

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 1994 was generally warm and the sixth driest on record as reported from the Albany County Airport. September's mean temperature was 60.9°F, just 0.4° lower than average, with nearly normal sunshine. The 2.15 inches of precipitation was 0.80 inches below normal, with most of the rain occurring on just two days. No frost occurred. October averaged 50.1°F, 0.1° below average, with 75% sunshine. Rainfall was 2.00 inches below the normal 2.83 inches. November averaged 43.3°F, 3.6° above average. There was 50% possible sunshine, 14% more than normal. Precipitation was 1.70 inches below the normal 3.23 inches. The first snow fell on 22 Nov, with 2.5 inches on 27 Nov.

The generally quiet weather produced no major groundings of migrating passerines. However, good numbers of migrants, especially warblers, were noted by Walter Ellison on the SUNY at Albany campus in late September, especially on 29 Sep, when 70 individuals of 11 warbler species were observed. On 2 Oct he found 40 individuals of 12 warbler species at Peeples Island SP. Robert Yunick noted that Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers continue to decline at Jenny L SARA with only 16 chickadees banded during the period, and six nuthatches in September. For the first time he noted no White-throated Sparrows in his Schenectady yard during migration. In contrast to last year, few winter finches were present. There were no reports of Pine Grosbeak, Red or White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll or Evening Grosbeak, and very small numbers of Purple Finch and Pine Siskin.

Great Cormorant has finally reached the Hudson-Mohawk confluence, after being seen in the New Baltimore area during the past several years. Two or three immatures were present on the lower Mohawk in the Cohoes-Colonie area after 17 Sep. Shorebird reports from the area were down from last year, with only 13 species reported. With the closing of the Niskayuna Landfill, the main area to observe gulls has become the Mohawk River near the Colonie Landfill. Toward the end of the period both Iceland and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls were noted among the thousands of Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

A total of 194 species was reported during the period. Only one great rarity was reported. In late September, a homeowner in Cambridge noticed an unusual hummingbird coming to her feeder. After some

time, she mentioned the bird to her sister who lived in Pittsfield, MA, who told a birder friend. This friend, with another birder, came to look at the bird in early November and identified it as an adult male *Rufous Hummingbird*. On 9 Nov Barb Putnam was notified and the word was out. The bird was seen and photographed by many people during the next few weeks and a NYSARC report was filed. It remained through the end of the period, surviving two twelve degree nights, and being observed attempting to feed on frozen liquid. The hummingbird was mistnetted by Rich Guthrie and Robert Yunick on 3 Dec, a three hour long process apparently highlighted by the bird's using the top of the mistnet as a perch in between feedings. Once netted, it was examined and found to be quite overweight (a difficult thing to imagine with a creature that weighs only a little over three grams). The bird was removed and transported to a more suitable wintering location. Other unusual birds sighted during the period include Redhead and Barrow's Goldeneye.

Contributors: Kenneth Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Cliff Lamere; William Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason (AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Ray Perry; Barbara Putnam; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FREEC - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; ML - Myosotis Lake, ALBA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SCRes - Stony Creek Reservoir, SARA; SUNYA - S.U.N.Y. at Albany, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS.

Fall reports: **Com. Loon:** pair with two chicks Jabe Pd WARR 15 Sep (fide LM); one Cossayuna L WASH 15 Oct (JS); last four Saratoga L 25 Nov (JG), scarce. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 20 BCRes 10 Oct (WE); last two Saratoga L 13 Nov (BP). **Horned Grebe:** last L George WARR 15 Nov (fide LM). **Red-necked Grebe:** last Round L SARA 24 Nov (WE, NM). **Great Cormorant:** *intro.* **Double-crested Cormorant:** reported from Mohawk and Hudson R through Oct, last Saratoga L 13 Nov (HMBC field trip), numbers down. **Am. Bittern:** one T Argyle WASH 22 Oct (fide BP), unusual in fall. **Great Egret:** only two reports, last Stockport Station COLU 17 Sep (ADBC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** flyover FREEC 5 Sep (AAM), only report. **Snow Goose:** max 100 Hedges L WASH 30 Nov

(JS), numbers down from last two years. **Brant**: one Saratoga L 6 Nov (WL), only report. **Green-winged Teal**: max 63 SCRes 22 Oct (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Teal**: last eight Cohoes Falls ALBA 16 Oct (WE, NM). **Redhead**: five Saratoga L 24 Nov (WE, NM); four still present 27 Nov (BP); one Hudson R COLU 30 Nov (ADBC). **Oldsquaw**: 30 TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM), only report. **Black Scoter**: three Watervliet Res ALBA 12 Nov (WE, NM), only report. **Surf Scoter**: one TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM); two Saratoga L 13 Nov (BP) only reports. **White-winged Scoter**: 20 TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM); three Saratoga L during Nov (CL). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: male Saratoga L 13-30 Nov (WE, NM, BP mob), fourth year in a row. **Hooded Merganser**: max 100 TomRes 11 Nov (FM). **Red-breasted Merganser**: four reports, max 16 Saratoga L 11 Nov (BP).

Osprey: eleven reports. **Bald Eagle**: five reports, age not stated for four; one Stuyvesant 3, 18 Sep (ADBC); one Greenport 7 Oct (ADBC); one Stuyvesant 10 Oct (ADBC); one Silver Bay 3 Nov (*fide* LM); ad TomRes 11 Nov (FM). **N. Goshawk**: ad Old Niskayuna RR Station SCHE 20 Nov (RY); one Medway GREE 22 Nov (J. Coe to BEN), only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last Watervliet Res ALBA 23 Oct (WE). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr eight FtE 25 Nov (WE, NM). **Merlin**: three reports. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Rogers Rock WARR 1 Sep (*fide* LM), only report. **Wild Turkey**: continues in good numbers throughout, max 69 Bethlehem ALBA 26 Nov (WE, NM). **Am. Golden-Plover**: four Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 7 Sep (BEN). **Semipalmated Plover**: three ML 11 Sep (WE). **Greater Yellowlegs**: last Watervliet Res ALBA 30 Oct (WE). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: last ML 1 Oct (WE). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: three Cohoes Falls ALBA 6 Nov (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: last Ann Lee Pd ALBA 18 Sep (JG). **Least Sandpiper**: four Carter L WASH 5 Sep (JS); max 18 ML 18 Sep (WE); last ML 1 Oct (WE). **Baird's Sandpiper**: four ML 18 Sep (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: four Carter L WASH 5 Sep (JS); one PI 17 Sep (WE, NM mob); two Watervliet Res ALBA 1 Nov (WE), only reports. **Com. Snipe**: last ML 12 Nov (WE, NM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: nine imm TomRes 13 Nov (WE, SL). **Iceland Gull**: singles Stillwater 13 Nov (WE), TomRes 27 Nov (WE), L7/NL 27 Nov (RP), Mohawk R Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: singles Simons I Cohoes 2 Oct, e Cohoes Falls ALBA 29 Oct (WE, NM), same bird?, Saratoga L 25 Nov (JG).

Black-billed Cuckoo: one PISP 17 Sep (RB, JG), only report. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one FREEC 8 Sep (AAM); only report. **Short-eared Owl**: eight FtE 13 Nov (BP). **Com. Nighthawk**: last Menands ALBA 19 Sep (*fide* WE), scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 300 Cohoes 15 Sep (BEN). **Rufous Hummingbird**: intro. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Delmar 25

Nov (BEN). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: six reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: five reports; last Austerlitz 26 Nov (ADBC), late.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Hillsdale 9 Sep (ADBC). **Tree Swallow**: last 13 BCRes 1 Oct (WE). **Fish Crow**: five reports, max 20 Colonie 4 Nov (R. Guthrie to BEN). **Com. Raven**: widespread, max ten over Spring L RENS 11 Nov (PC). **Carolina Wren**: three reports. **Winter Wren**: nine reports; last Old Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE 25 Nov (RY). **E. Bluebird**: seven reports, max 18 NRP 21 Sep (WE). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Bicknell's race Plateau Mt GREE 23 Sep (fide WE); one Skidmore College 11 Oct (JG). **Swainson's Thrush**: five reports; many nocturnal migrants heard on cloudy nights ALBA (WE). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 50 Hague 31 Oct (ER), BCRes 12 Nov (WE, NM).

Philadelphia Vireo: four reports, last PISP 18 Sep (JG). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Meco 3 Sep (LF), only report. **Tennessee Warbler**: max six SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Nashville Warbler**: max six SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **N. Parula**: max seven SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 21 PI 2 Oct (WE), 20 Ravena 29 Oct (BEN). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 20 SUNYA 29 Sep (WE). **Palm Warbler**: ten reports, max 18 SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Connecticut Warbler**: one PISP 10 Sep (FM). **Mourning Warbler**: one Skidmore College 5 Sep (JG) only report. **Wilson's Warbler**: only two reports.

Indigo Bunting: last two imm Skidmore College 11 Sep (JG). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr Austerlitz 28 Oct (ADBC). **Vesper Sparrow**: last Kinderhook 28 Sep (ADBC). **Fox Sparrow**: last one Ghent 22 Nov (ADBC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five reports. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr NRP 21 Sep (WE). **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr two Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Oct (WE). **Lapland Longspur**: one in flight BCWMA 23 Oct (WE). **Snow Bunting**: two reports. **E. Meadowlark**: one FtE 12 Nov (BP) late. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 75 Watervliet Res ALBA 1 Nov (WE, NM). **Pine Siskin**: two Stephentown Center RENS 18 Nov (PC), only report.

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