

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

HAZEL F. BUNDY AND PETER P. WICKHAM

Temperatures for the last half of August averaged a little higher than usual, those for September were slightly below the average, and then in October they were slightly above average once more. The last half of August was cloudy and wet, with precipitation a little below normal. Precipitation for September was only 2.23 in., well below the normal 3.58 in. In contrast, there were 3.48 in. of precipitation in October, 0.71 more than average. There were three wet snows in November—more than are usual for this month.

This year, in contrast to last year, favorable conditions for shorebirds did *not* develop in the Region. Watervliet Reservoir, our best source of shorebirds last year, was maintained at a high level, and there were no mud flats. Seventeen species were recorded, but many of these were reported only once, and often were single individuals. Two Whimbrel, which were found nowhere near the water, were the first ever reported in this Region. The Western Sandpiper was the other most unusual shorebird.

Generally, herons seemed very scarce; *no* night-herons and only one Common Egret were observed during Aug or Sep, continuing a downward trend of the last several years. Again there were relatively few reports of most species of hawks; in fact, only *four* accipiters were reported throughout the period.

On a more optimistic note, swallows lingered later than usual, with unprecedented late dates recorded for Barn and Tree Swallows. There were also especially good flights of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings. The winter finch flight, while better than that of last fall, was on the whole disappointing. Large numbers of Goldfinches, lesser numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches and a few others characterized the flight.

Other unusual or rare species seen included: Whistling Swan (summer record), Blue Goose, Sandhill Crane and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: AR—Alcove Reservoir; BR—Basic Reservoir; CL—Collins Lake; GL—Galway Lake; MR—Mohawk River; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers cited: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; GA—Gustave Angst; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JHB,BB—James and Barbara Bush; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JC—Juanita Cook; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MDG—Monte Gruett; DH—David Harrison; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MK—Marcia Kent; P&MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; EP—Ed Payne; HHS—Harvey Spivak; NS—N. Snare; WBS—Walton Sabin; RSM—Robert McCullough; BRS—Benton Seguin; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Sep 17 SCR (EH) to Nov 26, max 6 (SBC). Red-throated Loon: only one report—Nov 22 SL (bsh). Red-necked Grebe: only one—Oct 28 SL (SBC). Horned Grebe: Oct 1 SCR (EH) to Nov 26 SL (SBC), max eight. Pied-billed Grebe: many reports throughout period. Double-crested Cormorant: two reports—three flying south along the Hudson R at Albany Sep 13 (PPW, MDG), and one at VFG Sep 30 (RPY). Great Blue Heron: frequent reports throughout period, max seven Aug 27; last Nov 12 RL (bsh). Common Egret: one Aug 13 at a pond in East Chatham (P&GE). Green Heron: few reports, last Oct 21 GL (SBC). Black-crowned Night Heron: not even one report—reported sparingly during the six preceding years. Am. Bittern: a few reports, one found dead (hit by car) on the road by NWW Nov 13 (Irene Podrazik). Least Bittern: only one report—Aug

19 VFG (RPY). One Mute and two Whistling Swans appeared during Aug at Lock 6 MR and remained there through at least Sep 10 (Elizabeth McCauley, Frances Adams *et al*)—first summer Regional record. The two Whistling Swans were decidedly smaller than the Mute, had black legs, feet, and bills, and considerably shorter and more-erect necks. Canada Goose: many reports Sep 29 (MK) to Nov 5 (SBC), with the largest report, “25 flocks seen Oct 6, numbering from 20 to several hundred” (Walter Smith). Snow Goose: a flock of 200 sighted passing over SCR Nov 3 (GA); one Nov 25–30 at Valatie (P&GE, M&AG). *BLUE GOOSE*: two reports—one Nov 3 flying with flock of Snow Geese over SCR, and one alone at Stony Hill, Route 43 Nov 11 (GA).

Gadwall: one Nov 1 at CL (EH)3, and four Nov 8–9 SCR (GA,HFB). Am. Widgeon: one adult male at SCR Aug 30 (*fide* WBS); in small numbers Sep 17 SCR (EH) to Nov 26 SL (SBC). Pintail: about Sep 1 at SCR (*fide* WBS) to end of period. Green-winged Teal: seen throughout period in small numbers. Blue-winged Teal: last Oct 21 CL (DH); max 400 Sep 4 SCR (PW). Shoveller: one report—six Sep 20 SCR (EH *et al*). Wood Duck: last Nov 18 (HHS). Redhead: three Oct 29 SL (bsh), one Oct 30 CL (DH), three Nov 11 BR (SBC), and ten Nov 19 SL (bsh). Ring-necked Duck: not even one report! Canvasback: from Nov 11, 15 at BR (SBC) to Nov 26, 75 SL (SBC). Scaup: Oct 18 at Chatham (P&MM) through period, each species identified on various dates. Common Goldeneye: Oct 21 GL (SBC) throughout period. Bufflehead: small numbers from Oct 21 GL (SBC) through period, max 47 Nov 5 NWW (GA). Oldsquaw: two reports—Oct 22 SL (bsh), three Nov 26 SL (SBC). White-winged Scoter: several reports, Oct 13 Chatham (P&MM) to end of period. Surf Scoter: five reports, all female or imm (first since 1965); two Oct 19 Lock 7 MR (GA) to one on Nov 26 SL (SBC), max five Oct 28 SL (SBC). Common Scoter: ten reports—from Oct 13, 28 at Chatham (P&MM), to Nov 26, two at SL (SBC). Ruddy Duck: Oct 19 one at Lock 7 MR (GA) to Nov 26 SL (SBC), max 22 BR Nov 11 (SBC). Hooded Merganser: only five reports—from Oct 12 SCR (EH) to Nov 11 AR and BR (SBC). Common Merganser: Oct 20 Castleton (JC) through end of period. Red-breasted Merganser: only five reports—Oct 22 SL (bsh) to Nov 26 SL (SBC), max three.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported regularly from southern sections, last Oct 7 Catskill (JHB). Goshawk: one Oct 29 SL (BRS), and one Nov 11 AR (SBC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: *only one* report again—Aug 23, Schodack Center (L&VB). Cooper's Hawk: one report only—Nov 25 VFG (RPY). Red-shouldered Hawk: one each in Aug in Ghent and Hillsdale (P&GE,NS), and one in Castleton Nov 7 and 13 (JC). Broad-winged Hawk: several reports—from Aug 16 SCR (HHS) to Oct 7 Castleton (JC). Rough-legged Hawk: several reports—from Oct 4 Scotia (EH) throughout period. Marsh Hawk: several reports—from Aug 28 Ghent (P&GE), through Oct 28 Ghent and Castleton (P&GE,JC). Osprey: to Nov 5 TR (SBC). Sparrow Hawk: reported regularly; 50 seen Oct 28 Schodack (L&VB). Bobwhite: unreported during period. *SANDHILL CRANES* second report for the year, first year recorded in Region—one young bird in a ploughed cornfield on Gibson's farm, five miles n. of Kinderhook, from Nov 12–19, seen by many members of ADBC and SBC, verified by Ed Reilly. Virginia Rail: two to three adults with seven young VFG Aug 18–19 (HFB, Ruth Bates, RPY), one Sep 1 VFG (RPY), two adults and one juvenile Sep 3 and 5 NWW (HHS). Common Gallinule: widely reported in Sep, last Oct 18 Chatham (P&MM). Coot: Sep 9 one at BR (PPW), Sep 30 one at NWW (HHS), several reports through period, max 75 Nov 1 (EH).

Semipalmated Plover: only three reports—one Aug 27 RL (PPW), one Sep 4 RL (PPW,HHS), one Sep 16 NWW (HHS). Killdeer: widely reported, max 45 Sep 17 (EH), last Nov 13 Greenville (Clarissa Ketcham). Black-bellied Plover: only report—seven Aug 19 SCR (HHS). Am. Woodcock: reported irregularly up to Oct 20. Common Snipe: four reports for period, last Nov 5 VFG (HHS). *WHIMBREL*: *first*

record in Region—two seen Sep 12 near State Office Building in Albany (WBS) and observed daily thereafter (mob) until Sep 27, when they were found dead, apparently having flown into a building; the specimens are in the collection of the State Museum in Albany. Upland Plover: one remained until Aug 18 Niskayuna (RPY). Spotted Sandpiper: last Oct 2 CL (EH). Solitary Sandpiper: only three reports—singles Aug 20 GL (EH), Sep 4 SCR (PPW, HHS) and Oct 4 Chatham (P&MM). Greater Yellowlegs: Sep 9 (PRW, RPY) to Nov 8 (GA). Lesser Yellowlegs: first, Sep 4 SCR (PPW, HHS), last also SCR Nov 8 (GA). Pectoral Sandpiper: very few—one Sep 16 SCR (PPW); one to six Oct 16–Nov 1 SCR (GA, EH). Least Sandpiper: reported on seven different dates, max eight, from Aug 27 RL (PPW) to Nov 1 CL (EH). Dunlin: only two reports—a flock of 13 Sep 29 at NWW (HHS), one Oct 22 at SCR (BRS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: several reports—from Aug 26 Lock 6 MR (PPW, MDG) to Sep 29 NWW (HHS), max 4. WESTERN SANDPIPER: first report since 1963—Sep 4, one at RL studied in company with Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers (PPW, HHS). Sanderling: one Aug 26 at Lock 6 MR (PPW, MDG); two Aug 27 and Sep 10 Brown's Beach, SL (PPW).

Great Black-backed Gull: one imm Nov 5 TR (SBC). Bonaparte's Gull: five Oct 22 SL (BRS), and one Nov 3 Lock 7 MR (GA). Common Tern: the first *fall* report since 1959—one Sep 3 and 16 NWW (HHS). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Aug 23, one (EH); late reports Oct 1, 2, 15 Ghent (P&GE). Black-billed Cuckoo: reported for five dates, last Oct 23 Ghent (P&GE). Barn Owl: one young and one adult observed in a silo near New Scotland Jul 16–Sep 6 (Beverly Waite); a nest holding a few nestlings was discovered beneath the Western Gateway Bridge, Scotia, in late Aug (*vide* WBS). Screech Owl: one observed in Ghent from Aug 18–26 (P&GE); three reports in Oct and three in Nov. Great Horned Owl: pair resident in West Charlton (Emily Halverson); also reported on several dates in Oct in Castleton (JC) and Chatham Center (M & AG), from Catskill Nov 5 and Freehold Nov 7 (JHB). Snowy Owl: one Nov 26 on top of TV antenna just south of Albany (L&VB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Nighthawk: seen until Sep 13 Albany (PPW *et al*) and Catskill (BB). Chimney Swift: last, Sep 20 Ghent (P&GE). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: migration peaked in mid-Sep, max 12–15, Sep 16 VFG, last Oct 2 Niskayuna (RPY). Pileated Woodpecker: reported regularly throughout period. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported on four dates—Sep 16 and 30 and Nov 7 at Ghent (P&GE) and Oct 15, one imm at Delmar Game Farm (WBS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a few reports, last Nov 12 Ghent (P&GE). Eastern Kingbird: late report, Sep 29 (ADBC). Eastern Phoebe: last Oct 27 (ADBC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reports—Aug 28 one at Ghent (P&GE), and one near GL Sep 6 (EH). Traill's Flycatcher: last one banded Sep 16 VFG (RPY). Least Flycatcher: last one banded Sep 16 VFG (RPY). Wood Pewee: late report Oct 3 Castleton (JC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one report—Sep 16 Ghent (P&GE). Tree Swallow: numbers greatly diminished by mid-Sep; reported to Oct 3 (ADBC); an imm Nov 5 TR (SBC)—*very* late. Bank Swallow: large flocks reported the last part of Aug, last report Sep 7 (HHS). Rough-winged Swallow: seen to Aug 20 in Hillsdale (NS). Barn Swallow: last report *very* late—one at East Greenbush Nov 1 (L&VB). Cliff Swallow: only report, a nesting in Hillsdale with successful hatching of three young (NS).

Tufted Titmouse: still increasing. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrant Sep 9 Karner (SBC), few migrants observed. House Wren: last Oct 13 Ghent (P&GE). Winter Wren: two reports—Sep 16 Canaan (EP), and Sep 30 VFG (RPY). Long-billed Marsh Wren: last Oct 30 CL (DH). Mockingbird: reported regularly in a few areas; apparently increasing in Greene Co (JHB). Catbird: to Oct 27 (ADBC). Brown Thrasher: last Oct 23 (ADBC). Wood Thrush: few reports, last Sep 22 Ghent (P&GE). Hermit Thrush: several reports—Aug 27 at Berne (MK), Oct 7–15 VFG (RPY), and one Nov 26 Lock 7 MR (GA). Swainson's Thrush: only reports from Banding Station, Aug 12–Sep 30 VFG (RPY). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Oct

2 East Greenbush (PPW). Eastern Bluebird: many reports, last Nov 8 Freehold (JHB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good flight, widely reported from Oct 8 through Nov, max 30. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 23 Ghent (M. Kern) to Nov 19 Ghent (P&GE) and Schodack Center (L&VB). Water Pipit: Oct 22, 43 at SCR (WBS,bsh); last NWW Nov 20 (HHS). Loggerhead Shrike: one imm Aug 25 Ghent (P&GE). Another shrike reported Oct 14 near Muitzenkill (JC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos—Yellow-throated: only one report—Sep 11–15 Ghent (P&GE). Red-eyed: seen regularly in Aug (ADBC), last Sep 23 VFG (RPY). Philadelphia: one banded on each of two dates, Sep 15 and Oct 1 at VFG (RPY). Warbling: last Sep 30 NWW (HHS).

Warblers—Black-and-white: Aug 26 VFG (RPY), Sep 16 Ghent (P & GE), Sep 20 Canaan (EP). Tennessee: Sep 16, 17 Ghent (P & GE), only report. Nashville: Aug 20 (EH) to Oct 2 CL (EH). Parula: only report—Oct 12 near Charlton (R.H.Stone). Yellow: a very late date—Oct 16, one described as a male—yellow, with chestnut-red breast-streakings—reported near Muitzenkill (JC). Magnolia: Aug 26 VFG (RPY) to Sep 29 Ghent (P&GE). Cape May: only report Oct 5 Castleton (JC). Black-throated Blue: only report Sep 9 Karner Pine Barrens (SBC). Myrtle: Aug 5 Hillsdale (NS) to Oct 28 (GA). Black-throated Green: Sep 9 Karner (SBC) to Oct 16 Castleton (JC). Blackburnian: few reports, from Sep 10 NWW (HHS) to Oct 1 VFG (RPY). Chestnut-sided: last Sep 11 Ghent (P & GE). Bay-breasted: eight Aug 27 Berne (MK) to Oct 2 Ghent (P&GE). Blackpoll: to Oct 2 Ghent (P & GE). Palm: Sep 16 VFG (RPY) to Nov 2 Catskill (JHB). Ovenbird: last, Oct 2 Ghent (P & GE). Northern Water-thrush: only report—Aug 19 VFG (RPY). Connecticut: one only, Sep 16 Ghent (P&GE). Yellowthroat: to Nov 4 Catskill (JHB). Wilson's: Aug 24 Ghent (NS,P&GE) to Sep 29 NWW (HHS). Canada: to Sep 12 East Greenbush (PPW). Am. Redstart: last Sep 16 Canaan (EP).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Sep 16 Catskill (JHB). Baltimore Oriole: last two dates—Sep 20 Schodack (L&VB), Oct 21 VFG (RPY). Rusty Blackbird: Sep 29 Old Chatham (P & GE) to Nov 26 (bsh). Common Grackle: throughout period; flock of 2000–3000 Sep 16 VFG (RPY) and “many thousands” Oct 3 at Catskill (JHB). Scarlet Tanager: last, two NWW Oct 1 (HHS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Oct 7 VFG (RPY). Indigo Bunting: last, three Oct 1 NWW (HHS). Evening Grosbeak: a flock of 30 appeared Oct 8 East Greenbush (PPW), with several reports of smaller numbers thereafter. Purple Finch: few reported throughout period. *HOUSE FINCH*: one male remained at a feeder in Niskayuna until Nov 2 (GA). Pine Siskin: two reports—Oct 22 (bsh), and three at Catskill Oct 26 (JHB). Goldfinch: seemed numerous, including a flock of 550 the last part of Sep near NWW (HHS). White-winged Crossbill: one report—six at SL on Nov 12 (bsh).

Sparrows: Rufous-sided Towhee: late report of one male at a feeder in Berne on Nov 22, and again on Nov 30 (MK). Savannah: several reports, last Oct 12 at NWW (HHS). *SHARP-TAILED*: (Nelson's subspecies) one banded for second year in succession, Oct 1 VFG (RPY). Henslow's: new late record—Nov 2 and 6 at Ghent (P&GE). Vesper: reported to end of period. Chipping: last Nov 5 and 6, one at feeder in Alplaus (HFB). Field: last Nov 8 Catskill (JHB). White-crowned: Oct 1 VFG (RPY) to Nov 5 TR (SBC). White-throated: many reports throughout period. Fox: several reports, Oct 20 VFG (RPY) to Nov 29 Alplaus (HFB). Lincoln's: from Sep 16 VFG (three) (RPY), to Oct 15 West Glenville (RSM). Swamp: last Oct 22 VFG (RPY). Snow Bunting: flock of 40 Nov 11 AR (SBC); three later dates, max 50.

R.D. 1, Box 55, Scotia, N.Y. 12302

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061