

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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March 2017 was colder (-3.3° F) and wetter ($+0.86''$) than normal. Thoughts of an early spring were shattered by a late-season snowstorm on the 14th of the month. In Albany, 17 inches of snow fell, and there was still snow on the ground at month's end. April was much warmer than normal ($+5.2^{\circ}$), with about average precipitation. The high temperature reached 87° on both the 11th and 16th of the month. A persistent weather pattern kept the first half of May much cooler than expected, with a full month's rainfall occurring in the first two

weeks. The second half of May featured warmer weather and more normal precipitation amounts, so the month ended at -0.9° cooler and +2.37" wetter than the long-term average. (Data from Albany location, NWS Albany.)

Will Raup found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** among a flock of Canada Geese at the Town of Bethlehem Soccer Complex in Albany County on 24 March. It stuck around for most of the day, to the delight of many who chased it down. An even more exciting goose chase occurred on 8 April, after Naomi Lloyd discovered what may have been the Region's first-ever **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** in an agricultural field along Eichybush Rd. near Kinderhook in Columbia County. It was embedded in a mixed flock of Canada and Snow Geese. Some excellent photos were obtained by Curt Morgan; they can be viewed by accessing his checklist on eBird.org.

Tom McClenahan located an **Eurasian Wigeon** on 8 March in a group of waterfowl foraging in a flooded field along CR 113 southwest of Greenwich, Washington County.

Another Regional rarity was seen on 8 April, when Alan Dupuis discovered a lone **GLOSSY IBIS** in a backyard along the Hudson River east of Gansevoort, Saratoga County. The bird had been present all day according to the homeowner. Alan's remarkable photos are attached to his eBird checklist.

Sightings of **Sandhill Cranes** continue to increase across the area. Small flocks of four to seven birds were seen in late March and the first week of April in Pittstown and Poestenkill, Rensselaer County, and near Kinderhook, Columbia County.

Ron Harrower visited Wrights Loop in Stillwater, Saratoga County, on the morning of 2 May and, while he couldn't stay to investigate fully, noted that the flooded field at the north end was full of shorebirds. Several birders followed up his notification to the HMBirds group and were rewarded with a **RUFF**, more specifically a Reeve. It lingered until the following day, affording good views to many observers. Liz Curley has some excellent images on her eBird checklist.

During an areawide movement of shorebirds on 26 May, Naomi Lloyd picked out a **Red-necked Phalarope** associating with a group of Short-billed Dowitchers in a flooded field along Staats Island Rd. in Schodack, Rensselaer County. This species is infrequently found in the Region; once/5-10 yrs. Observers rushed to the location for this rare encounter.

Two **Little Gulls** were embedded in a small group of Bonaparte's Gulls on Saratoga Lake on 13 May. John Hershey and Ron Harrower were the first to find them.

For the second consecutive year, **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported near West Mountain Ski Area in Warren County. This year's birds were seen and heard along Northwest Rd. near the base of the ski lift. Audio recordings were made, and some low-light photographs were captured. Several observers reported two calling birds, heard simultaneously by birders in separate locations along the road.

Stacy Robinson found and photographed a male **Kentucky Warbler** along a little-traveled dirt road north of Bolton Landing in Warren County on 7 May. This is by far the farthest north that the species has been reported in our area in recent memory, perhaps longer.

From mid-April to mid-May **Red Crossbills** were reported from three locations: Burnt-Rossman Hills SF, Schoharie Co.; Rensselaerville SF, Albany Co.; and Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Albany Co.

Zach Schwartz-Weinstein has been keeping tabs on **Merlins** in Washington Park in the City of Albany. He comments: "A pair of **Merlins** returned to Washington Park in downtown Albany for at least the second consecutive year. In 2016, the pair was observed copulating and eventually hatched two nestlings in a ginkgo tree on the western end of the park. In 2017, the pair is using a nest in a pine a few hundred yards to the east. Both nests were likely originally constructed by Fish Crows. The **Merlins** have been photographed preying on the hordes of house sparrows that frequent the overly-manicured urban park and are part of a growing trend of reports of this species nesting in urban locations well south of its usual breeding range."

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, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, 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, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, 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 P, SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 210 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 29 Mar.
Greater White-fronted Goose: T Bethlehem ALBA 24 Mar (WR).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Kinderhook COLU 8 Apr (NL), *intro*.
Brant: max 300 Sleepy Hollow Lake GREE 20 May.
Blue-winged Teal: max 5 VFNHP 15 Apr.
Gadwall: max 16 VFNHP 1 Apr.
Eurasian Wigeon: near Greenwich WASH 8 Mar (TMC).
Am. Wigeon: max 42 VFNHP 30 Mar.
N. Shoveler: max 8 Wrights Loop SARA 1 Mar.
N. Pintail: max 102 Wrights loop SARA 10 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 36 Staats I Rd RENN 9 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: max 270 Saratoga L SARA 26 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 16 Lock 7 Niskayuna SCHE 1 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 64 Saratoga L SARA 29 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: max 118 Saratoga L SARA 22 May.
Black Scoter: Copake L COLU 10 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: max 10 AR 5 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 200 BCR 9 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 90 Stillwater SARA 12 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 115 Saratoga L SARA 26 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 Saratoga L SARA 21 May.
Ruddy Duck: max 80 BCR 14 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: 3 reports 18 Apr-14 May.
Horned Grebe: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 8 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 15 Mohawk R Latham ALBA 1 Apr.
Great Cormorant: Germantown COLU 19 Mar, only report.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr Corning Preserve ALBA 24 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr Tambul Pond RENN 5 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr BCM 22 Apr.
Great Egret: arr Henry Hudson Park ALBA 25 Mar, early.
Green Heron: arr BCM & VFNHP 16 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: near Sloansville SCHO 11 Apr, only report.
GLOSSY IBIS (R8): near Gansevoort SARA 8 Apr (ADu), *intro*.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 18 Voorheesville ALBA 11 Apr.
Osprey: arr Selkirk ALBA, Stillwater SARA, Schaghticoke SARA 29 Mar.
N. Harrier: max 6 FtEG 7 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Mo-He-Con-Nuck Preserve ALBA 9 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Fultonville MONT 16 Apr.
Golden Eagle: 5 reports 9 Mar- 1 May.
Virginia Rail: arr Tracy Rd wetlands ALBA 9 Apr.
Sora: arr BCM 20 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: arr BCM 6 May.
Sandhill Crane: 7 Poestenkill RENN 26 Mar; 4 Pittstown RENN 1 Apr; 7 Kinderhook COLU 8 Apr.
Black-bellied Plover: Coveville SARA 18 May; Wrights Loop SARA 22 May.
Semipalmated Plover: max 20 CF 26 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr W. Ames MONT 22 Apr.
RUFF: Wrights Loop SARA 2 May, *intro*.
Dunlin: Staats I Rd RENN 10 Apr, early; max 20 CF 26 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 Wrights Loop SARA 31 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 2 Wrights Loop SARA 6 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 58! CF 26 May (JC), high count.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Schaghticoke RENN 1 Mar.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R8): Staats Isl Rd RENN 26 May (NL), *intro*.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 11 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 Stillwater SARA 4 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 Wrights Loop 14 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 121 Lake George WARR 6 May.

Little Gull: max 2 Saratoga L SARA 13 May.

Iceland Gull: last Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 15 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: last 2 Staats I Rd RENN 7 Apr.

Glaucous Gull: last Mohawk R Cohoes ALBA 29 Mar; Round L SARA 29 Mar.

Caspian Tern: Corning Preserve ALBA 1 May; Hudson R near Greenwich 7 May.

Black Tern: 4 Saratoga L SARA 8 May.

Com. Tern: 2 Saratoga Lake Marine Park SARA 6 Apr, early; max 10 Saratoga L SARA 8 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Hemlock Trail SARA 9 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr W Sand Lake RENN 12 May.

Snowy Owl: FtEG thru 9 Mar; Averill Park RENN 19 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: last FtEG 15 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Schodack I SP RENN 17 May.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: max 2 West Mt Ski Area WARR 30 May, *intro*.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr nr Stanton Pond ALBA 6 May.

Chimney Swift: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 22 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr nr Craryville COLU 25 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Featherstonehaugh SF SCHE & FR 23 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Buckingham Pond ALBA 11 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 23 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr FR, Albany Co Rail Trail ALBA 17 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr OCA 13 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Guilderland ALBA 26 Apr.

E. Phoebe: arr mult loc 28 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Albany Co Rail Trail, BMB 28 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr APBP 24 Apr.

N. Shrike: last FtEG 30 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 30 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr mult loc 16 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr. Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 27 Apr.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 30 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Selkirk ALBA 5 Apr.

Purple Martin: arr Saratoga L SARA 27 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr mult loc 28 Mar, *late arrival date*.

Bank Swallow: arr mult loc 19 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Staats Isl Rd RENN, Meads Ln Delmar ALBA 9 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr Ft Edward WASH 30 Apr.

House Wren: arr FR 16 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr CRM 15 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FR 10 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr near Livingston COLU 3 Apr.

Veery: arr BMB 28 Apr.

Bicknell's Thrush: Plateau Mt GREE 27 May; Sugarloaf Mt GREE 28 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Olana COLU 4 May, early.

Wood Thrush: arr mult loc 28 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr nr Craryville COLU 10 Apr.

Am. Pipit: Wrights Loop SARA 26 Mar, 2 May, only reports.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last FtEG 18 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Kingsbury WASH 16 Mar; numerous reports 15-18 Mar following snowstorm.

Ovenbird: arr Gloversville FULT 19 Apr, early.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 3 May; reports from six COLU loc & two ALBA loc during the period.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr nr Huntersland SCHO 7 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr Stillwater SARA 27 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 near Putnam Sta WASH 30 May, only report.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Greenport Cons Area COLU 23 Apr.

"Brewster's" Warbler: near Putnam Sta WASH 30 May, only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Hudson Crossing P SARA 26 Apr.

Tennessee Warbler: arr APBP 12 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr multiple locations 29 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr FR 19 May.
KENTUCKY WARBLER (R8): near Bolton Landing WARR 7 May (SR), *intro*.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr mult loc 28 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 2 May; nine reports during the period.
Am. Redstart: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 28 Apr.
Cape May Warbler: arr APBP 9 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 4 May.
N. Parula: arr mult loc 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Peebles Isl SARA, Rensselaerville ALBA 30 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr E Greenbush RENN 8 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Albany County Rail Trail ALBA 28 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr near Livingston COLU 22 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr near Livingston COLU 28 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr APBP, Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 11 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Palenville GREE & APBP 28 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr nr Livingston COLU 3 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Moreau Lake SP SARA 8 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 10 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr APBP 28 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr PRWMA 16 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr PRWMA 29 Apr, early.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area 1 May, early.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr near Hudson COLU 28 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 2 VFNHP 23 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Hudson COLU 12 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FtEG 20 May.
Field Sparrow: arr near Livingston COLU 3 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr Spencertown COLU 5 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Stuyvesant COLU 26 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr The Crossings ALBA 10 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Kinderhook COLU 8 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Guilderland ALBA 1 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 BCM 1 Mar, early or overwintered?
E. Towhee: arr Mosher Marsh Preserve MONT 1 Apr.
Scarlet Tanager: arr BMB 28 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr VFNHP 23 Apr, early.
Indigo Bunting: arr Spencertown COLU 29 Apr.
Bobolink: arr T Florida MONT 28 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr near Linlithgo COLU 2 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr near Cambridge WASH 25 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr APBP, Guilderland ALBA 28 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: max 75 Papscaene I NP RENN 6 May.
Pine Siskin: max 2 mult loc; 16 reports overall.
Red Crossbill: 2 Burnt Rossman Hills SF SCHO 19 Apr; 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 30 Apr; 8 APBP 2 May, 11 May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 3 Elka Park GREE 30 Apr; 10 reports overall.

