

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After the much more than average rainfall of last spring and summer, September produced only a bit more than an inch; and October about three inches. Temperatures were a bit warmer than expected, and killing frosts did not come to most parts of the Region till the third week of October. November rainfall was slightly less than October, and the month was generally cooler than average. No snow was reported thru the season, and there were no great extremes or weather upsets.

Most areas reported a slow, boring migration with no real peaks of activity. There were few species of note, and nothing exceptional in numbers. Warbler movements were disappointing, and there were no marked invasions of northern finches.

Observers cited: PC—Pauline Chernick; RFD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; FNA—Fyke Nature Association; TG—Tom Gilbert; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; MK—Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; MBC—Mearns Bird Club; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; EP—Eleanor Pink; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; T,WS—Trixie and William Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; SU—Sarah Uhelyi; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman; WBC—Waterman Bird Club

Area Compilers: Pauline Chernick—Sull; Robert F. Deed—Rock; Martha Earl—Oran; Mrs. William Grierson—West; Fred Hough—Ulst; Mabel Little—Putn; Alfred Merritt—Oran; Eleanor Pink—Dutch; Otis Waterman—Dutch

Localities: C-on-H—Cornwall-on-Hudson; Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Nov 12 Croton Res. (SOG); two, Nov 26 C-on-H (B,AM). Great Blue Heron; few reports, but more than usual in late years; max four, Sept 1–15 C-on-H (B,AM); two persisted to end of season, one in Dutch, and one in Oran. Green Heron: last report Dutch, Oct 4. Least Bittern: one, C-on-H Aug 31—Sept 5 (B,AM). Am. Bittern: one, Sep 27 Pine Plains; one Basha Kill Sep 23 (MBC). Canada Goose: usual large fall flights; greater bulk passed thru first two weeks of Oct, largest flocks Oct 6 & 7, by Nov 26 about 150 were resident at Rockland L. Snow Goose: first flight, 45 over Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, West Oct 7 (David Junkin); 70, Nov 2; 180, Nov 11 C-on-H (B,AM); 35, Nov 11 Hamptonburg (ME).

Mallard: 12, Aug 30 C-on-H, increasing to about 50 on Sept 24, and remained throughout period. Pintail: only one reported, Sep 16 C-on-H (MBC). Green-winged Teal: good numbers thru period; max about 30 Tomahawk L, Oran Oct 18 (ME). Blue-winged Teal: numbers very low, one late bird Nov 3 Pleasant Valley. Dutch (CT). Am. Widgeon: Sep 1–27 C-on-H, max 38, Sep 24 (B,AM); WBC reports 32 in Dutch during Oct; only four in Nov. Wood Duck: about 20 at Iona Is. Oct 28 (RAS); 30 Dutch records in Oct, none in Nov. Redhead: one, Sep 27 C-on-H (B, AM). Ring-necked Duck: only reports Dutch—80 in Oct, only 11 in Nov. Greater Scaup: 37, Oct 29 Hudson R, Dutch (AJ). Common Goldeneye: two, Nov 11 Green Haven; five Hunn's L Nov 11 (EP, MV) and Nov 19 (TH). Bufflehead: the usual 20 or more on Rockland L Nov 26 (RFD). White-winged Scoter: more reports than usual; one reported to ME on Tomahawk L Oct 14, also observed there Oct 21 (MBC); two, Oct 18 Verbank, Dutch (MK *et al*); one, Nov 26 C-on-H, (AM). COMMON SCOTER: always very rare; more this season than ever before—17, Oct 4 Crugers Is. (WBC); 75, Oct 18 Verbank (MK, HM); 50, Oct 18 Amenia (WS, TS)—all records Dutch, last observed there in 1960. Ruddy Duck: all records Dutch—two, Oct 4 Crugers Is. (WBC); one, Oct 20 Pleasant Valley (CT); 29, Oct 19 Sylvan L and Wappingers (MK, AJ); last, one Nov 11. Common Merganser: five, Nov 11 Sylvan L, Dutch; a few to end of period.

HAWKS—OWLS: An analysis of the ninth annual hawk watch of the Fyke Nature Association at Mt. Peter, Orange Co, N.Y. from Sep 3 thru Oct 29 shows most species of raptors markedly down in numbers. Specifically: Sharp-shinned Hawk, about $\frac{1}{2}$ the yearly average; Cooper's about $\frac{1}{4}$; Red-tailed $\frac{3}{4}$; Red-shouldered $\frac{1}{2}$; Broadwinged $\frac{1}{2}$; Marsh normal; Osprey $\frac{1}{2}$; Peregrine normal (only four); Kestrel $\frac{1}{2}$.

Turkey Vulture: persisted thru most of Region thru last week of Oct; last report Oran, Oct 24 Tomahawk L. (ME); one, Oct 23 Pleasant Valley. Red-tailed Hawk: one albino near Verbank, Dutch all Oct (HM). Broad-winged Hawk: best reports Sep 12—376 over Mt Peter, Oran (FNA), and about 500, Poughkeepsie (AJ); 457 Sept 13 Pleasant Valley (MV). Rough-legged Hawk: singles Oct 4 and Nov 23 Dutch, and Oct 21 Mt. Peter (FNA). Bald Eagle: one, Sep 2 Barnes L, Palisades Interstate Pk (Hugh Pembleton); two, first reported Nov 9, regular since on U.S. Military Reservation, West Pt (PJ)—these reported buzzing four White-tailed Deer. Ruffed Grouse: numbers fair but declining. Bobwhite: only reports Dutch—16 in Sep; 5 in Oct; two in Nov. Virginia Rail: two, Sep 5 C-on-H (PJ); one, Oct 7 Pine Plains (TH). Common Gallinule: one, Sep and another Nov 5, Pine Plains (TH); one, Oct 29 Amenia, where it nested earlier. (T,WS). Am. Coot: less than last year, but numbers still good; 30 Neversink Res. Oct 19 (PC); WBC reports 51 in Oct and 19 in Nov.

Killdeer: max 80, Sep 23 along Otterkill, Hamptonburgh, Oran (ME); last at Krippebush Dec 5 (FH). Am. Woodcock: normal; no large flights reported. Common Snipe: about 20, Sep 23 Hamptonburgh (ME). Upland Plover: one late bird Oct 18 Poughkeepsie (AJ). **SANDERLING:** one injured bird caught on RR tracks at Hyde Pk Oct 20, released Nov 6 (AJ,MK)—first record Dutch since 1927. Bonaparte's Gull: four Sep 4—5 and one Sep 27, C-on-H (PJ; A,BM); two, Oct 19 Chelsea, Dutch (AJ,MK). Mourning Dove: numbers very low in Oran, but normal elsewhere. Most species of owls normal. Barn Owl: five young discovered in Sep near Modena—three destroyed by over-zealous bird watchers. Screech Owl: seemed to be heard more often this fall than usual; one returned to Wood Duck box Oct 29 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct., Katonah (SOG). Long-eared Owl: Nov 9 thru end of period, three to five roosting together in pine grove in Dutch (mob) Short-eared Owl: one, Nov 20 Pleasant Valley (MV).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: largest flock 110, Aug 30 C-on-H, (B,AM), other small flocks reported thru first week of Sep. Chimney Swift: 30, Oct 13 Freedom Plains (HM)—late. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: in good numbers; WBC reports 19 during Oct. Eastern Kingbird: last, Oct 2 Tomahawk L (ME). Olive-sided Flycatcher: last—very late—Sep 27 Dutch (WBC). Tree Swallow: especially good flight thru Sep; "too many to count" at Hamptonburgh Oct 12 (ME); last Oct 20 Stissing, Dutch (TH). Blue Jay and Crow: normally abundant in late Oct. Fish Crow: one, possibly two at Vassar College thru season (OW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scattered reports from northern part, none from south. Brown Creeper: quite scarce, much less than last year. House Wren: two late records from Dutch—one each Oct 24 and Oct 30 (WBC). Winter Wren: WBC reports usual numbers—five in Oct, two in Nov; one Nov 2 Tomahawk L (ME). Carolina Wren: none reported. Mockingbird: no increase noted; reports vary from "scarce" in Dutch (WBC) to "holding its own" in Ulst (FH). Catbird: heavy flight late Sep early Oct, usual few lingering to end of period. Most thrushes normal. Robin: heavy numbers till Nov 11; small flocks persisted to end of season. Eastern Bluebird: numbers low, but continues to gain slowly; normal fall flight reported most areas. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first report Sep 24, Dutch; good Nov numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: first, Sep 12 Dutch, good movements on Oct 24—27. (ME). Water Pipit: good flight from Sep 21 in Sull thru end of period in Dutch. Cedar Waxwing: good to excellent in Dutch thru season, max 150 at Iona Is. Oct 28 (RAS). Shrike: one reported from Hamptonburgh—Blooming Grove area on Sep 23, Nov 29, Dec 7, species not mentioned (ME). Northern Shrike: one Sep 24, Pleasant Valley (MV). Loggerhead Shrike:

one, Pearl R Aug 27 (James Demes); one, Valley Cottage Sep 1 (Mrs. T. R. Milligan).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireo and warbler migration unimpressive. Red-eyed Vireo: last, two (late) Oct 21, Thompson Pond, Dutch. (MK *et al*). Warbling Vireo: last, two (late) Oct 20 Dutch (WBC trip).

Warblers: Black-and-white: late dates, one Oct 28 Mt. Kisco (Mrs. Wm. Grierson) and one Nov 1 Salt Pt, Dutch (CT). Worm-eating: none. Parula: one Oct 21, Thompson's Pond (mob); one Nov 1 Innisfree, Dutch (MK *et al*). Black-throated Blue: one (early) Sep 9 near Naurausaun (Gravenstein). Myrtle: heaviest movement Oct 11–15. Black-throated Green: 72 reported during Sep, Dutch (WBC); last Oct 12. Pine: "Good flight mist netted at Millbrook Boys School late Sep—Michael Whitcomb" (WBC). Palm: rather late, Oct 28 Iona Is. (RAS). **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one, Sep 16 Thompson Pond (EP, MV)—first fall record Dutch and only fifth or sixth record ever; one at Crugers Is. Oct 4 (AJ, MK *et al*). Connecticut: one, Sep 23 Thompson Pond (EP); one, Sep 27, banded at Millbrook Boys School (Michael Whitcomb). Mourning: one, Sep 21 Pleasant Valley (MV). Yellow-breasted Chat: one, Nov 18, Vassar College (MV *et al*), only Dutch report for year.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: no migrants noted. Baltimore Oriole: one lingered at Amenia thru period (TS). Rusty Blackbird: good flight; 25, Oct 20 Farmingdale; 10, Oct 24 Hamptonburgh (ME); lesser numbers reported elsewhere. Scarlet Tanager: numbers lower than usual. Cardinal: numbers good but less than previous years. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last, two Oct 25 Dutch (mob)—very late. **DICKCISSEL:** two, Oct 25 East Pk (Tom Gilbert, mob); one, Nov 27 Chester (SU). Evening Grosbeak: small flocks reported all areas except West; first, Oct 16 Green Haven, Dutch. Purple Finch: good numbers near Blooming Grove Sep 29–Oct 24. (ME). House Finch: continues to increase; two Green Haven; six Vassar College all period; many reports elsewhere. Rufous-sided Towhee: a few more reports to end of period than usual, especially in Oran. Savannah Sparrow: good flight; six, Naurausaun Sep 9 (Gravenstein), others reported from wide area. Vesper Sparrow: max 28, during Oct in Dutch. Slate-colored Junco: first Oct 12 Hamptonburg (ME); numbers continued good thru period. Tree Sparrow: same status as Junco. Chipping Sparrow: at least two observed at Kripplebush during last days of Nov (FH): one, Nov 21 at feeder in Dutch (HM); one at feeder with Tree Sparrows in Chester Nov 28 (SU). White-crowned Sparrow: one, Sep 23 Dutch (MV)—early; good fall flight after that. White-throated Sparrow: first, banded Sep 18 Tomahawk L (ME); good numbers from then to end of period. Fox Sparrow: heavy flight, Nov 23–25. Lincoln Sparrow: eight Sep records in Dutch, last Sep 27 (MV); last date Oran, Oct 20 Tomahawk L (ME). Lapland Longspur: one, Oct 25 East Pk (TG, AJ, MK). Snow Bunting: only reports from northern portion first and second weeks of Nov, all flocks under 12 in number.

Winter report due no later than Apr 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

In the last report we spoke of a cold, wet spell at the onset of the breeding season. The affect this had on colonial nesting species was quite apparent—it demolished a good many nests, forcing birds to renest and even to abandon all attempts at raising young. High storm tides almost totally wiped out nests of Clapper Rails along the south shore and wrecked all but a handful of Common Tern nests on an island north of Tobay Sanctuary. Fledging Herring Gulls were found at Captree State Park until mid August, unusually late for this species and locality.