

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature for March was 30.9°F, 3.4° below normal, with 33% sunshine. It was a very wet month, with 5.50" of precipitation, 2.51" above normal, with 30.6" of snow, most occurring in a single storm on the 4th, 5th and 6th. It was the 20th biggest storm since 1884 in the Albany area and the 9th biggest ever recorded for March. The snow remained on the ground through the first week in April, when there was an abrupt warm-up and thaw. April's temperatures ended up at a slightly-above normal 47.5°, with 56% sunshine. There was only 1.34" of precipitation, 1.65" below normal. Late in the month and through early May, the Region experienced a heat wave, with temperatures in the upper 80s. At the same time, there was a near drought until late May. May averaged 59.4°, 1.8° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.94", 1.54" above normal.

It is difficult to say whether these weather extremes had any real effect on migration. Raptor migration was delayed somewhat due to the deep snow and lack of prey. It is certain that there were no early arrivals, and arrival dates in general were about as usual. As with the past few years, there were no notable fallout days. Many observers commented on the lack of birds in places where they are usually observed in migration. However, breeding birds appeared where they normally are found in about the usual numbers.

One of the highlights of the season was the discovery, by wildlife biologist Angie Berchielli, of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl nest in a Wood Duck box. While checking otter sign at her wooded pond in Westerlo, Albany County, on 9 May, she saw a juvenile peering at her from the hole of the box, which was mounted six feet up on a pondside hemlock. On opening the box, she found five juveniles. After her discovery, the box was monitored daily through 16 May, after which no owls were found. The day after the initial discovery there were four juveniles in the box; two juveniles and one adult were found in a nearby thicket of small hemlocks. Twice the adult was seen sitting next to dead prey, once a Woodland Jumping Mouse, the other time a Dark-eyed Junco. This represents the first confirmed breeding of this probably often-overlooked species in Albany County for nearly 50 years.

Regional observers reported a total of 221 species. Included were 29 waterfowl, 14 hawks, 6 gulls, 29 warblers, 13 sparrows and 8 finches. Rarities sighted during the period included Great Cormorant, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Common Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly reports, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Ruth Lamb, William Lee, Alan Mapes, Nancy Martin, Andy Mason, Frank Murphy, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Matt Young, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Alcove Resr, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CP – Cherry Plain SP, RENS; CSR – Cold Spring Rd, T Saratoga, SARA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward, WASH; FtM – Fort Miller, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; LG – L George, WARR; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NL – Nassau L, RENS; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP – Nott Rd P, Guilderland, ALBA; PB – Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PP – Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL – Round L, SARA; SCA – Saratoga County Airport; SISP – Schodack I SP, RENS (formerly Castleton I SP); SkW – Skidmore Woods, SARA; SL – Saratoga L, SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TP – John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS; TRd – Tower Rd, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR – Watervliet Res, ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: no reports.

Com. Loon: arr CL 6 Apr; max 30+ SL 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Cohoes 2 Apr; max 8 CL 8 Apr; 9 reports of singles; about a month later than usual.

Horned Grebe: arr VF 31 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: arr CL 31 Mar; max 14 CL 8 Apr.

Great Cormorant: NB 19 May (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 FtM 24 Mar; max 110 HR Germantown 12 May.

Am. Bittern: max 4 BCM 25 Apr.

Least Bittern: BCM 9, 13, 19 May.

Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported only from Bemis Heights, Tongue Mt.

Great Egret: BCM 16 Apr (SA).

Green Heron: 16 reports; max 4 BCM 24 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Ann Lee Pd 19 Apr; Taghkanic 14 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr Cohoes 6 Mar; max 21 Queensbury 22 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 3000 Amsterdam 1 Apr.

Canada Goose: max c. 3000 HR Stillwater 25 Mar.

Brant: 200 over Gallupville 17 May; 1000+ NB 28 May.

Mute Swan: 30 Coxsackie 11 Mar; 2 NL 29 Mar.

Tundra Swan: CBL 11, 15 Mar.

Wood Duck: 12 Papscanee Creek 11 Mar; max 21 VF 2 Apr; reported in good

numbers.

Gadwall: arr 2 CL 31 Mar; max 10 CL 8 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: StFl 13 Apr (Rob Taylor to BEN).

Am. Wigeon: arr Stillwater 25 Mar; max 36 CL 8 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 60 Tomhannock Creek Marsh 11 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr VF 31 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 30 Claverack 27 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 50 BCM 8 Apr; 42 L7 13 Apr.

Canvasback: 30 Catskill 11 Mar; 50+ CBL 15 Mar; only reports.

Redhead: 3 Catskill 11 Mar; 3 CL 2, 6 Apr; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 7 Stillwater 1 Mar; max 165 Cohoes/Crescent 2 Apr.

Greater Scaup: arr Coxsackie 11 Mar; few reports.

Lesser Scaup: arr L Taghkanic 13 Apr; 2 SL 30 Apr, only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 BCR, 8 AR 19 May.

Black Scoter: 2 NL 18 Apr.

Bufflehead: arr 3 Claverack 11 Mar.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Cheviot COLU 8, 9 Apr (BC, Kate Dunham).

Hooded Merganser: arr FtE 1 Mar; max 21 Papscahee Creek 11 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 151 CL 7 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: HR E. River Rd 1 Mar; MR River Rd 2 Apr; 2 CL 6 Apr; Stockport 8 Apr; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: no reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 20 Apr, 15 May reports of singles; nest reported from Crescent Dam MR (WE, NM).

Bald Eagle: 13 Mar reports, 5 ad, 2 imm, 6 unspecified; 6 April reports, 1 ad, 3 imm, 1 unspecified; 8 May reports, 5 ad, 3 unspecified; nesting records will appear in summer report.

N. Harrier: max 6-8 FtE 2 Apr; 17 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 Albany 24 Mar; 18 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 22 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: Kinderhook 1 Mar;

Schodack Ctr 25 Mar; near Saratoga 27 Mar; CDWMA 19 Apr; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Grapeville T New Baltimore GREE 15 Apr, probable breeders; 3 CDWMA 19 Apr; 5 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 Jefferson 15 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 15 FtE 25 Apr; nesting Gateway Bridge SCHE.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 10 Ooms Pd COLU 24 Mar; 10-12 FtE 2 Apr; last FtE 7 Apr.

Golden Eagle: imm 4 Apr (BB, KB).

Am. Kestrel: 28 reports of singles.

Merlin: Livingston 15 Mar; Gallatin 15 Apr; Claverack 20 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: jct Rtes 4 & 32 SARA 1 Mar; Greenport 1 Apr; nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany.

Wild Turkey: continues in good numbers; max 80+ FtE 1 Mar.

Virginia Rail: max 4 BCM 25 Apr.

Sora: Bog Meadow Trail SARA 7, 21 May; BCM 19, 25 May; only reports.

Com. Moorhen: BCM 19 May, only report.

Am. Coot: only 5 reports of singles.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Austerlitz 7 May; Stanton Pd 19 May; 10 Colonie T Pk 27 May; only reports.

Killdeer: arr Claverack 8 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: only 7 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: only 10 reports of singles.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 FR 1 May; 7 reports of singles.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 Colonie T P 28 May; 28 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: Ghent 17 Apr; 3 Cary Rd FtE 28 Apr, 2 May; 6 Stairs Corners/Dutch Church Rd T Broadalbin

FULT 6 May (DH); Kobor Rd T
 Northumberland SARA 31 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 23 Colonie T
 Pk 28 May, only report.
Least Sandpiper: 8 Stanton Pd 19 May;
 15-20 Colonie T P 27, 28 May; only
 reports.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Colonie T P
 27 May (RG).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Colonie T P
 27 May (RG).
Com. Snipe: max 12 Meadowdale Rd
 Guilderland 8 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: 8 L Taghkanic 13
 Apr; 3 L7 13 Apr; 2 NR 13 Apr; SL 30
 Apr.
Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Cossackie 11
 Mar.
Iceland Gull: MR Schenectady 28 Mar;
 CL 11 Apr WL.
Lesser Black-backed Gull:
 Cohoes/Colonie 4, 18 Mar, 19 May (WE,
 NM).
Caspian Tern: 2 SL 19 May (WL).
Com. Tern: SL 19 May (WE, NM).
Black Tern: 2 HR Coeymans Ldg 19
 May (RB, JG, AV).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5 reports of
 singles.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Gallatin 29 May;
 2 NB 30 May; only reports.
E. Screech-Owl: only 5 reports.
Barred Owl: 11 reports of singles; pair
 CSR 19 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 15 FtE 2 Mar;
 last 7 FtE 2 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1-2 CDWMA 12 Mar
 (PC); 1 ad, 6 yg T Westerlo 9-16 May
 (RB).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 FtE 4 May; Colonie
 T P 27 May; Stuyvesant 27, 28 May;
 only reports.
Whip-poor-will: 3 L George Rec Area 6
 May; calling CSR 19 May; Claverack 12
 May; only reports.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15

at feeder T Hague 29 May (RL); 28
 banded JL May plus 19 returns (RY).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 31 reports of
 singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6+
 Rensselaer Plateau 19 Apr; 32 reports of
 singles.
Pileated Woodpecker: 20 reports of
 singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: T Hague 20
 May; only report.
E. Wood Pewee: 15 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no reports.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 Bog Meadow
 Trail SARA 21 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 7 Papsweeney
 Creek 27 May; 11 reports of singles.
Least Flycatcher: max 7 Ancram 24
 May; 30 reports of singles.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10
 Ancram 25 May; 36 reports of singles.
E. Kingbird: max 6 Gallatin 29 May; 20
 reports of singles.
N. Shrike: Daniels Rd SARA 31 Mar;
 Amsterdam 1 Apr; FtE 3 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 14 reports of
 singles.
Blue-headed Vireo: 7 reports of singles.
Warbling Vireo: max 8 Rotterdam Jct
 27 May; 9 Gallatin 29 May; 27 reports of
 singles.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 6 Ancram 24 May.
Fish Crow: max 4 Niskayuna 4 Apr;
 family group of 4 Castleton 28 May; 21
 reports.
Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.
Horned Lark: max 300 Amsterdam 7
 Mar.
Purple Martin: 2 SL 22 May, only
 report.
Tree Swallow: max 300+ Schodack 18
 Apr.
Bank Swallow: 15 nests in sand bank
 Wemple Rd ALBA 19 May; 20 Colonie
 T P 27 May.
Cliff Swallow: 3 Gansevoort 9 May;

Taghkanic 16 May; BCR 24 May; 3 Copake 28 May; only reports.
Brown Creeper: first singing CP 12 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 10 reports of singles.
Winter Wren: 0 Mar, 7 Apr, 5 May reports; max 4 Wilsey Rd T Berne ALBA 20 May; low numbers.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 CGCC field station 10 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 15 Rotterdam Jct 28 Apr (SA).
E. Bluebird: good numbers reported generally.
Veery: max 7 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 21 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.
Swainson's Thrush: 4 reports of singles.
Wood Thrush: max 7 Ancram 24 May.
Gray Catbird: max 30 Ancram 24 May.
N. Mockingbird: only 6 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: arr BCM 22 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Am. Pipit: Stuyvesant 3 May; 15 Stairs Corners Rd FULT 6 May; 2 Gansevoort 7 May; only reports.
Cedar Waxwing: max c. 100 Brookview 3 Mar; 58 Partridge Run 13 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr SNHP 30 Apr; max 12 FR 3 May; 10 Taghkanic 13 May; 19 singing males SNHP 28 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Claverack 15 May (Arthur Long to ADBC).
"Brewster's" Warbler: FR 3 May (Marty Connor).
Tennessee Warbler: Guilderland 27 May (RB), only report.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Amsterdam 7 May (TP).
Nashville Warbler: 12 reports 24 Apr-15 May; max 3 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 11 May.
N. Parula: 9 reports 3-25 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 18 Copake 18 May.
Magnolia Warbler: 13 reports 5-24 May.
Cape May Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 12 May, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 20 reports 3-27 May; max 4 Ramshorn/Livingston 27 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 75 VF 29 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 reports 24 Apr-27 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: 6 reports 30 Apr-24 May; max 6 Wilsey Rd T Berne ALBA 20 May.
Pine Warbler: at feeder Malta 28 Mar; 5 reports of singles.
Prairie Warbler: arr Gallupville 24 Apr; max 6 Livingston 8 May.
Palm Warbler: 9 reports 13 Apr-2 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 12 May; Bog Meadow Trail SARA 16 May; only reports.
Blackpoll Warbler: 5 reports 19-27 May.
Cerulean Warbler: continues at SISP.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr PISM 24 Apr; max 4 Ancram 24 May.
Am. Redstart: 26 reports 29 Apr-30 May; max 17 Ancram 24 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Blossom Hill Rd T Coeymans ALBA 16, 19 May; Holt Preserve T Coeymans ALBA 19 May; 2 Ancram 24 May.
Ovenbird: max 13 Taghkanic 14 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 4 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 7 May; 5 reports of singles.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Vly Creek T New Scotland 11 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Mourning Warbler: Partridge Run WMA 13 May; Copake 27 May; only reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 29 Bog Meadow Trail SARA 17 May.
Hooded Warbler: 2 m Holt Preserve T Coeymans ALBA 13-24 May; Beaver

Dam Rd T New Scotland ALBA 19 May.
Wilson's Warbler: 6 reports 7-27 May.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Bear Swamp
24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 T Ancram 18
May; 36 reports of singles.
E. Towhee: max 19 T Copake 27 May.
Chipping Sparrow: max 18 T Gallatin
29 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Amsterdam
6 Mar; last Amsterdam 20 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Ghent 31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: Saratoga National
Cemetery 24 Apr; Gansevoort 12 May;
6+ SCA 26 May.
Savannah Sparrow: max 8 T Ancram 25
May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: FtE 25 Apr;
Frederick Rd T Guilderland 19 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: Dowmont Rd FtE
21 May; not present SNHP.
Fox Sparrow: arr Scotia 25 Mar; max 10
FR 8 Apr.
Song Sparrow: max 16 T Copake 28
May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Ancram 24 May,
only report.
Swamp Sparrow: arr Schenectady 13
Apr; max 16 BCM 22 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 VF 3
May; last Austerlitz 18 May.
Lapland Longspur: SCA 28 Apr
(George Hanson).
Snow Bunting: 2 Waterford GE plant 7

Mar; 6 T Florida MONT 7 Mar; 4
Snooks Corners Rd T Florida MONT 7
Mar; 100 T Livingston SCHO 10 Mar.
N. Cardinal: max 15 Brunswick 7 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Rotterdam
23 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: 20 reports of singles.
Bobolink: numerous FtE, farm fields
ALBA, COLU, MONT, RENS, also
SNHP 5 May thru; max 15 T Taghkanic
16 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr Rotterdam 31 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 29 BCM 16 Apr;
max 30 BCM 25 Apr; last 5 BCM 2 May.
Orchard Oriole: Claverack 1 May; FR
2, 3, 5, 8, 19 May; Taghkanic 14 May;
Bulls Head Rd T Florida MONT 14 May.
Baltimore Oriole: max 7 Ancram 25
May.
Purple Finch: max 24 Gallupville 30
Mar.
Red Crossbill: heard over JL 23 Mar, 2,
8 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: 11 Cherry
Plain area RENS 16 Mar; 13 Fox Hill Rd
SARA 18 Mar; pair Colgate L T Jewett
GREE 31 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: Yatesville Rd T Root
MONT 15 Mar (TP).
Pine Siskin: max 22 Cherry Plain area
RENS 16 Mar; widely reported in small
numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: max 25 Wardsboro
Rd T Hague 2, 3 Apr.

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