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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Mild and overall calm weather characterized fall 2009. September ended 4° F above average with average rainfall. October continued mild, 1° above average, and a few large storms brought 3.87 more inches of rain than average. The first frost occurred late this season, dipping to 30° at Albany International Airport on 19 Oct, but a killing frost did not occur in the Hudson Valley until 2 November.

The Kingbird 2010 March; 61 (1)

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Many fruits and vegetables continued very late into the season, in both domesticated gardens and in the wild. November ended with temperatures and precipitation close to historic averages. 8 November brought a trace of snow to higher elevations and the northern part of the Region, but otherwise the season remained largely snowless. Most waterways remained ice free through the end of November.

Among the waterfowl highlights are a Eurasian Wigeon at Vischer's Ferry from mid-November into winter and small gatherings of Cackling Goose. Rare for our Region, observers tallied three species of loon: Common, Red-throated, and **Pacific Loon**, the latter spotted at Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County in mid November. Two unusual species of shorebirds in an otherwise typical fall migration include White-rumped Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper.

Fall is an exciting time to watch hummingbird feeders for vagrants and this year a female **Rufous Hummingbird** visited the residence of Karl Hillig in Balston Spa, Saratoga County. The bird was banded by Bob Yunick, who reports that the hummingbird appeared at the Hillig residence in early October just when the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds began to depart. Originally, Hillig had not thought to question the identification of the bird, since he believed that only Ruby-throated Hummingbirds occurred in our State. Only after some investigation by Rich Guthrie did the bird's true identification emerge, and Yunick banded the bird on 24 October. The bird remained at the feeder for nine days before disappearing.

There were few passerine surprises this fall, however Will and Danika Raup discovered a **Boreal Chickadee** at Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area in southwest Albany County. The couple were searching for crossbills, driving slowly through the area, and heard a slow, raspy "sick-a-jay-jay" at an unassuming beaver pond. Stopping to search, they found the bird actively feeding low to the ground in a weedy area adjacent to the pond, with view good enough to discern its brown cap, rusty sides, gray breast, and the plain gray/brown back. They took a few pictures. Boreal Chickadees wander out of the Adirondacks occasionally in our Region, and when they do, they most likely visit the higher elevations of Albany and Greene Counties.

Other passerines of note include: three reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, a Yellow-breasted Chat in Brunswick, Rensselaer County, a **Dickcissel** found in Stuyvesant, Columbia County, and both species of crossbill.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brausch, Nancy Castillo, Jim Coe, Gerry Colborn, Tim Colburn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Gary Goodness, Elizabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Karl Hillig, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Heidi Klinowski, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Larry Main, Mitzi Lobdell, Andrew Mason, Matthew Medler, Roger Miller, Jeff Nadler, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Joe Peters, John Piwowarski, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Tom Salo, John Saville, Susan Scheck, Scot Stoner, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Brad

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ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; MR – Mohawk Ri; PR – Partridge Run WMA ALBA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 250 SL 26 Nov.
Brant: max 70 Nutton Hook COLU 20 Oct.
Cackling Goose: 4 Brunswick RENS 20 Oct; 3 TR 11 Nov.
Tundra Swan: 2 SL 26 Nov.
Wood Duck: last VF 16 Nov.
Gadwall: max 20 Stanton Pd ALBA 5 Nov.
EURASIAN WIGEON: VF 16 Nov thru (TLW).
Am. Wigeon: max 6 VF 27 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last VF 9 Sep.
N. Pintail: max 7 VF 27 Nov.
Redhead: SL 2 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 2 Loughberry L SARA 17 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 8 Loughberry L SARA 24 Oct.
Surf Scoter: TR 9 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: max 2 TR 7-10 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 47 Myosotis L SARA 16 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: max 8 Myosotis L SARA 27 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 8 L George WARR 1 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 190 TR 11 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 40 Loughberry L SARA 14 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 Cossayuna L WASH 6 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: last Lock 7 SCHE 28 Nov.
Ruffed Grouse: AUS COLU 10 Oct; Ghent COLU 6 Nov; Galway SARA 7 Nov; Partridge Run ALBA 12 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: TR 7-11 Nov; 2 Nassau L RENS 8 Nov.
PACIFIC LOON: TR 11 Nov (RG).
Com. Loon: max 6 TR 16 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: last Collins L SCHE 7-13 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 4 TR 17 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: TR 11-17 Nov; SL 17 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: last TR 11 Nov.
Great Egret: last Waterford SARA 19 Oct.
Snowy Egret: New Baltimore GREE 4 Sep.

Green Heron: last Hillsdale COLU 26 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Waterford SARA 19 Oct.
Black Vulture: max 3 Glenmont ALBA 20 Sep.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Brunswick RENS 26 Oct.
N. Goshawk: Coeymans ALBA 30 Sep; Chatham COLU 4 Oct; Partridge Run ALBA 14 Oct; Saratoga SP SARA 14 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Colonie ALBA 2 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: last AUS 15 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Germantown COLU 5 Nov.
Golden Eagle: Gilboa SCHO 6 Nov.
Merlin: West Sand Lake RENS 27 Sep; Halfmoon SARA 2 Oct; Waterford SARA 19 Oct; BRU 23-4 Oct; Cohoes ALBA 4 Nov; Collins L SCHE 12 Nov; Clarksville ALBA 29 Nov.
Sora: last VF 5 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 10 Collins L SCHE 14 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: Cohoes ALBA 22 Sep; ML 6-23 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: 8 Stony Creek Reservoir SARA 24 Sep.
Killdeer: last Florida MONT 1 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last COX grasslands 5 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last TR 11 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last Cohoes ALBA 23 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last VF 24 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: TR 7-14 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: ML 8-9 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: TR 11-14 Oct; Rensselaerville 20 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 COX grasslands 6 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: last Rensselaerville ALBA 6 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: last Livingston COLU 27 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 VF 9 Oct; SL SARA 16 Oct; TR 7 Nov; Myosotis L SARA 27 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: Colonie ALBA 28 Nov.
Caspian Tern: New Baltimore GREE 4 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Rensselaerville ALBA 16 Sep.
Barred Owl: max 3 Chatham COLU 28 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: Five Rivers ALBA 23 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Berne ALBA 18 Oct; Five Rivers ALBA 15 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last Meadowdale ALBA 22 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Germantown COLU 3 Oct.
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Ballston L SARA 24 Oct-2 Nov (KH), banded by RY.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4-mile Pt GREE 12 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last Florida MONT 4 Oct.
N. Shrike: 7 reports scattered throughout the Region.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Saratoga SARA 21 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last New Baltimore GREE 10 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 COX Grasslands 2-3 Sep; PR 5 Sep; Saratoga Battlefield SARA 11 Sep; PR 26 Sep; VF 2 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Austerlitz COLU 2 Oct.
Purple Martin: last Copake L COLU 22 Oct.
Tree Swallow: last TR 7 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last Vosburgh's Marsh GREE 5 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last Cohoes ALBA 5 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last Hillsdale COLU 9 Sep.
BOREAL CHICKADEE: PR 12-13 Nov (WR).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 PR 26 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: last Clifton Park SARA 10 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last BRU 23 Sep.
Am. Pipit: max 30 Papscanee RENS 4 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Rensselaerville ALBA 16 Sep; Burnt Hills SARA 29 Oct.
Tennessee Warbler: last Albany Pine Bush ALBA 3 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Five Rivers ALBA 5 Oct; AUS 10 Oct; PR 17 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last Florida MONT 2 Oct.
N. Parula: last VF 5 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last AUS 10 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last Ghent COLU 10 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last Saratoga SP SARA 26 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last AUS 2 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Claverack COLU 22 Sep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last AUS 12 Sep.
Prairie Warbler: last Claverack COLU 18 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last Meadowdale ALBA 17 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last TR 12 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Claverack COLU 16 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last PR 1 Sep.
Ovenbird: last Taghkanic COLU 14 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last Granite L SARA 25 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: Rensselaerville ALBA 17 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Collins L SCHE 13 Nov.
Wilson's Warbler: last PR 17 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last Peebles I SARA 23 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: BRU 2 Oct.

TOWHEE – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: last Gansevoort SARA 19 Oct.
Field Sparrow: last Papscanee RENS 26 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: last Rensselaerville ALBA 10 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Five Rivers ALBA 5 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last AUS 2 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last BRU 8 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: Stuyvesant COLU 5 Oct (NK).
E. Meadowlark: last Gansevoort SARA 8 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 450 BCM 23 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last Vosburgh's Marsh GREE 28 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 2 PR 11 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 juv Gansevoort SARA 9 Nov; Five Rivers ALBA 15 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 12 Edinburgh SARA 27 Oct; scattered reports of small flocks, 1-5 birds.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Berne ALBA 6 Nov; 10 Providence SARA 2-9 Nov; Averill Park RENS 15 Nov.

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