

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 64.8°F, 3.5° above normal, with 51% possible sunshine. October averaged 48.9°, 1.2° below normal, with 51% possible sunshine. November was mild, averaging 44°, 4.3° above normal, with 44% possible sunshine. The drought conditions of the summer ended abruptly with the advent of Hurricane Floyd, which drenched the area with 6" of rain on the 16th and 17th of September. The month continued rainy and ended with 11.06" of precipitation, 8.11" above normal, making it the wettest September since records began to be kept in 1826 and the third wettest of any month on record. Things dried out some in October, with 2.42" of rain, 0.41" below normal. November continued dry, with 2.07" of precipitation, 1.16" below normal. The first frost occurred on 8 October. The first snow flurries occurred at the end of November, and the ground remained unfrozen through the period.

The summer drought resulted in generally poor mast crops, although the hawthorn, bittersweet, wild cherry, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and grape crops looked fairly good. The cone crop was practically nonexistent. Weather systems were such during the passerine migration as to produce no fallout days. I received few reports indicative of any unusual sightings related to Hurricane Floyd, although it was hard to get to some of the area waterbodies because of flooded roads. Paul Connor reported seeing over 1000 Tree Swallows flying low and covering most of the surface of Nassau Lake immediately after the heavy rain. Waterbird reports were generally unimpressive, although an early sighting of over 1000 Snow Geese on Bell's Pond COLU on 28 September must have been eye-catching. There was a "you can't win" scenario with shorebird habitat, first because of the drought, and then, after the hurricane, because of high water. Shorebird reports were sparse, with few individuals of 12 species spotted. Reports of migrating thrushes were extremely low. I saw no thrushes at all for the first time in my 11 years of birding. Bobolinks remained in the Amsterdam area far later than usual, with eight still present on 5 November. There were early indications of an irruption of northern species. Northern Shrike was reported throughout the Region beginning in late October. Both Red and White-winged crossbills were seen and heard over the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch from late

October through November but were reported from few other locations. Common Redpolls were present in moderate numbers at area feeders.

One great rarity was noted during the period. An immature Western Kingbird was discovered by Larry Alden on Meadowdale Road near Black Creek Marsh on 11 October. The bird remained until at least the 18th, and several NYSARC reports were filed. This is only the fourth documented sighting of this species in the Region. Interestingly enough, the first sighting, which occurred in 1962, was also on Meadowdale Road. The others were in Ghent COLU in 1976 and in Scotia SCHE in 1983. Other unusual birds included Eurasian Wigeon, Bicknell's Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler and Connecticut Warbler. There were 199 species reported during the period, down from 207 in 1998 and significantly lower than the high of 221 in 1996. There were 26 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 12 species of shorebirds, 5 species of owls, 26 species of warblers, 11 species of sparrows and 9 species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able; Sue Adair; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Larry Alden; Brad Bidwell; Robert Budliger; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Denise Hilton; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Ruth Lamb, William Lee; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Tom Palmer; Barbara Putnam; Scott Stoner; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; William Walton, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Cris Winters, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCR – Basic Creek Res ALBA; CL – Collins L SCHE; CP – Carter Pd, WASH; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle hawk watch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft. Miller WASH; GI – Green I ALBA; GL – Galway L SARA; HR – Hudson River; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; LG – L George WARR; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRP – Nott Rd P, Guilderland ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PI – Peebles I SARA; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes ALBA; SkW – Skidmore College North Woods SARA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga

National Historic PSARA; SSP – Saratoga Spa SP SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm) SARA; SUNYA – State University of NY Albany; TP – Thacher P ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: SL 30 Oct; only report.

Com. Loon: max 4 SL 30 Oct; 3 LG 5 Nov; only small numbers reported.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 13 BCR 25 Sep; last WR 13 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 3 Roger's Rock Bay LG 29 Oct; TR 7 Nov; SL 14 Nov; Silver Bay LG 21 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: SL 30 Oct; LG 13 Nov; LG 22 Nov; only reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 65 SI/GI 3 Oct; last SL 14 Nov.

Am. Bittern: NR 23 Sep; Kinderhook 4 Oct; only reports.

Great Blue Heron: max 12 lower MR Colonie 3 Oct; 10 CL 20 Nov.

Great Egret: max 7 MR SCHE 28 Sep.

Green Heron: max 5 CP 11 Sep; last Athens 10 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: FR 9 Sep; only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 20 NRP 12 Sep; last Taghkanic 26 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr 1000+ Bell's Pd COLU 28 Sep; max 1200 TR 21 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 4000 HR Stillwater 4 Nov; 3400 SL 14 Nov; 2600 TR 21 Nov.

Brant: max 70 over SUNYA 6 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 32 Nine Mile Pt GREE 31 Oct; NL 10, 22, 24 Nov; only report north of COLU.

Wood Duck: max 80 Half Moon 11 Sep; last 11 StFl 6 Nov.

Gadwall: max 5 BCR 23 Oct.

Eurasian Wigeon: BCR 3 Nov (AV).

Am. Wigeon: arr 74 BCR 25 Sep; max 200 BCR 23 Oct; last 12 GL 27 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 60 HR Stillwater 4 Nov.

Mallard: max 164 GL 23 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 71 Cohoes 4 Sep; last 2 NRP 7 Oct.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 VF 24 Sep; near TR 7 Nov; 4 SL 14 Nov; only reports.

N. Pintail: max 7 NRRS 6 Nov; last 7 GL 27 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; max 270 VF 24 Sep; last 19 GL 27 Nov.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: HR Stillwater 4 Nov; SL 14 Nov; 2 GL 27 Nov; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 70 BCR 25 Sep; max 400 BCR 23 Oct; 220+ GL 27 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 30 SL 14 Nov; last 7 L7 28 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 10 BCR 23 Oct; 10 SL 14 Nov; 4 GL 27 Nov; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 14 SL 30 Oct.

Oldsquaw: 2 TR 24 Oct; 3 TR 11 Nov; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr NL 29 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 21 TR 31 Oct; 125 SL 14 Nov; max 162 TR 21 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: c 60 TR 7 Nov; max 100 GL 27 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 276 CL 14 Nov; 200+ NL 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Powell Sanctuary COLU 24 Sep; SL 10 Oct; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 SL 30 Oct; max 139 TR 31 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS
Camp Pinnacle Hawk Migration Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight</u>	<u>Range of Dates</u>
Turkey Vulture	183	30 on 19 Oct	26 Aug-7 Nov
Osprey	73	11 on 2 Oct	29 Aug-29 Oct
Bald Eagle	16		21 Aug-28 Nov
Northern Harrier	49	5 on 19 Sep	29 Aug-8 Nov
Sharp-shinned Hawk	277	29 on 16 Sep	29 Aug-2 Dec
Cooper's Hawk	46		29 Aug-17 Nov
Northern Goshawk	13		3 Sep-3 Dec
Red-Shouldered Hawk	20	4 on 3 Oct, 7 Nov	4 Sep-27 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	1315	316 on 19 Sep	29 Aug-16 Oct
Red-tailed Hawk	875	164 on 18 Oct	29 Aug-3 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	6		8 Nov-2 Dec
Golden Eagle	12		23 Sep-2 Dec
American Kestrel	66	10 on 25 Sep	30 Aug-31 Oct
Merlin	8		9 Sep-1 Nov
Peregrine Falcon	9		9 Aug-19 Nov
Totals	3150	386 on 19 Sep	25 Aug-6 Dec

Osprey: 5 Sep; 8 Oct; 1 Nov; only reports.

Bald Eagle: 1 ad 2-3 imm NB 7, 16 Sep; imm Ferry Dr 11 Sep; 2 unspecified 7 Oct; East Berne 22 Oct; ad NB 30, 31 Oct; imm Stillwater 4 Nov; 2 imm TR 7 Nov; SL 14 Nov.

N. Harrier: max 10 FtE 28 Nov; 16 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 TP 25 Sep; 21 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 3 TP 25 Sep; 23 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: Saratoga 10 Oct, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Landis Arboretum SCHO 30 Oct, only report outside of CPHW.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr SNHP 3 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 9 FtE 7 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtE 4 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 19 FtE 25 Sep; 13 reports of singles.

Merlin: Greenport 8 Sep (BC); Gansevoort 19 Sep (BP); TP 25 Sep (WE); Rt I90 Schodack 26 Sep (WL); Albany 29 Oct (BEN).

Peregrine Falcon: ad female SI 10 Sep (WE); Castleton Bridge 3 Oct (RG); VF 3

Oct (M. Scilingo); imm *tundrius* SI 31 (WE); Waterford 3 Nov (BEN); Ghent 6 Nov; Waterford 8 Nov (BEN); Rts I90/I787 ALBA 20 Nov (WL).

Wild Turkey: max 31 NRP 12 Sep; 40 Amsterdam 19 Nov; continues in moderate numbers throughout.

Virginia Rail: calling VF 7 Sep, only report.

Sora: no reports.

Com. Moorhen: no reports.

Am. Coot: max 120 SL 14 Nov; last VF 24 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Ferry Dr 4 Sep, only report.

Killdeer: max 42 SUNYA 6 Oct; 42 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Lock 4 Stillwater 10 Oct; only 2 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 7 SI 10 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: no reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 SI 10 Sep; 2 WR 12 Sep; PI 3 Oct; Lock 4 10 Oct; only reports.

Sanderling: 3 juv SI 10 Sep (WE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: no reports.

Least Sandpiper: 4 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; Cohoes Commons 4 Sep; 2 SI 10 Sep; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 WR 4 Oct; 46 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct; only reports.
Dunlin: juv SI 3 Oct (WE).
Com. Snipe: max 4 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: last Amsterdam 22 Oct (TP).
Red-necked Phalarope: LG 24 Sep (Jack Howe *vide* JG), first in Region since 1995.
Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 lower MR 4 Sep (WE).
Herring Gull: max 360 lower MR 4 Sep; 300 SI 3 Oct (WE).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2nd basic plumage Crescent Dam 4 Sep (WE); 4 SI 3 Oct (WE); TR 17 Oct (WE).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 lower MR Colonie 4 Sep (NM).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-bellied Cuckoo: Chatham 3 Oct (CW).
E. Screech-Owl: 13 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Amsterdam 3 Oct; 13 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: only 5 reports of singles.
Short-eared Owl: arr and max 5 FtE 14 Nov; no reports from MONT.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Slingerlands 9 Sep (AV), only report.
Com. Nighthawk: 6 Saratoga 4 Sep; 2 VF 5 Sep; 8-9 VF 7 Sep; 14 Normanskill Farm 8 Sep; 6 Slingerlands 8 Sep; last 2 along Rt I890 9 Sep.
Chimney Swift: 200 Cohoes 11 Sep (WE, NM), descending into chimney at City Hall.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 NRP 5 Sep; 2 NB 16 Sep; 15 reports of singles.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 4 VF 19 Sep; 3 Mill Creek Marsh 27 Sep; 27 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 reports of singles; last 2 VF 3 Oct.
N. Flicker: max 10 WR 5 Oct.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 WR 5 Oct; 28 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 3 NRP 12 Sep; only 8 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: NB 18 Sep (RG); VF 23 Sep (WW); only reports.
Least Flycatcher: 9 reports of singles.
E. Phoebe: max 9 SNHP 11 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 SNHP 11 Sep.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: imm Meadowdale Rd Guilderland 11-18 Oct (L. Alden, mob); NYSARC filed; first report since 1983, *intro*.
E. Kingbird: Coeymans 1 Sep; FR 2 Sep; only reports.
N. Shrike: arr FR 27 Oct; 17 reports of singles.
Yellow-throated Vireo: SSP 8 Sep; Greenport 6, 18 Sep; Jefferson 13 Sep; only reports.
Blue-headed Vireo: 5 Sep, 9 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: only 7 reports of singles.
Philadelphia Vireo: SNHP 2, 13, 18 Sep; 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; VF 23 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 7 SNHP 2 Sep; 31 reports of singles.
Blue Jay: max 75 migrating over TP 25 Sep (WE).
Am Crow: c 2000 in staging flocks GI, Troy 31 Oct (WE).
Fish Crow: 8 Crescent Dam 4 Sep (WE); 6 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: widely reported throughout.
Horned Lark: max 20 Swamp Rd FtE 28 Nov; generally low numbers reported.
Tree Swallow: 1000+ NL 16 Sep (PC), after hurricane.
Bank Swallow: no reports.
Cliff Swallow: 2 NRP 12 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 22 Chatham 24 Sep (CW, OW)
Black-capped Chickadee: max 38 WR 5 Oct; irruption yr JL.
Tufted Titmouse: max 11 PISP 3 Oct; 4 banded JL 4 Nov (RY).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: irruption yr JL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 Amsterdam 9 Oct; well above average yr JL, 6 banded Oct.
Brown Creeper: 4 WR 5 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 7 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: max 8 NRP 5 Oct; 11 reports of singles.
Marsh Wren: max 3 VF 3 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SNHP 18 Sep; max 5 CPHW 28 Sep; generally low numbers.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NB 18 Sep; max 7 WR 5 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: VF 4 Sep, only report.
E. Bluebird: max 25 Amsterdam 12 Oct; generally good numbers.
Veery: NB 20 Sep, only report
Bicknell's Thrush: banded NB 12 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: NB 11 Sep, only report.
Hermit Thrush: only 9 reports of singles; last Chatham 10 Oct.
Wood Thrush: only 5 reports of singles.
Am. Robin: max 500 Ramshorn Creek GREE 23 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 15 Amsterdam 11 Sep; 12 NRP 12 Sep.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 near L7 26 Nov; 7 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: VF 23 Sep; Amsterdam 26 Sep; only reports.
Am. Pipit: max 30 StFl 6 Nov; low numbers.
Bohemian Waxwing: 2 Glens Falls 18 Nov (BBi).
Cedar Waxwing: max 350+ Glens Falls 18 Nov (BBi).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: SNHP 1 Sep, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: PI 3 Oct, only report.
Orange-crowned Warbler: banded Amsterdam 5 Oct (TP, RY).
Nashville Warbler: 3 PI 3 Oct; 5 WR 5 Oct; 10 reports of singles.
N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.
Yellow Warbler: SI 10 Sep; Gansevoort 26 Sep; only reports.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 3 VF 19 Sep; 8 reports of singles.
Magnolia Warbler: 5 SNHP 2 Sep; 8 SNHP 11 Sep; 8 Ferry Dr 19 Sep; 5 VF 19 Sep; 8 NB 20 Sep; 18 reports of singles.

Cape May Warbler: SNHP 6 Sep; FR 12 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 VF 23 Sep; 2 WR 5 Oct; 16 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30+ VF 3 Oct; 25 WR 5 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 Ferry Dr 8 Sep; 8 SNHP 11 Sep; 5 SkW 11 Sep; 35 reports of singles.
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 VF 3 Sep; 7 reports of singles.
Pine Warbler: VF 15 Sep; SNHP 18 Sep; only reports.
Prairie Warbler: L Taghkanic SP 23 Sep, only report.
Palm Warbler: max 7 WR 5 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Blackpoll Warbler: 4 SNHP 11 Sep; 5 banded Amsterdam 5 Oct; 12 reports of singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: 6 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: 2 Ferry Dr 4 Sep; 3 SkW 24 Sep; 10 reports of singles.
Ovenbird: 3 banded JL 2-17 Sep, only report.
Connecticut Warbler: VF 23 Sep (WW).
Mourning Warbler: no reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 6 SNHP 2 Sep; 7 NRP 5 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: 2 VF 24 Sep; 3 reports of singles.
Canada Warbler: NB 8 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 3 SNHP 2 Sep; 2 SNHP 18 Sep; 2 Powell Sanctuary 25 Sep; 7 reports of singles.
E. Towhee: max 5 SNHP 2, 20 Sep; 5 reports of singles.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Amsterdam 29 Sep.
Chipping Sparrow: max 20 NB 9 Oct; last Ghent 23 Oct.
Field Sparrow: max 21 Hague 22 Oct; last SL 14 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: Gansevoort 7 Oct; 2 NB 23 Oct; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last Gansevoort 26 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: max 6 T Chatham 9 Nov;
19 reports of singles; good numbers.

Song Sparrow: max 24 Meadowdale Rd
10 Oct; generally scarce.

Lincoln's Sparrow: NRP 12 Sep;
Gansevoort 25 Sep; Scotia 5 Oct; only
reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 VF 11 Sep; 9 WR
5 Oct; last VF 18 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 6 SkW 3
Sep; 32 WR 5 Oct; max 45 Austerlitz 23
Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Gansevoort
19 Sep; 3 Meadowdale Rd 10 Oct; 4
Amsterdam 14 Oct; last Amsterdam 5
Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr JL 24 Sep; max 51
Amsterdam 23 Oct; 86 banded JL Sep-
Oct, 17 banded Nov (RY).

Lapland Longspur: FtE 28 Nov (WE),
only report.

Snow Bunting: arr Amsterdam 29 Oct;
max 30 SNHP 30 Oct; 28 SUNYA 12 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 NRP 12 Sep;
18 reports of singles.

Indigo Bunting: Gansevoort 2 Oct, only
report.

Bobolink: max and last 8 Amsterdam 5
Nov.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 350 StFl 6
Nov.

E. Meadowlark: max 11 FtE 17 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Guilderland 28 Sep;
max 50 Ramshorn Creek GREE 23 Oct;
last FR 29 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 1500 Guilderland 26
Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100
Guilderland 26 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: no reports.

Pine Grosbeak: 3 Wardsboro Rd T
Hague 24-25 Nov (RL).

Purple Finch: in low numbers JL; max 10
Ramshorn Creek 23 Oct.

House Finch: 27 Guilderland 16 Nov; 38
Amsterdam 19 Nov.

Red Crossbill: 14-16 CPHW 28 Oct; 2
CPHW 29 Oct; 2 flocks of 6 & 15 CPHW
23 Nov (all WL).

White-winged Crossbill: imm CPHW 28
Oct; Spring Creek Rd WARR 30 Oct;
Hague 20 Nov; near VF 24 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr Amsterdam 29 Oct;
max 50 Scotia 28 Nov.

Pine Siskin: 20 Amsterdam 13 Oct; max
30 Charlton 28 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 45 Amsterdam 22
Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 12-14 CPHW 9 Nov;
20 T Hague 20 Nov.

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