

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

WILLIAM E. COOK

It was a warm and wet fall in eastern New York. Precipitation in the Albany area was two inches above normal in October and one inch above normal in November. This October was the warmest recorded by the Eastern New York Weather Observers, which began keeping records in 1978. Mean temperatures were in the 40's in November, with some record highs in the mid 70's.

The fall migration was sparse. The regular hawkwatchers found no Merlin or Peregrine Falcon although two of the latter were reported to Dial-A-Bird. Ducks were sporadic, with only one sighting of many common species such as N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Canvasback. No Surf Scoter was reported this season but there were two reports of Black Scoter and one of White-winged Scoter. With a Regional paucity of mudflats and no major hurricane this year, the shorebirding was especially poor. Only nine species, with mostly single sightings, were reported. No one found either of the large plovers or most of the peeps. Only the three resident species of owls were reported. Warblers were described as "very meager" (RY). The 22 species reported did not include Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Prairie Warbler nor Louisiana Waterthrush. The warm weather may, however, have been responsible for sightings of lingering individuals. On 7 Nov a record late Black-and-white Warbler was seen on the Niskayuna Bike Path and a record late Wilson's Warbler was observed feeding on spiders at Lee Thomas' window in Colonie (*fide* RG). Both species are rare after October.

Tom Cobb and Sheryl Zink added four species to the Saratoga Spa

list: N. Shoveler, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Grasshopper Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. Although rarely reported in our Region a second **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen this season in Coeymans 14 Oct (*fide* RG). Hawk watchers found two Golden Eagles in the Region this season). Other rarities for the season include a second Regional record for **N. Wheatear**, **Sandhill Crane**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. We are fortunate that several birders from the northern part of our region have become active and contribute reports from this area which has previously been under represented. Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news is at 518-377-9600.

Contributors: K. Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club, K. Beale, B. Boehm, T. Cobb, P. Connor, W. Cook, C. Fosdick, R. Guthrie, R. Holberton, A. Long, A. Mapes, A. Mason, L. Meade, B. Putnam, A. Ross, R. Yunick, S. Zink.

Abbreviations: FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HR - Hudson R JenL - Jenny L, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga L; SaraSP - Saratoga Spa SP; TomR - Tomhannock Res, RENS.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: first migrants Jabe Pd WARR 3 Oct (*fide* LM). Pied-billed Grebe: arr Ghent 13 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr SaraL 2 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: last HR 21 Oct. Am. Bittern: Vischer's Ferry 3-Nov (*fide* RG), rarely reported in fall. Great Egret: 12 reports through 28 Oct. Cattle Egret: Delmar early Sep (AM), rare but becoming almost annual. Green-backed Heron: Livingston 6 Nov (WC), rare after mid October. Snow Goose: arr s RENN 27 Sep; max 10,000 Stuyvesant 29 Oct (RH). Green-winged Teal: arr SaraSP 25 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: one report SaraSP 18 Sep. N. Shoveler: one SaraSP 2 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one **SaraSp** 2-11 Nov; *intro*. Black Scoter: a raft of about 40 at Tomhannock Res (Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club), 15 on Saratoga L 20 Oct (BP). White-winged Scoter: one at the Tomhannock 23 Nov (JB). Com. Goldeneye: max 124 TomR 18 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Bolton 12 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr TomR 20 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: six SaraL 27 Oct-30 Nov (RG,BP), uncommon Regionally.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last COLU 30 Oct (ADBC). Osprey: last JenL 27 Oct (RY). Bald Eagle: 11 reports as sightings continue to increase locally especially along the HR. N. Harrier: first of 36 migrants COLU 3 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: Greenfield 12 Nov (CF) late. Broad-winged Hawk: last Stockport Station 27 Oct (WC) late. Rough-legged Hawk: arr WASH 28 Oct (*fide* BP). Golden Eagle: imm Pinnacle ALBA 16 Oct (AL, PC); imm Thatcher P ALBA 12 Nov (KA). Peregrine Falcon: Union College and Coeymans both 7 Oct (*fide* RG). Com. Moorhen: Galway 3 Sep (*fide* RG), uncommon locally. Am. Coot: arr two HR Clermont 8 Oct (AL). **Sandhill Crane**: two for a over week Ballston Spa 11 Oct (*fide* RG). Greater Yellowlegs: three reports, arr Chatham 21 Oct (ADBC). Solitary Sandpiper: arr Gansevoort 1 Sep (BP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one FiveR 19 Sep (AM), first local record. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: two SaraL 24-27 Nov (FM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one report SaraSP 25 Sep (TC, SZ). Com. Nighthawk: seven reports, max 100 Delmar 2 Sep (AM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Hillsdale 14 Oct (ADBC), late. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Stillwater 5 Sep (*fide* RG), rare locally. Red-bellied Woodpecker: six reports, now has reached Washington County (*fide* BP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Claverack 13 Oct (AL). Pileated Woodpecker: becoming more common, 19 reports including downtown Hudson (Union St.) 20 Nov (WC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: last heard/seen Greenfield 13 Oct (CF), late. Willow Flycatcher: Chatham 23 Sep (K Dunham), late. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last Gansevoort 13 Sep (BP). Com. Raven: seven reports from ALBA and SARA. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 46 banded by RY is "well above non-invasion years". Carolina Wren: six reports. Winter Wren: arr FiveR 4 Oct (AM), early. Marsh Wren: one report, Stockport Station 27 Oct (RH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: COLU 27 Oct (ADBC), record late. **N. Wheatear**: one North River 24 Sep (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marcotte *fide* LM). Am. Pipit: arr Basic Creek Res 5 Oct (KB, BB). **N. Shrike**: Pittstown, RENS 18 Oct (AR).

VIREOS-WARBLES: Philadelphia Vireo: two reports, arr Gansevoort 9 Sep. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Hillsdale 15 Oct (ADBC), late. Black-and-white Warbler: *intro*. Wilson's Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: imm male Berne 15 Oct (KA), ties record late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WASH 28 Oct (BP). Grasshopper Sparrow: one SaraSp 22 Aug, missed the summer report. Fox Sparrow: arr Gansevoort 28 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one SaraSp 19 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: 12 sightings, six by AL, first Greenfield 7 Oct (CF). Lapland Longspur: ten Hague 8 Nov (LM), only report. Snow Bunting: arr Greenfield 20 Oct (CF). Rusty Blackbird: arr SARA 10 Oct (8P). N. Oriole: Colonie 11 Nov (*fide* KA), late. Red Crossbill: Greenfield 25 Nov (CF). Pine Siskin: first Greenfield 13 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr JenL 14 Oct.

Columbia-Greene Community College, PO Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534