

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Unusually warm temperatures and somewhat dry weather characterize spring 2010. March ended 6.7° F above average at Albany International Airport. April continued warm, reaching 87° on the 7th and finishing 5.3° above average. May ended 3.1° above average, with 10 days reaching temperatures above 80°. By the third week of April, oaks, maples, and other canopy trees reached full leaf out, and hickory canopies developed fully by 1 May. Perhaps due to the somewhat dry weather, insects did not emerge earlier than average, although many fruits and berries began to ripen two to three weeks earlier than average.

John Hershey observed an “odd duck,” probably a Northern Pintail x Mallard hybrid in March, the one waterfowl highlight in an otherwise typical spring waterfowl migration. An unusually late Red-throated Loon was seen in Cossackie, Greene County, tarrying until 22 May. Six Horned Grebes observed on Saratoga Lake at the same time is an unusual single-location maximum for our Region.

While canoeing, Owen Brown observed an Anhinga taking off from a 40-acre beaver pond in Oppenheim, Fulton County. He reports that the bird rose, circling very high to catch a thermal and left the immediate area. Rare in our Region, nevertheless a number of Anhinga reports of varying quality have surfaced in recent springs. Few of these reports manage to muster NYSARC approval, so observers of potential spring Anhinga overshoots are encouraged to take great pains to document them, with photos if possible. Reports should take care to make a convincing argument that they are not cormorants, which can

superficially resemble Anhingas when viewed from certain angles or when soaring.

On 27 May, Rich Guthrie found a Red-necked Phalarope at the Greene County Industrial Development Area on the former Cossackie grasslands, at an unassuming man-made drainage pond that has yielded good avian surprises to the dedicated troupe of birders who check it frequently.

I received an unprecedented number of Sandhill Crane reports this spring. Joan Esposito of Hillsdale, New York, photographed one that staged for several days on the small wetland on Route 23. Scattered other reports occurred in May, and two individuals appeared at Vischer's Ferry on 15 May. Although still uncommon, we can now expect at least one or two sightings per year in our Region as this species expands its breeding locations in the State.

With such an early leaf out this year, in mid April one could walk through the Region's forests, their canopies already full and lush, and search in vain for any migrants. The experience had the arresting and eerie feeling of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Despite the full canopy and caterpillars to eat, the neotropical migrants were not any earlier than average springs; it is clear that birds respond to many variables when initiating migration other than the simple presence of leaves. The migrants did eventually arrive, of course, but roughly on dates similar to previous springs. Some short-distance migrants such as Gray Catbird, Eastern Pheobe, and several species of swallows were early, but most species of birds were not. Two exceptions are record early dates for Pine Warbler (27 March) and Blackpoll Warbler (6 May).

From Matt Young, we learned of both Type 1 and 2 Red Crossbills with dependent young at the end of May at Burnt-Rossman State Forest near West Fulton (his thanks to Tom Williams). Type 1 were present at this location from August of 2009 to at least early June 2010. The birds first fed on eastern larch, shifted to white pine in the late fall/early winter period, and then were seen feeding on red pine seeds and Norway spruce buds in the April to June period.

Finally, a correction to the fall 2009 report: there were two sightings of Red Phalarope last fall that I inadvertently combined into one. As a result, the Red Phalarope described in the seasonal narrative does not match the one mentioned under the species accounts. For the record, one phalarope was observed on 2 October in Fort Miller, Washington County as described in the narrative, and a second bird appeared in East Greenbush, Rensselaer County on 17 October as noted in the species account. Thank you to Bill Lee, for pointing out this omission. Red Phalaropes are always rare in our Region and two sightings in one season is unprecedented.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh ALBA; BRH – Burnt-Rossman Hills SF SCHO; BRU – T Brunswick RENS; COH – T Cohoes ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson R; LIV – T Livingston COLU; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; PR – Partridge Run ALBA; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000+ HR at NBA 16 Mar.
Brant: max 300 New Scotland ALBA 17 Mar.
Wood Duck: arr Neiber Swamp LIV 4 Mar.
Gadwall: max 4 Four-mile Pt GREE 29 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: max 6 Collins L SCHE 10 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr VF 23 Mar.
N. Shoveler: max 6 VF 21 Mar.
N. Pintail: max 50 VF 14 Mar.
Canvasback: last Cheviot COLU 23 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 2 Ft. Miller WASH 4 Mar; 4 Collins L 24 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: COX Boat Launch 21 Mar.
Black Scoter: COX Boat Launch 18 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: NBA12 Apr; Saratoga L SARA 13 May.
Ruddy Duck: arr VF 18 Mar.
Ruffed Grouse: Wilton SARA 11 Apr; max 5 Rensselaerville RENS 18 Apr; Middle Grove SARA 24 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: COX Boat Launch 22 May, late.
Com. Loon: 2 Mechanicville SARA12 Mar; NBA 8 Apr; L George WARR 16 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr VF 25 Mar.
Horned Grebe: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr, high single location maximum.
Red-necked Grebe: Papscaanee RENS 11 Apr.
Great Cormorant: max 3 HR at Cheviot COLU 21 Mar; last Tomhannock Res RENS 22 Apr.
ANHINGA: Oppenheim FULT 4 May (OB).
Am. Bittern: arr Neiber Swamp LIV 24 May; Sharon Springs SCHO 31 May.
Least Bittern: arr BCM 12 May.
Great Egret: Collins L SCHE 27 Mar; Clifton Park SARA 11 Apr.
Green Heron: arr Albany 23 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 VF 21 Apr.

Black Vulture: max 10 NBA 10 Mar; Johnstown Res FULT 26 May, unusual in that county.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Athens GREE 25 Mar.
N. Goshawk: Catskill GREE 5 Mar; PR 22 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Lock 19 SCHE 21 Mar; Stone Stores SCHO 11 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Schodack I RENS 3 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Florida MONT 6 Mar.
Golden Eagle: Greenport COLU 22 Mar; BRH 3 Apr; Albany 17-30 Apr.
Merlin: Five Rivers ALBA 8 Mar; 2 BRU 14 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr Chatham COLU 9 Apr.
Sora: arr BCM 12 May, declining.
Com. Moorhen: arr Albany 22 May.
Am. Coot: arr Neiber Swamp LIV 30 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE: Hillsdale COLU 4 May; Delmar ALBA 14 May; BCM 14-15 May; 2 VF 15 May, high count.
Black-bellied Plover: COH 27 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr SARA 5 May.
Killdeer: arr Meadowdale ALBA 5 Mar.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr NBA 21 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Neiber Swamp LIV 1 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Nassau RENS 12 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr VF 22 Apr.
Ruddy Turnstone: Halfmoon SARA 30 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr COH 3 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr COH 14 May.
Dunlin: COH 27 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr COX grasslands 21 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr LIV 6 Mar.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: COX grasslands IDA pond 25 May (RG).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr L George WARR 2 May; max 115 L George WARR 11 May.

Iceland Gull: COX Boat Launch 21 Mar.
Black Tern: arr COH 29 May.
Com. Tern: arr L George WARR 2 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 Catskill GREE 5 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 May.
Long-eared Owl: 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 18 Mar thru, nesting pr.
Short-eared Owl: max 9 Saratoga Battlefield SARA 6 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
Chimney Swift: arr BRU 22 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Albany 2 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Albany 2 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Catskill GREE 14 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr Albany 2 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Stillwater SARA 6 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr LIV 1 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Albany 2 May.
N. Shrike: Fuera Bush ALBA 3 Mar; Rensselaerville ALBA 11Mar; last Five Rivers ALBA 18 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Albany 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr PR 10 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr VF 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Greenport COLU 13 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Albany 1 May.
Purple Martin: L Lonely SARA 2 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BRU 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr LIV 19 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Chatham COLU 9 May.
Barn Swallow: arr COX grasslands 9 Apr.
House Wren: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 4 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr VF 9 Mar, record early.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Catskill GREE 3 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Schodack I RENS 11 Apr.
Veery: arr Albany 2 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Ghent COLU 7 May.
Wood Thrush: arr COX 24 Apr.
VARIED THRUSH: Wilson/Gansevoort 26-31 Mar (RHy).
Gray Catbird: arr Ghent COLU 25 March, early.
Brown Thrasher: arr Five Rives ALBA 10 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr LIV 1 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Claverack COLU 15 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr LIV 1 May.
N. Parula: arr VF 2 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr VF 21 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr LIV 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr PR 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr LIV 1 May; Five Rivers ALBA 8 May; NBA 9 May; Olana COLU 10 May; Albany 11 May; BRU 21 May, more common this year.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 2 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Claverack COLU 8 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BRH 24 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr VF 2 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Spencertown COLU 27 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr LIV 1 May.
Palm Warbler: arr NBA 4 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr LIV 6 May; Pine Bush ALBA 11 May; LIV 12 May; PR 16 May; Glenville SCHE 28 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr LIV 6 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Hannacroix ALBA 18 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr BRH 24 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr LIV 1 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
Ovenbird: arr Feller Rd LIV 2 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr LIV 1 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Ghent COLU 6 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr PR 16 May; max 7 BRH 23 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Troy 28 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr New Scotland ALBA 17 May; New Salem ALBA 21 May; Thatcher Park ALBA 22 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Ghent COLU 11 May.
Canada Warbler: arr VF 7 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr LIV 28 Mar.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Austerlitz COLU 1 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Five Rivers ALBA 20 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Germantown 11 Apr; Pine Bush ALBA 20 Apr; BRU 25 Apr; Saratoga Battlefield SARA 25 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr LIV 15 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Saratoga Airport SARA 18 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr Chatham COLU 20 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Petersburg RENS 1 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr LIV 2 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr BRU 25 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr E Greenbush RENS 1 May.

Bobolink: arr COX grasslands 2 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr Florida MONT 18 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Tomhannock Res RENS 21 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: arr Averill Park RENS 1 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Germantown COLU 30 Apr.

Red Crossbill: max 15 BRH 1Mar thru, nested, *intro.*

Com. Redpoll: 7 PR 7 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 2 Galway SARA 30 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: Gansevoort SARA 22-27 Mar.

CORRIGENDUM

The following observation was omitted from the fall 2009 report:

RED PHALAROPE: Ft. Miller WASH 2 Oct.