

of first killing frost. Migrating flocks of Black and White, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Myrtle at Plattsburgh on Oct. 9; also a Pine on October 22 (L. P.). Warblers moved out of central parts of region earlier.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: 3 Redwings, 1 Grackle and 1 Cowbird still present at Saranac Lake on Nov. 26 (G. M. M.). Evening Grosbeaks which nested in Adirondacks in considerable numbers this year remained until mid-September. Since then they have almost entirely disappeared in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake areas. The only report of any numbers of them at end of fall season was at Ellenburg Depot (E. MacG.) where 113 were banded Oct. 26 - Nov. 30. In this north country it has so far been decidedly a Pine Grosbeak year. The heaviest in years. They are common over the entire area. First report on October 25 at Pok-a-Moonshine Mt. (T. L.). From then to date (Dec. 13) they have been reported at Tupper, Long and Saranac Lake villages and at numerous places along Lake Champlain — Port Kent, Peru, Schuyler Falls, Ausable Chasm, Douglass and Essex. Many have been killed by cars on the roads. No Redpolls, Siskins or Purple Finches yet reported. Crossbills have moved out of central mountains after being present all summer. Only one report of Snow Bunting — at Au Sable Point on November 1 (T. L.).
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

ALLEN H. BENTON

August was 2.5 degrees below normal temperature this year, following the trend of the rest of the summer. Rainfall was slightly above normal, but most of it came in one tremendous downpour on the 31st. September was only slightly cooler than normal, despite a 24% drop in total hours of sunshine. The clouds were not productive of rain, however, since precipitation was more than an inch below normal. In October, the trend of the season reversed, and temperature was 5 degrees above average for the month, and precipitation nearly normal. The frost-free season ended on October 8th, a temperature of about 25 degrees setting a new Albany record for that date. November was near normal in temperature, but precipitation was well above normal. Most of it, however, came as rain, and there was no accumulation of snow in the vicinity of Albany during the month. In some of the northern areas, there was some accumulation.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon was first seen on October 2, and has been present in small numbers up to the last of November. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes have been common throughout the fall, with numbers over 30 seen on several occasions. Largest report for American Egrets was Sept. 25, when 31 were seen along the Hudson River. Last date for Black-crowned Night Heron was Sept. 21, at Scotia (E. Hallenbeck). A Great Blue Heron was seen near Catskill on Nov. 29 (S. Madison). The waterfowl migration has been good. An American Brant was seen at Saratoga Lake on November 28 (E. Hallenbeck). Most of the migrating species have been seen in good numbers, but the wintering species, mergansers, goldeneyes, scaup, etc., have been few so far.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen along the Hudson River below Albany on Sept. 25. Other hawk reports have been scanty. Few shorebirds were reported. A late Killdeer was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Last date for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was Nov. 11 (Mabel French). A Snowy Owl was reported at Rensselaer on Nov. 14 (Rev. Carlyle Adams).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Last date for Nighthawk was Sept. 26 (M. French). Chimney Swift was last seen on Sept. 20 (M. French) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Sept. 24 (M. French). A Belted Kingfisher was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen from Sept. 25 to Oct. 23. Pileated Woodpeckers are being reported more frequently, and are being seen in areas not previously occupied by this species. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Watervliet Reservoir on August 29. Red-breasted Nuthatches first appeared on Sept. 25 and were present throughout October and November. Winter Wrens were present

from Sept. 21 to Oct. 17. A Carolina Wren was seen at Amsterdam on Nov. 7 to 9 (M. Fitzgerald). Olive-backed Thrushes were seen from Sept. 21 to Oct. 11. A Northern Shrike was seen at Amsterdam on Nov. 8 (M. Fitzgerald).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Loudonville on Sept. 22 (M. French). The warbler migration was generally regarded as better than the spring migration, and large numbers of many species were reported. A Myrtle Warbler was at Delmar as late as December 1 (L. Wiard).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The big news in this group is the influx of northern species. Although the winter has been mild so far, almost every expected wintering species has been recorded. Evening Grosbeaks were first seen on Oct. 17 at Slingerlands (L. Grace), but have since been seen at widely scattered points and in numbers up to a dozen or so. Pine Grosbeaks were first seen on Oct. 24 at Thacher Park (N. Harrington), and have since appeared throughout our area in flocks up to 35. A male Dickcissel was banded by M. Fitzgerald at Amsterdam on Sept. 19. Operators of feeding trays should be on the lookout for this rare species, which has been seen occasionally in flocks of House Sparrows. Redpolls were first reported on Nov. 22 (L. Wiard). Pine Siskins were seen on Nov. 25 and flocks of goldfinches have been feeding on the birch seeds throughout the fall. Tree Sparrows were first seen on Nov. 3 (M. French). Late dates include a White-throated Sparrow on Nov. 18 and a Fox Sparrow on Nov. 4, both seen at Schenectady by H. Eddy. Late Addendum: A Brown-capped Chickadee was seen in a flock of black-caps at Rensselaerville on Nov. 6 (E. Robinson).

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

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A temperate August, rounding out the pleasantest summer in years, led into a mild, lingering autumn that produced in fall migrants a premature Southern languor. Even a record-breaking trio of hurricanes — Carol, Edna and Hazel — that lashed our river valleys on the backswing failed to produce any violent reaction in birdlife — a few strays but no more than occurred in lulls between hurricanes.

Again, the "white herons" shunned our region. It is hard to explain why they have missed us lately in their summer and fall wanderings while they seem to be thriving as ever in their Southern breeding range.

In contrast to the late departure of so many migrants — in Rockland County alone, 11 species of warbler either matched or surpassed old late dates going back to 1925 — the Northern finches and other drifters from the North and West came unusually early. Westchester County had its Lewis's Woodpecker and Western Tanager; Rockland had its Summer Tanager and Oregon Junco; Ulster and Sullivan had their Brown-capped Chickadees and, in Ulster, possibly a Western Tanager.

And all over the region roamed bands of Red-breasted Nuthatches, both crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, vacuum-cleaning the trees and shrubs of their heavy seed and fruit crops. Flowering dogwoods that bore a lush crop this fall were in many cases entirely stripped by migrant and immigrant birds by the time really cold weather set in, December first. The same goes for individual wild cherry trees.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon on Ashokan Reservoir, in the Catskills, on Aug. 7 was remarkable (Henry and Ilse Dunbar). So was an American Brant on the same water Oct. 30 (Dunbar, Fred Hough). This was Ulster County's first record for the species.

A few Snow Goose reports: Oct. 13, about 75 flying low over Cross River Reservoir, Westchester (Robert J. Hamerschlag); Nov. 5, an estimated 800 over the Monticello area (Kenneth D. Niven); Nov. 13, a small flock over the Hudson near