

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 1995 brought an end to the year-long drought. As reported from the Albany County Airport, September's mean temperature was 59.1 degrees, 2.2 degrees lower than the usual 61.3 degrees, with greater than normal sunshine. There were 2.28 inches of precipitation, 0.67 inches below normal, with over half of the rain occurring on the 22nd. The first frost occurred on the 29th. October averaged 53.3 degrees, 3.1 degrees above the normal 50.2 degrees, with 48% sunshine. Rainfall was a whopping 5.20 inches above the normal 2.83 inches. November averaged 35.7 degrees, 4.0 degrees below the expected 39.7 degrees. There was 25% of the possible sunshine, 11% less than normal. Precipitation was 0.53 inches above the normal 3.23 inches. The first measurable snow fell on 13 Nov, with 1.43 inches.

Although there were no major fallouts during migration, reports

indicated both excellent diversity and generally good numbers. 207 species were reported, up from 194 last year. These included 27 species of waterfowl, 19 species of raptors, 20 species of shorebirds, and 27 species of warblers. Waterfowl highlights included the largest flights of Snow Goose observed in several years and high numbers of Hooded Merganser from Galway Lake, SARA; Cossayuna Lake, WASH; Stanton Pond, ALBA; and Saratoga Lake. With the decrease of available habitat due to the prolonged drought, Vischer Ferry was the the best place to view shorebirds, with 15 species present in September. In general, the poor natural food crops increased feeder observations. Robert Yunick noted that an irruption of Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch is in progress at Jenny Lake. After its poor showing during the summer, Dark-eyed Junco was present in high numbers, with 73 individuals banded in Yunick's Schenectady yard during October. An irruption of northern species is in evidence. Northern Shrike was reported throughout the region beginning in late October. There were several Bohemian Waxwing sightings during November in Saratoga and Warren counties. Winter finches with the exception of the crossbills were present in good numbers.

There were two notable rarities, at least one a Regional first, sighted during the period. On 14 Sep George and Kay Hanson discovered an immature Reeve at Vischer Ferry. The bird had been observed since 11 Sep by another individual but not positively identified. It remained until at least 17 September. On 23 September Cliff Lamere and Sam Madison found an immature Sabine's Gull while fishing on Saratoga Lake. They subsequently spent the next four days taking groups of birders out in his boat to view the bird, which was feeding on a hatch of mayflies. It departed by 27 Sep when the hatch ended. Also present on Saratoga Lake at that time were Red and Red-necked phalarope.

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Abbreviations: BurgR - Burgoyne Rd, SARA; CarL - Carter Lake, WASH; ColL - Collins Lake, SCHE; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle hawk

watch, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonough State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; NL - Nassau Lake, RENS; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SacaL - Great Sacandaga Lake, Broadalbin, FULT; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNHP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WRes - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

Fall Reports: **Red-throated Loon:** six reports; max three SaraL 19 Nov (BP). **Com. Loon:** one chick fledged Thirteenth L WARR (KA); ten SaraL reports 25 Sep-29 Nov; max eight 17 Nov (WL); 11 TomRes 18 Nov (WE, mob). **Pied-billed Grebe:** max and last eight Cossayuna L WASH 21 Nov (JS). **Horned Grebe:** max five SaraL 17 Nov (WL); last two L George WARR 27 Nov (LM). **Red-necked Grebe:** 13 reports; max three SaraL 17 Nov (WL); last two SaraL 26 Nov (CF). **Great Cormorant:** one imm Vischer Ferry Rd SARA 27 Oct (RP); one probable 2nd-yr imm GI 5 Nov (WE, NM); same bird? **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 81 GI 4 Sep (WE, NM); last one Lock 7 Mohawk R SCHE 24 Nov (RP). **Am. Bittern:** one Town Line Rd WASH 29 Sep (BP); last one Niskayuna Bike Path/RR Station SCHE 13 Oct (RP). **Great Blue Heron:** max 22 Coll 4 Sep (RP). **Great Egret:** max 13 Colonie ALBA 9 Sep (WE); eight VFNHP 3 Sep (JG); last one Claverack COLU 11 Oct (ADBC). **Green Heron:** max eight FiveR 10 Sep (RB, JG); last one SaraL 15 Oct (WL). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** five reports of singles. **Tundra Swan:** possible over Schodack Ctr RENS Oct 19-20 (PC). **Mute Swan:** one imm SaraL 21-28 Oct (WE, NM), only report n of Albany. **Snow Goose:** arr one ad Stillwater SARA 17 Sep (WE); nine reports of flocks numbering 100-600 Oct-Nov; max 1400 BurgR 19 Oct (CF); 1500+ TomRes 18 Nov (WE, mob); 1000+ Hedges L WASH 25 Nov (JS). **Brant:** max 200 Jefferson SCHO 29 Oct (AM). **Canada Goose:** first 40-50 JL 29 Sep (RY); max 2200 TomRes 21 Oct (WE, NM); c. 3000 in corn stubble Brookview RENS 21 Oct (PC); some overlap? **Wood Duck:** max 85 Half Moon SARA 9 Sep (WE); one JL 10 Sep (RY); last Coll 14 Nov (RP). **Green-winged Teal:** last 40 TomRes 11 Nov (WE, NM). **N. Pintail:** first one VFNHP 3 Sep (JG); two Castleton RENS 26 Nov (PC). **Blue-winged Teal:** 50 VFNHP 11-15 Sep (WE, CF, NM); max 93 PISP; 55 Cohoes Commons ALBA 16

Sep (WE); last one VFNHP 28 Oct (WE, NM). **N. Shoveler**: one Alcove Res ALBA 23 Nov (KA), only report. **Gadwall**: only three reports. **Am. Wigeon**: first one VFNHP 3 Sep (JG); max 41 TomRes 21 Oct (WE); last Claverack COLU 16 Nov (ADBC). Canvasback: no reports. **Redhead**: no reports. **Ring-necked Duck**: first three Riverview Rd Half Moon SARA 9 Sep (WE); max 550 Alcove Res ALBA 23 Nov (KA); last two SaraL 26 Nov (CF). **Greater Scaup**: first four SaraL 25 Sep (CF); max 75 SaraL 4 Nov (CF); last Claverack COLU Nov 30 (ADBC). **Lesser Scaup**: first nine Pine Swamp RENS 11 Oct (PC); last Copake COLU 24 Nov (ADBC). **Oldsquaw**: six reports; max seven SaraL 19 Nov (WL, BP). **Black Scoter**: max 450 SaraL 19 Oct (CL). **Surf Scoter**: max 32 SaraL 19 Oct (CL). **White-winged Scoter**: max 21 Sara L 28 Oct (WE, NM); last one NL 1 Nov (PC). **Com. Goldeneye**: 105 SaraL 17 Nov (WL); max 175 TomRes 18 Nov (WE, NM et al.). **Bufflehead**: first one SaraL 21 Oct (WE, NM); max 32 SaraL 17 Nov (WL); last four L George WARR 27 Nov (LM). **Hooded Merganser**: first three Cohoes ALBA 30 Sep (WE, NM); 163 SaraL 17 Nov (WL) building to 350+ there 27 Nov (RH); last four L George WARR 27 Nov (LM). **Com. Merganser**: ten reports; first one GI 15 Oct (WL); max c. 225 Coll 3 Nov (RP); last two L George WARR 27 Nov (ER). **Red-breasted Merganser**: four reports; max eight SaraL 28 Oct (WE, NM). **Ruddy Duck**: nine reports; first two SaraL 7 Oct (WE, CL); max 28 NL 16 Oct (PC); 29 TomRes 18 Nov (WE, et al.); last Copake COLU 30 Nov (ADBC).

Turkey Vulture: max twelve Bloomfield Rd SARA 12 Oct (CF); last one Hillsdale COLU 10 Nov (ADBC). **Osprey**: 34 reports; max seven CPHW 10 Sep. **Bald Eagle**: nine reports, age not stated; one ad Sacal 12-28 Oct (LF); one imm Sacal 10-13 Oct (LF); one imm Cocksackie I GREE 6 Nov (PC). **N. Harrier**: nineteen reports; max five FtE 17 Nov (BP). **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 36 reports; 18 CPHW 10 Sep (NM, mob). **Cooper's Hawk**: 14 reports. **N. Goshawk**: one VFNHP 15 Sep (GR to BEN); one Ghent COLU 21 Oct (ADBC); one Raymertown RENS 22 Oct (WL). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: four reports. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 246 CPHW 10 Sep (NM, mob). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 14 in one field Stone Bridge Rd SARA 8-30 Nov (CF, JG). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr one Howe's Caverns 28 Oct (DR); eleven reports. **Am. Kestrel**: 22 reports. **Merlin**: six reports. **Peregrine Falcon**: three reports, one VFNHP 24 Sep (BEN); one Sacal 8 Oct (LF); one imm Brunswick RENS 14 Oct (WE, NM). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: two T Hague WARR 27 Sep (fide LM).

Wild Turkey: continues in good numbers throughout; max 68 T Moreau SARA 30 Nov (BP). **Virginia Rail:** regular VFNHP Sep; max two 15 Sep (WE, NM). **Sora:** four reports. **Com. Moorhen:** max 12 CarL 18 Sep, last one 23 Oct (JS). **Am. Coot:** max 85 Galway L SARA 15 Nov (RH); last Hudson R 30 Nov (ADBC). **Black-bellied Plover:** only one report. **Am. Golden-Plover:** three TomRes 30 Sep-1 Oct (CF), only report. **Semipalmated Plover:** max three SI/PISP 4 Sep (WE, NM). **Killdeer:** max 91 SUNYA 13 Sep (WE). **Greater Yellowlegs:** five reports of two-three. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 21 VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, mob). **Solitary Sandpiper:** max seven VFNHP 9 Sep (WE); last two VFNHP 17 Sep (mob). **Spotted Sandpiper:** only two reports. **Sanderling:** two VFNHP 15 Sep (CF). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max six VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, mob). **Least Sandpiper:** max 15 VFNHP 17 Sep (mob). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, mob). **Baird's Sandpiper:** no reports. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 12 VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, mob). **Stilt Sandpiper:** two imm VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, mob). **Ruff:** *Intro.* **Com. Snipe:** max nine VFNHP 15 Sep (WE, CF, NM); last one TomRes 21 Oct (WE, NM). **Am. Woodcock:** last one Ghent COLU 19 Oct (ADBC). **Red-necked Phalarope:** one SaraL 25 Sep (RB, CF, JG, CL), first in Region since 1991. **Red Phalarope:** one SaraL 24 Sep (CL), first in Region since 1989. **Bonaparte's Gull:** four reports of singles SaraL; three SaraL 18 Oct (CF); three NL 25 Oct (PC). **Ring-billed Gull:** max 1800 Cohoes/Waterford, ALBA 15 Oct (WE). **Herring Gull:** max 250 SaraL 26 Nov (CF). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one 1st basic plumage Cohoes Commons 17 Sep (WE, NM); three (ad, 2nd-yr, hatching yr) Cohoes Commons 30 Sep (WE, NM); one ad SI 15 Oct (WE); one 2nd basic plumage SI 5 Nov (WE). **Great Black-backed Gull:** three pursuing ad Bald Eagle Sacal 12 Oct (LF); max 20-30 SaraL Nov (CF). **Sabine's Gull:** *Intro.*

Black-billed Cuckoo: one FiveR 10 Sep (RB, JG); one Mill Creek Marsh COLU 18 Sep (PC). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** no reports. **E. Screech-Owl:** nine reports. **Great Horned Owl:** fourteen reports. **Barred Owl:** pair BurgR throughout period (CD); five reports of singles. **Short-eared Owl:** two Stone Bridge Rd SARA 11 Nov (JG); two FtE 20 Nov (BP). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one Salem WASH 12 Oct (fide BP). **Com. Nighthawk:** eleven Saratoga Springs 2 Sep; four Saratoga Springs 4 Sep (JG); one VFNHP 4 Sep (WE, NM); seven-eight Geyser Rd SARA 4 Sep (CF); six Albany 7 Sep (WE). **Chimney Swift:** max 120 VFNHP 4 Sep

(WE, NM); last eight VFNHP 17 Sep (WE, NM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 14 reports; max four VFNHP 15 Sep (WE, NM). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Chatham COLU 23 Sep (ADBC). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: twelve reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 13 reports; last one Galway SARA 10 Nov (RH). **Downy Woodpecker**: five banded JL, highest since 1974 (RY). **N. Flicker**: max eleven NRP 23 Sep (WE); eight-twelve Mecos FULT 23 Sep-7 Oct (LF).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: no reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max nine HP 3 Sep (WE, NM et al.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: no reports. **Willow Flycatcher**: one Chatham COLU 2 Sep (ADBC). **Least Flycatcher**: one Indian Kill SCHE 4 Sep (RP); one SBNHP 4 Sep (JG). **E. Phoebe**: max nine SBNHP 1 Oct (JG). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: one Chatham COLU 2 Sep (ADBC); one SBNHP 4 Sep (JG). **E. Kingbird**: one VFNHP 3 Sep (CF). **Horned Lark**: c. 200 Stone Bridge Rd SARA 11 Nov (JG). **Tree Swallow**: four reports. **Barn Swallow**: *only one report*. **Blue Jay**: max 115 NRP 23 Sep (WE). **Am. Crow**: max 380 PISP/Troy 5 Nov (WE). **Fish Crow**: two-five Cohoes Falls/Colonie Landfill ALBA 3-17 Sep (WE, CF, NM); one Hudson COLU 29 Sep (ADBC). **Com. Raven**: 17 reports. **Black-capped Chickadee**: max 38 PISP 30 Sep (WE, NM). **Tufted Titmouse**: max 17 NRP 23 Sep (WE). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: reported in good numbers through Oct. **Brown Creeper**: six reports. **Carolina Wren**: four reports. **House Wren**: only two reports. **Winter Wren**: 27 reports. **Marsh Wren**: max three WRes 10 Sep (WE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: first two CPHW 10 Sep (L. Federman *fide* WE), early; max 20 BurgR 4 Oct (CF); four JL 5 Nov, three 18 Nov (RY). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: first one CPHW 10 Sep (L. Federman *fide* WE), early; max nine SBNHP 11 Oct (JG); last one Coll 6 Nov (RP). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: only one report. **E. Bluebird**: five reports; max 15 T Hague WARR 9 Oct (*fide* LM). **Veery**: four reports. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one SBNHP 23 Sep (JG). **Swainson's Thrush**: 17 reports. **Hermit Thrush**: 33 reports; last one BurgR 13 Nov (CF). **Wood Thrush**: three reports; max five BurgR 10 Sep (CF). **Am. Robin**: generally low numbers; max 20-30 BurgR 3 Oct (CF). **Gray Catbird**: max seven Saratoga Spa SP 16 Sep (JG). **N. Mockingbird**: two Denton Rd SAR 18 Oct (CF); harassing Red-tailed Hawk. **Brown Thrasher**: three reports of singles. **Am. Pipit**: only one report. **Bohemian Waxwing**: three Stone Bridge Rd SARA 8 Nov (CF); one BurgR 12 Nov (CF); 109 Glens Falls WARR 14-21 Nov (WL, BP). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 56 NRP 12 Oct (WE). **N. Shrike**: eight reports.

Solitary Vireo: 30 Sep; seven Oct reports. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** six reports. **Warbling Vireo:** only two reports. **Philadelphia Vireo:** seven reports; last one SUNYA 3 Oct (WE), late. **Red-eyed Vireo:** 40 Sep, five Oct reports. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one SBNHP 4 Sep (JG); one Berne ALBA 9 Sep (KA); one FiveR 10 Sep (RB, JG), late. **Golden-winged Warbler:** last one Berne ALBA 9 Sep (KA), late. **Tennessee Warbler:** four reports. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one imm PISP 15 Oct (WE). **Nashville Warbler:** eleven reports; max four PISP 30 Sep (WE, NM). **N. Parula:** eight reports of singles. **Yellow Warbler:** only two reports. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** eleven reports of singles. **Magnolia Warbler:** 27 reports; max ten WRes 2 Sep (WE). **Cape May Warbler:** only one report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** thirteen reports. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 31 NRP 22 Oct (WE). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 47 reports; max nine HP 3 Sep (WE, NM et al.). **Blackburnian Warbler:** seven reports of singles. **Pine Warbler:** one juv NRP 1 Oct (WE), only report. **Prairie Warbler:** one Jefferson SCHO 10 Sep (AM); one Gansevoort SARA 1 Oct (BP); only two reports. **Palm Warbler:** 32 reports; first one NRP 23 Sep (WE); max 13 NRP 22 Oct (WE); last one Niskayuna Bike Path SCHE 23 Oct (RP). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** seventeen reports; max three HP 3 Sep (WE, NM et al.). **Blackpoll Warbler:** nine reports of singles; max eleven PISP 16 Sep (WE); nine PISP 30 Sep (WE, NM). **Black-and-white Warbler:** only two reports. **Am. Redstart:** eight reports of singles; max four SUNYA 8 Sep (WE). **Ovenbird:** seven Sep reports. **N. Waterthrush:** two reports of singles; eight banded JL 1-16 Sep (RY). **Mourning Warbler:** one Guilderland ALBA 30 Sep (WE), only report. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max 13 ENHP 3 Sep (WE, NM, et al.). **Wilson's Warbler:** six reports. **Canada Warbler:** three reports of singles.

Scarlet Tanager: twelve reports of singles; max five WRes 2 Sep (WE); three SARA 8 Sep (CF). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** eight reports. **Indigo Bunting:** one SBNHP 11 Sep (CF), only report. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** five reports. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** first one Jefferson SCHO 5 Nov (AM); max 30 Niskayuna RR Station SCHE 9 Nov (RY). **Chipping Sparrow:** max 20 BurgR 16 Sep (CF); last one Indian Meadows SCHE 1 Nov (RP). **Field Sparrow:** last one Silver Beach Rd SARA 27 Nov (CF), late. **Vesper Sparrow:** last one Muitzeskill RENS 22 Nov (PC). **Savannah Sparrow:** last one FtE 8 Nov (CF). **Fox Sparrow:** eight Oct and ten Nov reports; last one Broadalbin FULT 20 Nov (LF). **Song Sparrow:** max 39

NRP 22 Oct (WE). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five reports. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 24 VFNHP 9 Sep (WE, NM); last one BurgR 13 Nov (CF). **White-throated Sparrow**: arr VFNHP 3 Sep (CF); max 50-60 BurgR 27 Sep-5 Oct (CF); two JL 20 Nov (RY), unusual so late. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr Coll 11 Oct (RP). **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 80 T Moreau SARA 25 Oct (BP). **Lapland Longspur**: one Saratoga Cty Airport 18 Oct (CF). **Snow Bunting**: arr 14 SaraL 5 Nov (JG); max 50 T Wilton SARA 6 Nov (BP). **Red-winged Blackbird**: max 1000 FtE 8 Nov (CF). **E. Meadowlark**: last one FtE 15 Nov (BP). **Rusty Blackbird**: arr one VFNHP 15 Sep (G. Recer to BEN); max 15 Bloomfield Rd SARA (CF). **Com. Grackle**: max 3500 SaraL 7 Oct (WE, CL). **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 1000 SUNYA 8 Sep (WE); one Niskayuna Bike Path SCHE 19 Nov (RY). **N. Oriole**: only one report. **Purple Finch**: modest numbers Sep through early Oct; max ten BurgR 9 Oct (CF); last JL 8 Nov (RY); also *Intro*. **Com. Redpoll**: arr three Gansevoort SARA 12 Nov (BP); 20 Clark Rd SARA 12 Nov (BP); 40 TomRes 18 Nov (WE, NM, et al.); 40 BurgR 29 Nov (CF). **Pine Siskin**: first six Jefferson SCHO 28 Oct (AM); many Nov reports throughout region; max 12 Broadalbin FULT 19 Nov (LF). **Am. Goldfinch**: 50-75 BurgR through period (CF); max 45 TomRes 11 Nov (WE, NM). **Evening Grosbeak**: reported widely Oct-Nov (RY); max 50 Jefferson SCHO 5 Nov (AM).

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