

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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September was a dry month with near normal temperatures. October, however, was much colder than normal, with temperatures averaging almost 4°F below normal. The month started out sunny and pleasant, but the latter two-thirds was mostly cloudy and cool, with occasional showers. November continued cool, with small wetlands and marshes frozen by 8 Nov. They thawed again later in the month.

Migration of raptors and waterfowl seemed to occur at expected times and with normal numbers of birds. Winter finches were largely absent. Two reports of Evening Grosbeak were received, but there were no reports of Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll or either crossbill.

Wintering Mute Swan were seen in much greater numbers than usual in the Hudson River, as reported by the Alan Devoe Bird Club. One observer found 156 of these birds on the Hudson River in COLU on 29 Nov. A pair of Mute Swan nested unsuccessfully on Round Lake SARA this year. The pair was captured by biologists from the state Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to reduce disturbance of other species of nesting waterfowl, and the swans were placed with a person who raises exotic waterfowl.

In late November, Robert Yunick reported large numbers of gulls drawn to the Niskyuna Landfill, SCHE. On 28 Nov he estimated 500 Great Black-backed, 3500 Herring and 800 Ring-billed Gulls in that area, the largest assemblage of gulls found in his many years of birding that area.

Raptors were generally scarce in the Region. Robert Yunick reports driving 100 miles of the Thruway (I-87) south of Albany on 21 Nov and not seeing a single Red-tailed Hawk. On 28 Nov at the Niskyuna Landfill he found only four Red-tailed Hawk, where he normally finds a dozen. Northern Harrier was very scarce over much of the Region, with

none seen during the period at Five Rivers Center in Delmar. This species is usually seen almost daily at that location in the fall. There were, however, five reports of Northern Harrier from COLU. Wintering owls were very scarce, with no reports of Short-eared Owl during the period. Four reports of Snowy Owl were received. Two were seen within the city of Albany (3 and 12 Nov), each present for one day only. A Snowy Owl hunted at the South Albany Airport (Selkirk) for four days during Thanksgiving week. These three sightings possibly could have been of the same bird. A fourth report came from Johnstown on 6 Nov.

House Finch continues to decline in numbers in Schenectady, as reported by Robert Yunick. Reports of low numbers were received from several other locations. Yunick also reported that Purple Finch was scarce at Jenny Lake, SARA. A record low number of young were captured at his banding station there, indicating nesting failure. The species was unusually absent in September and October at that location.

The event of the season was the appearance of a **Gray Kingbird** near the west shore of the Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS. Discovered on 28 Oct by Richard Guthrie, this bird was seen and photographed by many observers as it actively fed around farm buildings and a horse pasture. It was not seen after 4 Nov, but a Gray Kingbird found in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, in late November possibly was the same bird.

An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was present on Saratoga Lake SARA from 5 Nov to the end of the period. Discovered by George Hanson, the bird was usually seen with a flock of Common Goldeneye. Another adult male was observed several times on Tomhannock Reservoir.

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Abbreviations: FiveR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake SARA; TomRes – Tomhannock Reservoir RENS.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one TomRes 8 Nov (TC), only report. **Com. Loon:** max five SaraL 11 Nov (BL); last L George 26 Nov (LM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** last SaraL 29 Nov (BL). **Horned Grebe:** last three SaraL 29 Nov (BL). **Red-necked Grebe:** only two reports of singles, last SaraL 29 Nov (BP). **Double-crested Cormorant:** frequent Hudson R throughout Sep (PC); last two Lock 7 on Mohawk R 11 Nov

(RY). **Great Egret**: four reports, max four Vischer Ferry 12 Sep (SS), last Chatham Colu 26 Sep (ADBC), fewer than usual. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: three Poebles I SARA 16 Sep (RG), only report. **Mute Swan**: *intro*. **Snow Goose**: max 350 TomRes 7 Nov (BL), last 20 L George 17 Nov (LM). **Brant**: 20 TomRes 30 Oct (RG) max, last two TomRes 11 Nov (BL). **Blue-winged Teal**: one Stony Creek Res SARA 14 Nov (BL), late. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Stanton Pd ALBA 18 Oct, remained several weeks but departure not reported. **Oldsquaw**: two reports, last TomRes 14 Nov (BL), scarce. **Black Scoter**: four reports, max 21 Austerlitz 30 Oct (ADBC). **Surf Scoter**: three reports, arr and max ten Castleton, Hudson R 25 Oct (PC); nine Lock 7 Mohawk R SCHE 1 Nov (RY), unusual for that location. **White-winged Scoter**: seven reports, arr Mohawk R SCHE Oct 18 (BL). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*.

Bald Eagle: seven reports, found at new locations and with increasing frequency. **N. Harrier**: *intro*. **N. Goshawk**: one Nassau 17 Oct (PC), only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last FiveR 3 Nov (AAM). **Red-tailed Hawk**: *intro*. **Rough-legged Hawk**: one Ft. Edward Wash 7 Nov (BP), only report, very scarce. **Peregrine Falcon**: one L George 28 Oct (LM), only report. **Wild Turkey**: max 20 Hague 14 Nov (LM), continuing to expand range into Adirondacks. **Com. Moorhen**: female with five less than half grown y Vischer Ferry 12 Sep (BP). **Greater Yellowlegs**: three reports only. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: only one report. **Hudsonian Godwit**: one Hook Road WASH 26 Oct (BG). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: only one report. **Least Sandpiper**: three reports. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: only one report. **Dunlin**: max four SARA 18 Oct (BP), last two TomRes 30 Oct (RG). **Com. Snipe**: max five WASH 26 Oct (BG). **Iceland Gull**: arr three imm Colonie Landfill ALBA 7 Nov (BL), two ad Moreau Landfill SARA 14 Nov (BG), more than usual. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one TomRes 31 Oct, only report.

Snowy Owl: *intro*. **Com. Nighthawk**: only report three Ann Lee Pd ALBA 2 Sep (SS). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: imm Old Chatham 15 Nov (PC) only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: five reports COLU, increasing.

E. Wood-Pewee: one Greenport 16 Oct (ADBC), record late. **GRAY KINGBIRD**: *intro*. **Horned Lark**: max 25 Unionville ALBA 7 Nov (DAB). **Tree Swallow**: last six FiveR 13 Nov (RB), very late. **Blue Jay**: scarce during last half of the period. **Com. Raven**: three reports ALBA, COLU, WASH. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one nocturnal migrant heard Schodack Center 24 Sep (PC), only report. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Berne 20 Sep (PC), many nocturnal migrants heard Schodack Center 24 Sep (PC), only reports. **Gray Catbird**: last near TomRes 9 Nov (BL), late. **Am. Pipit**: max 100 SARA 11 Oct (BP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: only one report. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one FiveR 1 Oct (AAM), only report. **N. Parula:** last TomRes 31 Oct (RG) late. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 60 Mill Creek Marsh COLU 16 Oct (PC). **Blackpoll Warbler:** last TomRes 28 Oct (RG), late.

Indigo Bunting: last two Mill Creek Marsh COLU 24 Sep (PC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 20 COLU 8 Oct (PC). **Chipping Sparrow:** one at feeder Colonie ALBA 22-24 Nov (DAB), late. **Vesper Sparrow:** max six WASH 16 Sep (BP), last Jefferson 28 Sep (AM). **Fox Sparrow:** last FiveR 1 Nov (AAM). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** max three GREE 1 Oct (RG). **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr five GREE 1 Oct (RG). **Snow Bunting:** arr TomRes 31 Oct (BL), max 30 SARA 5 Nov (GH). **Red-winged Blackbird:** last male WASH 28 Nov (BP). **Rusty Blackbird:** max five WASH 11 Oct (BG). **Com. Grackle:** last Jefferson 29 Nov (AM). **House Finch:** *intro*. **Purple Finch:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** only two reports, four Schodack Center 1 Nov (PC), one Jefferson 5 Nov (AM).

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