

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	29.8°	28.5°	+1.3°	25.5°	25.0°	+0.5°
Jan	31.8°	22.6°	+9.2°	25.8°	18.0°	+7.8°
Feb	31.5°	25.9°	+5.6°	23.8°	21.3°	+2.5°

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	4.54"	2.93"	+1.61"	2.71"	3.05"	-0.34"
Jan	2.01"	2.59"	-0.58"	1.95"	2.86"	-0.91"
Feb	2.71"	2.20"	+0.51"	2.51"	2.08"	+0.43"

December 2019 featured near normal temperatures and precipitation in many of the Region 8 counties. In Albany, however, over 22 inches of snow fell in the first three days of the month. Despite that dire start, winter seemed to disappear thereafter, with well above normal temperatures and very little snowfall. January was over nine degrees above normal in Albany, and was actually the warmest of the three winter season months. February was more than five degrees above normal in the capital city. Only 17 inches of snow fell after 3 December, through to the end of February. In the northern half of the Region, Glens Falls recorded similar warmth overall, but with somewhat drier conditions.

Area water bodies experienced much less ice cover than in a normal winter, and this had an effect on waterfowl distribution, gull congregation and overwintering half-hardies. Waterfowl diversity was good, but concentrations of individuals was rare. Gulls spent more time at landfills and off-the-water roosting locations, resulting from unreliable and constantly shifting ice shelves. This complicated observing opportunities, as birders were often unable to casually scan loafing gull flocks for rarer individuals. Survivorship of lingering half-hardy species was presumably higher than normal. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found up and down the Hudson River corridor throughout the season. Hermit Thrush offered a similar profile. Yellow-rumped Warblers were especially numerous from Albany southward along the Hudson. Belted Kingfisher numbers were

extremely high throughout winter, demonstrating the easy availability of open water.

Northern Shrike reports were infrequent this winter. Analysis of mapped reports seem to indicate that many of them remained much farther north than normal, never reaching the Region. Similarly, winter field birds averaged farther north and in lower numbers. Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur flocks were primarily confined to the tier of counties north and west of Albany. Snow Buntings didn't arrive in much of the area until after mid-January.

Among unusual observations during the winter season were a male Black-throated Blue Warbler coming to a suet feeder at a home in Galway, Saratoga County on 2-3 December; a **Lark Sparrow** feeding at the roadside in Kinderhook, Columbia County on 4 December; a 9 January viewing of a Palm Warbler at a wastewater treatment facility at Dutchmen's Landing, Greene County; and a group of eight **Tundra Swans** resting along the edge of the Mohawk River at Schoharie Crossing State Historical Site in Montgomery County on 19 February.

Brian McKay observed and photographed a Greater White-fronted Goose in flight at Cossayuna Lake in Washington County on 29 December. A male Canvasback spent time at Saratoga Lake until it froze around New Year's Day, then apparently moved to the Ft. Miller area of the Hudson River where it was seen throughout January and February. Ron Harrower continues to thoroughly document the waterfowl at Saratoga Lake. He found five Redhead in a large *aythya* group on 3 December.

Iceland Gulls were observed from Fultonville in Montgomery County, the Cohoes-Crescent corridor of the Mohawk River in Albany County, and at a waste recycling location just south of the city of Albany. Glaucous Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Fultonville and Cohoes-Crescent.

Rich Guthrie reported a Snowy Owl perched on the antenna array of the U.S.S. Slater docked along the Hudson River in downtown Albany on 5 January. That was the only report of the species in the Region during the winter season. Short-eared Owls continue to winter in their strongholds in agricultural Montgomery County and the Ft. Edwards Grasslands in Washington County. As many as six birds were recorded on 12 February in Ft. Edward.

Thom McLenahan observed three Pine Grosbeaks eating ornamental crabapples along the road just west of the Global Foundries facility in Ballston Spa on 4 February. The report represented the most southerly record of the species in the northeastern United States this winter.

131 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings,

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, 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 Pres, 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 Pres, 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 Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 231 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Cossayuna L WASH 29 Dec.
Mute Swan: max 4 Nassau L RENS 28 Dec; Crescent Power Plant ALBA 2 Feb.
TUNDRA SWAN (R8): 8 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 19 Feb, *intro*.
Wood Duck: max 5 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.
Gadwall: max 3 Stanton Pd ALBA 15 Dec.
American Wigeon: max 4 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.
American Black Duck: max 81 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 21 Jan.
Northern Pintail: max 7 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 19 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: max 6 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.

Canvasback: Fish Creek Marina SARA 6 Jan; Ft. Miller WASH 17 Feb.
Redhead: 5 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.
Ring-necked Duck: max 130 Copake L COLU 4 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 15 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: max 25 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: max 8 Waterford SARA 5 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Bolton WARR 10 Dec; Stillwater SARA 13 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 30 L George WARR 1 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 112 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 80 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.
Common Merganser: max 710 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2 Green Island ALBA 20 Jan.

Ruddy Duck: max 25 Copake L COLU 1 Dec.

Wild Turkey: max 90 Hillsdale COLU 1 Feb; Copake COLU 27 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: Schaghticoke RENS 2 Jan; Saratoga L SARA 22 Jan; Ft. Miller WASH 20 Feb.

Horned Grebe: 2 Great Sacandaga L FULT 1 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 68 Ft. Ann WASH 1 Jan.

RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: Stuyvesant COLU 14 Dec.

American Coot: Chatham COLU 16 Feb.

Killdeer: arr W Coxsackie GREE 15 Feb, early.

American Woodcock: arr 2 Ancram COLU 11 Feb, early.

Wilson's Snipe: Ghent COLU 16 Dec, late.

Ring-billed Gull: max 176 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 28 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 794 Halfmoon SARA 4 Feb.

Iceland Gull: max 2 Fultonville MONT 27 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cohoes ALBA 2 Feb; 2 Fultonville MONT 17 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: Cohoes-Crescent 1 Dec; 2 Fultonville MONT 15 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 Fultonville MONT 27 Jan.

LOONS-PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 7 L George WARR 24 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: last L George WARR 23 Dec, late.

Great Cormorant: 2 Catskill GREE 11 Jan.

American Bittern: Ghent COLU 14 Dec, late.

Great Blue Heron: max 5 Kingsbury WASH 6 Dec, unusually high nos of overwintering birds in Hudson R Valley and E Mohawk R Valley loc.

Black Vulture: max 62 Hudson COLU 16 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: max 64 Guilderland ALBA 23 Feb; more Jan sightings than usual.

Golden Eagle: max 2 Copake COLU 12 Jan.

Northern Harrier: max 7 Coxsackie GREE 26 Feb.

Bald Eagle: max 21 Germantown COLU 31 Dec.

Red-shouldered Hawk: higher nos of overwintering birds.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 7 Sprakers MONT 19 Jan.

Snowy Owl: USS Slater Museum ALBA 5 Jan, only report.

Barred Owl: max 3 Ft Ann WASH 25 Dec.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 FtEG 12 Feb.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Austerlitz COLU 23 Dec; APBP 13 Jan; Loughberry L SARA 23 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: widespread throughout the Region all three months.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Schodack I SP RENS 15 Dec.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.

Downy Woodpecker: max 9 Schaghticoke RENS 5 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Ancram COLU 22 Dec; Nassau RENS 28 Dec; 5 Henry Hudson P ALBA 29 Dec; Saratoga Sprgs SARA 18 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 5 Stockport COLU 14 Dec; Henry Hudson P ALBA 25 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 Ft Ann WASH 1 Dec; Henry Hudson P ALBA 11 Dec; Nassau RENS 28 Dec.

American Kestrel: max 2 W Ames MONT 15 Feb; Amsterdam MONT 24 Feb; Delmar ALBA 25 Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Green I ALBA 21 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: Whitehall WASH 9 Dec; FtEG 23 Dec; Canajoharie MONT 10 Feb; Robinson Pd COLU 15 Feb.

Blue Jay: max 71 Schaghticoke RENS 13 Jan.

American Crow: max 5000 Glens Falls WARR 22 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 35 Cohoes ALBA 12 Jan.

Common Raven: max 10 Lawson L SP ALBA 15 Dec.

Horned Lark: max 300 Northumberland SARA 23 Jan.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 33 Grafton Lakes SP RENS 24 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: max 19 Mine Kill SP SCHO 24 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 Bolton WARR 3 Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 Schaghticoke RENS 5 Jan.
Brown Creeper: max 3 Northumberland SARA 4 Feb; Schodack Town P RENS 23 Feb.
Winter Wren: max 4 FR 15 Dec.
Carolina Wren: max 6 Schodack I SP RENS 15 Dec.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Northumberland SARA 4 Feb.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Niskayuna SCHE 22 Jan.
Eastern Bluebird: max 18 Copake COLU 24 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: max 4 Copake COLU 22 Dec, high seasonal count.
Gray Catbird: Stockport COLU 14 Dec; Bethlehem ALBA 15 Dec; Copake COLU 22 Dec; Hannacroix Creek Pres GREE 22 Dec; Albany ALBA 28 Dec.
Northern Mockingbird: max 3 Coxsackie GREE 19 Dec.
Cedar Waxwing: max 77 Ghent COLU 14 Dec.
American Pipit: max 6 Livingston COLU 23 Jan.
Pine Grosbeak: max 3 Ballston Spa SARA 4 Feb.
House Finch: max 38 Hoosick RENS 31 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 11 Bolton WARR 25 Jan.
Common Redpoll: max 57 Ft Edward WASH 3 Feb.
Red Crossbill: max 3 W. Fulton SCHO 7 Jan; Preston Hollow ALBA 5 Feb.
Pine Siskin: max 2 West Kill Mt GREE 23 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 4 Ft Edward WASH 27 Jan.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Poestenkill RENS 18 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 3 Copake COLU 22 Dec.
American Tree Sparrow: max 56 Northumberland SARA 20 Feb.
Chipping Sparrow: max 2 Ghent COLU 14 Dec; Colonie ALBA 21 Dec.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Livingston COLU 1 Jan.
LARK SPARROW(R8): Kinderhook COLU 4 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: max 9 Livingston COLU 22 Jan.
Fox Sparrow: Guilderland ALBA 1 Dec; Ghent COLU 4 Dec.
Song Sparrow: max 22 Livingston COLU 22 Dec.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Vale P SCHE 14 Dec, late.
White-throated Sparrow: max 435 Copake COLU 22 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 3 E Greenbush RENS 28 Dec.
Eastern Meadowlark: Livingston COLU 6 Dec; Sharon Sprgs SCHO 26 Jan; Canajoharie MONT 11 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: Henry Hudson P ALBA 11 Jan, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Galway SARA 2 Dec, late.
Palm Warbler: Catskill GREE 9 Jan, late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 15 Putnam WASH 15 Jan.