

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON BROTHER E. AUSTIN, F. S. C.

The fall season in the Mohawk-Hudson area was very close to normal save for an impressive 3.64 inch rainfall in October. The autumnal migration is usually less well observed and documented than the more spectacular spring flights and this year proved no exception. The migration records were rather average with the shorebirds which are never really abundant in the Mohawk area, and with regard to the ducks. There were, however,

moments of excitement in the middle of November with large numbers both of Canada and Snow Geese on the wing and with at other times the discovery of a Raven, an Oregon Junco, and an immature Little Blue Heron. Otherwise the migration followed its regular pattern despite a scarcity in some species.

Loons — Ducks: The first record of the Common Loon in its southern passage dates from Oct 7 and from that time they were frequently reported especially from Saratoga Lake. The Pied-billed Grebe was noted on Sep 4 (Hallenbeck) and the Horned Grebe on the 25th of the same month. The Snowy Egret did not appear at all during the period but the Stoner Bird Trip along the Hudson River did turn up 15 Common Egrets on Sep 13 and there were other observations of this species until the 25th. An immature Little Blue Heron appeared on Aug 31 at the same small pond near Mohawk View made famous by last year's Cattle Egret. This was the first local record of this species since Aug 1956 when one was at Watervliet Reservoir. There was a surprising number of Canada Geese in the area during Oct. Bartlett reported 100 on the 16th at Jenny Lake and two days later there were 75 at Lock 8 on the Mohawk River; a group of 23 were at the Tomhannock Reservoir on the 18-19th (Kaskan) and the Alan Devoe Bird Club recorded several flocks flying on the 12th. But the big days for the Canada Geese and for Snow Geese as well were November 16-18 when Canadas in flocks of 20-200 flew over. The total individuals may have run into the thousands. More unusual for this area, Snow Geese were observed in flight formation over Albany (Thomas) and Burnt Hills (Foote) in groups of from 50 to 300. However the duck migration in general was not overly impressive. It is true that Green-winged Teal and Hooded Mergansers were noted more commonly than is usual, but there were but two reports of Pintails and Redheads and only one of the White-winged and Common Scoters — this at Saratoga Lake on October 30 (Hallenbeck). The last date for the Wood Duck was Oct 12. The Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup, both regular migrants, appeared on Nov 16 (Schenectady Bird Club), but the Ring-necked Duck was missed completely.

Hawks — Owls: There were several Turkey Vultures at Red Rock and at Livingstone on Sep 12 and 16 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen on Nov 9 (Schenectady Bird Club) and the Red-shouldered seemed fairly abundant; there was a scarcity of reports regarding the other hawks; only one Sharp-shinned was recorded during the period and there were no Bald Eagles. Several grouse were seen and the Nassau area turned up 11 Bobwhite on Nov 2 and 20 more later in the month (Shineman). By August 17 a few fall shorebirds were appearing. Recorded that day at Watervliet Reservoir were ten Killdeer, four Common Snipe, three Spotted and one Solitary Sandpiper, and two Lesser Yellowlegs (SBC). At Coal Pocket on August 28 the following shorebirds were seen: several Killdeer, two Solitaires, two Greater Yellowlegs, five Lesser Yellowlegs, and two Least Sandpipers. During the last week of Aug a Woodcock was captured by dogs at Burnt Hills. The bird was successfully rescued and liberated after a recuperative period (Foote). There were a few Semipalmated Sandpipers at Tomhannock Reservoir in the first week of September and a Dowitcher at the same location on October 18 (Austin). A Pectoral Sandpiper was present at Crescent Reservoir on the 10th of Sep (Merritt). No Great Black-backed Gulls were reported during the period. Both Cuckoos seemed fairly common during Sep; the last date for the Black-billed was Oct 10. Both Screech and Great Horned Owls were recorded regularly and a Barn Owl was seen at close range on Sep 10 when the bird was temporarily blinded by the lights of a bus (Austin). A Barred Owl was at Jenny Lake in the second week in October (Bartlett).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Several small groups of Nighthawks were seen late in Aug and in the early part of Sep over Schenectady. There was a good record of a male Whip-poor-will seen at Burnt Hills on Sep 8 (Foote). The last date for the Chimney Swift was Sep 23 (Radke). Observations of the Pileated Woodpecker seem to be increasing both in number and in range; reports of this interesting species are almost commonplace. Two Tufted Titmice were present at a feeder near Ballston Lake on Nov 20 and 29 (Silliman). There were no Carolina Wrens reported during the period even though it has bred at Collins Lake for the last two or three years. Bluebirds and more particularly, Robins were abundant in the area, often in flocks of considerable size. At Ghent Water Pipits were present in a fair

sized flock until Nov 8 (Erlenbach). At Jenny Lake a Common Raven was clearly seen on Oct 9 both on a dock and in flight (Bartlett). Two shrikes were reported during the period, a Loggerhead on September 25 (Hallenbeck) and a Northern at Tuttle's Marsh in Kinderhook on Nov 8 (ADBC).

Vireos — Sparrows: The vireos seemed scarce generally; the latest date was of a Solitary on Oct 10. The warbler migration was spotty; there were small waves late in Sep and continuing until the 12th of Oct, the last date of consequence. The Myrtle was practically the only exception to stay beyond this date. A Baltimore Oriole was seen as late as November 29 (French) in Loudonville and the Common Grackle until the 17th of the same month (Van Vorst). The Cardinal continued steadily to increase in range in this area and several young have been seen at feeders. There was an interesting report (Turner) of an adult Oregon Junco at Nassau from Nov 11-15; the bird was banded there.

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