

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

During latter August we watched some birds as they slipped off one of the higher peaks in the Catskills and disappeared into the hazy south. Earlier, in the Hudson Valley to the east, we noticed Swallows winging their way through and during some of the evenings a skyward glance revealed many Nighthawks coursing hurriedly on down the valley. This was all natural but it did make us wonder just what kind of Fall migration was in store for us once the Season was in full swing. Time passed and so did most of the birds, in uneventful flights moving southward quite unhampered in their travels by the lack of disturbing weather fronts. The hurricane influence seemed virtually nil in this Region and much like last year the whole period was characterized by rather pleasant stable weather. There was some increase in rainfall during November but otherwise it was dry.

Among the visitors from the Northland — there was little of particular note in flight occurrences except for one species, the Pine Grosbeak, which showed up in another one of their periodic visits. They were reported in small numbers in every county in the Region, thus giving us at least one special treat. The last significant flight of this attractive bird occurred in the Fall & Winter of 1954-55. A consensus of opinion, unfortunately, indicates a generally poor seed-crop condition among most trees and shrubs. Will the Pines stay with us and perhaps take to our feeders like the Evening Grosbeaks? We hope so.

Loons — Ducks: The Common Loon dropped in early in Oct, the 6th at the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co (Al Feldman) and over the Nyack area in Rockland Co on the 9th (Bob & Mrs. Deed). A double-crested Cormorant was seen along the Hudson River on the Dutchess Co side on Oct 14 by Brother Michael. This erratic species is seldom reported around this area. Swans: one Mute on the Ashokan Res early in Nov (A. Feldman) and about the same time six Whistlers were found on Kiamesha Lake in Sullivan Co (N & K Niven, C. Schock). This is the first record for the species in Sullivan Co. Among the geese, the Canada and Brant were nearly normal. A small flock of Snow Geese was reported near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co, Nov 24 (E. Fink et al). The duck movement through the Hudson Valley was hardly spectacular. Wood Ducks showed better numbers in Dutchess Co this fall (RTWBC). A nice group of 50-60 were seen at Lona Island near Bear Mt Nov 3 (The F. Steffens). Redheads were seen in Ulster Co (A. Feldman) on Oct 6. Oldsquaw: 13 in the Dutchess Co area Oct 28 (RTWBC) and a smaller number on the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co (A. Feldman). There were very few reports on any of the Mergansers.

Hawks — Owls: The treatment of Hawks followed the usual pattern given it by most observers—poor to normal. Rough-legged Hawks appeared over Orange Co, Oct 21 (Mearns Bird Club) and in Rockland Co during mid-Nov (RAS). Brother Michael of Barrytown, Dutchess Co studied an Eagle in that area Nov 1 as it soared above overhead for sometime and concluded it was a Golden Eagle but regrets not having another to verify it. On Sep 15 at Bedford Village, Westchester Co S. Grierson saw a Pigeon Hawk work over a group of Starlings. Although Hawk shooting has lessened in recent years it still prevails quite freely in some areas whereby thoughtless and unlearned gunners pick them for targets. Martha Earl, in traveling around Orange Co during the hunting season, noted the results of several cases of this infamous act. Most of these were Red-tails boldly hung along fences for all to see. We hope the offenders were apprehended by the law.

Three Wild Turkeys were seen in the Ashokan Res area, Ulster Co Oct 6 (A. Feldman). In Rockland Co, J. Price added the Black-bellied Plover to the county's fall list by the discovery of one at Lake DeForest Nov 3. At this same lake Ed Gamble observed a Yellow-legs (sp?) Nov 25 (late). Three Pectoral Sandpipers were still in Dutchess Co Oct 27 (T. Strauss). Dunlin appeared at the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co Oct 23 (A. Feldman) and a first record for Dutchess Co was made by Brother Michael about the same time. Miss E. Crawford found a nearly exhausted Short-billed Dowitcher in the most populated section of Nyack, Rockland Co Oct 11 and turned it over to Dr. M. Hopper for identification and release. This makes another first fall record for the Rockland Co area. The caterpillar-eating Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen to include the Woolly Bear in its diet — on Oct 10 near Katonah, Westchester Co by S & R Grierson.

There were two Fall records of the Barn Owl. One in Orange Co during the first half of Sep (M. Earl) and one near Barrytown, Dutchess Co Nov 1 by Brother Michael. The rest of the Owl population seemed normal.

The Kingbird

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Whip-poor-will was last heard in Ulster Co Sep 11 (F. Hough) and an injured one was picked up in Katonah, Westchester Co Oct 5 by G. Williams and turned over to S. Grierson. October records for this species are very scarce. Nighthawks were still migrating over Westchester Co. Sep 22 (Griersons). On Sep 16 a Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up in Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co and was seen several times by D. Orbison. Weeks later, still in the same county, Mrs. J. Coggeshall had one at her feeder in Pleasantville Nov 22 (still there). A late Kingbird was spotted by Mrs. C. Lynch Nov 9 at Balmville, Orange Co. Also, a rather late Phoebe was seen near Cornwall, Orange Co Nov 11 (The J. Dykes). Dr. R. Pyle shoved Ulster County's late date for the Wood Pewee ahead one day by the discovery of one near Lomontville on Oct 15. The Blue Jays exhibited a nice show down through the Hudson Valley during late Sep and early Oct.

The Crows, on the other hand, apparently influenced by fair weather failed to show in noticeable flights. The Fall migration brought a few Boreal Chickadees — Oct 21 at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. (M. Van Wagner); Nov 10 at Hawthorne, Westchester Co. (B. Augustine); Nov 15 at West Nyack, Rockland Co. (Mrs. J. Kolars); Nov 23 at Katonah, Westchester Co. (W. Russell). The Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly conspicuous in their flight this year. Mrs. J. Dye reports one flying into the open window of the town hall in Cornwall, Orange Co, thereby, interrupting a meeting of the local garden club. The Bluebird picture does not seem to change much and is far from being in the desirable proportion that we would like to see it. Both Kinglets seemed to be about in usual numbers during the period. No invasion of Northern Shrikes was indicated to date.

Vireos — Warblers: The Vireos and Warblers passed through under fair weather during late Sep and early Oct, consequently there was little retardment in any of their flights. There may have been some concentration in Rockland Co for B. Deed expressed the Warbler migration as "excellent". Elsewhere it was considered unimpressive. The Solitary Vireo was reported up in numbers in Dutchess and Rockland Counties. Any record on the Kentucky Warbler in this Region is interesting. The season produced one female at Naponach, Ulster Co on Oct 10 & 11 (C. Young).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Immense numbers of Blackbirds were noted in sections of Dutchess and Ulster Counties during latter Oct and early Nov. Some of these flocks ran close to a million birds but such is not unusual since this is a near regular occurrence. A late Baltimore Oriole was found at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co Nov 27 and stayed on until the 30th at least (M. Van Wagoner). H & I Dunbar added a new bird to the Ulster Co list, a Brewer's Blackbird in the Lomontville area Oct 25. A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at the West Point Military Reservation on Nov 20 (P. Jeheber). The species was also found near Haverstraw, Rockland Co Oct 11 (The B. Deeds). Even this date is a little later than usual.

The only Dickcissels mentioned were the two found Nov 23 at Pine Plains, Dutchess Co (B. Deuel). Evening Grosbeaks arrived early this year with one very early flock occurring in Dutchess Co Sep 24 (RTWBC). Around Oct 5 & 6 a major flight occurred with reports coming from all over the Region. Mrs. Ramensnyder of Saugerties, Ulster Co said that this was too early and she would have to increase her sunflower seed supply to meet the demand! Purple Finches did not linger in any great numbers. The Pine Grosbeaks moved in during early Nov. Some of the reports on this flight indicate the widespread occurrence: Barrytown, Dutchess Co Nov 1 (B. Michael); Brinton Brook, Westchester Co Nov 1 (J. Jutte); Naponach, Ulster Co Nov 6 (C. Young); Sullivan Co (K. Niven); Blooming Grove, Orange Co Nov 8 (M. Earl); Upper Nyack, Rockland Co Nov 10 (M. Hopper); Ammandale-on-Hudson Nov 20 (H. Kritzler); Cornwall, Orange Co Nov 11 (M & J Dye); Mt. Kisco & Katonah, Westchester Co Nov 15 (S. Bearolf, Mrs. Ed. Kurka). Pine Siskins were not very abundant. One record of White-winged Crossbills was received — on an individual near Leptondale, Orange Co (Alsdorf). A late White-crowned Sparrow was seen near Suffern, Rockland Co Nov 5 (The J. LeMaires). One might closely pinpoint the downward arrival of Snow Buntings to the date of Oct 22. On that date they were seen for the first in Dutchess Co (O. Waterman et al) and on the same day atop Mt. Beacon, Putnam Co by Mr. & Mrs. J. Malone.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Hot weather continued through latter August and into the third week of September with sufficient rainfall to continue the good seed crop among grasses predicted in the early summer. Cooler weather came in late September with occasional