

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

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August, September and October were not too far from normal with temperature and rainfall averages. The first prolonged storm period occurred during the last week in October, with snow being added to the trend of cooling changes. Over much of the region snow fell on the 26 to depths varying from a trace to as much as 22 inches in some parts of the higher Catskills. It looked as though winter had an early making but following this most of November was stable enough to be almost pleasant. The first real cold hit on the last two days of November.

Opinions differed as to how good the migration was in our region but in a final analysis it was probably close to normal. It seems likely that the scarcity of certain birds reported in some sections was hinged to the fluctuation of bird movements that often occur during migration. The northern finches were slow in coming and were not reported as numerous. Along with the usual a few exciting finds were discovered during the season. The seed crop in general was considerably better than last year.

Loons — Ducks: On Sep 19 Martha Earl discovered a Little Blue Heron near Blooming Grove, Orange Co., and last saw it on Sep 28. No one would ever dream of finding an Ibis in the Catskill Mountains, of all places, but it has been done. Up in the headwaters of the Esopus Creek near Slide Mountain on Aug 17 Jeanette Dunn and party found a Wood Ibis. The bird was not too wild so both photographs and motion pictures were taken of it. Identity was confirmed by Henry and Ilse Dunbar and Dr. Robert Pyle. A second Rockland Co. record for the Whistling Swan was made by Eugene Brown and Joseph Rotoli by the finding of one near Hook Mt., Nyack. It stayed about the area from Sep 9 to the 18th. No Snow Geese were reported from the upper part of the region but two large flocks were, however, spotted over Stony Point, Rockland on Nov 16 (RAS). Four Green-winged Teal were found at the Tri Loba Hill sanctuary, Westchester, on Oct 5 (Stan Grierson). Also at the Tri Loba Hill sanctuary about ninety Wood Ducks were counted by Ruth and Stanley Grierson on Sep 1. Most of these ducks remained until Nov 15. Both White-winged and American Scoters were seen in small numbers on the Merriman dam in Ulster Souty on Oct 27 and 28 by Chandler Young. A first Ulster Co. record for the surf Scoter was made on Oct 7 by Al Feldman who discovered one on the Ashokan Res. In general, migrant waterfowl seemed to be about in normal numbers.

Hawks — Owls: Most hawk reports indicated a poor flight although this may not have been the actual case since coverage was quite incomplete. Broad-winged Hawks were flying over northern Westchester Co. on Sep 13 (Mildred Kurka, R. & S. Grierson) and a fair flight was seen passing over Stone Ridge, Ulster on Sep 15 (F. Hough). A Purple Gallinule was seen at Congers Lake, Rockland on Aug 30 (Morton Isler) and apparently stayed until Sep 17 (Dr. Marjorie Hopper). Mr. and

Mrs. Bob Deed spotted the Dowitcher at Pierpont Pier, Rockland Co. on Sep 5, making a second county record. The Western Sandpiper was recorded for the third time in Rockland Co. on Aug 30, by its discovery at Lake DeForest by Ed Gamble. Another first for Rockland Co. was made by Bob and Mrs. Deed on Sep 5 when they discovered the Sanderling at Pierpont Pier. The owl population remained normal. One Saw-whet was seen at Mt. Kisco, Westchester on Nov 1 (Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Orbison). How long is the song period of the Whip-poor-will? At Kripplebush, Ulster Co. this year perhaps an exceptional record of its calling was made. It was heard on May 1 for the first time and **nightly** from then until Sep 8, when last heard, (F. Hough et al). A Whip-poor-will was heard near Pomona, Rockland, on Sep 26, a very late date, (Homer Kelsey).

Swifts — Shrikes: Only one record came to hand this Fall on the Red-headed Woodpecker, in contrast to several last year. One was seen near Lake Minnewaska, Ulster Co. on Oct 18 (JBNHS field trip). A lone Tree Swallow was seen over the Merriman Dam, in Ulster Co. on Nov 5 (Chandler Young), making the latest known departure date for this county. There was a fair movement of Barn Swallows in Sep. Not much was seen of the Red-breasted Nuthatch during the migration period. Henry and Ilse Dunbar watched a pair of House Wrens bring off a brood of young on the late date of Sep 7. The incident took place at their residence in Lomontville, Ulster Co. The Carolina Wren may have suffered a setback from earlier in the year as the number of Summer and Fall records are considerably below those of last year. Robins were abundant in many areas of Ulster Co. all through November, apparently influenced by the stable weather and seed crop. Nowhere in the region were the Bluebirds considered numerous. A first Fall record for the Blue-gray Gnat-catcher in Ulster Co. was made by Henry Dunbar, when he discovered one on Sep 11 near Lomontville.

Vireos — Warblers: Down in lower Rockland Co. David Hill heard a White-eyed Vireo singing on Aug 30, which is late for the species. On Nov 29 a male Blue-winged Warbler fell victim to a cat near Cross River, Westchester and ended up, not in the cat's stomach, but in Stanley Grierson's study connection. The Cape May Warbler is often missed in the Fall migration but this season it was observed in both Rockland and Ulster. Last record was at West Nyack, Rockland on Sep 11 (Jean Kolars). Some observers felt that the Oct migration of Myrtle Warblers was very poor but was more or less compensated for by considerable movement during Nov. Many of these late birds will undoubtedly winter. A migrating Northern Water-thrush through Pierpont, Rockland Co. on Sep 5 set an early date for its arrival (B. Deed). A Connecticut Warbler was found dead in Tappan, Rockland Co. on Oct 10 (H. Babcock). In general the flights of Warblers seemed to be about normal.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A female Baltimore Oriole was found staying about the Ponckhockie section of lower Kingston, in Ulster Co. during the latter half of Nov (Arthur Cragin). A Dickcissel was seen in Katonah, Westchester on Oct 25 by Allan and Polly Pope and another was checked by Henry and Ilse Dunbar during latter Nov while at a feeding station in Hurley, Ulster Co. The Evening and Pine Grosbeaks came down late and were not abundant during this period. Pine Siskins, likewise, showed no abundance. Mrs. Richard Weindling observed an Oregon Junco in West Nyack on Nov 6. Martha Earl banded her first Lincoln's Sparrow on Sep 11 at Blooming Grove, Orange Co. and four more subsequently. One was seen at Naponach, Ulster Co. on Sep 20 (C. Young). Two Lincoln's were seen on Oct 1 at the Tri Loba Hill Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester Co. (Ruth & Stan Grierson), and two more were banded by Ilse Dunbar on Oct 9 in Lomontville, Ulster Co. Mabel Little added to her life list the Lapland Longspur, seen on Oct 21 near Carmel, Putnam Co., among some sparrows. A good observation!