

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

Warm and dry weather, summer birds remaining late, and northern species failing to arrive characterized the late-fall migration, mid-October through November, in the Mohawk Valley region. October was the second warmest on record, with average daily temperature of 53.9 degrees; November was the third highest, with 43.4 degrees average, or 4.8 above normal. Both months were deficient in precipitation. November had 2 inches of snow, half on the 30th. Fall canker moths and other insects were in flight through November, and night-crawlers were out Nov. 22. As was the case in early fall, there were no appreciable waves of migrants, whether water-birds, hawks, or song-birds.

LOONS — DUCKS: No Loons were seen. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were in usual numbers at Saratoga Lake through November. Mallards, Blacks, Teal and other early ducks continued late in numbers; Golden-eyes, Buffleheads and Mergansers were in by mid-November, but their numbers and most other late species had not yet arrived at month's end.

HAWKS — OWLS: The region is not noted for hawk flights, and no wave was apparent. End-of-November indications were that Sharp-shinned, Sparrow and Red-shouldered Hawks were tarrying. Several Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawks were being seen regularly at the banding station of Mrs. Fitzgerald, Amsterdam.

Two Wilson's Snipe and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers were listed on the SBC field trip of Nov. 1. November records of the Ring-billed Gull indicated increased abundance; four Bonaparte's Gulls were at Saratoga Lake Nov. 15.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few Kingfishers remained through November. City and suburban records of the Pileated Woodpecker were fairly common.

A Tufted Titmouse appeared regularly at several feeders in Niskayuna, beginning Nov. 29; and about the same time another at feeders in Woodlawn, 3 or more miles away. There is only one previous regional record for the species, in the spring of 1952.

A Catbird appeared regularly at a city feeder (Podrazik) starting Nov. 26.

Robins continued in flocks, but by November's end were few. A Hermit Thrush was at Jenny Lake Nov. 21. Bluebirds were scarce. Cedar Waxwings, abundant in early fall, were also scarce. A few Northern Shrikes were recorded by late November.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Last Vireo recorded was a Solitary Oct. 17 (Hallenbeck). Myrtle Warblers continued through Oct. 27 (French). Transient Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than usual, with a flock of 8 continuing in one Schenectady city block three weeks to Oct. 14 (Bartlett).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Purple Grackles, and Cowbirds all continued through November.

Two Baltimore Orioles were listed. One was visiting feeders at Ballston Lake, for the third successive winter. Another was 8 miles west of Amsterdam, at a feeder (Fitzgerald).

There were small flocks of Purple Finches after Nov. 2, and a flock of Pine Siskins at Jenny Lake Nov. 21. Evening Grosbeaks were unrecorded; Juncos and Tree Sparrows were light migrants. Last date for the Fox Sparrow was Nov. 8 (Jenny Lake; and Loudonville, French).

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