

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 59.4°F, 1.9° below normal, with 50% possible sunshine. October averaged a nearly normal 50°, 1.2° below normal, with 50% possible sunshine. November was a dark and chilly month, averaging 38°, 1.7° below normal, with only 32% possible sunshine. After the extremely rainy summer, things were much drier during the fall, with 3.04" of rain in September, 0.9" above normal, 2.48" of rain in October, 0.35" below normal, and 1.90" of precipitation in November, 1.38" below normal. The first frost occurred on 9 October and the first snow flurries occurred in late October. The ground and many water bodies were frozen by the end of November.

The summer rains resulted in excellent wild food crops. Birds remained dispersed through the period, and there were few reports either of migrants or of feeder birds. There were several days during the period of passerine migration that should have produced a good variety of migrants, but such was not the case. The numbers of thrushes and warblers reported were at an all-time low. Waterbird reports were also significantly down, with a maximum of only 30 Ring-necked Ducks reported when the maxima are usually in the 800-1000 range. There was virtually no shorebird habitat because of the high water, although a sporadically exposed mud flat on the Mohawk River attracted good numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers, with 24 reported on 9 October. A sighting of 22 American Golden-Plovers by Ray Perry on 25 September represents a high count for inland sightings of this species. Few winter finches were reported, although with the exceptionally heavy cone crop, winter visitors of these species can be expected.

There was an intriguing report from Paul Connor of a possible Boreal Owl heard late in the evening of 17 November through an open window facing dense deciduous/coniferous woods behind his backyard. Paul stated that the voice was distinctive, very reminiscent of the winnowing of Common Snipe (as described in the "Handbook of the Birds of the World," vol 5, p. 228). He heard the song several times, a rapid series of whistled toots lasting about two seconds, and getting a little louder or rising at the end. Unfortunately, the bird was not heard again on subsequent nights nor was it seen.

Two interesting rarities were reported during the period. A **Sandhill Crane** was present south of Albany for nearly ten days in early October. Although this species is seen regularly in central and western New York, it is extremely unusual in Region 8, seeming to show up about once every ten years. On 11 November, Larry Federman reported seeing two **Black Vultures** near Catskill. This is the same area where he saw the same species three years ago. Atlasers should pay particular attention to these blocks next breeding season.

Other unusual birds included Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose and Long-eared Owl. There were 188 species reported during the period, down from 197 in 1998, and significantly lower than the high of 221 in 1996. There were 27 species of waterfowl, 14 species of hawks, 14 species of shorebirds, 7 species of gulls, 5 species of owls, 20 species of warblers, 12 species of sparrows and 5 species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Larry Alden, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Larry Federman (Lfe), Laurie Freeman (LFr), Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Ruth Lamb, William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Robert Yunick

ABBREVIATIONS

BCR – Basic Creek Res ALBA; CL – Collins L SCHE; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FSF – Featherstonhaugh State Forest SCHE; FtE – Ft Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft Miller WASH; GI – Green I ALBA; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRP – Nott Rd Park, Guilderland ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PI – Peebles I SARA; RL – Round L SARA; SCA – Schenectady County Airport; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes ALBA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historic Park SARA; StFl – Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm) SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: TR 3 Nov; only report.

Com. Loon: max 9 Sacandaga L 29 Sep; 8 SL 26 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 SL 12 Oct; last RL 16 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 2 SL 12 Oct; HR 4 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: TR 9 Oct; SL 20 Oct; 3 TR 3 Nov; 2 TR 20 Nov; only reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 34

Greenport COLU 4 Sep; 12 TR 29 Oct.

Great Cormorant: imm MR Crescent 29 Oct (WE).

Great Blue Heron: max 20 lower MR Colonie 12 Sep.

Great Egret: max 6 Colonie Town P 6 Sep.

Green Heron: max 5 FR 6 Sep; last L7 27 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Colonie Town P 6 Sep, only report.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 Rt 9W 3 mi n of Catskill GREE 11 Nov (LFe); NYSARC

verification requested.

Turkey Vulture: max 30 Westmere 17 Sep; last Latham 19 Oct.

Greater White-fronted Goose: StFl 21 Nov (WL, RY).

Snow Goose: arr 800-1000 HR FtM 19 Oct; 500 TR 23 Nov.

Canada Goose: ~2000 TR 5 Nov; max ~4000 SL 21 Nov.

Brant: max 25 over NB 11 Oct.

Mute Swan: max 35 Stockport Sta 4 Nov.; 5 NL 9 Nov, only report n of COLU.

Wood Duck: max 38 Rt 85 T Westerlo 21 Oct; last 2 Ann Lee Pd 13 Nov.

Gadwall: 3 Bells Pd 17 Oct; 2 SL 26 Oct; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: max 20 TR 5 Nov; very low numbers.

Mallard: max 60-70 NL thru 6 Dec.

Blue-winged Teal: max 18+ lower MR 12 Sep.

N. Shoveler: 3 TR 29 Oct; 3

Hammerhead Pd RENS 5 Nov; 6 TR 5 Nov; only reports.

N. Pintail: arr Niska Isle 11 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: arr and max ~50 Ferry Dr 12 Sep; last 30 Niska Isle 19 Nov.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: SL 22 Nov, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: 25 JL 25 Oct; 30 TR 29 Oct; very low numbers.

Greater Scaup: max 15 SL 26 Oct; last 2 NB 12 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: TR 9 Oct; 2 NL 20 Oct, 3 Nov; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 WR 18 Oct; 8 SL 20 Oct; Cocksackie 20 Oct; only reports.

Black Scoter: 16 Featherstonhaugh L SCHE 15 Oct; 10 WR 18 Oct; 2 MR Colonie 19 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: BCR 22 Oct; NB 12 Nov; L7 12 Nov; CL 20 Nov; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr SL 26 Oct; max 150 TR 16 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 8 SL 12 Oct; max 228 TR 19 Nov; 100-150 SL 23 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 101 TR 19 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 140 NL 13 Nov; 140 WR 30 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 SL 21 Oct; NL 13 Nov; WR 30 Nov; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: arr 15 SL 12 Oct; 101 TR 29 Oct; max 130 NL 13 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS CAMP PINNACLE HAWK MIGRATION

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Range of Occurrence
Turkey Vulture	243	32 on 20 Oct	28 Aug-22 Oct
Osprey	44	19 on 25 Sep	5 Sep-19 Oct
Bald Eagle	23	4 on 21 Sep	7 Sep-17 Nov
No. Harrier	42	7 on 27 Sep	13 Sep-2 Dec
Sharp-shinned Hawk	248	26 on 8 Oct	5 Sep-20 Nov
Cooper's Hawk	44	6 on 25 Sep	28 Aug-6 Nov
No. Goshawk	28	5 on 6 Nov	18 Sep-2 Dec
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	7 on 22 Oct	7 Sep-24 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	703	229 on 13 Sep	26 Aug-26 Sep
Red-tailed Hawk	646	101 on 22 Oct	28 Aug-2 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	8	---	3 Nov-6 Dec
Golden Eagle	4	---	13 Oct-23 Nov
American Kestrel	60	9 on 25 Sep	4 Sep-31 Oct
Merlin	7	4 on 15 Oct	10 Sep-15 Oct
Peregrine Falcon	3	---	27 Sep-30 Oct
Totals	2129	262 on 13 Sep	26 Aug-6 Dec

Osprey: 16 reports Sep, 6 in Oct, 1 in Nov.
Bald Eagle: imm Cohoes 28 Sep; 2 ad Sacandaga L 15 Oct; imm PI 28 Oct; imm TR 3 Nov; unspecified Stockport Sta 4 Nov; imm SI 12 Nov; ad TR 19, 23 Nov.
N. Harrier: max 17 FtE 19 Oct; 12 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 Gallupville 7 Oct; 25 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 17 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: Feller Rd COLU 17 Oct, only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: FSF 25 Sep; VF 22 Oct; only reports outside of CPHW.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 11 FtE 21 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 4 FtE 19 Oct; max 8 FtE 19 Nov.
Golden Eagle: FR 15 Nov (RP).
Am. Kestrel: max 4 Cary Rd FtE 12 Oct; 17 reports of singles.
Merlin: FtE 23 Sep (P&C Saffold); Colonie 28 Sep (WL); 3 Gallupville 7 Oct (BB, KB); New St Cohoes 19 Oct (WL); Rt 30 near Breakabeen T Fulton SCHO 21 Oct (JG, AV).
Peregrine Falcon: Glens Falls 12 Sep (P&C Saffold); Green I Bridge ALBA 5 Oct; Gallupville 7 Oct (BB, KB); Scotia 27 Oct (WL).
Wild Turkey: max 30 StFl 21 Nov; continues in moderate numbers throughout.
Virginia Rail: VF 9 Sep, only report.
Sora: NRRS 25 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 20 SL 12, 26 Oct; low numbers.
SANDHILL CRANE: 3 Wemple Rd T Glenmont ALBA until at least 11 Oct (RB, mob); first since 1991.
Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 2 Sep; 2 StFl 3 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 2 StFl 24 Sep; 22 SCA 26 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: 4 County Fairgrounds T Easton WASH 3 Sep, only

report.
Killdeer: max 200+ StFl 24 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 WASH Fairgrounds 3 Sep; only 5 reports of singles.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 WASH Fairgrounds 3 Sep; 4 Ferry Dr 12 Sep; only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 T Glenmont 8 Oct, only report.
Spotted Sandpiper: Ferry Dr 12 Sep; Ann Lee Pd 22 Sep; only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: NRRS 5 Nov (RY), late.
Least Sandpiper: 6 Ferry Dr 12 Sep, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: New St Cohoes 2 Sep; 18 NRRS 4 Oct; 24 NRRS 9 Oct; 3 NRRS 15 Oct; 3 NRRS 5 Nov (RY).
Dunlin: 2 Hammerhead Pd RENS 3 Nov (WL); 2 TR 5 Nov (BC).
Am. Woodcock: T Mayfield FULT at least thru 20 Nov (LFr).
Bonaparte's Gull: 1-2 NL 13 Nov (PC); NB 12 Nov (RG).
Ring-billed Gull: 320 Cohoes Falls 25 Sep; max 340 MR Colonie 19 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 516 MR Niskayuna/Colonie 3 Nov.
Iceland Gull: 2 Cocksackie Boat Landing 25 Nov (RG).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad SI 29 Oct, 4 Nov (WE, WL).
Glaucous Gull: Cocksackie Boat Landing 25 Nov (RG).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 115 MR Niskayuna/Colonie 3 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: FR 1 Oct (JG, AV), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Greenport 28 Oct (BC), only report.
E. Screech-Owl: only 5 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 3 Amsterdam 1, 17, 24 Oct; 4 Amsterdam 30 Nov; only 3

reports of singles.

Barred Owl: only 3 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: Gallupville 20 Oct (BB, KB).

Short-eared Owl: arr NB 12 Nov; max 6 FtE 19 Nov; no reports from MONT.

BOREAL OWL: possibly heard night of 17 Nov (PC); see intro.

Com. Nighthawk: 27 Glens Falls 11 Sep; 9 Glens Falls 12 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 100 Cohoes 12 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 5 T Hague 9 Sep; 13 reports of singles.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 16 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 reports of singles; last Feller Rd COLU 4 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 NRP 1 Oct. N. Flicker: max 6 Ann Lee Pd 22 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 NRP 10 Oct; 18 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: only 4 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: only 2 reports of singles.

E. Phoebe: max 6 NRP 10 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Greenport 4 Sep; SNHP 13 Sep; only reports.

E. Kingbird: no reports.

N. Shrike: arr imm Amsterdam 31 Oct; Amsterdam 13 Nov; Meadowdale Rd T Guilderland 24 Nov; only reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: 7 reports Sep, 3 in Oct.

Warbling Vireo: no reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: Berlin Mt RENS 10 Sep (FM); Schodack Ctr 10 Sep (PC); Bog Meadow Trail SARA 22 Sep (JG).

Red-eyed Vireo: only 5 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: max 51 CPHW 8 Nov.

Am Crow: ~ 1000 in staging flocks VA Hospital Albany 1 Nov (AV).

Fish Crow: "several" Schodack Plaza RENS 6 Sep, only report.

Com. Raven: CPHW 10 Oct.

Horned Lark: very low numbers reported.

Tree Swallow: max 30 TR 9 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 20+ JL 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce JL.

Carolina Wren: 9 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: max 3 SNHP 24 Sep; only 5 reports of singles.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 10 Amsterdam 26 Sep; max 16 Limestone Rise Preserve T Knox 16 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Berlin Mt RENS 10 Sep; max 11 CPHW 19 Oct.

E. Bluebird: max 20 NB 12 Nov; generally good numbers.

Veery: Ann Lee Pd ALBA 21 Sep, only report.

Swainson's Thrush: heard in flight over Schodack Ctr 12 Sep (PC); SNHP 17 Sep; only reports.

Hermit Thrush: last 2 VF 27 Oct.

Wood Thrush: FSF 25 Sep, only report.

Am. Robin: max 120 Guilderland 10 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 3 Amsterdam 14 Sep; very low numbers.

N. Mockingbird: max 4 near NRRS 4 Oct; 11 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: 2 Rotterdam Flats 8 Sep, only report.

Am. Pipit: max ~60 StFl 19 Oct; 100 T Glenmont 8 Oct; good numbers.

Cedar Waxwing: 100 StFl 10 Oct; max 130 Guilderland 10 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: SNHP 4 Sep, only report.

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Schodack Ctr 12 Sep, only report.

Nashville Warbler: only 6 reports of singles.

N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: Greenport 4 Sep, only report.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: only 1 report.
Magnolia Warbler: max 4 NRP 10 Sep;
 11 reports of singles.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: only 8
 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30
 Amsterdam 25 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 18
 reports of singles.
Blackburnian Warbler: 2 NRP 10 Sep;
 only 3 reports of singles.
Pine Warbler: JL 7 Oct; NRP 1 Oct;
 Niskayuna 22 Nov (RY); only reports.
Palm Warbler: only 4 reports.
Bay-breasted Warbler: FSF 25 Sep,
 only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: only 4 reports of
 singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: only 2
 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: only 2 reports of singles.
Ovenbird: 2 SkW 14 Sep; 2 reports of
 singles.
Com. Yellowthroat: only 5 reports of
 singles.
Wilson's Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Canada Warbler: no reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: only 4 reports of
 singles.
E. Towhee: max 6 SNHP 13 Sep.
Am. Tree-Sparrow: arr 4 L7 5 Nov;
 max 12 FtE 10 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Columbia-
 Greene Community College 23 Sep; last
 Ghent 10 Nov.
Field Sparrow: max 5 SNHP 16 Sep.

Vesper Sparrow: Gansevoort 1 Oct; NB
 22 Oct; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last 8-10 Wemple
 Rd T Glenmont 8 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Taghkanic 7 Sep
 (BC).
Fox Sparrow: only 5 reports of singles.
Song Sparrow: max 23 NRP 1 Oct;
 generally scarce.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 NRP 1 Oct; 4 FR
 10 Oct; 7 reports of singles.
Swamp Sparrow: max 4 NRP 1 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr SNHP 24
 Sep; 15 Amsterdam 27 Oct; 20 L7 5 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 3 NRP 30
 Sep; very low numbers.
Snow Bunting: arr NB 22 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: only 2 reports
 of singles.
Indigo Bunting: Athens 11 Oct, only
 report, late.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 500+
 Tomhannock Creek T Brunswick RENS
 22 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 FR 22 Oct; max
 and last 40 Malta SARA 22 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 1000 Columbia-
 Greene Community College 16 Oct.
Purple Finch: max 19 CPHW 8 Nov.
House Finch: max 50-60 PI 28 Sep.
Pine Siskin: max 8 JL 7 Oct; low
 numbers throughout Region.
Am. Goldfinch: max 81 CPHW 8 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: max 4 CPHW 30
 Oct.

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