

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

The last half of August was on the cool side, with rainfall for the entire month measuring 1.77 inches, 1.3 inches below the average. Day-time temperatures in September soared into the 70's and 80's, with the exception of three days. Rainfall was only 1.49 inches, 2.09 inches less than the average. A veritable summer still prevailed during most of October, with average temperatures above normal, and with its 2.18 inches of rainfall 0.59 inches less than average. The first week of November was mild and pleasant until the end of the first week, when much rain and snow arrived and continued for the remainder of the month. (All data taken at the Albany Airport)

In spite of the warmth of September and October, migration did not appear to be retarded. In fact, some species, such as the Slate-colored Junco and the White-throated Sparrow, arrived earlier than usual and in larger numbers than are expected on the early dates.

The waterfowl count appeared to be down, and some species were missed entirely, others represented by only one or two individuals. For examples, this was the third consecutive year in which no Brant have been reported; the Redhead was missed entirely; there were only two reports of Canvasback; and only one Ruddy Duck was observed. Shorebirds were rather well-represented as to species, but in very small numbers.

As to land-birds, some observers remarked on a decrease in the size of flocks of some species, such as Tree Sparrows. One observer stated that in general birds were far more abundant this fall than last, and supported his statement with the following: "Last year the bird yield at Vischer Ferry Operation Recovery (a banding station) was 45 birds per 100 net-hours. This year it was 60. Also, birds were noticeably more abundant in the yard at feeders in November this year versus last year." (RPY) The invasion by a large number of finches added much interest to the scene.

Of unusual note were reports on the following: Common Egret, Common Scoter, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Solitary Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Dickcissel, and House Finch.

Observers cited more than once: HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JB—James Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; RD—Roland Drowne; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MWF—Mabel W. French; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington S. Havens; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; RMcC—Robert McCullough; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; MM—Mary Mickley; ER—Edgar Reilly; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; NS—Natalie Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; BW—Beverly Waite; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: AR—Alcove Reservoir; CL—Collins Lake; EG—East Greenbush; Gr—Greenville; JL—Jenny Lake; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SL—Saratoga Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir; ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC—Greene Co Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Oct 14 SL (bsh) to Nov 24 SL (EH, RMcC). Red-throated Loon: four reports of singles, Nov 3–24, two SL and two TR. Horned Grebe: Oct 14 SL (bsh) to two Nov 30 NWW (HHS); max 25 Nov 23 SL (bsh). Pied-billed Grebe: only six reports—Aug 18 ten Old Pond, Chatham (JC) to Nov 3 CL (EH). Great Blue Heron: frequent reports—max seven Aug 18 and Oct 6 VFG (RPY); last Nov 9 SCR (HFB, PMcG). *COMMON EGRET*: reports from two locations—one Aug 18 and Sep 25 Old Pond (JC); two Sep 1, 2, and 8 NWW (HHS);

one Sep 4 VFG (very near NWW) (RPY). Green Heron: few reports; max six Sep 15 WR (SBC); last Oct 12 Castleton (JC). Black-crowned Night Heron: again only one report, Sep 13-17 Chatham (M&AG). American Bittern: reports from only two localities—one Aug 9 Castleton (JC); one Aug 17 and 30, and three Sep 4 VFG (RPY). Whistling Swan: one flock of 16 flying southeast over NWW Nov 30 (HHS). Canada Goose: from two Sep 14 NWW (HHS) throughout period; largest flocks—many hundreds Nov 17 Ghent (P&GE) and 500 Nov 19 Hillsdale (NS). Snow Goose: 30 Nov 17 Gr (GCBC); 400 Nov 19 near West Lebanon (Don Foley); flock of 100+ feeding in a grain field near Kinderhook (Ken Fleischer).

Gadwall: one report—Oct 20 SCR (EH). American Widgeon: in small numbers—20 Oct 5 VFG (EH, RMcC, PPW) to one Nov 23 AR (SBC). Pintail: in small numbers from Aug 21 Old Chatham (L&VB) to Nov 10 TR (SBC); max 20 on Oct 13 SL (SBC). Green-winged Teal: arr Sep 8 SCR (EH); last Nov 24 (mob); max 40 Nov 2 SCR (bsh). Blue-winged Teal: last report Oct 27 SCR (EH, RMcC). Wood Duck: last Oct 24 CL, max 50 Oct 5 and 6 CL (EH, RMcC). Redhead: no report! Ring-necked Duck: more than usual—from five Oct 27 Gr (CK) to two Nov 24 SL (bsh); max 35 Nov 10 TR (SBC). Canvasback: only two reports—one Nov 23 AR (SBC), and five Nov 24 SL (bsh). Scaup: Oct 14 SL (bsh) to end of period, both species identified during period. Common Goldeneye: arr Oct 14 SL (bsh); max 140 Nov 29 TR (HHS). Bufflehead: arr Oct 14 SL (bsh); max 40 Nov 16 SL (bsh). Oldsquaw: reports from three locations—SL Oct 14-Nov 24 (bsh *et al*); Queechy L Oct 28 (Edward and Helen Long); and TR Nov 3 (PPW) and Nov 10 (SBC), max 11 Nov 10 TR. White-winged Scoter: small numbers on four dates—from six Oct 14 SL (bsh) to two Nov 16 SL (PPW). Surf Scoter: 14 on Oct 29 Queechy L (MM, RD); one Nov 2 and one Nov 16 SL (bsh). *COMMON SCOTER*: an unusually large flock of 2000 Oct 22 Warner's L (*fide* WBS); a flock of 65 Oct 27 AR (PPW); and 16 Oct 29 and 30 Queechy L (MM, RD). Ruddy Duck: *only one*—Nov 24 SL (bsh, EH, RMcC). Hooded Merganser: arr late, Nov 3 SCR (EH) and Nov 3 TR (PPW); max 20 Nov 23 AR (SBC). Common Merganser: arr Nov 2 (bsh); max 50 Nov 10 TR (SBC) and 50 Nov 16 Round L (bsh). Red-breasted Merganser: only two reports—one Nov 9 SL (HFB, PMcG); six Nov 10 TR (SBC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported into Oct (ADBC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one only—Oct 24 Selkirk (Helen Budlong). Cooper's Hawk: one Oct 7 and Oct 12 Castleton (JC); and one Nov 3 (EH). Red-tailed Hawk: max seven Nov 23 (bsh). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Aug 22 Chatham (M&AG); six scattered reports Oct and Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: only one report—Oct 10 Castleton (JC). Rough-legged Hawk: six reports; two very early—Sep 19 Chatham (M&AG) and Sep 29 Ghent (P&GE); max three Nov 29 Cocksackie (CK). Marsh Hawk: four Aug 19 Berne (MK); many Sep and Oct reports, mostly from the southern areas. Osprey: last Oct 13 SCR (EH, RMcC). Pigeon Hawk: one Oct 6 VFG (RPY). Sparrow Hawk: max ten, on a two-mile stretch of telephone wires, Aug 27 Berne (MK). Bobwhite: throughout Aug at Castleton (JC); six Oct 19 near Catskill (JB). Virginia Rail: only one locality—one hen and two young Aug 18 VFG, one or two seen occasionally thereafter until Sep 27 (RPY). Common Gallinule: only four reports; max 11 on Oct 10, which was also the last date, Onderdonk L (Dr. Anna Perkins). American Coot: reported by only one party—Oct 14-Nov 16, max 75 Nov 16, SL (bsh).

Semipalmated Plover: four reports from Aug 29 Gr (CK) to Sep 22 WR (EH, RMcC). Killdeer: last Nov 16, max 40 Nov 3 WR (bsh). Golden Plover: one Sep 29 WR (PPW); one Oct 9 WR (BW.). Black-bellied Plover: two Oct 9 WR (BW). American Woodcock: to Oct 27 VFG (RPY). Common Snipe: six reports; last two Nov 5 (bsh). Upland Plover: reported from only one location—generally at least three present, to Sep 4 Nisk (RPY). Spotted Sandpiper: last Sep 19 Gr (CK). Solitary Sandpiper: seven reports—the last Sep 22 WR (EH, RMcC). Greater Yellowlegs: to Nov 5 SCR and WR (bsh); max 16 Sep 15 WR (SBC). Lesser Yellowlegs: reported in small numbers (max five), from Sep 2 Medusa Swamp (CK) to Oct 20

SCR (EH). Pectoral Sandpiper: seven reports, all single individuals except for one report of five—Sep 7 WR (PPW) to Oct 20 SCR (EH,RMcC). White-rumped Sandpiper: one Oct 20 SCR (EH,RMcC). Least Sandpiper: seven reports; last Oct 6 WR (EH,RMcC). Dunlin: one Sep 29 WR (PPW); and one Oct 9 WR (BW). Dowitcher: one Sep 22 WR (EH,RMcC). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: found in four locations; last Oct 20 SCR (EH,RMcC). Western Sandpiper: one Sep 15 WR (WBS). Sanderling: no report.

Glaucous Gull: one at north end of SL Nov 16 (BRS). Bonaparte's Gull: only one—Nov 10 TR (SBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only one rept, Sep 12–23 Ghent (P&GE). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Aug 18 Castleton (JC); one Sep 15 (EH, RMcC). Screech Owl: seemed more common than usual—reported from seven areas. Great Horned Owl: reported from five areas. Saw-whet Owl: good flight, with a total of five at VFG (four banded)—one Sep 14, two Oct 19, two Oct 27 (only one captured during previous years) (RPY).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one heard Aug 19, and one seen Aug 31 Berne (MK). Nighthawk: last—four Oct 4 Castleton (JC). Chimney Swift: last Sep 7 Karner (SBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: seemed rather scarce, with a max of six on each of two dates—Sep 14 NWW (HHS), and Aug 31 VFG (RPY); last report somewhat early—Sep 24 Scotia (EH). Belted Kingfisher: few reports. Yellow-shafted Flicker: last date Oct 17 Gr (CK). Pileated Woodpecker: an average of two reports per month, several areas represented. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only three dates; last, one imm Oct 15 Gr (CK).

Eastern Kingbird: last, rather late, Oct 12 Hillsdale (NS). Great Crested Flycatcher: last, rather late, Sep 30 Nisk (RPY). Eastern Phoebe: to Oct 26 (ADBC). *YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER*: a very unusual migration report of 11 (four adult, seven imm) banded in one morning Aug 24 (RPY), all birds identified and all measurements taken in accordance with paper by Phillips, Howe, and Lanyon, from *Bird Banding* 37: 153–171 (July 1966); only one banded during several previous years of banding; also, one Aug 31 VFG (RPY). Traill's Flycatcher: last date—one banded Sep 21, and recaptured Sep 28 VFG (RPY). Least Flycatcher: to Sep 7 VFG (RPY). Eastern Wood Pewee: most disappeared by Sep 13; one late report, Oct 1–3 Castleton (JC).

Swallows: Tree: last Sep 15 VFG (EH,RMcC). Bank: last Sep 10 Chatham (M&AG). Rough-winged: to Aug 9 Ghent (P&GE). Barn: to Sep 15 (EH,RMcC). Cliff: Aug 23, adults feeding young, which were fairly well-grown Gr (CK); last Sep 8 NWW (HHS) and VFG (PPW).

Black-capped Chickadee: unusually numerous, and migration heavy; max 105 reported by one observer only, mid-Oct (PPW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants widely reported, with many feeder reports; first Aug 23 Nisk (RPY). House Wren: last, two Oct 4 Loudonville (MWF). Winter Wren: six reports—from two Sep 15 Nisk (Monte Gruett, WBS,PPW), to Oct 14 S. Schodack (JC) and Queechy L (Edward and Helen Long). *CAROLINA WREN*: one, identified by song and sight, Sep 8, in a new area, Galway L (Mildred Crary, Marie Bedford, John Harrison). Long-billed Marsh Wren: last Sep 22 Black Creek Marsh (EH,RMcC). Catbird: regularly to Oct 27 (RPY); one in yard in Nov Gr (CK).

Brown Thrasher: last Oct 27 Ghent (P&GE). Wood Thrush: last Oct 25 Gr (CK). Hermit Thrush: from Sep 8 NWW (HHS) to Nov 23 AR (SBC). Swainson's Thrush: scarcer than the past two years, five banded between Aug 30 and Oct 5 (RPY); other reports—one Sep (PPW); seen to Oct 16 at nesting area JL (BH). Gray-cheeked Thrush: more reports than usual; five scattered areas; from Sep 21 Ghent (P&GE) to Oct 24 Gr (CK). Veery: last Oct 9 Ghent (P&GE). Eastern Bluebird: reported from southern areas to Oct 29, with seven on that date near Catskill (JB), and a max 17 Oct 12 Gr (CK). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a very late report, two months later than any previous record—two Oct 25 two miles west of East Durham (Vernon Haskins). Golden-crowned Kinglet: first two Oct 5 Nisk

(RPY); throughout period; max 30 Nov 3 (PPW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: fewer than usual; Aug 26 Castleton (JC) throughout period. Water Pipit: reported widely, from Sep 15 when eight were seen at WR (SBC) to Nov 16 WR (bsh); an impressive flock of 100+ were observed feeding in a rye field Nov 11 near Schodack (JC). Cedar Waxwing: no large flocks noted; small flocks (ten or so) reported frequently.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated : only one report—Sep 19, 21 Ghent (P&GE). **SOLITARY:** four reports, after an absence of fall reports for two years—Sep 8 NWW (HHS); Sep 20 JL (BH); Oct 5 VFG (PPW); Oct 7 Loudonville (MWF). Red-eyed: most disappeared by Sep 24; one, unusually late, Oct 9 Loudonville (MWF). Philadelphia: one Sep 8 W. Ghent (GE). Warbling: to Sep 20 Gr (CK).

Warblers: reports on 28 species, more than for the past two years. Black-and-white: more than usual—Aug 18 Castleton (JC) to Sep 26 Nisk (RPY). Golden-winged: two reports (no fall ones for several preceding years)—one banded Aug 18 VFG (RPY); one Sep 9 Ghent (P&GE). Blue-winged: two reports (no fall ones for several years)—one Aug 18, 26 Castleton (JC); one Sep 9 Ghent (P&GE). Tennessee: one Sep 7 Karner (SBC); one occasionally visiting bird-bath JL Sep 25-Oct 2 (BH). **ORANGE-CROWNED:** first fall report since 1964—one banded Oct 13 VFG (RPY). Nashville: sparse reports, on two dates close together—one Sep 21 VFG (RPY); one Sep 24 Ghent (P&GE); and one Sep 24 JL (BH). Parula: four reports, more than usual—Sep 7 Karner (SBC) to Oct 11 Ghent (P&GE). Yellow: to Sep 18 Castleton (JC). Magnolia: Aug 31 NWW (HHS) to Oct 6 EG (PPW). Cape May: only report—two Sep 7 Karner (SBC). Black-throated Blue: Sep 1 NWW (HHS) to Oct 9 Ghent (P&GE). Myrtle: decidedly scarce, with the banding total only 13 compared to last year's 70 and 1966's 42 VFG (RPY); Aug 26 Castleton (JC) to Nov 12 Ghent (P&GE). Black-throated Green: Sep 7 Karner (SBC) to Oct 25 Loudonville (MWF). Blackburnian: two reports—two Sep 7 Karner (SBC); and JL Sep 20, Oct 1 (BH). Chestnut-sided: two—Sep 7 Karner (SBC); and two Sep 20 JL (BH). Bay-breasted: five reports—from two Sep 7 VFG (RPY) and Karner (SBC) to Oct 1, when one visited a pool JL (BH). Blackpoll: Sep 1 VFG (RPY) to three Oct 12 EG (PPW). Pine: only fall report since 1966—an unusual observation of one occasionally visiting the feeder and bathing in the pool to Oct 4 JL (BH). Prairie: a rare fall record—one banded Aug 31 VFG (RPY). Palm: one identified as a Yellow Palm, banded VFG Aug 17, four to six weeks early (RPY); a few others to Nov 10 TR (SBC). Ovenbird: to Oct 1 Alplaus (HFB). Northern Waterthrush: 12 banded VFG from Aug 17 to Sep 21 (RPY); one Sep 21 Gr (CK). Connecticut: more reports than usual; a very early report of one Aug 10 near Nassau (ER); one Ghent Sep 21 (P&GE); one VFG Sep 21 (RPY); and the latest, Oct 14 Castleton (JC). Mourning: a rare fall report—one banded Aug 31 VFG (RPY). Yellowthroat: last Oct 13 near SCR (HFB). Wilson's: five reports—from Sep 1 NWW (HHS) to Oct 12 VFG (RPY). Canada: to Oct 13 Round L (SBC); max nine Aug 24 VFG (RPY). American Redstart: to Sep 20 VFG (RPY).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last Sep 29 Schodack (L&VB). Eastern Meadowlark: max 25 Sep 27 Gr (CK). Orchard Oriole: an unusual report of one Aug 25 Nisk (HHS); one remained at Castleton to Sep 2 (JC). Baltimore Oriole: several reports—last Sep 10 Scotia (EH). Rusty Blackbird: Sep 15 VFG (EH, RMCC) to Oct 30 Gr (CK); common to mid-Oct (RPY). Scarlet Tanager: last Oct 15 Gr (CK). Cardinal: one reported in a new location—Nov 3 L George (*fide* MK). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: to Sep 28 VFG (RPY). Indigo Bunting: last Oct 11 Chatham (M&AG). **DICKCISSEL:** one imm, carefully documented, Gr Oct 9 (CK). Evening Grosbeak: many reports all through the Region, beginning Oct 8 Scotia (EH). Purple Finch: frequent reports. **HOUSE FINCH:** a startling and unprecedented report of 20 (eight imm male, seven imm female, four adult male, and one adult female) taken at a feeder in a yard in Nisk and banded in the period from

Nov 9 to Nov 30; these birds usually appeared in small numbers; a maximum of 12 unbanded came to the feeder Nov 29; generally, they seemed to appear in bigger numbers when the weather was really unsettled. Pine Grosbeak: reports typical of a good finch year—in fair numbers and from many localities; first, two Nov 3 Taberton (PPW) and five Nov 3 Gr (CK); max 20 Nov 24 (bsh). Common Redpoll: two reports—Nov 2 and Nov 5 SL (bsh), and two Nov 16 SL (PPW). Pine Siskin: frequent reports, after very few reports for two years; first Oct 12 Gr (CK); max 20 Nov 3 Taberton (PPW).

Sparrows: Rufous-sided Towhee: last—two Oct 26 Berne (MK). Savannah: reported from only two areas; last two—Oct 10 Castleton (JC) and Oct 18 Gr (CK). Grasshopper: first fall report since 1962—to Oct 5 Castleton (JC). Vesper: throughout period. Slate-colored Junco: migrants somewhat early—first Sep 11 EG (PPW). Tree Sparrow: arr Oct 20 Scotia (EH). Chipping: to Oct 23 JL (BH). Field: last Nov 14 (MM). White-crowned: arr Sep 21 Gr (CK); last Nov 11 Gr (CK); at the VFG banding station this species “continued a four-year decline with a take of five, down from a max of 25 in 1965” (RPY). White-throated: seemed appreciably more common, the first appearing Sep 5 EG (PPW), with the max numbers the second week-end in Oct. Fox: first Aug appearance ever recorded—one Aug 10 near Nassau (MG,ER, W. Blewett); other somewhat early reports—one at a feeder Sep 21 Ghent (P&GE), and seven at a feeder in Castleton Sep 27 and remaining for a few days (JC); many last part of Oct and through Nov, to Nov 28 Gr (Alice Stevens). Lincoln's: more abundant than any previous year at banding station—31 banded Sep 14-Oct 13 VFG (RPY). Swamp: more abundant; through Oct VFG (RPY). Song: good numbers, with max 75 Oct 13 VFG (RPY). Snow Bunting: first, three Oct 27 Basic Reservoir (PPW); reported from eight areas, in flocks usually numbering approximately 50; max 75 Nov 10 TR (SBC).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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September and October were above normal in temperature, but well below in precipitation. September saw about 2½ inches, and October about 3¼ inches. November was cool, but not to extremes. There were several storms resulting in about 5½ inches of water in the form of rain and snow. The first real frost came late, Nov 1; with many plants staying green until late into the season.

The migration was better in many ways than those of recent years. Waterfowl arrived early and in good variety and numbers. Warblers were generally poor with some exceptions noted, but October brought an influx of northern finches the like of which we have not seen in several years.

Observers cited: RFD—Robert F. Deed; JD—James Demes; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; M,JK—Mary and Jim Key; HM—Helen Manson; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; JCO—John C. Orth; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pink; W,TS—William and Trixie Strauss; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MV—Marion Van Wagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Mrs. George Little, Al Merritt, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman, Martin Borko.

Abbreviations: RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Localities: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point; West—Westchester Co.