

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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The pattern of bright, sunny days established during the summer continued into September and October, but only nine November days received over 50% of the available sunshine, according to weather data obtained from the National Weather Service at the Broome County Regional Airport.

September's average temperature was 62.3°F, 2.7° warmer than normal. The highest temperatures, in the mid-to-upper 80s, were recorded during the first week. By the end of the month, the average daily temperature had dropped 15°. Rain total for the month was 6.95", 3.63" above normal. North, northwest or west winds swept the area on 17 days. Two periods, 8-12 and 21-24 September, saw sustained winds from those directions.

The first days and the last days of October were the warmest; in fact the highest daytime temperature, 71°, was recorded on 30 October. Overall, October was slightly cooler than normal. The average daily temperature was 47°. October was also drier than usual. Only 1.15" of precipitation fell during the month, 1.74" lower than normal. On 21 days, winds blew from the north, northwest or west. Sustained winds from those directions were recorded on 1-7, 9-14 and 22-28 October.

The average temperature in November was 40.7°, slightly warmer (2.4°) than normal. The amount of rainfall the area received, 2.92", was slightly less than normal. The area was also dusted with a total of 4.0" of snow. The greatest accumulation, 1.8", fell on 16 November. North, northwest or west winds swept the area on 21 days, making November the windiest month of the season.

Two single reports of Common Loon in September and November from Broome County continue three years of Regionally low fall counts for this northern breeder. Red-throated Loon was not seen. Waterfowl species had an average to low showing this season. Only one or two reports each of Blue-winged Teal and American Wigeon and three reports of Ring-necked Duck, with only a few individuals seen, was disheartening. Less common species seen were: Northern Pintail, Northern

Shoveler and White-winged Scoter. A Common Goldeneye at Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge was a bit early on 26 November. Missed were Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater Scaup and Red-breasted Merganser.

Raptor migration was average. Good numbers of Ospreys and Bald Eagles were reported from the Region but were only seen in average numbers at Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta. Very low counts at the hawkwatch, about 50% of the average, were noted for Northern Goshawk and American Kestrel. Golden Eagles continued high counts, with 90 seen for the season and a high one-day count of 23 on 7 November.

Rare in our Region were two reports of **Black Vultures**. The first report, of a single bird, was from the Chenango County North American Migration Count on 18 September. The second, of two birds, came from Tom Salo's Wooley Hill Hawkwatch in West Burlington on 21 October.

Rails went unreported, continuing the absence noted last summer, while only two American Coots were seen. It may be early to conclude, but it would seem the summer drought may have taken its toll on these wetland species this year.

Sandpiper numbers were unimpressive. Less common species tallied were Semipalmated Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was spotted by Marie Petuh at Greenwood Park, Town of Maine in Broome County. The water in the lake was drawn down at this park for maintenance, exposing extensive mudflats. Unfortunately, this is not routinely done in fall. Common Snipe was notably scarce, with only a single bird reported. None were reported from Cincinnatus Lake, where it has been very plentiful the two previous falls. No terns were reported.

Good numbers of owls were reported. An adult Snowy Owl was spotted by Don Windsor in Sidney on 28 October. It was "flying downstream in fog at 9:30 am about 20 feet above the Susquehanna River." It was the earliest date Don could remember seeing one in this Region. Tom Salo observed a Short-eared Owl at Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch "in a group of about 15 red-tails." Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen in Owego and Endicott. The one in Owego appeared 6 September and one was found dead in the same area in November, possibly the same bird. Long-eared Owl was missed.

Despite drought conditions, the fall season reports indicated a successful breeding season for both resident and migrant songbird populations. Blue Jay, American Crow, American Goldfinch and other resident birds were frequently mentioned in September reports as accompanied by young. Fox Sparrows were reported frequently. Vestal bander Gail

Kirch concluded that Black-capped Chickadees, in particular, had an extremely successful breeding season after her banding records showed that only 11 of the 92 birds she banded between June and October were adults. A comparison of this year's records with those from last year also showed that she banded twice as many Red-eyed Vireos and Nashville Warblers, four times as many Philadelphia Vireos and six times as many Yellow-bellied Flycatchers this year.

Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Northern Parula were not reported at all. Departure records indicate the average departure dates for these species fall in the middle of September, so they should have been spotted. However, a number of birds, including Indigo Bunting and Blue-winged Warbler, departed several weeks later than normal.

Irruptive passerines, such as Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak, which were not reported at all during the 1998 fall season, appeared throughout the Region as early as mid-October. A Red Crossbill was discovered visiting a backyard feeder in Johnson City on 8 November. The bird continued to visit the feeder for several days, considerably allowing a number of local birders to add another check to their year lists.

Other unusual sightings included White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler and Lapland Longspur. Both the warbler and the longspur migrate through the Region, making it possible for lucky, alert birders to spot them. However, the White-eyed Vireo usually resides south of our Region and so is an uncommon visitor to the area.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pond BROO; BrPd – Brick Pond TIOG; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; CCNAMC – Chenango County North American Migration Count 18 Sep; CinL – Cincinnatus Lake CHEN/CORT; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center, Maine BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch OTSE; GrP – Greenwood Park, Maine BROO; GyL – Goodyear Lake OTSE; Mar – Maryland, OTSE; REEC – Roger's Environmental Education Center, Sherburne CHEN; RRHW – Riley Road Hawkwatch CORT; RTP – Round Top Park, Endicott BROO; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; Ves – Vestal BROO; WeB – West Burlington OTSE; WHHW – Wooley Hill Hawkwatch, West Burlington OTSE; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby areas BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Nanticoke L BROO 15 Sep; WPR 12 Nov; low count.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 5 BPd 20 Sep; max 6 Long Pd CHEN 26 Oct; Kirkwood BROO 9 Nov; Endwell 14 Nov; average.
Horned Grebe: WPR 7 Nov; 2 there 16 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: 4 Rt. 17 TIOG 3 Oct; 2 River Rd Endwell 27 Oct; WPR 16 Nov; not seen at GyL or Oneonta summer or fall (IW, MB); scarce.
Great Blue Heron: 2 reports a month; max 3 Owego 28 Oct and Preston CHEN 19 Sep.
Great Egret: 2 Owego 8 Sep (TBC); scarce and early departure.
Green Heron: 5 Owego 2 Sep (MP); GyL 3 & 10 Sep; Portlandville OTSE 3 Sep (IW, MB); last Norwich 11 Sep (DW); TIOG Oct.
BLACK VULTURE: 2 CCNAMC 18 Sep; WHHW 21 Oct (TS).
Turkey Vulture: total 102 FMHW; max 18 on 17 Oct; lowest total since 1996, yet above average; widespread reports.
Mute Swan: 2 BPd Oct, Nov; 2 Struble P Union BROO 19 Nov, possibly same birds.
Snow Goose: CCFMC 18 Sep; REEC 27 Oct; 2 flocks BROO Nov (J&TS); TIOG

Nov; small flock WeB 7 Nov (TS); low.
Brant: 380 FMHW 14 Oct; 400 WeB 24 Oct (TS), good numbers, though lower than 2 previous years.
Canada Goose: good numbers (200-300) at usual locations CinL, GrP, Mirror L, WPR, also Deposit; max 1000+ Norwich 23 Oct (DW).
Wood Duck: max 40 BrPd 2 Sep; 36 CCNAMC 18 Sep; 8 Long Pd 26 Oct; 2 WeB 9 Oct; 2 BROO reports Oct.
Green-winged Teal: 5 GrP 5-10 Oct; max 6 there 7 Nov; 2 BPd 5 Nov; 6 CinL 12 Nov; average.
Am. Black Duck: max 24 BPd 26 Oct; 24 CinL 12 Nov; 17 CinL 18 Nov.
N. Pintail: pair BPd 8 Nov (ES), not seen every fall.
Blue-winged Teal: BPd 20 Sep; 2 CinL 12 Nov (MP), very late; scarce.
N. Shoveler: 2 BPd 13 Oct (NCBC), uncommon in fall.
Am. Wigeon: 2 GrP 10 Oct (MP, EHw); CinL 12-18 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: pair Mirror L Owego 28 Oct; max 5 Long Pd 26 Oct; WPR 16 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: Dorchester P WPR 21 Oct (BT).
White-winged Scoter: WPR 7-16 Nov (ES); often missed.

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Com. Goldeneye: arr BPd 26 Nov (DWt).
Bufflehead: arr 3 Hillcrest BROO 26 Oct (ES); max 11 WPR 7 Nov; 2 CinL 7 Nov; average.

Hooded Merganser: arr 8 CinL 26 Oct; 4 GrP 29 Oct; 10 WPR 7 Nov; max 28 CinL 7 Nov (ES); 22 there 18 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 102 CinL 18 Nov; 30 Owego 28 Oct; 20 GyL 27 Nov; low.

Ruddy Duck: arr 12 WPR and 6 Lisle Pd 17 Oct (MP); max 19 WPR 7-16 Nov (ES); good numbers.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 65 FMHW; max 12 on 3 Oct; 2 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; Owego 2 Sep, 23 Oct; Nanticoke L BROO 15 Sep; REEC 27 Oct; Binghamton 15 Nov.

Bald Eagle: total 22 FMHW; max 3 on 2 Oct; imm WeB 10 Sep (JS); imm CCNAMC 18 Sep; imm UL 19 & 26 Sep (MP), different birds; Hillcrest 11 Oct; Chenango Bridge 20 Oct (SM); Port Crane BROO 24 Oct (MD, BT); ad Crumhorn L Milford OTSE 7 Nov (IW, MB); ad. Westover 14 Nov (ES); 4 Deposit 18 Nov (CB, MP, SK); Hancock 26 Nov (ES); excellent numbers.

N. Harrier: total 40 FMHW, max 9 on 27 Oct, below average; few widespread reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 330 FMHW, max 46 on 2 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: total 55 FMHW, max 9 on 3 Oct, above average; 5 reports BROO; Mar week of 11 Oct, "after baby chickens" (DK).

N. Goshawk: total 8 FMHW, low count; Ves 21 Nov (MP); T Candor TIOG 23 Nov (J&TS); 4 other widespread reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 44 FMHW, max 11 on 15 Oct; no other reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1041 FMHW, 2nd best year, peak days 257 on 17 Sep, 390 on 18 Sep, 248 on 19 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 1974 FMHW, max 280 on 27 Oct & 7 Nov, above average.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 14 FMHW, arr 2 on 29 Oct; 3 CinL area 12 Nov(MP).

Golden Eagle: total 90 FMHW, arr 4 on 24 Oct; max 23 on 7 Nov, above average; total 3 WHHW, arr 21 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: total 55 FMHW, 50 between 17 Sep-15 Oct, below average; 7 Preston CHEN 25 Sep.

Merlin: total 10 FMHW, 7 between 1-10 Oct, average.

Peregrine Falcon: total 7 FMHW, average; pair downtown Binghamton 20 Sep (ES), last seen 1st week Oct (BC), same birds that were there all summer; T Preston 20 Sep (EH).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Sep, Oct TIOG; CCFMC 18 Sep; T Candor TIOG Nov (J&TS); Ves 25 Nov (SD); scarce in western part of Region.

Ruffed Grouse: 8 widespread reports, a little low.

Wild Turkey: 43 Port Crane BROO 20 Nov (MD); 30 Mar 16 Oct (DK); 10 other reports; smaller numbers overall.

Am. Coot: 2 Dorchester P on WPR 17 Oct-12 Nov, low.

Semipalmated Plover: GrP 2-5 Oct (MP), uncommon in fall.

Killdeer: max 34 GrP 29 Oct (MP); reported from only 2 other locations.

Greater Yellowlegs: Susquehanna R Owego 2 Sep; Norwich 5 Sep; CCNAMC; GrP 2-29 Oct, max 4 there 2 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: CinL 29 Oct-7 Nov, max 3; BPd 5-8 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 GyL 13 Sep; Nanticoke L 15 Sep; TIOG Sep; max 9 CinL 26 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: 3 Chenango R Chenango Forks 1 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 GrP 5-10 Oct (EHw, MP).

Dunlin: GrP 2 Oct (MP).

STILT SANDPIPER: 2 GrP 2 Oct (MP).

Com. Snipe: GrP 5 Oct; unusually scarce.

Am. Woodcock: Mar 24 Oct (DK); 2 Pittsley Rd Morris OTSE 7 Nov (JF).

Herring Gull: max 6 WPR 17 Oct & CinL 29 Oct.

Great Black-backed Gull: Dorchester P WPR 26 Oct (MD, BT), last seen 29 Oct.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 40 Choconut Center BROO 4 Sep.

E. Screech-Owl: Chenango Valley SP 9 Oct (RG); T Greene 26 Oct (BB); WeB thru mid-Oct (TS); TIOG thru; REEC 23 Nov (DM); good numbers.

Great Horned Owl: Mar 16 & 17 Oct (DK); Ves 21 Nov (MP); Ves Center 23 Nov (SD); pair hooting Candor 11 Nov (J&TS); TIOG thru; T Morris 22 Nov (JF).
Snowy Owl: Sidney DELA 28 Oct (DW), early.

Barred Owl: Long Pd CHEN 3 Oct; 2 GrP 5 Nov; T Morris OTSE 9 Nov; T Preston CHEN thru 24 Nov, max 2.

Short-eared Owl: FMHW 27 Oct (TS), "in a group of about 15 red-tails"; Lathrop Rd Conklin 17 Nov (EHw), same area as last winter.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Day Hollow Rd Owego 6 Sep (C&JB); 1 found dead there late Nov (C&JB, RP); Twist Run Rd Endicott early Oct (ESh).

Com. Nighthawk: 2 reports Binghamton, last 2 on 7 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Norwich 30 Sep.

Belted Kingfisher: good numbers thru.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 8 reports; CCNAMC; Chenango Forks all Nov; TIOG thru; Otsego Golf Course 9 Nov, possibly new location; REEC 24 Nov; good widespread reports

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 5 reports; last TIOG Oct.

N. Flicker: last 23 Nov.

Pileated Woodpecker: 7 reports BROO; several TIOG; 2 reports OTSE; 1 report CHEN.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: CHEN 18 Sep, last.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded Ves 27 Sep; max 6 banded Ves thru Sep (GK).

Willow Flycatcher: TIOG Sep.

"Traill's Flycatcher": Ves 5 Sep, banded (GK).

Least Flycatcher: BROO 15 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 8 CCNAMC 18 Sep; last Mar 24 Oct.

N. Shrike: arr WeB 29 Oct; several reports Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: TIOG Oct (PBe), uncommon.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last 2 BROO 1 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM).

Warbling Vireo: 2 BROO 4 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Ves 2 Oct, banded (GK, HM); max 4 in Sep (GK), banded.

Red-eyed Vireo: GrP 11 Oct; max 60 Ves thru Sep (GK), banded.

Blue Jay: good numbers thru; max 97 CCNAMC 18 Sep.

Am. Crow: good numbers thru; max 148 CCNAMC 18 Sep.

Fish Crow: TIOG Nov.

Com. Raven: Ves 6 Oct (GK); 2 DELA 14 Nov; pair TIOG Nov (J&TS).

Tree Swallow: WPR 9 Oct.

Barn Swallow: TIOG Sep.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 57 CCNAMC 18 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: max 7 CCNAMC 18 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: several reports thru.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 CHEN 18 Sep.

Brown Creeper: max 4 CCNAMC 18 Sep.

Carolina Wren: BROO 10 Nov.

House Wren: last Ves 26 Sep, banded (GK).

Winter Wren: Ves 24 Oct; several TIOG Nov.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 CHEN 18 Sep; 11 Ves Oct, banded.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 4 CHEN 19 Sep; 19 Ves Oct, banded.

E. Bluebird: many reports thru; max 20 Mar 20 Oct.

Veery: last Ves 13 Sep (GK), banded.

Swainson's Thrush: Ves 13 Sep (GK), banded.

Hermit Thrush: last BROO 24 Nov; 5 banded Oct (GK, HM).

Wood Thrush: last Ves 9 Sep (GK), banded.

Am. Robin: max 30+ BROO 6 Oct.

Gray Catbird: last BROO 19 Oct; 34 Ves

thru Sep, banded (GK).
N. Mockingbird: 2 BROO 6 Oct; last BROO 9 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last BROO 25 Sep.
European Starling: max 259 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Cedar Waxwing: max 74 CHEN 18 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last TIOG Oct, late.
Tennessee Warbler: Ves 3 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: CHEN 19 Sep (EH).
Nashville Warbler: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM); max 6 Ves 20 Sep, banded (GK).
Yellow Warbler: TIOG Sep, only report.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CHEN 20 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last 2 Ves 3 Oct (GK&HM); total 17 banded Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last CHEN 6 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Ves 3 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last WeB 30 Oct; max 25 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 3 CHEN 20 Sep.
Pine Warbler: RTP 24 Sep, only report.
Palm Warbler: last BPd 13 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Ves 11 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Ves 25 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last 2 Ves 15 Sep (GK), banded.
Ovenbird: 7 banded Ves Sep; last 27 Sep (GK).
N. Waterthrush: last Ves 28 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Ves 5 Oct (GK, HM), banded; max 16 CCNAMC 18 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Ves 1 Sep (GK), banded.
Canada Warbler: last CHEN 7 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 CHEN 18 Sep.

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E. Towhee: last BROO 12 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CHEN 31 Oct; max 12 WeB 17 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: last Mar 23 Oct; max 30 BROO 7 Oct.
Field Sparrow: 2 BROO 19 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: BROO 25 Sep.
Savannah Sparrow: 2 BROO 15 Sep.
Fox Sparrow: good numbers thru; last Ves 30 Nov; max 7 Ves Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last Ves 10 Oct, banded (GK, HM).
Song Sparrow: FHNC 23 Nov; max 45 CHEN 18 Sep.
Swamp Sparrow: last FHNC 22 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: last BROO 16 Nov; 46 Ves, banded.
White-crowned Sparrow: last BROO 10 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 21 CHEN 18 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: REEC 17-18 Nov (FvM, LC).
Snow Bunting: arr OTSE 9 Nov; max 12 DELA 18 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last BROO 14 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last CHEN 1 Nov (EH), late.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000+ BROO 6 Oct (MP).
E. Meadowlark: last WeB 30 Oct; max 7 WeB 10 Oct.
Com. Grackle: last WeB 19 Nov; max 19 CHEN 18 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: last BROO 1 Sep.
Purple Finch: good numbers thru.
Red Crossbill: Johnson City BROO 8 Nov (MP, BL), left 10 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr several REEC 14 Nov; max 40+ OTSE 23 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr 5 CHEN 13 Oct; max 30 Edmeston OTSE Oct.
Am. Goldfinch: max 49 CHEN 18 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: small flock DELA 23 Oct; max 25+ CHEN 4 Nov.

CORRIGENDUM

Golden Eagle: the fall 1998 FMHW season total should be 81, not 35.

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