

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring 2007 can be characterized as mostly cool and seasonably wet. March was slow to warm up, with 21 days exhibiting some form of rain, drizzle, or snow. The two-day snowstorm on 17-18 March dropped 13" on Albany International Airport, which remained on the ground in some areas until the end of the month. After the 20th, daily maximum temperatures climbed into the 50s and the month ended 3.5° cooler than average. April was also chilly, 2.3° below average, with a significant storm 15-16 April that brought snow, ice, and finally 2.26" of rain. The last frost occurred on 11 April. May ended 2.2° warmer than average, with moderate winds and a few rain showers.

Waterfowl migration occurred quickly in late March, with few surprises save the 200 Brant that touched down on the Hudson River near Coeymans, Albany County. A Barrow's Goldeneye appeared briefly in Stillwater in mid-March, and nine Common Loons on Saratoga Lake represent a maximum rarely seen in Region 8.

By far the most unusual species of the season was reported by Larry Federman and several other birders on an Audubon-sponsored bird walk at the Ramshorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Greene County. Two **Anhingas** soared on thermals high over the Hudson River. The troupe observed them for seven minutes until the birds soared out of view—appropriately—towards the South. From my brief search of records, the birds are a county first and possibly a first for Region 8.

Black Vultures continue to pad many Regional birders' checklists; seven appeared in four different counties this spring. Bonaparte's Gulls seemed scarce this season, but a Lesser Black-backed Gull lingering on the shores of Coeymans in late March was a nice find. Shorebird migration this spring was nothing to peep about.

Passerine migration occurred roughly on schedule, with large nocturnal movements on the calm nights of 24 April, 29 April, and 3 May. Regional birders sent in many reports from Saratoga, Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia counties completing a full list of warblers. Many seasonal firsts came in from the southern counties and particularly from Chad Witko in Claverack, Columbia County, who must have sat on his rooftop for most of the season logging a number of freshly-arrived neotropics as they fell from their night flights onto his checklist. Special thanks to Chad and the dozens of other birders who sent in their seasonal firsts to compilers such as the Hudson-Mohawk Birdline. These data, compiled over long periods of time, provide a valuable service to current and future ornithologists.

Allan and Phyllis Wirth of Taghkanic, Columbia County, photographed a crisp male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that visited their feeder in late March. Other Regional feeder watchers reported very large flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos this spring, particularly in suburban areas. Reports of flocks ranging from 40-90 came in from many counties. North county feeder watchers in Fulton, Washington, and Saratoga counties reported several Red Crossbills, while Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks remained scarce.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Pal Balcom, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, Bill Cook, Sue Edischer, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Dave Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Honey Hollen, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Lucy Newman, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Penrick, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick, Marian Zimmerman.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; BCM – Black Creek Marsh ALBA; CHA – T Chatham COLU; CLA – T Claverack COLU; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; LIV – T Livingston COLU; PET – T Petersburg RENS; PI – Papscanee Island RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 20 Easton WASH 14 Mar; 13 PI 15 Mar; 75 New Baltimore GREE 1 Apr; 6 PI 2 Apr; Sod Farm SARA 20 May.

Brant: 200 Coeymans ALBA 27 May.

Wood Duck: arr FtE 18 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr VF 1 Apr.

N. Shoveler: 2 VF 1 Apr; 7 Tomhannock Res RENS 19 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr Albany 14 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 40 PI 3 Apr.

Canvasback: Stockport COLU 23 Mar.

Redhead: VF 1 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: Germantown COLU 10 Apr; Round L SARA 19 May.

Long-tailed Duck: Ballston L SARA 15 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Stillwater SARA 13 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: Germantown COLU 11 Apr; Galway L SARA 14 Apr; 3 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr Halfmoon SARA 31 Mar.

Com. Loon: 3 Collins Pk SCHE 2 Apr; central SARA 7 Apr; Ballston L 15 Apr; Collins L SCHE 19 Apr; max 9 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr; Broadalbin FULT 28 May; Alcove Res ALBA 5 May; COX Res 6 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Albany 14 Mar.

Horned Grebe: 2 VF 13 Mar; Round L SARA 24 Apr; Mayfield FULT 28 May; Alcove Res ALBA 6 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Ballston L SARA 15 Apr; Round L SARA 24 Apr-21 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr COX boat launch GREE 25 Mar.

ANHINGA: 2 HR at Ramshorn-Livingston Preserve GREE 2 May, county record (LF, *et al*), report to NYSARC.

Am. Bittern: arr Meadowdale ALBA 20 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr BCM 29 Apr.

Great Egret: Gansevoort SARA 26 Mar; Wilton SARA 8 Apr.

Green Heron: arr LIV 27 Apr.

Black Vulture: 2 Coeymans ALBA 15 Mar; Troy RENS 29 Mar; Glens Falls WARR 2 Apr; Greenport COLU 26 Apr; L Taghkanic SP COLU 8 May; Rapp Rd ALBA 14 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr HR COLU 3 Apr.

N. Harrier: 10 Argyll WASH 12 Mar.

N. Goshawk: AUS 24 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CHA 6 Mar; Ravena ALBA 25 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr AUS 22 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: COX flats 4 Mar; Easton WASH 18 Mar.

Merlin: PET 21 Mar; Saratoga Springs SARA 31 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge ALBA 4 Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr BCM 1 Apr; max 10 BCM 22 Apr.

Sora: arr Germantown COLU 23 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr LIV 27 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr VF 28 Apr.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Watervliet SARA 18 May.

Killdeer: arr Stillwater SARA 15 Mar.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr New Salem ALBA 29 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr AUS 25 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr PI 14 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr VF 1 May.

Upland Sandpiper: Ames MONT 31 May, only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Stanton Pd ALBA 19 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Ghent COLU 12 May.

Dunlin: PI 6 May; Wrights Loop SARA 20 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 30 Watervliet Res SARA 18 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr CLA 15 Mar; max 21 PI 14 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr CLA 14 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: COX Boat Launch GREE 21 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: last Broadalbin FULT 28 Apr.

Caspian Tern: 2 HR Halfmoon SARA 29 Apr; Castleton RENS 22 May.

Black Tern: arr VF 2 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 10 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr PET 10 May.

Short-eared Owl: 6 Argyll WASH 12 Mar.

Great Horned Owl: Greenfield SARA 15 Apr, nesting in heron rookery.

N. Saw-whet Owl: VF 31 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Cohoes ALBA 19 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr Coeymans ALBA 8 May.

Chimney Swift: arr CLA 29 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr CLA 1 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr PET 4 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 19 May; Clermont COLU 19 May; Powell Sanctuary CHA 28 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Rotterdam SCHE 30 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Troy RENS 27 May; Meadowdale ALBA 29 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr VF 15 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr CHA 12 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr PET 30 Apr.

E. Phoebe: arr Gansevoort SARA 5 Mar.

E. Kingbird: arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 29 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Colonie ALBA 5 May.

N. Shrike: Easton WASH 18 Mar; Gansevoort SARA 27 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 28 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr PET 24 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr VF 24 Apr.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr CLA 10 May.

Purple Martin: Saratoga L SARA 19 May.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr COX grasslands 23 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Troy RENS 22 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr Gansevoort SARA 12 May.

Barn Swallow: arr sod farm SARA 22 Apr.

House Wren: arr Troy RENS 24 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr BCM 24 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: Meadowdale ALBA 4 Apr; max 80 BCM 11 Apr, high count.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BCM 3 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr VF 27 Apr.
Veery: arr PET 8 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Mayfield FULT 28 Apr.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Clermont COLU 12 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr E Greenbush RENS 10 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr CLA 29 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr CLA 26 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr BCM 19 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 5 Wrights Loop Stillwater SARA 26 Mar; Greenport COLU 29 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr LIV 30 Apr.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Schodack I SP RENS 13 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: CHA 12 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: Five Rivers Delmar ALBA 9 May; Ghent COLU 20 May; E Durham GREE 24 May, all reports.
Tennessee Warbler: arr New Salem ALBA 29 Apr.
Nashville Warbler: arr VF 30 Apr.
N. Parula: arr Broadalbin FULT 11 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Albany 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr BCM 5 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr VF 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr BCM 5 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr AUS 4 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr CLA 23 Mar.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr CLA 23 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr VF 30 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr CLA 4 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr L Taghkanic SP 1 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Ghent COLU 25 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilton SARA 12 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr CHA 12 May.
Cerulean Warbler: Schodack I SP RENS 13 May; Powell Sanctuary CHA 26 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arrive Copake Rail Trail COLU 2 May.
Am. Redstart: arr VF 3 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Deer Mt GREE 13 May; Holt P ALBA 28 May.
Ovenbird: arr L Taghkanic SP 1 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr BCM 29 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LIV 5 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: VF 19 May; Palenville GREE 28 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Greenport COLU 7 May.
Hooded Warbler: New Salem ALBA 16 May; Holt P ALBA 27 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Saratoga National Park SARA 10 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Feller Rd LIV 10 May; Canaan COLU 12 May; Palenville GREE 23 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr BCM 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr Olana SP COLU 22 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr AUS 30 Mar.
Field Sparrow: arr LIV 11 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Saratoga National Cemetery SARA 22 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr 4 Saratoga National Cemetery SARA 22 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr CHA 12 May; Sharon Springs SCHO 31 May; Ames MONT 31 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: 5 Goodrich Rd colony SCHO 31 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr New Salem ALBA 5 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr CHA 1 Mar.
Dark-eyed Junco: 75 Burnt Hills ALBA 15 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 10 Northumberland SARA 5 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr CLA 17 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Queensbury SARA 27 Apr.
Bobolink: arr Taghkanic COLU 3 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr Taghkanic COLU 21 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Taghkanic COLU 19 Mar (A&PW).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 Stuyvesant COLU 19 Mar; VF 1 Apr; 12 PI 3 Apr; 10 BCM 3-19 Apr; max 50 Meadowdale ALBA 6 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr RENS tech park 1 May; Taghkanic COLU 7 May; BCM 9 May; Gallatin COLU 12 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Hillsdale COLU 4 May.
Purple Finch: max 8 Stony Creek WARR 1 Mar.
Red Crossbill: 6 Stony Creek WARR 1 Mar; 4 Blecker FULT 30 Mar; 4 Edinburg SARA 14 Apr.

Pine Siskin: 4 Edinburg SARA 14 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: CHA 21 Mar; PET 11
Apr; max 6 Edinburg SARA 2 May.

EXOTICS
Toulouse Goose: Ghent COLU 12 May.

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