

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

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After a warm and dry winter, spring was generally cool and wet. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature in March was 33.1(F, 1.2(below normal, with 53% sunshine. The 4.41" of precipitation was 1.48" above normal. 23.6" of snow fell, most of it on the 31st, totaling 12.6" above normal. April temperatures were also below normal, averaging 44.2(, with 66% sunshine. It was a dry month, with 2.30" of precipitation, 0.69" below normal. There was a major snowfall on the 18th and 19th. May was generally cold, miserable, and cloudy. Temperatures averaged 53.6°, 4.0° below normal, making it the 8th coldest May on record and the coldest since 1956. There was only 47% of the possible sunshine. Precipitation totaled 2.60", 0.81" below normal.

Area birders were made aware of the Snow Goose population explosion when thousands rather than the usual hundreds of these birds appeared in late March. There were a number of very early migrants, with Tree Swallow in Ft.

Plain on 3 March. Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the Saratoga National Historical Park on 4 March. Chipping Sparrow in two locations on 17 March. American Bittern at Vischer Ferry on 6 April, and Barn Swallow on 11 April. Ken Able had a male Pine Warbler at his Berne feeder on 30 and 31 March. It was not seen after the morning of the 31st, when heavy, wet snow began. Jim Sotis observed an extremely early Olive-sided Flycatcher in a seasonal wetland in southern Rensselaer County on 22 April. Craig Fosdick had an interesting shrike sighting in late April. The confusing immature plumage prevented specific identification, but the late date leads to speculation that the bird may have been a Loggerhead Shrike.

Birding conditions during May were generally not good. General perceptions were of a delayed migration, particularly for flycatchers. Actually, many species arrived somewhat earlier than usual (4-8 days), but the cool temperatures reduced activity and singing, making them hard to locate. There were no major fallouts. Birds seemed to dribble through in small numbers. Century Run teams on 16 and 17 May had to cope with high temperatures in the lower 50s with clouds and wind. Birds were often observed foraging near or on the ground.

There was little shorebird habitat due to high water levels. Reports were mainly from flooded fields in the Stillwater Flats, with only 11 species observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 221 species. Included were 26 waterfowl, 14 hawks, five owls, and 31 warblers. Unusual birds sighted during the period included Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Golden Eagle, Hooded Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Contributors: Ken Able, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Carol Budliger, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Lou Esch, Larry Federman, Craig Fosdick, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Ron Harrower, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis, Doug Steele, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Jeff Wells, and Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BS - Bear Swamp, ALBA; CBL - Cossackie Boat Launch, GREE; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonough State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; LG - Lake George, WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SL -

Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore Woods, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: **Red-throated Loon:** no reports. **Com. Loon:** arr three FtM 22 Mar; max 30 SL 17 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr one MR Schenectady 15 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** arr one CL 16 Mar; only small numbers reported. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr one CL 27 Mar; only three reports of singles. **Great Cormorant:** one Cossackie 9, 13 May (RG to BEN). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr two NB 28 Mar. **Am. Bittern:** max six BCM 17 May; also reported from BCR, TRd, Snyders Corners, ALBA, VF. **Least Bittern:** one Schodack Marshes RENS 17 May, only report. **Great Blue Heron:** arr CL, Kingston 11 Mar; rookeries reported from Bemis Heights, T Ballston. **Great Egret:** four reports of singles; three VF 25 May, unusual in spring. **Green Heron:** few reports. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Catskill 30 Apr; one Ann Lee Pd 13, 15 May. **Tundra Swan:** one ad CL 10-19 Mar (WE, RP, mob). **Mute Swan:** max 30 CBL 17 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** three StFl 3 Mar (Bill Corbett). **Snow Goose:** arr ten FtM 3 Mar; large numbers present through 13 Apr; max c.10,000 Ft. Plain area 29 Mar (EA); 10,000 FtM/StFl 29 Mar. **Ross' Goose:** one *blue morph* FtM 30 Mar (WE, NM); one white morph FtM 30 Mar (BP), NYSARC reports filed for both. **Brant:** in flight over NB 25 May; 24 over T Gallupville 31 May. **Canada Goose:** max 9000+ StFl 24 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 20 NR 10 Mar, reported in good numbers. **Green-winged Teal:** max eight VF 6 Apr; one m still at VF 17 May. **N. Pintail:** 29 River Rd WASH 22 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal:** max six VF 24 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** arr two FR 3 Mar. **Gadwall:** arr four MR Cohoes 20 Mar. **Am. Wigeon:** arr 15 Vosburgh Marsh ALBA 2 Mar; last six VF 6 Apr. **Canvasback:** arr four FtM 4 Mar; max 20 CBL 9 Mar. **Redhead:** five reports of singles 3 Mar-3 Apr; three BCM 13 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr HR Livingston 1 Mar; max 200+ VF 27 Mar; four still present BCR 22 May. **Greater Scaup:** arr seven NRRS 3 Mar; last two TR 10 May. **Lesser Scaup:** arr ten CBL 8 Mar; max 14 MR Crescent 6 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** arr one CL 27 Mar; max six MR Half Moon 6 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** one imm VF 13 Apr, only report. **White-winged Scoter:** no reports. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 90 HR Stillwater-FtM 13 Mar; not reported after 30 Mar. **Bufflehead:** arr 12 River Rd WASH 4 Mar; last one BCR 23 May. **Hooded Merganser:** arr ten FtM 3 Mar. **Com. Merganser:** max 100 MR Half Moon Cove SARA 7 Mar; 240 Kinderhook L 28 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max eight SL 17 May. **Ruddy Duck:** one Copake 4, 6 Apr; five SL 6 Apr, unusual in spring.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture:** max 18 TP 17 May. **Osprey:** 13 Apr and ten May reports of singles; seven Catskill Creek 3 May. **Bald Eagle:** 30 reports in March: seven ad, six imm. 17 unspecified; two April reports: one imm, one unspecified; eight May reports: five ad, two imm, one unspecified. **N. Harrier:** max ten FtE 28 Mar; 17 reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 27 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk:** seven reports of singles. **N. Goshawk:** one Austerlitz 27 Mar; one WR 5 Apr; one TP 16 May carrying food; one BS 23 May; one Windham 23 May; poss. two pairs T. Edinburg 29 May on (RY). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 15 reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr one Greenport 11 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max five FtE 7 Mar; no aggregations as last year. **Rough-legged Hawk:** six still present FtE 23 Mar; last one T Sharon 8 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** one imm T Sharon 16 Mar (*fide* EA); one imm migrating over Berne 6 Apr (KA). **Am. Kestrel:** max 20 Duaneburg 29 Mar. **Merlin:** one roadkilled f T. Guilderland 27 Apr (WE); one Clermont SP 10 May (ADBC). **Peregrine Falcon:** one FtE 7 Mar; one Rensselaer 7 Mar; one ad Dunn Memorial Bridge 10 Mar; one Saratoga Springs 12 Mar; one StFl 26 Mar; one Gallupville 3 Apr; one Roger's Rock Mt 4, 15, 16 Apr; one Meco 6 Apr; two Catskill 10 Apr; two Anthony's Nose Mt. 14-16 Apr; one StFl 11 May; one S. Rensselaer 12 May; one Cocksackie 13 May; one SI 22 May. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** one Hague 10 May, only report. **Ruffed Grouse:** first drumming SNHP 24 Mar; Meco 4 Apr. **Wild Turkey:** continues in moderate numbers; max 42 Cocksackie 8 Mar; 80 Duaneburg 29 Mar. **Virginia Rail:** max 13 BCM 17 May. **Sora:** one Cropseyville Marshes 7 May; one HR COLU 10 May; two BCM 17 May, only reports. **Com. Moorhen:** one BCM 16 May; five VF 28 May; one Claverack 28 May. **Am. Coot:** one GI 16 Mar; one Livingston 23 Mar, 3 Apr; one VF 11-20 Apr, 2 May; **Semipalmated Plover:** five-seven StFl 15-20 May, only report. **Greater Yellowlegs:** four reports; max eight StFl 7 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** only two reports; max 24 StFl 12 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max ten VF 17 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max nine PISP 11 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** one Stuyvesant 18 Apr; one SCA 27 Apr-17 May; one NAMC MONT; one FtE 17 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 75 StFl 17 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 50 StFl 17 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one FR 2 May; one StFl 17 May. **Com. Snipe:** max four BCM 5 Apr. **Am. Woodcock:** max eight Guilderland ALBA 17 May, numbers low. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 50 SL 22 May (WE, NM). **Iceland Gull:** two-three CBL 17, 18 Mar; one PISP 27 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one CBL 18 Mar. **Glaucous Gull:** one SI 11 May. **Com. Tern:** one SL 17 May, only report. **Black Tern:** five reports; max 13 SL 22 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** three reports of singles; two FR 13 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one Greenport 10 May; one Powell Sanctuary 26 May. **E. Screech-Owl:** five reports of singles. **Great Horned**

Owl: 15 reports: one on nest Cherry Valley 11 Mar; one at nest Indian Kill Preserve SCHE 27 Apr. two young observed 24 May; ad. young Colonie Public Golf Course 25 May. **Snowy Owl:** one Jonesville 11 Mar; one Ft. Ann 25 Mar; one Claverack 9 Apr; one SNHP 13 Apr; one Clermont SP 13 Apr. **Barred Owl:** nine reports incl pair CSR 11 May, Hunter Mt. 26 May. **Short-eared Owl:** three FtE 3 Mar; two FtE 28 Mar; five T Sharon 6 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one Amsterdam 7-19 Mar; one Poestenkill 11 Mar; one Glenville 29 Mar; one Hague 25, 27 Mar. **Com. Nighthawk:** two Albany 14 May; one dead on road Alcove Res 17 May; one FR 24 May; "flock" going up river NB 25 May (RG to BEN); one Stuyvesant 26 May; three Schenectady 28 May. **Whip-poor-will:** one Coeymans 10-31 May; one Amsterdam 12 May; two CSR 17 May; one Hague 24 May. **Chimney Swift:** max 60 SI 11 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** four banded JL May incl two returns, one from 1995 (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one T Wilton 10-14 May; one SNHP 11 May; one Coxsackie 13 May. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 11 reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max six FSF 3 May; nine Windham 23 May; 15 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one T S. Cambridge 22 Apr (JS!); six reports of singles 24-28 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** ten reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** no reports. **Alder Flycatcher:** four reports; max four FR 24 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** five reports; max three FR 24 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max five BCM 16 May. **E. Phoebe:** four pairs nesting FR (DS). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max three SNHP 29 May; 14 reports of singles. **E. Kingbird:** 13 reports of singles. **Horned Lark:** max 75 FtE 9 Mar. **Purple Martin:** at least 12 pairs SL 4 May. **Tree Swallow:** 600+ SI/PISP 19 Apr; 1000 BCR 3 May, high counts. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 20 BCR 3 May. **Bank Swallow:** 50 nests T Gilboa 23 May; other colonies not reported. **Cliff Swallow:** max 100 BCR 3 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 200 BCR 3 May. **Am. Crow:** max 1000+ GI 16 Mar. **Fish Crow:** 14 reports; max three Central Pk Schenectady 30 Apr. 5 May. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; high count seven Conklinville Dam 18 Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** scarce at JL. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max six NRP 5 Apr. **Brown Creeper:** first singing FtE 9 Mar; JL 28 Mar; four BCM 29 Mar. **Carolina Wren:** six reports of singles. **House Wren:** max eight SNHP 20 May. **Winter Wren:** one Mar and five Apr reports; one NRP 4, 18 May; one Stuyvesant 10 May; three TP 16 May; one Schenectady Museum Preserve 17 May. **Marsh Wren:** max 15 BCM 17 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** overwintered in Region. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** early arrivals SNHP 4, 8 Mar; last one TP 16 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max five BCM 3 May. **E. Bluebird:** five pairs nesting FR; 20 Rt. 20 bluebird trail SCHE 8 May; numbers throughout Region up from last year. **Veery:** max 11 CSR 30 May. **Bicknell's Thrush:** no reports from breeding areas in Catskills. **Gray-cheeked**

Thrush: one banded NB 24 May (RG). **Swainson's Thrush:** 12 reports of singles. **Hermit Thrush:** max four Palenville 11 Apr; six Ann Lee Pd. 20 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** max seven CSR 30 May. **Gray Catbird:** max five Guilderland 3 May. **N. Mockingbird:** low numbers. **Brown Thrasher:** 15 reports of singles. **Am. Pipit:** one NAMC MONT; ten Stanton Pd ALBA 16-17 May. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 50 NB 7 Mar. **Shrike sp.:** one imm T Schuylerville 22 Apr (CF). **N. Shrike:** six reports of singles.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** 19 reports of singles 17 Apr-24 May; max five Guilderland 3 May; nine Windham 23 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** ten reports of singles; max five Ten Mile Creek ALBA 23 May; nest-building observed NRP 18 May. **Warbling Vireo:** 17 reports of singles; max four VF 28 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** no reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max ten SkW 27 May; 12 SNHP 29 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr seven Guilderland 1 May; max 17 singing males SNHP 15 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** one m Berne 13 May, singing Blue-winged song; one TP 17 May; one Indian Meadows SCHE 18 May; one FR 20 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr one Guilderland 17 May; one Kenrose Preserve ALBA 26 May; two SNHP 31 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** five reports 12-24 May. **Nashville Warbler:** 16 reports 2-24 May. **N. Parula:** 15 reports 2-24 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 15 VF 23 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 12+ Ten Mile Creek ALBA 23 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** 19 reports 4-24 May. **Cape May Warbler:** five reports 12-29 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 23 reports 21 Apr-24 May; max ten Hunter Mt. 24 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 40 NRP 18 May; 25 FSF 3 May; last two BCR 23 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 30 reports 16 Apr-28 May; max 12 Windham 23 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 12 reports 30 Apr-23 May; max ten Cocksackie 13 May; seven Windham 23 May. **Pine Warbler:** 13 reports of singles; max three CSR 30 May. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Taghkanic 16 Apr; 12 reports. **Palm Warbler:** 14 reports 10 Apr-17 May; max three FR 17 Apr. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 11 reports 10-24 May; max 15 PB 20 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:** 15 reports 13-30 May; max 15 VF 28 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** two CISP 14 May; one NB 23 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max eight Hunter Mt 24 May. **Am. Redstart:** 18 reports 3-31 May; max five Olana 3 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Blossom Hill Rd. ALBA 17 May, only report. **Ovenbird:** max 14 CSR 30 May. **N. Waterthrush:** 16 reports 20 Apr-29 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr New Scotland 12 Apr; 11 reports of singles; max four NRP 18 May; two Windham 21 May above 2000'. **Mourning Warbler:** four reports of singles. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max ten SNHP 20 May. **Hooded Warbler:** one PB 7 May (K. Weiskotten to BEN), first report since 1990. **Wilson's Warbler:** 18 reports 7-24 May; max four Cocksackie 13 May. **Canada Warbler:** eight reports 10-28 May; max three VF 21 May (WE, NM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** 18 reports of singles; two pairs FR 13 May; three NRP 18 May. **N. Cardinal:** max 16 Guilderland 16 Mar. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 12 Guilderland/NRP 18 May, six at feeder. **Indigo Bunting:** widely reported throughout Region in suburban yards. **E. Towhee:** max six SNHP 15 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 49 T Florida MONT 1 Mar; last two VF 25 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one at feeder T Wilton SARA 13 Mar (BP!). **Field Sparrow:** arr one SNHP 5 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow:** one FR 7 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow:** max ten SCA 27 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one FtE 18, 26 May, only report. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr one SNHP 7 May; one FR 24 May (CB, RB), first since 1982. **Fox Sparrow:** arr one Guilderland 22 Mar; last Guilderland 20 Apr. **Song Sparrow:** arr Cohoes 13 Mar; max 14 singing males SNHP 5 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** four reports 13-24 May; one singing BCM 16 May. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr and max 30 BCM 20 Apr (WE). **White-throated Sparrow:** first migrants Jefferson SCHO 9 Apr; 42 SUNYA 30 Apr and 41 Guilderland 3 May, high counts; singing began Broadalbin 14 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max 18 FR 12 May; last E. Glenville SCHE 23 May (RP). **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 33 T Florida MONT 3 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** max 400 Poestenkill 14 Mar; 200 Knickerbocker Rd. RENS 15 Mar; not reported after that date. **Bobolink:** numerous FtE, farm fields MONT, SNHP after 5 May (JG). **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 5000+ Menands 20 Mar. **E. Meadowlark:** arr Greenport 15 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Austerlitz, Swyer Preserve 25 Mar; last one BCM 7 May. **Com. Grackle:** max 15,000+ Selkirk 8 Mar (WE, NM). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 200+ T Florida MONT 1 Mar. **Orchard Oriole:** one Stockport 8 May (RG); one Troy 10 May (H. Klimowski to BEN); one Blatnick Pk. Schenectady 15 May (RP). **Baltimore Oriole:** max 19 NRP 18 May. **Purple Finch:** max 30 Conesville SCHO 3 Mar; 35 Jefferson 11 Mar; one banded Apr, sic May JL (RY), numbers low. **Red Crossbill:** six Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar. **White-winged Crossbill:** six Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar. **Pine Siskin:** max 20 Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar; 40 Warrensburg 3 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 60 T Hague 6 Mar; 100+ 133 York Ave Saratoga Springs Mar-Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** small numbers appeared in N. part of Region after 3 May; max 12 Warrensburg 25 May; breeding pair banded JL 24 May.

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