

birds, one at Westport and one at mouth of Bouquet River on Sept. 17 both (JR, CS). **PARASITIC JAEGER:** JR, CS and later GC, JP, WP, PT found an imm dark-phase bird at Essex at the golden plover field. Bird was exhausted and sat on ground eating earthworms. It was once harassed by a kestrel and once by the plover. Bonaparte's Gull: max 750 Westport Nov. 28 (GC). **LITTLE GULL:** one imm. Willsboro Sept. 16, "Considerably smaller than accompanying Bonaparte's; much black on folded wings, rear crown, and vertical bar on side. Sabine's type wing pattern in flight. Tail had a narrow terminal black band." (GC); one adult Port Henry Nov. 30 (GC).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A Black-billed Cuckoo was still at Whallonsburg Oct. 8. A Saw-whet Owl was at Essex in Sept. (JPa). Whip-poor-will: one calling Witherbee Sept. 2. Red-headed Woodpecker: an imm. spent the day eating sunflower seeds Oct. 21 at Tupper (CD); and an imm sampled cracked corn the next day at Elizabethtown (EJ, JP). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker with orange crown-patch was on Giant Mtn. Oct. 6 (DT, JT).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: In late Nov. a Gray Jay curiously watched two rabbit hunters at Onchiota try to show a beagle puppy which way the bunny went. Two Com. Ravens were headed west at Witherbee Sept. 9 (CW) and two were near Westport Sept. 25 (EJ). Many ravens were reported. A Tufted Titmouse at Chubb River Swamp, a boreal habitat, August 26 was a surprise (WP). A Winter Wren was banded at Essex Sept. 10 (CS). Am. Robins were everywhere at Tupper with the Oct. 10 influx of migrants. A few Hermit Thrushes lingered into early Nov. 150 Water Pipits were at Essex Sept. 30, and 22 were banded. Another group of 200 late birds was at Essex Nov. 1. JP, JR, and CS called in a No. Shrike Oct. 27 on Hurricane Mtn. by imitating a Screech Owl call.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Yellow-throated Vireo was carefully observed at forty feet Oct. 9 at Tupper as it ate a large insect. The large spectacles and bright yellow throat were noted (CD). A Solitary Vireo was still at Essex Oct. 15 and a Philadelphia Vireo was banded there Oct. 8 (CS). Tennessee Warbler: one banded Elizabethtown Oct. 5 (JP) and one was at Moriah Nov. 4 (NM). The last Nashville Warbler was one at Tupper Oct. 11, JP banded an after-hatching-year Chestnut-sided Warbler July 10, 1975 near Essex and on Sept. 4, 1979 CS caught it near Essex to establish a new longevity record of five years and three months; pretty neat! A late (Yellow) Palm Warbler was at Elizabethtown Oct. 25 (JP) and four Wilson's Warblers were banded in Sept. near Essex (CS). One more Wilson's was at Elizabethtown Sept. 9 (GC). An Am. Redstart at Essex Nov. 18 (CS) was extremely late.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: 2,000-3,000 migrant red-wings and grackles were at Essex Oct. 14. Pine Grosbeaks were in small flocks at Paul Smith's the first week of Nov. but usually traveling. Eight were at Indian Lake about Nov. 8 (RMc). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Saranac Lake early Oct. (JD); one Gabriels Oct. 18 (DY); one Tupper Lake at feeder Oct. 11-Nov. 30 (CD). CS banded a fantastic 336 Savannah Sparrows near Whallonsburg Sept. 24-Oct. 16. 20 migrant Vesper Sparrows stopped briefly at Paul Smith's in late Sept. The first Tree Sparrow was a Whallonsburg arrival Oct. 19. White-crowned Sparrow arrived Sept. 23 at Elizabethtown and Tupper Lake. Fox Sparrow: 19 individuals of which four were caught and banded. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Tupper Oct. 12 (CD).

Paul Smith's, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

This has been the most interesting birding season that this Region has enjoyed

in a long time! Much of the excitement was brought on by Hurricane David Sept. 6, and to a lesser extent by Frederic a week later. Four new species were added to the Regional list and numerous other hard-to-find species were found at various times following the storms.

"They went by so fast, I couldn't tell what they were," quoth this observer commenting on what were the harbingers of a rash of Sooty Terns and other exotics driven in by the storms. With the visibility much reduced, and the rain coming in horizontal torrents, and the wind at their tails, all that could be determined was that the birds were dark-backed terns. After the winds settled down and the birds could be observed more leisurely, Parasitic Jaeger, Sooty Tern, Laughing Gull and Royal Tern were added to the Region list.

With the exception of the hurricanes, however, the weather for the period could best be described as "dull." The temperatures for each month were above normal with a few weak cold fronts moving through, notably Sept. 7, Oct. 4 and 23, and Nov. 7 and 19. Some locations reported frost as early as Sept. 7, while others such as New Baltimore were still producing tomatoes as late as Oct. 31. The Region was spared (or, to some, robbed) of significant amounts of snow. Rainfall, on the other hand, totaled between 19.5 in. (49.5 cm) in the hills east of the Hudson and 10.3 in. (26 cm) at the Albany Airport, which in itself was 1.25 in. above normal for that station.

The discovery of a new birding area with proven potential is always welcome news to a region. Bob Budliger did just that by working on a hunch and finding a flock of Am. Golden Plovers on the expansive lawn at the General Electric Plastics Plant in Feura Bush. Visits to the area brought on by this find led to sightings of other noteworthy "grass-pipers" as noted below.

Other goodies for the period were: Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Am. Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Northern Phalarope, Common Raven and White-eyed Vireo.

Observers: Ken Able. V. & W. Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Geofrey Carleton, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Nancy Dennis, Kate Dunham, Marian Ford, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, A. & M. Giddings, Elisabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Andrew Guthrie, Richard P. Guthrie, M. Healey, P. Ingalls, Paul Kerlinger, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Bill Lee, Arthur Long, Bob Marx, A. Nickerson, Tom Palmer, D. Rhindress, W. Sabin, Bill Schuster, Tommy Williams, R. P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: Cox—Coxsackie, GE—General Electric, NB—New Baltimore, and SL—Saratoga Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Nov. 3 thru Nov. 23, late in arriving. Red-throated Loon: Three SL Nov. 17 (BG). Red-necked Grebe: Nov. 24 SL. Horned Grebe: Nov. 3 thru 24. Pied-billed Grebe: Nov. 1 thru 19. Double-crested Cormorant: Sept. 8 thru Nov. 8. Great Blue Heron: thru Nov. 13. CATTLE EGRET: one Buskirk, Washington Co. Nov. 25 (late) (JD). Great Egret: two Wide-waters Sept. 12; one Germantown Sept. 13. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Germantown Sept. 6. Canada Goose: max 600 Pinnacle Oct. 13. Brant: six NB Oct. 20. Snow Goose: four scattered reports Nov. 16 thru Nov. 19; max only 15 Nov. 16 Castleton. Blue-winged Teal: max 110 Coeymans Sept. 22; one found dead at Chatham after Hurricane David. Oldsquaw: eight Alcoe Res. Nov. 6. White-winged Scoter: 12 SL Nov. 4; six Mohawk R. at Colonie Nov. 14. Ruddy Duck: eight Basic Res Nov. 6 (BB).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: unusually high numbers with max 73 reported from

Dawson Rock Hawk Watch Sept. 15-16 (KD & ADBC). Goshawk: one each day Sept. 15, 22 & 23 Pinnacle; total for season—seven Berne (PK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 54 season total from Pinnacle and Dawson Rock; 175 total from Berne. Cooper's Hawk: 18 total reported Sept. 30 thru Nov. 17. Red-tailed Hawk: the total of 268 compares with last year's total from the hawk watches but belies the apparent scarcity of the species elsewhere; some observers report an absence of immatures among the already low numbers in otherwise favorable habitats such as Cocksackie Flats. Red-shouldered Hawk: 21 season total Berne (PK); six others reported from Pinnacle and Pine Bush. Broad-winged Hawk: 802 Berne (PK); 154 Sept. 15-16 Dawson Rock. Rough-legged Hawk: only two reports for the entire season! one each Nov. 8 & 17. **BALD EAGLE**: multiple sightings along Schoharie Creek near Gilboa mid-Oct. (*vide* GC). Osprey: encouraging array of reports Sept. 3 thru a very late Nov. 16 Underhill Pond (A & TB); 57 others reported. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: two were spotted miles apart on Oct. 6, the first over Berne by PK & VB; the other toward dusk at Feura Bush by WS; another was over Berne Nov. 5 (PK). Merlin: three reports; two Dawson Rock Sept. 15; one Pinnacle Oct. 14. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER**: 11 on the lawn of the GE Feura Bush Plant Sept. 23 (BB) thru four Oct. 14 with a max of 14 on Oct. 7; another report of one on Cox Flats Oct. 21. Greater Yellowlegs: outnumbered Lesser 14 to three, max Greater ten Stockport Station Sept. 8; the three Lessers were also at Stockport Station Sept. 8. Pectoral Sandpiper: far more numerous than usual with reports from both Cox Flats and GE, Feura Bush Sept. 23 thru Oct. 21; max 12 Sept. 23 Cox and seven Oct. 13. GE. Least Sandpiper: two Black Creek Sept. 3 (BB). Dunlin: one GE Oct. 13 (WS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Black Creek Sept. 3; two GE Sept. 24. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: two GE Oct. 6 & 7 (WS & many others). **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: one off Long Island (Lake George) Sept. 29 (MF). **PARASITIC JAEGER**: first Regional report was of one adult flying south down the Hudson River as Hurricane David was breaking up on Sept. 6; the bird circled higher and higher, then almost out of sight, flew off to the east in a hurry for the nearest ocean (RPG). A second bird, a subadult, was found at Colonie landfill by Ken Able on Oct. 8. What was probably the same bird was relocated by G. Carleton and thanks to a few quick phone calls was seen by many others that same evening. Iceland Gull: only report is of one on the lawn of Gloversville High School in the company of 300 Ring-billed Gulls Nov. 26. **LAUGHING GULL**: first Regional record was of an imm. flying north on the Hudson River at NB during Hurricane David Sept. 6 (RPG); another, an adult, was flying around the base of Cohoes Falls Nov. 3 (RPG). Bonaparte's Gull: four Mohawk River at Crescent Oct. 4. **SOOTY TERN**: *nine* (poss 12) flying north over the Hudson River at NB at the height of Hurricane David Sept. 6. The first three could only be identified as dark-backed terns and were probably this species. The next day two others were found at Stockport Station (KA & KD) while another was found dead near Delmar (specimen to NYS Museum, Albany). **ROYAL TERN**: two were seen flying south over the Hudson River at Cox Sept. 8 (BB, BL). Probably the same two were seen about twenty minutes later at Four-mile Point as they stopped on a sand bar, for about an hour, acting very restless, before taking wing and heading south again (RPG).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: reports from Cambridge, Castleton, Chatham and NB. Barred Owl: reports from Cambridge and Chatham; it is interesting that the reports of this species continue to come from wooded wetlands in the interior highlands rather than from the river valleys. Whip-poor-will: one at dusk at GE, Feura Bush Sept. 25. Com. Nighthawk: a late report of one over the Pine Bush Oct. 5 (BL). Chimney Swift: Oct. 12 is late for this species but it was exceptional when B. Budliger found a flock of 100+ over Cohoes Falls on that date. Com. Flicker: an individual with two pink primaries, two pink outer tail feathers and a pink secondary on each wing was banded by R. Yunick Nov. 24. This is the third flicker with this combination of markings that he has banded in his Schenectady yard since 1963. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Chatham Nov. 2-10 (KD, EG & EM). Red-headed Woodpecker: Chatham Nov. 22 (KD, EG).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Blue Jay: R. Yunick reports them more numerous than usual at Jenny Lake; hundreds flying over NB each evening thru Sept. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Stephentown Sept. 30 (DR) probably a "spillover" from the increasing population in the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts. Tufted Titmouse: curiously being reported as increasing and widespread in the interior highlands, i.e. Cambridge and Tarborton, yet may be decreasing in the river valleys. Carolina Wren: one Palmers Ravine Nov. 12. Hermit Thrush: somewhat scarce with only three reports. Swainson's Thrush: hundreds overhead through the early hours of night, Sept. 11, 13, 16, 19 & 23 Schodack Ctr. (PC). E. Bluebird: 23 Oct. 17 Stephentown (RR). Water Pipit: Sept. 24 thru Oct. 26; max 100 Oct. 8 Cox Flats. No. Shrike: certainly not as numerous as last year, only one report Nov. 16 Cambridge (ND).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one imm. banded NB Sept. 15; seen thru Sept. 22. Tennessee Warbler: 26 banded at NB in Sept., compare with 89 for the same efforts last year. Wilson's Warbler: few reports include a late individual Oct. 7 at Coeymans (AG).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: only report one Cox Flats Sept. 8. Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch: sparse with only a few scattered reports. House Finch: R. Yunick reports a continued increase at his Schenectady yard, having banded 143 from mid-Sept. thru Nov. Red Crossbill: only report is of one in flight over Jenny Lake Nov. 23 (RPY). Vesper Sparrow: two Oct. 21 Cox Flats—only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: three banded NB Sept. Lapland Longspur: a very early individual Oct. 8 at Cox Flats followed by three others by Oct. 21. Snow Bunting: an early Oct. 21 Cox Flats; also Nov. 3 Castleton and Nov. 23 L. Taghkanic, regular thereafter.

P.O. Box 46, New Baltimore, New York 12124

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The weather bureau said this was one of the warmest autumns of the century. Most people did not realize it however, since there were a few cold days. The first and last weeks of Sept. and Oct. were unusually cold, but the middle of these months were on the balmy side. November was less variable, but warmer than usual. Katyids were calling far into October in spite of a three inch snow-fall on October 10, which broke down trees and branches still laden with green leaves. Precipitation was normal, with rainy days scattered rather evenly thru the period.

The big news for the period was the exotics brought into the Region by tropical storm "David" on Sept. 6. (Tropical storm "Frederic" a week later was uneventful.) Sooty Terns were found all along the Hudson, with a maximum of six adults and two immatures at New Hamburg. Farther down stream at Dobbs Ferry, Berna Weissman was looking at a Sooty Shearwater in addition to Sooty Terns, and also at Least Terns, Forster's Terns, Black Terns, and Northern Phalaropes.

A remarkable event on the lower Hudson was the invasion of Forster's Terns in late October, which continued to mid-November. Formerly this species was