

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Early fall was a continuation of the abnormally wet summer. As reported from the Albany County Airport, September's mean temperature was 62.3°F, 1.0° above normal, with 57% possible sunshine. October averaged 49.1°, 1.1° below normal, with 59% possible sunshine. November averaged 34.6°, a chilly 5.1° below normal, making it the eighth coldest November on record. There was 30% possible sunshine, 6% less than normal. September's precipitation totalled 5.06", 2.11" above normal, with rain on 16 days and fog on 22. In October things finally started to dry out with 2.03" of rain, 0.83" below normal. The first frost occurred on October 3. November continued the drying trend with a slightly-below-normal 2.91" of precipitation, some of it occurring as snow toward the end of the month.

There were no major fronts during the passerine migration resulting in generally poor sightings reports. In addition, the heavy fruit and mast crops kept birds away from feeders. Diversity was excellent but numbers of individuals were low. 221 species were reported, up from 207 last year. These included 32 species of waterfowl, 15 species of hawks, six species of owls, 17 species of shorebirds, and 25 species of warblers. Waterfowl highlights included large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks on Basic Creek Reservoir in early November and high numbers of Hooded Mergansers on Saratoga Lake and Tomhannock Reservoir in mid- to late November. There was little shorebird habitat available due to high water but there were some sightings both on the Stillwater Flats and at Cohoes. During the FNYSCB meeting in early September a small puddle at the Albany County Airport became the local shorebirding "hot spot". At least it was only five minutes from the hotel. Species seen there included American Golden-Plover and Baird's Sandpiper. In complete contrast to last year, shrike and winter finch sightings were practically nonexistent.

Thanks are due to Bob Kirker for organizing the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch this year. Although this watch has been staffed informally and intermittently

for many years, this is the first time that coverage has been consistent throughout the season. It was staffed daily from 28 August through 7 December, for a total of 87 days, 450.6 hours, and 3410 hawks. Details on specific numbers are in the statistical section of this report.

Three rarities were sighted during the period. During the FNYSBC meeting Allen Benton and Dave Russell spotted a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in and around the fence at the Albany County Airport shorebird puddle. At the Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch on October 1 Bill Lee and Jim Suozzo had scope views of a **Gray Kingbird**. NYSARC reports have been requested for both sightings. On November 23 a **Ross' Goose** was found at Tomhannock Reservoir by Kurt Bullock and Bob Budliger. A NYSARC report has been filed. This is the third appearance of this species on Tomhannock Reservoir since 1993. Other unusual birds included Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Snowy Owl, Sedge Wren, and Dickcissel.

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Abbreviations: ACA - Albany County Airport; AL - Ann Lee Pond. ALBA; BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BP - Niskayuna Bike Path, SCHE; BR - Burgoyne Rd. SARA; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; CPd - Carter Pond, WASH; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle hawk watch, ALBA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FIE - Fort Edward area, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; NL - Nassau Lake, RENS; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBR - Stone Bridge Rd., SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; StFl - Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** four reports of singles. **Com. Loon:** max 12 SL 7 Nov; five TR 11 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 30 BCR 26 Oct; last one WR 16 Nov. **Horned Grebe:** max five SL 21 Nov; last three SL 24 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** last two SL 27 Nov. **Great Cormorant:** one imm

NB 21 Oct (RG). **Double-crested Cormorant**: max 83 GI 15 Sep; last one TR 24 Nov. **Am. Bittern**: one FR 6 Sep; last one Greenport 8 Nov. **Least Bittern**: one VF through 21 Sep. **Great Blue Heron**: max 50 MR cruise 8 Sep (FNYSBC). **Great Egret**: max 30 MR cruise 8 Sep; last one Hillsdale COLU 24 Oct. **Snowy Egret**: two L7 1-25 Sep. **Green Heron**: max 16 L7 1 Sep; last one FR 7 Oct. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: two reports of singles. **Tundra Swan**: one Round L 31 Oct(WL). **Mute Swan**: no reports n of COLU. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one ad TR 19 Oct (WE, NM). **Snow Goose**: arr one FtM 14 Sep; three reports of flocks numbering 50+ Oct-Nov; max 300 Hedges L WASH 18 Nov; numbers down significantly from last year. **ROSS' GOOSE**: one TR 23 Nov (K. Bullock *fide* RB), third there since 1993. **Brant**: 60 CPHW 30 Sep; max 80 Albany 10 Oct. **Canada Goose**: first 35 JL 22 Sep; max 2200 TR 19 Oct; 1500+ S. Schodack, 1000+ Muitzeskill Rd. RENS 30 Nov. **Wood Duck**: max 107 MR Half Moon Cove SARA 2 Sep; last one WR 30 Nov. **Green-winged Teal**: last 20 TR 11 Nov. **N. Pintail**: max 40 BCR 26 Oct; last four S. Schodack 30 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 51 Cohoes 7 Sep (WE, FNYSBC); last one BP 9 Nov (RP). **N. Shoveler**: four SP 31 Oct; three SL 24 Nov; only reports. **Gadwall**: only two reports. **Am. Wigeon**: first four BCR 1 Sep; max 100 SP 29 Sep; last two TR 24 Nov. **Canvasback**: 12 SL 24 Nov; 150+ HR Dutchman's Ldg. GREE (LF). **Redhead**: max six SL 31 Oct. **Ring-necked Duck**: first six BCR 1 Sep; max 2000 BCR 9 Nov (JG). **Greater Scaup**: max 150 SL 2 Nov. **Lesser Scaup**: first four NL 11 Oct; max 28 SL 24 Nov; last one GI 30 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: two TR 19 Oct; one BCR 3 Nov; 27 SL 9 Nov; one HR Dutchman's Ldg GREE 28 Nov. **Black Scoter**: 11 NL 6 Nov; 40 Alcove Res 11 Oct; only reports. **Surf Scoter**: only three reports of singles. **White-winged Scoter**: one GI 16-29 Sep; three SL 31 Oct; two SL 24 Nov, only reports. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 154 SL, 155 TR 24 Nov. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: one ad m SL 13 Nov thru (mob). **Bufflehead**: first four MR/PISP 26 Oct; max 43 SL 24 Nov. **Hooded Merganser**: 200 TR 11 Nov; max 284 SL 24 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: max 800 CL 20 Nov; 270 NL 21 Nov; 151 SL 24 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: two HR Stillwater 9 Nov; three reports of singles. **Ruddy Duck**: first BCR 18 Oct; max 76 NL 6 Nov; 56 TR 24 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max nine PISP 7 Sep; last one Hillsdale 25 Oct. **Osprey**: max nine Guilderland 8 Sep (NM); 20 reports of singles. **Bald Eagle**: one ad, four imm HR cruise Albany 8 Sep; two Summit L COLU 9 Sep; one Alcove 10 Sep, 11 Oct; one imm HR Mill Creek 11 Sep; one Greenport 14 Sep; three imm Guilderland 18 Sep (NM); one MR Lock 8 21 Sep; one ad T Hague 21 Sep; two imm New B 29 Sep, 19 Oct, 21 Nov; two imm HR Catskill 6 Oct; one BCR 3 Nov; one imm TR 3, 14 Nov; one imm, Tongue Mt. 14 Nov; one imm CL 12-27 Nov; four ad, one imm T Hague 25 Nov. **N. Harrier**: max

five FtE 17 Nov (CF); five reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 24 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk**: 14 reports of singles. **N. Goshawk**: one Galway 26 Sep; one FR 16 Nov; one S. Rensselaer 20 Nov. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: three reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 60 Warrensburg 14 Sep (M. Di Pietro to BEN); 598 Guilderland 18 Sep (NM). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 12 Cossayuna L area 18 Nov; 15 SBR 30 Nov; albino repeatedly seen Summit L WASH through period. **Rough-legged Hawk**: one T Northumberland 9 Nov; one SBR 17, 30 Nov; two T Moreau 24 Nov; one FtE 29 Nov; only reports. **Golden Eagle**: one imm CL 21 Nov (LE. C. George, RP). **Am. Kestrel**: max 18 Guilderland 18 Sep; four Crane Rd SARA 26 Sep; four Smith Pt. Rd. RENS 27 Sep, 6 Oct; eleven reports of singles. **Merlin**: three reports of singles. **Peregrine Falcon**: one-two Dunn Mem. Bridge 4 Sep-20 Nov (DS, BEN); two HR cruise 8 Sep (FNYSBC); three N. L George 10 Sep (LM, ER); one S. Glens Falls 15 Sep (B. Bidwell); one Petersburg Pass RENS 8 Oct (AV); one Albany 7 Oct (BEN); one Hudson Falls 13 Nov (B/B Bidwell).

Camp Pinnacle Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Range of Dates
Turkey Vulture	134	14 on 15 Sep	30 Aug-25 Oct
Osprey	55	10 on 14 Sep	9 Sep-26 Oct
Bald Eagle	17	6 on 28 Nov	1 Sep-29 Nov
Northern Harrier	34	7 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-5 Dec
Sharp-shinned Hawk	250	49 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-21 Nov
Cooper's Hawk	68	19 on 19 Sep	11 Sep-15 Nov
Northern Goshawk	9	2 on 19 Sep	11 Sep-29 Nov
Red-Shouldered Hawk	48	12 on 29 Oct	19 Sep-3 Dec
Broad-winged Hawk	1861	763 on 14 Sep	28 Aug-26 Sep
Red-tailed Hawk	689	105 on 26 Oct	30 Aug-4 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	20	10 on 27 Nov	10 Nov-2 Dec
Golden Eagle	4	2 on 19 Sep	12 Sep-15 Oct
American Kestrel	69	25 on 19 Sep	30 Aug-29 Oct
Merlin	11	4 on 19 Sep	14 Sep-29 Oct
Peregrine Falcon	3	14 Sep-4 Oct	-
Totals	3410	810 on 14 Sep	28 Aug-7 Dec

Ring-necked Pheasant: reported ALBA, COLU, WARR late Sep-early Nov; releases? **Wild Turkey**: continues in moderate numbers throughout; max 20 Duanesburg 17 Nov; flock of eight regularly seen on SUNYA campus (WE). **Virginia Rail**: one VF 6 Sep; one Rotterdam Flats 27 Sep, only reports. **Sora**: pair Putnam Station WARR through Sep, only report. **Com. Moorhen**: max 14 CP 12 Sep; last two VF 6 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 67 MR Niskayuna 9 Nov; last

eight SL 24 Nov. **Black-bellied Plover**: one ad SI 7 Sep; two SI 19 Sep; two juv StFl 9 Nov (WE, NM), late. **Am. Golden-Plover**: two ACA 7 Sep; one ACA 3 Oct, only reports. **Semipalmated Plover**: only three reports of singles. **Killdeer**: max 85 StFl 8 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs**: two ACA 12 Sep; five reports of singles. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max ten Cohoes 2 Sep; eight Stillwater 8 Sep; eight ACA 12 Sep. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last one FR 24 Oct (DS), late. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max four PISP 7 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max eight Stillwater 8 Sep. **Least Sandpiper**: max 20 Niska Isle 1 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper**: two ACA 7-8 Sep. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 10 ACA 14 Sep. **Dunlin**: one juv NRP 12 Oct (WE, NM). **Com. Snipe**: max six ACA 8 Sep; last two T Moreau 14 Oct. **Am. Woodcock**: last one SUNYA 5 Nov. **Red Phalarope**: one BCR 13-14 Oct (RG to BEN); one Stillwater RENS 26 Oct (JS!). **Laughing Gull**: one ad SL 9 Nov (WE!), first report in Region since 1991. **Bonaparte's Gull**: three SL 31 Oct; five TR 11 Nov; four HR Dutchman's Ldg. GREE 20 Nov; three reports of singles. **Herring Gull**: max 3000 MR Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Iceland Gull**: one SI 3 Nov; one TR 11, 14 Nov; two MR Colonie 30 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one GI 29 Sep (RG to BEN); two SI 26 Oct (WE, NM); one MR Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Glaucous Gull**: one MR Colonie 30 Nov.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: max 85 SBR 17 Nov. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: one Rotterdam 17 Oct, late. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one AL 14 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: six reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: two Indian Kill 4 Nov; pair Mechanicville 8 Nov; eleven reports of singles. **Snowy Owl**: one near SL 10 Nov (photo in *Saratogian* 16 Nov); one Latham 18 Nov (BEN). **Barred Owl**: three reports of singles; heard in daytime Grapeville 14 Sep (PC). **Short-eared Owl**: ten FtE 27 Nov (B. Bidwell). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one NB 19 Oct (RG to BEN); one dead on road Salem 13 Nov (RB); one dead on road Burnt Hills 24 Nov (RY). **Com. Nighthawk**: four Central Pk SCHE 1 Sep; ten Schenectady 2 Sep; one BP 3 Sep; five Slingerlands 5 Sep; last four Albany 9 Sep. **Whip-poor-will**: calling Coeymans Hollow through mid-Sep (CT). **Chimney Swift**: max 105 VF 2 Sep; 275 PISP 21 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: only three reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: two NRP 2 Oct; two NB 21 Nov; two T Northumberland 24 Nov; nine reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last one SUNYA 8 Oct, only report. **Downy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL (RY). **Hairy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL. **N. Flicker**: few reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: no reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: few reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Schodack Ctr. 19 Sep (PC), near same spot as Aug. sightings, only report. **Least Flycatcher**: one Indian Kill 16 Sep (RP), only report. **E. Phoebe**: max four BCM 29 Sep. **Great**

Crested Flycatcher: one SNHP 11 Sep; one T Hague 28 Sep. **E. Kingbird:** one L7 1 Sep. **GRAY KINGBIRD:** one CPHW 1 Oct (WL. J. Suozzo). NYSARC requested, second Regional record if accepted. **Horned Lark:** present in moderate numbers throughout Region. **Tree Swallow:** last ten Cohoes 5 Oct. **Cliff Swallow:** last one SNHP 8 Sep. **Barn Swallow:** only one report. **Blue Jay:** scarce at JL (RY). **Fish Crow:** family group HR Mill Creek 1. 11 Sep; seven reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** widely reported throughout Region. **Black-capped Chickadee:** numbers dropped sharply JL after mid-Sep (RY). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** scarce JL. **Carolina Wren:** only two reports. **House Wren:** only one report. **Winter Wren:** 13 reports of singles. **Sedge Wren:** one imm NRP 28 Sep (WE). **Marsh Wren:** last one NB 21 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** first two CPHW 30 Sep. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** first one AL 21 Sep (JG), singing; max ten NB 6 Oct. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one VF 2 Sep, only report. **E. Bluebird:** max 25 Warrensburg 4 Oct; 17 VF 27 Oct; numbers up from last year. **Veery:** only one report. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** no reports. **Swainson's Thrush:** nocturnal migrants heard Schodack 9-10 Sep, 7-8 Oct (PC). **Hermit Thrush:** three Powell Sanctuary 5 Oct; ten NB 19 Oct; five NB 21 Oct; six reports of singles. **Wood Thrush:** only three reports of singles. **Am. Robin:** 77 NRP 2 Oct; max 200 FR 10 Oct. **Gray Catbird:** max 14 HP 1 Sep. **N. Mockingbird:** few reports. **Brown Thrasher:** one Austerlitz 9-10 Sep, only report. **Am. Pipit:** max 25 FtE 12 Oct. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 60 Hague Beach 16 Nov; 50+ WASH 17 Nov; 50 Delmar 29 Nov. **N. Shrike:** one Dutchtown Rd WASH 17 Nov (LE), only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo:** four Sep, seven Oct reports. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** two-three singing Mill Creek Marsh 1 Sep (PC); one SNHP 4 Sep, only reports. **Warbling Vireo:** four reports of singles. **Philadelphia Vireo:** four reports of singles; last one NB 6 Oct, late. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 15 PISP 9 Sep; nine WR 14 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one HP 1 Sep; one SNHP 4 Sep; one Hillsdale 5 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** no reports. **Tennessee Warbler:** only three reports of singles. **Nashville Warbler:** four reports of singles. **N. Parula:** max three SUNYA 13 Sep; five reports of singles. **Yellow Warbler:** only two reports of singles. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max five PISP 7 Sep; five reports of singles. **Magnolia Warbler:** max five VF 2 Sep; five Indian Kill 16 Sep; 15 reports of singles. **Cape May Warbler:** one VF 7 Sep, only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** six reports of singles. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 26 NRP 2 Oct. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max five WR 14 Sep; four AL 21 Sep; 20 reports of singles. **Blackburnian Warbler:** five reports of singles. **Pine Warbler:** four reports of singles; last one Hillsdale 27 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** one Pine Bush 7 Sep; one FR 9 Sep; last one WR 14 Sep. **Palm Warbler:** one Pine Bush 7 Sep; one VF 6 Oct; last

one FR 7 Nov. only reports. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max three PISP 7 Sep; two SUNYA 13 Sep; two WR 14 Sep; two reports of singles. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max four Powell Sanctuary 5 Oct; seven reports of singles. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max three PISP 7 Sep; nine reports of singles. **Am. Redstart**: twelve reports of singles. **Ovenbird**: max three Skidmore 12 Sep; seven reports of singles. **N. Waterthrush**: three reports of singles. **Mourning Warbler**: one Hillsdale 5 Sep; one SNHP 29 Sep. only reports. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max eight HP 1 Sep. **Wilson's Warbler**: four reports of singles. **Canada Warbler**: two reports of singles.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max three PISP 7 Sep; five reports of singles. **N. Cardinal**: tailless juv still being fed WR 14 Sep (WE. NM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: eight reports of singles. **Indigo Bunting**: last one GI 15 Sep. **Dickcissel**: one NB 13 Oct (RG to BEN). **E. Towhee**: six reports of singles. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr one Guilderland 7 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 31 SUNYA 8 Oct; last one Austerlitz 23 Nov. **Field Sparrow**: last one FR 13 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow**: last one SCA 28 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow**: max six NRP 2 Oct; last one ACA 3 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one imm SNHP 4 Sep (JG). **NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW**: one ACA 8 Sep (A. Benton/DR!). NYSARC requested. **Fox Sparrow**: four-six BR 9 Nov; four reports of singles. **Song Sparrow**: max 41 NRP 12 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: four reports of singles. **Swamp Sparrow**: max nine BCM 29 Sep; last eight VF 26 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr one NB 13 Sep; max 18 NRP 12 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr five SNHP 5 Oct; one imm FR 20-21 Nov. **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 50 T Northumberland 10 Nov. **Snow Bunting**: arr one Hague 5 Nov; max 50-60 SCA 17 Nov. **Bobolink**: migrants heard Schodack early morning 8 Sep (PC); last one SNHP 8 Sep. **Red-winged Blackbird**: max 5000+ WR 25 Oct. **E. Meadowlark**: last two FtE 30 Nov. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr one WR 2 Oct; max 12 VF 27 Oct; 12 Cold Spring Rd SARA 31 Oct. **Com. Grackle**: max 6000 WR 20 Oct. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 500+ SUNYA 15 Sep. **Baltimore Oriole**: six reports of singles. **Purple Finch**: began appearing in small numbers after 13 Oct. **Red Crossbill**: three heard JL 1 Sep (RY). **Pine Siskin**: five Nov reports; max 30 Dutchtown Rd. WASH 18 Nov (LE). **Am. Goldfinch**: max 100 Warrensburg 26 Nov. **Evening Grosbeak**: no reports.

Addendum: Summer 1996 report: **Bald Eagle**: pr SCHO, fledged two young.
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