

reports "good numbers" at Tupper L; last three, Nov 21 (JD). Baltimore Oriole: one Saranac L Aug 31 (GM); one Tupper L Sept 3 (JD). Rusty Blackbird: last seen Oct 19, Ray Brook (JK); one Nov 15, Tupper L (JD). Common Grackle: 50 Sept 30, Saranac L (HD); no other large flocks reported. Brown-headed Cowbird: 100 on Oct 21, Tupper L (JD); did not arrive in large numbers at Saranac L until Dec 1 (HD). Scarlet Tanager: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); two Sept 7, Tupper L (AA); one Sept 30, (late) Ray Brook (JK). Cardinal: one at feeder Nov 20, Tupper L (JD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last, Saranac L Sept 2 (GM); Ray Brook Sept 8 (JK); Tupper L Sept 14 (JD). Indigo Bunting: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Evening Grosbeak: 30 Nov 27, Saranac L (HD); 175 Nov 26, Tupper L (JD). Purple Finch: six Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one singing off and on Sept 2-27, Ray Brook (JK). Pine Grosbeak: two Nov 20, Ray Brook, ten Nov 22 (JK). Pine Siskin: 25 Oct 11, Ray Brook (JK); very small numbers from other areas. American Goldfinch: ten Nov 26, Saranac L (HD); flocks after Nov 4, Ray Brook (JK). Red Crossbill: one at Lower Saranac L Aug 18 (GM). White-winged Crossbill: one Aug 18, Lower Saranac L, Aug 23-Sept 2, Madawaska (GM); 75 Oct 19, Chubb River (HD). Rufous-sided Towhee: four in area which had been burnt over some time ago, two miles south of Underwood (GM). Savannah Sparrow: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Vesper Sparrow: one Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); one Oct 26, Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: not many reported from any area: 20 Oct 19, Tupper L max (HD). Tree Sparrow, drifting back from the middle of Oct; no large numbers reported. Chipping Sparrow: Saranac L thru Oct 4 (HD); Tupper L Oct 11 (JD); Ray Brook Oct 23 (JK). Field Sparrow: one Aug 26, Saranac L (GM); many Aug 15-30, Tupper L (AA). White-crowned Sparrow: first Sept 27, Ray Brook (JK); Oct 14 & 15 numbers, one Saranac L Nov 24 (late) (HD); migration Sept 28, Tupper L (AA). White-throated Sparrow: no large numbers reported; eight Aug 26, Saranac L (HD); one Nov 22, Tupper L (AA). Fox Sparrow: Keji hit the jack pot with 25+ at Ray Brook Oct 30; last, Nov 24, Saranac L (HD). Swamp Sparrow: two Aug 28, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Song Sparrow: reported from all areas through late Oct; last, Nov 17, Saranac L (HD).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This autumn was a season of contrasts. Two unusually cold months, August and September, were followed by two unseasonably warm ones. Because of this, the growing season at Albany, and in most parts of the region, was the shortest on record — 113 days compared with the average 169. August was unusually cool, with an average temperature (at Albany) of 66.4°, 3.6° cooler than normal. September followed this pattern, with an average temperature of 56.8°, 4.8° less than normal. October was almost as warm, with an average temperature of 55.5°, 4.7° above normal. Precipitation was less than average in August and September, and in October totalled only 0.20 inches, producing severe drought conditions. November, in contrast, was rainy, with a total precipitation of 4.15 inches, 1.45 in. above normal. It was also a warm month, with an average temperature of 44.4°, 5.3° above normal.

The dry shores and mudflats of the lakes and reservoirs caused the prolonged lack of adequate precipitation attracted a considerable number of transient shorebirds in numbers even surpassing those of last summer and fall. The warbler migration was not spectacular, although most observers regarded it as near average. A number of transients, perhaps because of continued mild weather into the latter part of the season, lingered later than usually reported. Prominent among these were Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-and Black-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh-Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks

in early fall were followed by reports of most other species of our winter finches. These may indicate a considerably larger movement of finches into the region this winter than occurred last year.

Perhaps the most unusual record during this period for the region was that of the Northern Phalarope at Saratoga Lake on the unlikely date of November 17. Other unusual species reported included Double-crested Cormorant, Brant, Blue Goose, Shoveller, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Black Rail, Stilt Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Migrant Snrike, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; br — breasted; com — common; cr — crested; L — Lake; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; k — River; Sar — Saratoga; SCR — Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG — Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WRes — Watervleit Reservoir; Res — reservoir; Colu — Columbia; Co — County.

Observers: Guy Bartlett — GB; Dirck Benson — DB; James & Barbara Bush — JHB, BB; Philip Clark — PC; Juanita Cook — JC; Hazel Eddy — HE; Paul & Georgia Erlenbach — PE, GE; Mabel French — MWF; John Fuller — JF; Aden Gokay — AG; Vernon Haskins — VH; Esly Hallenbeck — EH; Ralph Kent — RK; Marcia Kent — MK; Eleanor Radke — ER; EMK — Dr. Edgar Reilly, Jr.; ERus — E. Kusack; WBS — Walton Sabin; Benton Seguin — BRS; Rudolph Stone — RS; Robert Wernick — RW; Peter Wickham — PPW; Robert Yunick — RY.

Loons — Ducks: Com Loon: first Oct 13, Sar L (PPW), remained in numbers through rest of period, max 10 Sar L Nov 10 (BRS). Red-thr Loon: several reports suggest this species to be a more regular late fall migrant in this area than previously thought: first Nov 9-10, Round L (EH, BRS); other reports Nov 16, 19, 25, 28, Sar L (EH, BRS), max three Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Red-necked Grebe: reported twice, one Sar L Nov 2 (EH, GB) and three Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Horned Grebe: first Oct 13, Lock 6, Mohawk R (BRS) and Sar L (PPW), remaining throughout period, max 70 Sar L Nov 16 (PC, BRS). Pied-billed Grebe: several fall records, first Sept 21, two, WRes (BRS), max 20 Sar L Oct 27 (BRS) (also last report). **Double-cr Cormorant:** a group of five was circling Sar L on the late date of Nov 5 (GB, BRS). Great Blue Heron: Common early, max 18 Sept 7, VFG (EH), last Nov 6, VFG (EH). Com Egret: early departure, last Aug 26, VEG (EH). Green Heron: widespread through Sept, max 10 Sept 4-7, VFG (EH), last Oct 20, WRes (RY, RS). Black-crowned Night-heron: lingered to Oct 4, VFG (BRS). Amer Bittern: unreported after Aug 26 (EH). Canada Goose: first flocks reported Sept 21, Ghent (PE, GE) and Sept 30, Vly (JHB); large numbers observed later in the period. **Brant:** five Sar L Oct 19 (BRS) and 28 were there Nov 10 (BRS). Snow Goose: an early flock of 60 flew over Nisk Oct 17 (HE), followed by a well-observed flight in mid-Nov, when 275 were observed in four flocks flying over Sar L Nov 17 (SBC); 60 over East Greenbush Nov 18 (MK); ten over Sar L Nov 28 (BRS). **Blue Goose:** four were observed in a flock of Snow Geese over Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Gadwall: several reports — two, Nov 2, Alcove Res (SBC); two Nov 5-9, SCR (BRS et al); one Nov 17, Round L (SBC). American Widgeon: Sept 21, VFG (EH, PC); Nov 10, SCR (BRS). Pintail: Sept 30, Vly (JHB); Oct 29, SCR (EH). Green-winged Teal: seen throughout period to Nov 24 (BRS). Blue-winged Teal: lingered late, last Nov 10, SCR (BRS). **Shoveller:** two SCR Nov 5-6 (GB, BRS). Wood Duck: lingered late, last Nov 2 Sar (BRS) and Emboght (JHB). Redhead: five at Sar L Oct 26 (BRS) the lone record. Ring-necked Duck: after early report of two, Oct 4, SCR (BRS), good numbers appeared on Sar L in Nov, max 35 Nov 24 (GB, BRS). Canvasback: one SCR, Oct 5 (SBC), with later reports of six, Round L, Nov 23 (PPW) and one, Sar L, Nov 28 and 30 (BRS). Greater Scaup: one early, SCR, Oct 5 (SBC); many more towards end of period. Lesser Scaup: 1-2 early, Sept 21, SCR, (EH, BRS) through end of period. Goldeneye: first Oct 26, Sar L (BRS), through end of period, max over 500 Nov 28 at Sar L (BRS). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** one drake at Sar L Nov 28 exhibiting mating behavior with a female goldeneye (BRS).

Bufflehead: Nov 2, Sar L (BRS) to end of period, max 40 Sar L Nov 24 (GB, BRS). Oldsquaw: Nov 2, Sar L (BRS) through end of period, max 16 Nov 16 at Sar L (BRS, GB, EH). White-winged Scoter: Nov 9, Sar L (BRS) through end of period, max 36, Sar L, Nov 17 (SBC). Surf Scoter: four female or immature birds at Lock 7 Oct 6 (BRS et al) and one at Sar L Oct 26 (BRS). Com Scoter: a flock of 85 was in Hudson R off Albany Oct 4 (PPW) and a flock of 24 at Lock 6 in the Mohawk R Oct 9 (BRS). Two large flocks totalling about 200 birds passed over Sar L Nov 17, but only one was observed on the lake (SBC). Ruddy Duck: numerous reports from Oct 19 (BRS) to end of period from Sar L; Hudson R (nr Cocksackie); Greenville; Vly and Round L; max 16 Sar L Nov 28 (BRS). Hooded Merganser: three Old Chatham Sept 19 (EMR); later reports from Oct 5 (SBC) through end of period, max 20 Sar L Nov 20 (BRS). Com Merganser: first two, Oct 5, SCR (SBC), most migrants much later, with marked influx at end of period. Red-br Merganser: first Oct 4, SCR (BRS) through end of period.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: seen in groups of as many as ten in the southern part of the region until Oct 12 (ADBC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported on Sept 7 and 14, VFG (EH), the only reports. Cooper's Hawk: four reports during period. Red-tailed Hawk: a fair migration reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: many records to Nov 14 (BRS). Broad-winged Hawk: no large groups observed, last Oct 5, VFG (BRS). Rough-legged Hawk: several reported during period, first Sept 25, Nisk (RW). **Golden Eagle:** an immature bird, chased by several small passerines, flew over Delmar Nov 4 (DB). Marsh Hawk: several reports concentrated in Sept and early Oct, last Oct 13, SCR (BRS). Osprey: reported occasionally to Oct 12, VFG (EH); an unusually late individual observed at White Birch L near Berne Nov 19 (RK). Peregrine Falcon: lone report, one Nov 2, Burnt Hills (BRS, PC). Pigeon Hawk: Sept 21, VFG (EH) and Oct 5, SCR (SBC). Bob-white: at Meadowdale, Selkirk and Athens during Aug and Sept. Virginia Rail: reported to Sept 19, Vly (JHB, BB). Sora: **only** record of year, one, Meadowdale, Sept 8 (R. Shedd). Black Rail: one observed Sept 19, Vly, and convincingly described (JHB, BB). Com Gallinule: no fall reports. American Coot: first Sept 26, Vly (JHB) and Sept 28, WRes (PPW) through end of period, max 50 Sar L Nov 2 (BRS, EH). Semipalmated Plover: several were present until Oct 19, VFG (EH, BRS), max 7 Sept 21-22 (EH). Black-bellied Plover: Oct 5, SCR (BRS) — Nov 10, Sar L (PPW); at least five were present in four different locations early in Oct. Woodcock: reported to Nov 9, Tamarack (RY) and Nov 11, Kiskatom (JHB). Common Snipe: good numbers reported, last Nov 10 (EH, BRS). Spotted Sandpiper: some individuals lingered late, last Oct 19, Round L (BRS). Solitary Sandpiper: last Oct 8, Emboght, late (JHB). Greater Yellow-legs: lingered into Nov, last Nov 9, Tomhannock (SBC) and Nov 10, SCR (BRS). Lesser Yellow-legs: last quite late, Nov 9, VFG (GB, PC). Pectoral Sandpiper: good numbers reported, max 15 Oct 5, WRes (BRS), last Nov 10, VFG (EH, BRS). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one VFG Oct 4 (BRS). Least Sandpiper: most left in Sept, last Nov 2, Emboght (JHB). Dunlin: Sept 25, VFG (EH, PC) — Oct 29, VFG (EH). **Stilt Sandpiper:** one VFG Sept 29 (BRS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: good numbers observed, to Oct 19, VFG (EH), max 20 WRes Sept 20 (BRS). **Western Sandpiper:** one or two VFG to Sept 18 (EH) and one Round L Oct 13 (BRS). Sanderling: none reported. **Northern Phalarope:** an individual in rather light gray-brown fall plumage was seen at close range on Sar L on the remarkable date of Nov 17 (SBC). For a while, the bird was associated, strangely enough, with a small group of Oldsquaw. Great Black-backed Gull: no reports. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were commonly seen. No terns were reported. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: a few lingered late, last Oct 15, Castleton (JC). Black-billed Cuckoo: reported even later, last Oct 25. Ghent (PE, GE) and Nov 1, Athens (JHB). Barn Owl: one was found dead in Claverack Sept 16 (fide EMR). Long-eared Owl: one Old Chatham Oct 20 (PPW). Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls were reported occasionally.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawk: good numbers seen in migration, especially about Sept 1, last Sept 21, Schenectady (BRS). Chimney Swift: disappeared early, last Sept 4, Colu Co (ADBC). Ruby-thr. Hummingbird: reported to Sept 22, VFG (EH) in fair numbers. Flicker: reported until Oct 27 by several observers, after which time most migrants had presumably departed. Yellow-bell. Sapsucker: most passed through Sept 15-Oct 15, extremes Aug 19, Canaan (AG) and Nov 13, Catskill (Dr. W. Myers). **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** one appeared Oct 9, Catskill (JHB) and another Oct 16 at Schenectady (I. S. Jacobs) in the locality where the species was reported last year. Eastern Kingbird: last Sept 21 (ADBC). Crested Flycatcher: last reported Sept 10, Colu Co (ADBC) and Sept 11, Catskill (JHB, BB). Phoebe: reported to Oct 20, Catskill (JHB). Empidonax, species?: two individuals of this group were at VFG Oct 5 (BRS). Wood Pewee: last Sept 17, Catskill (JHB). Olive-sided Flycatcher: a late migrant reported at WRes Oct 5 (BRS). Tree Swallow: last Sept 25, VFG (EH). Bank Swallow: last Sept 8, Emboght (JHB). Rough-winged Swallow: late date Sept 1, Emboght (JHB, BB). Barn Swallow: last Sept 28, VFG (RW). Cliff Swallow: last Sept 4, Canaan (AG). Purple Martin: unreported during period. **Boreal Chickadee:** one nr Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Tufted Titmouse: noticeable increase throughout area. Red-br Nuthatch: good migration, remaining in a few areas at end of period. House Wren: last Oct 27 (ADBC). Winter Wren: reported Sept 21 (ADBC) — Oct 24 (MWF). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: last reported Nov 2, Emboght (JHB). Mockingbird: Sep and Oct reports at Loudonville (MWF), Scotia (SBC), Castleton (JC) and Colonie (JF). These were apparently wandering individuals. Catbird: irregularly recorded through Oct, last Oct 29, VFG (EH). Brown Thrasher: last specific date Oct 4 (BRS). Wood Thrush: late, last Oct 27, Ghent (PE, GE). Hermit Thrush: few reported, last Oct 27, Meadowdale (RY, RS). Swainson's Thrush: good migration: Sept 9, Loudonville (MWF); Nov 5, Catskill (JHB) with a number of records in late Oct. Bluebird: most observers optimistic about numbers present, last Nov 20, Durham (VH). Golden-cr Kinglet: Sept 15, Black Mountain, where it may breed (WBS, PPW); first migrants Oct 3, Castleton (JC). Ruby-cr Kinglet: Sept 8, Colu Co (ADBC); Nov 6, Catskill (BB). Water Pipit: very common this year, reported from many areas, Sept 21, WRes (BRS); Nov 10, SCR (BRS). **Migrant Shrike:** one was seen on the rather late date of Nov 24 nr Round L (GB, BRS). No other shrikes were reported during the period.

Vireos—Warblers: A fairly good fall migration was reported by most observers, with the bulk of the birds passing through Sept 8-25. Early and late dates for each species are given when available. Yellow-thr Vireo: last Sept 23 (RW). Solitary Vireo: Aug 24 (SBC) — Sept 28 (ER). Red-eyed Vireo: few reports in Sept, last Sept 28 (ADBC). Warbling Vireo: last Sept 6 (ADBC). Black-and-White Warbler: last Sept 16 (MWF). Bluewinged Warbler: last Sept 9 (ADBC). Tennessee: last Oct 3 (ER). Nashville: Aug 24 (SBC)—Sept 15 (PPW, JF). Parula: Sept 12 (PPW)—Oct 1 (B. Waite. Yellow: last Sept 2 (EH). Magnolia: Sept 7 (MWF)—Oct 20 (JHB, BB). Cape May: Sept 17 (HE) — Oct 5 (GCBC). Black-thr Blue: Aug 30 (HE) — Sept 14 (MWF). Myrtle: good numbers, last Nov 10 (PPW). Black-thr Green: many reported, last Oct 4 (MWF) and 5 (PE, GE). Blackburnian: Aug 20 (ER) — Sept 14 (PPW). Chestnut-sided: last Sept 16 (MWF). Bay-breasted: good numbers, Sept 7-16 (MWF). Blackpoll: Sept 6 (MWF) — Oct 20 (JHB, BB). Pine: Sept 14 (PPW) — Sept 20 (BB). Palm: last Oct 5 (SBC). Ovenbird: last Sept 15 (MWF, PPW). Northern Waterthrush: Sept 4 (MWF) — Sept 16 (PE, GE). **Connecticut Warbler:** one female, Loudonville Sept 15 (MWF). Yellow-throat: last Oct 28 (PE, GE). **Yellow-br Chat:** one Catskill Sept 16 (ERus). Wilson's Warbler: three reports, Sept 6 (MWF), Sept 22 (WBS) and Oct 2 (JC). Canada Warbler: Sept 5 (MWF) — Oct 4 (BRS). Redstart: last Sept 16 (RW).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: good flocks in late Aug, early Sept, last Sept 15, Meadowdale (PPW). Redwing: no enormous flocks sighted, last Nov 21, Catskill (JHB). Orchard Oriole: three were at Castleton from

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.

Box 465A, RFD #4, Troy

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 —