

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

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August was a dry month, with precipitation (at Albany) totaling 1.44 inches, 1.63 in. below normal. Temperatures averaged 69.2°, 0.8° below normal. Both Sep and Oct were chilly, temperatures averaging 58.0° and 48.5°, 3.6° and 2.3° cooler than the average over the years at Albany. Precipitation totaled 5.61 in. in Sep, 2.03 in. above normal, and 2.22 in. in Oct, 0.55 in. below normal. Nov, in contrast, was considerably warmer than usual, with a mean temperature of 42.3°, 3.2° above normal. Precipitation in Nov totaled 1.79 in., 0.91 in. below normal. Particularly cool periods included Sep 24–27 and Oct 30–31, when temperatures were about 10° colder than usual. During Nov 25–29, a warm spell was experienced when temperatures averaged about 10° above normal.

Plovers and sandpipers provided the most exciting moments of the season. It is becoming apparent that, if favorable conditions develop in the Region for shorebirds, they will appear in good numbers and variety. Such was the case this year, most notably in late Aug and early Sep at Old Pond, Chatham and in Sep and Oct at Watervliet Reservoir, which apparently was deliberately maintained at a very low level. All told, 22 species were recorded, 18 of which were seen at least once at Watervliet Reservoir. The most unusual ones included Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper and Northern Phalarope.

The waterfowl migration this fall was on the whole rather disappointing. Highlighting the season was a heavy movement of Canada Geese through the Region in mid-Oct, with several observers commenting that they had never seen as many geese in this area before. On the other hand, many ducks seemed much less common than usual. Swans were reported from two different bodies of water on only one day—November 11—indicating a possibly widespread movement that day.

Raptors, in general, continued at extremely low levels. Many—perhaps most—observers in the area did not see an accipiter for the entire season in Region 8. Only one observer reported any Red-shouldered Hawks and only two reported Marsh Hawks. Admittedly, no hawk migration routes along ridges through our area were deliberately studied, but the main questions might be: (a) how does this compare with previous years? and (b) what has happened to our *native* hawks? The most likely answers seem extremely discouraging. Most owls were not very common either.

The small landbird migration seemed disappointing to most observers, with very few reporting more than a handful of warblers. One observer unwittingly summarized a widespread reaction by remarking on his September report, “not much activity... migration not yet started”(!) Winter finches were in extremely short supply to round out a rather dismal landbird picture.

Two most unusual features of the season deserve comment; (1) the occurrence of a number of unexpected landbird species in mid- to late October, including Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Water-thrush and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and (2) the appearance of *four* species of heron in November—Cattle Egret, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-heron and American Bittern—the last three seen in different places on the same day (November 24).

Other unusual or rare species reported included Gadwall, Saw-whet Owl, Philadelphia Vireo, Orchard Oriole and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: AR—Alcove Reservoir; BR—Basic Reservoir; EG—East Greenbush; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: SBC—Schenectady Bird Club record; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; PC—Paul Connor; JC—Juanita Cook; MWF—Mabel French WG—William Gorman; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington Havens; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SM—Samuel Madison; PM—Peggy McGuirk; MDM—Mary Mickle; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Sep 18 SL (BRS) to end of period, max 11 Nov 12 SL (SBC). Red-throated Loon: eight individuals Nov 5–27, at SL (seven) and Ballston L (one), only one or two per day. Red-necked Grebe: only one—Nov 5 AR (WBS, SM, PM). Horned Grebe: Oct 2 SL (BRS) to end of period, max 77 Nov 26 at SL and TR (PPW, PC). Pied-billed Grebe: reported sparingly throughout period, max seven Oct 8 SCR (PPW, WG). Great Blue Heron: slight increase over last year, last Nov 24 AR (CK). Common Egret: one in the SCR-VFG area Aug 14–Sep 10 (mob). CATTLE EGRET: one at Coxsackie Nov 5 (Martha Bush) was most unusual. Green Heron: rather uncommon, last Sep 25, WR (mob). Black-crowned Night Heron: slightly more common than in 1965, Aug 20–Sep 23 VFG, max eight (SBC); one Nov 24 AR (CK), very late. Am. Bittern: a few in Aug and Sep; one Nov 24 Keseberg Farm, Dunnsville Rd (BH), late. Least Bittern: at VFG only, last Sep 3 (banded) (RPY). WHISTLING SWAN: on Nov 11 a flock of 13 on Ballston L (John Urbaetis), and two on TR (Whitehead, Riordan and Moomaw, *vide* Rudolph H. Stone), the only reports. No Mute Swans reported. Canada Goose: an excellent flight year, some residents seeing more than ever before, Sep 24–Nov 2, max 500 Oct 16 Catskill (JHB) and 3055 in many flocks Oct 18 Berne (MK). No Brant reported. Snow Goose: only record, one immature Nov 26 TR (PC, PPW).

Good numbers of Mallards and Black Ducks seen. GADWALL: two Nov 6 AR (SBC) the only report. Am. Widgeon: Oct 8 SCR (PPW, WG) to Nov 26 TR (PPW, PC), no large groups. Pintail: Sep 25 WR (WBS et al.) to Nov 19 SCR (HFB), few seen. Green-winged Teal: reported throughout period in small numbers. Blue-winged Teal: reported to mid-Oct, last Oct 16 (BRS, HFB). Wood Duck: last Oct 16 SCR (BRS). Redhead: single birds Nov 8 SL (BRS, BH) and Nov 20 SCR (bsh), and eight Nov 13 RL (SBC)—the only reports. Ring-necked Duck: only records—one Oct 16 SCR (HFB), four Nov 6 AR (SBC), and three SL Nov 26 (bsh, PPW, PC)—very few. Canvasback: more than usual, Nov 5 AR (WBS, SM, PM) to end of period, max 75 Nov 13 SL (SBC) and 40 Nov 26 SL (bsh). Scaup: two Greater Scaup at WR Sep 25 (WBS et al.) seemed early; both species noted through Oct to end of period. Common Goldeneye: Nov 5 to end of period, late in arrival. Bufflehead: Oct 16 SCR (HFB) to end of period, max 30 Nov 13 and Nov 26 SL (SBC). Oldsquaw: two RL Oct 23 (PPW, HFB), five at AR Nov 5 (WBS, SM, PM) and two to ten at SL Nov 5 through end of period (mob). White-winged Scoter: one Oct 16 SL (BRS), only Oct record; one at TR Nov 11 and at SL Nov 12 through end of period, max 40 Nov 12 (SBC). No Surf Scoters reported. Common Scoter: eight at Lock 6, Mohawk R, Nov 2 (HFB), two Nov 11 TR (Whitehead, Riordan and Moomaw) and one Nov 19 TR (shot) (SBC) the only reports. Ruddy Duck: Oct 18 SCR (HFB) to Nov 26 SCR (PC, PPW), max eight Oct 18. Hooded Merganser: Sep 26 Greenville (CK) to end of period; low in numbers, max seven Nov 20 SCR (HFB, PM). Common Merganser: first Nov 5 AR (SM, PM, WBS), increasing throughout rest of period. Red-breasted Merganser: very scarce, only reports—two Nov 19 and six Nov 26, SL (bsh).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: confined to southern sections, max 15 Sep 5 Kiskatom (Lane), last Oct 6 Catskill (JHB). Goshawk: lone report—adult observed perched on stump and in flight near Summit Nov 13 (Carl Parker). Sharp-shinned Hawk: only report—one Oct 9, near East Nassau (PC). Cooper's Hawk: only three

reports during period. Red-tailed Hawk: regularly reported in small numbers through period. Red-shouldered Hawk: *only* reports Oct 2 SCR and Oct 8 WR (BRS). Broad-winged Hawk: few reports, last Sep 24 Columbia Co (SBC). Rough-legged Hawk: Nov 8 Meadowdale (BRS, BH) to end of period, several reports. No eagles seen. Marsh Hawk: reported in Aug at Ghent (Paul and Georgia Erlenbach) and Oct 15 at Greenville (CK). Osprey: Sep 3 BR (PPW) to Oct 15 Greenville (CK). Sparrow Hawk: reported in every area throughout period, but generally rather uncommon. Ruffed Grouse, Bob-white and Ring-necked Pheasant all seemed somewhat low in comparison with previous years. Virginia Rail: only report Sep 24 VFG (RPY). Sora: one observed in late Aug to Sep 1 at Old Pond (MDM, JC, PPW) the only report. Common Gallinule: at VFG, SCR and WR during Aug and Sep, last Oct 9 VFG (HFB). Coot: early reports Sep 4 (CK) and Sep 18, SL (BRS); other reports Oct 16 to end of period, max 200 AR Nov 5 (WBS, SM, PM) and 110 SL Nov 13 (SBC).

Semipalmated Plover: Aug 28 (EH) to Sep 26 (CK) at Old Pond, BR and WR, max six Sep 18 WR (BRS). Killdeer: abundant at WR and other muddy spots in late Sep, a few remained to end of period. GOLDEN PLOVER: a varying flock of up to 20 birds at WR Sep 20 to Oct 15 (mob). Black-bellied Plover: twelve Sep 18 (BRS), three Oct 5 (HFB) and one Sep 25 and 30 and Oct 8, all at WR. RUDDY TURNSTONE: one Sep 18 on a rocky beach on Galway L (David Harrison, Mrs. B. D. Bedford)- only record this year in Region. Am. Woodcock: observed in Sep and Oct, max twelve Oct 25 Catskill (JHB). Common Snipe: observed in Sep and Oct, last Nov 6 AR (SBC). Upland Plover: last report Aug 14 at nesting area in Niskayuna (RPY). Spotted Sandpiper: last Sep 25 WR (PPW, WBS *et al.*). Solitary Sandpiper: a few in Sep, last Oct 5 (late) WR (HFB). Greater Yellowlegs: reported to Oct 15, WR (BRS), max 35 Sep 25 (PPW, WBS *et al.*). Lesser Yellowlegs: at Old Pond Aug 29-Sep 1 (MDM *et al.*) and at WR Sep 18-Oct 15, max 30 Oct 8 (HFB). PURPLE SANDPIPER: one was sitting on a board above the falls at Lock 7, Mohawk R near Niskayuna on Nov 20 (bsh). This is only the third record for Region 8 in my possession. Pectoral Sandpiper: at WR Sep 18-Oct 15, max 22 Sep 25 (PPW, EBS *et al.*), last Nov 5, AR (WBS, SM, PM). White-rumped Sandpiper: eight in one group at WR Sep 20 (BRS) and three at AR Nov 5 (WBS, SM, PM). Least Sandpiper: only reports Sep 17 Old Pond (PPW, MDG) and Oct 8 WR (BRS). Dunlin: at WR Sep 18-Oct 15, max six Oct 15 (BRS). DOWITCHER: seven at VFG Sep 17 (RPY) and two at WR Sep 20 (BRS), only reports. STILT SANDPIPER: two at WR Sep 30-Oct 8 and one remained through Oct 15 (BRS, PM, HFB *et al.*). Semipalmated Sandpiper: very few reports, only Sep 20-26 Sanderling: one SL Sep 18 (BRS), two WR Sep 20 (BRS) and one BR Sep 26 (CK). NORTHERN PHALAROPE: two swimming and spinning in a muddy shallow arm of SCR Aug 20 (SBC) and one on Old Pond, Chatham Aug 29-30 (JC, MDM).

Great Black-backed Gull: only report- two Nov 26 SL (bsh, PPW, PC). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were seen throughout the period in moderate numbers. Bonaparte's Gull: at SL Oct 16 (two) (BRS) and Nov 5-26, max five Nov 13 (SBC). Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos reported infrequently to mid-Sep, no late reports. Screech Owl: reported from Ghent, Greenville, EG, Cropseyville and VFG during period. Great Horned Owl: few reports, from outlying sections. Snowy Owl: only record- one near Greenville Nov 24 (*fide* CK). SAW-WHET OWL: one banded in Niskayuna Oct 8 and another at VFG Oct 16 (RPY)- no other reports.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Nighthawk: most left in late Aug, max 30 plus Aug 25 Scotia (EH), and 52 Aug 31 Catskill (JHB). Chimney Swift: lingered into early Sep, last Sep 25 at VFG with a group of swallows (RPY). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: heavy migration in late Aug and early Sep, max about 50 at VFG Aug 27 (RPY), last Oct 21 Gallupville, observed at close range while feeding on late-blooming lark-spur (GMZ)- an extremely late record. Belted Kingfisher: sparingly

reported through period. Pileated Woodpecker: surprisingly, no records, late Aug through Oct; several reports, Nov 5—end of period. Red-headed Woodpecker: an imm Oct 31 at Catskill (JHB, BB) the lone report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants noted Sep 24—Oct 4. Eastern Kingbird: bulk of migrants departed in Aug, last Sep 18 (BRS). Crested Flycatcher: reported to Aug 31, no Sep reports. Eastern Phoebe: a few seen into Oct, last Nov 5 AR (WBS, SM, PM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two late Aug and two Sep records, last Sep 24 VFG (banded) (RPY). Traill's Flycatcher: still singing at VFG in late Aug, last Sep 10 VFG (banded) (RPY). Least Flycatcher: last Sep 17 VFG (banded) (RPY). Wood Pewee: only Sep record—one Sep 23 VFG (RPY), last. Tree Swallow: remained later than usual, including five Oct 2 EG (PPW) and two Oct 14 Catskill (BB). Bank Swallow: many migrants through Aug, last Sep 3 BR (PPW). Rough-winged Swallow: disappeared during Jul and Aug, last Aug 23 Ghent (Paul and Georgia Erlenbach). Barn Swallow: reported well into Sep last Sep 18, when "hundreds" were seen in several areas (BRS), and Sep 25 VFG (RPY). Cliff Swallow: few reports, last 25 BR Sep 3 (PPW), including at least two road-kills there.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few reports outside of local areas in which the species is a permanent resident. Winter Wren: Sep 24 Old Chatham (SBC) to Oct 24 Loudonville (MWF), few seen. Long-billed Marsh-wren: reported to Sep 24 at VFG (RPY) and to the end of the period in the Castleton marshes (PC). Mockingbird: reported infrequently from various areas, seems either less common, or less conspicuous than in recent months. Catbird: reported to early Oct, last Oct 9 VFG (RPY). Brown Thrasher: few reports. Wood Thrush: a few reports during Sep, last Oct 16 Berne (MK). Hermit Thrush: Oct 2 VFG (RPY) to Oct 24 Loudonville (MWF), several reports. Swainson's Thrush: banded on Aug 20 (two) and Aug 27 (one)—early (RPY); others Sep 21–29, last Oct 2 VFG (RPY). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only reports Oct 15 Greenville (CK) and Oct 16 VFG (RPY). E. Bluebird: reported widely in small numbers throughout period, max 20 Oct 8 Catskill (JHB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: first Oct 8 Catskill and EG (JHB, PPW), other reports through period. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: virtually no noticeable Sep movement, Sep 26 VFG (RPY) through Oct, a few still present at end of period. Numbers appeared much lower than usual. Water Pipit: Sep 17 Old Pond (PPW, MDG) Nov 20 SCR (bsh), max 40 plus WR Sep 18 (BRS). Cedar Waxwing: larger groups common as usual through Sep and into Oct; more than usual seemed present through end of period. The species of the only shrike observed—Nov 26 near Vischer Ferry—was not determined (bsh).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos—Yellow-throated: last Sep 18 Lock 6 (BRS), few reports. Solitary: no reports. Red-eyed: numerous Sep reports, last Oct 17 and 24 VFG (RPY), somewhat late. PHILADELPHIA: one Sep 24 VFG (banded) (RPY) the only record. Warbling: last Sep 24 VFG (RPY).

Warblers—Black-and-white: very few reports, last Sep 5 Karner (PM). Tennessee: only reports—Sep 21 Greenville (CK) and Sep 25 VFG (RPY). Nashville: Aug 27 VFG (RPY) to Oct 22 VFG (RPY) (late). Parula: only report—several Sep 10 Karner (SBC). Yellow: last Sep 18 (BRS). Magnolia: Aug 29 EG (PPW) to Oct 2 EG (PPW). Black-throated Blue: several Sep reports, last Oct 15 VFG (late) (RPY). Myrtle: Sep 9 Berne (MK) to Nov 13 SL (SBC). Black-throated Green: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW) to Oct 2 EG (PPW). Blackburnian: Sep 10 Karner and Sep 24 Old Chatham (SBC) the only reports. Chestnut-sided: reported through Sep, last Oct 2 RG (PPW) and Oct 26–29 (very late) Loudonville (MWF). Bay-breasted: two Aug 29 EG (PPW); no late reports. Blackpoll: Aug 29 EG (PPW) to Oct 15 VFG (RPY), many reports. Palm: only reports Sep 30 VFG (RPY) to Oct 8 SCR (PPW, WG). Ovenbird: reported into Sep, last Sep 17 VFG (RPY). Northern Water-thrush: Aug 20, several areas to Sep 16 VFG (RPY); one Oct 24 and 27, Loudonville (MWF) was very late. Yellowthroat: reported into Oct, last Nov 12

Amsterdam (Dorothy Adams), late. Wilson's: five reports, Sep 2 VFG (RPY) to Sep 16 EG (PPW). Canada: main movement in Aug, max four EG Aug 18 (PPW), last Sep 14 EG (PPW). Am. Redstart: no late reports, last Sep 14 EG (PPW).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: heavy migration noted, late Aug and early Sep, max 150 plus, BR Sep 3 (PPW), last Sep 17 Old Pond (PPW). ORCHARD ORIOLE: one remained in the Castleton locality where the species has previously nested through Aug to Sep 10 (JC). Baltimore Oriole: last records in early Sep, excepting one at a feeder in Catskill to Nov 15 (*vide* JHB). Rusty Blackbird: Sep 24 Old Chatham (SBC) to Nov 12 Ballston L (PPW), many reports. Redwings, Grackles and Cowbird observed throughout period, with numerous flocks reported, especially Oct 8-20. One flock of Grackles at EG Oct 10 was counted at 12,000 individuals (PPW). Scarlet Tanager: numerous Aug and Sep reports of migrants, last Sep 18 (BRS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: migrants noted in Aug and early Sep, last Sep 24 VFG (RPY). Indigo Bunting: several Sep reports, last Sep 30 VFG (RPY). Evening Grosbeak: very scarce, only reports—small flocks Nov 5 Gallupville (GMZ) and Nov 20 Niskayuna Wide Waters (bsh). Purple Finch: reported, generally as single or paired birds, throughout period with no concentrations. Pine Siskin: only report—two Catskill Oct 8 (BB). Goldfinches seemed fairly numerous. No other finches reported, in marked contrast to 1965.

Sparrows: Rufous-sided Towhee: reported into Oct, last Oct 16 SL (BRS). Savannah: largely missed this fall, last Nov 7 Catskill (BB). SHARP-TAILED: one banded and photographed at VFG Sep 29 (RPY), the first record for Region in several years. Vesper: main movement mid-Oct, last Oct 23 (PPW, HFB). Slate-colored Junco: migrants a little late, first Sep 28 VFG (RPY) and Sep 30 Berne (MK). Tree: very late; records appear from early Nov on. Chipping: heavy movement last half of Oct, last Nov 11 Catskill (JHB). Field: heavy movement mid-Oct, last Oct 18 (HFB). White-crowned: Oct 8, several areas to Oct 24 VFG (RPY), rather common in some areas, with groups of up to 15, while some observers saw few. White-throated: migrants reported from Sep 10 VFG (RPY) on, a few remaining into Dec. Fox: reported Oct 17-Nov 14 in small numbers by many observers. Lincoln's: fifteen banded at VFG, Sep 9 (early) to Oct 24 (RPY). Swamp and Song Sparrows observed in good numbers, especially during late Sep and Oct migration at VFG. No longspurs were recorded. Snow Bunting: first Oct 23 RL (PPW); several reports in Nov, max 60 plus, AR Nov 5 (WBS, SM, PM).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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The drought seems to be well broken with better than seven inches of rain during September and about four in each of the subsequent months of the period. Much of the damaged foliage was restored with many lawns looking more like spring than autumn. Temperatures were about normal, but killing frosts did not arrive until well into October for much of the lower elevations.

There were no major changes in the bird life. Geese were moving through in greater than usual numbers. The resident herons remained about the same, too low in numbers. Their southern allies, the egrets, did not arrive in their expected numbers. More than the usual numbers of Winter Wren and Loggerhead Shrike were reported, but the warbler movements were far less than spectacular with no unusual pushes reported. Blackbirds were normal, and perhaps the best movement in many years of White-crowned Sparrow was reported. Winter finches were almost unreported with only a few Evening Grosbeaks and Siskins found in October.