

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

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The cold, wet weather experienced since early winter continued during March. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature was 31°F, 3.3° colder than average, with 65% sunshine. The 2.10" of precipitation was 0.83" below normal, but most it was snow, with 20.3" falling, 9.6" above normal. April's temperatures were slightly below normal, averaging 46.2°, with 54% sunshine. A warm spell from the 18th through the 23rd brought the first over 80° reading for the year. It was the fourth wettest April on record, with 6.34" of rain, 3.35" above normal. May averaged 55.2°F, 2.4° cooler than normal, with 64% possible sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.24", 0.83" above normal.

Impressions from several observers are indicative of a later than normal spring migration. The late April warm spell brought in the first wave of migrants, with nine first arrivals on April 24. After that things were slow for a couple of weeks. Although there were sightings of individual warblers more or less on the expected arrival dates, the big push came with the huge warm front moving through the night of May 10. An indication of the how slow things were prior to that date is a description of a May 9 Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club evening walk at Ann Lee Pond ALBA, a spot usually productive for migrants. Not only were no migrants located, but very few resident birds were observed, leading the trip leader to speculate about the advent of the "silent spring." How that changed the following night with a major fallout! The morning of May 11 was described by many as the best warbler wave seen in the area in many years, with 17 species of warblers were reported from the Niskayuna Bike Path. There were 15 first arrivals on that date as well. The grounding lasted for the next three days; swallows, flycatchers, vireos and warblers were forced to feed near the ground or just over the water (in the case of the swallows), because of the cool wet weather.

There was little shorebird habitat due to high water levels. Reports were mainly from flooded fields in the Stillwater Flats and the Schodack Marshes, with 14 species observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 219 species. Included were 26 waterfowl, 14 hawks, five owls, and 30 warblers. Unusual birds sighted during the period included Snowy Egret, Short-billed Dowitcher, Prothonotary Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Craig Fosdick; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Ron Harrower; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Cliff Lamere; William Lee; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Karl Parker; Barbara Putnam; David Russell; Jim Sotis; Doug Steele; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CoLL - Collins Lake SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; MR - Mohawk River; NewB - NewBaltimore, ALBA; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, WARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNHP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; VFPS/L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** arr HR Hillsdale COLU 27 Mar (ADBC); pair Thirteenth L WARR 26 Apr (KA), day last ice went out; max 40 SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr FtE, NewB 22 Mar (BP, RG); one-two breeding pairs CL 13-20 Apr (JS). **Horned Grebe:** arr three FtM 26 Mar (JS); max 28 HR Cocksackie GREE 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr two GI 11 Mar (DS); high counts ten GI and 13 HR Cocksackie 14 Apr (WE, RG to BEN). **Great Cormorant:** no reports. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr one NewB 24 Mar (RG to BEN); max 72 GI 14 Apr (WE). **Am. Bittern:** max four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM); breeding BCWMA, VFNHP; also reported from Smith's Flats Wetlands, Hague WARR 9 May (LM). **Least Bittern:** one Hudson GREE 11 May (BC); one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL); five CP 21 May (JS). **Great Blue Heron:** arr Ghent COLU 11 Mar (ADBC); rookeries reported from BCWMA, Bemis Heights SARA, Saratoga Spa SP, Hague WARR. **Great Egret:** one StFl 18 May (WE), unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** three CoLL 12 May (RP), infrequent in Region. **Green Heron:** max four FiveR 2 May (DS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ad CoLL 18-23 Apr (RP); one imm BCWMA 18 May (WL). **Mute Swan:** max 15 Catskill GREE 17 May (BC). **Snow Goose:** arr 3 HR Cocksackie 17 Mar (BC); hundreds in flight over Meco FULT 24 Mar (LF); max 350 over NRP 4 Apr (WE). **Brant:** no

reports. **Canada Goose**: max 1200 HR Cocksackie 17 Mar (DS). **Green-winged Teal**: max 30 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); one m CP 26, 29 May (JS), breeding suspected. **Am. Black Duck**: max 300 StFl 16 Mar (WE, NM). **Mallard**: max 1200+ StFl 16 Mar (WE, NM). **N. Pintail**: max 100+ HR StFl 22 Mar (JG). **Blue-winged Teal**: widely reported; max 20 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **N. Shoveler**: arr two VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **Gadwall**: arr three VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **Am. Wigeon**: arr three HR River Rd SARA 14 Mar (CF); max 50 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); last four VFNHP 6 Apr (WE). **Canvasback**: arr HR Clermont GREE 16 Mar (BC); max 20 HR Cocksackie 28 Mar (DS). **Redhead**: one FtM 15 Mar (BP, JS), only report. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr HR nr Schuylerville WASH 2 Mar (BP); max 193 TomRes 7 Apr (WE, NM); last two MR Colonie 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Greater Scaup**: arr two VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); max 93 SaraL 14 Apr (BP). **Lesser Scaup**: arr one FtM 16 Mar (BP); max ten TomRes 7 Apr (WE, NM). **Oldsquaw**: arr three HR FtE 14 Apr (BP); max 12 NewB 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Surf Scoter**: one imm GI 27 Apr (WE); two VFPS/L7 18 May (RP). **White-winged Scoter**: max six GI 14 Apr (WE, NM); eight FtM 14 Apr (BP). **Com. Goldeneye**: max 80 SaraL 9 Apr (CF); last four GI 14 Apr (WE, NM). **Bufflehead**: arr Germantown COLU 2 Mar (ADBC); max 55 SaraL 14 Apr (BP); last one SaraL 18 May (WE). **Hooded Merganser**: arr seven HR Castleton RENS 1 Mar (PC); ten eggs in Wood Duck box CP 6 May (JS). **Com. Merganser**: max 160 Schodack Creek Poolsburg COLU 17 Mar (PC). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 19 HR Cocksackie 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Ruddy Duck**: one FtM 5 Apr (D. Beeler to BEN); three Nassau L RENS 17 Apr (PC), unusual in spring.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: arr Rensselaer 1 Mar (DS); max five Hague WARR 26 May (*fide* LM). **Osprey**: seven Apr, eight May reports; two CP 8 May (JS). **Bald Eagle**: 19 reports, seven ad, eight imm, four unspecified. **N. Harrier**: max three m FtE 27 Mar (BP); 11 reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: arr SNHP 31 Mar (JG); max six+ GREE 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **Cooper's Hawk**: arr NRP 17 Mar (WE); max six+ COLU 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **N. Goshawk**: five reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: eight reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr two NRP 19 Apr (WE). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 17 Colonie Landfill ALBA 31 Mar (WE); 22 Stone Bridge Rd SARA 20 Mar (BP); pair in courtship flight Meco FULT 7 May (LF). **Rough-legged Hawk**: last one Poolsburg 17 Mar (PC). **Am. Kestrel**: arr Rensselaer 14 Mar (DS); max five pairs SNHP area 27 Apr (JG). **Merlin**: one PISP 17 Apr (WE); one T Greenfield SARA 19 May (*fide* LM). **Peregrine Falcon**: one Wolf Rd ALBA 15 Mar (WL to BEN); pr Anthony's

Nose Mt. WASH 28 Mar-9 Apr (*fide* LM); pr Rogers Rock Mt. T Hague WARR 22 Apr; one Galway SARA 5 May (RH); one T Moreau 28 Apr (B/B Bidwell *fide* BP). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: one Livingston COLU 16 Apr (ADBC). **Ruffed Grouse**: first drumming NRP 13 Apr; Meco 18 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: continues in good numbers even after harsh winter. **Virginia Rail**: max four CP 16 May (JS); four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Sora**: four reports of singles. **Com. Moorhen**: one BCWMA 18 May (WE, WL); 12-15 CP as of 31 May (JS); not reported from VFNHP. **Am. Coot**: one FiveR 18 Apr (CT), only report. **Black-bellied Plover**: no reports. **Semipalmated Plover**: three StFl 19 May (JG), only report. **Greater Yellowlegs**: six reports; max 12 StFl 10 May (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: four reports. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max eight StFl 18 May (WE, NM). **Spotted Sandpiper**: max eight Hague WARR 11 May (LM). **Upland Sandpiper**: one FtE (BP); two SNHP 14 May (JG). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: no reports. **Least Sandpiper**: max 33 StFl 10 May (BP). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: two StFl 10 May (BP). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL). **Dunlin**: one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL); three StFl 19 May (JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 FiveR 24 May (CT). **Com. Snipe**: max seven T Moreau SARA 6 May (BP); widely reported. **Am. Woodcock**: max eight Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE); many reports but of lower numbers than last year. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 13 Coll 23 Apr-15 May (RP); 15 SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Ring-billed Gull**: max 700 MR Colonie 16 Mar (WE, NM); few adults remained by 5 May. **Herring Gull**: max 2000 Colonie Landfill ALBA 9 Mar (WE, NM); few adults after late April. **Iceland Gull**: one Colonie Landfill 16 Mar, 6 Apr (WE, NM); one Cocksackie Boat Launch 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Colonie Landfill 19 Mar (RG to BEN). **Glaucous Gull**: one ad SI 9 Mar; one imm Colonie Landfill 27-28 Apr (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 340 Colonie Landfill 9 Mar (WE). **Caspian Tern**: one Coll 12 May (RP). **Com. Tern**: three SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Forster's Tern**: oneBCRes 17 Apr (KA), unusual in spring. **Black Tern**: four reports; max four SaraL 18 May (WE, NM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: eight reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: no reports. **E. Screech-Owl**: seven reports. **Great Horned Owl**: three reports, no nesting observed. **Barred Owl**: nine reports, incl. one pair Meco FULT 25 May (LF). **GREAT GRAY OWL**: one T Fort Ann WASH 27 Feb-23 Mar (M.B.Butler *fide* BP!); one Lawyerville SCHO 29 Mar (*fide* WL!). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one dead on rd Claverack COLU 12 Mar (BC), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: two+ Albany mid-late

May (R. Crawford *fide* PC); one Schenectady 18 May (RP) three FiveR 22 May (JG, AVK). **Whip-poor-will**: one-two T Stillwater SARA 18 May (WL); one Meco 24 May (LF). **Chimney Swift**: max 135 Cohoes/PISP 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: three banded JL May; three returns from 1994-1995 bandings (RY), numbers down from recent years. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: eight reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max four White Creek WASH 22 Apr (JS); 13 reports of singles. **Downy Woodpecker**: max 11 PISP 5 May (WE); scarce at JL (RY). **Hairy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL (RY). **N. Flicker**: arr Silver Bay WARR 27 Mar (LM); max 27 NRP 19 Apr (WE). **Pileated Woodpecker**: max four NRP 19 Apr (WE); scarce at JL (RY).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: no reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven NRP 29 May (WE). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Schodack Ctr. RENS 19 May (PC), only report. **Alder Flycatcher**: only three reports. **Willow Flycatcher**: max four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Least Flycatcher**: max 13 T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **E. Phoebe**: max six FiveR 18 Apr (DS). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max five NRP 26 May (WE, NM). **E. Kingbird**: max four FiveR 30 May (DS). **Horned Lark**: max 30 Colonie Landfill 9 Mar (WE); 50 Brookview RENS 10 Mar (PC). **Purple Martin**: max 14 prs SaraL 18 May (JG). **Tree Swallow**: 350 GI-Colonie ALBA 14 Apr; 400 Cohoes-Colonie 27 Apr (WE, NM), high counts. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max 33 Cohoes-PISP ALBA/SARA 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Bank Swallow**: active colony Union Mills Rd. Broadalbin FULT (LF); first excavations for annual colony T Jackson garage sandpile WASH 25 Apr (JS); 40+ excavations in contractor's dirt pile Slingerlands ALBA (AVK). **Cliff Swallow**: max 12 Silver Bay WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM); 12 VFNHP 12 May (JG). **Barn Swallow**; max 24 Hague WARR 11 May B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Blue Jay**: courtship feeding Meco FULT 14 May (LF); max 21 Hague WARR 19 May (*fide* LM). **Am. Crow**: continues to increase in Schenectady (RY). **Fish Crow**: ten reports; max four Poolsburg 17 Mar (PC); possible nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region; max four L George Vil 21 Apr (KA). **Black-capped Chickadee**: 5-26 banded each period JL; max 26 2 Mar (RY). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max six Pine Bush Preserve ALBA 21 Apr (WE); four banded JL thru (RY). **White-breasted Nuthatch**: two banded JL thru (RY), normally absent. **Brown Creeper**: first singing Meco 19 Mar (LF); three Skidmore 25 Mar (JG). **Carolina Wren**: six reports of singles. **House Wren**: max ten SNHP 9 May (JG). **Winter Wren**: eight Apr reports; one Thatcher Pk ALBA 18 May (WL); one

Meadowdale ALBA 18 May (WE, NM). **Marsh Wren**: max three BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr two SNHP 12 Apr (JG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max eight+ SNHP 28 Apr (JG); last one Guilderland ALBA 19 May (WE), late. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max six BCWMA 4 May (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird**: max five NRP 4 Apr (WE); numbers down from last year. **Bicknell's Thrush**: no reports; *breeding areas in Catskills not checked; given developement pressures this needs attention*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE). **Swainson's Thrush**: two singing Schodack Ctr RENS 24 May (PC); six reports of singles. **Hermit Thrush**: max nine T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Wood Thrush**: max five T Hague 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Gray Catbird**: max 14 NRP 29 May (WE). **N. Mocking**

bird: low numbers **Brown Thrasher**: max four Guilderland 4 May (WE, NM). **Am. Pipit**: max 20 Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 50 NRP 26 Apr (WE); most arrived after 25 May. **N. Shrike**: eight reports of singles.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo**: 11 reports 19 Apr-18 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 12 reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo**: ten reports of singles. **Philadelphia Vireo**: two reports of singles 15 May, one 18 May. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max six NRP 18 May (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr SNHP 2 May; max 14 9 May (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Greenport COLU 11 May (ADBC); one SNHP 16 May (D. Hayes). **Tennessee Warbler**: seven reports 11-19 May. **Nashville Warbler**: twelve reports 4-24 May. **N. Parula Warbler**: nine reports 2-18 May. **Yellow Warbler**: max 20 VFNHP 11 May (JG); 20 Hague Beach WARR 11 May (LM). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max eight Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE, NM). **Magnolia Warbler**: 11 reports 11-19 May; max six Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Cape May Warbler**: five reports 11-18 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: eleven reports 25 Apr-18 May; max six Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 42 Guilderland 4 May (WE, NM); last two NRP 26 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 13 reports 23 Apr-18 May; max 11 Skidmore woods 13 May (JG). **Blackburnian Warbler**: 12 reports 3-18 May. **Pine Warbler**: eleven reports. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Schodack Ctr. RENS 26 Apr (PC); four SNHP 9 May (JG); max six BCWMA 18 May (WL). **Palm Warbler**: twelve reports 22 Apr-11 May; max ten FiveR 22 Apr (DS). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: five reports 11-19 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: six reports 11-26 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: no reports. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max three

FiveR 3 May (DS); widely reported. **Am. Redstart**: nine reports 7-31 May. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one Ballston L SARA 29-31 May (G/K Hanson), first since 1989, 3rd record for SARA. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Blossom Hill Rd. ALBA 18 May (WL), only report. **Ovenbird**: max 12 T Hague 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM); nine Skidmore woods 21 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush**: seven reports 13-26 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr FiveR 12 Apr (CT); max three NRP 29 May (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: two reports of singles. **Wilson's Warbler**: four reports 11-19 May; one m Fox Lair WARR 24 May (DR). **Canada Warbler**: max three Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Cambridge WASH 13 May (JS), first report since 1992.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: 13 reports of singles; six T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM); seven E. Greenbush RENS 13 May (DS); four NRP 18 May (WE, NM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max nine Guilderland ALBA 14 May (WE); widely reported in suburban yards in 11-14 May fallout. **Indigo Bunting**: widely reported throughout Region. **E. Towhee**: max ten Guilderland 4 May (WE); seven SNHP 9 May (JG). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last FiveR 25 Apr (DS); 23 banded at Tom Palmer's feeder near Amsterdam 6 Apr (RY), good numbers. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 48 T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Field Sparrow**: arr Guilderland 19 Apr (WE), late. **Vesper Sparrow**: one Tygert Rd ALBA 18 May WL). **Savannah Sparrow**: max five Hague Beach WARR 11 May (LM). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one SNHP 14-31 May (JG); one Meadowdale RD. ALBA 18 May (WL); only two reports. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr one SNHP 1 May (JG). **Fox Sparrow**: arr FiveR 15 Mar (DS); 11 Guilderland bt 25 Mar-14 Apr (WE, NM); last Saratoga 15 Apr (JG). **Song Sparrow**: arr Guilderland 9 Mar; 32 VFNHP 6 Apr; 30 NRP 19 Apr (WE), high counts. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one Fox Lair WARR 24 May (DR). **Swamp Sparrow**: arr and max 30 BCWMA 20 Apr (WE). **White-throated Sparrow**; migrants Schodack RENS 12, 25 Apr (PC); first migrants ALBA 19 Apr; 35 Guilderland 29 Apr (WE), high count; singing began Broadalbin FULT 21 Apr (LF). **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 35 Bolton Landing WARR 14 May (P. Shephard *fide* LM); last Niskayuna SCHE 18 May (RP). **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 64 NRP 19 Apr (WE); singing began Mecos 31 Mar (LF); last FiveR 4 May (DS). **Lapland Longspur**: last Greenwich WASH 13 Mar (JS). **Snow Bunting**: last 20 Brookview RENS 10 Mar (PC); five FtE 10 Mar (D. Beeler to BEN). **Bobolink**: two colonies Schodack RENS 11 May (PC); numerous SNHP after 1 May (JG); FiveR after 4 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: singing began SARA 2 Mar (JG). **E.**

Meadowlark: arr FiveR 23 Apr (CT). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Schodack Landing RENS 17 Mar (PC); last one Guilderland 14 May (WE). **Com. Grackle:** max 1500+ Brookview RENS 15 Mar (PC). **Orchard Oriole:** one NewB 5 May (RG to BEN); one Guilderland 13 May (L. Samuelson to BEN). **Baltimore Oriole:** max 15 NRP 29 May (WE). **Purple Finch:** arr Guilderland 14 Apr; max ten 26 Apr (WE); three banded Apr, 22 May JL (RY), numbers up from last year. **House Finch:** numbers slowly rebuilding after crash. **Com. Redpoll:** widely reported throughout Region; max 170+ Garnet L WARR 29 Mar(JG); 141 banded JL Mar (RY); last five FtM 16 May (BP). **Pine Siskin:** present in small numbers throughout period; 11 Guilderland 5 May (WE); max 17 Saratoga 12 May (JG). **Am. Goldfinch:** 17 banded JL May (RY); common throughout Region at feeders where House Finch numbers have declined. **Evening Grosbeak:** widely reported throughout Region; max 100+ Stewart Dam area SARA 29 Mar (JG).

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