

Geese in weak lines but sometimes mixed with Canadas were not seen after the first of Nov. No Snow Geese have been reported to date.
Keeseville, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

August rainfall in the Schenectady area totaled 7.32 inches, the high for any August locally. This record was measured in spite of the fact that we missed the really torrential downpours which Hurricane Diane dumped on areas just to the south. August temperatures averaged 74.6 degrees, 4.2 degrees above normal. September's weather was much closer to normal.

Although the fall flight generally did not measure up to par, it was better than that of last spring. Quite a few interesting reports were received, especially for September.

LOONS — DUCKS: Horned Grebes were first seen locally at Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer County, on September 26 (Schenectady Bird Club. American Egrets stayed in the area until the latter part of September. About ten were seen along the Hudson near Catskill on September 17 (SBC). The Canada Goose flight was quite conspicuous. As early as August 4 Esly Hallenbeck saw a group of about ervoir, Rensselaer County, on September 26 (Schenectady Bird Club). American Widgeons and a Ring-necked Duck were among the waterfowl species seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 26.

HAWKS — OWLS: September hawk reports were rather spotty; no flight of any real proportion apparently developed locally. The Virginia Rail was reported from Vischer's Ponds on August 4 and 7. The Sora was seen at the Ponds on August 14 and again on August 31. One or two Soras were observed at a small marsh near Schodack, Rennsalaer County, on September 17 (SBC). A Florida Gallinule with at least seven young in tow was seen at Vischer's Ponds on August 9.

Shorebird reports were not plentiful, but one or two records are worthy of mention. A pair of Ringed Plovers was seen at Watervlied Reservoir, just south of Schenectady, on August 31. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were observed there on August 7, and another was noted at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 25. There were two or three reports of the Wilson's Snipe from Vischer's Ponds. A Lesser Yellow-legs was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on September 25.

In sharp contrast to last fall, the cuckoo migration was very poor. Both species were reported, but in very limited numbers. On August 2 and again on September 12 a Great Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus (Adeline Heitcamp). The Barred Owl was reported from the Jenny Lake area (Guy Bartlett), and several Screech Owls were heard during period at scattered localities.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: The Nighthawk migration was very conspicuous in late August and the first part of September. About fifty individuals were seen over Scotia on the latish date of September 21. The Chimney Swift was last observed at Albany, twelve birds at Albany (Mabel French). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Loudonville on the relatively late date of September 23 (MF). The only Pileated Woodpecker reported was from Watervliet Reservoir on August 21 (SBC). A late Eastern Kingbird was observed near Columbiaville, Columbia County, on September 17 (SBC). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Loudonville on three occasions between August 19 and September 3 (MF). The Olive-sided was seen there on August 28 and September 16 (MF). Blue Jay groupings were quite conspicuous during September. A Carolina Wren was observed at Scotia on September 25 (EH).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Only a few warbler migrants were reported in August. During September, however, twenty-one warbler species were reported locally, a good total considering the apparent lack of any noteworthy flight. The last Yellow Warbler was seen at Vischer's Ponds on September 25. A rarity was an Orange-crowned Warbler observed by Hallenbeck on three consecutive days (September 24-26) in Scotia. A Cerulean Warbler was reported from Amsterdam on September 2 (Margaret Fitzgerald). A Connecticut Warbler was observed in Scotia on September 27 (EH), and the Black-capped was seen in Loudonville on September 17 by Mabel French.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: In early August Mrs. Fitzgerald recorded the Cardinal in Amsterdam, and a male bird was a daily visitor throughout the period at Mrs. Hazel Eddy's feeder in Niskayuna. From August 19 through August 30 a male Dickcissel was present at Mrs. Fitzgerald's feeder in Amsterdam. Slate-colored Juncos were first reported in Loudonville on September 8 (MF). White-crowned Sparrows were quite widely reported late in September, and from all indications the flight appeared to rival that of last spring.

Region 8 comprises eleven counties in eastern New York, but virtually all records submitted to me have been from the Albany-Schenectady area. I would greatly welcome reports from other parts of the region, such as Lake George and the northern Catskills.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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August was a month not soon to be forgotten for its heat (hottest August ever at New York City), its deluges (second wettest month in 84 years), and its birds, though the storm waifs seemed to be concentrated in the Hudson Valley of Orange and Rockland-Westchester Counties. September was mild and dry; October again was far above normal in rainfall; November was not exceptional.

The migration itself was generally regarded as quiet. Chief interest, therefore, is in the August storms: Hurricane Connie, with 9½ inches of rain on Aug. 11-13, and Hurricane Diane, which dropped 9 to 12 inches of rain on Aug. 18. In our region, only Sullivan and Ulster Counties bore the brunt of Diane; New York City, for example, registered only a moderate rainfall.

Neither Connie nor Diane was officially a hurricane by the time it reached our latitude, but winds were full-gale strength (60 to 75 mph.). Moreover, Connie — unlike any other recent hurricane — continued to blow from the south at 30 to 40 mph. for 36 hours after the sky had cleared. This kept storm strays pinned down in the inland areas where they had been driven. Thus, the lower Hudson Valley, for the first time in the hurricane series of recent years, benefitted by some phenomenal records. The tail of Diane flooded vast areas of the Rondout and Walkill valleys in Ulster County and the Delaware watershed in Sullivan County. Fred Hough reports finding several birds apparently drowned in Ulster County, but doubts extensive loss of bird life.

LOONS — DUCKS: Henry and Ilse Dunbar, experienced observers, believe they saw a Pacific Loon on Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster County, on Oct. 21. They offer the record with a question mark. An early Common Loon was noted in Westchester on Sept. 18 by Stanley O. Grierson.

Horned Grebes were on Palisades Interstate Park lakes by Nov. 10 (John C. Orth), with three on Lake Tiorati on Nov. 11 (Edward D. Treacy). Treacy also reports two on Orange Lake, Orange County, on Nov. 13 and one on the Hudson at Cornwall on Nov. 26.

Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper saw a rather late American Egret at Grassy Point, Rockland County, on Oct. 23, a week prior to the region's latest date.

Good flights of Canada Geese were reported. About 60 Brant were seen on Ashokan Reservoir on Oct. 22 by the Dunbars, Hough, and Dr. Robert Pyle. Brant were also reported on Nov. 18 at Neversink Dam, Sullivan County (Chernick).

Treacy found two Blue-winged Teal on the Hudson at Cornwall on Aug. 17. Two Redheads were on Congers Lake, Rockland, on Nov. 1 (Hopper) and another on Orange Lake on Nov. 13 (Treacy). More than 300 Canvasbacks settled down for the winter at Grassy Point, on the Hudson in Rockland County. Orth reports Buffleheads on Palisades Interstate Park lakes in mid-November, and Rockland County's first record for the American Scoter, a female picked up in dying condition at Iona Island on Nov. 10. More than 500 Ruddy Ducks congregated in the Tappan Zee, Rockland County, in November.