

around a banding trap at Nassau (Turner). Snow Buntings were commonly reported during the first three weeks of November.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

The weather during our late summer and fall period can be simply described as warm and wet. The tree foliage seemed to remain longer than usual, and its coloration was slow to develop. November skies held little snow. In general, however, it was a normal period, the kind of a season that leaves little impression on the mind to remember.

Returning to the field after a midsummer break, observers were ready for the fall migration which turned out to be, like the weather, quite a normal one with the usual ups and downs of certain species. In November we looked about for those birds that would probably winter, finding some, and we searched in vain for any spectacular flights of northern visitors. Some observers reported a good seed crop while others thought the crop poor, but these impressions were too restricted to make an accurate account for this region possible.

Loons — Ducks: Only one Red-necked Grebe report was received, a lone individual at Hook Mt., Nyack, on Nov 9 (Eugene Brown). An American Bittern was seen at Crugers Island, Dutchess County, on Nov 23, and the bird may attempt to winter (Rufus and Margaret Wood). This Bittern seems less common than in years past. Five adult and two immature Whistling Swans were observed at Hook Mt., Nyack, Rockland County, from Nov 2 thru Nov 9 (Katherine Dienemann, Eugene Brown et al). This is Rockland's third local record. The migration of Canada Geese through the Hudson Valley was apparently heavy as judged from the reports and comments. An early flock was reported by William Grierson on Sep 22 over Mt. Kisco in Westchester, and peak flights occurred from mid to late October. A late flock was seen on Nov 25 (F. Hough). A lone Brant in a flock of Coots was observed by Ruth Steffans at Congers Lake, Rockland County, on Oct 16. It is not often seen inland from the Hudson River. Most observers missed the Snow Geese, but Paul Jeheber got a nice flock of over 350 as they passed over the Cornwall sector of Orange County on Nov 16. For some other reason a single Snow Goose came into a flock of tame ducks swimming on a small stream near Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, during a date in mid-No and was still present at the end of the period (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club).

The largest flock of Green-winged Teal was reported at Swift Pond, Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Oct 26 where 30 were seen by G. Decker. Oldsquaws were reported in Orange County (E. Treacy, P. Jeheber, J. Dye) and Ulster County (A. Feldman, G. Wood). Two White-winged Scoters were at Orange Lake in Orange County on Nov 21 (Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Pembleton, Ed Treacy). Ruddy Ducks reached a high of over 500 in a flock on the Hudson at Tappan Zee, Rockland Co., on Nov 25 (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed).

Hawks — Owls: The movement of Turkey Vultures through the upper counties was noticeably good. Henry and Ilse Dunbar saw about 60 in a flock near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on Oct 8. These big birds started moving about Sep 15, and most had gone by Oct 20. Except for the Broad-wing most other hawk flights were considered unimpressive. On Sep 12 Ed Treacy counted over 275 Broad-wings passing over Cornwall, Orange Co., and at the same place on Sep 20 at least 375 more were observed by Treacy, A. Dignor, and N. Ward. Down in New City, Rockland County, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffans added another 150 Broad-wings on Sep 25. An early Rough-legged Hawk appeared at Pomona, Rockland County, on Oct 20 (Ed Gamble), and another was seen on Oct 31 near Blooming Grove, Orange Co. (E. A. Mearns Bird Club). Ed Treacy, Paul Jeheber, and Robert Bruce had an unexpected thrill in seeing an immature Golden Eagle passing low over the fire tower at Black Rock Forest near Cornwall, Orange Co., on Oct 17. On Oct 9 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed watched a Peregrine Falcon repeatedly attack a Marsh Hawk flying over the vicinity of Piermont Marsh in Rockland County.

A Virginia Rail was seen at Crugers Island on Nov 23 (Rufus and Margaret

Wood). The Common Gallinule was found at two locations in Dutchess County during September, Millbrook and Amenia. One positive nesting record had been made (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club). Killdeer generally pass through in small flocks, but Mr. and Mrs. Deed saw one flock of nearly 60 in a cornfield near Orangeburg, Rockland, Oct 29. The Black-bellied Plover appeared near Blooming Grove on Oct 19 (Martha Earl), and on Oct 31 a dozen also appeared on the runways of the air force base near Newburgh, Orange County (Treacy, Jeheber, Dye). The Pectoral Sandpiper was last seen near Blooming Grove on Nov 5 (M. Earl), and one was still at the Spring Valley Memorial Park, Rockland Co., on Nov 6 (E. Gamble). The only Caspian Terns reported during the season were the four seen at Piermont Pier on Sep 7 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed.

The Cuckoos took the spotlight for some late departure dates. Sam and Helen Hayes saw a cuckoo on Oct 13 near Mt. Marion, Ulster County, and over in Dutchess County at Pleasant Valley Mr. M. Van Wagmer saw a Black-billed Cuckoo on Oct 14. The incredibly late dates, however, were made by Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wood in another set of Dutchess County observations. They reported a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Lagrangeville on Nov 14 and on Nov 15 a Black-billed Cuckoo at the same place. We wonder what influenced these birds to linger so — late foliage, good insect fare? Owls about the region seemed to be normal. One Saw-whet Owl was reported by Mrs. Robertson Barrett at her residence near Katonah, Westchester Co., on Nov 15.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Chandler Young reported hearing the last Whip-poor-will, Sep 10 at Naponach, Ulster County. Night-hawks moved through the region in good numbers during their regular migrating period of late August and early September. It was last seen in Dutchess County near Hillside Lake on Oct 3 (J. Geisler). In Orange Co. Martha Earl saw her last Nighthawk near Blooming Grove on Oct 9. Some late Chimney Swifts were noted at Bear Mountain, Orange Co., on Oct 16 (John Orth). There were fewer than normal reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker. One was seen near Minnewaska, Ulster Co., on Sep 19 by Bob Pyle. Sapsuckers were reported more often during the period.

A late Wood Pewee was seen near Stone Ridge on Oct 14 (F. Hough). The flight of swallows was probably near normal. No heavy flight of Blue Jaws was noted, although the movement was good during the latter part of September. A Raven was seen near Rhinecliff, Dutchess County, on Aug 27 (F. Hough). It was a fairly good season for the Red-breasted Nuthatch with many reports received on them from the various counties. The Carolina Wren continues to hold its own in many scattered areas of the region. The Mockingbird is apparently establishing itself in Rockland (R. Deed) and Putnam Counties (M. Little). A late Wood Thrush was found at Upper Nyack on Nov 2 (E. Brown), which is close to Rockland's latest date for the species. From all appearances the fall flight of Bluebirds was moderate and not altogether a discouraging one.

Martha Earl saw the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near Blooming Grove on Sep 16 and again on the 26th. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed also saw this same species on Oct 7 near the entrance to Stony Point Park, Rockland County. The Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported as more numerous in Dutchess and Ulster Counties during the fall.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Sep 19 (R. Pyle), and the last Solitary Vireo reported was at Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Oct 10 (G. Decker). The elusive Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Blooming Grove on Sep 12 by members of the E. A. Mearns Bird Club.

The warbler migration was quite unspectacular through most of the region. However, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed added a new late date for the Worm-eating Warbler in Rockland Co. with the discovery of one at Nyack on Oct 6. One of the most difficult warblers to observe in either the spring or the fall is the Orange-crowned. Martha Earl took one in her banding traps which gave her an excellent opportunity to study the bird. At Mohonk in Ulster County Dan Smiley found a Parula Warbler on Oct 10 that had been killed in collision with a picture window. At Pleasant Valley in Dutchess Co. Mrs. E. Pink had a Cape May Warbler visiting her open cup honey feeder during the latter part of September and early October. In Bedford Village, Westchester County, Mrs. James Behan Jr. observed two Cape Mays on Sep 29. Two Connecticut Warblers appeared at Lagrangeville in Dutchess Co. on Aug 29 (F. Germond and T. Haight), and this same species was seen again there on Sept 13 (R. Wood). Down in Rockland County Mrs. William Hackett found a Connecticut Warbler with a broken leg. The bird eventually died (Oct 12). A

Mourning Warbler was seen during the latter days of September near Poughkeepsie (M. and J. Keyes).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A large migration of Scarlet Tanagers was noted at Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Sep 24 (RTWBC). Although none was seen there after that date a large flock of nearly 50 was observed on Oct 6 in South Nyack, Rockland County (Deeds). In Upper Nyack Dr. M. Hopper had a Scarlet Tanager on Oct 16, tying for the late date. Dickcissels seem to be appearing as regular visitors to this region. One was observed near Standfordville, Dutchess Co., on Oct 20 (B. Dueel, T. Haight), and one stayed around the home of Dr. M. Hopper in Upper Nyack from Oct 28 to Nov 6. Three appeared at the home of Mrs. Frances Irving in West Nyack on Nov 20. As usual the Evening Grosbeaks wandered about the region in variable numbers. The greatest concentrations seemed to be in the Dutchess County area. Although the general influx of Evening Grosbeaks occurred shortly after Nov 1, apparently some earlier flights did occur as indicated by their appearance at Moores Mills, Dutchess Co., on Oct 6 (H. Manson). No flight of Pine Grosbeaks was indicated during this period. Pine Siskins were scattered and generally uncommon.

Crossbills were either very scarce or escaped observation. The only report received was that of some Red Crossbills seen near New Paltz on Oct 29 (Ralph Johnson). A nice flock of 25 Savannah Sparrows was found at West Haverstraw, Rockland Co., on Oct 27 by Dr. M. Hopper and Eugene Brown. Up in Ulster County a Savannah Sparrow, left from the October flights, was found staying about a dry, weedy knoll near Kripplebush through most of November (F. Hough). A Field Sparrow visited a feeder in Katonah, Westchester, on Nov 16 (E. Odell), and it may be the same bird that visited this feeder last year. Another was at West Nyack, Rockland, on Nov 17 (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weindling).

White-crowned Sparrows fell under more frequent observation this fall. They were reported as early as Sep 26 in Rockland (Jack LeMaire) and were last reported on Nov 11 at Mt. Marion, Ulster County (Sam and Helen Hayes). They were more abundant than usual during late October. White-throats were about in their usual numbers. They started arriving at the feeding station of Mrs. F. H. Lent in Katonah, Westchester, on Sep 15. The first Fox Sparrows reported were those found in Dutchess County on Oct 20 (RTWBC). Martha Earl must have a strategic position on the migration route of skulking Lincoln's Sparrows that pass through her area in Blooming Grove, Orange County. Her traps netted her seven between Sep 18 and Oct 14. Snow Buntings were reported in Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar) but not elsewhere in our region.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

A drought of major proportions extended from late August into October which dried up lawns and seriously affected crops, especially on eastern Long Island. Frequent rainfall characterized the latter part of the period, much of it falling on weekends. Fairly warm weather prevailed to the end of the period with no snow in sight.

The number of late white herons was a feature of the fall. During previous years two or three after October was regarded as exceptional. A satisfactory variety of shorebirds was recorded. Numerous warblers came through eastern Long Island, and there were fair warbler flights at Jamaica Bay on September 10 and again on September 19. There was a good White-crowned Sparrow flight.

Loons — Ducks: Loons migrated through in fair numbers in November. A Red-throated Loon in full summer plumage was seen at Brookhaven on Oct 4 (Puleston). The earliest Horned Grebe report was at Jamaica Bay Sep 27 (Norse). Fifty Gannets were noted at Montauk Nov 15 (Good, Pemberton). The maximum mixed flock of late summer egrets was some 250-300 at East Moriches (Drayton). On Nov 1 an estimated 38 Common Egrets and one Snowy Egret flew out of a pine grove at Jones Beach (Elliott), and on Nov 21 there were 13 Common and eight Snowy Egrets at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on the west pond alone (Baldwin Bird Club). Over 50 Great Blue Herons were observed flying over the Quogue marshes on Oct 3 (Puleston). A Little Blue Heron was at Jamaica Bay Sep 14, and there