T Kingsbury 11 Mar (BP); last four FtE 29 Mar (BP). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Tower Road SARA 6 Apr (RB, JG); at least two Capital District WMA RENS 11 Apr (PC), also heard 24 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk**: four reports of singles. **Whip-poor-will**: one T Galway SARA 20 May (JG, RH); approx six T Stillwater SARA 20 May (WL). **Chimney Swift**: arr Ravena 19 Apr (W. Raup to BEN), early; max 50 SI/PISP 22 Apr (WE, NM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: six banded JL May (RY), down from last year's 12, one return of a 1994 bird. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: eight reports; one Berne 15 May (KA), unusual. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 14 reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: six reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: arr FtE 4 May (BP), early. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr NRP 19 May (WE); one Blackhead Mt GREE 25 May (WE mob). **Alder Flycatcher**: max six FiveR 22 May (RB). **Purple Martin**: max 20 SaraL 20 May (WL). **Tree Swallow**: arr FiveR 8 Mar (RB), record early; max 280 Stillwater SARA 8 Apr, 500 Guilderland 14 Apr (WE, NM). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: nesting PISP (FM). **Bank Swallow**: arr New Baltimore 12 Apr (RG to BEN), record early; first excavations for annual colony T Jackson garage sand pile WASH 22 Apr (JS); "scores" in colony Poolsburg COLU 9 May (PC). **Cliff Swallow**: nesting Chatham (BC), unusual; seven pairs nesting T Wilton SARA (BP). **Am. Crow**: max 1000 Cohoes 6 Mar (W. Raup to BEN). **Fish Crow**: 12 reports; believed nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region; max seven SBNHP 18 Mar (WL); three nestlings White Creek WASH 18 Apr (Doug Reed *fide* JS). **Black-capped Chickadee**: non-invasion year JL (RY). **Carolina Wren**: three reports, generally scarce. **Winter Wren**: six singles during Apr; one FSF 20 May (RP); one Crane Mt WARR 30 May (DR). **Marsh Wren**: arr three BCWMA 11 May (M. Woythal to BEN), late. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr SBNHP 5 Mar (JG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max twelve NRP 23 Apr

(WE); one SUNYA 13 May (WE), late. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max 11 Guilderland 13 May (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird**: widely reported, many overwintered; max ten FtE 4 Mar (BP); one nestbox of five banded near Amsterdam 22 May (RY). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: six Bicknell's Blackhead Mt, two Bicknell's Black Dome GREE 25 May (WE mob), three banded. **Swainson's Thrush**: seven reports; nocturnal migrants heard Schodack night of 25 May (PC). **Wood Thrush**: max 13 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Gray Catbird**: arr PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN), early; max 42 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Am. Pipit**: one BCRes 2 May (WE, NM). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 70 Half Moon SARA 8 Apr (WE, NM). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one ACA 27 Apr (WE, NM, mob), first local report since 1991.

Philadelphia Vireo: one Guy Bartlett Century Run 13 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr Ravena 30 Apr (W. Raup to BEN); max 11 SBNHP 6 May (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Averill P RENS 30 Apr (BEN); three reports. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: male Brewster's type Center Cambridge WASH 22 May (JS), observed with Blue-winged Warbler carrying nesting materials. **Tennessee Warbler**: six reports, max five NRP 19 May (WE). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one Schodack Center RENS 13 May (PC); one T Berlin RENS 20 May (WL, mob). **Nashville Warbler**: six reports of singles. **N. Parula**: nine reports. **Yellow Warbler**: max 40 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 16 reports. **Magnolia Warbler**: max five NRP 19 May (WE). **Cape May Warbler**: three reports, last T Thurman WARR 31 May (DR). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max six T Hague WARR 13 May (R. Wotton *fide* LM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 30 NRP 19 May (WE). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Blackburnian Warbler**: 14 reports. **Pine Warbler**: arr Austerlitz 5 Apr (ADBC), early; eight reports. **Prairie Warbler**: arr SBNHP 30 Apr (JG, BL). **Palm Warbler**: arr FiveR 6 Apr (RP), early. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 16 NRP 19 May (WE). **Blackpoll Warbler**: max six BCWMA 23 May (RB, JG), 15+ Blackhead Mt/Black Dome GREE (WE, mob). **Cerulean Warbler**: no reports. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Copake 13 May (ADBC), only report. **Ovenbird**: max nine Skidmore 16 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush**: arr one White Creek WASH 23 Apr (JS), early; max three NRP 19 May (WE). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr NRP 9 Apr; max three NRP 23 Apr (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: five reports of singles. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr VFNHP 17 May (JG), late; four reports. **Canada Warbler**: max six Blackhead Mt/Black Dome GREE 25 May (WE, mob).

Scarlet Tanager: 14 reports of singles; three Hague WARR 13 May (LM); four Skidmore SARA 18 May (JG); five NRP 19 May (WE); four Lishakill 29 May (WL). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 11 reports; max nine Guilderland 13 May (WE); six VFNHP 7 May (WL); two banded JL May,

three returns captured (RY). **Indigo Bunting**: nine reports. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last Ghent 24 Apr (ADBC); 33 banded at Tom Palmer's feeder near Amsterdam 11 Mar (RY), numbers above normal. **Field Sparrow**: arr SBNHP 1 Apr (JG)). **Vesper Sparrow**: one Brookview 14 Apr (PC), singing on breeding area; one Ghent 9 May (ADBC) one Kinderhook 20 May (ADBC). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one T Kingsbury WASH 13 May (BP), only report. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr one SBNHP 30 Apr (JG). **Fox Sparrow**: arr FiveR 10 Mar (AAM to BEN); eight reports of singles. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr Burgoyne Road SARA 18 May (CF), late; four reports. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr BCWMA 9 Apr (BEN); max 44 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **White-crowned Sparrow**: last six VFNHP 17 May (JG). **Lapland Longspur**: last four FtE 10 Mar (BP). **Snow Bunting**: last four T Northumberland 12 Mar (BP). **Red-winged Blackbird**: singing began Livingston 6 Mar (BC). **Rusty Blackbird**: arr Muitzeskill 8 Mar (PC); max 30 VFNHP 23 Mar (BEN); last Jonesville 9 May (L. Alden to BEN). **Com. Grackle**: arr 100+ Latham 6 Mar (JG). **Orchard Oriole**: one Greenport 13 May (ADBC); one BCWMA 20 May (BL). **N. Oriole**: max 39 SARA 20 May (JG, RH). **Purple Finch**: 12 reports; low numbers JL (RY). **Red Crossbill**: max 47 JL 26 Mar (RY); three Apr reports. **White-winged Crossbill**: eight T Thurman 4 Mar (DR); five JL 18 Mar, four 14 Apr, four 20 May (RY). **Pine Siskin**: 15 E Jewett GREE 1 Mar (BEN); **Evening Grosbeak**: 14 reports; max 30 T Thurman 4 Mar (DR).

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