

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

For a change, precipitation during this period was slightly above normal. Aug temperatures average 69.4° , 0.6° less than normal (at Albany), with a brisk cold wave Aug 29–31, when a marked wave of small landbirds was noted. Precipitation at Albany totalled 4.32 in., 1.25 in. above normal. Sep temperatures were somewhat mild, averaging 63.6° , 2.0° above normal. Cold fronts Sep 27–28 and Oct 2–7 noticeable “waves” of landbirds and the first flocks of geese. Precipitation in Sep totalled 3.76 in., 0.18 in. above normal. Temperatures in Oct averaged 51.2° , 0.4° above normal, and precipitation totalled 2.37 in., 0.40 in. below normal. Notable “waves” and cold fronts on Oct 16–18, Oct 24–25 and Oct 28–30 coincided rather fortuitously with weekends.

Hérons of all species were low in numbers. Other marsh birds such as rails and gallinules were virtually absent. Hawks and owls also continued low in numbers. The shorebird flight offered interesting variety, although numbers were low. Swifts and swallows lingered quite late, perhaps due to an abundance of insect food through Sep. Both species of kinglets seemed rather common, although most observers considered numbers of migrant vireos and warblers very low. Perhaps the highlight of the period was the appearance of all the “usual” winter finches in fairly impressive numbers. The writer is especially indebted to RPY and WBS for the operation of a banding station at VFG. The data thus accumulated is helping to clarify fall migratory patterns of several species, particularly Least and Traill’s Flycatchers and Lincoln’s Sparrow.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included Whistling Swan, European Widgeon, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Golden Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper (very late), Northern Phalarope, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Carolina Wren and Western Tanager.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; AR—Alcove Reservoir; BM—Black Mountain; CL—Collins Lake; EG—East Greenbush; GR—Galway Reservoir; JL—Jenny Lake; MR—Mohawk River; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: GB—Guy Bartlett; HB—Hortense Barten; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; LB, VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MG, AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; WG—William Gorman; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; JP, EP—John and Eloise Payne; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; RS, MLS—Robert and Mary Lou Shedd; DS—David Stoner; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; PPW—Peter Wickham; JCY—John Yrizarry; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: SL Sep 19 (early) (BRS); in usual areas thru Nov, max 12 SL Oct 16 (BRS). Red-throated Loon: one Nov 13 SL (SBC); two Nov 14 TR (GB, BRS); one Nov 20 SL (PPW)—only reports. Red-necked Grebe: one-two at RL and SL Oct 31 (EH)—Nov 14 (SBC). Horned Grebe: first SL Sep 4 (BRS), thru Nov, max 78 SL Nov 13 (BRS, GB). Pied-billed Grebe: many reports, last RL Nov 20 (PPW). Great Blue Heron: widely reported, but fewer numbers than usual, Aug–Oct; last Nov 23, Catskill (JHB). Common Egret: very scarce, only one—near Medusa Aug 17 (JHB, BB). Green Heron: rather low numbers, last Sep 29, VFG (EH). No night-herons. Amer. Bittern: only *one* report—one near Clifton Park remained to Sep 25 (DJT). WHISTLING SWAN: one

above Lock 6 on MR near Cohoes Nov 13 and one (very likely same bird) at TR Nov 14 (GB, BRS). Canada Goose: first migrant flocks Sep 25, JL (GB) and Sep 29-30 widely, fewer flocks and smaller numbers reported than in other recent years; last Nov 21, AR (SBC). Brant: flock of 16 at SL Oct 23, 6 remained on Oct 24 (mob); one at SL Nov 19-28 (mob). Snow Goose: three reports—five near Catskill Oct 12 (*vide* JHB); 100 SL Oct 23 (BRS); one SL Nov 25 (BRS).

Mallard and Black Ducks recorded in large numbers. Gadwall: a female at SL Oct 24 (EH, HE); one male at SL Nov 20 (PPW); and five at SCR Nov 21 (Gus Angst). Amer. Widgeon: Sep 25, SCR (BRS)—Nov 20, SL (GB, BRS). EUROPEAN WIDGEON: a male in full plumage at SCR Oct 9 feeding with several Amer. Widgeon, many of which were still in partial eclipse (BRS). Pintail: Sep 4, SCR (BRS)—Nov 14, SL (SBC). Green-winged Teal: Sep 4, SCR (BRS)—Nov 21, AR (SBC). Blue-winged Teal: at least 1000 appeared at SCR Sep 24, but stayed only that day (Dirck Benson); last Oct 31, CL (EH). Shoveler: up to five at RL Oct 2-16 (BRS et al) and two at AR Oct 17 (BRS). Wood Duck: last Oct 31, CL (EH). Redhead: four reports—one SCR Oct 2 (BRS); six RL Oct 30 (BRS); one SL Nov 1 (DS); six SL Nov 14 (SBC). Scaup: first Sep 29, GR (EH); appeared generally Oct 9-12. Common Goldeneye: first Oct 16, SL (BRS), many by mid-Nov. Bufflehead: first Oct 17, CL (EH), thru end of period. Oldsquaw: first Oct 16, TR (PPW); small group on SL Oct 20 to end of period (mob), max 15 Nov 20 (BRS); three on MR at Niskayuna Nov 1 (DS). White-winged Scoter: only at SL, Oct 9 (BRS) to end of period, max 26 Oct 23 (BRS). Surf Scoter: one SL Oct 9 and eight SL Oct 23 (BRS)—only reports. Common Scoter: flock of 22 repeatedly “buzzed” TR without landing Oct 16 (PPW); also one on L George at Silver Bay Oct 23-24 (JCY), two on RL Oct 9-10, two (not always the same) on SL Oct 16-30 and one SL to Nov 20 (mob). Ruddy Duck: three AR Oct 31 (PPW, WG); two TR Nov 6 (SBC); four MR at Niskayuna Nov 1 (DS); one RL Nov 13-20 (BRS, GB) and one AR Nov 21 (SBC). Hooded Merganser: first Sep 12, JL (GB); reported generally Oct 9-16 to end of period. Common Merganser: first Sep 8, GR (EH); very few until Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: first Oct 16, TR and SL (PPW, BRS) to end of period.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported mainly from Greene, Columbia and western Albany Co, last Oct 2, Schodack Center (LB, VB). BLACK VULTURE: two carefully identified in a group of five vultures near Old Chatham Sep 16 (HB). Goshawk: only one—near VFG Nov 13 (GB, BRS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: only reports—one, Canaan Sep 1, 15, 18 (JP, EP) and one Sep 19, RL (BRS). Cooper's Hawk: only five reports, last Nov 13, RL (SBC). Red-shouldered Hawk: only four reports. Broad-winged Hawk: several reports, last Oct 12, L Taghkanic (LB, VB). Rough-legged Hawk: two Oct reports, first Oct 12 (EH); several Nov records. Bald Eagle: one imm Sep 6 VFG (RS, MLS)—only report. GOLDEN EAGLE: one injured first-year imm picked up near Corinth Nov 14, subsequently died, and is in the N.Y. State Museum Collection (*vide* WBS). Marsh Hawk: at least 13 individuals reported, last Oct 24, Ghent (PE, GE). Osprey: reported from few localities, last Nov 14, SL (late) (SBC). PIGEON HAWK: one adult Sep 19 RL (BRS)—only report. Sparrow Hawk: considered numerous late Aug and Sep by some observers. Rails and gallinules seemed extremely scarce: *only* reports—Virginia Rail, one VFG Aug 28 and one VFG Sep 6 (RPY). Coot: at SL, TR and R from Oct 16 on; max 98 Nov 13 SL (SBC).

Semipalmated Plover: only report, two Sep 29 GR (EH). Killdeer: reported widely thru end of period. GOLDEN PLOVER: one feeding with “dozen or so” Killdeer on a grassy field in EG Sep 8 and 10 (LB, VB), and one feeding with about 25 Killdeer on a grass-covered field, Clifton Pk, Sep 23-24 (DJT). Amer. Woodcock: few records; last Oct 16, Crafton (RPY). Common Snipe: last Oct 23 VFG (RPY). Spotted Sandpiper: last Sep 20 Ghent (PE, GE). Solitary Sandpiper: few records; last Sep 20 Ghent (PE, GE). Greater Yellowlegs: several reports into

Nov, last Nov 14, SL (SBC). Pectoral Sandpiper: Sep 19 RL (BRS); Sep 29 GR (EH); Oct 17 AR (BRS). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: three records, all late—three Oct 17 AR (BRS), two Nov 6 TR (SBC), two Nov 13–14 SL (SBC). Least Sandpiper: last Sep 4, Lock 7 MR (BRS). Dunlin: only reports—one Nov 6 TR (SBC) and two SL Nov 13 (BRS, GB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only four reports, Sep 29–Oct 17. NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one observed at close range at VFG Sep 6 (RS, MLS).

Great Black-backed Gull: only reports—Hudson R near Castleton Oct 16 (JC) and one SL Nov 20 (PPW). Bonaparte's Gull: only reports—two SL Oct 30 (BRS, DJT, PPW) and two SL Nov 13 (GB, BRS). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported into mid-Sep, last Oct 18, Old Chatham (HB) and Oct 20, Ghent (PE, GE). Black-billed Cuckoo: reported to mid-Sep, last Sep 26, BM (PPW) and Oct 18, Ghent (PE, GE). Screech Owl: reported at Scotia (EH), VFG (RPY) and EG (WG). Great Horned Owl: reported in several scattered localities. Snowy Owl: only one, late Oct near Clifton Park (fide WBS). Barred Owl: reported only from JL (GB). SAW-WHET OWL: one picked up stunned in Glenville was fed, banded, photographed and released (RPY, EH et al). Another was found freshly killed at the side of a road in Valley Falls Nov 27 (RS, MLS).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Nighthawk: groups seen, mid-Aug to mid-Sep; max 200 Aug 29 Schenectady (RPY); last Sep 20, Ghent (PE, GE). Chimney Swift: lingered into late Sep; last Oct 3 (late), Schodack Center (LB, VB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: thru Sep; last Oct 5, Chatham Center (MG, AG). Pileated Woodpecker: reported widely. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants Sep 21 Scotia (EH)—Oct 16 TR (PPW). BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: a female near Hague Oct 23 (JCY) and a female near Catskill Nov 6 (JHB). Eastern Kingbird: several reports early Sep; last Sep 12, Canaan (JP, EP). Crested Flycatcher: some migrants noted in late Aug; last Sep 6, Canaan (JP, EP). Phoebe: to mid-Oct; last Oct 16, Ghent (PE, GE). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug 29 EG (PPW), Sep 5 Ghent (PE, GE) and Sep 6 Castleton (JC). Traill's Flycatcher: decided movement Aug 27—Sep 11 at VFG—six banded, max 3 Aug 28 (RPY). Least Flycatcher: also banded thru Sep 11 at VFG (RPY). Wood Pewee: several Sep reports, last Sep 21 (EH, PE, GE). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one seen and heard in Ghent Oct 6, late (PE, GE). Swallows lingered quite late, well into Sep; one "huge flock of mixed swallows" near Castleton on Sep 12 had Tree, Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallows (JC). Late dates: Tree, Oct 2 Corinth (GB); Barn, Oct 10 Corinth (GB). Also notable were more than 100 Cliff Swallows observed flying singly or in small groups on Aug 28 thru Berlin Pass west into a west wind of 15–25 m.p.h. (PPW).

BOREAL CHICKADEE: one at BM Sep 26 (SBC), and one at a Scotia feeder Sep 14–17 (EH et al), both very early. Tufted Titmouse: reported widely, many locations. Red-breasted Nuthatch: heavy migration; first Aug 31, EG (early) (PPW); several thru end of period. Brown Creeper: good migration; first Sep 19, Rensselaer (PPW). House Wren: disappeared gradually thru Sep, last Oct 1, Ghent (GE, PE). Winter Wren: Oct 2, Karner (PPW)—Nov 9, Catskill (JHB). CAROLINA WREN: only report—one at Amsterdam feeder in late Oct and during Nov (Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald). Long-billed Marsh-Wren: last Sep 19, SCR (BRS). Mockingbird: reported from Ghent, Scotia, Elnora, Schodack and EG. Catbird: most left by early Oct; last Nov 5, Catskill (BB). Brown Thrasher: few seen after Aug; last Oct 29 (Mary Mickle).

Wood Thrush: last Oct 7 (ADBC). Hermit Thrush: few reports; last Nov 14, TR (GB, BRS). Swainson's Thrush: only reports, Sep 10–16, (PPW, PE, GE). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only two reports, both from northern areas—one Sep 26, BM (SBC) and one Oct 24, Silver Bay (JCY). Veery: very few reports, last Sep 21 (EH). Bluebird: throughout Region, but nowhere common. Golden-crowned Kinglet: heavy and prolonged migration; first, Sep 26 BM (SBC) and Sep 28 EG (PPW); wide-

spread Oct and Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 18, EG (PPW)—Nov 7 (GB, BRS); heavy migration. Water Pipit: noted mostly at dried-up shores of local ponds and reservoirs; Oct 9 Castleton (JC)—Nov 6 TR (SBC). Cedar Waxwing: very common Aug and Sep, numbers gradually decreasing in rest of period. BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one carefully identified as it perched on the roof of a building at Catskill Game Farm Nov 22 (Richard Ryan). Northern Shrike: Nov 13, VFG (GB, BRS) and Nov 17, Catskill (Catherine Thorne).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: last Sep 29, GR (EH). Solitary Vireo: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW)—Oct 2 Karner (PPW). Red-eyed Vireo: reported into Oct, last Oct 10 (late), VFG (RPY). Warbling Vireo: last Sep 6, Castleton (JC).

Warblers—Black-and-white: last Sep 29, Athens (Martha Bush). Tennessee: one banded Sep 11, VFG (RPY) and one banded Oct 10 (late), VFG (RPY) only reports. Nashville: many reports, Sep 1–28. Parula: Sep 1, Castleton (JC)—Sep 28, Ghent (PE, GE). Yellow: several reports early Sep, last Sep 15 (ADBC). Magnolia: many migrants, Aug 31 EG (PPW)—Oct 3 (PPW, JP, EP). Myrtle: main movement thru Oct; last Nov 6, TR (SBC). Black-throated Green: reports thru Sep; last Oct 9, Gallupville (GMZ). Blackburnian: Aug 23 GR (EH)—Sep 26 BM (SBC). Chestnut-sided: to Sep 28 (ADBC). Bay-breasted: marked wave, Sep 14–28 (ADBC, SBC). Blackpoll: Sep 1 Ghent (PE, GE)—Oct 17 Ghent (PE, GE). Pine: Old Chatham Sep 3–6 (HB), Castleton Sep 11 (JC), only reports. Prairie: last Sep 12, Ghent (PE, GE). Palm: Sep 8 Old Chatham (HB)—Oct 23 Ghent (PE, GE). Ovenbird: last Sep 6, Canaan (JP, EP). Northern Water-thrush: only report—one Oct 20 Ghent (PE, GE). Yellow-throat: last Oct 21, EG (Noel Albertson). Wilson's: at least five reports, four in early Sep; Sep 3 EG (PPW)—Oct 9 VFG (banded) (RPY). Canada: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW)—Sep 6 Castleton (JC). Redstart: several reports, Sep 3–28.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: several flocks late Aug, last Sep 3, Castleton (JC). Red-winged Blackbird: large concentrations migrated during Oct, max 100,000 estimated near Catskill Oct 12 (JHB). Orchard Oriole: at Castleton nesting area to Sep 6 (JC). Baltimore Oriole: most left in early Sep; last Sep 8, Castleton (JC); one Oct 9, near VFG (BRS), very late. Rusty Blackbird: Sep 28, EG (PPW)—Nov 13, SL (GB, BRS). Common Grackle: large flocks, late Aug—Oct, max 75,000 and 45,000 estimated Oct 13 and 14 near Catskill (JHB). WESTERN TANAGER: an imm male at Silver Bay Oct 23 ("not unlike an imm female Scarlet [Tanager] [but] . . . bright yellow on the breast and under-tail coverts . . . middle coverts of the wing a bright yellow, the secondary coverts margined with white, thus two pronounced wing-bars, the yellow more so than the white"—JCY)—second 1965 record in Region. Scarlet Tanager: last Sep 28, Ghent (PE, GE). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: many in Sep, last Sep 28, Ghent (PE, GE). Indigo Bunting: last Sep 19, EG, (PPW) and Sep 20, Castleton (JC). Evening Grosbeak: became uncommon at JL (nesting area) after Sep 16 (GB); first migrants Sep 29, Schodack Center (LB, VB), widely Oct 3–10. Purple Finch: after Oct, quite scarce in most areas. Pine Grosbeak: first Nov 7 at EG (PPW) and Greenville (Clarissa Ketcham), widespread by end of period. Redpoll: first Nov 13, Old Chatham (PPW), flocks of up to 50 later in Nov. Pine Siskin: first Oct 11, VFG (Marjorie Foote, M. McGuirk), widely later in Oct and Nov. Red Crossbill: one report—12 Nov 6 TR (SBC). White-winged Crossbill: lone report—five Nov 20 Lisha Kill (DS). Rufous-sided Towhee: last Oct 21 (ADBC).

Sparrows: Savannah: few reported, last Oct 24, Silver Bay (JCY). Vesper: last Oct 27, Chatham Center (MC, AG). Slate-colored Junco: first migrant Sep 6 (early), VFG (RPY); large influx in early Oct. Tree: general influx Oct 24–30, large groups noted. Chipping: lingered to late Oct, last Nov 1, Catskill (JHB). Field: few reports, last Oct 26, Loudonville (Mabel French). White-crowned: good migration, Sep 15 Old Chatham (HB)—Nov 20 Lock 7 (GB, BRS). White-throated:

first Sep 6, VFG (RPY) and Canaan (JP, EP), widely by Sep 20, some thru period. Fox: first Oct 2 (BRS), major influx Oct 23-30, last Nov 12, RL (HE). LINCOLN'S: Sep 4 VFG (BRS)—Oct 10 VFG (RPY); at least 19 reported in this period, with seven banded at VFG in early Oct (RPY). Swamp: Oct 31, VFG (RPY) Lapland Longspur: at least three with Snow Buntings at AR Oct 31 (PPW, WG). Snow Bunting: first—one Oct 21, North L (JHB, BB), several flocks Oct 30-31 and into mid-Nov.

12 Columbia Drive, East Green bush, N.Y. 12061

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were moderate throughout the entire season without any extremes recorded. The drought of the past several years was somewhat alleviated by a few day-long rains which raised reservoirs about a third above their lows of last year. The even lowering of temperatures as the season progressed produced a rather unspectacular migration for most species. Only a few weak waves of warblers were reported and those only from Dutchess Co. Ducks were in good numbers, and jays and blackbirds in enormous flocks. Northern visitors began arriving early and at the close of the season were well represented.

Abbreviations: MBC—Mearns Bird Club; RAS—Rockland Audubon Soc.; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; Dutch—Dutchess Co.; Oran—Orange Co.; Rock—Rockland Co.; Ulst—Ulster Co.; West—Westchester Co.; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point; FHW—Fyke Nature Assoc. Annual Hawk Watch at Mt. Peter, Orange Co. daily from Sep 4—Sep 26 and from Oct 2—Oct 17.

Contributors: EA—Ethel Abrams; BA—Bob Augustine; MB—Martin Borko; GD—George Decker; R & LD—Robert and Louise Deed; MD—Margaret Dye; JD—John Dye; ME—Martha Earl; EG—Edwin Gamble; PG—Pat Garthwaite; FG—Florence Germond; TG—Tom Gilbert; DG—Dick Guthrie; PH—Paul Haight; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones JK—Jim Key; MK—Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; AM—Al Merritt; BM—Barbara Merritt; Dr HM—Dr Heinz Meng; KN—Ken Niven; JO—Jack Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; RP—Dr. Robert Pyle; F & RS—Frank and Ruth Steffens; ET—Edward Treacy; SU—Sarah Uhelyi; MVW—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman; HW—Hans Weber.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: only two reported, Roundout Res., Oct 30 (MB et al). RED-NECKED GREBE: always rare; one very early, Oct 27, Long Pond, USMA, West Pt (MD, BM). Horned Grebe: more reports than usual, scattered dates and numbers, only one large flock, on Ashokan Res. Nov 19 (HW et al). Double-crested Cormorant: rarely reported before; as many as six from Aug 18-29 in the Hudson off Cornwall; one, Vanderberg Cove, Dutch Aug 28, far up river for this species. Great Blue Heron: numbers still low throughout Region. Green Heron: normal to slightly less. Little Blue Heron: only report—three white imm at Brown's Pond, Newburgh Aug 22 (M & JD). Common Egret: only two reports, both from Brown's Pond, Newburgh (possibly the same bird) Aug 22 and Sep 5 (M & JD). American Bittern: two Oct 9, Crugars Is; one at Chester Nov 7. Canada Goose: migration as heavy as it can be, described as excellent by most reporters; extended throughout period with earliest flight on Aug 19 (MD); Largest flock 1,000 plus Nov 10 at West Pt. Snow Goose: 23 Blooming Grove, Oran on Oct 23 (B & AM); 18 Clove Valley, Dutch Nov 9 (HM, GD). Mallard & Black Duck: residents bred in