

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

ROBERT F. DEED

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.

HAWKS — OWLS: The three last Turkey Vultures at Bear Mountain were on Nov. 1 (Orth). Accipiters seemed to predominate in the hawk flight through the Shawangunk Mountains, Ulster, with a peak around Sept. 18-19, though 183 Broadwings were seen on Sept. 18 (Treacy). David Hill saw a Red-tailed Hawk in Rockland County on the unusual date of Aug. 4.

On Oct. 29, David and Ethel Hill and Thomas Dow saw three Golden Eagles, observed for minutes and well described, circling over the Grand View waterfront of Rockland County. A pair of adult Bald Eagles accompanied by two immatures flew along the Delaware River near Barryville on Aug. 24 (Wilber P. Carr).

Numbers of Ruffed Grouse in Ulster County are reported low (Hough). Wild Turkeys, on the other hand, are on the increase in Sullivan County, says Carr, with three seen on Nov. 1 by McBride.

Treacy found a King Rail, rare in the region, at Moodna Creek near Cornwall, Orange County, on Aug. 8. Stan Grierson reports a Sora with a Wilson's Snipe in Katonah on Sept. 26.

Shorebirds made a spectacular flight in the Hudson Valley. During Hurricane Connie on Aug. 13, Treacy at Cornwall found a Ruddy Turnstone (second record for the area) and six Black-bellied Plovers (also second occurrence). On Aug. 14, shorebirds at Piermont Pier in Rockland County included Pectoral Sandpiper (fourth record), Ruddy Turnstone (third), Semipalmated Plover, and at least three Western Sandpipers (first occurrence). On Aug. 19, Paul DeLaura noted five Greater Yellowlegs at Mt. Kisco, in Westchester.

Hurricane Connie's most dramatic effect, however, was on the terns:

Sooty Tern — At West Point on Aug. 14, seen through 25x telescope in sunlight at 200-yard range by Ed Treacy as it flew downstream.

Black Tern — One at West Point on Aug. 14 (Treacy, Frank and Ruth Steffens) and another at Cornwall on Aug. 16 (Treacy). New record.

Least Tern — Also on the local list for the first time. Fully two dozen were counted on Aug. 14-16. On the 14th, while Connie's winds were still blowing, Mr. and Mrs. Steffens watched a bird being fed on the water at Stony Point. John Orth observed another of these terns at Lake Sebago, several miles inland from the Hudson, at the height of the storm on Aug. 13. Four birds were still at Cornwall Bay on Aug. 16 (Treacy).

Common Tern — Normal numbers were slightly increased by the storm, and birds occurred farther upriver than usual.

Royal Tern — An immature bird at Piermont Pier on Aug. 14 was almost surely this species (Deed). It was observed perched at less than 150 feet, studied through 12x glasses, and compared with the Caspian Tern, with which the observer is acquainted. In clear whiteness of forehead and color of bill, it checked with the Royal, though the relative length of tail to folded wing failed clearly to do so.

Five "unidentified terns" were seen at Croton Point, Westchester side of the Hudson River, on Nov. 24 by John and Edward Kelly (Ed.: possibly the ternlike Bonaparte's Gull?).

Two Great Horned Owls were calling at West Nyack in late evening of Nov. 20 (Frances H. Irving). Treacy found a Snowy Owl at West Point on Nov. 24. Stanley Grierson saw the rare Saw-whet Owl in Katonah on Nov. 21. Unusually large flights of Nighthawks were reported in August and September.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: By far the latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Rockland County records was noted by Tom Dow on Oct. 17 at Grand View. An immature Red-headed Woodpecker came to the feeding station of Robert J. Hamerslag in northern Westchester from Nov. 14 through 18. Many Pileated Woodpeckers are reported, indicating a continuing increase.

Fred Hough reports a noticeably heavy flight of Kingbirds in Ulster County during August; the last was seen on Sept. 17. Ed Treacy had the good fortune to see three Olive-sided Flycatchers; Aug. 28 at Cornwall, Aug. 31 at West Point, Sept. 5 at Cornwall.

Tree Swallows passed through in their familiar thousands. In mid-September, Stan Grierson estimated about 1,000 on the roof of the South Salem School. A rather late small flock was seen at Kingston Point, in Ulster, on Oct. 22 (Dunbar, Hough, Pyle).

A Canada Jay was identified on Nov. 5 by Dimock at Hartwood, Sullivan County — doubtless the first record for the region. The Tufted Titmouse population is off in the New Paltz area of Ulster (Pyle), but seems to be increasing in southern Orange County (Treacy). This species is still rare across the Hudson; one was seen in Mianus Gorge, Bedford, on Oct. 22 by Gerald Wood, Helen Braem and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Orbison. A Brown Creeper at West Point on Sept. 1 (Treacy) was so early that it

may reflect nesting in the Highlands nearby; the species is known to breed there. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kurka observed a Carolina Wren in Katonah, Westchester, on Nov. 15. A Mockingbird at Carmel, Putnam County, on Sept. 3 is reported by Paul DeLaura, who is familiar with this bird in the South. James Todd recorded a rather late Brown Thrasher in Bedford on Oct. 18.

At Sparkill, Rockland, David and William Hill watched two birds they believe to have been Ravens, on Nov. 11. They studied the birds perched and in flight and noted the shaggy throat and wedge-shaped tail. This species had never been recorded in Rockland County.

Robins moved in flocks of 1,000 or more. In mid-October, two complete albinos and one partial albino attracted attention in Rockland County.

A young Cedar Waxwing, not yet able to fly well, was found at Kripplebush, Ulster, on the late date of Sept. 2 (Hough). In the same area on Nov. 20, a Gray (Northern) Shrike persistently chased a Tree Sparrow (the Dunbars, Samuel and Helen Hayes, Hough, Pyle). A Migrant (Loggerhead) Shrike was seen near New City, Rockland, on Sept. 1 (Hopper).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireo at New City on Nov. 3 (Stiffens) was rather late. David Hill and Tom Dow recorded Rockland County's second Philadelphia Vireo on Sept. 28 near Piermont.

A Parula Warbler on Nov. 1 (Dow, Hill) was 20 days late for Rockland County. Even more spectacularly tardy was the Magnolia Warbler on Nov. 27 feeding on sluggish flies at Fred Hough's home in Kripplebush, Ulster County. David Hill listed a new late date for Rockland County for the Black-throated Blue Warbler — Oct. 29. Nashville Warbler had extremes of Aug. 20 (Hopper) and Sept. 3 (Treacy) in the Rockland-Orange area. Treacy found three Bay-breasted Warblers at Cornwall on Sept. 3; Frances Irving noted one at West Nyack, Rockland, on Aug. 27. This species is not often reported in fall. Neither is the Black-capped (Wilson's) Warbler that David Hill saw on Sept. 9. Hill and Dow also scored a November date for the American Redstart.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Fantastically large flocks of redwings and grackles attracted attention in Rockland County through most of October and November.

A male Dickcissel turned up on Nov. 1 at the feeding station of Shirley Towbis in Millwood, Westchester. Evening Grosbeaks have arrived in substantial numbers, beginning with a flock of 50 at Arkville, Sullivan County, on Sept. 7 (Wilber P. Carr); Oct. 21 at Kripplebush, Ulster (Hough); Nov. 10 at Carmel, Putnam County (Mrs. George Little); Nov. 13 at Bear Mountain, Orange-Rockland (Peter Smith, John Mead); Nov. 23 in Westchester and Rockland (Grierson and John M. Price).

Rockland County had its first House Finch on Nov. 13 through 17 (Mrs. John M. Price). Pine Grosbeaks appeared in Palisades Interstate Park (Orange-Rockland) on Nov. 16 (John Kenney). A late Towhee was at Hartwood, Sullivan, on Nov. 12 (Dimock).

An early Slate-colored Junco arrived in Katonah on Sept. 19 (William Russell), with the big flocks reaching northern Westchester on Oct. 3. First juncos in Rockland were on Sept. 21 (Hopper, Mr. and Mrs. Steffens). Treacy studied an Oregon Junco at Camp Buckner, West Point, on Nov. 19. Several White-crowned Sparrows were noted in Rockland and Ulster. Ruth and Stanley Grierson saw a Lincoln's Sparrow in Katonah on Oct. 12, and Fred Hough found one in his rose garden at Kripplebush, Ulster, on Sept. 25. A Snow Bunting was seen near New City on Nov. 12 (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens) and a flock of 33 at Waccabuc, northern Westchester, on Nov. 23 (Grierson, Dr. Andrew Weir).

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

During early, hot, dry August, the woods appeared almost birdless. Resident species barely moved and the early-August warbler migrants were largely missing. The rather dependable Northern Water-Thrush appeared August 5 at Great River and August 6 at Massapequa, although there was extreme hot weather. This is close to its 10 year average appearance. Late August produced a few species of southbound land birds, and by the first week in September the gradual fall flight was on. This slowed somewhat for a few weeks after late September until large numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets