

Aug 22 until Sept 19, a rather late date (JC), although none were known to breed this year. Baltimore Oriole: one was at Ghent on the late date of Oct 2; otherwise the late reports fell in the first half of Sept. Rusty Blackbird: good numbers reported, first Sept 10, Ghent (PE, GE) and Sept 22, Meadowdale (WBS), last Nov 24, Vischer Ferry (GB, BRS). Scarlet Tanager: good numbers of migrants reported, last Sept 30, Catskill (JHB, BB). Cardinal: this species has become a widespread, fairly common resident. Rose-br. Grosbeak: late birds were seen at Lock 7 Oct 4 (RW) and Ghent Oct 22 (PE, GE). Indigo Bunting: last Oct 10, Castleton (JC). Evening Grosbeak: appeared early in Oct in small flocks throughout region, first Sept 23, Lisha Kill (RW). By the end of the period, large numbers of the species were in the region, in contrast to last year. Purple Finch: a few were reported throughout the period. Pine Grosbeak: a report of five on West Mountain Nov 19 (RK) the only report. Redpoll: a flock of 30 nr Bryantville Nov 2 (RY). Pine Siskin: there was a large influx of this species in Nov, following first reports in Colu Co Oct 17 (ER, PE, GE). Flocks of 85 and 100-150 birds were among those reported. Red Crossbill: a small group of this species was seen at Bolton Landing Sept 6 (BRS). The birds had apparently been present there for at least two weeks. White-winged Crossbill: a small flock was at Ghent Oct 20 (PE, GE), and a dead individual was picked up in Rensselaerville Nov 27 after hitting a window (MK). Towhee: last Oct 12, Old Chatham (PPW). Savannah Sparrow: last report Oct 25 (ADBC). Vesper Sparrow: last Oct 21, Athens (JHB, BB). Tree Sparrow: reappeared early, first Oct 12, VFG (EH). Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 26, Catskill (JHB). Field Sparrow: last noted Oct 19, VFG (EH). White-cr Sparrow: good numbers noted during migration, Sept 22 (JC) — Oct 19 (EH, HE). White-thr Sparrow: fair numbers during migration, Aug 24 (SBC) — Nov 12 (RW). Fox Sparrow: unusually high numbers noted from Oct 5 (ADBC, SBC) — Nov 18 (JHB, BB) with as many as 35 being reported in a day. Lincoln's Sparrow: reported Oct 5-25 at Ghent (PE, GE) for the only record. Swamp Sparrow: reported to Nov 10 (RY) with a few wintering individuals remaining. Snow Bunting: first reported Oct 28 (fide MK) and widely recorded in Nov.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

November provided only a few inches of rainfall and thereby continued the dry spell which has been with us so many months now. October did not produce any measurable rainfall. There was no snow in the region to the end of the period. Temperatures remained unusually mild till late November; well above the seasonal average.

Most reporters were rather unimpressed with the movements of birds through the region, and attributed it to the mild unchanging weather. Rockland Co however, which was fortunate enough to have a number of seasoned birders in the field almost daily through the month of Sept, reported excellent waves on Aug 29, Sept 6, 11, 16 and Oct 2. All were in mid-week.

The influx of northern visitors which was better than usual would indicate a possible seed failure to the north. This is certainly not the condition here. Most conifers are loaded, and the abundance of acorns, nuts, berries and other fruit may well be at its peak.

Contributors: Clubs — MBC, Mearns Bird Club; RAS — Rockland Audubon Society; SAS — Sullivan Audubon Society; WBC — Waterman Bird Club. Individuals: BA — Bob Augustine; EB — Enid Butler; PC — Pauline Chernick; SD — Scott Dearolf; RFD — Robert F. Deed; M, JD — Margaret and John Dye; PG — Pat Garthwaite; FG — Florence Germond; SOG — Stanley O. Grierson; JG — Joseph Grossman; THa — Thelma Haight; Dr. MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper; FH — Fred Hough; MH — Marshall Howe; TH — T. Howe; MI — Mort Isler; J, MK — Jim and Mary Key; HK — H. Killam; ML — Mabel Little; PM — Peg Moon; PJ — Paul Jeheber; AJ —

Alice Jones; RO — Ralph Odell; JCO — John C. Orth; BP — Barbara Peters; EP — Eleanor Pink; AP — Alma Polhemus; JS — James Soughward; FS — Frank Steffens; MV — Marian Van Wagner; OW — Otis Waterman; AW — Albert Weeks.

Abbreviations: imm — immature; Is — Island; L — Lake; max — maximum.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: Sparsely reported; one Oct 16 (early), in immature plumage at Mt. Kisco, West (SOG). Red-necked Grebe: Usually unreported on fall migration; one late bird on the Hudson at Croton Pt. Nov 11 (BA). Pied-billed Grebe: Described as a good year in Dutch. Present throughout region till the close of the period. Great Blue Heron: Usual numbers for most of the region. Good numbers in the vicinity of Basher Kill, Sull (MBC). Green Heron: Usually gone by mid-Nov, left Dutch by mid-Oct with the last report Oct 9. A late bird lingered at Hawthorne in West till Nov 17 (BA). Snowy Egret: Rock reported its fourth record on Aug 21 at Lake DeForest (MI); another bird reported at Elmsford West on Sept 1 (BA, MH). Common Egret: None reported. Black-crowned Night Heron: Only one reported from Dutch on Oct 1 at Hopewell Junction; several reports from West. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one imm at Hawthorne, West Sept 1 (BA, MH). Least Bittern: two reports, one at Basher Kill, Sull Sept 7 (MBC) and one at Iona Is Rock Sept 13 (JCO). American Bittern: One Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, West Oct 13 (SOG); observed again on the 14th. Waterfowl: Rock had about its best fall season for numbers, variety and early dates. Most other counties seem normal to below. This again might indicate the difference between daily birding and birding only on the weekends. Mute Swan: In very large numbers for Rock, nearly one hundred birds in the Congers area. Canada Goose: Migration normal, first flock Sept 30 in Dutch. Snow Goose: Better than usual reports; first in Rock Oct 4 with 130 at Blauevelt (RFD); fifteen over Shrub Oak Nov 3 (RO); 80 over Ft. Montgomery Nov 17 (JCO). From Nov 18 to 20, 650 birds were reported over West Point, Oran; forty Nov 30 over Chappaqua, West (TH). Mallard & Black Duck: Populations normal. Pintail: two at Todd Sanct., Katonah Sept 26 (SOG); nine on Swan L Sull Nov 3 (SAS). Teal: Both species made record early dates in Rock, five Green-winged on Congers L Sept 7, remained the rest of the month (MI), and six Blue-winged at Piermont Pier on Sept 2 (RFD); both species bettered this date by one day when they were reported on Pocantico Res Sept 1 (BA, MH). Populations and dates were normal elsewhere. American Widgeon: Three extremely early on Congers L Aug 29 (MI). Wood Duck: Many reports received. Possibly indicates a rise in population. Ring-necked Duck: New early date of Oct 5 for Rock (MI). Scaup: Only one report, that of three birds at Crugar's Is Dutch on Oct 26 (JS). Bufflehead: Appeared Oct 30 in West with a total of 26 birds reported over two localities (SD). Hooded Merganser: A high count of 26 on two Bear Mt. lakes Nov 17 (JCO). Common Merganser. Twelve Oct 27 at Cruger's Is. Previous early date Nov 15 for Dutch. Red-breasted Merganser: always rare, one on Swan L Sull Nov 10 (HK).

Hawks — Owls: Raptors were normal to below, with no reports of waves. The tremendous movement of 16,000+ Broad-wings reported at Hawk Mt., Pa. on Sept 14, either did not materialize here, or went unnoticed. Turkey Vulture: last observed in Bear Mt. Park in mid-Oct (JG); peak movement on Sept 21 and 22 Dutch, with the last on Nov 5 (EP). Goshawk: One Anthony's Nose Nov 5 (RO). Sharp-shinned Hawk: All reports from Dutch; six birds in all; dates normal. Cooper's Hawk: Only one bird reported from Neversink, Sull Oct 11 (PC). Red-tailed Hawk: Very scarce. Red-shouldered Hawk: Only three reported, all from Dutch. Broad-winged Hawk: New early date for migrant in Rock, Sept 7 (MI); no flights reported. Rough-legged Hawk: One Oct 29 at Stone Ridge, Ulst, quite early (FH). Golden Eagle: On Nov 29, John Howell rounded a sharp corner in a wooded section of South Salem, West, and was startled by the sight of a bird of this species not more than ten feet away feeding on a rabbit. Bald Eagle: Very few re-

ported so far; two sure records for West and three for Sull. Marsh Hawk: Only reports come from Dutch, where eight birds this fall are more than the past two years. Osprey: Fewer than usual. Rock produced a July record for the species, the first for that county. Sparrow Hawk: Scarce throughout the region for the period. Ruffed Grouse: Appear to be a peak population throughout region. Pheasant: Good numbers; some reporters feel they may have been stocked. Clapper Rail: one walking across the road under the Tappan Zee Bridge at Grand View, on Sept 4 (Dr. MH). Virginia Rail: Only two reported, one at Basher Kill on Sept 7 (MBC); and one at Cruger's Is Oct 27 (JS). Sora: One Sept 11 at Grassy Pt. Rock (MI); another at Cruger's through the month of Sept. (THa); two birds were observed at the latter location on Oct 27 (JS). Common Gallinule: Four at Congers L Rock Sept 4 to Sept 18, three at Grassy Pt. Rock Sept 11 (MI), and one at Basher Kill, Sull on Sept 7 (MBC). Coot: Max of 60 at Cruger's Is Oct 27 (JS). Shorebirds: Once again with reservoirs and lakes at their lowest in years, shorelines and mudflats lured more than normal numbers to stop and stay a while. Killdeer: Numbers better than usual. Golden Plover: four birds, one with a great deal of summer plumage, at Brown's Res., Newburgh Sept 16 (MBC); two birds at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River on Sept 18 made the second record for Rock (FS). Woodcock: Numerous reports, peak in Dutch about Oct 11; numbers persisted through first half of Nov. Common Snipe: Max of seven birds on Oct 27 Dutch (EB). Upland Plover: One bird observed all summer at Middletown, Oran may very well have bred (PM). Solitary Sandpiper: Reported several times, one Oct 27 (very late) Dutch (JS). Pectoral Sandpiper: Good numbers this fall; eight Dutch in Sept; six Rock from Sept 6 to Oct 5. White-rumped Sandpiper: At least three and perhaps as many as ten in a flock of peeps at Piermont Pier Sept 2 (RFD). Least Sandpiper: New late date for Rock; six at L DeForest Oct 5 (MI). Short-billed Dowitcher: Rock's fourth record with one bird in bright plumage at L DeForest on Aug 11 (MI). Great Black-backed Gull: Uncommon in Dutch, two reported there this fall, one Oct 26 at Vanderburg's Cove, (AJ) and another Nov 6 at New Hamburg (OW). Black Tern: Second Rock record, one Sept 14 at Grassy Pt. (Dr. MH, AP). **Common Puffin:** one, Rhinebeck, Sept 27 (Mrs. Conrad Gierisch) (see field notes section — this issue). Mourning Dove: Numbers appear to be down throughout the region. Owls: Normal reports of resident species. Saw-whet Owl: Only one, Storm King Mt. Oran on Nov 17 (RAS).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawk: Migration poor everywhere but West where 138 were observed over Hawthorne on Aug 26, and 185 on Sept 7 (BA). Chimney Swift: An Oct 18 record at Cornwall, Oran ties Rock's late date (M, JD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Twenty-five seen on Sept 8 at Cruger's Is must be some kind of a record, (J, MK). Kingfisher: Nothing unusual reported; appears to remain low in numbers. Pileated Woodpecker: Continues to increase, though slowly. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** One, again at the home of Robert Froman, Garnerville, Rock where it appeared last Jan and Feb. Seen and heard many times since Sept 20. Red-headed Woodpecker: Single birds reported from West and Sull, and two from Dutch. No change in resident status. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Most areas report a good migration. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: No change. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: A female in Hawthorne on Nov 26 (BA). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One observed regularly from Aug 27 to Sept 2 in Hawthorne (BA). Least Flycatcher: New late date of Oct 9 in Naurausaun, Rock (RFD). Dutch reports a heavy movement of Empidonax in general. Pewee: Heavy fall migration. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Excellent movement in West; three birds at Basher Kill on Sept 7 (MBC), and one Sept 4 near New City Rock (MI). Horned Lark: Summured well in Oran & Dutch, though numbers were low. Migrants were in good numbers in Oran, with hundreds traveling with hundreds of pipits at Washingtonville on Oct 19 (MBC). Swallows: Migration uneventful except for a count of 300 Cliff Swallows at Bangall, Dutch (no date) (EP). Purple Martins were moving by Aug 15 when one was found in Rock (MI). **Gray**

Jay: First confirmed record for Dutch, one bird at a feeder in Rhinebick from Oct 15 until Nov 1 (AJ, WBC). **Blue Jay:** Flights modest. **Fish Crow:** Always rare, one Oct 19 at Pleasantville, West (BA). **Boreal Chickadee:** One at Hawthorne on the early date of Nov 2, increased to two by the end of the period (BA); one at Pleasantville Nov 9 (MH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Very heavy migration, especially in Rock & Dutch. Too many reports to list. **House Wren:** Late dates in Oran, Oct 1; Dutch, Oct 12; and Ulst, Oct 19. **Winter Wren:** Only reports from Dutch, where five were found in Oct. **Carolina Wren:** Numbers very low, only two reports both from Cornwall Sept 13-14 and Nov 30. **Mockingbird:** We'll soon stop remarking about this species as it continues to become more common. Once again reports are too numerous to mention. **Rock** has as many as two or three birds in eight or nine locations, and Oran has about a half dozen established. **Thrushes:** Generally normal. **Rock** reported an early Swainson's one Sept 5 at West Nyack (KW), and a new late date for Veery on Oct 7 at Congers (Dr. MH). **Bluebird:** Numbers definitely up. Good movements in Ulst and Dutch. The latter reported 50-60 birds this fall. **Kinglets:** Both species reported more scarce than usual. **Water Pipit:** Good movement in Dutch, and exceptionally good in Oran. Peak Oct 19-26. **Bohemian Waxwing:** one (first record for Dutch) with a flock of Cedar Waxwings in the vicinity of Rochdale from Nov 26 to Dec 1 (PG, MK). **Cedar Waxwing:** Good numbers in Oran, but no change reported elsewhere. **Northern Shrike:** One Oct 21 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). **Loggerhead Shrike:** One on Haverstraw marsh Sept 5 (MI); and two, one adult and one imm at Pine Plains Sept 11-12 (MK et al).

Vireos — Warblers: **Yellow-throated Vireo:** Several early Sept. reports; one Oct 2 (late) at Cornwall (MD). **Solitary Vireo:** None reported from most of the region; one Sept 7 (early) at Basher Kill (MBC). **Red-eyed Vireo:** Oct 14 (late) at Hawthorne (BA). **Warblers:** as mentioned previously, the rather even weather conditions allowed the warblers to move through in a continuous procession without any spectacular pushes reported; more than the usual number of rarities in Rock. **Brewster's Warbler:** This hybrid reported twice, Aug 18 on Low Tor, Rock (MI), and Sept 7 at Basher Kill (MBC). **Lawrence's Warbler:** Aug 17 at Hawthorne (BA). **Tennessee Warbler:** New early date for Rock of Sept 6 (MI). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** two reports; one bird at a bird bath daily from Sept 15-20 in Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV); another at Hawthorne, West Sept 23 (BA). **Nashville Warbler:** Five reports from Oran from Sept 7 to Oct 2 (MBC). **Cape May Warbler:** One very early bird on Aug 29 at New City, Rock (MI); Peak of ten birds in Dutch on Sept 21. **Myrtle Warbler:** A fair movement late in the season through Putn (ML). **Blackpoll Warbler:** 75 (peak) on Sept 21 in Dutch. **Rock** tied its earliest date of Sept 6 with three birds on Haverstraw marsh (MI). Oran had a very late bird on Nov 9 at Cornwall (M, JD). **Palm Warbler:** New early date for Rock of Sept 18 at Grassy Pt. (MI). **Northern Waterthrush:** An early bird on Sept 6 in Rock (MI). **Connecticut Warbler:** Rare but constant fall migrant; at least four birds in West, three in Rock and one in Oran. **Mourning Warbler:** Very rare in fall. Three birds reported: one very early in West Aug 19 at Hawthorne (BA), one Sept 11 at Haverstraw (MI) and another Sept 29 at Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). **Canada Warbler:** One late bird on Oct 2 at Cornwall (MD).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: **Bobolink:** Twenty-six reports for Sept in Dutch. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** One unconfirmed report of a bird of this unmistakable description seen by a student at St. Joseph's Normal Institute at Barrytown, Dutch on Sept 11 and 12; and reported by Brother Robert Damian to WBC. **Baltimore Oriole:** A very late bird on Nov 25 at Hawthorne (BA). **Rusty Blackbird:** Many reports; First Sept 23 in West, and Sept 24 in Oran. **Common Grackle:** Moved through in the usual large numbers. **Cardinal:** A male and female were feeding two young in Cornwall on the very late date of Oct 30 (MD). **Indigo Bunting:** Last date of Oct 8 at Pleasant Valley (FG). **Dickcissel:** Six birds in Dutch, and one in Ulst. **Evening Grosbeak:** Reported from every county; flocks are generally small; arrived Oct 8 in

West, and shortly thereafter throughout the rest of the region. Purple Finch: Low in numbers compared with last spring. House Finch: This is another species for the northern counties to be on the alert for. Four were at the feeder of Dr. MH in Upper Nyack on Nov 16, and the population in West has increased several times over last year. Pine Grosbeak: Only reports from West; first arrived on Nov 12 at Pleasantville (TH); a flock of 30 at South Salem Nov 25 (AW). Pine Siskin: Many, many reports; some flocks of very great size; first reported Oct 19 in Dutch. Goldfinch: Many everywhere. Red Crossbill: Several small flocks in Rock, West and Oran. White-winged Crossbill: reported from most areas; some flocks of considerable size. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Sept 18 at Hawthorne (BA) and one at Highland Mills on Oct 5 (MBC). Lark Sparrow: one at Basher Kill on Oct 14 (BP). Slate-colored Junco: arrived early in most areas, Sept 7 in Oran and mid-Sept elsewhere. Pink-sided Junco: Oct 5 at Upper Nyack (Dr. MH). Tree Sparrow: Rock had by far the earliest date of Oct 5 when two were observed at Grassy Pt. (Dr. MH). Numbers were high as usual by the end of the period. Chipping Sparrow: Late date of Nov 26 in Pleasantville, West (MH). White-crowned Sparrow: another unusually good year; many reports; birds arrived early in Oct and were pretty well through by the 21st. White-throated Sparrow: new early date for Rock of Sept 14 (MI). Fox Sparrow: arrived early and in good numbers, and were reported as staying late in Putn (ML). Lincoln's Sparrow: Three in West on Oct 5; six Dutch; one Ulst. In all a good season for this species. Snow Bunting: first arrived at Mohonk, Ulst on Nov 7; in Sull Nov 15, and in Rock, Nov 23.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST and GUY A. TUDOR

Two words describe the weather for Aug and Sep — cold and dry. It was the coldest Sep in 75 years. In contrast Oct was warmer than usual although the drought continued. The drought was so severe that the state's woodlands were closed from Oct 12 until early Nov. The mild and dry weather continued during Nov (there being no cold periods during the month and temperatures remaining above freezing throughout), except that several heavy rainfalls, at the beginning and end of the month, resulted in above average precipitation (over eight inches).

Observers throughout the region were unanimous about the passerine migration during Aug and Sep; "poor", "something of a disappointment", "less birds than last year", etc. During the period Aug 27 to Oct 31, Terry, banding at Tiana Beach, netted only 1953 birds (in 1708 net hours) as compared with 2883 last year (in 1515 net hours). Raynor reports that there were "few nights with winds suitable for bringing migrants to eastern Long Island". His sentiments were echoed again and again by observers in that part of our region. In the western part of the region, Post reports hearing large numbers of migrants practically every night throughout the period (and well into Dec) in northern Manhattan, suggesting that weather conditions here were not suitable for grounding migrants. On western L. I., the biggest flights from Aug to Oct occurred on Aug 25 and on Oct 1 and 5, with the passage of cold fronts, supplying high counts for several species. On Oct 1, 93 species of landbirds (22 warblers, 12 sparrows) were identified along the coastal strip.

With Nov the situation changed completely. If this month is any indication of what is in store, observers should be prepared for one of the most ornithologically noteworthy winters in many years. The highlight of the period was the crossbill (both species) invasion which may well be one of the most spectacular Nov migrations within historic times. Many species appeared in extraordinary numbers — Snow Goose, Water Pipit, Dickcissel