

ley had several reports of communal roosting of E. Bluebirds in nest boxes. JP banded 22 Ruby-crowned Kinglets Sept. 25-Oct. 21. EJ and JP had a leisurely look at a Bohemian Waxwing Nov. 22 at Westport. Only two No. Shrike reports: one at Tupper Nov. 7 (CD) and one Nov. 22 at Point au Roche (MG). 300 Starlings at Picketts Corners Oct. 3 reduced to 75 Oct. 7 (CD).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: a late Red-eyed Vireo was at Tupper Oct. 7 (CD). JP banded an extremely late Tennessee Warbler Oct. 19 at Elizabethtown. CD had a late Nashville Warbler Oct. 5 at Tupper. Nobody mentions Yellow Warbler although there were more than usual in the St. Regis Falls area if not elsewhere during the summer. The latest Yellow-rumped Warbler was one eating suet Nov. 2 at Tupper (CD). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Elizabethtown Sept. 20 (JP). Palm Warbler: one Port Henry Sept. 26 was second earliest date for *hypochrysea* in Essex Co. (GC); one *palmarum* Oct. 4 and one *hypochrysea* Oct. 19 at Elizabethtown were banded (JP). A late Ovenbird Oct. 5 was in no. Clinton Co. (MG). Wilson's Warbler: one Willsboro Sept. 5 (EJ, JP); one adult male Paul Smiths Sept. 13 (TM).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: all time high for Essex Co. was 150 at a Crown Point farm Sept. 26 (GC, NM). E. Meadowlark: one at Tupper Oct. 12 and last one was near Rouses Point Nov. 1. 400 Red-winged Blackbirds were migrating through Tupper Oct. 6. Two Rusty Blackbirds were at Westport Sept. 21. No others reported. A Com. Grackle with only one foot was still at the Delehanty feeder in Tupper on the last day of Nov. A high count of 25 Brown-headed Cowbirds was at the same feeder Nov. 19. Two Scarlet Tanagers were eating crickets at the same location Sept. 22. Please delete the record of this species in the summer issue 1980 on page 186. Two pairs of Cardinals were present at Tupper through the period and the last two Purple Finches left there Oct. 16. A flock of 200+ Pine Siskins stopped briefly at Tupper Oct. 21. No Rufous-sided Towhees were reported. A late Savannah Sparrow was at Tupper Oct. 8. The first Tree Sparrow arrived there Oct. 24. A Chipping Sparrow was still at Tupper Nov. 5. **HARRIS' SPARROW:** MB and DB had the bird at their feeders for ten days starting Oct. 27. It had a pinkish bill, streaked sides, black blotch on chest, sides of head light buff, and was larger than the Dark-eyed Juncos with it. It was a good imm. bird and was banded as well as photographed. A lot of people saw it. White-throated Sparrow: one still at Tupper Nov. 30 (CD); one still at Saranac Lake Nov. 30 (BH). Fox Sparrow: one Oct. 5 No. Clinton Co. (MG); one at Tupper Oct. 31. Song Sparrow: one through Nov. 30 Tupper (CD); one through Nov. 30 Saranac Lake (BH). Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs were mixed with large flocks of Horned Larks at Rouses Point Nov. 27 (MG). The first report of Snow Buntings was Oct. 25 at Keene.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Although drought conditions continuing through the fall seriously threaten urban water supplies, the banks of our dwindling reservoirs were delightfully flooded with shorebirds. Low water levels left large expanses of flat muddy shores, attracting Am. Golden Plovers and a White-rumped Sandpiper, among other typically coastal species, to inland locations. No fewer than 22 species of ducks and 10 species of shorebirds were spotted on an October 18-19 weekend field trip to Basic Creek and Alcove Reservoirs.

Well, folks, we are indeed going to have a winter in Region 8 this year. The max temperature of 98° F. (37° C.) on September 2 provided little comfort from those bitter November winds. For those of us who may have forgotten what snow looked like, following last winter's near absence, Old Man Winter almost bestowed upon us a white Hallowe'en as one-half to one inch fell in parts of Albany, Rensselaer and northern Columbia Counties on October 28. An early heavy snowfall dropped 10 inches over the Region on November 18.

Last year I packed up my James Bond to do a bit of West Indian birding and avoid the blistering northeastern winter. This year, instead of Bananaquits for Christmas it will be Pine Grosbeaks and Snowy Owls. And it does look like a banner year for winter finches. Early sightings of Pine Grosbeaks by Juanita Cook, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills by Robert Yunick herald hope for a heavy influx.

Although 172 species were reported for the Region this fall rarities were few. The pair of Snowy Owls entertaining the railroad employees at Selkirk is among the few. A trip to Tomhannock Reservoir coordinated by Monte Gruett resulted in the sighting of a White-rumped Sandpiper for the 17 fortunate observers, and the 3 Western Sandpipers reported previously were still at Embough Bay on September 1st. A late date for an Indigo Bunting was reported by Dick Guthrie for a bird that he banded on October 29. Robert Yunick banded a juvenile Hermit Thrush on September 14, a late date for a juvenile. Dick Guthrie also reported a couple of very late swallows, an October 19 Barn Swallow at Basic Creek and an October 23 Purple Martin in New Baltimore.

Good Birding and may a Hoary Redpoll visit each and every one of your feeders.

Contributors: V & B Able, Roberta Bernstein, Rachel Brody, A & T Brown, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Kate Dunham, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Monte Gruett, Andrew Guthrie, Richard P. Guthrie, Paul Hebert, Philip Ingalls, Nancy Kern, Ted Koniowska, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Long, E. Mansell, Sherrie Orne, Tom Palmer, Sue & Jon Powell, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, M & W Ulmer, and Robert P. Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: six Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8. Red-throated Loon: two Alcove Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Red-necked Grebe: one Germantown Oct. 18 (WS); one Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). Horned Grebe: one Mohawk River Niskayuna Nov. 2 (R & CL); three Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Pied-billed Grebe: Castleton Oct. 15 (JC); Ooms Pond Oct. 19 (KD & EG); Columbia Co. Oct. 18 (WS). Double-crested Cormorant: Columbia Co. Oct. 18. Great Blue Heron: seen frequently through Oct. Green Heron: a late date in Hudson Oct. 29 (A & TB). Snowy Egret: 10 Embough Bay Sept. 1 (RG & BC). Mute Swan: Columbia Co. Oct. 18 (WS). Brant: two seen on Oct. 18 in different locations; Columbia Co. (WS) and Alcove Res. (RG & AG). Snow Goose: first report from Juanita Cook in Castleton Oct. 30; flocks of 20 observed at Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8, and Embough Bay Nov. 4. Mallard: max 600 Embough Bay Nov. 4. Black Duck: max 300 Embough Bay Nov. 4. Gadwall: three Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Pintail: Ooms Pond Oct. 19 (KD & EG); seven Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Green-winged Teal: three Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Am. Wigeon: reported by more than five observers in Columbia and Rensselaer Cos. Oct.-Nov. Ring-necked Duck: Bell's Pond Livingston Oct. 16 (A & TB); and from Columbia Co. again Oct. 18 (WS). Redhead: one shot Embough Bay Oct. 8 (JP). Canvasback: 2,000 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC), gone following first day of hunting season. Greater Scaup: several observed with Lesser Scaup Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Lesser Scaup: eight Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Com. Goldeneye: one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Bufflehead: six Tom-

hannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); one Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Oldsquaw: one male on Mohawk River east of Amsterdam (TP); two Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). White-winged Scoter: one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG & AG). Black Scoter: three reports on Oct. 18, Castleton (JC); ten Basic Creek (RG); and Columbia Co. (WS); also, on Oct. 29, 30 (JC). Ruddy Duck: Ooms Pond Oct. 18, 29 (DD, EG, V & BA); 15 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Hooded Merganser: apparently large numbers in eastern New York and western Massachusetts during late Oct. and early Nov.; max 45 Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Com. Merganser: Hudson Oct. 8, 13 (A & TB); 20 Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); three Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: many reports thru Sept. and Oct., none for Nov.; max 13 Ghent Sept. 6 (BC). Goshawk: two Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). Sharp-shinned Hawk: many reports for Oct.; two reports for Nov.; one Ghent Nov. 6 (B & HG); one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Cooper's Hawk: more than six reports for period from central and southern portion of this Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Pinnacle Hawk Watch Sept. 20 (R & CL). Broad-winged Hawk: seen intermittently through Oct. (JC, V & BA). Rough-legged Hawk: several sightings for Nov., the earliest is Oct. 17 from Pinnacle Hawk Watch. Marsh Hawk: about 10 reports through period. Osprey: three reports from Oct.; two from Nov. Am. Coot: Ooms Pond Oct. 18-27 (KD, EG, V & BA); 80 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC); 15 Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Killdeer: common through Oct.; latest date is for three at Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). **AM. GOLDEN PLOVER:** one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG); two Cocksackie Flats Sept. 28 (RG). **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG); two Cocksackie Flats Sept. 28 (RG). Am. Woodcock: latest date is from Spencertown Oct. 29 (M & BU). Com. Snipe: Ghent, Oct. 11; Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18. Spotted Sandpiper: Hudson, Oct. 1 (A & TB). Greater Yellowlegs: four reports through Nov. 8; max 22 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Pectoral Sandpiper: Ghent Oct. 1, 2 (B & HG); Churchtown, Oct. 13 (A & TB); max 25 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8, very late date (MG). Dunlin: 25 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Dowitcher sp: one Basic Creek Oct. 18 (RG). **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** same three reported in late Aug. from Embough Bay Sept. 1, in flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers (RG & BC). Sanderling: Ghent Oct. 1 (B & HG). Iceland Gull: one New Baltimore Nov. 22 (RG). Great Black-backed Gull: three reports from Castleton. Herring Gull: max 200 Mohawk River Niskayuna Nov. 2. Ring-billed Gull: several reports through period; Tom Palmer reports them most noticeable between Nov. 3-9 along Mohawk River. Bonaparte's Gull: one Basic Creek Oct. 23 and one New Baltimore Sept. 28 (RG).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: three Cocksackie Sept. 28. Screech Owl: four reports for period in Spencertown, Ghent and Amsterdam. Great Horned Owl: eight reports for period. **SNOWY OWL:** a male and an imm. female appeared in Selkirk by late Nov. They have been very conspicuous through end of period and have been observed feeding on pigeons. Barred Owl: two Jenny Lake Sept. (RY). Short-eared Owl: three observed on their Cocksackie Flats winter range Nov. 23—an earlier than usual date. Belted Kingfisher: at least nine reports for period. Com. Flicker: common through period but declining in Nov. Pileated Woodpecker: 11 reports through period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Old Chatham Oct. 6 (PI); one Greenport Oct. 3 (BC); one banded in New Baltimore Oct. (RG).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Great Crested Flycatcher: only one report, Castleton, Oct. 1 (JC). E. Phoebe: fairly common through Oct. Tom Palmer reports Oct. 5 as last date for Amsterdam. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded, New Baltimore, Sept. (RG). Traill's Flycatcher: one banded, New Baltimore, Sept. Least Flycatcher: seven banded, New Baltimore, Sept. E. Wood Pewee: three banded, New Baltimore, Sept. Horned Lark: made their appearance on Oct. 18 in Amsterdam (TP) and are growing in numbers as winter approaches. Tree Swallow: last date Oct. 7 in Columbia Co. Barn Swallow: max 13 Ghent, Sept. 6 (BC); one very late date at Basic Creek Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Purple Martin: one record late date at

New Baltimore Oct. 23 (RG). Black-capped Chickadee: RY reports "very definitely a flight year . . . by late Sept., at Jenny Lake, chickadees were everywhere in the woods." His banding of 59, mostly imm. individuals, compares with the previous flight year '78-'79, which "consisted principally of previously banded birds." Tufted Titmouse: seven banded at New Baltimore. White-breasted Nuthatch: many reports but considered "scarce at Jenny Lake, none banded!" (RY). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 17 bandings at Jenny Lake indicate a declining population since summer (RY). Brown Creeper: common through Oct., declining in Nov.; one banded New Baltimore, Sept. House Wren: last date Oct. 25, Old Chatham (PI). Winter Wren: one Amsterdam, Nov. 8 (TP). Carolina Wren: one Amsterdam, Oct. 18 (TP); two through period at New Baltimore (RG). Gray Catbird: 76 banded at New Baltimore through Sept. and Oct.; last report Nov. 30. Old Chatham (PI). Wood Thrush: last reported Oct. 18, New Baltimore (RG). Hermit Thrush: RY banded a late date juvenal at Jenny Lake Sept. 14 which approaches John Bull's latest date of Sept. 23 for fledglings. Swainson's Thrush: eight banded New Baltimore in Sept. (RG); last report Oct. 24, Hudson (A & TB). Gray-cheeked Thrush: Castleton, Oct. 11 last report (JC). E. Bluebird: scattered sightings through Nov. 26, Montgomery & Columbia Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common through Oct.; five banded in New Baltimore that month; last report Old Chatham Nov. 1 (PI). Water Pipit: Castleton, Oct. 13-29 (JC); one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Cedar Waxwing: common through period; seven banded New Baltimore, Sept.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one New Baltimore Sept. 8 (RG). RG banded the following 19 species of vireos and warblers in New Baltimore this fall: one Solitary Vireo Oct.; 20 Red-eyed Vireos Sept.-Oct.; one Warbling Vireo, Sept.; one Black-and-white Warbler Sept.; 19 Tennessee Warblers Sept.; seven Nashville Warblers Sept.-Oct.; two No. Parulas Sept.; 17 Magnolia Warblers Sept.; last report from Hoge Hill Oct. 15 (V & BA); 19 Yellow-rumped Warblers Oct.; seven Black-throated Green Warblers Sept.; one Blackburnian Warbler Sept.; six Blackpoll Warblers Sept.-Oct.; one Ovenbird Sept.; one Mourning Warbler Sept.; five Com. Yellowthroats Sept.; one Wilson's Warbler Sept.; three Canada Warblers Sept.; seven Am. Redstarts Sept. Only two warbler species were observed and not banded. Bay-breasted Warbler: two New Baltimore Sept. 14 (RG). Palm Warbler: Lake Taghkanic Oct. 1 (A & TB).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last seen Oct. 19, a small flock in Amsterdam (TP). E. Meadowlark: reported common through Nov. in Columbia Co. (V & BA). Red-winged Blackbird: common through period, numbers decreasing in Nov. No. Oriole: only report is from Amsterdam Sept. 1 (TP). Rusty Blackbird: reported from Ghent and elsewhere in Oct., last seen in Ghent Nov. 6 (B & HG). Scarlet Tanager: nine banded, New Baltimore Sept. (RG). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: three banded New Baltimore Sept. (RG); last seen Oct. 14, Ghent (V & BA). Indigo Bunting: one banded in New Baltimore Oct. 29, a very late date (RG). John Bull states rare after mid-Oct. Evening Grosbeak: appeared on Oct. 22 in Castleton (JC), becoming widespread in area through Nov. Purple Finch: Jenny Lake breeding ground provided a good banding year for RY with 633 banded May-Oct., but becoming much reduced in numbers by mid-Sept. House Finch: RY was banding record numbers at Jenny Lake (154 for period), but numbers dropped off unexpectedly in mid-Nov. Pine Grosbeak: made a very early appearance in Castleton on Nov. 15 (JC). Pine Siskin: first heard in flight at Jenny Lake Oct. 12 by RY, who also reports that an Oct. 29 yard bird is the earliest in 17 years; TP reports sightings Oct. 8-Nov. 8 with max on Oct. 18. Am. Goldfinch: RY banded 30, his record for Jenny Lake Aug. 13-Sept. 6, with an abnormally high proportion of adults, 23 adult, 7 imm. Red Crossbill: RY reports these birds "definitely on the move;" 2 Jenny Lake Sept. 28 and 6-8 on Nov. 8. Rufous-sided Towhee: reported common in Columbia Co. in Oct. (V & BA), but no other reports. Vesper Sparrow: seen intermittently in Castleton through Oct. (JC); one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Dark-eyed Junco: reported scarce at Jenny Lake in Sept. after Aug. fledging, but becoming abundant at feeders after mid-Oct.; 43 banded, New Baltimore Oct. Tree Sparrow: first report Oct.

29 Ghent (B & HG); becoming common in Nov. when eight were banded in New Baltimore (RG). Chipping Sparrow: common through Oct. Last reported Nov. 3 (V & BA). RG banded the following seven species of sparrows in New Baltimore this fall: two Field Sparrows Sept.-Oct.; three White-crowned Sparrows Oct.; 168 White-throated Sparrows Sept.-Oct.; RY reports scarce at Jenny Lake in Sept., but banded 38 Oct.-Nov.; two Fox Sparrows Oct. and another two banded at Jenny Lake (RY); one Lincoln's Sparrow Sept.; also observed in Ghent Oct. 1 (B & HG); three Swamp Sparrows Oct.; and 20 Song Sparrows Sept.-Oct. Lapland Longspur: one with Snow Buntings on record early date Oct. 18 Basic Creek Res. (RG). Snow Bunting: a flock of 100 were seen migrating along the Hudson at Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC); very early date of Oct. 18, Basic Creek Res. (RG).

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

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[Because of other responsibilities, Dick Guthrie has resigned as editor of Region 8, and has been succeeded by Bill Cook. The editors wish to thank Dick for a job well done.]

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The 3.96 inches of rainfall in October made it the first month with above average (0.12 in.) precipitation since April. This year's growing season drought made it the eighth driest in the last 85 years. During October many springs and streams began to flow again, but modestly. September was completely frostless; the first occurring on October 10. November was cooler than usual, with snow falling on November 18. The amount varied from one inch in the southern portion of the Region to about eight inches in the higher reaches of the Catskills. Small amounts of rain were observed on November 4 and 24, but not enough to break the drought and raise the reservoirs.

Many reservoirs were almost empty at the start of the season, and one might have expected their bare beds to entice migrating shorebirds to stop and feed. This was not the case through much of the Region. Reporters from the southern portion said that open mud flats were largely unoccupied. The exception seemed to be Ashokan Reservoir which lured a good variety of birds in some numbers. Cold fronts were rather weak during September and this was reflected in the rather poor movement of Broad-winged Hawks. Even the warbler migration was affected. The best movements were noticed for a few days after a September 16 cold front. Relatively few winter finches were noted; Pine Siskins were well reported east of the Hudson and along the ridges in the west of the Region, but the immediate Hudson Valley was devoid of them. Evening Grosbeaks and Snow Buntings arrived as expected, but in smaller numbers than usual. The only other northern finches reported were a pair of Pine Grosbeaks in the Balsam Lake Mt. area of the Catskills. Rarities included in the report are: Red-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, White Ibis, Black Vulture, Baird's Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, California Gull, Western Kingbird, Common Raven, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Lapland Longspur.