

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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What a difference a year makes! The drought watches and emergencies of late 2001 were merely a memory as ground and surface water levels returned to normal as a result of spring and summer rains. In November, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation lifted all drought watches in the Region and reported nearly all streams at normal levels.

At the Binghamton weather station, precipitation continued above normal in September, but returned to deficits in October and November. The only significant rain event came on 24-25 September, when over 2" fell. The timing could have precipitated a migrant fallout, but none was reported. Temperatures were slightly below normal in September, and rebounded to slightly above in October and to 6°F above normal in a warm November.

In terms of avian activity, it was a quiet fall in the Region; average seemed to be the word for most species. Attendees at the Federation's 2002 Annual Meeting in Owego, 20-22 September, did turn up a good variety of birds with 79 species reported on field trips, including American Golden-Plover, Philadelphia Vireo and Vesper Sparrow. The Federation field trips also brought the only report of significant warbler movement with 15 species tallied. More evidence of the adage that the birds are where the birders are!

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch near Oneonta had another excellent season, with record coverage beginning in mid August. Data below cover 19 August to 30 November. All 15 regularly seen species were above the 14-year site average. Eagles, accipiters and falcons all showed significant increases. Notable flights included 39 American Kestrels on 5 October and 16 Golden Eagles on 1 November and again on the 23rd.

A number of species continued recent low trends, including cuckoos, thrushes and open country birds. Bright spots were an excellent count for Carolina Wren and good numbers for Barred Owl and raptors.

Gail Kirch of the Vestal banding station banded a Rusty Blackbird on 24 October and a second on the 28th, firsts for this species in the site's 40-year history. Also, a Philadelphia Vireo was banded 28 September.

The fall did not bode well for a winter invasion. Only one Northern Shrike was reported and winter finches were nearly absent, with a handful of Purple Finches and single reports of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. A late November report of Lapland Longspur was unusual.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pd BROO; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary DELA; DorP – Dorchester P BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch DELA; GoodL – Goodyear L OTSE; OtsL – Otsego L OTSE; WPR – Whitney Pt Res BROO; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; VBS – Vestal banding station BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: Vestal BROO 14 Nov; 4 Chenango L. CHEN 16 Nov; unusual in Reg.

Com. Loon: 30 OtsL 13 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: BPd 1 Oct, only report.

Am. Bittern: Barton TIOG Sep.

Great Egret: 2-3 Owego TIOG Sep; 2 Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; BPd 26 Sep, 5 Oct.

Black Vulture: TIOG Sep.

Turkey Vulture: total 199 FMHW, 93% above avg.

Snow Goose: 9 WPR 5 Oct; 150 Summit L OTSE 7 Nov; 250+ FMHW 19 Nov.

Brant: 13 DorP 22 Oct, low.

Mute Swan: BPd 9 Sep; 2 BPd 24 Oct, 21 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 12 BPd, drop from last year.

Am. Wigeon: 3 Cannonsville Res DELA 30 Nov, uncommon.

White-winged Scoter: Endwell BROO 27 Nov, uncommon.

Hooded Merganser: max 19 OtsL 9 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: OtsL 7 Nov;

WPR 27 Nov, uncommon.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 145 FMHW, 78% above avg; several other reports from major waterbodies.

Bald Eagle: total 124 FMHW, excellent count; numerous reports from across Reg.

N. Harrier: total 68 FMHW, modest increase; Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; Plymouth CHEN 17 Sep; JC 29 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 614 FMHW, 62% increase over avg, continuing recent upward trend; 2 Middlefield OTSE 3 Sep; 2 UL 26 Sep; Finch Hollow BROO 2 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: total 113 FMHW, more than double avg; 2 JC 1 Sep; Middlefield OTSE 2 Sep; JC thru Oct-Nov.

N. Goshawk: total 27 FMHW, 41% above avg; Vestal BROO 21 Nov (DW).

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 54 FMHW, avg; Plymouth CHEN 17 Sep (Dwa).

Broad-winged Hawk: total 893 FMHW, 38% above avg; 175 Mt Utsayantha Stamford DELA 17 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 2025 FMHW, 26% above avg; average numbers across

Reg.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 7 FMHW, slightly down; 3 other reports.

Golden Eagle: total 136 FMHW, excellent count, well above avg.

Am. Kestrel: total 158 FMHW, double avg; Smyrna CHEN 10 Oct; 2 Lisle BROO 15 Oct; JC 10 Oct, 26 Oct, 19 Nov; Greene CHEN 30 Nov.

Merlin: total 29 FMHW, 162% above avg.

Peregrine Falcon: total 17 FMHW, double avg; 1-2 Binghamton BROO thru, resident pr.

Wild Turkey: 3 GrP 8 Oct; 6 Glen Aubrey BROO; 30-40 Nuthatch Hollow BROO 30 Oct; max 50 Harpersfield DELA 21 Nov; low.

Am. Golden-Plover: DorP 21 Sep, rare in Reg.

Greater Yellowlegs: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep; Sherburne CHEN 29 Sep; DorP 22 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 UL 8 Sep (JW), rare in Reg.

Least Sandpiper: WPR 18 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: Bainbridge CHEN 15 Sep (JB), uncommon in fall.

Great Black-backed Gull: OtsL 7 Nov.

Caspian Tern: UL 21 Sep, rare in Reg.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Hamden DELA 30 Sep.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Maryland OTSE 19 Oct.

E. Screech-Owl: VBS 2 Sep, low.

Great Horned Owl: Meredith DELA Nov, only report.

Barred Owl: 7 reports, good count.

Com. Nighthawk: Binghamton 2 Sep (MF), only report; continued low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total 3 VBS 3-14 Sep, typically only reporting site for

Reg.

Least Flycatcher: 3 VBS Sep.

N. Shrike: Middletown DELA Nov 5 (JeD).

Blue-headed Vireo: UL 30 Sep; total 5 VBS 1-5 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: UL 21 Sep; VBS 28 Sep, 5 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: 4 Magnolia P BROO; total 31 VBS; several other reports; good count.

Am. Crow: 50 Cherry Valley OTSE 14 Oct, only sizeable flock reported.

Fish Crow: TIOG Sep, down from recent years.

Com. Raven: 5 reports; 4 Cherry Valley OTSE.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Vestal BROO 13 Nov, down from previous fall.

Brown Creeper: Walton DELA 5 Sep, only report.

Carolina Wren: 15 reports widespread across Reg, excellent count.

Marsh Wren: BPd 1 Oct.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: DorP 8 Sep.

Veery: Magnolia P BROO 2 Sep; VBS 4 Sep; low.

Swainson's Thrush: total 2 VBS 20-26 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: UL 26 Sep; 2 Maryland OTSE 29 Nov; total 5 VBS 22 Oct-1 Nov.

Wood Thrush: Bailey Hollow TIOG 4 Sep; JC 2, 12, 18 Sep; low.

Brown Thrasher: UL 21 Sep; Cherry Valley OTSE 29 Sep; low.

Am. Pipit: 24 Lisle BROO 5 Nov, only report.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: VBS 26 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Maryland OTSE Oct 20 (D&TK).

Nashville Warbler: 4 VBS 26 Sep; tot 8al VBS 9-30 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: JC 1 Sep; total 23 VBS.

Blackburnian Warbler: VBS 8 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: total 8

VBS 18 Sep-12 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: total 3 VBS; 2 JC 24 Sep; Hamden DELA 3, 5 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 WPR 18 Sep.

Pine Warbler: 2 Round Top P BROO (MP).

Palm Warbler: Glen Aubrey BROO 13 Sep; VBS 9 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: 6 VBS 18 Sep-13 Oct.

Ovenbird: 11 VBS 1-23 Sep.

Connecticut Warbler: VBS 14 Sep, rare in Reg.

Wilson's Warbler: 7 VBS 8-26 Sep; UL 9 Sep; Hamden DELA 5 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: several reports 7 Nov.

Field Sparrow: 2 JC 1 Sep; 3 VBS 26 Sep-1 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Lisle BROO 26 Sep

(MP).

Fox Sparrow: 6 reports spread across Reg.

Lincoln's Sparrow: DOAS 2 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 BPd 1 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: total 65 VBS.

White-crowned Sparrow: 6 Lisle BROO 15 Oct; VBS 13, 23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: total 133 VBS; max 22 JC 29 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: Greene CHEN 28 Nov (BB).

Indigo Bunting: 3 VBS 6 Sep-5 Oct.

Bobolink: UL 21 Sep, late.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 UL 23 Oct; VBS 23, 27 Oct.

Purple Finch: 5 reports, low; max 3 JC 20 Oct.

Pine Siskin: Middlefield OTSE 11 Nov, only report.

Evening Grosbeak: Owego TIOG 23 Nov, only report.