

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring 2013 began cooler than average with several small lingering snowstorms and ended mild and wet. March ended 1.2° F cooler than average, with 0.72 fewer inches of precipitation than average. Some of the most active snowstorms of the winter occurred in early March, although accumulations were few and widespread. April began with a few trace snow and ice storms and continued brisk, 1.9° degrees cooler than average. A blocking high settled over the Northeast in early May ushering in stable and sunny temperatures. Afterwards a stormier weather pattern brought in several inches of rain and some flooding to the Region. May ended 1.6° warmer than average, with 3 more inches of rain than average. The last frost in Albany occurred on 15 May.

Bob Yunick reported a disappointing winter and spring of roadside raptor banding. He reported scarce numbers of Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Rough-legged Hawks, which were reported in few numbers by others as well. A Golden Eagle in Hoosick on 2 March was the only unusual raptor of the season.

Spring migration occurred in dribbles due to a blocking high pressure system that lodged itself over the Northeast in early May. One could wander the area's forests in early May and struggle to find any neotropical migrants. On a typical year, spring migrants arrive first in the southern portion of the Region and move northward. This season, one was equally likely to find a first-of-the-season arrival in the foothills of the Adirondacks as the mid-Hudson Valley. Despite this weather pattern, 2013 migration continued a five-year trend of earlier-than-average arrivals for all combined species, including two new record early arrivals, Swainson's Thrush on 24 April and Scarlet Tanager on 22 April.

A few troupes of Sandhill Cranes were spotted staging in the Region this spring, and Kelly McKay found a **Wilson's Phalarope** in Schuylerville, Rensselaer County on 24 May.

Abundant numbers of Common Redpolls lingered at many of the feeders that were still stocked with seed by the loyal feeder watchers, and with some effort birders could catch one of the noisy flocks of Bohemian Waxwings that frequented the northern portion of the Region this season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson River; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Ft Miller

WASH 23 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 200 Five Rivers ALBA 30 Mar.

Brant: arr 165 Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 14 May.

CACKLING GOOSE (R8): Ft Miller WASH 24 Mar.

Tundra Swan: Mechanicville SARA 11 Apr.

Wood Duck: arr Easton WASH 5 Mar.

Gadwall: max 17 Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 15 Halfmoon SARA 29 Mar.

N. Shoveler: max 7 Stony Creek SARA 22 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 45 Vosburgh Marsh 2 Mar.

Canvasback: 2 Saratoga L SARA 26 Mar.

Redhead: Stillwater SARA 3-23 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 4 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 600 Saratoga L SARA 5 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: 3 Alcove Res ALBA 18 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 4 New Baltimore GREE 10 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Ft Miller WASH 23 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Cohoes ALBA 1-25 Mar; Vosburgh Marsh GREE 2 Mar

Ring-necked Pheasant: COX grasslands 13 Mar.

Com. Loon: max 9 Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Green I SARA 23 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr Latham ALBA 10 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: COX Boat Launch 27 Mar; Stockport COLU 14 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 3 Schodack RENS 3 Mar; 4 Embought Bay GREE 13 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr Five Rivers ALBA 15 Apr.

Least Bittern: BCM 17 May.

Great Egret: max 4 Clifton Pk SARA 13 Apr.

Green Heron: arr Troy RENS 17 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: HR COLU 11 May.

Black Vulture: max 5 Hudson COLU 2 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Voorheesville ALBA 28 Mar.
N. Goshawk: max 2 Saratoga SARA 21 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Niskayuna SCHE 10 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Five Rivers ALBA 13 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Hoosick RENS 2 Mar.
Virginia Rail: arr Saratoga SARA 8 Apr.
Sora: arr Nutton Hook COLU 16 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: COX grasslands 18 May; BCM 18 May.
Am. Coot: arr VF 7 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 2 Halfmoon SARA 1-23 Mar, 4 Ancram COLU 4 Mar; Averill Pk RENS 4 Apr.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Cohoes ALBA 14 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr HR WASH 23 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr HR SARA 8 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Collins L SCHE 12 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HR SARA 13 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: Ames MONT 16 Apr.
Least Sandpiper: arr HR SARA 3 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr; max 55 HR WASH 11 Apr (KM).
WILSON'S PHALAROPE (R8): Schuylerville RENS 24 May (KM).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Saratoga L SARA 12 Apr.
Iceland Gull: Halfmoon SARA 1 Mar; 2 Crescent ALBA 5-21 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Lock 7 SCHE 2 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Clifton Park SARA 11 Mar; Crescent SARA 20 Mar; Waterford SARA 21 Mar
Caspian Tern: Collins L SCHE 11-17 Apr.
Black Tern: arr Stanton Pd ALBA 18 May.
Com. Tern: 5 Coeymans ALBA 17 Apr; Saratoga L SARA 6 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Meadowdale ALBA 16 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Clifton P SARA 14 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 FtE 22 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Guilderland ALBA 21 May.
Whip-poor-will: max 2 Hillsdale COLU 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Albany 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Meadowdale ALBA 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Lock 7 SCHE 13 Apr.
Merlin: Wrights Loop SARA 23 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Daketown SARA 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Albany 22 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Saratoga Springs SARA 23 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 7 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Peebles I SARA 3 May.
E. Kingbird: arr HR WASH 9 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Greenport COLU 4 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr VF 14 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr Ghent COLU 25 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Ancram COLU 6 May; Saratoga Springs SARA 21 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Five Rivers ALBA 5 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Lock 7 SCHE 2 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr Lock 7 SCHE 30 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: max 4 Chatham COLU 3 May.
Barn Swallow: arr VF 9 Apr.
House Wren: arr Ghent COLU 13 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr Nutton Hook COLU 16 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr HR WASH 20 Apr.
Veery: arr Schodack I RENS 4 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Thatcher Pk ALBA 24 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Chatham COLU 2 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Lock 7 SCHE 4 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr West Sand L RENS 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 2 Niskayuna SCHE 2 Apr; max 19 Saratoga SARA 19 Apr; 4 Pine Bush ALBA 12 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R8): 14 Hoosick RENS 2 Mar; max 100 Queensbury SARA 22 Mar.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Easton WASH 9 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 100 Northumberland SARA 8 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr Schenectady SCHE 4 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Albany 7 May; Ravena ALBA 13 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Five Rivers ALBA 13 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr Saratoga SARA 9 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 30 Apr.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 30 Apr.

Tennessee Warbler: arr VF 12 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Greenport 26 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: Petersburg RENS 27 May; Saratoga SARA 27 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Rensselaer RENS 2 May.

Hooded Warbler: Normanskill ALBA 2 May.

Am. Redstart: arr HR WASH 6 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr VF 11 May.

Cerulean Warbler: Lions P SCHE 17 May; Schodack I RENS 18 May.

N. Parula: arr Ghent COLU 2 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Lock 7 SCHE 6 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Albany 15 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Austerlitz COLU 3 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr Easton WASH 27 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Saratoga SARA 3 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Austerlitz COLU 3 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr Selkirk ALBA 9 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Saratoga SARA 13 Mar.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R8): 2 Lions Pk SCHE 30 Apr (KM); Normanskill ALBA 2 May (mob).

Prairie Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 6 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Albany 12 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Albany 12 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Lock 7 SCHE 22 Apr.

E. Towhee: arr Pine Bush ALBA 10 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Colonie ALBA 9 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr Austerlitz COLU 12 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr COX grasslands 17 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 1 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 6 FtE 1 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Livingston COLU 29 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Livingston COLU 2 May.

Bobolink: arr FtE 29 Apr.

E. Meadowlark: arr FtE 7 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: max 220 Saratoga SARA 27 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr Albany 2 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Bethlehem ALBA 30 Apr.

Pine Grosbeak: Queensbury WARR 22 Mar.

Red Crossbill: Schenectady SCHE 27 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: Bethlehem ALBA 9 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: max 50 West Sand L RENS 12 Mar.

Pine Siskin: last Kingsbury WASH 20 May.

Evening Grosbeak: Providence SARA 1 May; 2 Corinth SARA 1 May.