

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2013 was slightly cooler than average and a bit drier than normal. October was again drier than normal, but four degrees warmer than average, while November was four degrees cooler than the norm with just a bit over the average precipitation. There were no major meteorological events, so it is difficult to point to any local conditions having a profound effect on fall migration except, of course, for the normal movement of high and low pressure bands.

Snow Geese were seen a bit earlier this year, with flocks coming through in late November. Also, Brant made a good appearance, with 150 flying by Franklin Mountain Hawk watch. There was also a single lingering Brant at Dorchester Park in Broome County which afforded many birders a chance to see this species. At Allen Lake in Otsego County, a **Eurasian Wigeon** stayed for the first couple of weeks in October. Ruddy Ducks also made a good appearance, with 17 spotted in Tully Lake in Cortland County. This year there seemed to be more reports from Cortland and Tioga Counties, with Tully Lake, for example, receiving more scrutiny.

Along with the annual reappearance of Great Egrets in the Region, a **Snowy Egret** was spotted in Owego by Marshall Iliff in the first week of September. Another report, also from Tully Lake, was the Region's sole report of an American Bittern on 6 September.

Moving on to raptors, Andy Mason reports that numbers from the Franklin Mountain hawk watch were somewhat down this year. The total count was 4,859 raptors, which was 9% below the 12-year average of 5,335. However, Broad-winged Hawks were 45% above their 12-year average, and on 17 September 916 Broad-wings were counted, which broke the previous record of *The Kingbird* 2014 March; 64 (1)

900 for Franklin Mountain. The count of Bald Eagles at 157 was about average. Osprey recorded at 49 was the lowest number in 17 years. Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks were all down significantly. Golden Eagles were also down, but in November provided three double-digit days, and on 7 December, 18 were sighted. A Black Vulture was seen on 16 September, which was only the second ever spotted from Franklin Mountain. This year was the 25th consecutive year of hawk watching at Franklin Mountain.

The Region had some interesting shorebirds appear, especially in the northern Broome and Chenango Counties. A Sanderling appeared at Dorchester Park in the first week of September, and a dozen Pectoral Sandpipers were spotted at Cincinnatus Lake on 30 October. A Dunlin was also spotted on 1 November at Dorchester Park. Both Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at a gravel pit in Cortland County on 5 October, and a Forster's Tern was reported at Tully Lake on 6 September.

Continuing the trend of declining Common Nighthawk numbers, there were only two reports from the entire Region, from the Binghamton area in early September. Of course, this might reflect an earlier migration date. In a similar vein, we also had no reports of Chimney Swifts this fall in the Region, but the previous year we had a maximum of 30 on 15 September.

There was a **Rufous Hummingbird** coming to a feeder in Bainbridge on 13 November which was well-documented with photos. In contrast the last Ruby-throated Hummingbird departed on 28 September.

A **White-eyed Vireo**, which is uncommon for our Region, was reported from Lime Hollow in Cortland County on 26 September by Chris Wood. At Dorchester Park on 30 October, there was a Lapland Longspur accompanying some Snow Buntings. It was photographed by Glenn Wilson.

Warbler diversity continued to be good, with 28 species recorded (last year's total was 26). The highlight was a **Connecticut Warbler** found by Marshall Iliff on 15 September at Hickories Park. Our only reports of Blue-winged, Mourning, and Hooded Warblers came from West River Road in Marathon (the "River" in this road referring to the Tioughnioga River, despite Google Maps describing it as the Chenango River).

Vesper Sparrows were reported from Broome County in a couple locations in October. On 5 November, American Tree Sparrows made their first appearance of the season at the Wildwood Nature Reserve. A small flock of ten Rusty Blackbirds was reported from Chenango County, and there were seven other scattered reports of this declining species.

There were few or no reports of Pine Siskins, redpolls, or crossbills. Purple Finch numbers were also down from last year. This reflects the biannual appearance of these species. Despite the lack of finches, 201 species were reported with some excellent rarities for the Region.

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CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALL – Allen L, OTSE; AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; BHL – Buck Horn L, OTSE; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPd – Boland Pd, BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, TIOG; CanL – Canadarago L, OTSE; CannR – Cannonsville Res, DELA; CanL – Canadarago L, OTSE; ChenRB – Chenango Ri, Binghamton, BROO; CherryVSF – Cherry Valley State Forest, OTSE; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, BROO; DorP – Dorchester P, BROO; DHRd – Dunham Hill Rd, BROO; FMHW – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; GrP – Greenwood P, BROO; HickP – Hickories P, TIOG; JC – Johnson City, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; OtsL – Otsego L, OTSE; PrRd – Prentice Rd, Susquehanna Ri, Vestal, BROO; RivR – River Rd, Endwell, BROO; SKAL – Skaneateles L, CORT; TrAir – Tri Cities Airport, Endicott, BROO; UL – Upper Lisle, BROO; WCM – W Corners Marsh, BROO; WNR – Wildwood Nature Reserve, TIOG; WRRd – West River Rd, Marathon, CORT.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 200 BROO 20 Nov; 50 DELA 30 Nov; 30 DorP 19 Nov; 30 FMHW 24 Nov.

Brant: max 150 FMHW 31 Oct; last DorP 19 Nov.

Cackling Goose: DorP 30 Oct-24 Nov, mob.

Canada Goose: max 1700 CanL 21 Nov; 1700 GrP 27 Oct.

Mute Swan: BPd 29 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 70 Owego TIOG 11 Oct.

Gadwall: 2 WNR 23 Sep; 2 Downsville DELA 24-30 Nov; only 2 rep.

Eurasian Wigeon: ALL 3-17 Oct, mob.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 ALL 6 Oct

Am. Black Duck: max 97 CannR 26 Oct.

Mallard: max 200 UL 24 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 ALL 29 Sep, 2 Cincinnatus L CHEN 30 Oct; only 2 rep.

N. Shoveler: Owego TIOG 11 Oct, only rep.

N. Pintail: max 5 GrP 5 Oct; 3 UL 24 Nov; Clarke Pond OTSE 20 Nov; only 3 rep.

Green-winged Teal: 17 rep; max 31 OTSE 23 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: 12 rep; max 125 ALL 11 Oct; most rep from ALL.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 DorP 27 Nov, only rep.

Lesser Scaup: arr ALL 29 Sep; 3 rep.

White-winged Scoter: arr ChenRB 31 Oct; 3 UL 24 Nov; uncommon in Region.

Black Scoter: arr PrRd 28 Oct; uncommon in Region.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4 DorP 20 Nov; Downsville DELA 24-30 Nov; uncommon in Region.

Bufflehead: max 107 DorP 12 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: max 11 CanL 21 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 28 Clarke Pond OTSE 20 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 400 DorP 20 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 2 DorP 31 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 17 Tully Lakes CORT 2 Nov; 9 GrP 9 Nov; good numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 rep. all singles.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOGA 27 Oct; and 5 DELA 21 Sep; 29 rep across Region.

Wild Turkey: max 42 BROO 27 Nov; many rep.

Red-throated Loon: arr DorP 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 40+ FMHW 8 Nov; 36 Spencer L TIOG 8 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 25 rep; mostly of single birds.

Horned Grebe: 3 UL 22 Nov, only rep.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 35 DorP 14 Sep; most rep in BROO along Susq R and Chenango R.

Am. Bittern: Tully L CORT 6 Sep, only rep.

Great Egret: max 4 Owego TIOG 9 Sep; last WCM 9 Nov, late.

SNOWY EGRET (R4): Owego TIOG 7-9 Sep (MI, mob).

Green Heron: last Susq R Endicott BROO 30 Sep.

Black Vulture: FMHW 16 Sep, only rep.

Turkey Vulture: common thru mid-Oct; max (non HW) 60 Vestal BROO 16 Oct; total 355 FMHW, 12% below avg.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

(FMHW totals cover 20 Aug to 1 Jan; averages reflect 2001-2012 data).

Osprey: total 49 FMHW, 64% below avg; 19 other rep, low.

Bald Eagle: total 157 FMHW, 1% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.

N. Harrier: total 33 FMHW, 55% below avg; 25 other rep.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 374 FMHW, 35% below avg; 24 other rep.

Cooper's Hawk: total 70 FMHW, 37% below avg; 25 other rep.

N. Goshawk: total 7 FMHW, 71% below avg; no other rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 35 FMHW, 43% below avg; 9 rep outside of FMHW.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1993 FMHW, 45% above avg.

Red-tailed Hawk: total 1527 FMHW, 25% below avg; many other rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 3 FMHW, 70% below avg; arr 3 Northern BROO 6 Nov.

Golden Eagle: total 123 FMHW, 31% below avg.

Virginia Rail: Spencer L TIOG 15 Sep, only rep.

Am. Coot: max 67 OtsL 2 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 2 ALL 14 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: PrRd Sep 7, only rep.

Killdeer: max 30 GrP 5 OCT; last 1 DorP 13 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: most rep from DorP early Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 DELA 1 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 DorP 3 Sep; last BrPd 11 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 UL 15 Sep; last DorP 19 Nov.

Sanderling: DorP 1-12 Sep.

Dunlin: arr DorP 1 Nov.

Least Sandpiper: 2 DorP 7 Sep; Nichols TIOG 28 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 Cincinnatus L CHEN 30 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 DorP 12 Sep, only rep.

Wilson's Snipe: PrRd 7 Sep; Choconut Creek BROO 15 Oct, only rep.

Am. Woodcock: 5 rep all in TIOG Sep & Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: UL 27 Nov, only rep.

Great Black-backed Gull: 3 CORT (Gravel Pit) 5-6 Oct.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 CORT(Gravel Pit) 5-6 Oct.

Caspian Tern: max 5 Michigan Hollow L TIOG 1 Sep.

Com. Tern: 2 DorP 14 Sep.

Forster's Tern: Tully L CORT 6 Sep.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: WRRd, 19 Sep, only rep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Vestal BROO 2 Sep, only rep.

E. Screech-Owl: HickP 15 Sep; Vestal BROO 3 OCT; CVSP 17 Oct; arr CHEN 12 Oct, nest box; only 4 rep.

Great Horned Owl: 2 JC 9 Sep; LHNC 3 Oct; 3 other rep.

Barred Owl: max 4 Candor TIOG 15 Sep; 2 Port Crane BROO 17 Sep; 13 other rep, good numbers.

Short-eared Owl: Eiklor Rd TIOG 11 & 22 Nov, only rep.

Com. Nighthawk: JC 5 Sep; Vestal BROO 10 Sep; only reports.

Chimney Swift: No reports!

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last TIOG 28 Sep.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Bainbridge CHEN 13 Nov, feeder, photos.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last BrPd 18 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: total 81 FMHW, 24% below avg; 35 other rep; good count outside of FMHW.

Merlin: total 16 FMHW, 38% below avg; 10 other rep.

Peregrine Falcon: total 10 FMHW, 41% below avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: WRRd 5 Sep; FMHW 12 Sep; Hancock DELA 22 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last BrPd 11 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: WRRd 7-8 Sep; Richford TIOG 7 Sep; only reports.

Least Flycatcher: last Endicott BROO 7 Sep.

Great-Crested Flycatcher: last Richford TIOG 13 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last WNR 10 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr FMHW 29 Oct; Edwards Hill Rd BROO 30 Oct; 2 other rep.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R4): LHNC 26 Sep, uncommon (ChW).

Yellow-throated Vireo: last DorP Sep 18; 8 rep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last UL 15 Oct; most last week of Sep and first week of Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 Tully L CORT 6 Sep; most in the first week of Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 HickP 15 Sep; 9 rep, good count.

Red-eyed Vireo: last AqPk 8 Oct; many rep.

Fish Crow: max 20 Landfill BROO 6 Oct; 6 rep.

Com. Raven: max 16 FMHW 8 Nov; 70+ rep; widespread.

Horned Lark: max 50 DorP 27 Nov.

Rough-winged Swallow: last Dwyer Park CORT 6 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 100 DorP 14 Sep; last UL 19 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 100 DorP 14 Sep; last UL 4 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 49 rep, down from last yr.

Brown Creeper: 43 rep; widespread.

Carolina Wren: 225+ rep; most from BROO & TIOG.

House Wren: 26 rep; all in Sep, increase from last yr.

Winter Wren: 8 rep; max 3 LHNC 26 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Hope L CORT 7 Sep, only rep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: widely reported.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 WRRd 19 Sep; max 19 DorP 25 Oct.

E. Bluebird: max 10 BROO 2 Oct; 60+ rep, widespread.

Veery: max night flight 20 JC 9 Sep (DN)

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max night flight 3 JC 9 Sep (DN).

Swainson's Thrush: max night flight 60 JC 9 Sep (DN).

Hermit Thrush: last LHNC 21 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max night flight 10 JC 9 Sep (DN), 11 other rep.

Gray Catbird: well reported thru early Oct; last BUNP 27 Oct.

N. Mockingbird: 6 rep most in BROO.

Brown Thrasher: 12 rep; 3 from feeder DELA 3-8 Sep; last CVSP 6 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 17 DorP 25 Sep; 13 Spencer L TIOG 8 Nov; 11 rep.

Cedar Waxwing: well reported thru; max 60 OTSE 2 Oct.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: DorP 31 Oct, uncommon, (GW), photo.

Snow Bunting: 14 DorP 31 Oct; 6 rep most from BROO.

Ovenbird: last TIOG 28 Sep; 10 rep.

N. Waterthrush: BrPd 7 Sep, only rep.

Blue-winged Warbler: WRRd 3 & 5 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last LHNC 26 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last 2 BrPd 28 Sep; 5 rep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: PrRd 12 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last Grippen P BROO 26 Oct; max 3 DELA 25 Sep.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R4): HickP 15 Sep, uncommon, (MI).

Mourning Warbler: WRRd 5 & 8 Sep, only rep.

Com. Yellowthroat: many rep; last Beaverkill Rd DELA 26 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: WRRd 7 & 8 Sep, only rep.

Am. Redstart: 16 rep; last TrAir 22 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last UL 6 Oct; 7 rep.
N. Parula: last DELA 28 Sep; 7 rep.
Magnolia Warbler: 30 rep; last AqPk 8 Oct; max 5 Carcass Brook Rd DELA 1 Sep, good count.
Bay-breasted Warbler: WRRd 7 Sep; LHNC 26 Sep; Susq R Owego TIOG 28 Sep; only 3 rep.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Signor Hill Rd TIOG 5 Oct; 18 rep, up from last yr.
Yellow Warbler: last PrRd 27 Sep; 3 rep, down from last yr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last BUNP 29 Sep; max 7 Houck Mt Rd DELA 8 Sep; 33 widely scattered rep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 8 HickP 15 Sep; last BrPd 11 Oct; 15 rep, up from last year.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last LHNC 26 Sep; 11 rep.
Palm Warbler: last Susq R Endicott BROO 27 Oct; 18 widely scattered rep with mostly singles.
Pine Warbler: last Round Top P BROO 19 Oct; 10 rep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 PrRd 8 Oct; 20 UL 4 Oct; last Arnold Rd BROO 6 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last WRRd 19 Sep; 6 rep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last AqPk 12 Oct; max 15 AqPk 1 Oct; 46 rep.
Canada Warbler: last LHNC 26 Sep, 5 rep.
Wilson's Warbler: last DorP 24 Sep; 10 rep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 10 LHNC 26 Sep; last Oneonta OTSE 26 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WNR 5 Nov; max 40 Roxbury DELA 28 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: last UL 30 Oct; many rep thru Oct.
Field Sparrow: last BUNP 27 Oct; 25 rep.
Vesper Sparrow: PrRD 12 Oct; UL 30 Oct; only reports.
Savannah Sparrow: last Candor TIOG 8 Nov; 21 rep.
Fox Sparrow: arr Death Valley Rd BROO 12 Oct; 11 rep, down from last yr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 DELA 25 Sep; UL 25 Sep; 19 rep.
Swamp Sparrow: max 6 PrRd 8 Oct; 64 rep, many from WNR.
White-throated Sparrow: 140+ rep, abundant.
White-crowned Sparrow: 25+ rep; arr TIOG 28 Sep; last Port Dickinson BROO 10 Nov, feeder.
Dark-eyed Junco: 230+ rep; max 60 GrP 27 Oct; widespread, good count.
Scarlet Tanager: 28 rep; last 2 DorP 25 Sep; good count.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 24 rep; last BUNP 6 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 10 Vestal BROO 4 Sep; last Spencer L TIOG 15 Sep.
Bobolink: 4 rep; last Stanton Hill Rd TIOG 28 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 700 HickP 28 Sep; last 90 WNR 26 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: 15 rep; max 4 Mt. Hunger Rd BROO 9 Oct; 11 rep from TrAir.
Rusty Blackbird: max 10 CHEN 3 Nov; 7 other rep with small numbers.
Brown-Headed Cowbird: max 25 HickP 28 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: max 6 DELA 2 Sep; 5 rep, all early Sep.
Purple Finch: max 8 JC 6 Sep; 27 rep, down from last year's 70+ rep.

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