

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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September continued the cooler weather of the past summer, with an average monthly temperature of 57.7°F, about 2° cooler than normal. The high was 82° on 2 September and the low of 27° was on the 27th. Rainfall was about an inch less than the average, with a total of 2.4". The greatest amount, 1.28", fell over 12-13 September. October's average temperature of 49.8° was 1° above normal. The high of 73° occurred on the 14th and the low of 27° on the 29th. Four inches of rain fell this month, one inch above the monthly average. The heaviest amount, 1.69", fell over 5-6 October. The first snow flurries came on 8 October and the first measurable amount of 1.4" fell on 9-10 October. November brought colder than normal temperatures that averaged 35.6°, which was 2.7° colder than normal. The high temperature of 62° was reached on two days, the 3rd and the 8th. The lowest temperature of the month, 12°, was on the 24th. There were 18 days of below average temperatures; from 21-24 November the daily high did not get above freezing. The 2" of rainfall was about an inch below average, but more than 6" of snow made up for that. The biggest amount, 3", fell between 29-30 November.

Waterbirds generally had an average to below average showing, with single reports of Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, White-winged Scoter and Ruddy Duck. Highlights were Red-necked Grebe at Mirror Lake in Owego and two Black-crowned Night-Herons, one at Brick Pond in Owego in September and an immature at Upper Lisle 18 October. Missed species included Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Gadwall, both scaup and Red-breasted Merganser.

Very good numbers of Brant were reported from Dorchester Park on Whitney Point Reservoir, Broome Co., where many large flocks were seen throughout October. The largest one-day count was about 600 birds flying over in five flocks on the 17th, seen by Marie Petuh. On 19-20 October, there were about 200 stopping over at the park. Further east, 300 flew over Burlington, Otsego Co., on 15 October and 120 over West Burlington on the 16th.

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta reported very good counts for many species, including record highs for Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon and a tied high for Merlin. Low counts were noted for Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle.

The last date for the peregrines in downtown Binghamton was 6 October. An immature Peregrine Falcon was found "severely injured, very thin... by the side of the road near the [Broome Co.] airport" on 22 September. It was brought to a local veterinarian, then to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who "cared for the bird overnight and then brought it to a veterinarian in Liverpool, NY who was authorized to treat endangered species." It was determined "that the bird had a compound fracture of the right wing and was so severe, it would never fly again,

and that the injury was about three days old.” Upon informing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was “decided that euthanasia was appropriate.” It was suggested that this bird was the immature from the pair in Binghamton, which is highly possible but not conclusive. The preceding quotes are from the “Birder’s Watch” column by Peg Burnett in *Press and Sun-Bulletin*, Oct. 15, 2000, p. 7F.

Shorebirds were rather scarce. Many departed early or were not seen at all, possibly due to cooler weather and high water levels. No rails were seen and the last Spotted Sandpiper occurred on 6 September. A **Purple Sandpiper**, possibly a Regional first, was seen by Jon Weeks at Dorchester Park on Whitney Point Reservoir on 30 November. There are no previous fall records in at least 20 years for this species. Missed species included Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and American Woodcock. Two separate reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, both at Whitney Point Reservoir, were noteworthy. At least one has been reported in three of the last four years, since the Regional first in 1997.

Few owls were reported. Three Short-eared Owls on 25 November in Candor, Tioga County were a good find. No Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported. Red-bellied Woodpecker had fewer reports than usual and a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Margaretville, Delaware County, 28 November.

Twelve Fish Crows in Endicott continue a steady population rise in the southern Broome County area. Common Ravens continue to be seen in the Candor area of Tioga County, where breeding has been suspected, and another was in Maryland, Otsego County. American Pipits were in good numbers this fall, with a high of 200+ in the fields near the intersection of Edwards Hill and Smith Hill roads in the Town of Lisle, Broome County.

Other passerines made an average showing. Species diversity was generally good but the numbers were not there. One mixed flock reported by Jon Weeks at Upper Lisle consisted of eight warbler species, including Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided warblers and Ovenbird, plus 12 Red-eyed Vireos and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Only single reports were received for the following: Veery, Brown Thrasher, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler. Less common species seen were Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Missed species included Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, both waterthrushes, and Canada Warbler. Pine Siskins and other northern finches did not make any appearances this fall.

In September, birders noticed that some of the trees in the IBM Glen in the Town of Union, Broome County, were marked for harvesting. The IBM Corporation said that it wanted to do selective harvesting for the health of the forest. Those familiar with the site noticed that the largest pines and oak trees were marked, showing to many that the venture was mainly for profit. Local grade school and university students, as well as citizens and nature groups protested.

After a couple of months of letters and editorials, IBM consented to the public's wishes, and will not go through with its plans to log the trees on its privately owned lands. This site is known locally as a hotspot for resident and migrating songbirds such as Hermit and Wood thrushes, Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireos and warblers such as Blue-winged, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, Black-and-white, Louisiana Waterthrush, Canada and even a rare Yellow-throated Warbler in May 1988. Thankfully, this area is safe again, for now.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton BROO; BPd – Boland Pd, Chenango Bridge BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, Owego TIOG; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, Vestal BROO; CinL – Cincinnatus L CHEN/CORT; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, Fenton BROO; DP – Dorchester P, Triangle BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch DELA; JC – Johnson City BROO; ML – Mirror L, Owego TIOG; RTP – Round Top P, Endicott BROO; UL – Upper Lisle P, Upper Lisle BROO; WeB – West Burlington OTSE; WPR – Whitney Point Res and nearby area BROO

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: Chenango R Bing 8 Oct; 2 BPd 20 Sep & 25 Oct; Crumhorn L OTSE 8 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: ML 28 Oct (SK), often missed.

Double-crested Cormorant: imm on small pond Burlington OTSE 7-11 Sep (NW); 2 reports BROO Sep; max 20 JC 8 Oct, going south (MP); last 2 WPR 16 Oct.

Great Blue Heron: widespread reports; max 3 WPR 25 Sep and BUNP 14 Oct.

Great Egret: 3 Chenango R Bing 6 Sep and 2 there 30 Sep; WPR 25 Sep; TIOG Sep.

Green Heron: T Maine BROO and Chenango R Bing 6 Sep; BrPd 26 Sep; imm Norwich 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: BrPd Sep (CB, JB); imm UL 18 Oct (JW); first fall in 4 years.

Turkey Vulture: FMHW total 140, 3rd highest count; max 23 FMHW 28 Sep, last there 4 Nov; widespread reports mostly BROO, good numbers.

Mute Swan: BPd 20 Sep and 2 there 20 Nov; Struble Flood Control Dam T Union 7, 11 Oct; some speculation that the same birds frequent the two ponds.

Snow Goose: UL 10 Sep; 11 DP 16 Oct (MP); Owego 15 Oct; Harpursfield DELA 18 Oct (AM); ML 8 Nov; last few flocks FMHW 12 Nov (AM).

Brant: arr DP 8 Oct; max about 600 flying over DP 17 Oct (MP); 200 on ground DP 19-20 Oct (EHw, MP); 300+ Burlington 15 Oct (JS); 120 WeB 16 Oct (TS); UL 27 Oct (DWa); TIOG Nov; last DP 17 Nov; terrific numbers.

Canada Goose: max 1500 flying over JC 28 Sep (MP); numerous flocks stopping over at DP and GrP Oct, Nov; 500 DP 12 Oct and 20 Nov; about 600 GrP 20 Oct.; many over WeB thru.

Wood Duck: max 16 BPd 10-20 Sep; 2 WPR 16 Oct, unusual on deep water (MP); Norwich 15 Oct, last there; 8 CVSP 25 Oct; TIOG Oct.

Green-winged Teal: several BPd 30 Sep; ML 30 Oct; last Sherburne 27 Nov (FvM fide DW), very late.

Am. Black Duck: max 65 Allen P Morris OTSE 5 Nov (JF); 6 BPd 25 Oct; 11 Maryland OTSE 28 Oct; 6 Cin L 1 Nov; few reports.

N. Pintail: Allen P Morris OTSE 5 Nov (JF); scarce.

Blue-winged Teal: a few BPd 30 Sep (JW); scarce.

Am. Wigeon: Cin L 1-17 Nov.

Redhead: ML 28 Oct (SK); not seen every year.

Ring-necked Duck: arr BPd 20 Sep; 3 ML 28 Oct; 2 WPR 12-30 Nov; low numbers.

White-winged Scoter: WPR 16 Oct; scarce.

Bufflehead: arr. 25-30 WPR 5 Nov (JW); 4 Hillcrest BROO 6 Nov; Cin L 20 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 18 Cin L 1 Nov; WPR 30 Nov; few reports.

Com. Merganser: max 200 WPR 30

Oct; 30 ML 30 Oct; 100 Cin L 20 Nov; smaller numbers elsewhere; average.

Ruddy Duck: 3 WPR 25-26 Oct (MM, JT); low.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: FMHW total 113, max 20 on 28 Sep, highest count in 7 yrs; Bing 6 Sep; UL 8 Oct; Norwich 11 Oct; last FMHW 20 Oct.

Bald Eagle: FMHW total 40, best count ever; max 7 FMHW 5 Sep; 4 BROO reports Sep.

N. Harrier: FMHW total 42, max 4 on 19, 22, 24 Oct, lower than average; Lisle BROO 20 Nov; 4 Candor TIOG 28 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: FMHW total 453, max 51 on 19 Oct, best count since 1993.

Cooper's Hawk: FMHW total 68, max 7 on 28 Sep, tied 2nd highest count and best since 1994.

N. Goshawk: FMHW total 7, well below average, lowest count in 10 yrs; arr FMHW 11 Oct, max 2 on 5 Nov; BROO Airport vicinity T Maine 9 Oct (BH, RG); Dimmock Hill Rd T Chenango 22 Nov (RG); nearby locations, local bird?

Red-shouldered Hawk: FMHW total 61, max 16 on 22 Oct, about average; GrP 20 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: FMHW total 900, max 151 on 14 Sep, 3rd highest count; TIOG Oct (TBC).

Red-tailed Hawk: FMHW total 1350, max 178 on 19 Oct, below average.

Rough-legged Hawk: FMHW total 4, arr 11 Oct, lowest count in 11 yrs; arr Triangle BROO 1 Nov; arr T Morris OTSE 5 Nov.

Golden Eagle: FMHW total 67, below average, lowest since 1995.

Am. Kestrel: FMHW total 71, max 11 on 8 & 19 Oct, average; several reports early in period; T Union 28 Nov.

Merlin: FMHW total 24, tied with 1997 for highest count; arr there 2 Sep, max 5 on 7 Oct, last 21 Oct; Witty Hill Rd Smithville Flats CHEN 6 Sep (TT);

TIOG 20 Sep (RP).

Peregrine Falcon: FMHW total 21, highest ever, previous high of 16 in 1993; arr 2 FMHW 16 Sep, last 30 Oct; pair Bing 6 Oct, last there; imm found injured T Maine BROO, *intro*.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Pitcher CHEN 6 Sep; 2 Guilford CHEN 19 Oct; Oxford 11 Nov (DW); TIOG thru.

Ruffed Grouse: 4 reports BROO Oct, Nov; one "heard drumming" GrP 20 Nov (MP); CHEN, TIOG thru; Morris OTSE 20 Nov.

Wild Turkey: 8 JC 10 Sep; CHEN many thru; 9 Lisle BROO 29 Nov.

Am. Coot: BPd 26-30 Sep; West Corners Marsh Endicott 8 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 GrP 15-17 Oct (MP); 2 DP 16 Oct; Cin L 12 Nov (DWa); missed some years.

Killdeer: max 16 GrP 15-20 Oct; 6 other reports BROO, CHEN.

Greater Yellowlegs: Cin L 15, 16 Nov (NCBC); scarce.

Spotted Sandpiper: Maine 6 Sep; only report; early departure.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: DP 30 Nov (JW); possible Regional first, *intro*.

Com. Snipe: Maine 7 Oct (JT); Cin L 1-17 Nov, max 10 on 16 Nov (NCBC); low.

Bonaparte's Gull: DP 5 Nov (RG).

Herring Gull: 3 reports BROO; TIOG Sep; 2 reports CHEN Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 DP 4 Nov (PB); ad WPR 29 Nov, possibly 2 imm with adult but not verified (NCBC).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 48 Endicott 7 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Vestal 23 Sep, banded (GK).

E. Screech-Owl: Glen Aubrey BROO 9 Oct (JW); Roxbury DELA 3 Sep (AM); TIOG Sep, Oct (CB, JB, SH).

Great Horned Owl: TIOG Sep, Oct (TBC); T Morris OTSE 20 Nov (JF).

Short-eared Owl: Eiklor Rd Candor TIOG 18 Nov (JS); 3 there 25 Nov.

Chimney Swift: last UL 3 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last dates for locations: JC 6 Sep; WeB 13 Sep; Apalachin 22 Sep; TIOG 18 Oct.

Belted Kingfisher: good numbers BROO thru; CHEN thru; TIOG Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: CVSP 25 Oct; west of Vestal Center BROO 29 Oct (MW), new location; Owego thru; fewer reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 BROO reports, last Glen Aubrey 27 Sep; TIOG Sep; Margaretville DELA 28 Nov (JD), late.

N. Flicker: several Sep reports; WeB 18 Nov; Morris 20 Nov; TIOG thru.

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 reports BROO; T Morris 20 Nov; TIOG thru.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: UL 3 Sep (JW).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: banded Candor TIOG 1 Sep; last Glen Aubrey 10 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded Vestal 20 Sep (GK); only report.

Least Flycatcher: banded Candor 11 Sep (RP); banded Vestal 23 Sep (GK).

E. Phoebe: max 5 JC 8 Sep; Maryland 15 Oct; last Vestal 16 Oct.

Great Crested Flycatcher: T Dickinson BROO 12 Oct (RG), very late.

E. Kingbird: max 2 JC 8 Sep & UL 10 Sep, last.

N. Shrike: arr UL 18 Oct (JW); Lisle 20, 27 Oct (MP, DWa); TIOG Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: Chenango Forks BROO 22 Sep; banded Vestal 23, 26 Sep; last 2 banded Vestal 3 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: UL 10 Sep; TIOG Sep; last Chenango Forks 22 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: 6 reports BROO Sep, max 12 UL 3 Sep; 5 banded Vestal Sep; TIOG Sep, Oct (Biehl), no dates.

Fish Crow: 12 Grippen P Endicott 8 Nov; 4 RTP 17 Nov, nearby areas.

Com. Raven: FMHW max 5 on 28 Sep, 3 on 1 Nov; county pines Maryland 15 Oct; Vestal 21 Oct; Morris OTSE 20 Nov; TIOG Sep, Oct; 2 Eiklor Rd Candor 28 Nov; increasing reports.

Horned Lark: 18 Lisle 30 Nov (JW).

Tree Swallow: UL 3 Sep; last 2 Nanticoke L Lisle 13 Sep (NCBC).

Barn Swallow: UL 3 Sep; TIOG Sep. swallow sp: several WPR 9 Oct (JW).

Tufted Titmouse: scattered reports, mostly BROO.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: BROO, CHEN thru; TIOG Sep.

Carolina Wren: T Dickinson 10 Sep & T Union 11 Oct both BROO; TIOG Oct; Campville TIOG Nov.

House Wren: 3 reports BROO Sep; WeB 15 Sep, last there; Ely Park Bing. 1 Oct; last Vestal 3 Oct.

Winter Wren: Maryland 8 Oct; banded Vestal 11, 16 Oct; only reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 reports Bing area Oct; max 4 CVSP 25 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr JC 18 Sep, max 7 there 29 Sep; 8 banded Vestal Oct; 12 banded Candor Oct.

E. Bluebird: several reports BROO, TIOG thru; max 8 JC 16 Sep; 5 FHNC 6 Nov; FMHW 12 Nov; WeB 18 Nov.

Veery: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP); only report.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: banded Vestal 27 Sep (GK); Vestal 6 Oct (GK).

Swainson's Thrush: banded Vestal 23 Sep; banded Candor 30 Sep; only reports.

Hermit Thrush: 3 JC 8 Sep; Margaretville 26 Sep; banded Candor 7 Oct; 10 banded Vestal Oct, max 3 on 16 Oct, last 24 Oct.

Am. Robin: max 68 JC 28 Oct; Triangle 5 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 14 JC 18 Sep; 22 banded Vestal Sep, Oct; CHEN thru; WeB 7 Oct, last there; TIOG Oct; WPR 4 Nov (PB).

N. Mockingbird: JC thru; TIOG Oct,

Nov; low.

Brown Thrasher: UL 3 Sep (J&JW).

Am. Pipit: arr 10 Lisle 20 Oct (MP); max 200- Edwards Hill Rd, Lisle 21 Oct (JW), 24 there 26 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 BPd 30 Sep (JW); 36 JC 12 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: Candor 1 Sep; UL 3 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP), only second fall since 1984.

Nashville Warbler: max 4 banded Vestal 23 Sep; 5 banded Vestal Oct, last one 19 Oct (GK), only reports.

Yellow Warbler: UL 3 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Candor 1 Sep; JC 8 Sep; banded Vestal 20 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: Candor 13 Sep; 9 banded Vestal Sep, last on 7 Oct, late.

Cape May Warbler: Glenwood Rd, T Dickinson 23 Sep (RG).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5 banded Vestal Sep, Oct, last 16 Oct.; Candor 29 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: several reports Sep, Oct; max 4 at 3 BROO sites Oct; WeB 15 Sep, last there; Candor 13 Oct; last 2 WPR 4 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 5 Chenango Forks 22 Sep; last Vestal 26 Sep; only reports.

Blackburnian Warbler: Nanticoke L Lisle 13 Sep; only report.

Pine Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep.

Palm Warbler: JC 18 Sep (MP); banded Candor 3 Oct (RP).

Blackpoll Warbler: banded Vestal 2 Oct (GK).

Black-and-white Warbler: banded Candor 1 Sep (RP); early departure; continued low numbers.

Am. Redstart: T Union BROO 7 Sep.

Ovenbird: UL 3 Sep; 4 reports TIOG, last Candor 29 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep (RG); not seen every fall.

Com. Yellowthroat: 10 reports BROO, last Vestal 24 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: BUNP 10 Sep (RG); not seen every fall.

Wilson's Warbler: banded Vestal 21, 23 Sep, last 3 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 3 Sep reports; last TIOG Oct, no date.

E. Towhee: 7 Sep reports, 5 Oct reports, last Vestal 16 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 5 T Union BROO 10 Oct (JT); other arrivals: FMHW 12 Nov; WeB 19 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 6 JC 8 Sep; last Endwell BROO 8 Nov.

Field Sparrow: max 6 JC 29 Sep; WeB 24 Sep, last there; 2 reports Oct.

Fox Sparrow: Vestal 24 Oct; FMHW 25 Oct-12 Nov; Margaretville 22 Nov; few reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: banded Candor 30 Sep (RP); banded Vestal 7 Oct (GK); last FHNC 3 Nov, late.

Swamp Sparrow: 5 reports Oct; last FHNC 3 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: max 22

banded Vestal 16 Oct.; 54 banded Vestal Oct; widespread reports thru.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 reports BROO Oct; several Norwich 15 Oct; Willet CORT 15 Oct; low to average.

Snow Bunting: arr 3 DP 25 Oct; max 35 DP 6 Nov (MD); 6 Candor 28 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: UL 3 Sep; Glen Aubrey 10 Sep; Candor 15 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: 24 West Corners Marsh Endicott 2 Oct; no large flocks reported.

E. Meadowlark: Plymouth CHEN 1 Sep (DW); TIOG Sep; Willet CORT 30 Nov (JW).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Glen Aubrey 25 Nov (JW).

Com. Grackle: a few reports thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Owego 23 Nov (CB, JB).

Purple Finch: max 7 T Morris 20 Nov (JF); 6 JC 27 Oct; Apalachin 10-20 Oct (CW); average.

House Finch: "at least 2 with eye disease" WeB late Nov (TS).

ADDENDUM

Golden Eagle: Cannonsville Res DELA 29 Jan 2000, uncommon in winter (DOAS Eagle Field Trip).