

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2019 was warmer and drier than normal. October was above average regarding temperature and very wet. In fact, October 2019 was the third wettest October since 1950 (when the current record period begins). November was about 5.5° F cooler than average, and was the fifth coldest and eighth driest November.

This year's Golden Eagle fall migration at Franklin Mountain was far different from last season's count. Last year Andy Mason reported that 323 were counted, with a large number (254) observed in October, and with peak numbers two weeks earlier than normal. This year only one Golden Eagle was sighted in October—the average for October is around 50 sightings. However, Andy reports that 157 were seen in November, bringing the total for the year to 166 which is slightly below the long-term average. The reason for this change is unknown.

Raptor species showing greatly increased numbers were Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Broad-winged Hawk. The total Broad-winged Hawk count was 2,422, which is 63 percent above average. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were about half the long-term average. The Red-tailed Hawk decline in numbers is puzzling for this relatively common raptor, and this drop seems to be the case across many eastern hawk watches. No Black Vulture were counted this fall (there were 15 last season and six in fall season of 2017). We had thought we had an upward trend for BVs. In total, 5,237 raptors were counted, which is above the average for the

Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch. (Thanks to Andy Mason for summarizing all the above information regarding the hawk watch). If you need more statistics regarding raptors, you can refer to the species list following the narrative.

In Tioga County Adam Troyer was also counting migratory birds that flew over his farm. On 15 September he counted 1,758 Broad-winged Hawks and seven Ospreys. He also saw 198 Common Loons on 29 November. He said, "This was one of my best loon flights ever. From 9:30 to 11 AM there were two tight flocks of 47 in each flock and many smaller flocks."

A trio of Cackling Geese were spotted and photographed at a north Norwich marsh in Chenango County in early October. Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters were reported in the Region in October and November. A video was recorded and uploaded to eBird of Surf Scoters on the Susquehanna River in Endicott. A hybrid Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser was discovered on Mead Pond in Chenango by Mike DeWispelaere, and was photographed by many.

In Chenango County in the Town of Plymouth, six adult Sandhill Cranes were seen and photographed in the grasslands in late September and October. It looked as though three local birds were joined by three migrants. No juveniles were seen.

Regarding shorebirds, American Golden-Plovers were found in a couple different locations in Chenango County in the last week of September. A Baird's Sandpiper was photographed on 11 September foraging in the Susquehanna River near Vestal.

A Say's Phoebe was seen by Adam Troyer on 11 October on his farm in Tioga County, and there he also saw a Western Kingbird on 16 September which was well photographed by others. The details of the Say's Phoebe and the Western Kingbird sighting were submitted to NYSARC.

A Nelson's Sparrow was discovered on 5 October at Brick Pond in Tioga County. Five Rusty Blackbirds were reported from the Tri-Cities Airport in Endicott on 3 November, which was a maximum count for this declining species for the season.

Warbler diversity was about average this season, with 28 species recorded. Last year the number of species seen was 27, and preceding year was 29. The highlight was Connecticut Warblers seen in two different locations in the Region in mid-September.

In summary, 211 species vs. 216 last year were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander, who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **ChenL** – Chenango L, CHEN; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NNMH** – North Norwich Marsh, CHEN; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **PepR** – Pepacton Res, DELA; **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, CORT; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, TIOG; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 250 Johnson City BROO 18 Oct; 129 FMHW 16 Nov.

Brant: max 175 Mead Pd CHEN 18 Oct; 110 DorP 31 Oct.

Cackling Goose: 3 NNMH 30 Sep -5 Oct, ph.

Mute Swan: Susquehanna R Bainbridge CHEN 20 Nov, ph, only rep.

Tundra Swan: max 24 West Creek Rd TIOG 4 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 3 Susquehanna R Endicott BROO 18 Oct, video.

White-winged Scoter: max 5 PepR 29 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 7 Plymouth Res CHEN Oct 19.

Long-tailed Duck: max 5 PepR 16 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: max 30 OtsL 29 Nov.

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser: Mead Pd CHEN 9-16 Nov, (ph, mob, MD).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 9 DorP 16 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 9 DorP 10 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 Tully L CORT 20 Oct.

Horned Grebe: max 4 DorP 24 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: CannR 27 Oct.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 BUNP 8 Sep, only rep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 scattered rep in Sep.

Common Nighthawk: max 22 SusR Johnson City BROO 2 Sep; 15 Binghamton University BROO 3 Sep, most sightings along rivers.

Chimney Swift: last Choconut Center P BROO 14 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last DELA 25 Sep.

RUFIOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD:

CORT 17 Sep-23 Oct, at feeder, despite many photos the ID is still uncertain.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 4 NNMH 5 Sep.
Common Gallinule: max 7 NNMH CHEN 9 Sep.
American Coot: max 36 OtsL 6 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: max 6 Doing Rd CHEN 27 Sep-23 Oct.
American Golden-Plover: max 2 T New Berlin CHEN 24 Sep; NNMH CHEN 23-25 Sep, ph.
Sanderling: CannR 1 Sep, only rep.
Baird's Sandpiper: SusR Vestal CHEN 11 Sep, ph.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 NNMH 8 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 10 NNMH 9 Sep.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: UL 15 Sep, only rep.
Greater Black-backed Gull: LHNC 20 Oct, only rep.
Black Tern: CannR 2 Sep, lone rep.
Common Tern: SusR Vestal 20 Sep; 2 OtsL 6 Nov, ph.
Forster's Tern: SusR 16 Sep, ph, only rep.

LOONS – FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: 2 CannR 16 Nov; 2 TomakRd 29 Nov; PepR 19 Oct; Plymouth Res CHEN 12 Nov, ph.
Common Loon: max 198 TomakRd 29 Nov, flyover (AT); 92 TomakRD 3 Nov, flyover; 9 PepR 19 Oct.
Great Egret: max 12 William Hill P BROO 14 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: UL 15 Sep; Creamery Rd Tioga 27 Sep; LHNC 2 Oct.
NOTE: FMHW totals cover 26 August to 5 Jan; averages reflect 2001 to 2018 data, *intro*.
Black Vulture: total 0 FMHW, last year 15. Just 2 rep in Oct from OTSE.
Turkey Vulture: total 928 FMHW, 99% above avg.
Osprey: total 42 FMHW, 62% below avg; 7 TomakRd 15 Sep (AT).
Golden Eagle: total 166 FMHW, 9% below avg; 3 TomakRd 29 Oct & 13 Nov.
Northern Harrier: total 49 FMHW, 20% below avg; 4 TomakRd 29 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 271 FMHW, 46% below avg.
Cooper's Hawk: total 50 FMHW, 46% below avg.
Northern Goshawk: total 5 FMHW, 74% below avg; TomakRd 15 Nov.
Bald Eagle: total 201 FMHW, 20% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 49 FMHW, 2% below avg.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 2422 FMHW, 63% above avg; 1758 TomakRd 15 Sep (AT).
Red-tailed Hawk: total 922 FMHW, 48% below avg; 5 TomakRd 19 Oct; many other rep.
Rough-legged Hawk: total 1 FMHW, 86% below avg.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Trout Ponds P TIOG 3 Sep; Stupke Pd CORT 4 Nov, mobbed by songbirds.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Cornell Hollow Rd BROO 19 Nov, only rep.
American Kestrel: total 73 FMHW, 25% below avg; 7 TomakRD 29 Sep.
Merlin: total 28 FMHW, 1% above avg.
Peregrine Falcon: total 17 FMHW, 2% above avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTINGS

WESTERN KINGBIRD (R4): TomakRd 16 Sep, ph, mob, (AT).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 8 scattered rep in early to mid Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: AqPk 16 Sep.
SAY'S PHOEBE: TomakRd 11 Oct, well seen, submitted to NYSARC, (AT).
Horned Lark: max 120 Millbrook T P CHEN 16 Nov.
Winter Wren: max 5 Oakley Corners SF TIOG 5 Oct.
Marsh Wren: max 2 MHL 15 Sep; 2 BoPd 20 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: T Bovina DELA 3 Sep; Chenango Valley State P BROO 14 Sep.
Veery: last Unadilla Boat Launch DELA 30 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Oxford CHEN (NFC) 25 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: Johnson City BROO (NFC) 5 Oct.
American Pipit: max 30 Smithville Flats CHEN 23 Oct.
Pine Siskin: max 4 Johnson City BROO 1 Sep, flyover; 2 Endicott BROO 16 Nov, feeder; only reports (97 reports last fall).
Lapland Longspur: Millbrook T P CHEN 16 Nov; only rep.
Snow Bunting: max 6 DorP 23 Nov; 8 other scattered rep in Nov.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS-
CARDINALIDS**

American Tree Sparrow: max 25 UL 22 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: TomakRd 25 Sep
(AT), only rep.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 TomakRd 29 Oct-2
Nov; last 2 Sunset Dr CHEN 15 Nov, ph.

Grasshopper Sparrow: TomakRd 23 Sep
(AT), only rep.

Nelson's Sparrow: Brick Pd TIOG 5 Oct
(CW), only rep.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr MHL 15 Sep; last
Robert Nichol Nature P DELA 26 OCT.

Rusty Blackbird: max 5 Anson Rd BROO 3
Nov.

Tennessee Warbler: max 6 LHNC 17 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 6 rep in late Sep
& Oct, most in BROO.

Connecticut Warbler: MHL 15 Sep, (CW);
UL 22 Sep, (DN).

Mourning Warbler: Beals Pond Rd DELA 1
Sep; TomakRd 20-24 Sep; UL 30 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: SUNY Delhi DELA 5 Sep;
Cannon Hole TIOG 28 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: max 16 Riverview
Cemetery DELA 14 Sep.