

500 Gabs Nov 6 (SE). Purple Finch: 10 BTP Aug 29 (PD); 10 Ind L Sep 25 (RM); 8 PS Oct 17 (SE); 4 BTP Oct 27 (FL). Pine Grosbeak: scarce; 2 Gabs Nov 6 (SE); a few near Cascade Lakes in early Nov (Dirck Benson). Common Redpoll: over 100 PS Oct 29 (SE); 20 Ind L Nov 17 (RM); over 250 GF Nov 20 (SE, TM). Pine Siskin: 10 Ind L Oct 30 (RM); over 100 PS Oct 17 (SE); 18 PS Nov 7 (SE); 25 GF Nov 20 (SE, TM). Common Goldfinch: invasion about first week of Nov throughout area. Red Crossbill: 5 PS Sep 17 (TM); 30 BTP Oct 25 (FL); 20 GF Nov 20 (SE, TM). White-winged Crossbill: this is the more common crossbill this year by far; first 1 PS Sep 15 (SE); 35 BTP Oct 25 (FL); 22 Oct 27 BTP (FL); 125 GF Nov 20 (SE, TM). Savannah Sparrow: over 50 PS Sep 14 (SE). Vesper Sparrow: 3 PS Oct 24 (SE). Slate-colored Junco: max 12 BTP Aug 29 (DC, PD, FL); last not at feeder 1 GF Nov 20 (SE, TM). Fox Sparrow: max 3 BTP Oct 28 (FL). Lincoln's Sparrow: max 5 BTP Aug 29 (DC, PD, FL). Swamp Sparrow: max 4 Mad Sep 21 (SE, TM).

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

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Precipitation in August totaled 7.04 inches, more than double the normal amount. Between the 25th and 30th, 4.9 inches fell (Albany Airport) resulting in high water and unfavorable conditions for shore bird migrants. On the other hand, September and October were very mild with precipitation slightly below normal. Favorable weather conditions on three peak weekends in late September and early October resulted in the most productive banding effort in eight seasons. "A record catch of 2807 birds of 63 species gave an unprecedented yield of 113 birds per hundred net hours." (RPY). The so-called favorable weather conditions for this degree of banding activity have been described as a combination of clear skies and high pressure to the north and rain, or fog (grounding conditions) to the south resulting in a meteorological "dam" (RPY).

A 78 degree high on October 28 set a new record for the month. Most areas had not experienced a killing frost until October 24. Early November was cooler than normal with record lows being set on the 8th (18°), 9th (11°), 14th (12°). Many of our boreal species were moving into the area a week or more in advance of this cold air mass. Early reports of winter finches indicate heavier irruptions than last year due to a poorer seed cone crop to the north. Heavy precipitation came in the form of snow on the 24th and accumulation of 24 inches broke a record for the month of November. Mild weather and rain followed the snow and by the end of the month only a trace of snow remained.

Unusual species for the period include Common Scoter, Bald Eagle, Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher, Kentucky Warbler, and House Finch.

Observers cited are: DA—Doug Allen; PC—Paul Connor; JC—J. Cook; RD—R. Drowne; GE—G. Erlenbach; MF—Mabel French; M&AG—M&A Giddings; MG—Monte Gruett; MK—Marcia Kent; MM—M. Mickle; RP—Richard Philion; ER—Edgar Reilly; WBS—Walton B. Sabin; S&RS—S&R Silverman; B&HT—B&H Tullar; RPY—Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; HR—Hudson River; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Nov 16, 20 Queechy Lake (MM). Horned Grebe: 3 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res (HMBC). Pied-billed Grebe: common thru

October (ADBC); 2 Oct 31 Glass Lake (RP). Great Blue Heron: thru Sept HR (ADBC); 1 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 Aug 18 Rexford (RPY). Brant: 1 Oct 27 Queechy Lake (RD). Canada Goose: 103 Sept 27 Fuera Bush, 97 Sept 27 So. Westerlo (MK); ca 1,000 Oct 16 Schenectady (RPY); ca 450 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC). Snow Goose: 50 Oct 17 Muitzeskill (RD); 14 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA). Wood Duck: 5 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 Oct 22 Mariaville (DA). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Nov 7 Alcove and Basic Res. (HMBC). Lesser Scaup: 1 Nov 27 Lake George (RP). Common Goldeneye: 10 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC); ca 200 Nov 27 Lake George (RP). Bufflehead: no reports. Oldsquaw: 2 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC). *COMMON SCOTER*: 12 Sept 28 HR (JC). Ruddy Duck: 1 Oct 16 Mariaville (DA). Hooded Merganser: 35 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC); 3 Nov 27 Lake George (RP). Common Merganser: 1 Sept 22 Hillsdale (S&RS); 22 Nov 14 HR (RP); 60 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 2 Sept 19 West Mt (MK); 1 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Sept 8, 16 Chatham (M&AG); 1 Nov 11 Taborton (PC). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Sept 26, 29 Chatham (M&AG); 1 Nov 18 Thacher Park (PC). Red-tailed Hawk: scattered reports thru period. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports in Sept; 1 Oct 24 (HMBC); 1 report in Nov (ADBC). Broad-winged Hawk: common Sept; last Oct 2 Castleton (JC). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Nov 25 Smith's Basin (RP). *BALD EAGLE*: 1 Oct 8 Country Rd #76 (Brent Nelson, fide WBS). Marsh Hawk: 1 Sept 26, 28 Chatham (ADBC); 1 Sept 17 Mariaville (DA). Osprey: several reports thru Sept Chatham (ADBC); 2 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 Oct 22 Mariaville (DA). Sparrow Hawk: several reports thru period. Bobwhite: 1 Sept 5, 20 Muitzeskill (JC) (RD). Ring-necked Pheasant: "Very scarce due to cessation of stocking by Conservation Dept." (RPY). Korean Pheasant: 6 Sept 16 Mariaville (DA). Virginia Rail: 1 Sept 6 Averill Park (RP). Common Gallinule: 1 Sept 1 Chatham (MM). American Coot: 1 Oct 28 N.E. Col. Co. (RD); 12 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res. (HMBC).

Semipalmated Plover: 5 Aug 28 VFWM (RP). Killdeer: several reports thru Nov 25. American Woodcock: 1 Sept 28 Castleton (JC). Mourning Dove: 117 Nov 26 Switzkill Rd Berne (MK); "increasing in Montgomery Co." (DA). Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 reports Sept 15 Mariaville and Ghent (DA). (GE); 1 Oct 4 Ghent (GE). Screech Owl: reported in Sept and Oct (ADBC). Great Horned Owl: reported in Sept and Oct (ADBC); 1 Oct 26 Averill Park (RP). Snowy Owl: 1 Nov 6 Cobleskill (fide DA); 1 mid-Nov report Albany (fide RPY) and a late Nov report in Muitzeskill (JC). Barred Owl: 1 Oct 15 perched in tree, observed and photographed by many Rensselaer (MG).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: 50 Aug 21 "over house in Delmar — air full of flying ants" (MK); 14 Aug 30 2 mi so of Lake George (PC). Chimney Swift: 7 Sept 29 West Sand Lake (RP); 1 Oct 6 Chatham (MM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6 Aug 28 VFWM (RP); 31 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last 1 Oct 12 Schenectady (RPY); 137 banded between Aug 28-Sept 25 a record catch at VFWM (RPY). Belted Kingfisher: 1 Nov 20 Tomhannock Res (HMBC). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 4 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Sept 12 Castleton (JC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last 1 Oct 21 Ghent (GE). Eastern Kingbird: ca 25 Aug 28 VFWM (RP); last 1 Oct 2 (ADBC Sanctuary). Eastern Phoebe: 1 Nov 29 Chatham (M&WR). Traill's Flycatcher: 1 banded Sept 19 VFWM (RPY). Least Flycatcher: 1 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 banded Sept 19 VFWM (RPY). Eastern Wood Pewee: last 1 banded Sept 19 VFWM (RPY); 1 Oct 2 Castleton (JC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Oct 16, a late record, Chatham (B&HT, ER). *YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER*: 3 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 3 banded Sept 25 VFWM (RPY).

Tree Swallow: 1 Oct 11 VFWM (RPY); "very large flock" Oct 11 Chatham (M&WU). Common Crow: max 613 Oct 29 Mariaville migrating south over 25 min period. Tufted Titmouse: several reports in Sept and Oct (ADBC). House Wren: 1 Oct 19 Hillsdale (S&RS); 1 Oct 24 (HMBC). Winter Wren: 1st banded Sept 18 VFWM (RPY); 1 Nov 12 Taborton (PC). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Oct 12 Chatham (B&HT, ER). Mockingbird: reports throughout area. Catbird: 38 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); peak migration last week in Sept, 55 banded Sept 25 VFWM; last 1 Oct 31 NE Col Co. (RD). Brown Thrasher: last 1 banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY). Robin: max 150 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA); scattered reports late November. Wood Thrush: 5 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last 7 banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY). Hermit Thrush: last 6 banded Oct 24 VFWM (RPY). Swainson's Thrush: 28 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 132 banded VFWM, more than double last years level (RPY); last 2 banded Oct 17 VFWM (RPY). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 banded Oct 3 VFWM (RPY). Veery: declined 2nd year in row — last 1 banded 25 Sept VFWM (RPY). Eastern Bluebird: 8 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA); 1 thru Nov 24 Rotterdam (fide DA). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1st banded Sept 25 VFWM (RPY); 2 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1st banded 2 Sept 19 VFWM (RPY); max 25 Oct 6 Mariaville (DA). Water Pipit: max 38 Oct 20 Duansburg (DA); 1 late record Nov 27 Hillsdale (S&RS). Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Aug 29 Averill Park (RP); 50 Oct 24 VFWM (RPY).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 Sept 28 Castleton (JC). Solitary Vireo: last 1 banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY). Red-eyed Vireo: 37 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last 1 banded Oct 23 VFWM (RPY). Philadelphia Vireo: 1st banded Sept 2, max 6 Sept 18; last banded Oct 3 all at VFWM (RPY) (HMBC). Warbling Vireo: 1st banded Sept 2 VFWM (RPY); last Sept 28 Castleton (JC).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1st banded Sept 11 — last Sept 19 VFWM (RPY). Tennessee Warbler: 2 Sept 2 Loudonville (MF); 1 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC). Nashville Warbler: 3 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 4 banded Sept 25 VFWM (RPY); 1 Oct 1 Ghent (GE). Parula Warbler: 1 Sept 17 Loudonville (MF); last 1 banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY). Yellow Warbler: 1 Sept 15 Ghent (GE). Magnolia Warbler: max 14 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY); late report Oct 23 Chatham (E. Powell). Cape May Warbler: 3 banded Sept 18 for the first time at VFWM in fall (RPY); 3 reports between Aug 31 and Sept 7 Schodack Ctr (PC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 Sept 28, 29 Loudonville (MF); a late record Oct 17 Ghent (GE). Myrtle Warbler: several reports thru Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 Oct 17 Ghent (GE). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 Sept 2, 3 Loudonville (MF); 1st and last banded 1 Sept 18 VFWM (RPY). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 report Sept 22 Loudonville (MF). Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 Sept 15 Ghent (GE); later than normal report Oct 16 Chatham (B&HT, ER). Blackpoll Warbler: 37 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); "VFWM banding more than doubled combined previous 5 yr total" — last 4 banded Oct 23 a late record all at VFWM (RPY); a still later record 1 Oct 28 Mariaville (DA). Palm Warbler: 2 reports in October, 1 Oct 17 Ghent (GE); 1 Oct 22 Mariaville (DA). Ovenbird: 6 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last 1 banded Oct 9 VFWM (RPY) — another late record! Northern Waterthrush: 2 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1st banded Aug 29 — last Sept 24 VFWM (RPY). **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 Oct 2 ADBC Sanctuary (ER) — 1st fall report since 1962. Connecticut Warbler: 1st banded 1 Sept) — last 1 Sept 19 VFWM (RPY); 1 Oct 16 Chatham (B&HT, ER) — a late record. Mourning Warbler: 3 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1st banded 29 Aug last 3 Sept 18 VFWM (RPY). Yellow-throat: max 13 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last 1 Oct 17 Mariaville (DA). Wilson's Warbler: 5 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1st banded 2 Aug 29 — last 1 Sept 25 VFWM (RPY). Canada Warbler: 1 Sept 4 Loudonville (MF); a late record Oct 16 Ghent (GE). American Redstart: max 11 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 1 Sept 28 Castleton (JC).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 1 Sept 9 Castleton (JC). Baltimore Oriole: last 1 Sept 7 Loudonville (MF). Rusty Blackbird: 1st Sept 29 Maria-ville (DA); last 1 Oct 20 Ghent (GE). Scarlet Tanager: max 10 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last Oct 11 Loudonville (MF). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 21 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); 2 reports Oct 2 VFWM & ADBC. Indigo Bunting: 2 banded Sept 25 VFWM (RPY). Evening Grosbeak: small flocks migrating south starting Oct 17; max of 12 at feeder Jenny Lake thru summer (RPY). Purple Finch: 548 banded at Jenny Lake during summer to early Sept (RPY); "Greatest flight at VFWM in 8 years between Aug 10 and Aug 20" (RPY). *HOUSE FINCH*: several reports Oct and Nov from Schenectady but locally less abundant than in recent years — last Nov 20 Schenectady (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: max 12 Nov 12 Taborton and 4 Nov 24 Taborton (PC). Pine Siskin: a Sept 18 report from ADBC Sanctuary; 8 Nov 27 Schodack Ctr (PC). Rufous-sided Towhee: last 1 Oct 25 Castleton (JC). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Oct 22 Ghent (GE). Vesper Sparrow: 6 Nov 20 Castleton (A. Hallenbeck). Slate-colored Junco: 1 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC). Tree Sparrow: 2 Nov 7 Tomhannock Res. (RP). Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 26 Ghent (GE). Field Sparrow: 1 banded Oct 3 VFWM (RPY). White-crowned Sparrow: only 1 report Oct 23 Castleton (JC). White-throated Sparrow: 10 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); max 206 banded Oct 2 VFWM (RPY); 2 Nov 14 Castleton (RP). Fox Sparrow: 1st banded Oct 15 — last 7 Oct 24 VFWM (RPY); 1 report in Nov (ADBC). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Sept 17 Sacandaga Res. (DA); 1 Sept 18 VFWM (HMBC); last banded Oct 24 VFWM (RPY). Swamp Sparrow: last banded Oct 2 VFWM — very scarce (RPY). Song Sparrow: very scarce at VFWM banding stations (RPY). Snow Bunting: 1st Nov 7 Alcove and Basic Res.; max 25 Nov 14 Stockport (RP).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Your reporter does not have access to records, but feels that this must be the warmest autumn on record. Killing frosts did not come to the uplands until Nov 5, and many species of trees kept their leaves well into that month. Some, like the Norway and Sugar Maples had their leaves killed by freezing while still green, and finally lost them while still green in mid-December. Precipitation was much above normal at the end of August to near normal for Sept, Oct and November. The only appreciable snow fell on November 25, when parts of Sullivan and Ulster counties got as much as 20 inches. Due to the unusually warm temperatures it disappeared within a day or two, and none was reported for the rest of the season.

Along with the lingering foliage, the insects remained high well into November. Bird migration flowed regularly and seemed spread well throughout the period. The mild weather probably accounts for the many late dates (some record lates) reported. Northern visitors came in as usual, with only a few species late. From the number and species listed it looks like we may have a good year for winter finches.

November 2 seemed a peak date for waterfowl movements in the area. Al Merritt had a great day along the Hudson at Cornwall when he reported 30 Ruddy Ducks; 1 Pied-billed Grebe; 64 Whistling Swans; 4 Snow Geese; 340 Scaup; 57 Canada Geese; 10 Buffleheads; 52 Horned Grebes; 64 White-winged Scoters; 2 Oldsquaw