



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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September 2016 was warm and dry in Region 8. The continuation of less than normal precipitation led to designations of “abnormally dry” or “moderate drought” for the area. Albany was 4.2° F above normal, and total monthly precipitation was a paltry 2.18", only two-thirds of normal. October averaged 2.7° above average, with a rainfall deficit of 0.78". The first area-wide snowfall occurred on 27 October. Drought conditions worsened to “moderate” or “severe” throughout the eleven county Region by the end of the month. November was a more typical month, with average temperatures slightly above normal, and precipitation at Albany just below normal. Drought conditions remained unchanged from October.

Two observations of Greater White-fronted Goose were reported in November 2016, both by Lindsey Duval. The first was at Riley Cove on Saratoga Lake on 4 November. The second occurred at Hudson Crossing Park on 24 November.

Bill Cook related a very interesting rarity from Columbia County that was present from 26-30 November: “An Eared Grebe spent several days at the end of the month on Copake Lake. It was originally misidentified by all observers, including myself, as a Horned Grebe simply because no one considered anything else. The winter plumages of Horned and Eared grebes are similar and the western species had never been encountered in Columbia County before. Fortunately, Leigh McBride took a picture of it and posted it on eBird. The ever-watchful and sharp-eyed Andrew Guthrie saw the picture and identified the bird. The subtle differences noted were the narrow, sharp, slightly upturned bill, the black cap extending below the eye and the fact that the bird floated higher in the water than a Horned Grebe.”

An immature Sandhill Crane was spotted feeding in the soybean fields along Staats Island Rd. in Schodack, Rensselaer County on 7-8 November. This species continues to be observed with increasing frequency in Region 8, with at

least one sighting in eight of the first eleven months this year. Are there already breeding pairs present in the area?

The Ruddy Turnstone found by Liz Curley on 31 August continued the following day, allowing four more observers an opportunity to study this Regional rarity.

Short-eared Owls were plentiful at the Washington County Grasslands in Fort Edward beginning in mid-November. By late in the month, as many as twenty individuals were being reported on some evenings. Unfortunately, some observers wanted to get too close to the birds, and NYS DEC stepped in, closing some areas to all foot traffic and putting personnel on the ground to monitor the situation.

Evening Grosbeak reports were scattered across the Region from mid-October through mid-November, but mostly of one to three birds. No northern “finch” irruption was detected by the end of November, with no redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, or crossbills reported.

Bob Yunick filed his Fall banding season report, excerpted as follows:

“1) Purple Finch nesting season at Jenny Lake (JL), Town of Corinth, Saratoga Co., NY at 1250 ft. elevation in the Adirondack State Park. Last banded 10/6 for a season total (Apr-Oct) of 166 captures: 125 banded and 41 returns (oldest ret. was 11y, 1m, and 6 males and 2 females were 5 or more years old). The 166 captures was 9th from the bottom in 47 yrs. of banding at this location. Production of young was disappointing: only 27 imm. banded (also 9th from the bottom) even though 48 ad. females were captured (33 banded and 15 ret.). Total PUFIs banded at this site in 47 years stands at 13,242.

2) Ruby-throated Hummingbird nesting season at JL ended with last banded on 9/5, but sightings also on 9/9 and 9/16. Total captures May-Sep was 65 (57 banded, 8 ret.), 51 were ad. including 40 females and only 11 males, but only 6 imm. were banded...not an impressive season.

3) Black-capped Chickadee irruption at JL in progress. Numbers banded by month were 1 in Jul, 4 in Aug, 4 in Sep, 8 in Oct and 35 in Nov. Ret. birds banded in previous years began appearing in Sep, increased to 9 in Oct and 18 in Nov so that by 11/30: 52 had been banded, 36 ret. captured for a Jul-Nov total of 88 birds compared to a total of 57 for all of the previous year. Significantly, this irruption is one characterized by a preponderance of adults, 61.4%, over imm., 38.6% as of 11/30; had been 65/35 in early Oct. Oldest ret. captured so far is 8y, 5m.

Total captures (newly banded, new returns, and repeat captures) were in single digits during banded sessions in Sep and early Oct then escalated as follows: 16 on 10/26, 24 on 11/8, 29 on 11/14, and 31 on 11/23.”

CONTRIBUTORS

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Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Bill Ostrander, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; AR – Alcove Res, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMB – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; CCGP – Cossackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; CF – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CRM – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; FR – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; FtEG – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; FV – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; HP – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; OCA – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; PRWMA – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R8): Saratoga L 4 Nov (LD); Hudson Crossing Park SARA 24 Nov (LD).

Snow Goose: max 60 Easton WASH 14 Nov.

Brant: max 14 Henry Hudson Park ALBA 24 Oct.

Gadwall: max 25 BCR 23 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 270 Stanton Pd ALBA 23 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 85 Galway L SARA 23 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 VFNHP 13 Sep, very low numbers.

N. Shoveler: max 10 Stanton Pd ALBA 2 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 16 Stanton Pd ALBA 30 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 BCR 23 Oct.

Canvasback: max 2 BCR 27 Nov.

Redhead: max 2 Galway L SARA 26 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr Loughberry L SARA 25 Sep; max 530 Loughberry L SARA 7 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr Loughberry L SARA 17 Oct; max 60 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr Cohoes ALBA 14 Oct; max 100 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr, max 6 AR 17 Oct; 3 Corning Preserve ALBA 24-28 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr AR 17 Oct; max 35 Saratoga L SARA 10 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr TR 11 Oct; max 30 AR 26 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr TR 24 Oct; max 11 Saratoga L SARA 10 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr BMB 12 Oct; max 125 Saratoga L SARA 26 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr Ft Edward Yacht Basin WASH 24 Oct; max 70 Saratoga L SARA 26 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 230 BCR 12 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr Lake George WARR 13 Oct; max 7 Saratoga L SARA 26 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr BCR 2 Oct; max 1100 BCR 23 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: arr Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr Galway L SARA 29 Oct; max 8 Saratoga L SARA 10 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr E Canada L MONT 11 Sep, early; max 8 Saratoga L SARA 10 Nov.
EARED GREBE (R8): Copake L COLU 26-30 Nov, *intro*.
Am. Bittern: last 2 White Creek WASH 23 Sep, NFC.
Great Egret: last Colonie Town Park ALBA 30 Nov, late.
Green Heron: last CCGP 30 Oct, late.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 5 TR 15 Oct.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: last OCA 18 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 322 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 17 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Ft Edward Yacht Basin WASH 24 Oct.
Golden Eagle: max 3 Cambridge WASH, 1 imm, 2 ad.
Virginia Rail: last BMB 15 Oct.
Com. Gallinule: max 5 East Bay WMA WASH 25 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 3 AR 20 Oct.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): imm Staats Island Rd RENN 7 Nov (MA).
Black-bellied Plover: Corning Preserve ALBA 15 Sep; Cohoes Flats ALBA 2 Oct; TR 11 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: last Blockhouse Park SARA 9 Sep.
Killdeer: last Saratoga L SARA 17 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last The Crossings ALBA 11 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last HP 10 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last TR 11 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last BCR 20 Oct.
RUDDY TURNSTONE (R8): CF 1 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: last TR 12 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last TR 12 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Great Sacandaga L FULT 10 Sep.
Caspian Tern: max 3 Crescent Power Station ALBA 2 Sep.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Snowy Owl: Germantown COLU 9 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr FtEG 14 Nov; max 20 FtEG 25 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 8 APBP 11 Oct, banded (AD).
Com. Nighthawk: last 12 Coxsackie Boat Launch GREE 20 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last Robinson Pond COLU 16 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Copake Falls COLU 4 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: max 8 FtEG 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Brookview RENN 5 Sep; SNHP 8 Sep; Hillsdale COLU 10 Sep; Eldridge Swamp SF WASH 10 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 15 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Corning Preserve ALBA 10 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Colonie ALBA 4 Oct, late.
Alder Flycatcher: last BMB 4 Sep; Sprakers MONT 4 Sep, only reports, early migrant.
Willow Flycatcher: last BMB 4 Sep, only report, early migrant.
E. Phoebe: last Galway L SARA 2 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last VFNHP 15 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last Craryville COLU 2 Oct.
N. Shrike: arr Duanesburg SCHE 28 Nov (AVK).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last APBP 24 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last Cambridge WASH 18 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last APBP 29 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 20 reports 1 Sep- 6 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve RENN 19 Oct.
Horned Lark: max 80 Kinderhook COLU 19 Nov.
Tree Swallow: last 2 FtEG 19 Oct.
Bank Swallow: 3 reports 2 Sep - 4 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: 3 reports 4 Sep - 13 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last 12 Stuyvesant COLU 17 Sep.
House Wren: last Round L SARA 6 Nov.
Marsh Wren: last VFNHP 19 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 5 reports 2 Sep - 10 Sep.
Veery: last Ushers SARA 15 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: APBP 21 Sep, banded (AD); FR 25 Sep; APBP 26 Sep; Lk Taghkanic COLU 25 Oct, late; max 14 White Creek WASH 23 Sep, nocturnal flight calls.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: Tivoli L ALBA 24 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: last Copake Falls COLU 25 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last Glenco Mills COLU 20 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 31 FR 4 Sep; 31 BMB 4 Sep.

Brown Thrasher: last FR 26 Sep.
Am. Pipit: arr CF 12 Sep; max 135 Appleby Rd ALBA 16 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: Cambridge WASH 14 Oct, only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 200 BCR 8 Oct.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Great Sacandaga L FULT 29 Oct; max 30 Kinderhook COLU 19 Nov.
Ovenbird: last Papscanee Island NP RENN 3 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last FR 15 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Cambridge WASH 14 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Guilderland ALBA 15 Oct.
Tennessee Warbler: 19 reports 4 Sep - 20 Oct; max 3 FR 15 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 8 reports 17 Sep - 21 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE 12 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 7 reports 9 Sep - 2 Oct; max 2 APBP 9 Sep, banded (AD).
Mourning Warbler: Petersburg Pass SF SCHO 4 Sep, only report.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 3 Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE 12 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last Normanskill Farm ALBA 8 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 7 reports 2 Sep - 3 Oct.
N. Parula: 32 reports 4 Sep - 3 Oct; max 4 Featherstonehaugh SF SCHE 12 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last Berlin RENN 16 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 11 reports 4 Sep - 3 Oct; max 7! Featherstonehaugh SF SCHE 12 Sep, high count.
Blackburnian Warbler: 11 reports 4 Sep - 24 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: 7 reports 5 Sep - 3 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Albany ALBA 30 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last CF; Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE; Cambridge WASH 12 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last BCR 8 Oct.

Palm Warbler: last FtEG WASH 22 Oct; max 14! Troy Landfill RENN, high count.
Pine Warbler: last TR 16 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE 19 Oct; max 120! TR 11 Oct, high count.
Prairie Warbler: 8 reports 4 Sep - 26 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Corning Preserve ALBA; Henry Hudson Park ALBA 10 Oct.
Canada Warbler: 7 reports 1 Sep - 21 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last FR 8 Oct.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BCR 2 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: arr Cambridge WASH 12 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Fultonville MONT 25 Sep; max 9 Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE 6 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 Cocksackie GREE 23 Oct; St. Johnsville MONT 28 Oct; CCGP 31 Oct; only reports.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr W Sand Lake RENN 7 Sep; last 2 Coveville SARA 25 Oct.
E. Towhee: max 13 SNHP 20 Sep.
Scarlet Tanager: last Guilderland ALBA 2 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Stockport Flats COLU 8 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Scotia SCHE 12 Oct.
Bobolink: last 2 Catskill GREE 16 Oct, late; max 35 Papscanee Isl NP RENN 4 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: max 6 OCA 26 Sep.
Rusty Blackbird: max 90 Coveville SARA 24 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: 4 reports 3 Sep - 15 Sep; very late bird at seed feeder Albany ALBA 21 Nov.
Red Crossbill: Rensselaerville SF ALBA 6 Oct.
Com. Redpoll: no reports.
Pine Siskin: 8 reports 28 Sep - 25 Nov; max 8 T Providence SARA 5 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: 9 reports 10 Oct - 20 Nov; max 5 Cambridge WASH 13 Nov.

