

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall began warm and ended cool and stormy. As reported from the Albany International Airport, September's mean temperature was 65°F, 4.4° above normal. October cooled significantly, averaging 47.9°, 1.4° below normal. November was also cool, averaging 38.6°, 0.6° below normal. There was 3.37" of rain in September, 0.06" above normal, 4.02" of rain in October, 0.79" above normal, and 4.86" of rain in November, 1.55" above normal. In addition, 12" of snow fell during November. The first trace of snow fell on 23 October, with many small storms of snow and freezing rain thereafter. Leaf drop was generally late.

Regional observers reported low numbers of waterfowl this season with unusually low numbers of Mallard and American Black Duck. Most bodies of water remained open through November.

Totals for the hawk species observed at the Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch from 26 August to 6 December are included in the species listing below. The overall total for the season was 2505 birds, nearly half of those Broad-winged Hawks.

Robert Yunick reported record numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at his banding station at Jenny Lake near Corinth, Saratoga County. He banded 99 hummingbirds and had 40 recaptures. The oldest was a female, aged seven years, two months.

Few flycatchers lingered past August, with one notable exception, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Ramshorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Greene County. Unusual warblers included two reports of Orange-crowned Warbler and one **Yellow-throated Warbler**. No irruptive finches of any species were observed during the period.

Other unusual species included Red-necked Grebe, Sanderling, Iceland Gull and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

A total of 178 species was reported during the period, 11 fewer than last fall.

Finally, thanks to my predecessor, Jane Graves, who carefully compiled this report since 1994.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Kate Dunham, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Bob Kirker, William Lee, Arthur Long, Andy Mason, Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Amsterdam MONT; AU – Austerlitz COLU; CPHW – Camp Pinnacle Hawkwatch ALBA; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Ft Edward area WASH; FtM – Ft Miller WASH; HM – Harvey Mt State Forest COLU; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NRRS – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PISP – Peebles I SP SARA; SF – Stillwater Flats SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park; SP – Stanton Pd ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA; WR – Watervliet Res ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: TR 11 Oct; NL 21 Nov; only reports.

Com. Loon: max 8 Sacandaga Res 26 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 HR at Albany 22 Sep; 6 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: NB 3 Nov, only report.

Red-necked Grebe: TR 11 Oct (RG), only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 HR at Albany 19 Oct.

Am. Bittern: 2 L7 19 Sep, late.

Great Blue Heron: max 7 MR 5 Sep.

Great Egret: 6 reports of singles.

Green Heron: max 5 RENS 25 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: total 297 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; last Glenco Mills COLU 14

Nov.

Snow Goose: max 5000 Florida MONT 20 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 5500 HR 8 Oct.

Brant: max 100 FR 8 Oct.

Mute Swan: 2 NL 18 Oct; only report away from HR.

Wood Duck: max 7 NRRS 25 Oct; 11 other reports.

Gadwall: max 5 SP 22 Sep; 4 reports of singles.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 SP 22 Sep; 7 other reports.

Am. Black Duck: max 14 NL 22 Oct; very low numbers reported.

Mallard: max 150 NL 22 Oct; low numbers reported.

Blue-winged Teal: NRRS 22 Sep;

Niskayuna 26 Sep; only reports.
N. Shoveler: 3 reports of singles.
N. Pintail: max 4 SP 11 Nov; scarce.
Green-winged Teal: max 18 NRRS 5 Sep; scarce after Oct.
Canvasback: none.
Ring-necked Duck: max 25 NB 3 Nov; scarce north of Albany.
Greater Scaup: 2 NL 27 Oct; low numbers reported.
Lesser Scaup: 5 NL 21 Nov; low numbers reported.
White-winged Scoter: max 7 TR 11 Oct; 3 reports of singles.
Black Scoter: max 45 NL 22 Oct; only 2 other reports.
Long-tailed Duck: NB 3 Nov; scarce.
Bufflehead: max 14 Castleton RENS 29 Oct; low numbers reported.
Com. Goldeneye: 4 reports of singles.
Hooded Merganser: max 25 NL 11 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 300 NL 8 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: NL 24 Oct; 2 NL 15 Nov; only reports.
Ruddy Duck: max 70 NL 15 Nov; widespread in flocks under 30.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: total 97 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; last Stockport 14 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 5 reports ad; 11 reports imm; total 18 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
N. Harrier: total 23 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; max 3 Cocksackie 26 Sep; 29 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 217 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 25 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: total 23 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 15 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: total 21 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 6 reports of singles.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 6 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; New Salem 11 Sep; AU 3 Sep; only reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 1216 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 434 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Taghkanic 5 Oct; total 3 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 8 reports of singles.
Golden Eagle: 1 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec, only report.
Am. Kestrel: total 63 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; max 10 FtE 7 Oct.
Merlin: total 9 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec.
Peregrine Falcon: total 4 CPHW 26 Aug-6 Dec; 5 reports of singles.
Semipalmated Plover: 6 SF 1 Sep.
Killdeer: max 55 Cocksackie 26 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: last NRRS 3 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 SP 22 Sep; 5 NRRS 19 Sep; 5 reports of singles.
Spotted Sandpiper: only 2 reports of singles.
Sanderling: 2 SF 1 Sep (JG, AV).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 TR 26 Sep; last NRRS 3 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 NRRS 3 Nov, late.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Greenville 14 Oct, only report.
Am. Woodcock: last Schoharie 29 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: TR 21 Nov, only report.
Iceland Gull: 3 ad 1 imm Cocksackie 1-18 Nov (RG).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 PISP 19 Oct; 3 other reports of singles.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: AM 24 Sep, only report.
E. Screech-Owl: 7 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 5 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: 4 reports of singles.
Short-eared Owl: 3 FtE 19 Nov, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: last & max 89 SARA 3 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: max 3 WARR 4 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: see *intro*; last AU 22 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 10 reports of singles.
Pileated Woodpecker: 21 reports of

singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Hyuck Preserve 14 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Catskill 6 Oct (RG).
Least Flycatcher: none.
Great Crested Flycatcher: none.
E. Kingbird: none.
N. Shrike: Schoharie 29 Oct; FtE 5 Nov; only reports.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Claverack 30 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last Greenport 10 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Albany 29 Sep.
Fish Crow: 5 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: 14 reports of singles.
Horned Lark: max 50 MONT 20 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 50 NB 20 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last Gansevoort 4 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported in very low numbers throughout.
Carolina Wren: 11 reports of singles.
Winter Wren: only 2 reports of singles.
Marsh Wren: last HR 7 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 FR 13 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 20 NB 22 Nov; high numbers reported throughout.
Gray-checked Thrush: Berne 3 Oct (KA).
Bicknell's Thrush: Black Head Mt GREE 1 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: 3 MONT 24 Sep, only report.
Hermit Thrush: 5 reports of singles.
Wood Thrush: last MONT 24 Sep.
Gray Catbird: last Rogers I COLU 3 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: max 6 Rotterdam 11 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 50 MONT 8 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: max 80 Schodack 26 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last SNHP 1 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: 5 reports of singles.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Berne 3 Oct; FR 13 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
N. Parula: Gansevoort 14 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 3 HM 2 Sep; 3 reports of singles.
Magnolia Warbler: last Claverack 29 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: none.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: only 3 reports of singles.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 NL 25 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last AU 27 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: Round Top GREE 1 Sep; SCHE 22 Sep.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Old Chatham 27 Nov (KD).
Pine Warbler: 4 reports of singles.
Prairie Warbler: last SNHP 1 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last AM 24 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: none.
Blackpoll Warbler: 6 reports of singles.
Black-and-white Warbler: 3 reports of singles.
Am. Redstart: last Ghent 15 Oct.
Ovenbird: 4 reports of singles.
Com. Yellowthroat: 7 reports of singles.
Wilson's Warbler: AM 24 Sep, only report.
Canada Warbler: Black Head Mt GREE 1 Sep, only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last HM 2 Sep.
E. Towhee: last FR 13 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Albany 5 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last Fox Run Dr SCHE 16 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last FR 13 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: AM 24 Oct, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: max 13 AM 1 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: max 3 NB 20 Nov.
Song Sparrow: max 50 AM 24 Sep.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 7 AM 1 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 5 VF 5 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 150 FR 13 Oct; reported in flocks of 10-20 throughout.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 FR 13 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: widespread at lower elevations by 20 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr Schodack 24 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last AU 1 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last AM 1 Oct.

Bobolink: last FtE 15 Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 20,000 Greenport 18 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: max 5 Cocksackie 17 Nov; 4 reports of singles.

Rusty Blackbird: max 100 NB 3 Nov.

Com. Grackle: max 2000 Castleton 29 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last HM 2 Sep.

Purple Finch: 7 reports of singles; declining in most areas.