

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 1993 was slightly cooler and wetter than normal. September's mean temperature was 60.5°F, 0.8° lower than usual, with 15% less sunshine than normal. The first frost occurred on 20 Sep. October averaged 48.6°F, 1.6° below normal, but with nearly normal sunshine. November averaged 39.7°F, 1.3° below expected. There was 48% possible sunshine, 10% more than normal. September had slightly above normal precipitation, with rain on 19 days. October rainfall was 0.48 inches above the normal 2.83 inches. November's precipitation was 0.57 inches above normal, with three-quarters of it occurring on 17 and

28 Nov. Snowfall through the period was minimal, only 0.7 inches.

A stalled front produced a major passerine grounding on 17 Sep. There were many reports of large numbers of both species and individuals through 22 Sep. According to Ken Able "trees on the SUNY campus were actually 'vibrating' with warblers feeding in the foliage." Frank Murphy states "one of the best fallouts ever witnessed by me in 20 years!" At the same time Robert Yunick experienced a heavy Monarch butterfly movement while traveling south on I-88 from Schenectady to Oneonta.

Double-crested Cormorant was common on the Mohawk and Hudson R through October. Wild Turkey was seen in record high numbers throughout the period, with flocks of 75 to 100 birds being reported. Shorebird numbers were good due to lower water levels and associated mud flat exposure at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA, and Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS. Common Nighthawk reports continued through 8 Oct, with 38 being reported from Fort Edward on 2 Sep and 23 from Rotterdam on 13 Sep. Few American Robin were reported during the period due to a poor fruit crop.

Robert Yunick continued to observe Red-breasted Nuthatch in record numbers at Jenny Lake, SARA, with over 35 individuals seen on 19 Sep. In late October and early November, Dark-eyed Junco appeared in good numbers in his yard in Schenectady, with 38 individuals banded between 25 and 31 Oct, and 45 banded in November.

It appears that a good season for winter finches is in the making. Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak made early appearances. Pine Siskin was seen in good numbers during mid to late October but then all but disappeared. No crossbills were reported during the period.

Two great rarities were sighted during the period. Two adult *Ross's Goose* were found by Walter Ellison (NYSARC) on 14 Nov at Tomhannock Reservoir in a large flock of Snow Goose. At least one of the birds remained through 28 Nov. A *Northern Wheatear* was discovered by Bill Graham on 24 Sep in the Town of Fort Edward. On the same day the bird was photographed by Barb Putnam and extensively described by Walter Ellison (NYSARC report encouraged). The bird remained through 29 Sep and was seen by many observers. It was only one of many individuals seen on the east coast this fall, leading to some speculation that a small subpopulation of this species may be adopting a new migration route. Other unusual birds sighted during the period

include Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hudsonian Godwit, Acadian Flycatcher, and Bohemian Waxwing.

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Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, Cohoes, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SCRes - Stony Creek Reservoir, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** three singles, Mohawk R near VFNP 1 Nov (BEN), VFNP 8 Nov (WE), four TomRes 18 Nov (WE, NM). **Com. Loon:** juv being fed by parents Thirteenth L WARR until at least 17 Oct (KA); max eight SaraL 13 Nov (WE), six TomRes 18 Nov (WE). **Pied-billed Grebe:** max ten BCRes 6 Sep (BEN); last Watervliet Res ALBA 21 Nov (WE). **Horned Grebe:** last L George WARR 27 Nov (LM, mob). **Red-necked Grebe:** six reports, last two SaraL 13 Nov (WE). **Double-crested Cormorant:** last ad TomRes 14 Nov. (WE). **Am. Bittern:** one VFNP 18 Sep (BEN). **Great Egret:** six reports, max ten BCRes 6 Sep (BEN); last TomRes 25 Sep (WE, NM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two VFNP 5 Sep (WE, NM), only report. **Tundra Swan:** four ad, one juv SaraL 11 Nov (BL, BP). **Snow Goose:** max 490 TomRes 14-28 Nov (WE, NM); 250+ Greenwich 18 Nov (JS). **Ross' Goose:** intro. **Brant:** two TomRes 7 Nov (BL); three SaraL 24 Oct (JG). **Eurasian Wigeon:** male Stanton Pd ALBA 9-24 Oct (RB). **Redhead:** four SaraL 5-15 Nov (JG, BL). **Black Scoter:** five reports, max 70 Thompson L RENS 13 Oct (KA); 80 TomRes 23 Nov (WE, NM, mob). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** male SaraL 4-14 Nov (BEN), third year in a row. **Hooded Merganser:** high numbers throughout period, max 102 TomRes 28 Nov (WE, NM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** four reports, max three SaraL 13 Nov (JG).

Osprey: nine reports. **Bald Eagle:** four reports, imm BCRes 12 Sep (WE, NM), imm Pinnacle 19 Sep (JG), one Taconic SP (BEN), two Alcove Res ALBA 20 Oct (BEN). **N. Goshawk:** three reports, imm Schodack Center 4 Oct (PC), two Pinnacle 23 Oct (KA), ad Schodack Center 13 Nov (PC). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** last TomRes 18 Nov (WE, NM, mob).

Rough-legged Hawk: three reports, one Alcove Res ALBA 24 Oct (KA); one Fort Edward 3 Nov (BG); three Fort Edward 26 Nov (WE, NM). **Merlin:** five reports, one Northumberland 4 Sep (BP); one VFNP 8 Sep (WE, NM); one Pinnacle 11 Sep (WE, NM, mob); one NRP 22 Sep (WE); one SI 17 Oct (WE, NM). **Peregrine Falcon:** nine reports, last Delmar 14 Nov (BEN). **Wild Turkey:** *intro*. **Am. Golden-Plover:** juv TomRes 25 Sep (WE, NM). **Solitary Sandpiper:** last VFNP 2 Oct (WE, NM). **Hudsonian Godwit:** two reports, five TomRes 16 Oct (WE, NM); one SaraL 3-21 Nov (BEN), extremely pale, albino? **Sanderling:** one Carter L WASH 28 Oct (JS). **W. Sandpiper:** one TomRes 31 Oct (RB, JG). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** three reports, last TomRes 31 Oct (RB, JG). **Baird's Sandpiper:** juv SI 1 Sep (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** six reports, max 48 BCRes 9 Oct (BEN). **Dunlin:** last TomRes 14 Nov (WE). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** two reports, juv VFHP 5 Sep (WE, NM), one BCRes 12 Sep (WE, NM, mob). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one TomRes 17 Oct (BEN). **Bonaparte's Gull:** last one SaraL 6 Nov (BL). **Ring-billed Gull:** high count 2000+ SaraL 13 Nov (WE, NM). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** three reports, imm Cohoes Falls ALBA 18 Sep; two ad SI 7 Nov; ad SaraL 13 Nov (WE, NM). **Iceland Gull:** imm Mohawk R near Cohoes 27 Nov (WE). **Black Tern:** two Fort Edward 4 Sep (BP).

Com. Nighthawk: *intro*; last Albany 8 Oct (KA), quite late. **Chimney Swift:** max 80 PISP 4 Sep (BEN). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** three reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** last Saratoga Springs 9 Oct (JG).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reports, one Ghent 14 Sep (ADBC); one PISP 18 Sep (WE, NM). **Acadian Flycatcher:** one Guilderland 17 Sep (WE). **Bank Swallow:** high count 200 Copake 5 Sep (BC). **Fish Crow** two Colonie 18 Sep (WE); one Niskayuna Landfill SCHE 6 Nov (RY). **Com. Raven:** many reports including ten Pinnacle ALBA 23 Oct (KA). **N. Wheatear:** *intro*. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one PISP 11-27 Nov (WE), very late. **E. Bluebird:** many reports, high count 45 Guilderland 15 Oct (WE). **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one Berne 25 Sep (KA), only report. **Swainson's Thrush:** eight reports, nocturnal migrants heard RENS 8 and 11 Sep (PC). **Bohemian Waxwing:** twelve Warrensburg 11 Nov (A. Saunders).

Philadelphia Vireo: five reports, last Austerlitz 28 Sep (ADBC). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one Ann Lee Pd ALBA 1 Oct (FM). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** only two reports. **Prairie Warbler:** three reports, last two BCWMA 11 Sep (WE, NM). **Palm Warbler:** last TomRes 23 Oct (WE, NM). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one FiveR 12 Sep (BEN). **Mourning Warbler:** only two reports. **Wilson's Warbler:** five reports.

Am. Tree-Sparrow: arr four VFNP 22 Oct (WE, NM). **Vesper Sparrow:** one Fort Edward 30 Sep (BP), only report. **Fox Sparrow:** last PISP 7 Nov (WE). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** six reports. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr PISP 17 Sep (WE, NM). **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr FiveR 2 Oct (C. Grachen). **Lapland Longspur:** two S Albany Airport ALBA 26 Nov (AAM). **Snow Bunting:** 60 Kingsbury WARR 28 Oct (WE, NM). **Rusty Blackbird:** max eight VFNP 22 Oct (WE, NM). **Pine Grosbeak:** small flocks noted Schodack Center 18 and 24 Nov (PC), four Thacher P ALBA 25 Nov (KA). **Purple Finch:** small numbers present Sep-late Oct, none reported Nov. **Com. Redpoll:** arr ten 2 Nov (BEN), many reports. **Pine Siskin:** in numbers mid to late Oct, few reported Nov. **Evening Grosbeak:** many reports beginning Oct, max 30 Schodack Center 7 Oct (PC); 30 Hague 30 Oct (LM); 20-30 Jefferson 16 Oct through end of period (AM); 30 Jenny L SARA 24 Oct (RY).

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