

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring 2014 began colder than average and ended with temperatures and precipitation close to historic average. The last frost occurred on 7 May.

In the March report for the Alan Devoe bird club, Bill Cook chronicles the disappearing ducks of the mid-Hudson Valley. Once moderately abundant, birders struggle to find Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and all dabblers but Mallards. Ring-necked Ducks alone still seem to occur regularly in Region 8 during migration. What survival skills does this species have, he asks rhetorically.

Bob Yunick reported the rarity of the season, finding an immature white morph **Gyr Falcon** while raptor trapping with Alison Van Keuren at the Ft. Edward grasslands, Washington County. The bird was photographed by Gordie Ellmers and a NYSARC report has been submitted. The Eastern Kingbird found on 5 April by the Wirths is extremely early! In John Bull's *Birds of New York State* the record early date on Long Island is 18 April. They are not expected to arrive here until around 30 April or even early May.

Bill Cook also summarized a spring report of finches for Alan Devoe and found that, despite the seemingly wintry winter, this spring the only lingering finch was Pine Siskin in Taghkanic, Columbia County. According to eBird, several siskins lingered into March and April, found as far south as Mobile, Alabama, as late as 8 April. In contrast, only one Common Redpoll was reported to eBird in eastern New York (Dutchess County, Clinton Hollow, on 25 March).

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: 4 Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Mar; Ft Miller WASH 31 Mar.
Brant: max 200 Ramshorn GREE 21 May.
Tundra Swan: 2 Stillwater SARA 15-16 Mar; FtE 6 Apr.
Gadwall: max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 1 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 6 VF 17 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 3 Hoosic RENS 4 Mar.
Canvasback: max 3 Crescent ALBA 13 Mar.
Redhead: max 9 Crescent ALBA 3-7 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 10 Stillwater SARA 5 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 7 Stillwater 21 Mar.
Surf Scoter: max 4 4-mile Pt GREE 26 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: 3 Saratoga L SARA 27 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: max 40 VF dam 26 Apr.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Stillwater SARA 1-11 Mar; Schuylerville RENS 4 Mar; FtE 3 Apr
Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 20 Apr.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 Austerlitz COLU 5 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: max 5 Lock 7 SCHE 5 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr FtE 14 Mar.
Horned Grebe: arr COX boat launch 2 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 10 Saratoga L 27 Apr.
Great Cormorant: Germantown COLU 27 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr Oppenheim FULT 19 Apr.
Great Egret: max 2 Papscanee I Rens 3 Apr.
Snowy Egret: Vosburgh Marsh GREE 26 Apr.
Green Heron: arr VF 17 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Albany 21 Apr; Cohoes ALBA 25 Apr; 2 Cheviot COLU 8 May.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr Hudson COLU 2 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Bog Meadow ALBA 19 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hyuck Preserve ALBA 17 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Stuyvesant COLU 23 Mar; Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Mar; Livingston COLU 3 Apr; FtE 3 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr Black Creek Marsh SARA 8 Apr.
Sora: arr Oppenheim FULT 25 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: VF 7 May.
Am. Coot: arr VF 17 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): Kinderhook COLU 3 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Stillwater SARA 21 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Austerlitz COLU 10 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Papscanee I RENS 17 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Wright's Loop SARA 6 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Ames MONT 25 Apr.
Least Sandpiper: arr Papscanee I RENS 19 Apr, Reg record early.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Ames MONT 19 Apr.
Wilson's Snipe: arr VF 3 Apr; max 12 Wright's Loop SARA 19 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Coeymans ALBA 19 Apr.

Iceland Gull: max 15 Crescent ALBA 27 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Crescent ALBA 25 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: 3 Crescent ALBA 20 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr Niskayuna SCHE 3 Apr, Reg record early.
Black Tern: arr VF 18 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Gallatin COLU 21 May.
Snowy Owl: FtE 25 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: max 2 COX grasslands 10 Mar; N Greenbush 19 Mar;
N. Saw-whet Owl: Florida MONT 21 May.
Whip-poor-will: max 3 Malta Tech Pk SARA 13 May; Stanton Pd ALBA 13 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Stillwater SARA 8 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Chatham COLU 3 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Hyuck Preserve ALBA 17 Apr.
GYRFALCON: Durkeetown Rd FtE 6 Apr (RY, AVK, GE), white morph.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Least Flycatcher: arr Stuyvesant COLU 8 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Catskill GREE 1 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Taghkanic COLU 5 Apr, Reg record early.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Greenport COLU 5 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Olana COLU 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr Schenectady SCHE 27 Apr.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Coeymans ALBA 4 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Collins L SCHE 7 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr Stockport COLU 27 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Five Rivers ALBA 30 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr Meadowdale ALBA 7 Apr.
House Wren: arr Germantown COLU 19 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Albany 18 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Albany 17 Apr.
Veery: arr Albany 2 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Austerlitz COLU 9 May.
Wood Thrush: arr Livingston COLU 27 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr Rensselaer RENS 1 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr Altamont ALBA 2 Mar.
Am. Pipit: max 10 Papscaene I RENS 19 Apr.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Northumberland SARA 22 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 20 W Sand L RENS 2 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr Germantown COLU 5 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Deer Mt ALBA 4 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Five Rivers ALBA 6 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr Bog Meadow SARA 27 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: Black Creek Marsh SARA 10 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr Saratoga SARA 2 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Copake COLU 29 Apr.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8): Drowned Lands Ancram COLU 5 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Greenport COLU 3 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Cairo GREE 1 May.
Hooded Warbler: Wilton SARA 5 May.
Am. Redstart: arr Livingston COLU 1 May.
Cerulean Warbler: max 4 Schodack I RENS 9 May.
N. Parula: arr Bethlehem ALBA 17 Apr, Reg record early.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Greenport COLU 3 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr VF 21 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Catskill GREE 12 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Albany 3 May.
Palm Warbler: arr VF 17 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Five Rivers ALBA 2 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Selkirk ALBA 8 Mar.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R8): Normanskill ALBA 10 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 1 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Bog Meadow SARA 17 Apr.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Five Rivers ALBA 4 May, Reg record early.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Hoosic WASH 4 May.
E. Towhee: arr Hoosick Falls WASH 14 Mar, Reg record early.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Albany 2 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Five Rivers ALBA 1 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 3 Livingston COLU 3 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr COX grasslands Reg
record early, Reg record early.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr E Greenbush
RENS 23 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Stuyvesant COLU 11 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: max 4 Stuyvesant COLU 11
Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr Normanskill ALBA 4
May.

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