

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Tom Williams

153A Consaul Rd., Albany, NY 12205

trwdsd@fastmail.fm

March 2016 was a very warm, dry month, with the temperature at the Albany International Airport running nearly 8° F above normal, and precipitation amounting to only a third of the usual 3.2". April was 1.8° below normal, including a very cold period from the 3rd through the 10th of the month. Six inches of snow fell at Albany on 3-4 April, the highest total of the entire winter-spring period. It was drier than normal again, 1.33" below normal. May started off cool and ended downright hot, contributing to a slightly above average temperature by 1.2°. Drought-like conditions continued, with only two-thirds of the normal precipitation falling.

The abnormally warm winter-early spring period featured little snow cover, rain instead of snow, and most bodies of water never iced-over significantly. The waterfowl movement was short-lived, as the birds quickly passed through the area. Large numbers of waterfowl remained north and west of the Region all winter. Half-hardy species lingered more successfully than usual, with Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Eastern Meadowlark, and Savannah Sparrow reported throughout March. A very cold and snowy first week of April probably had profound effects on early short-distance migrants, such as Tree Swallows. An unusual weather pattern during the first ten days of May held many migrants from moving into the area, but a concentrated surge followed once the conditions became more favorable.

A remarkable find for the Region was reported in Nassau, Rensselaer County on 23 April. A homeowner watched and photographed a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** feeding in her backyard for much of the day. Unlike Black-crowned Night-Heron, which is regularly seen during migration, this is a less than annual visitor to this part of the state.

On 25 March, John Roosenberg watched four **Sandhill Cranes** flying and calling at Franklinton Vlaie, in the Town of Broome, Schoharie County. The impression seems to be that this species is gradually making inroads into the area, perhaps from the Great Lakes population.

The shorebird highlight of the season was unquestionably an **American Avocet**, discovered by Ramona Bearor on 17 May in a flooded area along the Champlain Canal near Hudson Falls, Washington County. Birders who rushed to the site found that beauty, along with a **Willet** and three **Short-billed Dowitchers**; quite a trifecta for this Region. 2 May featured an influx of terns to the area, including some impressive and widespread numbers of **Common Tern**, along with several **Black Terns**, and the more common Caspian Tern.

A hiker in the rugged Tongue Mountain range near Lake George, Warren County, came upon a female **Black-backed Woodpecker** on 19 April.

Uncommon but present in low numbers throughout the Adirondack Mountains, this species can occasionally be found in the higher elevations of northwestern Warren County.

On 29 April, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein encountered an **Acadian Flycatcher** at Rensselaerville State Forest, in the same vicinity where a small group of **Red Crossbills** had been observed breeding since January 2016. This is another species that breeds just to the south of the Region, and efforts should be made to find other pioneering birds in similar habitat along the forested ravines in Schoharie, Albany, and Greene counties.

An out-of-state visitor driving through Claverack in Columbia County on 21 May observed a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** fly past her vehicle and alight on a fence. She was unable to relocate the bird after turning around for a second look. She realized it was an unlikely occurrence in this part of the country but is very familiar with the species, having seen them in southeast Texas. Other attempts to re-find the bird turned up empty. It was likely a remarkable one-day wonder! Efforts were made to submit a report to NYSARC for this sighting.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen and photographed in a swampy area along the Feeder Canal in Hudson Falls, Washington County on 11 May.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Jamie Glydon, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Cheryl Henke, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; AR – Alcove Res, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMB – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; CCGP – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; CF – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CRM – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; FR – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; FtEG – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; FV – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; HP – Huyck Preserve,

ALBA; OCA – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; PRWMA – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 10 Wrights Loop SARA 12 Mar.

Brant: arr 1 May; max 750 FR 12 May.

Mute Swan: max 4 Vosburgh Marsh GREE 12 Mar.

Tundra Swan: 2 Hudson R Coeymans ALBA 10 Mar (TLW), only report.

Gadwall: arr Stanton Pond ALBA 7 Mar; max 30 Stanton Pond ALBA 17 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: arr Lions Park, Niskayuna SCHE 5 Mar; max 20 VFNHP 12 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Vosburgh Marsh GREE 19 Mar; max 10 Ferry Rd, Niskayuna 25 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr CL SCHE 3 Mar; max 6 BCR 18 Mar.

N. Pintail: arr Schuylerville SARA 1 Mar; max 90 Wrights Loop SARA 2 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 101 Vosburgh Marsh GREE 13 Mar.

Canvasback: arr Copake L COLU 10 Mar; BCR max 1; only reports.

Redhead: arr CL 3 Mar; max 2 Lions Park, Niskayuna SCHE 4 Mar; BCR 13 Mar, only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: max 350 Loughberry L SARA 20 Mar.

Greater Scaup: arr Saratoga L 11 Mar; max 45 Saratoga L SARA 20 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: arr CF 9 Mar; max 150 Saratoga L SARA 20 Mar.

Surf Scoter: arr Schoharie Crossing MONT 3 May; max 2 CL 4-8 May; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: arr Saratoga L 25 Apr; 2 Glenbrook Farm GREE 19 May; 2 PRWMA 23 May; 5 AR 24 May; 4 Rogers Rock Campground WARR 27 May.

Black Scoter: arr max 2 E Canada L MONT 12 Apr; Hudson R, Stillwater 5-20 May only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: arr AR 17 Mar; 2 AR 22 Apr; E Canada L MONT 17 Apr- 21; Hudson R, Coxsackie GREE 1 May.

Bufflehead: arr Tambul Pond RENN 1 Mar, AR; max 120 Saratoga L SARA 19 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: max 160 Saratoga L SARA 11 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 44 Maple Pond SARA 14 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr Sacandaga Res FULT 20 Mar; max 8 Saratoga L SARA 6 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr Bells Pond COLU 9 Mar; max 142 BCR 9 Apr.

Red-throated Loon: Copake L COLU 1 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr Mohawk R, Latham ALBA 9 Mar; max 8 Hague WARR 20 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA 6 Apr; max 12 Saratoga L SARA 25 Apr.

Great Cormorant: arr Germantown Boat Launch COLU 6 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr BCM; Corbin Hill Rd SCHO 17 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr BCM; VFNHP 10 May.

Great Egret: arr The Crossings ALBA 7 Apr.

Snowy Egret: arr CF 21 May (SB), only report.

Green Heron: arr Wrights Loop SARA 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Corning Preserve ALBA 20 Apr.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R8): Nassau RENN 23 Apr.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr Schodack Landing RENN 25 Mar.

Golden Eagle: max 2 T Berne ALBA 13 Mar; 11 reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Renn Plateau RENN 5 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Renn Plateau RENN 9 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Schoharie Creek SCHO 7 Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr CRM 22 Mar.

Sora: arr CRM 2 Apr.

Com. Gallinule: arr CRM; Putnam WASH 29 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr Dyke Ave Pond ALBA 6 Mar.

SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 4 FV 25 Mar (JoR).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R8): Hudson Falls WASH 17 May (RB).

Black-bellied Plover: arr Wrights Loop SARA 3 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Wrights Loop SARA 1 May; max 30 CF 25 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA; Quack I RENN 22 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr VFNHP 24 Apr; max 22 Wrights Loop SARA 11 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Mohawk R Lathan ALBA 7 Apr; max 13 Wrights Loop SARA 11 May.
WILLET (R8): Hudson Falls WASH 17 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Wrights Loop SARA 12 Apr; max 41 Wrights Loop SARA 11 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr W Ames MONT 27 Apr.
Least Sandpiper: arr Round L SARA 26 Apr; max 57 CF 21 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Wrights Loop SARA 4 May; max 6 Wrights Loop SARA 11 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Champlain Lock 2 SARA; Hudson Falls WASH 17 May; max 13 CF 20 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Vosburgh Swamp GREE 19 Mar; max 19 Wrights Loop SARA 19 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr Catskill GREE 1 Mar; max 12 Putnam WASH 27 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Vosburgh Swamp GREE 2 Apr; max 40 Saratoga L SARA 6 May.
Iceland Gull: last Crescent Power Plant ALBA 4 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: last Fultonville MONT 9 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: last Fultonville MONT 9 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr Mohawk R Latham ALBA 24 Apr; max 6 CF 1 May.
Black Tern: arr Waterford SARA; Coeymans Landing GREE; Mohawk R Cohoes ALBA; FV 2 May; max 3 Saratoga L SARA 14 May.
Com. Tern: widespread 2 May, 9 reports; max 21 Saratoga L 21 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Schodack I SP RENN 10 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr FR 13 May.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Putnam WASH 27 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Oppenheim FULT 13 May; max 14 Blockhouse Park SARA 21 May.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr Stanton Pond ALBA 30 Apr; max 8 Luther Forest SARA 14 May.
Chimney Swift: arr CF 24 Apr; max 200 Peebles I SP SARA 15 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Craryville COLU 5 May.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R8): Old Valley Rd., Colonie ALBA 22 Mar- 3 May (BD), continuing bird; T Oppenheim FULT 18 May (L&BH).
BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (R8): Tongue Mt Range WARR 19 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr FR 13 May; 6 reports.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Waterford SARA 2 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Drowned Lands Swamp COLU 12 May; 4 reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Rensselaerville SF ALBA 29 May (ZSW).
Alder Flycatcher: arr Christiana NA SCHE 8 May, early; max 12 BMB 28 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Cobleskill SCHO 11 May; max 8 CCGP 29 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr VFNHP 28 Apr; max 12 Petersburg RENN 26 May.
E. Phoebe: arr APBP 13 May; max 15 FR 30 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 4 May; max 6 BMB 10 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Oppenheim FULT; SNHP 24 Apr; max 10 SNHP 21 May.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Claverack COLU 21 May (CH), rep to NYSARC, *intro*.
N. Shrike: T Berne ALBA 6 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CRM; Mo-He-Con-Nuck Preserve ALBA 30 Apr; max 8 Schodack I SP 10 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr T Root MONT 18 Apr; max 6 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 29 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr Corning Preserve ALBA 27 Apr; max 21 VFNHP 9 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 9 May N Petersburg RENN; 6 reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Palenville GREE 7 May; max 20 Tower Rd, Hadley SARA 31 May.
Com. Raven: max 8 Mayfield FULT 5 Mar; Palenville GREE 13 Mar.
Horned Lark: max 4 Saratoga Cty Airport SARA 8 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr CL 24 Mar; max 35 Coveville SARA 16 May.
Purple Martin: arr Saratoga Casino and Raceway SARA 15 Apr; max 30 Saratoga Springs Waterfront Pk SARA 4 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Mohawk R Latham ALBA 9 Mar; max 2000 Mohawk R Cohoes ALBA 3 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Round L SARA 26 Apr; max 70 Coveville SARA 16 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Green Island ALBA 6 Apr; max 250 CF 3 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr AR 29 Apr; Cambridge WASH 29 Apr; max 16 Cairo GREE 30 May.
House Wren: arr Nassau RENN 17 Apr; max 15 FR 14 May.
Winter Wren: arr Mohawk R Latham ALBA 9 Mar; max 4 Dyken Pond EEC RENN 1 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr VFNHP 15 Apr; max 15 BCM 21 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Stuyvesant COLU 18 Apr; max 7 VFNHP 8 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 20 FR 2 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Old Chatham COLU 24 Mar; max 40 E Chatham COLU 21 Apr.
E. Bluebird: max 12 FR 16 Mar.
Veery: arr Canaan COLU 1 May; max 20 Schodack I SP RENN 22 May.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA 16 May, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: arr T Stuyvesant COLU 2 May; max 2 multiple loc.
Hermit Thrush: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA 31 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr BCM; Indian Kill Preserve SCHE; Craryville COLU; VFNHP 28 Apr; max 16 Clermont SP COLU 14 May.
Gray Catbird: arr VFNHP 15 Apr, early; max 30 FR 13 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr multiple loc 17 Apr; max 7 T Knox ALBA 21 May.
N. Mockingbird: max 5 the Crossings ALBA 14 May.
Am. Pipit: arr Kindethook COLU 5 Apr; max 5 Mayfield FULT 21 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: Cambridge WASH 6 May, only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 165 Cobleskill-Richmondville HS SCHO 14 Mar.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr Plotterkill Preserve SCHE 27 Apr; max 28 Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 19 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Craryville COLU 8 May; max 3 Craryville COLU 29 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr FR 31 Mar; max 4 FR 22 Apr; Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 29 Apr; Palenville GREE 9 May; Christman Sanctuary SCHE 29 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr Buckingham Pond 10 Apr, early; max 3 BMB 10 May; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 18 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr FR; OCA 10 May; also Hutton Square Rd, Putnam Sta WASH 16 May, only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 27 Apr; max 12 FR 14 May.
Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): FR 11 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 Cambridge WASH 28 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Copake COLU; FR; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 22 Apr; max 8 Schodack I SP 22 May.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8): Feeder Canal, Hudson Falls WASH 11 May, *intro*.
Tennessee Warbler: arr APBP 15 May; max 2 APBP 17 May; Schodack I SP RENN 22 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr CRM 29 Apr; max 4 Lake Desolation SF SARA 14 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr Oppenheim FULT 7 May, early; max 2 APBP 17 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr FR; Niskayuna RR Sta SCHE 28 Apr; max 26 T Galway SARA 24 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr APBP 18 May; Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail ALBA 20 May; Ravena ALBA 21 May.
Am. Redstart: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 29 Apr; max 40 Schodack I SP RENN 22 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FR 9 May; max 4 APBP 15 May; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 17 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Schodack I SP RENN 10 May; max 6 Schodack I SP RENN 22 May.
N. Parula: arr Glenmont ALBA; Ancram COLU; VFNHP 8 May; max 7 APBP 17 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Oppenheim FULT; Brunswick RENN; Cambridge WASH 8 May; max 5 APBP 19 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FR; Loughberry L SARA; Normanskill Farm ALBA 11 May; max 6 APBP 15 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Palenville GREE 21 Apr, early; max 15 Deer Leap Trail WARR 30 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr VFNHP 23 Apr; max 32 VFNHP 11 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AR 29 Apr; max 20 T Galway SARA 24 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Oppenheim FULT 8 May, early; max 5 Normanskill Farm ALBA 22 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Albany ALBA; VFNHP 28 Apr; max 8 Long Pond FULT 25 May.

Palm Warbler: arr BCM 26 Mar, early; max 11 VFNHP 21 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Ravena ALBA 27 Mar, early; max 6 FR 6 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr VFNHP 15 Apr; max 75 VFNHP 8 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr FR 27 Apr; max 11 APBP 16 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr T Colonie ALBA 22 Apr, early; max 10 Long Pond FULT 25 May.
Canada Warbler: arr FR 11 May; max 3 Lake Desolation SF SARA 28 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Purling GREE 9 May; max 2 BMB 15 May; Kingsbury WASH 17 May; APBP 18 May.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Albany Int Airport ALBA; OCA; Ephratah FULT 7 May; max 2 Ephratah FULT 7 May; OCA 12 May; Saratoga Cty Airport SARA 21 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last FR 3 May, late.
Chipping Sparrow: arr T Stuyvesant COLU 28 Mar; max 28 Cairo GREE 10 May.
Field Sparrow: arr FR 30 Mar, early; max 17 SNHP 7 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Copake COLU 16 Mar; max 28 Voorhees Rd FULT 4 Apr.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 277 Voorhees Rd FULT 4 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr FR 16 Apr; max 14 Oppenheim FULT 1 May.
White-throated Sparrow: max 65 Ft Ann WASH 26 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Kinderhook COLU 5 Apr; max 5 SNHP 11 May.
Savannah Sparrow: max 12 Albany Int Airport ALBA 24 Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 40 Ann Lee Pond ALBA 19 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Cambridge WASH 9 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr BCM 9 Mar; max 40 BCM 28 Apr.
E. Towhee: arr FR 26 Mar, early; max 20 T Knox ALBA 11 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Olana COLU 7 May; max 6 Sprakers MONT 21 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Spencertown COLU; Purling GREE 22 Apr; max 15 Clermont SP COLU 14 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Delmar ALBA 8 May; max 4 APBP 16 May.
Bobolink: arr T Florida MONT 3 May; max 71 Craryville COLU 11 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr Glenville SCHE 10 Mar; max 8 W Ames MONT 27 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: max 18 VFNHP 22 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr Olana COLU 30 Apr; max 3 Ann Lee Pond ALBA 10 May; Cambridge WASH 12 May; Thacher Park South ALBA 14 May; HVCC Nature Trail RENN 18 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA; Deer Mt nature Trail ALBA; Cambridge WASH 29 Apr; max 16 VFNHP 14 May.
Purple Finch: max 28 T Providence SARA 17 May.
Red Crossbill: max 7 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 20 Mar.
Pine Siskin: max 50 Gull Bay Preserve WASH 2 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 3 Stillwater SARA 8 May; 2 Lake George WARR 19 Apr; 2 Lake Luzerne WARR 1 Apr; 2 Cambridge WASH 29 Apr; three rep. of singles WARR Apr-May.

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