

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The 2021-2022 winter season was one of sharp contrasts and sudden reversals. December 2021 was much warmer than normal and could only muster four inches of snow at Albany. The last ten days of the year, and the first two of 2022, were a remarkable eleven degrees above normal and suggested a warm, wet winter was in the cards. But as so often happens, the atmosphere had other ideas. The remainder of January suddenly turned relentlessly cold, almost without respite. It was also very dry, with Arctic air masses dominant and no coastal storms affecting the area. February flipped the script once again, with a rollercoaster of alternating

warm and cold stretches, but only eleven inches of snow. Needless to say, once the cold arrived for good in early January, water bodies froze over and stayed that way through the end of the period.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	36.1°	30.4°	+5.7°	31.9°	26.6°	+5.3°
Jan	19.7°	24.4°	-4.7°	15.5°	19.7°	-4.2°
Feb	27.5°	26.8°	+0.7°	23.4°	21.9°	+1.5°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	2.65"	3.26"	-0.61"	2.53"	3.01"	-0.48"
Jan	1.28"	2.60"	-1.32"	0.65"	2.56"	-1.91"
Feb	2.77"	2.28"	+0.49"	2.99"	1.95"	+1.04"

Rarities were just that, rare this winter season. The Bird of the Season was the **Razorbill** seen briefly on Lake Champlain in far northern Washington County on 13 December. Gary Chapin observed it and provided a well-documented report of the sighting. A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** spent a week roosting along a section of Mohawk River backwater in Halfmoon, Saratoga County, where a pair had also spent time during the early winter in several previous seasons.

A lone **Canvasback** was spotted at the Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch in Montgomery County on 22 January. **White-winged Scoters** were reported from Saratoga Lake, Cossayuna Lake (Washington County), and Snyder’s Lake (Rensselaer County) in December. A **Virginia Rail** was present again this winter during the Chatham CBC, in a cattail marsh along the Hudson River in Stuyvesant, Columbia County. It responded to playback, as it had the previous year. **Iceland Gull** seemed more widespread, in small numbers, than in recent years, with reports from Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, and Albany Counties. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was hard to find, with the only reports from the Mohawk River, Cohoes in mid-January, and Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch in Montgomery County on the last day of February. **Glaucous Gulls** were observed at Round Lake in Saratoga County, and along the Cohoes-Crescent corridor in Albany County. **Snowy Owls** were not as abundant as in recent years, but they were reported from Montgomery, Greene, and Albany Counties, and as usual from the Ft. Edward Grasslands Area in Washington County where two were noted during much of the winter. **Short-eared Owls** were found in their strongholds in Greene, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. The highest number reported from the Ft. Edward Grasslands was nine on 8 January.

Among the unusually late reports this season were **Marsh Wrens** at a farm pond along the Hudson River north of Coxsackie, Greene County on 18 December, and on 2 January from South Bay, Hudson, Columbia County. **American Pipits** were observed along the Hudson River corridor in Saratoga County during all three winter months this year, which might be unprecedented, at least in recent times, looking at CBC data. Rich Guthrie had a very late

Nashville Warbler in his yard on 21 December, in New Baltimore, Greene County. **Common Yellowthroats** lingered into December in two locations, with the unseasonable warmth very much in their favor. A **Cape May Warbler** showed up at a bird feeder in Poestenkill, Rensselaer County on 9 December and hung around until at least the 18th of the month.

Common Redpolls and **Red Crossbills** did not venture very far south of the international border this winter, with just a few observations locally, mostly at bird feeders in the case of the former.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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** – Coxsackie 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.

Snow Goose: max 200 SNHP 8 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Schodack
 RENS 24 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 7500 Glen MONT 23
 Dec.
Mute Swan: max 5 BCR 2 Dec.
Wood Duck: max 3 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.
Northern Shoveler: max 9 Wagers Pd SARA
 9 Dec.
Gadwall: max 16 Stanton Pd ALBA 6 Dec.
American Wigeon: max 50 Stanton Pd ALBA
 5 Dec.
Mallard: max 500 Glen MONT 29 Dec.

American Black Duck: max 83 Cossayuna L
 WASH 23 Jan.
Northern Pintail: max 15 Stanton Pd ALBA 5
 Dec.
Green-winged Teal: max 6 Cossayuna L
 WASH 31 Dec.
Canvasback: Schoharie Crossing MONT 22
 Jan.
Redhead: max 4 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.
Ring-necked Duck: max 500 Loughberry L
 SARA 5 Dec.
Greater Scaup: Max 60 Loughberry L SARA
 15 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: max 150 Loughberry L SARA 5 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: 6 Snyder's L RENS 7 Dec; 4 Lock 7 Canal P SCHE 30 Dec.

Black Scoter: 5 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec; Green Island ALBA 6 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 30 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 115 Saratoga L SARA 5 Dec.

Common Goldeneye: max 425 Saratoga L SARA 3 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: max 240 Saratoga L SARA 4 Jan.

Common Merganser: max 2000 Round L SARA 6 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec; 4 Fish Creek Marina SARA 19 Jan.

Ruddy Duck: max 142 BCR 2 Dec.

Wild Turkey: 98 Blenheim SCHO 7 Jan; 82 Northumberland SARA 13 Jan; 68 Pittstown RENS 4 Jan; 66 Athens GREE 19 Feb; 65 Kingsbury WASH 9 Dec; 65 Mechanicville SARA 28 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Wrights Loop SARA 30 Dec.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 9 FtEG 30 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 Copake L COLU 4 Dec.

Horned Grebe: Copake L COLU 4 Dec; VFNHP 27 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: no reports.

Rock Pigeon: max 300 Overlook P, Cohoes ALBA 15 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 65 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.

Virginia Rail: Stuyvesant COLU 18 Dec.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Canal Rd, Halfmoon SARA 1-6 Dec.

Killdeer: 2 Troy RENS 22 Feb; arr Livingston COLU 12 Feb *very early*.

RAZORBILL: Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 13 Dec.

Bonaparte's Gull: Ballston L SARA 12 Dec *late*.

Ring-billed Gull: max 400 Crescent P SARA 2 Dec.

Herring Gull: max 700 Fultonville MONT 20 Feb.

Iceland Gull: max 3 Cohoes ALBA 3 Jan; 3 Fulton County Landfill FULT 5 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cohoes ALBA 4 Jan; Schoharie Crossing MONT 28 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: Round L SARA 25 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 30 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 150 Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: Swyer Pres COLU 6 Dec.

Common Loon: max 7 Saratoga L SARA 4 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 South Bay WASH 1 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 4 Canal Rd, Halfmoon SARA 2 Dec.

Black Vulture: 100 Greenport COLU 12 Jan; 65 New Scotland ALBA 19 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: max 8 FtEG 6 Dec; Catskill GREE 20 Feb.

Golden Eagle: max 2 Copake COLU 18 Jan.

Northern Harrier: max 7 FtEG 5 Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 Schodack RENS 21 Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 3 Schenectady SCHE 7 Feb.

Northern Goshawk: Rensselaerville ALBA 21 Feb.

Bald Eagle: 9 Cocksackie Res GREE 26 Dec; 9 Cobleskill SCHO 30 Dec; 9 Schaghticoke RENS 20 Jan; 9 Catskill GREE 21 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Stockport COLU 27 Jan; 2 Chatham COLU 21 Feb.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 9 Cocksackie Flats GREE 14 Dec; 9 Northumberland SARA 5 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 5 FtEG 21 Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 Henry Hudson P ALBA 4 Jan.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 Guilderland ALBA 10 Dec.

Snowy Owl: max 2 FtEG 1 Dec.

Barred Owl: max 4 Ft Ann WASH 21 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: max 9 FtEG 8 Jan.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Livingston COLU 21 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: max 3 Mayfield FULT 6 Dec.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 VFNHP 15 Dec.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 mult loc COLU.

Downy Woodpecker: max 11 VFNHP 15 Dec.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 VFNHP 16 Jan.

Northern Flicker: max 5 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 14 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 SNHP 24 Dec.

American Kestrel: max 4 FtEG 14 Jan.

Merlin: max 2 Saratoga Springs SARA 3 Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc along Hudson River.

Eastern Phoebe: Schuylerville SARA 13 Jan, *only report.*

Northern Shrike: max 2 Putnam WASH 17 Dec.

Blue Jay: max 23 Mindem MONT 26 Dec.

American Crow: max 2640 Menands ALBA 26 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 50 Cohoes ALBA 4 Jan.

Common Raven: max 42 Catskill GREE 19 Feb.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 38 SNHP 13 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 11 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 14 Dec.

Horned Lark: max 500 Northumberland SARA 8 Jan.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Athens GREE 9 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 9 SNHP 24 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: max 101 Nassau RENS 26 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 20 Amy's P WASH 20 Dec.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 SNHP 5 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 6 SNHP 8 Feb.

Winter Wren: max 3 Peebles I SP SARA 3 Dec; 3 BMB 6 Dec; 3 VFNHP 30 Dec.

Marsh Wren: New Baltimore GREE 18 Dec; Hudson COLU 2 Jan.

Carolina Wren: max 9 Cocksackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

Gray Catbird: singletons at mult loc.

Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Cocksackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

European Starling: max 5900 Livingston COLU 20 Dec.

Eastern Bluebird: max 14 mult loc.

Hermit Thrush: max 4 SNHP 15 Dec.

American Robin: max 3510 Columbia-Geene Comm Coll COLU 14 Dec.

House Sparrow: max 150 Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

American Pipit: max 35 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.

House Finch: max 54 Hudson COLU 28 Dec.

Purple Finch: max 33 Putnam WASH 13 Dec.

Common Redpoll: max 5 Ghent COLU 20 Feb.

Red Crossbill: max 16 Northville FULT 18 Dec.

Pine Siskin: max 30 Ft Ann WASH 30 Jan.

American Goldfinch: max 86 Greenfield SARA 8 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: max 5 Northumberland SARA 19 Jan.

Snow Bunting: max 500 Saratoga Springs SARA 6 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: singletons at mult loc.

Field Sparrow: max 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 14 Dec; 2 New Baltimore GREE 19 Dec.

Fox Sparrow: singletons in mult loc.

American Tree Sparrow: max 45 Schuylerville SARA 5 Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 107 Kinderhook COLU 18 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 3 Middleburgh SCHO 5 Feb; Bethlehem ALBA 19 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: max 105 Niskayuna SCHE 17 Dec.

Savannah Sparrow: max 10 Livingston COLU 8 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 17 VFNHP 18 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow: max 3 Stuyvesant COLU 18 Dec.

Eastern Towhee: max 2 WMP 8 Jan.

Bobolink: Churchtown COLU 20 Dec, *very late*.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 7 Cocksackie GREE 9 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 Taghkanic COLU 16 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 112 Ghent COLU 29 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: max 7 BCM 2 Feb.

Common Grackle: max 4000 Schodack COLU 17 Feb.

Nashville Warbler: New Baltimore GREE 21 Dec.

Common Yellowthroat: FR 2 Dec; Collins L SCHE 18 Dec.

Cape May Warbler: Poestenkill RENS 9-18 Dec, coming to feeder.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 17 Cocksackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

Northern Cardinal: max 12 Glenmont ALBA 19 Dec.