

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Andrew Mason

1039 Peck Street, Jefferson NY 12093

The Fall 2001 season was a dry one in the Region. Most of the area was under a drought watch for the period, with the Delaware River basin headed for a drought emergency. Precipitation in September was above normal, according to statistics from the Binghamton weather station, but fell back in October and November, exacerbating low water levels in reservoirs and other water bodies. Temperatures were near normal for September and October, but November was a full 6°F above average. A benign hurricane season kept major weather away, with a 24-25 September storm that dropped 2.2" of rain in Binghamton with strong southerly winds being the only significant meteorological event.

The low water levels and resulting exposed mud flats may have contributed to a flush of unusual shorebird sightings in the Region. Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin all made appearances. This particular lineup hasn't been seen in many years. However, variety did not equal volume as standbys such as Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper were at or below normal numbers.

Meanwhile, high overhead, the raptors were having a field day. The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch near Oneonta reported 13 of the 15 regularly seen species at numbers above the 13 year average, with the remaining two species down only slightly. Part of the explanation for the good numbers may be a doubling of hours covered at the site. However, on an hourly basis, 4.9 raptors were sighted this Fall versus the 13 year average of 8.4 hawks per hour, so the added coverage was likely a wash in the totals. Highlights at Franklin Mt. included new seasonal records for Bald Eagle and Cooper's Hawk plus a new daily high of 28 Golden Eagles on 9 November. Elsewhere in the Region, Bald Eagles and Cooper's Hawks were also widespread.

Gail Kirch of the Vestal banding station reported "excellent banding" in September and October, with many days of capturing 20 or more individuals. Noted as very high were White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and American Goldfinch. Also noted as high were Red-eyed Vireo and Gray Catbird. In addition, a Savannah Sparrow banded 1 September was a first for the station in over three decades of operation. Spot-breast thrush numbers were average at the site, excepting Veery and Wood Thrush, which continue low.

The season also brought a taste of a possible finch invasion. Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak all made good showings from October on. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin numbers were more modest, but promising. The Pine Grosbeaks reported elsewhere in the state had not reached the Region by the end of the reporting season, however.

Low counts were noted for Common Loon, Am. Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers, Ovenbird and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Other reports of note included Black-backed Woodpecker at a Plymouth, Chenango County feeder and, showing potential of a regular presence in the Region, Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Whitney Point Reservoir and Cincinnatus Lake.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Dianne Benko, Lois Bingley, Cheryl Boise, Gerry Cahill, Rod Carter, Kay Crane, Larry Dake, Donna Jean Darling, John Davis, Bob Donnelly, Jean Dorman, Janice Downie, Dayle Evans, Steve Hall, Merwin & Sally Howard, Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Fred Johnson, Gail Kirch, Gene Kirch, Diane & Tim Krein, Berna & Stan Lincoln, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Evelyn & George Mead, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, Betty New, Rita & Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Phyllis Phillips, Pat Rowe, Tom Salo, Joseph Sedlacek, Bruce Shultis, Eric Sullivan, Tioga Bird Club, Pat Travis, Jan Trzeciak, George Wade, Dan Watkins, Donald & Joanne Weber, Joel Weeks (JIW), Jon Weeks (JW), Sue & Tom Whitney, Don Windsor, Paul Worden.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pd, BROO; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; CinL – Cincinnatus L, CHEN/CORT; CoP – Cole P, BROO; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary, DELA; DorP – Dorchester P, BROO; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center, BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; GLn – Greybark Lane, BROO; GrP – Greenwood P, BROO; JC – Johnson City, BROO; OtsL – Otsego L, OTSE; WeB – West Burlington, OTSE; WPR – Whitney Pt Res, BROO; UL – Upper Lisle, BROO; VBS – Vestal banding station, BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 OtsL 20 Oct; DorP 30 Nov; low.

Red-throated Loon: OtsL 27 Oct (BD), unusual.

Pied-billed Grebe: DorP 25 Sep; UL 30 Sep & 7 Oct; 2 BPd 19 Oct; 3 UL 31 Oct; 2 CinL 2 Nov; BPd 6 Nov; 2 BPd 17 Nov.

Great Egret: WPR 3 reports early Sep; Port Crane BROO 13 Sep; 2 BPd 25 Sep; 6 Chenango Towpath BROO 26 Sep; 4 WPR 26 Sep; above avg.

Turkey Vulture: total 143 FMHW, 50% above avg.

Brant: 1-3 DorP 19 Oct - 26 Nov; 3 CinL 12 Nov; CinL 14 Nov; no large flocks except FMHW flyovers.

Wood Duck: UL Sep through 11 Nov; 12 Industrial P Pd BROO 5 Sep; 8 BPd 13 Sep; 6 WPR 23 Sep; 4 BPd 25 Sep; 2 Vestal BROO 11 Oct; small flocks but widespread.

Am. Black Duck: UL 27 Oct; 2 Mirror L TIOG 12 Nov; DorP 13 Nov; 4 CinL 14 Nov; BPd 17 Nov; low.

N. Shoveler: 2 DorP 25 Sep (JW), unusual.

N. Pintail: BPd 17 Nov (JW), often not reported in fall.

Green-winged Teal: 5 DorP 25 Sep, low.

Long-tailed Duck: DorP 29 Oct (MP); 4 WPR 11 Nov (JW, JIW); 3 WPR 12 Nov (B&SL); unusual.

Bufflehead: max 40 WPR 12 Nov, large

flock.

Com. Goldeneye: CinL 14 Nov; 2 CinL 23 Nov (JW, MP); not always reported in fall.

Hooded Merganser: max 18 CinL 2 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 100+ UL 4 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: DorP 2 Nov, not always reported in fall.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 121 FMHW, 58% above avg; Pittsfield OTSE 17 Sep; WPR 26 Sep; DorP 27 Sep; Delhi DELA 10 Oct.

Bald Eagle: total 52 FMHW, excellent count, more than double avg; Goodyear L OTSE 16 Sep; WPR 4 Oct; Delancey DELA 7 Oct; CoP 15 Oct; 2 DorP 24 Oct; Whitney Pt BROO 2 Nov; DorP 8, 11 Nov; Cooperstown OTSE 28 Nov; Oneonta OTSE 28 Nov; regular in vicinity of nests.

N. Harrier: total 66 FMHW, modest increase; Springfield Cen OTSE 3 Sep, 21 Oct; Lisle BROO 9 Sep, 16 Oct; Meredith DELA 2 Oct; 2 Lisle BROO 30 Oct, 4-22 Nov; WeB 7 Nov; Catatunk Cr Rd TIOG 21 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 485 FMHW, 35% increase over avg, continuing recent upward trend; Glen Aubrey BROO 1 Sep; DorP 15 Sep; 2 UL 22 Sep; UL 30 Sep; FHNC 3 Oct; JC 1 & 27 Nov; GLn 5 & 16 Nov; Middlefield OTSE 30 Nov.

Cooper's Hawk: total 77 FMHW, 74% above avg; DorP 20 Sep; Glen Aubrey BROO 30 Sep; UL 30 Sep; GLn 4 Oct; Maine BROO 19 Oct; Lisle BROO 21 Oct; Norwich CHEN 24 Oct, 8 Nov; DorP 30 Oct; good numbers throughout Reg.

N. Goshawk: total 29 FMHW, 50% above avg; WeB 7 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 49 FMHW, slightly down.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 724 FMHW, 15% above avg.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 1816 FMHW, 17% above avg, dispersed thru season with only one large flight, 295 on 27 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 8 FMHW, slightly down; GLn 5 Nov; WeB 6-7 Nov; 7 reports Lisle BROO 6-24 Nov.

Golden Eagle: total 127 FMHW, excellent count, well above avg; Margaretville DELA 25 Oct; WeB 10 Oct; 2 WeB 7 Nov; CinL 12 Nov; 2 Meredith DELA 13 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: total 66 FMHW, slightly down; Glen Aubrey BROO 1, 27 Sep; Lisle BROO 9 Sep; Whitney Pt BROO 9 Sep, 6 Oct; UL 21 Oct.

Merlin: total 12 FMHW, small increase above avg.

Peregrine Falcon: total 10 FMHW, small increase above avg; 2 Binghamton BROO 10 Sep thru, resident pair.

Wild Turkey: max 40 Guilford CHEN 2 Nov; few large flocks visible, possibly due to good wild fruit crop.

Am. Coot: BPd 17 Nov; 100 Cooperstown OTSE 18 Nov, large flock now regular at this location.

Black-bellied Plover: DorP 18-28 Oct (JW), uncommon, record late.

Killdeer: max 40+ CoP 6 Oct.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: 2 DorP 25, 26 Sep (JW, MP!), rare.

Semipalmated Plover: Springfield Cen OTSE 3 Sep (BD), rare.

Greater Yellowlegs: DorP 17, 25, 28 Oct; Cincinnatus CORT 6 Nov; CinL 12 Nov, late.

Spotted Sandpiper: DorP 15 Sep-20 Oct; WPR 23 Sep; low.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: WPR 26 Sep (MP), rare.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 DorP 25 Sep (JW), uncommon.

Dunlin: DorP 19, 20, 25 Oct (JW); 20 DorP 23 Oct (MP, KC, DD); rare.

Com. Snipe: Springfield Cen OTSE 3 Sep; TIOG 20 Oct; 3 CinL 14 Nov; 5 CinL 23 Nov; good count, uncommon in fall.

Bonaparte's Gull: DorP 17 Oct (JW), 24 Oct (MP), uncommon but becoming more regular.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:

DorP 20 Oct, 5 Nov, 2 on 30 Nov (JW); CinL 12 Nov (B&SL); rare; also sighted in 2000, possibly increasing due to range expansion.

Com. Tern: DorP 25 Sep (JW), rare.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: WeB 20 Nov; low.

Great-horned Owl: Glen Aubrey BROO 3 Sep; Walton DELA 18 Nov; low.

N. Saw-whet Owl: VBS 12 Oct, uncommon in fall.

Com. Nighthawk: Norwich CHEN 4 Nov (DW); continued very low numbers.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last UL 16 Sep.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER:

Plymouth CHEN 2-16 Sep (Francis Haley), urged to report to NYSARC.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total 4 VBS 4-9 Sep, typically only reporting site.

N. Shrike: Glen Aubrey BROO 29 Oct, 8 Nov; Middlefield OTSE 29 Oct; WeB 7 Nov; Lisle BROO 8 Nov thru (JW).

Red-eyed Vireo: total 32 VBS, high.

Fish Crow: TIOG all season, becoming regular.

Com. Raven: 2 Glen Aubrey BROO 1 Sep; Margaretville DELA 21 Sep; max 5 FMHW 19 Oct; Bunn Hill Rd Vestal BROO 13, 15 Nov.

Horned Lark: max 50 Lisle BROO 23, 24 Nov.

Tree Swallow: last 2 Glen Aubrey BROO 27 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: JC 18 Sep; VBS 18 Sep, 19, 22 Oct; BUNP 10 Oct; WeB 21 Oct; 3 Springfield Cen OTSE 22 Oct; Oneonta OTSE 22 Oct; Margaretville DELA 27 Oct; Glen Aubrey BROO 29 Oct, 24 Nov; Vestal BROO all Nov.

Carolina Wren: Brick Pd TIOG 12 Oct; Endwell BROO 19 Oct; VBS 22 Oct; JC 10, 19 Nov; historically lower counts now appear normal.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Glen Aubrey

BROO 9, 29 Oct, 3 on 18 Nov;

Margaretville DELA 27 Oct; DorP 31 Oct;

Middlefield OTSE 18 Nov; Masonville

DELA 20 Nov; Tholen Rd TIOG 21 Nov;

2 Lisle BROO 23 Nov; good count, widespread.

Swainson's Thrush: total 10 VBS 9 Sep-13 Oct; TIOG 20 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: total 9 VBS 5 Sep-22 Oct; Middlefield OTSE 27 Oct; Hamden DELA 1 Nov; Oxford CHEN 12 Nov.

Wood Thrush: VBS 18, 23 Sep.

Gray Catbird: last Magnolia P BROO 17 Oct; total 64 VBS, high.

Brown Thrasher: GLn 9, 24, 30 Sep. 2 on 16 Sep; UL 16, 30 Sep; modest gain over recent low counts.

Am. Pipit: Glen Aubrey BROO 24 Oct; 10 DorP 25 Oct; Lisle BROO after 28 Oct; max 42 Lisle BROO 24 Nov (JW, DW); good count.

Bohemian Waxwing: UL 31 Oct; uncommon.

Cedar Waxwing: max 300 Vestal BROO 8 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 JC 9 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: VBS 28 Sep, 13 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: VBS 24, 30 Oct; uncommon.

Nashville Warbler: total 7 VBS 15 Sep-13 Oct; GrP 19 Sep.

N. Parula: UL 15 Sep (JW); uncommon.

Magnolia Warbler: 2 Glen Aubrey BROO 1 Sep; 2 UL 8, 16 Sep; total 37 VBS, high.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: UL 8, 9, 16 Sep; total 4 VBS 9-30 Sep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 Brick Pd Owego BROO 12 Oct.

Palm Warbler: VBS 24 Sep, 21 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: VBS 22 Sep, low.

Blackpoll Warbler: UL 23 Sep, low.

Am. Redstart: last Magnolia P BROO 17

Oct, late.

Ovenbird: Guilford CHEN 22 Sep; low.

Connecticut Warbler: VBS 11 Sep; rare.

Com. Yellowthroat: last UL 18 Nov;
total 45 VBS, high.

Wilson's Warbler: 5 VBS 3-22 Sep; UL
8, 16 Sep.

Canada Warbler: UL 9 Sep; GLn 24
Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr GLn 22 Oct;
small numbers scattered across Reg thru.

Chipping Sparrow: last Glen Aubrey
BROO 27 Nov, late.

Savannah Sparrow: VBS 2 Sep, first
record for this station going back to
1960s; Lisle BROO 9 Sep, 16 Oct;
“several” Reynolds Rd JC 18 Sep.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Springfield Cen
OTSE 3 Sep (BD); scarce.

Fox Sparrow: total 10 VBS 21 Oct-19
Nov; Vest 22 Oct; GLn 28, 30 Oct; UL 31
Oct, 4 Nov; DOAS 7 Nov; Maryland
OTSE 23 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: total 142 VBS,
2nd highest in 12 yrs.

Dark-eyed Junco: total 177 VBS, highest
in 12 yrs; max 100 Margaretville DELA
30 Oct.

Snow Bunting: sm flock Franklin DELA
30 Oct; UL 31 Oct; 12 Lisle BROO 6
Nov; DorP 13-26 Nov; max 26 DorP 26
Nov; good fall showing.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lisle BROO 9
Sep; low.

Indigo Bunting: 2 VBS 28 Sep; last UL
11 Nov, late.

E. Meadowlark: max 3 Glen Aubrey
BROO 27 Sep, low.

Purple Finch: widespread; total 25 VBS
9 Sep-17 Nov; UL 8, 30 Sep, 31 Oct; Glen
Aubrey BROO 29 Sep; 2 GLn 30 Sep; 2
FHNC 3 Oct; 3 GLn 4, 22 Oct, 5, 16 Nov;
2 BUNP 10 Oct; 2 JC 27 Oct.

White-winged Crossbill: Norwich CHEN
25 Oct (DW); TIOG 30 Oct (GW); 3
DOAS 4 Nov; 2 Gilbertsville OTSE 15
Nov; 4 Hillcrest BROO 17, 18 Nov; 4
Laurens OTSE 25 Nov; good fall
showing.

Com. Redpoll: Middlefield OTSE 15
Nov; 20 Hemlock Hill Rd CORT 23 Nov
(JW, MP); modest fall flight.

Pine Siskin: 3 Norwich CHEN 21 Oct; 12
WeB 21 Oct; Walton DELA 22 Oct; 6
Margaretville DELA 14, 19 Nov; modest
fall flight, but possibly overshot Reg.

Am. Goldfinch: total 132 VBS, very high;
large flocks Sep & Oct, much lower Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: Middlefield OTSE 1
Oct; 2 Masonville DELA 22 Oct; 2
Walton DELA 22 Oct; 20 Glen Aubrey
BROO 24 Oct; TIOG 28 Oct; 15
Davenport DELA 29 Oct; 6 Franklin
DELA 3 Nov; 30 DOAS 7 Nov; 11
Gilbertsville OTSE 7 Nov; 3 Margaretville
DELA 16 Nov; 5 GLn 20 Nov; best fall
showing in several years.

reg4sightings@mail.com

