

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2001 was generally mild, sunny and quite dry. As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 62.4°F, 1.1° above normal, with 66% possible sunshine. October continued warm, averaging 51.9°, 1.7° above normal, with 62% possible sunshine. November was also warm, averaging 44.8°, 5.1° above normal, with 45% possible sunshine. There was 1.71" of rain in September, 1.24" below normal; 1.26" of rain in October, 1.57" below normal; and 1.38" of precipitation in November, 1.85" below normal. The first frost occurred on 9 October. There had been no measurable snowfall or freeze by the end of the season. Water bodies remained open.

In contrast to last year's abundance, natural food crops were sparse. The berry crop was poor to nonexistent, particularly mountain ash, hawthorn and wild grape. It appeared to be a poor cone year. This seemed to result in increased numbers of birds at feeders. At my feeders in Saratoga, for instance, American Goldfinches numbered in the hundreds in October and November, consuming all food provided. Waterfowl numbers were generally low on area lakes and reservoirs. This may be partially attributed to increased security at the Basic and Alcove reservoirs in southern Albany County following the September 11 attacks, with no reports received from either site.

A personal highlight was the several thousand Snow Geese seen and heard flying over Black Mountain, east of Lake George, on 28 October while I was hiking. Hawkwatchers at Camp Pinnacle were frustrated by consistent south winds in September. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were at an all-time low. Fall shore birding was, as usual, limited by lack of habitat, with low numbers of species and individuals reported. With no strong frontal passages and winds remaining generally calm or southerly, the passerine migration went practically unnoticed. There were indications of winter finches moving into the area, with numerous reports of Pine Grosbeaks in November, as well as moderate numbers of Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. Few Purple Finches were noticed after early October and crossbill numbers were extremely low.

Making the news was a huge roost of American Crows, estimated at more than 14,000 individuals, in Troy near the Green Island Bridge over the Hudson River. According to an *Albany Times-Union* report, local residents were not amused by the inevitable effects of the birds' presence on automobiles and sidewalks. Non-lethal attempts were to be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to discourage the birds through the use of various methods, including pyrotechnics, predator eye balloons and possibly lasers. There were no predictions of the effects of the sounds of nighttime bombardment on human residents of the area.

Unusual birds seen included Great Cormorant, Black Vulture, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing and Orange-crowned Warbler. One hundred

eighty-nine species were reported during the period, including 25 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, 12 species of shorebirds, 5 species of gulls, 5 species of owls, 23 species of warblers, 11 species of sparrows and 8 species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs, SARA; CBL – Coxsackie Boat Landing, GREE; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle hawk watch, ALBA; FtE – Ft. Edward area, WASH; FtM – Ft. Miller, WASH; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; GI – Green I, ALBA; GL – Galway L, SARA; HR – Hudson R; JL – Jenny L, SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; MR – Mohawk R; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NL – Nassau L, RENS; NRP – Nott Rd Park, Guilderland, ALBA; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; PISP – Peebles I SP, SARA; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW – Skidmore woods, Saratoga Springs, SARA; 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

Com. Loon: max 14 SL 1 Nov; 12-14 TR 4 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 TR 4 Nov; last SL 18 Nov.

Horned Grebe: WR 11 Nov; 14 SL 18 Nov; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: 15 SL 1 Nov, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 92 New St Cohoes 20 Oct.

Great Cormorant: imm CBL (RG).

Great Blue Heron: max 17 MR between L7 & NRRS 6 Sep.

Great Egret: max 10 MR between L7 & NRRS 6 Sep.

Snowy Egret: Stuyvesant 28 Nov (*fide* BC).

Green Heron: last WR 6 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm Corning Preserve 9 Sep, only report.

Black Vulture: CPHW 9 Oct (BK).

Turkey Vulture: max 60 Guilderland 1 Sep; last Guilderland 2 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr Ballston Spa 15 Oct; max 3000+ Black Mt WARR 28 Oct.

Canada Goose: max c 4000 TR Muitzeskill 21 Oct (PC).

Brant: 350 over Thacher P ALBA 7 Oct;
max 500 over Gallupville 18 Oct.
Mute Swan: 2 NL 15, 26 Oct, only report
n of COLU.
Wood Duck: max 37 Ferry Dr SARA 30
Sep; 30 Wardsboro T Hague WARR 4
Oct; last 20 E Greenbush 7 Nov.
Gadwall: max 11 Stanton Pd ALBA 12
Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 30-40 TR 4 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 95 SL 18 Nov.
Mallard: max 450 Schoharie 9 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 76 lower MR 1
Sep; 40-50 NRRS 17 Sep.
N. Shoveler: max 9 Stanton Pd 12 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 12 Stanton Pd 12 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: arr 4 New St Cohoes
3 Sep; max 17 Blatnick P SCHE 8 Nov;
last 5 GL 30 Nov.
Canvasback: SL 18 Nov, only report.
Ring-necked Duck: max 40-50 TR 4

Nov; very low numbers.
Greater Scaup: max and last 6 SL 18
Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 7 SL 18 Nov; 7 NL 19-27
Nov; only reports.
White-winged Scoter: 12 SL 1 Nov, only
report.
Black Scoter: 55 NL 8 Nov (PC); 6 WR
11 Nov; only reports.
Bufflehead: arr 3 NB 29 Oct; max 10 WR
11 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 200-300 TR 4
Nov; 60 HR Stillwater 17 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 200+ TR 4
Nov.
Com. Merganser: max c 200 NL 16, 19
Nov; 150 CL 21 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: S. Rensselaer
20, 22 Nov, only report.
Ruddy Duck: arr NL 2 Oct; max 300-400
TR 4 Nov

HAWKS – ALCIDS Camp Pinnacle hawk migration totals

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Range of Dates
Turkey Vulture	311	54 on 12 Sep	5 Sep-29 Oct
Osprey	48	6 on 15 Sep	6 Sep-24 Oct
Bald Eagle	13	2 on 22 Sep	5 Sep-14 Nov
Northern Harrier	40	4 on 1 Oct	6 Sep-18 Nov
Sharp-shinned Hawk	282	35 on 30 Sep	3 Sep-13 Nov
Cooper's Hawk	54	5 on 8 Oct	5 Sep-16 Nov
Northern Goshawk	13		11 Sep-21 Nov
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	7 on 22 Oct	7 Sep-24 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk	210	77 on 15 Sep	3 Sep-19 Oct
Red-tailed Hawk	698	95 on 30 Sep	1 Sep-28 Dec
Rough-legged Hawk	4		20 Oct-27 Oct
Golden Eagle	9		30 Oct-12 Nov
American Kestrel	54	9 on 11 Sep	5 Sep-12 Nov
Merlin	9		11 Sep-12 Nov
Peregrine Falcon	3		28 Sep-2 Nov
Totals	1964	166 on 30 Sep	26 Aug-6 Dec

Osprey: 15 Sep, 0 Oct, 1 Nov reports.
Bald Eagle: 1 ad 12 imm COLU Sep;
imm Clarks Mills 9 Sep; imm HR
Waterford 15 Sep; ad HR Papscanee

Creek outlet 10 Oct; imm Schodack Creek
21 Oct; ad SL 26 Oct; imm TR 4, 12 Nov;
ad & imm Schodack Landing 18 Nov.
N. Harrier: 24 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Gallupville 8 Oct; 37 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 27 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: Gallupville 2, 25 Oct; JL 15 Oct; FtM 17 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Austerlitz 5, 18 Sep; Rt 20 Schodack beaver pd 19 Oct; Claverack 29 Oct; only reports away from CPHW.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 9 E. River Rd WASH 9 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Canaan 17 Oct; only 5 reports of singles.
Golden Eagle: ad Slingerlands 30 Sep (NM); imm Gallupville 8 Oct (BBo, KB).
Am. Kestrel: max 6 Waterford 14 Sep; 4 FtE 3 Oct; 12 reports of singles.
Merlin: Albany 11 Oct, only report away from CPHW.
Peregrine Falcon: Albany 9, 19, 26 Sep; imm Cohoes 23 Sep; Glens Falls 4 Oct; ad & imm New St Cohoes 7 Oct; Thacher P 7 Oct; Gallupville 8, 18 Oct; PISP 4 Nov; E. Greenbush 29 Nov.
Wild Turkey: max 19 Guilderland 19 Nov; continues in moderate numbers throughout.
Am. Coot: max 18 NL 8, 16 Nov; 58 SL 18 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 New St Cohoes 23 Sep, 7 Oct; only reports.
Killdeer: max 85 SUNY Albany 26 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: only 6 reports of singles.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Ferry Dr 2 Sep; 3 New St Cohoes 3 Sep; only reports.
Spotted Sandpiper: only 2 reports of singles.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 New St Cohoes 1 Sep; 4 Ferry Dr 30 Sep; only reports.
Least Sandpiper: 6 New St Cohoes 1, 7 Sep; 2 MR Niskayuna 6 Sep; WR 6 Oct; only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 New St Cohoes 1 Sep; 6 WR 8 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: juv New St Cohoes 1 Sep (WE, NM), 1st report since

1994, 4th Reg record.
Ring-billed Gull: max 830 lower MR 1 Sep; 1130 Cohoes/Waterford area 28 Oct.
Herring Gull: max 325 Cohoes 20 Oct.
Iceland Gull: 3 CBL 26 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 ad MR Cohoes Commons 20 Oct (WE).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 125 MR Cohoes 20 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: NRP 2 Sep; Amsterdam 22 Sep; only reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 reports of singles.
E. Screech-Owl: 13 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 4 Feller Rd T Taghkanic COLU 16 Oct; 15 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: 5 reports of singles.
Short-eared Owl: arr 2 FtE 15 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: BMT 20 Oct (JG/AV).
Com. Nighthawk: 7 NRP 3 Sep; c. 50 Albany 4 Sep; 75 Westmere 4 Sep; 2 Guilderland 17 Sep; last one S. Rensselaer 26 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 Slingerlands 2 Sep; 7 Wardsboro T Hague 3 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4-5 NL 13 Nov.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 Tamarac Pd RENS 6 Oct; 32 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 10 reports of singles; last Guilderland 25 Oct.
Downy Woodpecker: max 8 SNHP 4 Nov; 6 Guilderland 14 Nov.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Guilderland 8 Oct.
N. Flicker: 7 Hudson Falls 3 Sep; max 10 PISP 28 Oct.
Pileated Woodpecker: 38 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Brookview 3 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 4 FR 1 Sep; only 3

reports of singles.

Willow Flycatcher: Papscanee Creek 3 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: SkW 11 Sep; Amsterdam 12 Sep; only reports.

E. Kingbird: 3 Brookview 3 Sep, only report.

N. Shrike: Brand Rd T Charleston MONT 3-10 Nov, only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: only 2 reports of singles.

Blue-headed Vireo: 8 Sep & 9 Oct reports.

Warbling Vireo: max 3 Corning Preserve Albany 9 Sep; 3 reports of singles.

Philadelphia Vireo: no reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 Spencertown 3 Sep; 8 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: max 50+ Guilderland migrating overhead 28 Sep.

Am Crow: c. 14,000 coming to roost Troy Nov.

Fish Crow: 1-2 NL 19 Oct; 2 Cohoes 20 Oct; PISP 28 Oct; Papscanee Creek 18 Nov.

Com. Raven: reported throughout.

Horned Lark: max 60-80 Northumberland 15, 17 Nov.

Tree Swallow: max c. 50 NL 8 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 62 GL 30 Nov.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 BMT 22 Oct; 5 Guilderland 14 Nov.

Carolina Wren: family group FR 1 Sep; 27 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: 9 reports of singles.

Marsh Wren: Ferry Dr 30 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Gansevoort 1 Oct; reported in very low numbers.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Guilderland 28 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: StFl 2 Sep; SNHP 4 Sep; only reports.

E. Bluebird: max 18 New Salem 2 Sep; generally good numbers.

Veery: SNHP 2 Sep; Gansevoort 1 Oct; only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: Taghkanic 15 Sep,

only report.

Hermit Thrush: 11 reports of singles; last Ann Lee Pd 4 Nov.

Wood Thrush: Amsterdam 15 Sep; at breeding site Schodack thru 3 Oct; Canaan 18 Oct; only reports.

Am. Robin: max 90 Guilderland 28 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 8 SNHP 3 Sep.

N. Mockingbird: 10 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: WR 6 Oct, only report.

European Starling: c. 8000 New Scotland 9 Nov.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 Amsterdam 1 Oct; max 42 Amsterdam 7 Nov.

Bohemian Waxwing: 8-10 Hague Town Beach 18 Nov (BBi).

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Ferry Dr 30 Sep; 65 Guilderland 31 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: FR 1 Sep; Amsterdam 15 Sep; only reports.

Tennessee Warbler: only 2 reports of singles.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Guilderland 19 Oct (WE, NM).

Nashville Warbler: only 6 reports of singles.

N. Parula: only 1 report of single.

Yellow Warbler: NB 3 Sep; Hudson Falls 3 Sep; Austerlitz 4 Sep; only reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 8 reports of singles.

Magnolia Warbler: max 3 CPHW 6 Sep; 9 reports of singles.

Cape May Warbler: PISP 24 Sep, only report.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 CPHW 6 Sep; 3 Spencertown 3 Sep; 8 reports of singles.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 CPHW 6 Sep; 30+ NL 10, 15 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 25 reports of singles.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 Spencertown 4 Sep; only 5 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: only 1 report of single.

Prairie Warbler: Greenport 17 Sep, only

report.

Palm Warbler: max 4 NRP 24 Sep; 2 reports of singles.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 CPHW 6 Sep, only report.

Blackpoll Warbler: only 2 reports of singles.

Black-and-white Warbler: 5 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: max 3 Spencertown 3 Sep; only 3 reports of singles.

Ovenbird: no reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: only 3 reports of singles.

Wilson's Warbler: 3 reports of singles.

Canada Warbler: Austerlitz 14 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 Spencertown 3 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 4 SNHP 2 Sep; 6 Feller Rd T Taghkanic COLU 2 Oct.

Am. Tree-Sparrow: arr Albany 30 Oct; max 10 Coeymans 12 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 70+ Smith Pd area Nassau 2 Oct; last 2 Wardsboro T Hague 7 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: NRP 24 Sep; Easton 17 Nov; only reports.

Savannah Sparrow: last 6 Amsterdam 16 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: max 4 Wardsboro T Hague 28 Sep; 12 reports of singles.

Song Sparrow: max 23 Ferry Dr 30 Sep; 24 Amsterdam 16 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Powell 3 Oct; Guilderland 8 Oct; Amsterdam 16 Oct; only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 8 Ferry Dr 30 Sep; 6 WR 6 Oct; last Huyck Preserve 12 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 18 SNHP 30 Sep; max c. 350 Amsterdam 4 Oct; 81 banded Amsterdam 16 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Austerlitz 7

Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr 13 Guilderland 30 Sep; 34 banded Schenectady 15 Oct; excellent fall flight.

Snow Bunting: arr 4 Amsterdam 3 Nov; 20 North Creek WARR 11 Nov.

N. Cardinal: max 8 Guilderland 26 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 11 reports of singles.

Red-winged Blackbird: max c.1000 Cropseyville 24 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: max 6 Amsterdam 9 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Ferry Dr 30 Sep; last 10 BMT 27 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max c. 6000 Guilderland 16 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 200 Greenport 13 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: Claverack 2 Sep, only report.

Pine Grosbeak: 30 Gore Mt WARR 11 Nov; Thacher P 17 Nov; 10 Jefferson 20 Nov; 5-8 Glens Falls 22 Nov; 10 Cherry Plain WMA 24 Nov; 3 E. Poestenkill 24 Nov; 3 Troy 24 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 26 Wardsboro T Hague 8 Oct; reported throughout Reg in low numbers.

House Finch: max 30-40 Schaghticoke 8 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: reported in small numbers at feeders throughout Reg after 30 Oct.

Com. Redpoll: arr Schodack 11, 13 Oct; max 21 BMT 6 Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 12 Gallupville 14 Oct; 12 Glenville 18 Nov; moderate numbers throughout Reg.

Evening Grosbeak: max 23 Wardsboro T Hague 2 Nov; 15-20 Athol WARR thru; reported in moderate numbers throughout Reg.

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