

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 40.2° F, 5.9° above normal, with 51% sunshine. It was a wet month, with 3.80" of precipitation, 0.37" above normal, with only 3.9" of snow. April's temperatures averaged a slightly-below normal 45.3°F, with only 35% sunshine. There was 4.24" of precipitation, 1.25" above normal, with 13.3" of snow on the 8th and 9th, making it the third snowiest April on record. May averaged 59.4°F, 1.8° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.94", 1.54" above normal.

The warm weather in March, which boasted six days with temperatures over 60°, brought in some notably early migrants, with American Bittern seen (heard?) at Vischer Ferry on the 24th by Bob Budliger, Common Snipe on the 8th, Blue-winged Teal on the 4th, Common Moorhen on the Hudson River, Town of Easton, on the 16th by Bill Lee, and Tree Swallow on the 6th. One must wonder about the fate of these birds, along with other early arrivals, such as Eastern Phoebe and Hermit Thrush, when a classic nor'easter dumped twelve to thirteen inches of snow on the Albany area the weekend of April 8. During this storm, there were many reports of large numbers of juncos and sparrows, including Chipping and Field, congregating at feeders. Thrushes were noted in low wet areas near bodies of water searching for worms. A few days after the storm, I observed phoebes picking up worms off paved road sur

faces. Weather after the snowstorm was generally cool, cloudy, and rainy. It was difficult to establish any pattern for the remainder of the migration. There were no notable fallout days. General impressions were of arrivals either on schedule or a little late. Water levels were high everywhere and few shorebirds were observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 216 species. Included were 30 waterfowl, 14 hawks, 7 gulls, 27 warblers, and 13 sparrows. Rarities sighted during the period included Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Tundra Swan, Golden Eagle, Least Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Bohemian Waxwing, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able; Sue Adair; Elliott Adams; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports; Robert Budliger; Greg Capobianco; Joan Cipriani; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Mark Fitzsimmons; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Ron Harrower; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Ruth Lamb; William Lee; Alan Mapes; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Tom Palmer; Barbara Putnam; Sheila Tuttle; Alison Van Keuren; Owen & Carol Whitby; Robert & Betty Wotton; Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Alcove Reservoir, ALBA; BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; LG - Lake George, WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NL – Nassau, L, RENS; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PP – Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL – Round Lake, SARA; SCR – Stony Creek Reservoir, SARA; SISP – Schodack Island SP, RENS (formerly Castleton Island SP); SkW – Skidmore Woods, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, 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, WR – Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 SL 6 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr 2 WR 9 Apr; max 24 SL 20 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 1 FtM 2 Mar; max 6 BCR 11 Apr; 16 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 SL 6 Apr; max 12 WR 9 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 SL 6 Apr; max 15 WR 9 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 1 PP 20 May (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 1 Hillsdale 3 Mar; max 66 West Flats GREE 22 May.

Am. Bittern: max 5 BCM 8 May; also reported from FtE, TRd, VF, T Root MONT.

Least Bittern: 1 Embough Bay 19 May; 1 BCM 21 May; 3 West Flats 22 May; 3 Stockport Station 26 May; 5 Hudson 27 May; 2 Athens marsh 28 May (all BC).

Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported only from Bemis Heights.

Great Egret: 1 Chatham 22 Apr; only report.

Cattle Egret: 1 Stuyvesant 9 May (BC).

Green Heron: 18 reports; max 3 Logtown Rd. T Root MONT 6 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 BCM 15 May; 1 VF 20 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 1 FtE 4 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 800 FtM 19 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 3000 HR Castleton 7 Mar; c. 2200 FtM 13 Mar.

Brant: widely reported, incl. several flocks of 100-200 over NB 12 May, 300-400 15 May; 100 over Gallupville 28 May; 120 over WR 28 May.

Mute Swan: 30 Cocksackie 26 Mar; 2 NL 16 Mar.

Tundra Swan: 3 Geoffroy's Pd T Claverack COLU 2-9 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 20 VF 19 Mar; 13 FtE 20 Mar; 20 Hudson 27 May; reported in good numbers.

Gadwall: arr 1 VF 14 Mar; max 18 lower MR Colonie 30 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: arr 1 FtM 4 Mar; max 14 VF 19 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: max 46 VF 19 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 13 VF 8 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 NR 28 Mar; last 2 BCM 20 May.

N. Pintail: max 75 StFl 12 Mar (SA).

Green-winged Teal: max 170 VF 19 Mar; 50 T Claverack 21 Mar.

Canvasback: 2 MR SCHE 8, 9 Mar; 1 Cocksackie 26 Mar; only reports.

Redhead: 1 Stillwater 16 Mar; 1 Gilboa 2 Apr; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 FtM 4 Mar; max 250-300 VF 9 Mar; 200+ SL 6 Apr.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 FtM 4 Mar; few reports.

Lesser Scaup: arr Chatham 4 Mar; max 180-299 SL 6 Apr.

Oldsquaw: 4 prs L7 28 Mar; 1 Jefferson 4 Apr; 4 WR 9 Apr; 1 Chatham 28 Apr; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr 1 FtM 4 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: max 150-200 SL 6 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: arr 5 TR 1 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 500+ MR Crescent 1 Mar; 600 RL 6 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 pr. SL 6 Apr; 1 MR Half Moon 8 Apr; 1 SL 20 May; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: 6 Bell's Pd. 9 Mar; 2 MR Blatnick Pk. SCHE 12 Mar; 1 lower MR Colonie 19 Mar; 4 Oom's Pd. 25 Mar; 4 BCR 11 Apr; only reports.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 17 Apr, 9 May reports of singles; max 3 PP 7 May.

Bald Eagle: 10 Mar reports - 4 ad, 1 imm, 5 unspecified; 5 April reports, all imm; 10 May reports - 2 ad, 1 imm, 7 unspecified; nesting records will appear in summer report.

N. Harrier: max 6 FtE 4 Mar; 29 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 27 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: max 5 Olana 27 Apr; 20 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 T Taghkanic 10 Mar; 1 Jefferson 11 Mar; 1 ad Berne 24 Mar; 1 Gallupville 25 Mar; 1 Claverack 15 Apr, 1 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting VF; pr near JL 28 May, probable breeders; 7 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 Claverack 15 Apr; max 4 Olana 27 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 24 FtE 4 Mar; 18 T Northumberland 19 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Amsterdam 3 Mar, 16 Apr; 25 FtE 4 Mar; 1 Coxsackie 9 Mar; 1 Chatham 27 Apr.

Golden Eagle: 2 T Taghkanic 10 Mar ((WL)).

Am. Kestrel: max 6 FtE 30 Mar; 6 Meadowdale Rd. 1 Apr; 5 Jefferson 8 Apr.

Merlin: 1 Amsterdam 15 Mar (TP); 1 Hague Beach 1 Apr (LM); 1 Schenectady 4 May (RY).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 over downtown Schenectady 9 Mar (SA); present Roger's Rock Mt.; nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany.

Ruffed Grouse: first drumming SNHP 5 Apr.

Wild Turkey: continues in good numbers; max 73 FtE 4 Mar.

Virginia Rail: max 7 BCM 8 May.

Sora: 1 BCM 8, 15 May; 3 VF 19 May; 1 Amsterdam 20 May; only reports.

Com. Moorhen: 1 River Rd. T Easton 16 Mar; 2 VF 23 Mar; 1 Schodack 5 May; 1 Hudson 27 May; 1 Athens Marsh 28 May.

Am. Coot: 1 SCR 16 Mar; 5 MR Half Moon 8 Apr; only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: no reports.

Killdeer: arr 6 Wemple Rd T Bethlehem 4 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: 12 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 reports of singles.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 25 PP 7 May; 11 reports of singles.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 PP 7 May; 16 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: 1 Hines Rd. FtE 6 May; 2 Kobor Rd. T Northumberland 13, 20 May; 1 Denice Rd. T Florida MONT 20 May; 2 FtE 20 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 Airline Drive ALBA 4 May, only report.

Least Sandpiper: 2 Ferry Rd 2 May; 6 E. Greenbush 7 May; 4 PP 7 May; 1 Ghent 13 May; only reports.

Dunlin: 5 Moreau L SP SARA 21 May.

Am. Woodcock: arr 1 Amsterdam 6

Mar; max 9 in courtship flight SNHP 23 Mar.

Com. Snipe: max 18 Gansevoort 9 Mar; 16 Meadowdale Rd. Guilderland 1 Apr; good numbers.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 NB 4 Apr; 5 SL 6 Apr; 2 NB 20 Apr; 2 SL 25 May.

Ring-billed Gull: max 146 L7 2 Mar; 100 Colonie 5 Mar.

Herring Gull: max c.1800 MR Crescent 1 Mar, 450-500 RL 6 Apr.

Iceland Gull: 1 MR Colonie 5 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 ad Colonie 5 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 MR Crescent 1 Mar.

Com. Tern: 5 SL 25 May, only report.

Least Tern: 1 CL 4 May (SA, WL), 3rd Regional record, 1st spring record, & 1st since 1989.

Black Tern: 2 Log Town Rd. T Root MONT 2 May; 1 mouth of Catskill Creek GREE 14 May; 4 SL 20 May; 1 RL 25 May; 1 SL 25 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Claverack 15, 21 May; 1 NB 15 May; 1 BCM 20 May, only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 T Northampton 21 Apr; 1 Guilderland 20 May, only reports.

Barred Owl: 10 reports of singles.

Short-eared Owl: last 12 FtE 20 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Hague 2 Mar (LM); 1 JL 1 Apr (RY); 1 Galway 13 May (RH).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 S. Rensselaer 18 May; 10 Stuyvesant 29 May, only reports.

Whip-poor-will: 1 Schodack 1-6 May; 1 T Hague 8-12 May; 1 CSR 20 May, only reports.

Chimney Swift: max 75 Amsterdam 25 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 30 banded JL May; 13 returns JL (RY).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 NRP 8 Apr; 6 SNHP 15 Apr; 25 reports of singles.

N. Flicker: max 11 Gilboa 2 Apr; 9 NRP 8 Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: 29 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 L7 11 May; 1 Claverack 13 May; 1 Livingston 14 May; 1 Eddy Rd. SARA 29 May.

E. Wood Pewee: 16 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no reports.

Alder Flycatcher: max 6 TRd 29 May.

Willow Flycatcher: max 4 BCM 21 May; 15 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: max 12 Gilboa 2 Apr; 6 WR 9 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 4 SNHP 8 May.

E. Kingbird: max 6 Amsterdam 20 May.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 Meadowdale Rd. T Guilderland 20 Mar (Sheila Tuttle), NYSARC report requested, first since 1995.

N. Shrike: 1 FtE 4 Mar; 1 Amsterdam 17, 18 Mar; 1 VF 20 Mar; 2 Galway 21 Mar; 1 Taghkanic 1 Apr; 1 Gilboa 2 Apr; 1 Amsterdam 12 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 Greenport 9 May (George Rodenhausen/Joan Steiner), first report since 1991.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 Olana 30 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 22 reports of singles.

Warbling Vireo: max 4 PP 7 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 T Hague 13 May.

Fish Crow: 24 reports.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Region.

Horned Lark: max 150 T Canajoharie, T Sharon 9 Apr.

Purple Martin: 5 SL 20 May, only report.

Tree Swallow: 2000 Moreau L SP 12 Apr, high count.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 7 VF 30 Apr.

Bank Swallow: max 400 Stockport Sta. 26 May.

Cliff Swallow: 30 Schodack Valley 8 May at colony; 30 BCR 20 May.

Tufted Titmouse: max 12 NRP 8 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 15 banded JL Apr.

Brown Creeper: first 2 singing SNHP 8 Mar; max 4 NRP 16 Apr.

Carolina Wren: 9 reports of singles; 1 overwintered at feeder Guilderland.

House Wren: max 9 SNHP 31 May.

Winter Wren: 2 Mar, 5 Apr, 9 May reports; 1 Delmar 15 Apr thru.

Marsh Wren: max 30 West Flats 8 Apr; 30 Stockport Station 26 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Moreau L SP 6 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Olana 30 Apr; widespread GREE, RENS 29, 30 Apr (PC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 VF 30 Apr; max 4 PP 7 May; 3-4 BCM 20 May.

E. Bluebird: good numbers reported

generally.

Veery: max 6 PP 7 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reports of singles; 2 singing Schodack Ctr RENS 22 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 12 WR 9 Apr, hunting earthworms in low wet spot during snowstorm.

Gray Catbird: max 20 PP 7 May; 1 overwintering Guilderland thru 27 Apr.

N. Mockingbird: max 3 Oom's Pd. 25 Mar; 10 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: max 2 BCM 20 May; 13 reports of singles.

Am. Pipit: 10 Amsterdam 29 Apr.

Bohemian Waxwing: 50 Warrensburg 7 Mar (Donna DiPietro).

Cedar Waxwing: 50 Goeffroy's Pd 13 Mar; 40 Stillwater 16 Mar; 50+ near Central Pk, Schenectady 24 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 Feller Rd. COLU, SNHP 4 May; max 16 singing males SNHP 31 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Claverack 27 May.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 Cobleskill Hills 1 May; 1 VF 10 May; 1 PP 20 May, only reports.

Nashville Warbler: 8 reports 6-29 May.; max 6 TRd 29 May.

N. Parula: 10 reports 30 Apr-26 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 15 PP 7 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 16 reports 3-28 May.

Cape May Warbler: 1 Albany 5

May; 2 Schenectady 6 May, only reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 reports 27 Apr-28 May; max 3-4 TP 20 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 Claverack 2 Mar; max 28 Guilderland 6 May; numerous Grapeville Creek area GREE 28 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 28 reports 29 Apr-28 May; max 10 T Hague 13 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: 12 reports 3-28 May.

Pine Warbler: 16 reports of singles; at feeder Guilderland 16-27 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr. Claverack 14 Apr.

Palm Warbler: 8 reports 8 Apr-12 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 6 reports 3-13 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: 8 reports 18-29 May; max 4 BCM 20 May.

Cerulean Warbler: present Max V. Shaul SP 14 May (GC); no reports from SISP.

Am. Redstart: 18 reports 3-26 May; max 15 PP 7 May.

Ovenbird: max 19 T Hague 13 May.

N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Livingston 12 Apr; max 3 Amsterdam 29 Apr; 21 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: 1 Claverack 27 May, only report.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 10 BCM 15 May.

Wilson's Warbler: only 3 reports.

Canada Warbler: 13 reports 3-29 May; max 4 TP 13 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 T Ancram 18 May; 32 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 20 PB 11 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 10 VF 19 Mar; last 1 Hillsdale 5 May, late.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 Gansevoort 28 May (BP), first since 1997.

Field Sparrow: arr 1 Hillsdale 7 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Sharon Spring 9 Apr; 1 Canajoharie 9 Apr; 1 Stevens Farm, Albany 25 Apr; 1 Gurn Spring Rd., T Northumberland 13, 27 May; 1 Denice Rd, T Florida 20 May; 1 Palmer Ridge Rd. T Wilton 29 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Swamp Rd FtE 29 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Dowmont Rd. FtE 14, 19, 29 May; not present SNHP.

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 Cossayuna 10 Mar; max and last 8 Ramshorn Creek Preserve GREE 26 May; widely reported over protracted migration period.

Song Sparrow: max 35 VF 19 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 VF 5 May; 1 PB 11 May; 1 VF 17 May, only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 Schenectady 2 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: first migrants Slingerlands 23 Mar; high count 9 Guilderland 21 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 5 Guilderland 6 May; last 1 Randall MONT 20 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 100+ Hague 9-10 Apr; 127 banded JL Mar-May.

N. Cardinal: max 16 Niskayuna 1 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 13 banded & 2 returns JL May.

Indigo Bunting: 21 reports of singles.

Bobolink: numerous FtE, farm fields ALBA, COLU, MONT, SNHP after 5 May; max 16 Gansevoort 5 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 4700 Cohoes 5 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Amsterdam 18 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 Niskayuna 4; max 125 VF 8 Apr; last 40 BCM 8 May.

Com. Grackle: max 7000 Cohoes 5 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: 1 Glenmont 2 May; 1 Hillsdale 4, 6 May; 1 FR 7 May; 1 FtE 14 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 6 Ghent 13

May.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 Greenfield Center SARA 10 Apr (J. de la Torre); 2 Wardsboro T Hague 17 Apr (RL).

Purple Finch: 56 banded & 45 returns JL Mar-May.

Red Crossbill: 7-9 Guilderland 9-29 Apr; 8 Guilderland 9-24 May.

Com. Redpoll: max 100+ Hague 10 Mar; 75-100 Saratoga 10 Mar; 100 Gansevoort 11 Mar; last 1 Saratoga 29 Apr.

Pine Siskin: max 10 Ghent 30 Apr; widely reported in small numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: 18 JL 28 Mar; 20 Wardsboro T Hague 23 Apr; 24 Guilderland 28 Apr; widely reported.
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