

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.

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Abbreviations used: First four or five letters of each county; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPH—Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: five over Hook Mt. Sept. 24; three Ashokan Res. Sept. 9 inc. to a max of 35 by Sept. 25; one obs from Pawling Tower Sept. 27. Red-throated Loon: two on Hudson off Dobbs Ferry Oct. 20, and two off Croton Pt. Nov. 2. One at Ashokan Nov. 9 were the only reports. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** always a good find, one Ashokan Res. Oct. 16 was very early. Double-crested Cormorant: good numbers after unusual high of last summer along the length of the Hudson. **GREAT CORMORANT:** one imm Oct. 14 at Dobbs Ferry. First report since the early 1970's and the second report ever in Region 9. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an unusually high number of five at L. Tappan Sept. 4. One at MC from Sept. 14 to month's end. One at Innisfree, Dutch Sept. 10. **CATTLE EGRET:** one at WSF Sept. 4 was unusual in fall (Janet Fitzpatrick). Six in Dutch Oct. 29 is probably the highest number ever in the Region at one time. Great Egret: scattered reports in Sept. Max 35 at L. Tappan Sept. 4. Last there Sept. 16. Snowy Egret: max six at Croton Pt. Four still there Nov. 7. **WHITE IBIS:** an imm. at MC Sept. 5 remained thru month's end. Mute Swan: continues to inc. Fifteen ad at CB Sept. 1 inc to 50 by Sept. 28. Another 50 up river near Beacon Oct. 10 were probably the same birds. Canada Goose: first southbound flocks reported Sept. 27 over Ashokan. There were six flocks of about 60 birds in each—too numerous to report from then on. Brant: an estimated 380 in four flocks over Hook Mt. Oct. 22. Snow Goose: a single bird spent most of the summer thru Sept. on Congers L and nearby L Tappan. Single birds were reported in at least two locations in West thru end of period. High flying migrants were reported in mid-Oct. with a max of 100 over Dutch. Black Duck: max 430 on Ashokan Nov. 9. Gadwall: always unusual—three on L Tappan Sept. 4 were quite early. Four on CB Sept. 28. Pintail: an unusually high number of 26 at CB Sept. 28. Blue-winged Teal: exceptionally good numbers everywhere in early Sept. Max 40 CB Sept. 28. Am. Wigeon: max 82 at CB Sept. 20. No. Shoveler: always unusual—a female at Rockland L Sept. 24 was early. Two in Dutch Oct. 29 and another near Stissing Nov. 25. P. French saw an unheard of 25 to 30 near the causeway of L DeForest on Nov. 18, and the following day eight were at L Tappan. Wood Duck: continues in exc numbers. Max 40 at Iona L. Sept. 28. Last there Nov. 1. Exc. numbers at Bashakill. Redhead: two at CB Nov. 20. One still there Nov. 30. Ring-necked Duck: max 100 Nov. 7 Thompson Pd. Canvasback: approaching the old numbers of 30 years ago. Max 7,500 at CB Nov. 20. Lesser Scaup: numbers down. First two at CB Sept. 28. Max 9 Tarrytown Res. Nov. 7. Oldsquaw: three Nov. 2 Orange L. 12 Nov. 5 at CB. White-winged Scoter: only report five at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 10. Surf Scoter: one with the above group of White-wings at Dobbs Ferry. Two females at Orange L Nov. 2. Black Scoter: 15 CB Oct. 22, and 22 Orange L Nov. 2. 40 at Ashokan Oct. 16 inc. to 60 by Oct. 21. A single bird on Hunn's L, Dutch, Oct. 22. Ruddy Duck: 12 on Tomahawk L Oran Oct. 26 inc to 15 by Nov. 8. 15 at Rockland L Nov. 3 was high for such an early date. Com. Merganser: first migrants 10 at Ashokan Oct. 3. Max 20 on Hudson at Bodowin Pk. Oct. 22. Red-breasted Merganser: one Sheffield Rd. Pd. Dutch Nov. 11 was the only report.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: two over White Horse Mt. one day in Sept. and a rumor of another over Hook Mt. (dates unknown). Goshawk: MPH had a total of seven and tied the previous one day max of three on Oct. 30. One imm at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 14, and another over Billings, Dutch Sept. 24. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total of 1,581 on MPH. Max 147 Sept. 23. An imm. was window-killed at Irvington, West Nov. 23. Marion VanWagner of Pleasant Valley has had a male preying on her feeder birds for several years now. Cooper's Hawk: MPH had a total of 46 with a max of 21 on Oct. 30, a new one day record

for that count. Red-tailed Hawk: residents normal. MPHWH had a total of 461, a new high over the old record of 312. They also broke the old one day record of 55 with a whopping 101 on Oct. 29. Red-shouldered Hawk: MPHWH total was 47. Max nine on Nov. 8 tied the previous record. Broad-winged Hawk: went thru in disappointing numbers. Max count rec'd was 1,300 on Sept. 16 near Mohonk. MPHWH totaled 3,072 for the season with a max of 709 on Sept. 18. The daily watch at Butler Sanct. West had a max of 527 the same date. Rough-legged Hawk: several moved into the Region during Oct. and were still resident at end of period. Two were in Dutch, and at least three in Oran. Golden Eagle: one at WSF Sept. 6, and two on MPHWH Nov. 2 and 3. Bald Eagle: a few more fall reports than usual away from the hawk watches. Only one on MPHWH Sept. 9. One imm over Ft. Montgomery Nov. 15. One ad Rondout Res. Nov. 29 could be a wintering bird. One Vassar Farm, Dutch Oct. 15. Marsh Hawk: MPHWH beat their old record of 56 by an astounding 101. Max one day record was ten on Oct. 29. Osprey: MPHWH totaled 141, with max of 17 on Sept. 16. Last Oct. 30. Peregrine: MPHWH totaled two; one Oct. 1 and the other Oct. 19. One imm put on a fine display over the marsh for several minutes at MC Sept. 14. Two at Ashokan Oct. 11. Merlin: six on MPHWH. Max two on Oct. 10. Am. Kestrel: MPHWH total was 258. Max 26 on Sept. 23. Ruffed Grouse: good numbers of spring and summer continued into fall. Bobwhite: ten or twelve near Amenia were probably hatched in the area. Turkey: gradually increasing in the Schawangunks where they were released several years ago. Flocks of up to 20 are regularly seen. About ten were observed near Clove Valley, Dutch where six were seen in Jan. '79. Virginia Rail: one Croton Pt. Sept. 5. Sora: one Croton Pt. Sept. 9 and another in the salt marsh at MC Sept. 13. Semipalmated Plover: one Croton Pt. Sept. 9 was the only report. Am. Golden Plover: numbers good but not as high as last year. Majority at Stewart Airport and WSF. First near Purchase Aug. 29. 48 at WSF Sept. 1 inc to 200 there Sept. 18. Arr at Stewart Airport Sept. 5. A max there of 50 Oct. 31. Two there till Nov. 23. Black-bellied Plover: more than usual. Max four at L Tappan thru Sept. Two last there Nov. 7. Five Croton Pt. Oct. 8. Four still there Nov. 2. One at Stewart Airport Sept. 12. Three at Ashokan Sept. 27 inc to 15 by Oct. 3. Last there Nov. 4. Upland Sandpiper: at least ten at WSF Sept. 1. Inc to 25 by Sept. 12. Last there Oct. 12. Pectoral Sandpiper: last at L Tappan Sept. 16. First Ashokan Sept. 28. Inc to 40 thru Oct. 19. Last there seven on Oct. 4. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one Ashokan Sept. 30. Obs there again Oct. 5 & 11. Another at WSF Sept. 6. Least Sandpiper: 20 at Ashokan from Sept. 28 thru Oct. 3. Last one there Oct. 6. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: always rare and difficult to identify. Several mixed with Semipalms at Ashokan from Oct. 3 thru Oct. 19. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: becoming regular fall migrants at WSF where two were found Sept. 1, inc to eight by Sept. 28. Last four there Oct. 1. Only three were at Stewart Airport Sept. 12. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: reported for the second year at Stewart Airport. Four there Sept. 17. Gulls: resident species back to normal proportions after a couple of years dominated by Great Black-backed. Population at CB ran about 120 Ring-billed to 20 Herring to ten Great Black-backed. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: the adult of the last two years was once again at Rockland L. It was seen from early Sept. thru the end of the period. Bonaparte's Gull: two at Ashokan Oct. 27, one Wappingers L Oct. 22. Laughing Gull: not found in the mid-Hudson Valley last summer, but two appeared at CB Sept. 12.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: plentiful especially in early fall. Barn Owl: a pr nested at Amenia. Four young were banded on Aug. 14 when about a month old. One was killed in a fall but the rest roosted there until mid-Oct. Great Horned Owl: at least six reports from Dutch dur Nov. Barred Owl: at least seven reported from Dutch dur Nov. Short-eared Owl: only report four birds obs at Galeville Airport Nov. 23. Saw-whet Owl: Dan Smiley identified one at Mohonk and another in New Paltz. Com. Nighthawk: not in the spectacular numbers of the last two years, but good. Max 100 over Armonk Sept. 1, and 217 over Rye Sept. 3. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: fewer than usual. Max three over Hook Mt. Sept. 10. Red-bellied Woodpecker: usual few in Dutch, and a few others scattered thru

the Region. Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 near Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill, Nov. 2 will probably winter there.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: WESTERN KINGBIRD: one, WSF, Oct. 5. E. Phoebe: exc numbers in West, and inc in Rock where they have been down in recent years. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: always difficult to identify in fall. An unusual number of six identified at Thompson Pd Sept. 6. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Rye Nature Center Sept. 8. Last at Wawarsing Sept. 17. Horned Lark: a small flock at Piermont Pier Nov. 10 was the first fall report for Rockland in 10 yrs. Numbers good thru farmland of northern portion. Max about 200 at WSF by Nov. 15. Tree Swallow: "thousands" migrating thru Dutch Sept. 16. Rough-winged Swallow: two at MC Sept. 19 were late. Barn Swallow: about 60 passed Dutchess Hill Sept. 6-7. Last six Sept. 17 near Tamarack Pd. Blue Jay: good movements thru most areas. Max 846 in two hours at Dobbs Ferry Sept. 30. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard calling on Slide Mt. Oct. 13. Fish Crow: two at Stony Pt. Nov. 7 and the usual few near Vassar thru Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: after an average of about 30 per season since 1970, Valerie Freer banded about 84 this fall near Ellenville. An extraordinary increase. Tufted Titmouse: more than 60 obs at Bashakill Sept. 2. A very large movement. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numbers good compared to dearth of recent years. Reports from most areas of one or two birds. First time in three years for some observers. Winter Wren: two Sept. 27 near Pawling; one near Garrison Station Oct. 23. Several reports from the Catskills where they breed. Carolina Wren: summer highs continued into winter season. Mockingbird: everywhere! One downy young at Dobbs Ferry the late date of Sept. 29. Am. Robin: max more than 500 feeding near the Kingston Radio Transmitter Sept. 16. Wood Thrush: one Oct. 15 near Norrie Pt. Dutch was quite late. Hermit Thrush: max ten at Bashakill Nov. 1. Last at Rondout Nov. 29. E. Bluebird: 12 on Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 28, inc to 20 by Oct. 18. Last four there Nov. 2. Golden-crowned Kinglet: appeared in Purchase Sept. 13 and peaked about Sept. 24. Water Pipit: more reports than usual. Thirty at Croton Pt. Oct. 20. Three still there Nov. 2. Max 150 at WSF Oct. 21. Cedar Waxwing: more than 100 near Kingston transmitter Sept. 19. Two young fledged at Middletown on the late date of Sept. 15. No. Shrike: two Galeville Airport Nov. 2. Loggerhead Shrike: one Galeville Airport Nov. 30. Another at MC Sept. 21.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: two at MC and in Purchase were last noted on Sept. 14. Solitary Vireo: first two Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 24. Last one there Oct. 18. One Newburgh Oct. 22. Philadelphia Vireo: three Bashakill Sept. 7, and another at CB Sept. 12. One at Pond Gut, Dutch Sept. 15, and another at Tamarack, Dutch, Sept. 9. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one obs by Elizabeth Burroughs Kelly at Reverby, Ulster on Sept. 11. Came as close as ten ft. Worm-eating Warbler: one at Ft. Montgomery Oct. 5 was rather late as was another in Dutch Oct. 22. Tennessee Warbler: one Nov. 4 was banded at Millbrook School. Another at Pleasant Valley, Nov. 14. Both were quite late. Yellow Warbler: one still at Purchase Sept. 20 was late. Another that same date at Mine Rd., USMA. Yellow-rumped Warbler: usual fall numbers and dates. One found all Nov. at Pleasant Valley—could winter. Bay-breasted Warbler: Peaked in Dutch with ten on Sept. 9. Blackpoll Warbler: peaked in Dutch Sept. 25 with more than ten birds. Pine Warbler: two at Innisfree, Dutch Sept. 10, and two more there Sept. 25-30. One Ashokan Sept. 8. Palm Warbler: one Rockland L. Sept. 24 was early, but another one appeared even earlier at MC Sept. 6. One Oct. 18 at Bashakill was more normal. One Nov. 1 at Bashakill was on the late side. Connecticut Warbler: one Sept. 21 at Bashakill was the only report. Com. Yellowthroat: one heard Nov. 29 at Amenia was very late. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report one at Bashakill Sept. 1. Am. Redstart: one very late female at Croton Pt. Nov. 2.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: No. Oriole: one at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 27 and another town of Hurley, Ulst Nov. 19 were quite late. Rusty Blackbird: good numbers from most areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: a max of 200 Oct. 13 near Pleasant Valley. Cardinal: numbers seem to be inc. since low of several years ago. Family units are commonly found at feeders. A

pr near Pkpsie were feeding young just out of the nest on Sept. 24. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** an imm male was at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 9. Indigo Bunting: last report along Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 28. Dickcissel: an imm male Oct. 9 was the second year in a row at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront. An imm female at a feeder in White Plains Oct. 15-22. Evening Grosbeak: first report six in Dutch Oct. 18. Max 300 there Oct. 31. Most reports were of birds flying over. Very few at feeders thru period. Purple Finch: max 40 Sept. 24 Holiday Hills, Dutch. Few others reported. House Finch: everywhere! Dozens reported at every feeder. Some people have started trapping and releasing them elsewhere much as they did with House Sparrows years ago. Pine Grosbeak: two at Balsam Lake Mt. Nov. 16 was the only report. Pine Siskin: (see introductory comments). Rufous-sided Towhee: a large movement was reported thru the Bashakill on Oct. 18. Savannah Sparrow: seven at WSF Oct. 4 inc to 13 by Oct. 12. Dark-eyed Junco: first reported at Croton Sept. 15. Numbers low at end of period. Tree Sparrow: arr Nov. 1 in most areas—numbers low. Chipping Sparrow: last two Oct. 18 at Cary Arboretum. White-crowned Sparrow: an exceptionally good fall movement—reported in numbers from all areas. Lincoln's Sparrow: first at Dobb's Ferry Sept. 29. Two there thru Oct. Last one there Nov. 5. **LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** more than usual. One WSF Nov. 8 and another at Ashokan Nov. 9 and two at Blue Chip Farm, Walkill Nov. 23. One near Miller-ton Nov. 23. Snow Bunting: 35 at Upper Grand View Nov. 19. Eight at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 2. Two at WSF Oct. 21 inc to 20 by Oct. 28. Two at Ashokan Oct. 27 inc to more than 200 by Nov. 1 and 300 by Nov. 15.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The mean temperature during most of the fall averaged three degrees below normal. After a dry period at the end of the summer, precipitation was an inch above average during October, and close to average in November. Winds were from the northwest on nine days during the period, producing modest hawk flights along the beaches on six of the days. Several days with winds from the west also produced moderate flights. No big flights occurred.

The fall passed with the familiar stages evident. Most Common Terns had left the area by the first week in September. Early September saw movements of *Empidonax* flycatchers and warblers along the beaches. Phoebees were evident by September 24th. The first Canada Geese were moving thru September 27th and 28th. The end of that month also brought the beginning of a widespread westward flight of Double-crested Cormorants moving past Great Gull Island where observers remained until November 23rd this year. Over 600 cormorants passed on September 29th, and the birds continued to be seen through October 17th when over 1,000 were seen. A minimum of 2,800 were noted during the period. Blue Jays were noted in large numbers September 24th at Spuyten Duyvil, and on October 3rd on Great Gull. October 5th brought the first influx of "Myrtle" Warblers and sparrows to Great Gull Island. Over 450 "Myrtles" and 100 Common Flickers were seen in one hour of observation at Riis Park on October 8th. An enormous flight of Pine Siskins started in early October along the beaches. On the 13th, 1,400 were counted in three and a half hours; over 1,000 were seen