

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Mostly clear conditions and variable temperatures characterize spring 2008. March ended 1.2° F cooler than average with 3.03 more inches of rain than average. The last significant snowstorm of the season, 4.3" at Albany International Airport, fell on the 28th. The Region began to dry out in April, which ended 5.3° warmer than average. Three days topped 80° causing an abrupt jumpstart to the phenology of all manner of plants. May in general was cool and dry. The last frost of the season occurred on the first of the month.

A few interesting waterfowl appeared in the Region, including a **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Schenectady. Few large flocks of Snow Geese landed in the Region, although two large flocks of Brant in May made up for this loss. As usual, sheltered regions of the Hudson River staged good numbers of Canvasback and Redhead. A **Eurasian Wigeon** at Vosburgh's Marsh and two Barrow's Goldeneyes are spring surprises.

Susan Scheck spotted a Snowy Egret in Claverack, likely a migrant that flew a bit far north. A single location maximum of 23 Wilson's Snipe in the same township is unusual for the Region as are Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitchers,

both spotted this year. Such species of shorebirds migrate up the Hudson every spring but are often overlooked due to their low abundance.

Migration occurred roughly on schedule with few surprises. Many first arrival sightings occur on Saturdays in May, correlating with birders' free time rather than weather conditions. There were few heavy nocturnal flights; birds instead seemed to trickle into the Region.

May Century Runs turned up a few unusual passerine species, including White-eyed Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and a **Clay-Colored Sparrow**, in Albany County. Hooded Warblers seemed particularly common this spring, reported from four new locations in the Region. The spring streak of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** continues this year, with a report by Alvin Breisch from New Scotland, Albany County.

Most populations of birds fluctuate normally, influenced by things such as prey abundance, global weather patterns, disease, and land use changes. Long-term monitoring of Rusty Blackbirds, however, shows a worrisome significant decline in virtually all regions of North America, particularly puzzling since the boreal forest is one of the most stable ecoregions. I take particular interest in tracking this species each spring and have included all Regional observations of this species below.

A spectacular winter finch season petered into early spring, with flocks of 100+ Common Redpolls reported and several Pine Siskins and a few lingering Pine Grosbeaks.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; BCM – Black Creek Marsh ALBA; CHA – T Chatham COLU; CL – Collins L, T Schnectady SCHE; CLA – T Claverack COLU; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HIL – T

Hillsdale COLU; HR – Hudson River; NIS – T Niskayuna SCHE; PET – T Petersburg RENS; PI – Papscanee Island RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:**

CL 14 Mar (BL).

Snow Goose: max 300 HR SARA 13 Mar.

Brant: 250 Ramshorn-Livingston P GREE 15 May; max 700 New Baltimore GREE 27 May.

Wood Duck: arr Stillwater SARA 8 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Vosburgh Marsh GREE 19 APR.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Troy RENS 21 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr COX grasslands 26 Mar.

N. Pintail: arr Copake COLU 2 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: arr HR SARA 10 Mar.

Canvasback: max 125 HR Cheviot COLU 25 Mar.

Redhead: max 45 HR Cheviot COLU 25 Mar.

Long-tailed Duck: Halfmoon SARA 3-6 Apr; 2 Saratoga L 6 Apr; L George WARR 26 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Ft. Miller WASH 8 Mar; VF 16 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: VF 16 Mar; 2 NIS 27 Mar; 3 Meadowdale ALBA 28 Mar; max 11 Saratoga L 11 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr CHA 5 Apr.

RED-THROATED LOON: 2 Saratoga L 11 Apr.

Com. Loon: max 7 Saratoga L 6 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Schuylerville RENS 8 Mar.

Horned Grebe: 3 CL 11-12 Apr; max 8 New Baltimore GREE 11 Apr; Alcove Res ALBA 17 May.

Red-necked Grebe: Lock 7 MR 5 Apr; 2 CL 5 Apr; Galway L SARA 27 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Catskill GREE 25 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr BCM 3 May.

Least Bittern: VF 10 May; COX grasslands 25 May, unusual location.

Great Egret: arr VF 12 Apr.

SNOWY EGRET: CLA 27 Apr (SS).

Green Heron: arr Five Rivers ALBA 19 Apr.

Black Vulture: 2 Meadowdale ALBA 10-24 Apr; 3 NYS Thruway Exit 24 ALBA 16 Apr; Greenport COLU 30 Apr; HIL 6 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr CLA 10 Apr.

N. Harrier: BCM 15 May.

N. Goshawk: Thatcher SP ALBA 15 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Ballston Spa 21 Mar; Schodack RENS 1 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Ballston L SARA 20 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 8 Northumberland SARA 17 Mar.

Merlin: Ravena ALBA 6 Mar; max 4 MONT 14 Mar; Greenport COLU 4-5 May; Schodack RENS 10 May.

Virginia Rail: arr 2 Rotterdam SCHE 18 Apr.

Sora: arr VF 23 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr BCM 3 May.

Am. Coot: arr Cohoes ALBA 25 Mar.

Black-bellied Plover: NIS 31 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr VF 15 May.

Killdeer: arr Livingston COLU 6 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr PI 12 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr NIS 3 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 5 Rivers ALBA 26 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr CHA 19 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr MONT 17 May; Ames MONT 29 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: Cohoes ALBA 17 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Stanton Pd ALBA 17 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr PI 8 May.

Dunlin: NIS 30 Apr; Watervliet ALBA 17 May; 12 L George WARR 26 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 40 Round L SARA 25 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr VF 21 Mar; max 23 CLA 3 Apr, high count.

Am. Woodcock: arr Livingston COLU 6 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 13 Saratoga L SARA 11 Apr; 15 VF 12 Apr; CL 12 Apr; 30+ NIS 29 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: COX 3 Apr.

Com. Tern: Saratoga L 17 May.

Black Tern: 5 Saratoga L 17 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: BCM 17 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 Ramshorn-Livingston P 15 May.

Short-eared Owl: COX grasslands 12 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Albany 20 May.

Whip-poor-will: 3 Coeymans ALBA 26 May.

Chimney Swift: arr 5 Rivers ALBA 1 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Troy RENS 4 May.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Berne ALBA 5 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr HIL 16 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Rensselaerville RENS 11 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr BCM 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr PET 27 Apr.
E. Phoebe: arr VF 23 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Austerlitz 5 May.
E. Kingbird: arr CL 1 May.
N. Shrike: Charlton SARA 9 Mar; CHA 14 Mar; MONT 14 Mar.
White-eyed Vireo: Glenville SCHE 21 May (LR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Austerlitz COLU 5 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Meadowdale ALBA 19 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr VF 27 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Wilton SARA 24 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Taghkanic COLU 23 Apr.
Purple Martin: Saratoga L 17 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr CL 11 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr CLA 19 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr CL 2 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Saratoga L 11 Apr.
House Wren: arr Albany 20 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr BCM 3 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CLA 29 Mar.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr HIL 10 Apr.
Veery: arr VF 3 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr HIL 3 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr CLA 10 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr PI 3 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Troy RENS 23 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr Livingston COLU 13 Apr.
Am. Pipit: Rensselaerville RENS 3 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 3 FtE 3 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 24 Apr.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 5 Rivers ALBA 25 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: Wilton SARA 24 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Albany 22 May.
Orange-Crowned Warbler: Bennett Hill ALBA 22 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Clermont COLU 29 Apr.
N. Parula: arr HIL 3 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr VF 22 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr PET 27 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Clermont COLU 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr COLU 17 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr VF 3 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Churchtown COLU 27 Mar.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Gallatin COLU 19 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Germantown COLU 8 May.
Pine Warbler: arr NIS 13 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr Schodack RENS 7 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Greenport COLU 15 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Schodack RENS 10 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Schodack I RENS 8 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Gallatin COLU 19 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr PI 3 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Coeymans ALBA 17 May.
Ovenbird: arr Clermont COLU 6 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr Taghkanic COLU 10 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr PET 15 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: Mayfield FULT 26 May; PET 31 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Saratoga L 20 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: New Salem RENS 15 May; Clarksville ALBA 15 May; New Scotland ALBA 17 May; Thatcher SP ALBA 17 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 5 Rivers ALBA 10 May.
Canada Warbler: arr VF 15 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Greenport COLU 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr HIL 13 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Voorheesville ALBA 13 Apr.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Brunswick RENS 21 May (BW), photographed.
Field Sparrow: arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 10 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Northumberland SARA 16 Mar.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Greenport COLU 16 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Saratoga Airport SARA 16 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Austerlitz COLU 4 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr VF 8 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Schodack RENS 16 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 40 Gansevoort SARA 11 Mar; last New Salem RENS 15 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Colonie ALBA 27 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Austerlitz COLU 12 May.

Bobolink: arr Taghkanic COLU 5 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr CHA 5 Apr.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: New Scotland ALBA 27 Mar (AB).

Rusty Blackbird: arr New Baltimore GREE 6 Mar; VF 27 Mar; NIS 1 Apr; max 30 VF 3 Apr; 2 Rensselaerville RENS 13 Apr; PI 17 Apr; Black Creek Marsh ALBA 20 Apr; 9 COX grasslands 22 Apr; 3 Black Creek Marsh ALBA 24 Apr; VF 27 Apr; pr Mayfield FULT 26 May, all reports.

Orchard Oriole: arr Charlton, SARA 4 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr VF 27 Apr.

Pine Grosbeak: 12 Ballston Spa SARA 6 Mar; 2 Troy RENS 9 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: max 100 Glens Falls WARR 3 Apr; max 100 Providence SARA 3 Apr; last Galway SARA 13 Apr.

Pine Siskin: 2 Gansevoort SARA 7 Apr; 2 Galway SARA 21 Apr; PET 27 Apr; 3 Loudonville ALBA 5 May; max 15 South Glens Falls WARR 5 May; 12 Troy RENS 20 May; E Greenbush RENS 21 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 6 Providence SARA 6 Apr; 6 Ballston L SARA 20 Apr; 4 Galway SARA 30 Apr.

CORRIGENDA

The January 2007 (57:1) R8 report mentions 8 **Hudsonian Godwits** collected by the NYDEC wildlife pathology unit. Contrary to reports by this publication, WAMC radio, and the Albany Times Union, these specimens have not been preserved in the NYS museum.