

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Tom Williams

153A Consaul Rd., Albany, NY 12205
trwdsd@fastmail.fm

The winter of 2022-2023 started off with typical December conditions. Temperatures and precipitation averaged slightly above normal, and several mid-month snowfalls kept the ground covered until just after Christmas. Thereafter warm temperatures arrived, and January 2023 was one of the warmest winter months on record. At Albany, the high temperature reached at least 30° F every day, which was unprecedented. Only 11 inches of snow fell all month, and the lowest temperature recorded at Albany was 18°. After a two-day cold snap in early February, temperatures returned to well above normal levels. Precipitation, and snowfall, was below normal in February.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	31.9°	30.4°	+1.5°	28.5°	26.6°	+1.9°
Jan	32.9°	24.4°	+8.5°	29.8°	48.0°	+10.1°
Feb	31.5°	26.8°	+4.7°	26.2°	21.9°	+4.3°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.95"	3.26"	+0.69"	4.06"	3.72"	+1.05"
Jan	3.31"	2.60"	+0.71"	3.97"	2.56"	+1.41"
Feb	1.89"	2.28"	-0.39"	1.25"	1.95"	-0.70"

A pair of immature **Tundra Swans** that showed up on Saratoga Lake, Saratoga County, in late November 2022 stayed there throughout December and into the new year. They were last observed on 6 January. Schoharie County also had **Tundra Swans** for a few days, with a group of four present along Cobleskill Creek behind the Walmart Supercenter just east of Cobleskill. They were photographed on 26-27 February. Many ponds and lakes remained at least partially unfrozen for much of the winter season, and many species of waterfowl not normally encountered during the depth of winter were observed. **Canvasback** and **Redhead** ducks lingered in several locations in Saratoga and Warren Counties. A **Surf Scoter** was photographed on the Mohawk River in Cohoes, Albany County, in late December, and another was seen at Lake George Beach, Warren County, just before and after New Year's Day. As in recent years, **Virginia Rail** appears to have wintered over again this period in cattail/reed marshes along the Hudson River in Columbia County, with reports from December and February.

A very late juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper**, perhaps a continuing bird from the fall, was photographed in marshy habitat along Wampecack Creek west of Buskirk in Washington County on 4 December. **Bonaparte's Gull** is not normally among the expected winter gulls in Region 8, but individuals were noted from the north end of Lake George, and at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site late in December. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported from two of the winter concentration points for gulls, at Fultonville in Montgomery County, and Cohoes in Albany County. **Glaucous Gulls** were seen at those two locations as well. A single **Red-throated Loon** was seen during the period, on the Mohawk River from Gateway Landing Park in Schenectady County.

Turkey Vultures normally retreat to areas just to the south of the Region in mid-winter, but with such mild conditions this year some birds lingered in the Capital District right through January. **Golden Eagle** was recorded in six counties in Region 8 this winter. There was only one report of **Snowy Owl** this season, a single owl noted in the Fort Edward Grasslands, Washington County in December.

David Harrison found some large flocks of both **Bohemian Waxwing** and **Pine Grosbeak** at Clemons Marsh, Washington County in late January. A few other reports of Pine Grosbeak were scattered around Warren and Washington Counties. **Evening Grosbeak** continued to be observed over the northern two-

thirds of the eleven-county area this winter. Winter finch reports consisted of **Common Redpoll** and **Pine Siskin**, scattered about Region 8.

132 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Susan Beaudoin, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthal, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Groups.io; David Halm, David Harrison, Julie Hart, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Ellen Penrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Daniel Schlaepfer, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Larry Steele, Scott Stoner, Alison Van Keuren, Rich White, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Fort Edward Grasslands, WASH; **SL** – Saratoga L, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA.

Snow Goose: max 650 Cambridge WASH 8 Dec.

Cackling Goose: Melrose RENS 15 Jan; Schoharie Crossing BL 18 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 2000, mult loc.

Mute Swan: max 5 Nassau L RENS 10 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 4 Cobleskill SCHO 26-27 Feb; 2 SL 1 Dec-6 Jan.

Wood Duck: max 9 Catskill GREE 26 Feb.

Northern Shoveler: max 5 BCR 13 Dec.

Gadwall: max 45 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Dec.

American Wigeon: max 27 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Dec.

Mallard: max 1459 St Johnsville MONT 31 Dec.

American Black Duck: max 92 VFNHP 7 Dec.

Northern Pintail: max 14 Melrose RENS 14 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: max 28 TR 1 Dec.

Canvasback: max 8 SL 13 Jan.

Redhead: max 12 Fish Creek Marina SARA 20 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: max 950 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 80 SL 3 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 120 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.

Surf Scoter: Crescent Power Plant ALBA 21 Dec; L George Beach SP WARR 29 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: Snyder's L RENS 6 Dec; SL 3 Jan; Corning Riverfront P ALBA 8 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 85 SL 2 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: max 500 SL 16 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: max 217 SL 15 Dec.

Common Merganser: max 960 TR 14 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 L George WARR 25 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: max 350 BCR 3 Dec.

Wild Turkey: max 200 Blenheim SCHO 27 Jan.

Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 SL 8 Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 3 Green I ALBA 6 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 6 SL 8 Dec.

Rock Pigeon: max 700 Cohoes ALBA 31 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 130 Fultonville MONT 18 Dec.

Virginia Rail: Ghent COLU 17 Dec; Kinderhook COLU 14 Feb.

American Coot: max 8 BCR 6 Dec.

Killdeer: max 3 Coxsackie GREE 14 Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Cambridge WASH 4 Dec.

American Woodcock: arr Ghent COLU 20 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 26 Dec; Hague WARR 28 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Schaghticoke RENS 1 Dec.

Herring Gull: max 600 Fultonville MONT 15 Feb.

Iceland Gull: 2 Cohoes ALBA 19 Dec; Fultonville MONT 25 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; Fultonville MONT 22 Jan.

Glaucous Gull: 2 Schoharie Crossing BL MONT 26 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 T Colonie Landfill ALBA 2 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: Rotterdam SCHE 17 Dec.

Common Loon: max 4 SL 13 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 TR 1 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 4 Niskayuna SCHE 2 Dec; 4 Athens GREE 11 Dec; 4 Halfmoon SARA 26 Dec.

Black Vulture: max 120 Greenport COLU 3 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: max 10 Guilderland ALBA 18 Feb.

Golden Eagle: singletons COLU WASH GREE RENS MONT.

Northern Harrier: max 11 Sprakers MONT 19 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 Schodack RENS 20 Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: max 2 mult loc.

Bald Eagle: max 19 Schoharie Res SCHO 6 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 mult loc.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 23 Albany Co CBC New Scotland ALBA 18 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 Putnam WASH 27 Dec; 3 Sprakers MONT 23 Jan; 3 FtEG 14 Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 mult loc.

Snowy Owl: FtEG 22 Dec, only report.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 mult loc.

Barred Owl: max 4 Stillwater SARA 8 Jan.

Short-eared Owl: max 9 FtEG 30 Jan.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: L Taghkanic SP COLU 19 Dec.

Belted Kingfisher: max 3 mult loc.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 13 Saratoga CBC Sector D SARA 15 Dec.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 mult loc.

Downy Woodpecker: max 26 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 10 Saratoga Springs SARA 22 Jan.

Northern Flicker: max 4 Stockport COLU 17 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 Clifton P SARA 28 Jan.

American Kestrel: max 4 FtEG 27 Dec.

Merlin: max 2 Washington P ALBA 1 Jan.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

Northern Shrike: Schuylerville SARA 15 Dec; VFNHP 18 Dec; FtEG 5 Feb.

Blue Jay: max 72 Saratoga CBC Sector D 15 Dec.

American Crow: max 2000 Albany Rural Cem ALBA 24 Dec; FtEG 18 Jan.

Fish Crow: max 50 Albany Rural Cem ALBA 24 Dec.

Common Raven: max 13 Ghent COLU 26 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 73 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 45 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Horned Lark: max 700 Schaghticoke RENS 27 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Selkirk ALBA 9 Dec- 26 Feb, overwintered.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 7 Stillwater SARA 2 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 72 Clemons Marsh WASH 31 Jan.

Cedar Waxwing: max 25 Cobleskill SCHO 22 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 2 Dec.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 28 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 6 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Feb.

Carolina Wren: max 13 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Winter Wren: max 5 VFNHP 7 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Ghent COLU 17 Dec; M-H Bike-Hike Path, Colonie ALBA 2 Jan; Kinderhook COLU 28 Feb.

Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Schenectady CBC Sector E ALBA 17 Dec.

European Starling: max 2000 Kinderhook COLU 17 Dec.

Eastern Bluebird: max 23 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: max 2 Niskayuna SCHE 16 Feb.

American Robin: max 250 Chatham COLU 1 Dec.

House Sparrow: max 120 Albany ALBA 26 Feb.

American Pipit: max 3 Troy RENS 31 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Brant L WARR 25 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: max 41 Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jan.

House Finch: max 60 Schaghticoke RENS 16 Jan.

Purple Finch: max 9 Copake COLU 19 Feb.

Common Redpoll: max 14 Saratoga Springs SARA 2 Feb.

Red Crossbill: max 12 APBP 25 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 Black Mt Fire Tower WASH 10 Feb.

Pine Siskin: max 15 Bleecker FULT 17 Jan.

American Goldfinch: max 69 Summit SCHO 31 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: max 6 Valley Falls RENS 23 Jan.

Snow Bunting: max 400 Stone Arabia MONT 26 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: singletons in a few loc.

Field Sparrow: max 3 FR 30 Dec.

American Tree Sparrow: max 52 Minden MONT 31 Dec.

Fox Sparrow: Consaul Rd, Colonie ALBA 1-3 Dec; Ghent COLU 2 Dec; Coxsackie GREE 18 Feb.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 205 Saratoga CBC Sector D SARA 15 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 3 Meads Ln, Delmar ALBA 18 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: max 140 Wilton SARA 1 Feb.

Savannah Sparrow: max 8 Germantown COLU 27 Jan; 8 Schodack RENS 27 Feb.

Song Sparrow: max 19 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: max 3 Nutton Hooke COLU 17 Dec.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 2 Whitehall WASH 8 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 Halfmoon SARA 21 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 310 Ghent COLU 5 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: max 8 Pittstown RENS 7 Feb.

Common Grackle: max 3000 Halfmoon SARA 21 Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 2 Albany ALBA 18 Dec.

Northern Cardinal: max 32 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.