

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2013 was overall cool and dry. September ended cooler than average, with 1.2" more rain than average, most of which fell in a few large storms. October ended nearly 3° warmer than average and dried out considerably. The first frost occurred at Albany on 21 October but the growing season limped on in the mid-Hudson Valley for several more weeks. November continued dry, and the month ended nearly 3° below average. Consistently cold evening temperatures after 20 November began to freeze ponds solid, sending waterfowl to rivers and fast moving water. A thin blanket of snow covered most of the Region by Thanksgiving week.

Interesting waterfowl include a Greater White-fronted Goose on the Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County in November, a Barrow's Goldeneye at the same location a few weeks later, and a solid late November movement of Snow Geese, with several reports of flocks at or larger than 1000 birds. Saratoga Lake has become a reliable place to observe fall migrating Red-necked Grebes and Common Loons. A Little Blue Heron was spotted at Vischer's Ferry, Saratoga County, during the first week of September.

Susan Scheck of Hillsdale, Columbia County, may not realize she is probably one of the last residents in the Region who can list Eastern Whip-poor-will as one of her backyard birds. Even as secondary forest cover approaches levels not seen since the early 19th Century and many forest specialists have increased or stabilized in numbers, Whip-poor-wills are vanishing from all their strongholds in Region 8. Rapidly dwindling local populations in Columbia, Greene, and Saratoga Counties are all that are left of this species and the reasons for their decline are poorly known.

As of December, only one Northern Shrike was reported, in Montgomery County, the best place to find many open ground summer and winter birds in our Region. Philadelphia Vireo reports this fall were higher than average. We also continue to see greater numbers of American Pipits, which can sometimes go entirely unreported for a calendar year. The two best warblers of the season were Orange-crowned Warbler in Livingston and Albany and three separate reports of **Connecticut Warbler** in September. Finches remained very scarce this season, with only Pine Siskin reported in Livingston, Columbia County, in October.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COX – T Coxsackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R8): TR 3 Nov.

Snow Goose: 1000 Claverack COLU 28 Nov; 1000 TR 30 Nov, multiple reports.

Brant: Latham ALBA 21 Oct.

Tundra Swan: 2 Ft. Miller WASH 6 Nov.

Gadwall: max 5 Lock 7 SCHE 30 Nov.

N. Shoveler: Stanton Pd ALBA 20 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 4 VF 17 Nov.

Canvasback: 2 Saratoga L SARA 30 Nov.

Redhead: 2 Saratoga L SARA 22 Oct.

Surf Scoter: 6 Latham ALBA 21 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 25 Saratoga L SARA 2 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 18 Saratoga L SARA 22 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: max 8 Saratoga L SARA 25 Oct.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R8): TR 14 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: Clifton Pk SARA 11 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 300 COX Res 22 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 FtE 30 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 9 Nov.

Horned Grebe: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 2 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: Basic Creek Res ALBA 17-20 Oct; Saratoga L SARA 28 Oct-23 Nov; L George WARR 6 Nov.

Great Egret: max 8 VF 1 Sep.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R8): VF 1-12 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Albany 3 Sep; Athens GREE 25 Sep.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last Helderbergs ALBA 5 Sep.

N. Goshawk: Livingston COLU 21 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Jenny L SARA 28 Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 360 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 16 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtE 20 Nov.

Virginia Rail: last VF 13 Sep.

Sora: VF 1 Sep.

Com. Gallinule: VF 1 Sep.

Am. Coot: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 29 Oct.

SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 2 Colonie ALBA 28 Nov.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER (R8): COX 5 Sep.

Dunlin: Cohoes ALBA 16 Oct.; Stanton Pd ALBA 22 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Ferry Drive SARA 2 Sep;

Cohoes ALBA 16 Oct; Collins L SCHE 25 Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Cohoes ALBA 15-20 Oct.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Short-eared Owl: 6 FtE 5 Nov-Dec.

Com. Nighthawk: last Albany 22 Sep.

E. Whip-poor-will: Hillsdale COLU 6 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Taghkanic COLU 22 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Thatcher Pk ALBA 8 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last Albany 3 Sep.

N. Shrike: Florida MONT 29 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: VF 11 Sep; Albany 11 Sep; last VF 25 Sep; Florida MONT 25 Sep.

Tree Swallow: 25 Latham ALBA 30 Oct; last TR 9 Nov.

Veery: last Helderbergs ALBA 5 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: last Hillsdale COLU 16 Oct.

Wood Thrush: Albany 8 Sep.

Am. Pipit: max 100 Livingston COLU 1 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr 7 Basic Creek Res ALBA 29 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last Florida MONT 6 Sept.

Black-and-white Warbler: last New Baltimore GREE 3 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last COX grasslands 25 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Livingston COLU 16 Oct; Albany 24 Oct.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R8): Five Rivers 16 Sep; Pine Bush 18 Sep; Florida MONT 24 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last VF 3 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: last Pine Bush ALBA 18 Sep.

N. Parula: last Pine Bush ALBA 10 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Five Rivers ALBA 15 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last New Baltimore GREE 3 Sep.

Pine Warbler: last Albany 19 Nov.

Canada Warbler: last VF 15 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: COX grasslands 4 Sep; Five Rivers ALBA 6 Sep; max 3 COX grasslands 25 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Five Rivers ALBA 5 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last BCM 25 Sep; last Jenny L SARA 3 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: VF 25 Sep; Round Lake SARA 13 Oct; 10 Collins L SCHE 26 Oct.

Pine Siskin: Livingston COLU 26 Oct.

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