

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2007 can be characterized by warmer than average temperatures and variable rainfall. September ushered in localized warmth and mild drought ending 3.7°F above average at Albany International Airport. The season's warming trend continued in October, which was 7.5° above average. Rainfall in October measured 1.3" above average occurring in several small storms. The first frost occurred the day before Halloween, just dipping below the freezing point to 31°. The first hard frost occurred a few days later. November chilled considerably, ending 1.6° below average. No significant snow fell this season and most bodies of water remained entirely ice-free.

Two reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** are unusual, as were reports of all three species of scoters and a dozen **Tundra Swans** in northern Columbia County. Some locally impressive waterfowl maxima occurred in such places as Galway Lake, Saratoga County, and Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer County, where birders recorded among other things 250 Ring-necked Ducks, 200 Common Goldeneyes, and 220 Hooded Mergansers.

John Hershey spotted a first-winter male **King Eider** on the Mohawk River near Lock 7. He snapped some quick photos, took good notes, and posted a link about the bird which fortunately cooperated long enough for others to see and photograph it.

Shorebirds this season were not abundant, but birders did manage to round out a diverse checklist by seeing several species that appear locally only a few times a decade, including **American Golden-Plover**, **Buff-Breasted Sandpiper**, and **Baird's Sandpiper**.

While kayaking in September on the Hudson River, Rich Guthrie spotted a yellow leg band on a Double-Crested Cormorant near New Baltimore and posted comments on the nysbirds-listserve soliciting information about cormorant banding. Susan Elbin from the New York Bioscape Initiative replied that the bird came from a US-Canadian study on cormorant migration. Many other birders posted their sightings of banded cormorants proving once again that amateur birders are a critical resource for ornithologists studying migration and population ecology.

The fall departure of neotropical migrants happened gradually, with only a few heavy nocturnal flights on September 1-2 and 11-12. Three reports of Connecticut Warbler and an Orange-crowned Warbler are unusual. Rich and Gail Nord in Claverack, Columbia County, had the pleasure of watching a **Dickcissel** at their feeder. However the bird did not stay long. Bob Yunic banded an immature **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Tom Palmer's property in Montgomery County. Birders found this species nearby this past summer suggesting that Clay-Colored Sparrows may breed in the productive grassland-shrub habitat of the Mohawk Valley, something to keep a keen eye (and ears)

out for next spring. Bob also reported a record-breaking number of Lincoln Sparrows this banding season.

Estimates from northern New York and Canada implied a good year for winter finches, and data from Region 8 lend confidence to this prediction. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, and especially **Pine Grosbeak**, which birders found feeding on ornamental crab apples in suburban yards, exhibited higher-than-average fall numbers.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMS – T Amsterdam MONT; COH – T Cohoes ALBA; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; GL – Galway L SARA; HR – Hudson Ri; LIV – T Livingston COLU; MR – Mohawk Ri; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: TR 25 Oct (BL, et al.); Coopers Pd Brunswick RENS 22 Nov (BW).

Snow Goose: max 100 TR 28 Nov.

Brant: COH 29-30 Oct; 2 Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Nov.

TUNDRA SWAN: 12 Canaan COLU 15 Nov (RG).

Wood Duck: last 10 TR 3 Nov.

Gadwall: max 6 VF 4 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 35 Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: last 40 VF 17 Sep.

N. Pintail: max 10 Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 20 TR 25 Oct.

Canvasback: GL 29 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Loughberry L SARA 4 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 1 Nov.

KING EIDER: Niskayuna Lock 7 SCHE 25 Nov-3 Dec (JH), photographed.

Surf Scoter: 3 Queechy L COLU 3 Oct; TR 25 Oct; Stillwater SARA 8-11 Nov; Lock 7 MR 18 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: Myosotis L ALBA 29 Sep-7 Oct; Stillwater SARA 11 Nov.

Black Scoter: 13 TR 25 Oct; Lock 7 MR 18 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: TR 25 Oct; Ft Miller WASH 8 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: max 200 TR 23 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 220 GL 25 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 300 Nassau L RENS 14 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 7 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov; 3 New Baltimore GREE 18 Nov; Lock 7 MR SCHE 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 150 COX Res GREE 12 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Clermont COLU 13 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: Ballston L SARA 23 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov; 3 TR 25 Oct-11 Nov; L George WARR 13-22 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 Saratoga L SARA 1 Nov; last HR COLU 19 Nov.

Horned Grebe: TR 16 Oct; GL SARA 24 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: HR at Germantown COLU 4 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: last Clermont COLU 24 Nov.

Am. Bittern: last COX flats 8 Oct.

Great Egret: last Germantown COLU 14 Oct.

Green Heron: last Copake COLU 6 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: VF 1 Sep; 4 COH 1-6 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: last LIV 21 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last TR 25 Oct.

N. Harrier: numerous reports in Oct and Nov of single birds.

N. Goshawk: Glen Doone ALBA 13 Sep; Partridge Run ALBA 12 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Jenny L SARA 22 Sep; Galway SARA 29 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: last VF 30 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: COX flats 21 Oct; Rensselaerville RENS 12 Nov.

Merlin: COH 1 Sep; Peebles I SARA 1

Sep; VF 2 Sep; Wright's Loop SARA 11 Sep; Five Rivers ALBA 2 Oct; Niskayuna SCHE 2 Oct; New Baltimore GREE 10 Oct; Schenectady 25 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: New Baltimore GREE 10 Oct; Lock 7 MR SCHE 26 Nov.

Am. Coot: max 90 HR at Germantown COLU 18 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: last COH 27 Sep.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: 3 COH 23-27 Sep.

Semipalmated Plover: last 10 COH 6 Sep.

Killdeer: last Hillsdale COLU 11 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Chatham COLU 19 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last HR at Stockport COLU 2 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Schaghticoke RENS 11 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last Claverack COLU 1 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: COH 6 Sep.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 COH 6 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: max 16 COH 6 Sep.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: COH 6 Sep (BL).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 COX flats 23 Sep-1 Oct; 2 Myosotis L ALBA 7 Oct.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Ft. Miller WASH 18 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: last New Salem RENS 29 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last VF 20 SEP.

Short-eared Owl: max 3 FtE 21 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: max 49 LIV 2 Sep; last Kingsbury WASH 8 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Ghent COLU 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Coeymans ALBA 3 Sep; VF 13 Sep; COX flats 13 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last VF 30 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: COX flats 8 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last E Greenbush RENS 6 Sep.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last VF 13 Sep.

N. Shrike: COX flats 3 Nov; Easton WASH 8 Nov; FtE 8 Nov; Fiver Rivers ALBA 12

Nov; Brunswick RENS 16 Nov; AMS 19

Nov; TR 25 Nov; Florida MONT 25 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last COX flats 7 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last AMS 22 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last VF 20 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: VF 20 Sep; RENS tech park 23 Sep; Peebles I SARA 25 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last Austerlitz COLU 18 Sep.

Tree Swallow: last TR 11 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last VF 8 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last Taghkanic COLU 18 Sep.

House Wren: last LIV 1 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last VF 1 Sep.

Veery: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 1 Sep.

Bicknell's Thrush: AMS 5 Sep, banded RY.

Swainson's Thrush: last Ghent COLU 4 Nov.

Wood Thrush: last COX flats 1 Oct.

Gray Catbird: last COX flats 10 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: last Germantown COLU 11 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 40 FtE 8 Nov.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: unspecified number "flock" Greenfield SARA 23 Nov (RH).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last Greenport COLU 23 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last VF 1 Sep.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: COX flats 20 Oct (RG).

Nashville Warbler: last VF 20 Sep.

N. Parula: last Middle Grove SARA 20 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last VF 1 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: last VF 30 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: last Round L SARA 4 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 13 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: last LIV 30 Nov.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last Albany 15 Sep.

Pine Warbler: last Black Creek Marsh ALBA 15 Sep.

Prairie Warbler: last Coeymans ALBA 3 Sep.

Palm Warbler: last LIV 4 Nov.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Round L SARA 4 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last VF 30 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Petersburg RENS 8 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last Clermont COLU 13 Oct.

Ovenbird: last Papscahee I RENS 23 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: last VF 13 Sep.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: AMS 5 Sep (RY); COX flats 11 Sep (RG); Austerlitz COLU 1 Oct (ML).

Mourning Warbler: Lake Taghkanic COLU 2 Sep; 2 AMS 13 Sep; AMS 21 Sep; last RENS tech park 23 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: last AMS 24 Oct

Wilson's Warbler: last 3 RENS tech park 23 Sep.

Canada Warbler: last VF 8 Sep.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last VF 30 Sep.

E. Towhee: last Hillsdale COLU 7 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Rensselaer Plateau 23 Nov.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: AMS 21-25 Sep, banded (RY).

Field Sparrow: last Rensselaerville RENS 8 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: last COX flats GREE 25 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: last AMS 8 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: last E Greenbush RENS 21 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last COX flats GREE 29 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: last AMS 8 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr Partridge Run ALBA 12 Nov; FtE 21 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Meco FULT 11 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: last FtE 18 Oct.

DICKCISSEL: Claverack COLU 26 Oct, at feeder (G&RN).

Bobolink: last max 50 Papscahee I RENS 1 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: last Taghkanic COLU 13 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: max 30 VF 7 Oct; last VF 3 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last Austerlitz COLU 23 Sep.

Pine Grosbeak: 6 Gansevoort SARA 9 Nov; 2 Grafton RENS 10 Nov; 6 Rensselaer Plateau 23 Nov; 4 Galway SARA 24 Nov; 4 Pattersonville SCHE 24 Nov; 5 E Greenbush RENS 29 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 25 Jenny L SARA 3 Sep.

Red Crossbill: Hannacroix GREE 12 Nov; Meco FULT 20 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: Loudonville ALBA 25 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: max 15 Burnt Hills ALBA 23 Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 12 New Baltimore GREE 10 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: max 18 Galway SARA 24 Nov.

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