

not unusual for Cham Valley and was well seen both perched and in flight at Essex Sept. 12 (JP, JR, CS). Virginia Rail: 1 North Meadow Sept. (DN); several calling Essex Station Sept. 12 (JP, JR, CS). Sora: 1 dead Lake Alice Oct. 13 (Hal Klein). Am. Golden Plover: Sept. 4-Oct. 5 L Cham in 3 areas. **RUDDY TURNSTONE**: 1 North Meadow Sept. 2 (DC, BE, DN). Upland Sandpiper: 1 Essex Sept. 2 (GC). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Essex Station Oct. 2 (JR, CS); 25 L Placid Oct. 9 (DN). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 L Placid dump Sept. 6 (Larry Master). Sanderling: a few L Cham. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 on early date of Sept. 8 Westport (GC). Common Tern: 1 Platts Oct. 10 (PW) rare.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Screech Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 8 (JP, BB). Long-eared Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 10 thru Oct. (JPa). Com. Nighthawk: 1 Wadhams Sept. 12 (Atea Ring). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 E'town Sept. 28 (PT); 1 Tup L Sept. 10-28 (CD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 17-21 (CD). E. Phoebe: 1 Essex Nov. 17 (JP). Least Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 3; 1 Tup L Sept. 8; both (CD). Tree Swallow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 6 (RH); 1 Platts Nov. 7 (PW). Common Raven: many reports from high peaks area that probably involves at least some repeat sightings of some birds; 1 Wilmington Sept. 20 (BB, IB, JP, GT); 2 St. Regis Mtn. at PS Oct. 24-Nov. 20 (TM); 1 Saranac Inn all Oct. (TM); 1 Ind L Nov. 14 (RM). Mockingbird: 1 Westport Oct. 16 (Atea Ring); 1 Essex Nov. 3 (JP, LS). Gray Catbird: 1 Saranac L Nov. 13 (RH). Am. Robin: 2 Tup L Nov. 21 at feeder (CD); 1 PS Nov. 29. Veery: 1 E'town Sept. 26 and calling (GC) late. E. Bluebird: 38 individuals from Tup L to Platts; 2 late birds Platts Nov. 2 (Holland Fitts). Water Pipit: many from PS to L Cham; max 50 Whallonsburg Oct. 26 (EM, JP). N. Shrike: 1 Westport Nov. 1 (EM, JP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: 1 E'town Oct. 2-11 (GC). New species for region. Observer knows the species from New York City area. Yellow spectacles, two white wing bars, white throat, dark iris noted. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 E'town Sept. 21 (GC) late. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Ind L Oct. 23 (RM). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 adult male E'town Sept. 6 (GC). Tennessee Warbler: 1 E'town Oct. 8 (GC). Nashville Warbler: 1 Saranac L Oct. 31 (RH). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 PS Nov. 22. Pine Warbler: 1 Tup L Sept. 15 (CD). Common Yellowthroat: 1 Barnum Pd PS Nov. 13; 1 Osgood River PS Nov. 28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 5 Westport Sept. 4 (GC). Pine Grosbeak: not reported. Red Crossbill: a few E'town Sept. 2 (GC). White-winged Crossbill: 14 Chubb R Sept. 18 (JP). Chipping Sparrow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 20 (RH). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: 1 carefully studied Saranac L Oct. 24-29 (RH). Brown buffy rump, much paler overall than Chipping Sparrow companions, brown cheek patch lined above and below with darker brown, strong whisker marks. Field Sparrow: 2 Ausable Pt. L Cham Nov. 25 (PW). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 E'town Sept. 16 (GC); 6 Tup L Sept. 19 (CD) and many thereafter. Snow Bunting: 100 L Placid Nov. 14 (JP).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The weather this fall was cold and blustery with a -2.9°F (-1.6°C) departure from normal for September, a -4.9°F (2.7°C) for October and a -4.7°F (2.6°C) for November, breaking records on the 2nd and 12th of November. Precipitation was about normal with only 5.7" (14.5 cm) snowfall for November which fell mostly in traces and soon disappeared.

The season was viewed in different ways—by some as dull and slow, by others with ex-

citement. As one of our experienced observers stated, "a very dull fall with a duller summer before it. For the first time in the 45 years I have lived on this little dead-end suburban street, I did not see a Baltimore Oriole on it all summer. That may be attributed to the lack of many big old elms, victims of Dutch Elm Disease. I did not sight a single Chimney Swift the entire year, which had never happened before. Here is a list of some of the birds no longer seen . . . which I used to expect: Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Bobolink, Bluebird, Crested Flycatcher, Woodcock, with others growing more scarce every year (MF)." Is this true in other areas? There were either fewer birds or reports and water bird numbers appear down, but there was an increase in hawk reports—no doubt due to better coverage of our Helderberg area.

On the other end of the scale, we had some exciting finds—two "firsts" for our area, an unusual visitor, and an early visitor. The firsts were: a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which was only the fourth location in N.Y. State (Buffalo, Ithaca, and N.Y. City), and a Wheatear. A Western Kingbird which attracted many interested visitors was only the second sighting found in our records (September 17, 1962 at Meadowdale) and an Iceland Gull was seen by many in early November, with December 17 being the earliest previous record.

The usual residents and seasonal visitors appeared to be about the same although fewer reports than usual were received. Blue Jay seemed more numerous during summer and fall at Jenny Lake where there was an exceptionally heavy crop of acorns this year (RPY).

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan DeVoe Bird Club; CC—Columbia County; Coey—Coeymans; Cox—Coxsackie; D-A-B—Dial-A-Bird; EG—East Greenbush; F.Vly—Franklinton Vly; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club field trip; HR—Hudson River; JHB—J. H. Bush; JL—Jenny Lake; ls—last reported sighting; MF—Mabel French; NB—New Baltimore; R&C LaF—R. & C. LaForce; RPG—R. P. Guthrie; RPY—R. P. Yunk; S&R—Saratoga & Round Lakes; Steph—Stephentown; Tom Res—Tomhannock Reservoir; VF—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Area; WG—W. Gorman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 3 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Horned Grebe: 3 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly; thru Oct. CC (ADBC); Nov. 17 Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 31 Cox (RPG). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Sept. 26 HR (RPG). Great Blue Heron: 1 Sept. 18 between Mechanicsville and Stillwater; 3 Sept. 26 Cox (RPG); 4 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); thru Oct. CC (ADBC); Nov. 4 Catskill (JHB); Green Heron: thru Oct. 22 CC (ADBC). Little Blue Heron: 1 Sept. 18 between Mechanicsville and Stillwater (ADBC). Great Egret: 1 Sept. 26 HR (RPG); 1 Sept. 19 between Mechanicsville and Stillwater (ADBC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 4 immature Sept. 26 Cox (RPG). Am. Bittern: 5 Sept. 10 CC (ADBC). Canada Goose: Sept. 18 Steph, 52 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 275 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 4 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); thru CC, nested in E. Chatham, flocks up to 200 in Oct. (ADBC); first flock reported (126) Sept. 26 Cox (RPG). Snow Goose: Nov. 7 Burden L. (D-A-B). The reports of the usual ducks were very low; only a few Mallards and Blacks with little concentrations. Pintail: 4 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Green-winged Teal: F. Vly (HMBC). Blue-winged Teal: a few thru Sept. CC (ADBC); 6 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 200 Sept. 24 Coey (RPG). Am. Wigeon: 5 in Oct. HR, CC (ADBC); 2 Sept. 24 Coey (RPG). Wood: 20 Sept. 26 Cox (RPG); 30 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 17 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); Oct. 27, Nov. 2-29 CC (ADBC). Canvasback: 2 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Lesser Scaup: 8 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Bufflehead: 4 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 6 Nov. 24 Ooms Pond CC (ADBC). White-winged Scoter: 1 Oct. 30 HR, NB (RPG). Black Scoter: 3 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 1 Oct. 28 Coey (RPG). Ruddy Duck: 2 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Com. Merganser: 2 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 129 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); thru Oct. CC (ADBC). Red-breasted Merganser: Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 7 CC (ADBC).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Sept. 12 Helderbergs (RLaF); 1 Sept. 22 Coey, 1 Sept. 25 Cox, Oct. 30 Ghent (RPG); thru Oct. CC (ADBC). Goshawk: 1 Sept. 18 Steph, 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 3, 4 Oct. 10, 5 Oct. 16, 2 Oct. 30 Helderbergs (RLaF); 1 Oct. 15 W. Powell Sanct. CC (RPG). Sharp-shinned: 1 Sept. 18 Steph, 3 Oct. 23 Tom Res

(HMBC); 1 Sept. 11, 10 Sept. 12, 21 Oct. 3, 5 Oct. 10, 2 Oct. 16, 1 Oct. 30 Helderbergs (RLaF); 3 Oct. 16 W. Powell Sanct (RPG); thru CC (ADBC). Cooper's: numerous reports from Sept. 6 thru Nov. 27 from Catskills and Helderbergs. Red-tailed: thru. Red-shouldered: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 2. Broad-winged: Sept. 16 Steph (HMBC); 152 Sept. 11, 250 Sept. 12 Helderbergs (RLaF); thru Oct. 26 CC (ADBC); and 2 late sightings, 4 Nov. 20 and 6 Nov. 25 Cox (RPG). Rough-legged: 1 VF, 1 Hudson Falls (D-A-B). Bald Eagle: 1 imm week of Nov. 7 near Cherry Plain Rensselaer Co. (D-A-B). Marsh Hawk: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 26. Osprey: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Oct. Ruffed Grouse: daily thru Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Bobwhite: only report, Nov. CC (ADBC). Ring-necked Pheasant: Sept, Oct. CC (ADBC); 1 Oct. 5 EG (WG). Turkey: Nov. 17 Spencertown (ADBC). Virginia Rail: Sept. 27, only sighting in CC this year (ADBC); 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Com. Gallinule: 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Am. Coot: 54 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); up to 13 Oct. 27 and Nov. 17 Ooms Pond (ADBC). Killdeer: a few scattered reports. Am. Woodcock: Sept. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Com. Snipe: Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Very few sandpipers reported: Solitary Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs, only 1 report each in Oct. and Pectoral in Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC); Least: 2 Sept. 22 Coey (RPG). Dunlin: Oct. 31 CC (ADBC). Semipalmated: Oct. 13 CC (ADBC). Gulls: ICELAND: 1 Oct. 13 HR at NB, 2 Nov. 4 Mohawk R. at Crescent (RPG); 2 Nov. 2, 3 Nov. 27 Colonie landfill (K. Able); 2 Nov. 2 Colonie (WG). Great Black-backed: during Nov. Colonie landfill (D-A-B). LESSER BLACK-BACKED: 1 Nov. 2, 6, 12, 14, 16 Colonie landfill many observers. Herring: thru. Ring-billed: 15 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 250 thru Colonie landfill (D-A-B).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC), which appears to be late. Black-billed: Sept. 1-11 CC (ADBC); Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC). Owls: Great Horned: thru Sept. CC (ADBC); 1 Sept. 6 NB (RPG); Nov. 13 Catskill (JHB). Snowy: 1 Oct. 30 SL (D-A-B). Saw-whet: Nov. 20 Catskill (JHB); 1 adult banded in yard (RPY). Com. Nighthawk: several reports with flock of 220 during Sept. S. W. Albany (WS); ls in CC Sept. 16 (ADBC). Chimney Swift: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); ls in CC Oct 5 (ADBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sept. 12 Loudonville (MF); 2 Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); ls in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC). Belted Kingfisher: 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Sept. 18 Athens, 1 Sept. 20 Cox (RPG); 1 Oct. 2 Tom Res (HMBC); 1 Nov. 9 Catskill (JHB); thru CC (ADBC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); ls in CC Oct. 9 (ADBC).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: thru Oct. CC (ADBC). WESTERN KINGBIRD: 1 Oct. 4-9 Ghent (B. & H. Gardina-ADBC). Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 14 and Least on Sept. 20 Old Chatham (ADBC). E. Phoebe: 6 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG); 1 Oct. 22 Warrensburg (RPG); thru Nov. 5 CC (ADBC). E. Wood Pewee: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); thru Sept. Stephen CC (ADBC). Horned Lark: Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Swallows: Tree: 20 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); ls in CC Oct. 1 (ADBC). Barn: ls in CC Sept. 10 (ADBC). Cliff: ls in CC Sept. 11. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper: a few scattered reports. Wrens: House: Sept.-Oct. 5 CC (ADBC), Sept. 21 Loudonville (MF). Winter: Sept. 18 Stephen (HMBC). Carolina: 4 thru Cox, NB, Coey (RPG). Mockingbird: frequently Sept. 3-Nov. 27 Loudonville (MF); daily thru Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Gray Catbird: thru. 1a week of Nov. 15 E. Greenbush (D-A-B). Brown Thrasher: Sept. CC (ADBC). Am. Robin: scattered reports thru Nov. 6 with 100 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC) the only report of concentration. Thrushes: Wood: thru Sept. CC (ADBC). Hermit: Oct. 3 Loudonville (MF); ls in CC Oct. 12 (ADBC); Nov. 4 Catskill (JHB); Nov. 14, late Central Park, Schenectady (D-A-B). Swainson's: ls in CC Oct. 6 (ADBC). Gray-cheeked: 1 netted Oct. 20 Berne (K. Able). Veery: ls in CC Oct. 12 (ADBC). E. Bluebird: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); during Oct. CC (ADBC); 10 Oct. 30 Ghent (RPG). WHEATEAR: 1 Sept. 22 Ravena (RPG&Al Van Zant). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Sept. 8 Old Chatham (ADBC). Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: several scattered reports thru. Water Pipit: 35 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); 12 Nov. 6 Niskayuna (WG); flock of 2-300 in

Oct. and Nov. 1-6 near Castleton (ADBC). Cedar Waxwing: a few reports thru Nov. 25. N. Shrike: 1 Oct. 31 VF (D-A-B); 1 Nov. 21 Old Chatham (ADBC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: Sept. 11, 16 Old Chatham (ADBC); Solitary: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), Is in CC Oct. 13 (ADBC); Red-eyed: Sept. 13, 14 Loudonville (MF), Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), Is in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC). Philadelphia: Sept. 16, 17 Old Chatham (ADBC). Warbling Vireo: 1 Sept. 10 EG (WG). Warblers: Black-and-white: Sept. 12, 21 CC (ADBC), Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), Sept. 13 Loudonville (MF), 1 Oct. 2 EG (WG); Blue-winged: only report, Is in CC Sept. 10 Old Chatham (ADBC); Tennessee: Sept. 2-24 CC (ADBC); 8 Sept. 26 NB (RPG); Nashville: 1 Sept. 10 EG (WG), Is in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC); N. Parula: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC). Yellow: Sept. 1, 12-20 CC (ADBC); Magnolia: Sept. 3, 4, 12, 24 CC (ADBC); Black-throated Blue: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Yellow-rumped: scattered reports Oct. 7 thru Nov. 29; Black-throated Green: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Oct. 2; Blackburnian: Sept. 7-15 CC (ADBC); Chestnut-sided: only report, Is in CC Sept. 15 (ADBC); Bay-breasted: Sept. 6 Loudonville (MF); Blackpoll: Sept. 11 Loudonville (MF), inter Sept. 10-29 CC (ADBC); Pine: Sept. 15, 25, 29 Ghent (ADBC); Prairie: Sept. 15 CC (ADBC); Palm: 3 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), Is in CC Oct. 7 (ADBC), Nov. 3 Catskill (JHB), Nov. 16 New Scotland (D-A-B). Ovenbird: Sept. 6, 7, 18 CC (ADBC), Sept. 11 Loudonville (MF). N. Waterthrush: only report, Is in CC (ADBC). Com. Yellowthroat: a few scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 29. Wilson's: Sept. 13 CC (ADBC), 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Canada: 2 Sept. 9 EG (WG), Is in CC Sept. 10 (ADBC). Am. Redstart: Sept. 11, 15, 16 CC (ADBC), 1 Oct. 2 EG (WG).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: only report, Is in CC Sept. (ADBC). E. Meadowlark: only report, thru CC (ADBC), Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); at feeder Oct. 31 Schenectady (R&CLaF); thru CC (ADBC). N. Oriole: Sept. 6—a bright male, only one this fall—Loudonville (MF). Rusty Blackbird: 6 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG); 24 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 30 Cox (RPG); thru Oct. (ADBC). Com. Grackle: 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Brown-headed Cowbird: 55 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); Nov. 6 feeder Schenectady (R&CLaF). Scarlet Tanager: 1 Sept. 9 EG (WG); Sept. 19 Loudonville (MF); Is in CC Oct. 7 (ADBC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Sept. 9 EG (WG); Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Is in CC Nov. 11 (ADBC). Indigo Bunting: Sept. 27 Ghent (ADBC). Evening Grosbeak: late Nov. CC (ADBC); 1st flock (10-15) Nov. 6 JL and 1 other flock late Nov. in Schenectady—apparently not a flight year—(RPY); nearly absent in Berne, none seen until Nov. 30 (K. Able); 6 Nov. 6 EG (WG). Purple Finch: thru CC (ADBC); banding at JL lowest in 6 years, practically disappeared in Sept. with a few migrants at home feeder in mid Nov. (RPY); flocks passing overhead at Berne Oct. 17 thru (K. Able). Pine Grosbeak: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Com. Redpoll: 200-300 Nov. 6-10 Castleton (ADBC). Pine Siskin: 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Red Crossbill: only report, one flock (10-15) Nov. 25 JL, scarce (RPY); White-winged: Nov. 20 Catskill (JHB). Rufous-sided Towhee: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Sept., Oct. CC (ADBC). Sparrows: Savannah: Sept. 2, 21, 30 CC (ADBC). Vesper: Oct., Nov. CC (ADBC). Dark-eyed Junco: scattered reports, "goodly numbers . . . at JL in Sept.-52 banded. In late Oct. & early Nov. . . many heavy flights thru yard—banded 102—most ever at this time in 13 years. Much reduced after mid Nov. to normal 6-10" (RPY); Chipping: thru Nov. 15 CC (ADBC), 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); Field: 4 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), 6 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG), 1 Oct. 29 thru feeder EG—"appears to be wintering as 1 has done for past 2 years" (WG), 5 Oct. 30 CC (RPG), thru Nov. 12 CC (ADBC). White-crowned: 1 Oct. 5, 6 Loudonville (MF), 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly and 2 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC), 5 Oct. 30 CC (RPG), thru CC (ADBC). Fox: Oct. thru Nov. 1 CC (ADBC), Nov. 1 Catskill (JHB). Lincoln's: 10 Oct. 9 (WG) and Nov. 11 (ADBC) Ghent. Swamp: inter Sept. 12-29 CC (ADBC), 50 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), 1 Oct. 30 CC (RPG). Song: Sept. 18 Steph, 15 Oct. 2 F. Vly and 7 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC)—appears less common this year. Snow Bunting: only report, during Nov. CC (ADBC).

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