

dates. Amstutz recorded the Greater Yellowlegs and possibly the Lesser Yellowlegs at Tupper Lake and at Raquette Pond. At AuSable Point the Purple Sandpiper was again seen; this marks the third late August record in the last five years. In 1958 a bird was trapped and banded at Four Brothers Island by Norman St. Jacques. In 1959 a specimen was collected at AuSable Point and placed in the collection of the State University College of Education of Plattsburgh. (The Purple Sandpiper has also been reported from Vermont, and I have prepared a specimen for the Vermont Conservation Department's portable natural history collection; this collection is carried around to the various schools, and ornithology is taught first hand to the students).

Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were common in all areas where found. A small flock of Common Terns was at Rouses Point until Oct 25 (Lesperance).

Amstutz reported a Snowy Owl at Raquette Pond on Nov 11 and again on Nov 12. This caused considerable local interest and many people went out to see the visitor from the land of ice and snow.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Pileated Woodpecker numbers seemed up, while all other woodpeckers were about normal in the areas observed. A Phoebe was at Keeseville on Oct 17 (Lesperance), and there was a good late record of the Great Crested Flycatcher at Tupper Lake on Oct 27 (Delahanty). Small flocks (8-10) of Rough-winged and Bank Swallows were at AuSable Point on Oct 31. Delafield reported the Horned Lark on Oct 27.

Many winter Wrens were at Tupper Lake on Oct 9. A flock of nine Bluebirds was there on Oct 19, and Robins were noted until Oct 28 (Delahanty). Amstutz reported a large volume of Robins in the area she covered. At Keeseville a solitary male Bluebird was observed catching a late hatch of moths on Nov 6, and hundreds of migrating Robins covered lawns and open fields that same date (Lesperance). Delafield reported the Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher but gave no dates. There were several reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and the Water Pipit was observed at Keene on Oct 8 (Amstutz). A Northern Shrike was seen at Port Douglas on Nov 11 (Lesperance).

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Amstutz reported a very large and varied warbler migration Aug 21 to Sep 1 and a late Blackburnian Warbler on Oct 1. Delafield's observations showed that Black-throated Green Warblers were very numerous and went through her area, Tupper Lake, in waves until Sep 23. At Keeseville only a few lonely Black and White Warblers were seen, and they had gone by Oct 14.

Seven Rusty Blackbirds were noted near Clayburg on Oct 23 (Delahanty). Evening Grosbeaks were at Gabriels on Oct 24 (Amstutz), and on Nov 8 they were at Tupper Lake (Delahanty) and Keeseville (Lesperance).

Red Crossbills were at Whitehouse on Aug 16 and at Pisico Lake on Sep 7. White-winged Crossbills were also seen at Whitehouse (McIlroy). Crossbills were later reported at Port Douglas and Tupper Lake. Pine Siskins were noted on Nov 15 (Delahanty), and this species was also seen at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). There were several Purple Finch reports.

Many Fox Sparrows were noted on migration at Whey Pond on Oct 23, and Chipping Sparrows were numerous from Aug 21 to Sep 1 at Tupper Lake. Large flocks of Tree Sparrows were noted there from Sep 17 to Nov 5 (Amstutz). Tree Sparrows were common at Keeseville by Oct 25 (Lesperance). The White-crowned Sparrow was seen on Oct 25 (Delahanty).

Delafield reported the Snow Bunting on Oct 23, and large flocks of these birds were seen on the outer extremity of AuSable Point on Oct 14. A good record of interest was the Lapland Longspur recorded by Delafield on Oct 27. The latter species was quite abundant during the fall and winter of 1955, and several specimens were taken at that time by me for the Biology Department of the State University Teachers College of Plattsburgh.

Keeseville

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

Weather in the Mohawk-Hudson region averaged warmer and drier than normal except for a very wet September brought about partly by the passage of

Hurricane Donna just to the east of the region. The most unusual records of the period were of Black Vulture (see field notes section) and of several Dickcissels, one of which was found dead and turned over to the Schenectady Museum.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons first appeared on Oct 15 at Stony Creek Reservoir and were last reported on Nov 26 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenebeck). The species went through in good numbers, whereas no Red-throated Loons were reported at all. The only report of Red-necked Grebes was of four seen on Nov 5 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenebeck). Horned Grebes were very numerous during their November passage. Saratoga Lake was particularly favored by this species with the following numbers reported: 50 on Nov 5; 90 on Nov 12; 70 on Nov 20; and 50 on Nov 26. Pied-billed Grebes were last reported on Oct 23. Great Blue Herons were present throughout the period, but Common Egrets were not reported after Sep 10 when 13 were seen on the Lower Hudson field trip (Schenectady Bird Club). No Little Blue Herons were seen during the period. Green Herons were not seen after Sep 25 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck) and Bitterns after Oct 5 at Middle Grove (Bartlett).

The Canada Goose flight was about normal with the peak between Oct 8 and 18. Pintails were first seen on Sep 18 at Tuttle's Marsh (SBC-ADBC field trip) and last reported on Oct 9 at Stony Creek Reservoir (SBC field trip). Green-winged Teal were reported from Sep 25 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck) to Oct 9 at the same place (SBC field trip). Blue-winged Teal were reported as late as Oct 9 on the SBC field trip to Stony Creek Reservoir. The Shoveler was reported only once, on Sep 18 when four were seen at Tuttle's Marsh on the joint SBC-ADBC field trip. Wood Ducks were not reported after Oct 20 from Collins Lake.

Among the regular diving ducks the Redhead, Canvasback, and Greater Scaup went unreported. The only Ring-necked Duck reported was seen Nov 12 at Merwin's Pond (ADBC record). Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser were all first seen on Nov 6 at Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC field trip). Bufflehead were seen Nov 5 and 12 only, at Saranac Lake (Hallenebeck), and Ruddy Ducks at Tomhannock Reservoir on Oct 26 (Brother Austin) and Nov 6 (SBC field trip). Hooded Mergansers were last seen Nov 12 at Kinderhook (ADBC record).

**Hawks — Owls:** A late Turkey Vulture was seen at Ghent on Nov 22 (Erlenebach). At Bell's Pond (SW Columbia County) on Oct 8 a Black Vulture was seen by an observer thoroughly familiar with the species in the South (Thurston). No Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported during the period, and Cooper's Hawk only once. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were widely reported whereas the Broad-winged Hawk and Bald Eagle were not reported at all. Rough-legged Hawks were commonly reported (for this species, that is) after Oct 23 when three were seen on the Hudson Highlands SBC field trip. Marsh Hawks were still present at the end of the period but the Osprey was last reported on Oct 13 at Jenny Lake (Bartlett). A lone Peregrine Falcon was reported on Oct 1 Crystall Lake (fide Sabin). No Pigeon Hawks were seen, but Sparrow Hawks continued present throughout the period. Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite (chiefly in Columbia County) and Ring-necked Pheasants were regularly seen. There were no reports of rails. The Common Gallinule was seen as late as Sep 25 at Vischer Ferry, and the Coot was observed at Stony Creek Reservoir on Oct 15 (Hallenebeck).

Killdeer were widely reported. Several good Woodcock flights were reported, with from 8 to 12 birds reported in one day on several occasions. The last of this species was seen on Nov 20 at Ghent (Erlenebach). Two Common Snipe were observed on the late date of Nov 16 at Meadowdale (Hallenebeck). Other shorebirds were very scarce to absent, mainly because of high water levels in their usual haunts. Spotted Sandpipers left after Sep 25 when they were seen at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck). On Sep 24 at Meadowdale a Pectoral Sandpiper and a Dunlin were observed (Eddy, Hallenebeck). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen Sep 10 at Tomhannock Reservoir (Austin).

Herring and Ring-billed were the only gulls observed. Several Black Terns were seen along the Hudson River below Hudson in the first week of September (Reilly). Mourning Doves were still present at the close of the period. The last cuckoos were as follows: Yellow-billed on Oct 8 at two places in Columbia County (ADBC records); Black-billed on Nov 5 at Ghent (Erlenebach). Great Horned, Screech, and Barred Owls were reported throughout the period, but there were no observations

of Barn Owls, Long-eared Owls, or Short-eared Owls. were reported from several areas in and around Albany and Schenectady, with the first report being of one seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov 6 (fide Hallenbeck). Two Saw-whet Owls were reported, one of a road-kill in Niskayuna on Nov 8 (Kaskan), and another seen on Nov 18 at Melrose (Yunick).

**Goatsucker — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-wills were present through the first week in September at Charlton (Halverson), and Nighthawks were at Scotia as late as Sep 27 (Hallenbeck). Chimney Swifts lingered to Sep 14 at Castleton (Cook) and Hummingbirds to Oct 13 in Ghent (Erlenbach). Kingfishers were present to the end of the period. No Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported after Oct 30 at Westerlo (fide Sabin). Pileated, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers were commonly reported: there were no observations of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers migrated through from Sep 17 at Loudonville (French) to Oct 11 at Nassau (Shineman). The last Eastern Kingbirds were seen on the Lower Hudson SBC field trip on Sep 10. The last date for Traill's Flycatcher was Aug 28 at Meadowdale (Austin). Phoebees were reported until Oct 9 when one was seen at Stony Creek Reservoir (SBC field trip). Wood Pewees were present until Sep 20 at Loudonville (French). An extremely late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Ghent on Oct 12 and 13 (Erlenbach). Horned Larks were reported throughout the period. Tree Swallows were seen until Sep 18 on the joint SBC-ADBC field trip in Columbia County and Barn Swallows until Sep 10 on the Lower Hudson SBC field trip. Other swallows were unreported. Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed, but there was no invasion of these birds in the region such as occurred last year. Tufted Titmice were reported in the vicinity of Albany as follows: Oct 22 on Fuller Road, Albany (Thomas); on Hilton Road, Slingerlands, on Oct 27; and several times on Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, during November with two birds banded (Sabin). In Columbia this species was also widely but sparingly reported (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Brown Creepers were reported from Sep 20 at Loudonville (French) until Nov 20 at Saratoga Lake (SBC field trip).

The last House Wren was seen at Loudonville on Oct 4 (French). Migrant Winter Wrens were first reported on Sep 10 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and were not reported after Oct 26 at Loudonville (French). Carolina Wrens were observed on Sep 27 and 28 at Slingerlands (Grace) and Oct 19 at Scotia (Hallenbeck). The last Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen on Oct 9 at Stockport Station (Brown). A Catbird was present until Oct 4 at Loudonville (French). A Mockingbird was present in Hudson from Nov 17-30 where it was first noticed fighting its reflection in the window of a house (Brown). On Highland Avenue in Albany a Mockingbird was seen by numerous observers on Election Day. Further checking in the area seemed to indicate that the bird had been present for almost two months prior to Election Day. A report came in for Nov 29 that there were definitely two Mockingbirds present (Linch). This leads one to speculate whether or not the species might not have nested in the area surrounding Highland Avenue. A late report bears mentioning here of another Mockingbird seen at Clifton Park Center on Jul 26 (Halverson). Further checking at this last place proved fruitless. Wood Thrushes were present at Slingerlands until Oct 29 (Grace). Hermit Thrushes were reported from Sep 30 at Nassau (Turner) to Nov 2 at Chatham (Radke), and Swainson's Thrushes were observed from Sep 17 at Loudonville (French) until Oct 27 at Schenectady (Eddy). No Gray-cheeked Thrushes or Veeries were reported. Occasional Bluebirds were seen in various parts of the region.

The first Golden-crowned Kinglet was at New Concord on Sep 30 (Radke). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first seen at Ghent on Aug 20 (Erlenbach) and as late as Nov 23 at New Concord (Radke). Water Pipits were seen throughout the area beginning on Sep 21 at Thacher Park (Austin) and continuing to Nov 2 at Ghent (Erlenbach). The only shrike reported was a Northern Shrike seen at Ghent on Nov 1 (Erlenbach).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireos were last seen in Schenectady on Sep 30 (Eddy), and Solitary Vireos were there until Oct 7 (also Eddy). The latest Red-eyed Vireo was reported from Castleton on Oct 1 (Cook) and Warbling Vireo on Sep 23 in Schenectady (Eddy). The elusive Philadelphia Vireo was seen on Sep 30 in Schenectady (Eddy).

The following warblers were last reported on the dates and from the localities indicated: 2 Black and White, Oct 7 at Nassau (Shineman); Nashville, Oct 9 at

Stony Creek Reservoir (SBC field trip); Parula, Sep 24 at Loudonville (French); Magnolia, Oct 19 at Niskayuna (Kaskan); Black-throated Green, Oct 1 at Loudonville (French); Black-throated Blue, Oct 7 at Loudonville (French); Blackburnian, Sep 29 at Scotia (Hallénbeck); Chestnut-sided, Oct 2 in Columbia County (ADBC record); Bay-breasted, Oct 13 in Columbia County (ADBC record); Blackpoll Oct 7 at Loudonville (French); Pine, Oct 11 at Nassau (Shineman); Prairie, Sep 18 in Columbia County (SBC-ADBC joint field trip); Palm( Oct 27 at Castleton (Cook); Ovenbird, Sep 24 at Loudonville (French); Northern Waterthrush, Sep 13 at Loudonville (French); Connecticut, Oct 3 at Ghent (Erlénbach); Mourning, Sep 28 at Scotia (Hallénbeck); Yellowthroat, Oct 4 at Loudonville (French); Yellow-breasted Chat, Sep 29 at Slingerlands (Grace); Wilson's Sep 14 at Loudonville (French); Canada Sep 14 at Schenectady (Eddy); and Redstart, Oct 5 at Loudonville (French).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Meadowlarks, Redwings, Grackles, and Cowbirds were present throughout the period. A Baltimore Oriole was seen at late as Nov 7 in Loudonville (French), while Rusty Blackbirds went through between Oct 9 (SBC field trip to Stony Creek Reservoir) and Oct 16 (at Meadowdale, Hallénbeck). Scarlet Tanagers were last seen on Oct 18 at Castleton (Cook), and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on Oct 4 at Ghent (Erlénbach). A late Indigo Bunting was seen on Oct 10 and 12 at Castleton (Cook). There was a slight influx of Dickcissels into the region this fall. One showed up first at Hilton Road, Slingerlands, on Oct 22 (Grace). This bird remained in the vicinity until at least Oct 27 by which time a great many observers had opportunities to see it. A second bird showed up in Burnt Hills, also on Oct 27. This bird met with some accident since it was picked up dead on a front lawn (Foote). It was turned over to the Schenectady Museum, as mentioned earlier.

Evening Grosbeaks were unusually scarce this fall. The first report was of three birds which showed up very briefly at Hilton Road, Slingerlands, on Oct 13 (Grace). None were reported after that for three weeks. They were reported from Nov 5 on at New Concord (Radke), on Nov 6 near Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC field trip), and Nov 16 at Meadowdale (Hallénbeck). Purple Finch reports were few, beginning with a bid on Sep 24 at Loudonville (French) and concluding with four birds on Nov 19 at Grafton (Yunick). No Pine Grosbeaks were reported. Apparently Redpolls were not up to their numbers of a year ago; the only report was of approximately 50 birds at Taberton on Nov 5 (Yunick). Pine Siskins were reported more so than usual beginning with a bird on Oct 27 at Niskayuna (Kaskan) and continuing through the end of the period. Goldfinches were reported in their usual numbers. The only crossbill report for the period was a flock of 24 Red Crossbills seen on Nov 6 at Tomhannock (SBC field trip). The last Towhee was seen at Loudonville on Oct 4 (French).

Savannah Sparrows were reported throughout the period, Grasshopper Sparrows not at all. The elusive Henslow's Sparrow was seen on Sep 17 at Loudonville (French). Vesper Sparrows were widely reported until Oct 25, in Columbia County (ADBC record). Juncos were later migrants this year by several weeks with the first one reported Sep 29 at Scotia (Hallénbeck). The first Tree Sparrows were seen on Oct 23, in Columbia County (ADBC record), while the latest Chipping Sparrow was noted Nov 1 at Scotia (Hallénbeck). The first migrant White-throated Sparrows were noted Sep 10 on the Lower Hudson SBC field trip; the species continued to be reported until the end of the period. White-crowned Sparrows moved through the region the last part of September with one remaining until Nov 16 at Nassau (Shineman). Fox Sparrows were seen between Oct 21, in Columbia County (ADBC record), and Nov 6, when ten birds were noted near Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC field trip). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from Sep 10 at Tomhannock Reservoir (Austin) to Oct 5 at New Concord (Radke). The latest Swamp Sparrow was seen on Nov 16 at Meadowdale (Hallénbeck). Song Sparrows were present throughout the period. Snow Buntings were seen first at Lake Taghkanic on Nov 13 (Brown) and then on Nov 18 when a flock estimated at 100 birds was in Burnt Hills (Foote). No Lapland Longspurs were reported up to the end of the period.

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