

Sparrows, and was observed under excellent conditions by Dr. Kingsbury, Ann Parker and others. "Now I know why I have been feeding those House Sparrows all these years", quotes Mrs. Delahanty, as she remarks about this excellent record.
Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKAM.

This Fall was generally cooler than average. Precipitation was close to average, which allowed short-term relief from the dry conditions of the summer, but which failed to fill the reservoirs or replenish depleted underground supplies of water. There was an early frost on Sept. 21-22, one of the earliest ever recorded, which killed most annuals, but this was followed by over a month in which there was no frost, until Oct. 25. November was considerably colder, 4.1° lower than average, with a low of 14° on the 19th. There was frost in the ground from mid-November on.

The prolonged dry weather of the summer had the predicted effect of affording exposed bars and mudflats which proved attractive to a total of 16 species of the plover and sandpiper families. The most unusual among these records were those of Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper — the latter the first record of the species in this area since 1945. Unusual also were the large numbers of individuals of other shorebird species observed.

Waterfowl were also observed in good numbers, with the most outstanding events of the season the amazing concentration of Red-throated Loons on Saratoga Lake, the numbers of Snow Geese observed, and the widespread occurrence of Common Scoters on Oct. 13. Among the landbirds, outstanding features were the sighting of a Western Kingbird (apparently a first record for the region), the appearance of Blue Grosbeaks in Catskill, an enormous flight of blackbirds and an excellent fall warbler and vireo migration. Other unusual species included Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Black Vulture, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Philadelphia Vireo, Kentucky and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; Common — Com; throated — thr; breasted — br; crowned — cr; Saratoga — Sar; Tomhannock — Tomh; Niskayuna Wide Waters — Nisk WW; Vischer Ferry — Visch Fy; Lake — L; Reservoir — Res; Creek — Cr.

Observers: Gus Angst — GA; Pauline Baker — PB; Hortense Barton — HB; Lee Burland — LB; James H. Bush — JHB; Phil Clark — PC; Juanita Cook — JC; Hazel Eddy — HE; Paul & Georgia Erlenbach — PE, GE; Donald Foley — DF; Mabel W. French — MWF; Aden Gokay — AG; Esley Hallenbeck — EH; Marcia Kent — MK; Samuel Madison — SM; Eleanor Radke — ER; Edgar M. Reilly — EMR; Walton Sabin — WS; Mary Lou Shedd — MLS; Robert Shedd — RS; Fred & Myra Smilow — FS, MS; Beverly Waite — BW; Peter P. Wickham — PPW.

Loons — Ducks: Com Loon: two Oct 13, Sar L (WS, PPW); still present at end of period. Red-thr Loon: surprisingly widespread; Nov 11, Tomh Res (SBC) to Nov 25; Alcove Res (WS) with an amazing flock of 150+ at Sar L Nov 18 (SBC). Horned Grebe: six Oct 13 (WS, PPW), present through rest of period. No Pied-billed Grebes were reported. Great Blue Herons occurred throughout, max 23, Sep 19, Visch Fy (EH, PC). Green Heron: last Sep 23 (EH). No white herons were reported during the period. Black-cr Night-heron: four Aug 19 to Sep 16, Visch Fy, (EH et al) were the first of the year for the area. American Bittern: Oct 5, Ghent (PE, GE) and Oct 6, Nisk WW (PPW) were the late records. Least Bittern: reported in Aug at Castleton (LB) and Sep 15, Visch Fy (EH). Canada Goose: A big flight, with many flocks; max 2000+, over Visch Fy, Nov 4 (EH). Snow Goose: flocks Nov 4 at Delmar (fide WS) and Nov 18 at Westerlo (MK), at Round L and at Sar L (SBC) with approx 325 on the latter date. Brant: one Nov 25 at Alcove Res (WS) the only report. Gadwall: two at Stony Cr Res Oct 13-21 (EH). Baldpate: two Oct 13 at Sar L (PPW, WS) and seven Nov 4, Stony Cr Res (SBC). Pintail: Sep 15 (EH, PC) to Nov 4 (SBC). Green-winged Teal: Sep 8 (EH, PC) to end of period. Blue-winged Teal: last Oct 13 (WS) and 14 (JHB). Wood Duck: a late record, two Nov 17, Tomh Res (PPW). Redhead: one Oct 24, Visch Fy (EH, PC) the lone record of period. Ring-necked Duck: three Oct 21, Stony Cr Res (EH et al) only record in my possession. Canvasback: first report three, Sar L, Nov 25 (EH) —

remained through end of period. Greater Scaup: one Nov 11 (SBC) and twelve Nov 28 (EH) at Sar L. Lesser Scaup: Oct 13 (WS, PPW) through end of period. Com Goldeneye: three Oct 27, Sar L (EH, PC); numbers built up rapidly after Nov 15. Bufflehead: Nov 17 (EH) and thereafter. Oldsquaw: one Oct 27, Sar L (EH, PC) and frequently through rest of period. White-winged Scoter: three Nov 18, Sar L (SBC) to end of period. Com Scoter: an unbelievable number present Oct 13, with 75, Nisk WW (HE); 140, Alcove and Basic Res (MK); 22, Round L; and 325, Sar L (WS, PPW). The bird is normally uncommon to rare in this area. What might have caused this unexpected appearance? Ruddy Duck: one Oct 13, Round L (WS, PPW); two Nov 11, Tomh Res (SBC) and one Nov 25, Alcove Res (WS). Hooded Merganser: widely reported in numbers after Oct 15. Com Merganser: numbers rapidly built up after first record Nov 11, Tomh Res (SBC). Red-br Merganser: seen sparingly throughout period after first record, seven, Sar L, Oct 13 (WS, PPW).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: recorded in Columbia Co. until Oct 16 (ADBC). Black Vulture: one, northwestern Columbia Co., Sep 15 (SBC), is another indication of recent wandering by this species. Many observers remarked on the low numbers of hawks. There was only one Rough-legged Hawk reported: one, Sar, Nov 18 (SBC). Peregrine Falcon: one, Altamont, Aug 25 (BW) and one, Meadowdale, Sep 9 (EH). No eagles were reported. Soras were unrecorded through the period. Virginia Rail: Sep 15 (SBC) (late). Com Gallinule: Sep 19 (EH, PC) (late). American Coot: 19, Oct 11-17, Tomh Res (SBC) was the only record. The following records may give some idea of the extent of the shorebird migration in this area. Semipalmated Plover: 1-2, Aug 19-Oct 13, Stony Cr Res (PPW). Black-bellied Plover: one, Stony Cr Res, Sep 1 (BW, MLS) — Nov 3 (EH, PC); one, Castleton, Oct 5 (JC, ER). Common Snipe: outstanding was a group of at least 50, near Catskill, Oct 13 (JHB). Spotted Sandpiper: last Sept 30, Visch Fy (GA). Solitary Sandpiper: last Sept 19, Visch Fy (EH, PC). Greater Yellow-legs: many reports to Nov 11 (SBC); max 24, Oct 21, Visch Fy (EH). Lesser Yellow-legs: reports of 1-4 to Oct 2 (BW et al). Pectoral Sandpiper: many reports to Nov 7 (EH, PC), max 10, Oct 1, Visch Fy (EH). Least Sandpiper: Aug 19 (RS, MLS) to Oct 13 (PPW, WS) Dunlin: many reports, Oct 16 (HE) — Nov 11 (EH); max 14, Oct 17, Stony Cr Res (EH, PC). Dowitcher: one, Sep 30, Stony Cr Res (GA et al). Stilt Sandpiper: one, Sep 30 (GA et al) — Oct 13 (EH, PC), Visch Fy. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Aug 19 (EH) — Oct 16 (HE); max 20, Oct 1, Stony Cr Res (EH, PC). Sanderling: to Oct 2 (BW, MLS). No terns or unusual gulls were reported during the period. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: late report, Ghent, Oct 10 (PE, GE). Resident Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls were the only owls reported.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawk: most left in Sep, with a late bird at Loudonville Oct 18 (MWF). Chimney Swift: left unobtrusively, late date Sep 18, New Concord (ER). Ruby-thr Hummingbird: migrated through in Aug and early Sep, last Sep 21, Canaan (AG). Red-headed Woodpecker: an adult was at Ghent Oct 17 (PE, GE) and an immature at Canaan Oct 23 (AG). Sapsuckers were observed widely until Oct 14 (MWF). An Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was observed stripping bark from some dying red pines near Schenectady on Nov 26 (I. S. Jacobs). Eastern Kingbirds were seen until Sep 15, and a **Western Kingbird** was observed at close range in Meadowdale Sep 17 (BW, MLS). Crested Flycatcher: last Sep 10, Ghent (PE, GE). Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Sep 30, Delmar (SM). Phoebe: late record Oct 20, Catskill (JHB). The swallows departed (or, better, simply disappeared) early. Late dates were: Tree, Sep 19 (EH, PC); Bank: Aug 19 (PPW); Rough-winged: Aug 19 (PPW); Barn: Sep 9 (EH); Purple Martin: Sep 9 (EH); Cliff: Aug 19 (PPW). Red-br Nuthatch: observed in good numbers throughout period. House Wren: one, Castleton, Oct 3 (JC), late. Winter Wren: recorded widely to end of Oct. Carolina Wren: still has not recovered from recent severe winters, and was only reported from Columbia and Greene Counties, the southernmost part of the arena. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: disappeared inconspicuously, late date Sep 15 (SBC). Catbird: most had disappeared by mid-Oct, but one was reported at a feeding station in Rensselaer the last week in Nov (fide PPW). Robins lingered throughout the period. Last reports of other thrushes were: Wood, Nov 4 (PE, GE); Hermit, Nov 4 (PE, GE); Swainson's, Oct 18 (HB); Veery, Sep 4 (ER, FS,

MS); Gray-cheeked: Sep 15 (FS, MS). Bluebird: seen widely throughout area singly or in small groups until Nov 18 (BW). Pipit: a good migration, Oct 5 (JC) — Nov 5 (PE, GE), max 35, Oct 20, Tomh Res (PPW). A Shrike was seen Sep 22 at Petersburg (PE, GE).

Vireos — Sparrows: The vireo and warbler migration seemed a good one, with pronounced waves noted by observers on Aug 18-19, Sep 8, 19, 24, and Oct 4. One observer (ER) termed it the "best in several years." Late dates for the vireos included: Yellow-thr, Oct 6, Niskayuna (HE); Solitary, Oct 21, Loudonville (MFW); Red-eyed, Oct 11, New Concord (ER); and Warbling, Sep 15, Meadowdale (PPW). A Philadelphia Vireo was reported at a birdbath in New Concord, Sep 20 (ER).

Late records for the warblers were as follows: Golden-winged, Sep 16, Castleton (JC); Tennessee, Oct 12, New Concord (ER); Nashville, Oct 19, Loudonville (MWF); Parula, Sep 24, New Concord (ER); Black-thr Green, many reported, last Oct 10 (ADBC); Magnolia, Oct 20, Ghent (AG); Cape May, Oct 10, New Concord (ER); Myrtle, Nov 11, Tomh Res (SBC); Black-thr Blue, Sep 25, New Concord (ER); Black-burnian, Oct 2, New Concord (ER); Bay-breasted, Sep 22 (ADBC); Blackpoll, Oct 15, Catskill (JHB); Pine, Sep 18, New Concord (ER); Palm, Oct 3, Westerlo (MK); Northern Water-thrush, Sep 16 (ADBC); Yellow-throat, Oct 12, Loudonville (MWF); and Wilson's, Oct 4, New Concord (ER). Surprisingly, there were no reports of Redstarts seen after late August. Three Orange-cr Warblers were at Old Chatham Oct 21 (EMR). A Kentucky Warbler was recorded Sep 25 at Ghent (PE, GE) where the species has appeared regularly in recent years, and one was at Loudonville Aug 18 (MWF). Early Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Visch Fy Sep 23 (EH) and Sep 30 (GA), when 200 were noted. A flock of Cowbirds, Grackles, and (mainly) Redwings which was so large it staggers the imagination was observed at sunrise Oct 27 just north of Tivoli along the Hudson River. The observer (DF), a state biologist, estimated the flock to be one-quarter mile wide, and 200 feet high; it took 18 minutes to pass him, literally darkening the sky. Well over 100,000,000 birds were estimated in the flock.

The last Scarlet Tanagers were observed Aug 26 (SBC), and the last Rose-br Grosbeaks were at Ghent (PE, GE) and New Concord (ER) Sep 26. Two adult male Blue Grosbeaks were seen Oct 12 in Catskill by an observer previously familiar with the bird. (Dr. W. Myers). Indigo Bunting: last Oct 6, Niskayuna (PPW). There were only three records of Evening Grosbeaks and none of Pine Grosbeaks. Pine Siskin: flocks were seen at Old Chatham (PE, GE) and at Rensselaerville (MK) early in Nov. Towhees were recorded until mid-Oct, last Oct 21, Niskayuna (HE). Savannah Sparrow: last Oct 20, Tomh (PPW). Grasshopper Sparrow: last Oct 14, northern Rensselaer County (SBC). Vesper Sparrow: last Oct 21, Schodack Center (LB). Junco: first recorded in areas where it does not breed, Oct 2, Loudonville (MWF) and in large flocks in mid-Oct. Tree Sparrows were first seen Oct 25 in Columbia Co. (ADBC) and Field Sparrows were recorded until Nov 1 at Ghent (PE, GE). There were a number of records of White-cr Sparrows, from Sep 28 (JC) — Oct 28 (HE). First White-thr Sparrows seen Sep 11 (PB). Fox Sparrows appeared Sep 28 at Ghent (PE, GE) and were recorded until Nov 24 at New Concord (ER). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen from Aug 27 (BW) — Oct 4 (ER). Swamp Sparrow: last Nov 17, Tomh Res (PPW). Snow Bunting: seen Oct 27 (RS), South Bethlehem, and flocks were seen throughout the rest of the period.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After a summer characterized by severe draught, this autumn was about as normal as they come. August continued dry as did September; but October and November were comparatively wet with average to below average temperatures.

Several reporters referred to the season as "unspectacular," but others called it "tremendous", especially in hawks and warblers. Undoubtedly for certain species it was a good fall migration, but the dates of big number of birds varied in different parts of the region, leading one to conclude that there were no generally widespread movements, merely local waves.