

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).

New York State College for Teachers, Albany, N. Y.

REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

ROBERT F. DEED

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

Stony Point was probably this species (Mr. and Mrs. Murl Deusing).

Two Redheads on Croton Lake rather early, Oct. 24 (Ralph Odell, Jr.). For Ring-necked Duck, a new early record for Rockland County: Oct. 16 (Dr. M. R. Hopper). Also by Dr. Hopper, Greater Scaup Duck on Oct. 21, about 10 days early for Rockland County. At Lebanon Lake, Sullivan County, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber P. Carr saw four Buffleheads on Nov. 28; a week later, after near-zero temperatures, this good-sized lake was frozen solidly.

A Green Heron at Piermont on Nov. 6 was a week later than ever before in Rockland County, (Thomas G. Dow). An American Bittern at the roadside in Monsey on Dec. 2 was more than a month later than any previous Rockland record (Frank R. Steffens).

HAWKS — OWLS: More Goshawks and Merlins (Pigeon Hawks) than in many seasons. John C. Orth, Palisades Interstate Park naturalist, noted a flight of two dozen hawks, mostly Broad-wings, in late afternoon of Sept. 6 and a fine flight of more than 400 hawks in five hours on Sept. 25, both observations at Bear Mountain. The annual hawk trip of Queens County Bird Club to the summit of Anthony's Nose, near Bear Mountain, on Oct. 23 produced limited numbers, mostly Red-tails, but an excellent close-up of a Goshawk.

Goshawks were even more numerous along the Shawangunk flight lane, where H. Meng and others reported at least three in mid-October. Meng also recorded the first Golden Eagle for Ulster County, in the same area (date not specified). Hough noted a large flight of Broad-wings over the Stone Ridge and Kripplebush areas on Sept. 17-18. A late Turkey Vulture flew near New Paltz on Nov. 4 (Dr. Robert Pyle).

A Merlin came to Piermont Pier, Rockland, on Oct. 19 (Dow, David Hill) and one to Katonah, Westchester, as early as Sept. 6 (Mrs. William Grierson).

The Ruffed Grouse populations in the Catskills (Hough) and the Hudson Highlands (Orth) appear to be stable. Dr. Pyle found a Semipalmated Plover near Ashokan Reservoir on Sept. 25 — quite unusual. Soras at Piermont Pier on Oct. 2 and Oct. 15 (Dow) and a Florida Gallinule on Nov. 6, first fall record for Rockland (Dow). On Aug. 30, an immature Florida Gallinule was found dead on top of Bull Hill, Bedford Hills, by Don Reynolds; it had apparently struck a power line. A Virginia Rail in Katonah on Oct. 10 (Ruth Grierson). Lesser Yellowlegs at Amawalk Reservoir, Somers, on Sept. 1 (Odell) and at Piermont on Sept. 4 (D. and E. Hill, James Bloor). Wilson's Snipe at Piermont on Oct. 2 (Dow, D. Hill, Bloor) and Oct. 10 (Rockland Audubon Society). Also at Piermont was a small flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers on Sept. 13 (Dow).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were uncommonly common this fall, far outnumbering Black-bills. Dates far later than usual include: in Westchester, Oct. 17 at Bedford Village (Mrs. Samuel Carter, III); in Rockland, Oct. 9 (Dow), Oct. 16 (Dr. Hopper), Oct. 22 (Ruth Steffens), Oct. 27 (Hill, Bloor). A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was seen on Oct. 28 near Stone Ridge, Ulster, by Hough, and another cuckoo was seen on Nov. 9 near Kripplebush, but species not determined.

Early in November, Meng and Dr. Pyle identified a Saw-whet Owl that had been shot by a fruit grower near New Paltz after it had raised panic among the superstitious Jamaicans employed at the orchard.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Hummingbirds lingered unusually late, with half a dozen Rockland County records in the final week of September. Pileated Woodpeckers continue to increase all over Rockland — on Oct. 23 the QCBC saw one within 20 feet of the west approach to the Bear Mountain Bridge and at Pomona, Homer S. Kelsey says he now hears this bird "twice a month instead of twice a year."

One of the great finds of the year, widely publicized, was the Lewis's Woodpecker at Ossining, Westchester, discovered by Mrs. George Dyke on Oct. 29 and later seen at Kitchawan on Nov. 6 by John, Virginia and Edward Kelly. As far as is known, this Western bird had never been recorded in the region.

Marked movements of Hairy Woodpeckers past Anthony's Nose on Oct. 23 (QBCB) and of Black-capped Chickadees a week earlier (Orth) raise questions about the mass flights of these supposedly permanent residents. Fred Hough also mentions that the chickadees were "noticeably restless during mid-September" in Ulster County. He reports the Blue Jay movement "the greatest in many years", from Sept. 23 to Oct. 5.

An Alder Flycatcher heard at Kingston Point on Aug. 21 (Hough). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on Sept. 17 in Rockland County (Dow) and Oct. 23, a quite late

date, at Amawalk, Westchester (Kelly). A late date of Oct. 15 for Wood Pewee at Nyack (Dr. Hopper) and very late dates of Oct. 8 and 9 at Stony Point for Olive-sided Flycatcher (Mr. and Mrs. Irving G. Kennedy).

An exciting feature of the season was the irruption of small bands of Brown-capped Chickadees into Ulster and Sullivan counties. On Oct. 20, they turned up in Sullivan County (Hammond) and on Oct. 30 near Ashokan Reservoir (Hough). A few more were found at Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar's, near Lomontville, on a John Burroughs Natural History Society field trip on Nov. 14, and these were still present on Dec. 1. The birds stayed exclusively in evergreen stands.

Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in numbers that Hough compares with the fall of 1951 (in other parts of the region, many were also found last year). A remarkable occurrence was in mid-July at Bardonia, Rockland County, when Theodore B. Eiben saw one bird. In September through November, the species was as common in Nyack as the White-breasted. Few were reported from Sullivan County (Carr) or from Putnam County (Mrs. George W. Little). But Westchester County had too many to list in detail.

Brown Creepers occurred very early, Aug. 14 at New City Rockland (John M. Price) and Aug. 25 at Katonah, Westchester (William Russell). They breed at higher altitudes and more northerly locations.

In Nyack, the Catbird remained to Dec. 2 (Dr. Hopper), and Brown Thrashers in Katonah to Nov. 22 (Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Barrett) and Nov. 28 (Mrs. Frank McKown). Gray-cheeked Thrushes are not often reported in fall, but Dr. Hopper had two late dates in Nyack, Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, and one bird was found dead in Bedford Hills on Oct. 5 by Don Reynolds. Mrs. Javius Matsumoto's Bluebirds, which deserve a story in themselves, raised their fourth brood at Chappaqua in late August, with the aid of three youngsters of the third brood in feeding the nestlings after the mother had been killed.

Dr. Hopper recorded a late date for Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Nyack on Nov. 20.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A late White-eyed Vireo at Nyack on Oct. 11 (Dr. Hopper). The most notable late dates for warblers in Rockland County were: Nashville, Oct. 17 (Dr. Hopper), nine days later than ever before; Parula, Oct. 10, three days late; Magnolia, Oct. 19 (Ruth Steffens), six days; Black-throated Blue, Oct. 24, five days; Yellow Palm, Oct. 28 (Dow), four days; Northern Water-thrush, Sept. 18 (Dow), 12 days; Wilson's Black-capped, Oct. 8 (Dow, Hill, Bloor), 12 days.

Ilse Dunbar had an even more remarkable date of Oct. 20 for Parula Warbler at Lomontville, Ulster. On Sept. 1, Fred Hough and Dan Smiley heard the flight song of the Oven-bird at Leibhardt, Ulster. A Connecticut Warbler near New Paltz on Sept. 25 (Dr. Pyle) was notable, as was a Wilson's on Sept. 20 at Lomontville (the Dunbars).

In Westchester, a Cape May immature was found in Bedford Hills on Sept. 10 by Don Reynolds. An unusually tame female Magnolia visited Mrs. William Grierson in Katonah on Aug. 16, feeding on seeds spread on the ground two feet from her chair. On the extremely late date of Nov. 3, a Parula Warbler was found dead in the garage of Theodore Ramsland in Bedford Village, identification by Stanley O. Grierson.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Western Tanager female came to Mrs. Matsumoto's feeding station in Chappaqua on Aug. 14 and again on Aug. 16 at the same time as a female Scarlet Tanager, for convenient comparison. A Summer Tanager female was identified at West Nyack by Mrs. Frances H. Irving on Sept. 5, six days after Hurricane Carol. Hough, Ilse Dunbar and Sam Hayes saw a probable Western Tanager at Kingston Point, Ulster, on Oct. 31.

A Towhee stayed late, Nov. 16, at the William Griersons' feeding station in Katonah.

The Northern finches provided a great show. Evening Grosbeaks arrived early and in numbers: Oct. 20 in Sullivan County (Hammond); Oct. 23 at Anthony's Nose (QCBC), a flock of 19; Oct. 24-25 near Nyack (Dr. Hopper); Oct. 25 in Ulster County; Oct. 27 at Carmel, Putnam (Mrs. Little), 11 males; Oct. 31 near Stony Point (John Kenney); Nov. 1 at Monticello (Niven); Nov. 5 at Amawalk (the Kellys); Nov. 7 at Mt. Kisco (Douglas C. Orbison). Pine Grosbeaks came to Sullivan County on Nov. 7 (Niven), a flock of eight; to Ulster about Nov. 10, showing a preference for maple seeds (Hough); to Katonah, Westchester, on Nov. 13 (Stanley O. Grierson) and Nov. 28 (Mrs. McKown, a flock of 10); to West Haverstraw, Rockland, on Nov. 16

(Katherine D. Dienemann), Bear Mountain area on Nov. 20 (Franklin V. Cross), and Nyack on Nov. 22 (Dr. Hopper).

Red Crossbills were even earlier — Oct. 2, Oct. 7, Oct. 9 in Rockland County (Hill, Dow, Bloor) and Oct. 22 at Lomontville, Ulster (the Dunbars). Two Rockland reports of White-winged Crossbills — Oct. 18 at Grand View (Bloor, Hill, Dow) and one trapped accidentally in a cage at Bear Mountain on Nov. 21 (Orth).

A Grasshopper Sparrow on Oct. 19, a month late (Dow, Hill) in Rockland County. Oregon Junco positively identified in Nyack for the first time on Oct. 19 by Dr. Hopper (tentatively identified three years ago by Mrs. Irving). Tree Sparrow arrived very early at Carmel, Putnam County, on Sept. 9 (Mrs. Little). Two Lincoln's Sparrow reports from Westchester, Sept. 22 and Oct. 1, both by Dr. Andrew Weir and Stanley Grierson. Many White-crowned Sparrows from Oct. 3 on.

50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — LONG ISLAND

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

In the fall migration, birds came through rather regularly in late summer and about on time. A few warblers came south in late July, and on August 14, 11 species were recorded at Far Rockaway (J. Bull). A tremendous influx of rarities came with hurricanes Carol and Edna, but Hazel, on October 15 apparently produced very few unusual species, although a marked flight of both species of Cuckoos may have been the result of the latter disturbance. There was a noted increase of birds October 5-12 and again around October 20.

During the nights of October 5 and 6, an unusual meteorological condition caused the death of over 100 birds at the Empire State Building, more than 230 at Mitchell Field, and about 2,000 at Westhampton Air Base, the latter reported by Roy Wilcox who collected 596 and saved 100 of the best specimens for the American Museum of Natural History to be made into skins and skeletons. The weather was warm into November, and during late October and early November numerous late dates for birds in this region were shattered. An early influx of winter finches arrived by the middle of November when small flocks of both Red and White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks and a few Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls were reported. Unlike last year, there was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches beginning in late August.

LOONS — DUCKS: Good numbers of loons, cormorants and gannets were reported into November; three European Cormorants at Montauk, November 2; late Cory's Shearwater at Montauk, November 2 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Last record of American Egret, The Raunt, November 6; Snowy Egret, Jones Beach November 13 (G. Carleton, Brooklyn Bird Club). There was a good early fall flight of white herons, several Louisiana Herons and one or two records of Least Bittern.

Ducks arrived early, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks were seen in mid-July at Babylon and the latter at Mecox at about the same date. At Jones Beach August 23 were five Green-winged Teal, two Blue-winged Teal and one Shoveller. First Hooded Merganser, Idlewild, September 5 and European Widgeon, Jones Beach, September 12. Irwin Alperin, aloft in a sea plane saw numerous Scoters of all three species on the Sound and South Shore with none west of Smith's Point on the south and Eaton's Neck on the Sound. This sharply cut line of demarcation tends to show that the scoter flight down the coast had not grossly reached western Long Island.

HAWKS — OWLS: There were no spectacular hawk flights reported, not even among falcons, and Buteos were practically non-existent; maximum Pigeon Hawks, September 19, ten; Jones Beach, six; The Raunt, four (Mayer, Rose). No records of more than two Duck Hawks in one day; no Goshawks and no Gyrfalcon records