

pressure that would be applied to the local duck population by the personnel of the Plattsburg Strategic Air Command Base. Duck shooting here is a thing of the past, as after the first day of the open season there were no ducks to be seen from Plattsburg south to the Willsboro Bay area. Many were probably driven off to other grounds, but the hunter take was staggering for such a small area.

In their order of abundance: Black, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Pintail, Mallard, Ring-neck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Shoveler, Canada Goose, Blue Goose. Mergansers are always plentiful, and Hooded were exceptionally prominent this fall. Large broods of Blacks were at Wickham's and Ausable Marshes during the late summer, and Amstutz notes broods of Black, Ringnecks and Mergansers at Sunmount.

Hawks — Owls: Many Goshawks were about this year, a number brought in by hunters to be mounted. Sparrow Hawks still noted in early December. Great Horned Owls were heard "booming" along the river, and three Barred Owls were killed by cars along the upper reaches of Ausable Marsh.

Woodpeckers — Warblers: One Arctic Three-toed seen at Sugarloaf Mountain Nov 18. Many Pileated, Hairy and Downy, mostly in the heavy timber area. Robins seen until Nov 8 at Keeseville and at Sunmount by Amstutz until Sept 28. Many Bluebirds were around until late October and a Hermit Thrush was at Sunmount Oct 6. Crested and Alder Flycatchers, Wood Pewee and Phoebe were noted in Wickham's Marsh until the last week of October. At Keeseville there were no interesting warbler waves, but at Sunmount Miss Amstutz noted good waves.

Finches — Sparrows: Pine and Evening Grosbeaks have been noted in good numbers in the Plattsburg, Sunmount and Pok-o-Moonshine areas. Goldfinches seem to be in every wooded area, feeding on white birch seeds. Siskins have also been noted with Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers. Sparrows seemed to mass in numbers and move out all at once. Large numbers of Grasshopper, Savannah, Song, White-crowned and White-throated mixed with Field and Tree Sparrows were recorded in the Keeseville and Tupper Lake areas until the third week of October. Miss Amstutz noted a Fox Sparrow also.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The fall months were relatively warm and dry. Most observers in the Mohawk-Hudson region thought the fall warbler migration was a good one, certainly better than that of the spring. Undoubtedly because of the warm weather, there were many late warbler departure dates. The waterfowl migration, on the other hand, was not as conspicuous this fall as might be expected.

The dry weather had a direct effect on the number of shorebird reports. Normally, there are few spots in this inland area where any shorebirds — other than the very common ones — can be found with any degree of certainty. However, the low water level this fall left flats exposed at many local lakes and reservoirs, and thirteen varieties of shorebirds were reported.

The influx of certain southern birds continued. There was a continuing increase in the number of reports of the Cardinal and Carolina Wren, and no less than six Tufted Titmice were reported. These are the first in this region in several years. We also had visitors from the north. Following three late September observations of Evening Grosbeak, there were many reports thereafter. There were scattered observations also of the Redpoll and Pine Siskin and more than just a few of the Pine Grosbeak.

Loons — Ducks: A Holboell's Grebe was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3, and on the 17th two were at Saratoga Lake (Schenectady Bird Club). The high count of Horned Grebes was the 300 or so seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov 23

(Hallenbeck, Meritt). A count of 24 American Egrets was made at Vischer Ponds on Aug 25 (Angst); the last report of these birds was of a pair there on Sept 21. Two Least Bitterns, a rare species locally, were along the Mohawk at Niskayuna on Sept 1 (Yunick).

In general, the waterfowl migration was light, although most of the expected species were represented. A lone Ruddy Duck was at Red Rock on Sept 1 (Smilow). Two Hooded Mergansers were at Stockport along the lower Hudson on Sept 29 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Two Red-breasted Mergansers and a good group of 17 Hooded Mergansers were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3 (SBC). The two Red-heads at Saratoga Lake on Oct 23 were the only ones to be reported (Foote, Hallenbeck). An American Scoter was on the Mohawk near Vischer Ponds on Oct 13 (Hallenbeck), and three were at Saratoga Lake on Nov 10. One was still there a week later.

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was at Red Rock on Sept 10, and on the 14th two were there (Smilow). Other reports included one at Livingston on Oct 6 (Munson) and one at Hudson on Oct 13 (Brown). The Cooper's Hawk was reported at Schenectady on Sept 1 and 22 (Yunick). A flight of Broad-winged Hawks was observed at East Chatham during the week beginning Sept 17. Almost 150 of these birds were seen, with the high count for one day being 72 (Radke). On Sept 2 an adult Bald Eagle was seen at Vischer's Ponds, and on the 14th two birds, one an immature, were there (Hallenbeck, Meritt). Present at the same locality on Sept 21 was a Pigeon Hawk, the first reported locally in several years. A Duck Hawk was at Loudonville, near Albany, on Sept 6 (French). No Rough-legged Hawks were observed.

Ruffed Grouse appeared to be present in average numbers, but in the vicinity of Schenectady Pheasants were definitely scarce. There were two reports of the Virginia Rail in early September, but none of Soras.

A Semipalmated Plover was at Crescent Reservoir on Aug 25 and again on Sept 21. The Black-bellied Plover (maximum number was three) was at Saratoga Lake from Oct 23 until the late date of Nov 17. Wilson's Snipe were reported in good numbers. Five Red-backed Sandpipers were at Saratoga Lake on Oct 27, and two were still there on Nov 17. Five Pectoral Sandpipers were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3. There were scattered reports throughout the period of the two Yellow-legs and the two common "peeps". The best shorebird find was the two White-rumped Sandpipers, the first locally in three years, at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3 (SBC). Two Bonaparte's Gulls and a Common Tern were at Saratoga Lake on Oct 27, and three Bonaparte's Gulls were at Tomhannock on Nov 3.

The Saw-whet Owl was reported on several occasions from Jenny Lake during September and October (Bartlett). At Burnt Hills a Saw-whet Owl, apparently injured by a cat, was picked up on Oct 15 (Foote); the bird was released a day or so later. A Long-eared Owl was discovered in downtown Schenectady on Oct 3, and an excellent photograph of this bird appeared in a local newspaper the following day. Screech and Horned Owls were reported with relative frequency. No Snowies were observed.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A very late Chimney Swift was seen near Saratoga on Sept 22 (SBC). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Schenectady on Oct 5 (Yunick), and another was at Amsterdam on Oct 7 (Fitzgerald). Pileated Woodpeckers were quite frequently reported. On Sept 18 an adult Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Brookview (Reilly); this bird is apparently a resident there inasmuch as it had been seen on several earlier occasions.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported only sporadically. The sudden appearance of apparently six Tufted Titmice is certainly a matter of interest. A pair of these birds appeared at a Niskayuna feeder on Oct 14, and they were still present on Nov 30 (Simpson). Another appeared in Hillsdale during the latter part of October and was still present on Nov 30 (Fremd, Green). Another was at Schenectady feeder from Nov 17 to 21 (Jennings). One was at Troy during the week of Nov 18, and this bird was photographed on the 22nd (Kaiser). Still another paid frequent visits to neighboring Alplaus feeders from Nov 15 until at least month's end (Lundy).

The Carolina Wren was again reported in relatively good numbers. The high count was the three seen at a Schenectady feeder only on Nov 26 (Mabb). A pair of these birds was present at Amsterdam during October and November (Fitzgerald). The species was reported on several dates from Scotia (Hallenbeck). One was at

Gallupville on Oct 26 (Zimmer). One was at Troy on several days in mid-November (Kaiser), and another was at Saratoga Lake on Nov 23 (Hallenbeck, Meritt). Still another was at Rotterdam on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick).

The thrush migration was generally poor, and few Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported. There were three reports of the Northern Shrike. One was at Round Lake on Nov 17 (SBC); one was near New Scotland on Nov 23 and 24 (Grace), and one was at New Concord on Nov 24 and 27 (Turner).

Vireos — Warblers: A Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Watervliet Reservoir on Aug 18 (SBC). This species was reported from Loudonville on Sept 1, 3, and 22 (French), and another was seen near Saratoga on Sept 22 (SBC).

The fall warbler migration was generally a good one, and several of the rarer species were represented. The Bay-breasted Warbler was quite commonly reported during late August and September. The Tennessee Warbler seemed quite common until mid-September; it was last reported at Amsterdam on Sept 20 (Fitzgerald). A Cape May Warbler was at Scotia on Aug 31 (Meritt), and another was at Red Rock on Sept 1 (Smilow). The species was last reported from Loudonville on Oct 5 (French). The only local report this year of the Mourning Warbler was the one seen at Amsterdam on Sept 12 (Fitzgerald). Several Nashville Warblers were observed at Loudonville, the late date being Oct 19 (French). Also very late were the two Northern Water-thrushes seen near Alcove Reservoir on Oct 15 (Eddy, Zimmer).

A Connecticut Warbler was at Vischer Ponds on Sept 2 (Hallenbeck, Meritt). On Aug 20 two Wilson's Warblers were at Amsterdam, and another was there on Sept 23 and 24 (Fitzgerald). This species was also recorded at Loudonville on Sept 11 and 24 (French), at East Chatham on Sept 9 and 11 (Radke), and at Castleton on Sept 18 (Cook). A latish Bay-breasted Warbler was at Nassau on Oct 3 (Turner).

An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from Amsterdam from Sept 23 through Sept 30 and again on Oct 6 and 7 (Fitzgerald). A rarity was a Brewster's Warbler clearly seen and closely studied at Loudonville on Sept 5 (French). Also of interest are two separate reports of the Hooded Warbler from the East Chatham area, the dates being Sept 13 (Smilow) and Sept 21 (Radke).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were last observed along the lower Hudson on Sept 7 (SBC). The first Rusty Blackbirds of the season were the four seen at Vischer Ponds on Sept 28, and these birds were definitely not common thereafter. Purple Finches were quite common early in the period, but numbers dwindled considerably during November.

The first fall report of the Evening Grosbeak was the one seen at East Chatham on Sept 24 (Radke). One was at Crescent Reservoir on Sept 28 (Meritt), and an initial vanguard of these birds appeared at Mrs. Grace's New Scotland feeder also on Sept 28. There were many October and November reports, quite a few of these from feeders, and I see no point in listing these. Suffice it to say that the general opinion is that the flight is fully as heavy, and definitely earlier, than those of 1954 and 1955.

Pine Grosbeaks were recorded quite frequently. Between Oct 26 and 28 this species was reported at three Columbia County localities (Radke, Shineman, Smilow). Eight were at Middle Grove on Nov 1 (Hennig). On Oct 27 three pairs of Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Rotterdam (Howard). Four were at Defreestville on Nov 16, and one was at Troy the following day (Kaiser). A group of about eight was in Thacher Park on Nov 13 (Hallenbeck), and three others were in the Glenville area on Nov 17 (fide Foote). At Oppenheim, Fulton County, nine Pine Grosbeaks were seen on Nov 23 (Murphy). This same number was seen at Wolf Hollow on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick).

Pine Siskins were reported on several occasions, the high count being the 24 at Loudonville on Oct 7 (French). Redpolls were scarce, the ten at Wolf Hollow on Nov 23 (Yunick) and the three near Schenectady on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick) being the only reports received. Crossbills were unrecorded.

Cardinals were observed in ever-increasing numbers; the number of reports of female birds indicates how well this species is now established locally. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Gallupville on Oct 15 (Zimmer), and another was at Amsterdam as late as Oct 22 (Fitzgerald). Mrs. Fitzgerald had a rare treat on that day when she saw three species of the Grosbeak family together at her feeder — the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a female Cardinal, and a male Evening Grosbeak.

At Scotia Chipping Sparrows were last reported on Oct 22 (Hallenbeck). White-

crowned Sparrows were at Livingston until Nov 10 (Munson). Fox Sparrows were quite commonly reported, the high count being about 30 at New Concord on Nov 1 (Radke). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were at Amsterdam on Sept 23 and Oct 8, and on Oct 20 no less than six were there (Fitzgerald). A lone Snow Bunting was at Crescent Reservoir on Oct 20 (SBC). On Oct 17 there were other reports of single birds from Nassau (Shineman, Turner) and Schodack (Turner). One was at Livingston on Nov 23 (Munson).

I would again like to urge observers, both transient and resident, to send in records. Two areas in particular — Lake George and the northern Catskills — need better coverage.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Summer gave way to the Autumnal equinox with little upset in the weather stability pattern, with the result that our region had less than normal rainfall for most of the period and with correspondingly above normal temperatures.

Migrant birds flowed through in a rather normal fashion exhibiting wave concentrations along certain areas and dribbling erratic species here and there about the region in general. The unprecedented early move on the part of certain of the Northern Finches, especially the Evening Grosbeak, gave rise to some speculation that wintering populations would run high but unhappily the chances of this happening is greatly lessened by a season of rather poor seed crop among many trees and shrubs that would normally provide winter fare.

The Fall Season produced such rare visitants as: *Harlequin Duck*; *Golden Plover*; *Am. Three-toed Woodpecker* and others of lesser rarity but just as interesting.

Loons — Ducks: Some early Green-winged Teal arrived Sept 29 at Iona Island near Bear Mountain (John Orth). Martha Earl found several Canvasbacks inland at Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co., Oct 30 & Nov 1. At Mohonk Lake, Ulster County on Nov 6, an Old Squaw male was discovered and after remaining for several days the bird was found dead (Nov 12). Dissection by Heinz Meng found no apparent cause for the death (Dan Smiley). A male **Harlequin Duck** was seen on the Croton Falls Reservoir, Putnam County, Nov 17 by Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly and son Edward, making what is probably the first record of this duck for our region. John Orth reports both the White-winged and American Scoters in the Bear Mountain area during the fall migration. A flock of about 75 Ruddy Ducks was seen on Tomahawk Lake, Orange County, Nov 3 (Martha Earl).

Hawks — Owls: Hawk flights through the region seemed quite normal. A Goshawk was observed near Carmel, Putnam on Oct 19 (Mabel Little). As is often the case in dry years the extensive mud flats exposed by low water in our various reservoirs and ponds proved to be an attraction to the migrant Shorebirds. Records this year have proved varied and interesting. The Semipalmated Plover appeared at the Piermont area of Rockland on Aug 16 (David Hill). This Plover is seldom reported by Shorebird observers here. A lone **Golden Plover** appeared on the mud flats of Lake Maratanza, Ulster County on Sept 28 and 29 and was carefully studied by Chandler Young and Henry and Ilse Dunbar. This is another county first. Also on Lake Maratanza mud flats with the Golden Plover were Pectoral Sandpipers, an Upland Plover and two White-rumped Sandpipers. The White-rumps are first records for Ulster Co. This same species was found earlier in the season (Aug 31) in the Lake DeForest area of Rockland County by Mr and Mrs. Frank Steffens and Ed Treacy. This is also Rockland's first record. Steffens and Treacy also made