

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Everyone saw Rusty Blackbirds as fall migrants even if summer residents seemed elusive at times. Common Grackle numbers built up to a maximum of 300 at Tupper Oct. 28 (CD) who also reports a female Cardinal at her feeder and a pair that raised one young at another feeder location in Tupper. Evening Grosbeak: 200+ Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); 65 at Tupper Nov. 16 (CD). This indicates that sunflower seed sellers may have a big season. Purple Finch: six Tupper Oct. 15 (CD). Pine Grosbeak: ten Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); a few Paul Smiths mid-Nov. Pine Siskin: 16 Tupper Oct. 14 (CD); ten Hamilton Nov. 4 (B & D DeS), 40 Paul Smiths Nov. 10. Red Crossbill: small flocks at Paul Smiths mid-Sept. but none since. Rufous-sided Towhee: two Hamilton Sept. 4 (B & D DeS); two pair Tupper Oct. 9 (CD). They are extremely local in much of the inland area because of the heavy forest cover. They are more readily found in the farm areas out of the mountains. Vesper Sparrow: seven Paul Smiths Oct. 1 (WR); one Westport Oct. 10 (GC). Fox Sparrow: one E'town Oct. 1 (EM, JP, WP, TR); one Tupper Oct. 15; one Hamilton Oct. 21 (B & D DeS); one E'town (EM, JP); Snow Bunting: three early arrivals Oct. 19 at Newcomb (WC) and at Westport beach they could be seen from Oct. 22. 45 were on a mudflat at Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smiths on Oct. 24.

Paul Smiths, N.Y. 12970

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Oh, what an awfully orderly autumn we suffered this year! Temperatures were well above normal throughout the period. No major storms swept through the area and precipitation was well below normal. Blue skies, bright colors and balmy temperatures meant three months of Indian summer! The migrants enjoyed the season also. They all passed through "on schedule" with a nice even flow. There were no significant peak days, nor delays. These close-to-ideal conditions make the risky semi-annual task of migration far less hazardous for the birds involved. For the birders, it was a case of "Now you see them—now you don't."

Favorable signs from the reports received include an early return of the "white-winged" gulls, apparent population surge and range expansion of Tufted Titmouse, and very high numbers of Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler. Negative trends are, for the most part, less recognizable, *i.e.*, Warbling Vireo. A few, however are rather dramatic and conspicuous. For example, there has been a sharp decrease in the House Finch numbers. Has the species exceeded its carrying capacity with natural forces now controlling the population size? Other minuses include the continued decline of the Ring-necked Pheasant and the almost complete disappearance of the Bobwhite. We may also be experiencing the beginning of the decline phase of the Ruffed Grouse population cycle, if there is such a thing in New York. There were only a few shorebird reports, but those were interesting. There has also been a shortage of waterfowl reports. Despite all the fine weather, apparently few birders ventured out to Saratoga Lake, Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir or other fine waterfowl areas or were too dazzled by the fall foliage to count the ducks.

Highlights of the season were a very late Snowy Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, and Boreal Chickadee.

Observers include: Ken Able; Dean Amadon; Vern Bingman; Arlene & Tom Brown; Paul Connor; Juanita Cook; Rena Dodd; Kate Dunham; Peter Feinberg; Barbara & Hugh Gardina; Will Gergits; Elisabeth Grace; Richard Guthrie; Paul Kerlinger; H. Knight; Carolyn & Ron LaForce; Arthur Long; E. Mansell; Bob Marx; M. Mickle; Stephen Popper; R. Ramonowski; Marge Rusk; Bob Snell; C. Tepper; M. & W. Ulmer and Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations used here are: TomRes—Tomhannock Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; HR—Hudson River; NB—New Baltimore; ColCo—Columbia County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Sept. 9 thru Oct. 15; incl. ten on Galway L. Oct. 12. Red-necked Grebe: one SL Nov. 11; Oct. 27 Old Pond ColCo (MM). Horned Grebe: three SL Nov. 11 only report. Pied-billed Grebe: one Beaverdam Pond, Austerlitz (MM). Great Blue Heron: numerous reports thru to mid-Nov. Green Heron: often heard flying over at night thru Sept. (PC); present on HR till Oct. 24. Great Egret: one on the unusual date of Oct. 1 at HR (JC). **SNOWY EGRET:** one on the unprecedented late date of Oct. 1 along the HR (RR & JC). American Bittern: only report TomRes Oct. 15. Snow Goose: mid-Oct. thru mid-Nov. HR & Ohm's Pond. Mallard: max 285 HR vic. Castleton (PC). Black Duck: max 140 same area as last species (PC). Pintail: only report, Old Pond Oct. 27 (MM). Green-winged Teal: max 30 Staats Isl. (PC). Blue-winged Teal: thru Oct. 15 Tom Res. American Wigeon: only report Oct. 27 Beebe Pond (MM). Redhead: Oct. 27 thru Nov. 16 (JC). Ring-necked Duck: Old Pond Oct. 27 (MM). Com. Goldeneye: 50 SL Nov. 11. Bufflehead: Oct. 27 thru Nov. 11; 20 SL. Oldsquaw: one SL Nov. 11, only report. White-winged Scoter: Nov. 11 SL. Surf Scoter: Nov. 4 to Nov. 11 SL. Black Scoter: 40 TomRes Oct. 15. Ruddy Duck: Nov. 11 SL. Hooded Merganser: a few ColCo reports mid-Oct. to mid-Nov. Com. Merganser: Oct. 15 thru. Red-breasted Merganser: Ohm's Pond Nov. 12 (MM).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: regular in migration over Pinnacle hawk watch thru Oct. 15. Goshawk: 22 over Pinnacle; early Sept.-Nov. 1; two Cambridge Nov. 27; three other reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 164 reports, mostly from Pinnacle; max 32 Sept. 17. Cooper's Hawk: 13 reports, again mostly from Pinnacle. Red-tailed Hawk: 257 reports; max 60 Oct. 29 Pinnacle. Red-shouldered Hawk: 22 reports; max 6 Oct. 15 Pinnacle. Broad-winged Hawk: most numerous reported raptor; max 142 Sept. 17 Pinnacle; no Oct. reports. Rough-legged Hawk: a few arrived early; three reports before mid-Oct.; otherwise scarce thru period. **BALD EAGLE:** what may be the same individual was one adult seen Sept. 6 at Albany, Pine Bush and again Sept. 7 at Pinnacle (CT, AL, PK & VB). Another adult was seen at Pinnacle Oct. 15. Marsh Hawk: 14 reports, Sept. 6 thru period. Osprey: well reported; 12 Pinnacle Sept. 5 thru Oct. 15; 15 other reports thru Nov. 16 (late). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one each Sept. 17 and Oct. 7 at Berne (KA & SP). Merlin: one Pinnacle Oct. 15 (PK). American Kestrel: rather light, only 50 reported and only from the Helderbergs. Perhaps folks are just taking them for granted and not bothering to keep records on them. Ruffed Grouse: not many reports; numbers down? Ring-necked Pheasant: No reports! Common Gallinule: one Sept. 1 Castleton (JC). American Coot: 25 Castleton Nov. 16 (JC). American Woodcock: interesting report of one in apparent courtship type performance over Pine Bush in Albany Sept. 13 (PC). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: both at Tom Res. Oct. 15. Pectoral Sandpiper: two Staats Isl. Oct. 15 (PC). Dunlin: 12 Tom Res. Oct. 15. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** one Gokays Pond, Col. Co. Sept. 22 (H. Knight). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** two Colonie Town Dump Nov. 29 (KA). **ICELAND GULL:** one Colonie Dump Nov. 29 (KA).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: **BARN OWL:** one regular thru period Coxsackie Flats (RPG). Screech Owl: regular at numerous places thru period; three (gray phase) found dead on area roads, various dates. Great Horned Owl: more reports than usual; seems that they were also more vociferous than usual. **SNOWY OWL:** reports from mid to late Nov., Vischer Ferry (two), Colonie (two), and Latham (one), may involve some duplication. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** one Kinderhook Nov. 30 (KD & EG). **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** one adult Berne Sept. 17 (KA).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two early-Sept. reports. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one NB Sept. 20. Blue Jay: reported as abundant in migration mid-Sept. into Nov. Black-capped Chickadee: apparently not an invasion year; however, some increase in numbers at RY's feeder at Jenny Lake, Sar. Co. in Nov. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one at a feeder Galway, Schenectady Co. Oct. 24 (*fide* RLF). Tufted Titmouse: reported from some unusual places, such as Berne and Buskirk; very numerous in the more familiar places. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few scattered reports mid-Sept. thru; no incursion this year. Brown Creeper: seems slightly more numerous this year. Winter Wren: only two mid-Oct. reports. Swainson's Thrush: banner year! 54 banded Sept. at NB; many heard flying over at night especially Sept. 12, 13 & 21 (PC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: quite the contrary—very few reports. Eastern Bluebird: scattered reports from NB, Chatham, Albany, Pine Bush and Schodack mid-Oct. thru mid-Nov. Water Pipit: Pine Bush, TomRes, and ColCo. mid-Oct. to early Nov. Northern Shrike: Oct. 20 thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: Sept. 17 thru Oct. 14. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** one Schodack Ctr. Sept. 16 (PC); three banded NB Sept. 16-21. Warbling Vireo: no reports. Do they all vacate before Sept., or do they, in their unobtrusive demeanor, escape our attention? Warblers: Black-and-white: not as numerous as in the past, very few reports received. Tennessee: the population boom continues; reported as most numerous Sept. warbler by several observers; 89 banded in Sept. at NB; three in Oct. N. Parula: somewhat increased this season. Bay-breasted: unusually high number of reports. Prairie: three scattered mid-Sept. reports.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last reported Sept. 24 Schodack. Rusty Blackbird: widely reported and in good numbers mid to late Oct. Evening Grosbeak: in modest numbers Oct. 15 thru. Purple Finch: groups of 20 or so mid-Sept. thru mid-Oct.; then they just went away. House Finch: much reduced, RY reports only 26 banded this season vs 162 last year at this time; does the pendulum swing? Pine Grosbeak: a few reports mid-Nov. Pine Siskin: only two reports Oct. 25 Pinnacle; Nov. 2 Pine Bush. Vesper Sparrow: still reported regularly in some ColCo locales. Dark-eyed Junco: very abundant at both Jenny Lake and Schenectady, 191 banded (RY); not so in NB, only 12 banded there. White-throated Sparrow: numbers normal, 96 banded Schen. (RY); 179 NB mid-Sept. thru early Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded NB thru Sept. 22; also Ghent thru mid Oct. Snow Bunting: Nov. 6 thru; max 100+ Nov. 12 Castleton (JC).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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The fall season was marked primarily by its dryness. Lakes and reservoirs were very low, and intermittent streams dried up completely. Temperatures were rather even throughout the period, and somewhat on the warm side. Frosts came late and the only snow fell the last week of November with a maximum of three inches. It was probably the uneventful weather pattern that led to the uneventful migration. No marked waves were experienced, yet the birds did move thru. The warblers that started in August continued thru October with only a few dates when numbers were increased. Dutchess County reported 27 species of warblers for the season, but the numbers and variety of marsh and shorebirds were down. Hawks moved thru in even numbers, with only two big