

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for spring 2002 was characterized by weirdness, with early high temperatures, a drought, an ice storm and a very late snowstorm. As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 36.3° F, 2° above normal, with 39% sunshine. Precipitation totaled a slightly above normal 3.56", with 8.7" of snow and ice, much of it falling in a crippling ice storm on 26 March. April's mean temperature was 48.9°, 2.5° above normal, with 49% sunshine. There was only 2.51" of precipitation, 0.74" below normal. There was a heat wave beginning on the 11th, which peaked 15–17 April, with highs of 80°–85°, resulting in early leaf-out and budding of vegetation. Things cooled down significantly in late April, and May was cool, cloudy and rainy, averaging 55.0°, 3.1° below normal, with 49% sunshine. Rainfall totaled 4.55", 0.88" above normal.

Local birders participating in Century Runs on 18 May were demoralized by an unforecasted snow storm, which dropped 2.2" of snow at Albany and greater amounts at higher elevations. The snow began early in the morning and lasted virtually the entire day. This is the latest measurable snowfall since record keeping began in 1795. As might be expected, feeders were heavily used by both resident birds and newly-arrived migrants, but finding singing birds was a real challenge. I suspect that few birds were negatively impacted by the bad weather, since the following day was warm and clear.

As with last year, it is difficult to say whether these weather extremes had any real effect on migration. Large raptors were in short supply, reflecting the reduced vole population, but high numbers of kestrels were noted in several locations. Arrival dates in general were about as usual. As with the past few years, there were no notable fallout days.

Speaking of the one that got away.....Bob Yunick reported a conversation with a non-birding acquaintance who had an unusual hummingbird at his feeder in Corinth in May. The bird appeared on two different days and was described as at least half again the size of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, several of which were frequenting the same feeder. It had an exceptionally long, straight bill compared with the Ruby-throats. The bird appeared all green, darker on the back than a Ruby-throat, and lime green on the underside. Since the bird was not photographed or collected, one can only speculate about what species it was, other than something other than a Ruby-throat.

Regional observers reported a total of 211 species, down from last year's 221. This total included 24 waterfowl, 12 hawks, 14 shorebirds, four gulls, 28 warblers, 12 sparrows and seven finches. Rarities sighted during the period included **Great Cormorant**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Black Vulture**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, probable **Barn Owl**, **White-eyed Vireo**, probable **Varied Thrush** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs SARA; CL – Collins L SCHE; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward WASH; FtM – Fort Miller WASH; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PP – Papscanee Preserve RENS; RL – Round L SARA; ScCA – Schenectady Co. Airport; SISP – Schodack I SP RENS (formerly Castleton I SP); SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P SARA; TP – John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr 6 Sacandaga Res 12 Mar; 4 over BMT 13 Apr; 9 reports of singles.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Stockport 10 Mar; 11 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 NB 5 Mar; max 24 CL 15 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr and max 3 CL 8 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Chatham 15 Apr; max 20 RL 30 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1-2 Coxsackie 29 Mar-11 May.

Am. Bittern: only 6 reports of singles.

Least Bittern: Schodack Marshes 11 May; VF 26 May; not reported from BCM.

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

Great Egret: Hillsdale 21 Apr; Stillwater 2 May; Jefferson 28 May.

Green Heron: 17 reports of singles.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Sparrowbush Rd Latham 6 May.

GLOSSY IBIS: RL 18 May (RH); first since 1997.

BLACK VULTURE: TP 25 May (Mike Crevier *fide* RG).

Turkey Vulture: arr 14 Ravena 7 Mar; max 20-30 Latham 29 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 3000+ Durkeetown Rd FtE 27 Mar; 1000 Fisher Rd T Glen MONT 27 Mar.

Canada Goose: no large numbers reported.

Brant: 300+ over NB 21 May; only report.

Mute Swan: 4 NL 29 Mar; 10 Bell's Pd COLU 16 Apr.

Wood Duck: max 20+ FtM 7 Apr; 20+ Sharon Springs 7 Apr; reported in good numbers.

Gadwall: arr CL 27 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: arr NR 3 Mar; max 20 Vosburgh Marsh 15 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 100+ Schodack Creek 14 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 4 VF 12 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 36 VF 3 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 33 NR 24 Mar;
 30 Vosburgh Marsh 15 Apr.
Canvasback: Cossackie 4 Apr; only
 report.
Redhead: no reports.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 50 Queechy L T
 Canaan COLU 5 Mar.
Greater Scaup: arr 4 Catskill 10 Mar; few
 reports.
Lesser Scaup: arr 6 NB 4 Apr; 5 NL 6
 Apr; 2 CL 15 Apr; only reports.
White-winged Scoter: NB 1 Apr.
Bufflehead: arr L7 3 Mar.
Common Goldeneye: max 60 Stillwater
 14 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: arr Papsweeney Creek
 1 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CL 28 Mar;
 only report.
Ruddy Duck: 18 NL 15 Mar; 20 NL 6
 Apr; 10 TR 27 Apr; only reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 4 Geoffrey's Pd COLU 29
 Apr; 12 Apr, 18 May reports of singles.
N. Harrier: max 3-4 T Florida MONT 1
 Mar; 3 FtE 6 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 MONT 21
 Mar; 26 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 17 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: W Glenville 13 Mar; JL 19
 Mar; T Florida MONT 21 Mar; T Glen
 MONT 27 Mar; Pack Forest WARR 16
 Apr; Austerlitz 22 May; only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 9 reports of
 singles.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Palenville 13
 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 12-16 T Florida
 MONT 1 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: S Rensselaer 1
 Mar; only report.
Am. Kestrel: max 17 banded MONT 10
 Apr (RY); 40 reports of singles.
Merlin: no reports.
Peregrine Falcon: Rogers I COLU 3 Mar;
 near Minaville 11 Apr; Valatie 1 May;

Clifton Park 30 May; nesting Dunn
 Memorial Bridge ALBA and Castleton
 Bridge.
Wild Turkey: max 50 W Taghkanic 9
 Mar.
Virginia Rail: max 4 BCM 18 Apr.
Sora: VF 14 May; NR 18 May; BCM 21
 May; only reports.
Com. Moorhen: Knickerbocker Rd T
 Schaghticoke RENS 30 Mar; VF 18 May;
 3 VF 28 May; only reports.
Am. Coot: NL 17 Mar; only report.
Semipalmated Plover: present VF 14
 May; Glenville 16 May; only reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Canajoharie
 24 Apr; only 5 reports of singles.
Lesser Yellowlegs: only 3 reports of
 singles.
Solitary Sandpiper: 11 reports of singles.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 NR 1 May; 13
 reports of singles.
Upland Sandpiper: Ames SCHO 13 Apr;
 3 ScCA 29 Apr; only reports.
Red Knot: NB 21 May (RG).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 BMT 12
 May; only report.
Least Sandpiper: Ghent 1 May; 2-3
 Schodack Marshes 11 May; 15+ CL 20
 May; only reports.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 25 Schodack I
 21 May (Will Yandik).
Com. Snipe: max 24 Canajoharie 24 Apr.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: fem CL 19
 May (Kurt Weiskotten).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 NR 4 Apr; CL 15
 Apr. 1 May; 3 Catskill Creek 1 May.
Ring-billed Gull: max 600 Catskill 10
 Mar.
Caspian Tern: 2 CL 29 Apr; NB 12 May.
Common Tern: 3 NB 15 Apr; Ooms Pd
 COLU 11 May.
Black Tern: VF 15 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5 reports of singles.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Taghkanic 11
 May; Claverack 23 May; SISP 29 May;
 only reports.

BARN OWL: suspected pr FtE based on second-hand report (*fide* RY).

E. Screech-Owl: only 8 reports.

Barred Owl: 13 reports of singles.

Short-eared Owl: FtE 24 Mar; Clapper Rd ALBA 25 Mar; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Com. Nighthawk: CL 18 May; 2 NB 23 May; VF 26 May; 2 E Taghkanic 26 May; only reports.

Whip-poor-will: Cairo Round Top GREE 19 May; only report.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 17 at feeders Wardsboro T Hague 29 May (RL); 35 banded JL plus 28 returns May (RY).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 31 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Austerlitz 21 May; 27 reports of singles.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Austerlitz 15 May; 26 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 19 SISP 28 May; 12 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Taghkanic 27 May.

Alder Flycatcher: max 4 BMT 27 May.

Willow Flycatcher: only 7 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 Austerlitz 14 May; 7 Ghent 28 May; 17 reports of singles.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 Austerlitz 14 May; 24 reports of singles.

E. Kingbird: 22 reports of singles.

N. Shrike: Jefferson 1 Mar; T Glen MONT 21 Mar-4 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Claverack 24 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 15 reports of singles.

Blue-headed Vireo: 21 reports of singles.

Warbling Vireo: max 8 SISP 29 May; 20 reports of singles.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 10 Austerlitz 21 May.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Purple Martin: 8-10 SL 30 May; only report.

Tree Swallow: max 100+ TR 27 Apr.

Bank Swallow: 30+ nest holes Rensselaer 22 May.

Cliff Swallow: CL 1 May; Gansevoort 17 May; only reports.

Brown Creeper: first singing BMT 13 Mar.

Carolina Wren: 17 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: 1 report in Mar; 7 in Apr; 3 in May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Schenectady 3 Apr.

Veery: max 33 SISP 29 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Austerlitz 16 May (BC).

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

Swainson's Thrush: max 3 Schodack 17 May; 4 reports of singles.

Wood Thrush: max 21 Austerlitz 29 May.

VARIED THRUSH: 1 probable Greenwich 25 Mar, coming to feeder for several days (*fide* BP).

Gray Catbird: max 20 SISP 29 May.

N. Mockingbird: 14 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: 19 reports of singles.

Cedar Waxwing: max c 90 Ghent 9 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr PP 5 May; 6 singing SNHP 16 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: SNHP 28 May (G/K Hanson).

Lawrence's Warbler: Thompson L SP 24 May (RB).

Brewster's Warbler: SNHP 16 May.

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Saratoga Spa SP 20 May; SISP 25 May; Ghent 27 May; only reports.

Nashville Warbler: only 8 reports 5-18 May.

N. Parula: 13 reports 11-23 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 13 Austerlitz 16 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 13 reports 5-21 May.

Cape May Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 11 May; VF 23 May; only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 reports 4-31 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 29 reports 28 Apr-31 May; max 8 Austerlitz 14 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: NB 16 May (RG); NYSARC requested.

Blackburnian Warbler: 10 reports 11-28 May; max 3 Pack Forest WARR 19 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 Austerlitz 21 May.

Pine Warbler: 11 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: arr Greenport 4 May; max 5 SNHP 16 May.

Palm Warbler: 8 reports Apr-4 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Gansevoort 17 May; 11 L7 18 May; Nutten Hook 19 May; T Schodack P 20 May; only reports.

Blackpoll Warbler: 17 reports 16-30 May; max 5 Ghent 27 May.

Cerulean Warbler: T Schodack P 28 May; 5 SISP 29 May.

Black-and-White Warbler: 18 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: 22 reports 15 Apr-31 May; max 17 Austerlitz 30 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Blossom Hill Rd T Coeymans ALBA 18 May; Austerlitz 21 May; 2 NB 23 May; 2 Ghent 27 May.

Ovenbird: max 14 Ghent 28 May.

N. Waterthrush: 15 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Indian Kill 13 Apr; max 5 Vly Creek 6 May; 19 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: NB 22 May; Ramshorn Creek Preserve 22 May; Jefferson 24 May; only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 12 Austerlitz 16 May.

Hooded Warbler: FR 17 May; Beaver Dam Rd T New Scotland ALBA 18 May.

Wilson's Warbler: 11 reports 5-21 May.

Canada Warbler: only 4 singles.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Ghent 28 May;

23 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 17 Austerlitz 17 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 23 Wardsboro Rd T Hague WARR 17 Mar; last RENS 27 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: max 12 Austerlitz 16 May.

Field Sparrow: arr Ghent 6 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Brookview 14 May; Gansevoort 27 Apr; 2 SCA 15 May; Rt 13 WASH 18 May; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Austerlitz 7 May; only report.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 NB 15 Mar; max 9 Grapeville 4 Apr; 26 reports of singles.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Taghkanic 4 May; 2 SHNP 16 May; only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: arr BMT 9 Apr; max 10 Vosburgh Marsh 14 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10-12 Schodack Marshes 11 May; last Austerlitz 19 May.

Lapland Longspur: no reports.

Snow Bunting: no reports.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr New Salem 14 Apr.

Bobolink: numerous farm fields ALBA COLU MONT RENS WARR WASH after 4 May; max 15 Austerlitz 15 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: c 4000 T Florida MONT 1 Mar; 1000+ Papsscanee area 14 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Florida MONT 21 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Knickerbocker Rd T Schaghticoke RENS 30 Mar; max 65 BMT 13 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: Waterford 22 May; ad and 1st yr m VF 19-31 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 8 Austerlitz 15 May.

Pine Grosbeak: heard Poolsburg 24 Mar (PC).

Purple Finch: max 72 Wardsboro Rd T Hague WARR 25 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: m Delmar 4-5 Mar; 3 Riparius 14 Apr.

Common Redpoll: c 80 Papscanee Creek
RENS 14 Mar; 500 Denice Rd T Florida
MONT 21 Mar (TP).
Pine Siskin: max 12 Thurman 17 Apr;

widely reported in small numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: max c 35 Riparius 10
Mar; 15-20 Jefferson 12 Mar.