

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Heavy rains characterized this fall with about three times the normal amount for October, according to the American Meteorological Society. The heaviest rainfall for the region was in Fulton County where 6.34 inches fell in Gloversville during October. Yet, following last year's drought, streams and ponds are still down. This plethora of precipitation persisted, bringing October hail storms to the Hudson Valley and considerable snow accumulation in the late fall.

A generally colder autumn (five to seven degrees below normal in October) and the very early appearance of winter species offer evidence for perhaps another hearty winter. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Corinth on 13 September. Red Crossbills were at Camp Pinnacle in Albany County on 11 October and by the end of the month White-winged Crossbills were there too. Flocks of Pine Siskins became numerous by mid-October. A Snow Bunting was found at Basic Creek Reservoir on 24 October and a flock of Common Redpolls passed through New Baltimore on 3 November.

The highlight species of the northern invasion is, however, Boreal Chickadee. No fewer than 11 have been reported in the Albany-Columbia County area from 25 October thru November, with the majority of the observations having been made by Ken Able. The appearance of this Adirondack species outside its range was unexpected so soon after the fall 1975 irruption when it received Bob Smart's "BOTS" award.

On the other end of the scale, a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak (immature) was reported to Dial-A-Bird by Margret Krolick of Colonie. The 10 November sighting is eight days later than the latest record for an inland location.

A Great Horned Owl found "in tremors" by Jane Barry at Embough Bay in Catskill on 10 October was autopsied by the state pathologist, Ward Stone. The owl's brain contained 357 ppm PCB and 45 ppm DDE. Ward Stone considers this important documentation of bird mortality due to Hudson River pollution and urges other finds to be referred to him.

This season has been good for gulls and woodpeckers but poor for owls. The seven species of gulls reported include Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull, all at the Colonie landfill. Ken Able's report of *Larus fuscus graellsii*, the British subspecies of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, is the third local record. An equal number of woodpecker species include two Red-bellied Woodpeckers and nine or more Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Local birders seemed to concentrate their hawk migration watch at Camp Pinnacle in the Helderbergs of Albany County. They tallied 12 species of the *Falconiformes* including a Merlin on 24 October. B. and R. Dietert had the most exciting news though, with a sighting of an early Rough-legged Hawk and a Bald Eagle elsewhere in the county on 20 September.

The 191 species reported this season is 19 more than last year's total. Some of the newcomers include Dickcissel, which hasn't been reported in the region

since December 1979 (two years), Common Raven, Northern Shrike, Sora and many of the northern species already mentioned. Absent from this list however are at least ten species from last year's list. One can't expect White-winged Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper and Snowy Owl every fall, but the absence of Barn Owl, Lesser Scaup and Canvasback is probably due to inadequate coverage or the lack of a major bird census during this period.

Connecticut Warbler once again makes the celebrity column with a cameo appearance in Albany on 15 September. Otherwise, warblers were few in number, according to Bob Yunick.

Good Birding and may you be greeted by the "cheery" of a cheery Mourning Warbler in the morning.

Contributors: Ken, Mary & Joshua Able, V. & B. Able, Dean Amadon, Roberta Bernstein, Rachael Brody, Arlene & Tom Brown, Jeff Cherry, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Donald Cooper, B. & R. Dietert, Dave Dister, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Bernard Grossman, Andrew & Richard P. Guthrie, Philip Ingalls, Mike Kuhrt, Betty Laros, Ron & Carolyn LaForce, E. Mansell, Robert Marx, M. Mickie, Tom Palmer, Jon Powell, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, Scott & Linda Terrill, M. & B. Ulmer and Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: HHW—Helderberg Hawk Watch at Camp Pinnacle in Albany Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Lake Taghkanic 3 Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: Castleton 7 Sept-28 Oct; Coeymans 20 Sept; Bell's Pond in Oct; Collins L. Scotia 1 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: 16 Embough Bay 2 Sept (eight imm); Hudson 21 Oct; Clermont 18 Nov (A & TB). Great Blue Heron: the latest of more than 20 reports is 4 Nov at Hudson's South Bay. Green Heron: three reports in early Sept from Castleton, Ghent and Catskill. SNOWY EGRET: Embough Bay 19 Sept (JP). Black-crowned Night Heron: two imm at Cohoes 21 Sept (ST & JCh). Mute Swan: four remained in Embough Bay Catskill thru Oct and Nov despite heavy duck hunting; one imm at Stony Creek Res in Saratoga Co. was observed as it developed thru the period. Canada Goose: 750 at Coeymans on 11 Nov was the largest flock reported. Brant: 50 New Baltimore 26 Oct. Snow Goose: 250 at Camp Pinnacle on 31 Oct; at least five others reported thru 18 Nov. The ratio of Mallards over Black Ducks was 5:1 at Franklin Fly in Schoharie Co. Gadwall: one Embough Bay 2 Sept; one Coeymans 8 Nov. Pintail: 15 Coeymans 11 Nov; Ghent 16 Nov. Green-winged Teal: Bell's Pond 11 Sept; Alcove Res 20 Sept; Taghkanic 3-11 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: Alcove Res 20 Sept; Castleton 30 Sept-28 Oct; two Cohoes 7 Oct. Am. Wigeon: 20 Coeymans 11 Nov; six other reports from earlier in the period. No. Shoveler: Clermont 4 Nov; two Coeymans 11 Nov. Wood Duck: at least 25 reports. Redhead: one Basic Creek Res 20 Sept (RG). Ring-necked Duck: Bell's Pond 21 Oct-18 Nov; two Jenny L 30 Oct; three Saratoga 21 Nov. Greater Scaup: 40 Basic Creek 8 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: Oom's Pond 1 Nov; "many" Saratoga 27 Nov. Bufflehead: 20 Saratoga 21 Nov. Oldsquaw: male Basic Creek 24 Oct; female shot in Embough Bay early Nov; six Basic Creek 8 Nov. Black Scoter: two Hudson R. at Albany 19 Nov. Ruddy Duck: three Basic Creek 8 Nov. Hooded Merganser: Clermont 28 Oct; 60 Coeymans 11 Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov. Com. Merganser: Embough Bay 2 Sept; two Jenny L Nov; six Saratoga 21 Nov; eight Mohawk R. at Amsterdam 22 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: at least 13 reports; two HHW 20 Sept; one in Greenville and one in Ghent on 3 Oct. Goshawk: Chatham 7 and 27 Sept; two HHW 24 Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at least 56 reports; 40 HHW 20 Sept; four HHW 24 Oct. Cooper's Hawk: at least 12 reports; one HHW 20 Sept; one HHW 24 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: seven HHW 20 Sept; 39 HHW 24 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: Castleton 30 Sept; four HHW 24 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: 47 HHW 20 Sept; 1,144 counted by Harry Goldman in Moreau 16 Sept riding the crest of a passing cold front (Mike Peterson). Rough-legged Hawk: Westerlo

20 Sept (B & RD); one HHW 24 Oct; four other reports from Greene and Montgomery Cos. Bald Eagle: Rensselaerville 20 Sept (B & RD), Marsh Hawk: two HHW 20 Sept; one HHW 24 Oct; about 20 other reports. Osprey: seven HHW 20 Sept; the latest of three other reports is 13 Oct Old Chatham. Merlin: one HHW 24 Oct. Am. Kestrel: four HHW 20 Sept; at least ten other reports. Ruffed Grouse: at least ten reports. Bobwhite: Castleton 6-11 Sept. Turkey: Spencertown 26-27 Sept; 14 Voorheesville 21 Nov. Sora: one Franklin Fly 6 Sept (DC). Com. Gallinule: one adult and two hatch year birds at Franklin Fly 15 Sept. Am. Coot: about 100 birds from five reports 11 Oct-21 Nov. Killdeer: last reported 20 Oct from Amsterdam. Am. Golden Plover: seven Cocksackie 25 Oct (KA). Black-bellied Plover: one Alcove Res 25 Oct (KA). Am. Woodcock: last of seven reports Amsterdam 14 Oct. Spotted Sandpiper: ten Embough Bay 2 Sept. Solitary Sandpiper: Castleton Sept-14 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: latest of four reports 11 Nov Alcove Res. Lesser Yellowlegs: latest of five reports 25 Oct Hudson. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Cohoes Falls 21 Sept; one Cocksackie 25 Oct. Least Sandpiper: eight Embough Bay 2 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two Embough Bay 2 Sept. Glaucous Gull: two Colonie landfill 7 Nov (JCh, S & LT). Iceland Gull: one adult Colonie landfill 9 Nov and an imm there 25-26 Nov (KA *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gull: at least 12 reports. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: a third-year bird at Colonie landfill 24-30 Nov (KA). Herring Gull: 300 Colonie landfill 26 Nov. Ring-billed Gull: 300 Colonie landfill 26 Nov; 30 Hudson landfill thru Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: two Alcove Res 20 Sept (RG). Black Tern: one Basic Creek Res 20 Sept (RG).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: ten reports. Mourning Dove: congregating in cornfields. Black-billed Cuckoo: Castleton and Hagel Hill 1-27 Sept. Screech Owl: Castleton, Spencertown and Ghent 5 Sept-21 Nov. Great Horned Owl: four or five permanent residents in Amsterdam; Muitzeskill and Spencertown thru period. Barred Owl: one heard at dusk HHW 20 Sept. Com. Nighthawk: one Amsterdam 2 Sept; Castleton 1-3 Sept; Old Chatham 14 Sept. Chimney Swift: one Menands 7 Sept; two Amsterdam 24 Sept; three Amsterdam 5 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one banded Jenny L 12 Sept; last of six other reports 9 Oct in Old Chatham. Belted Kingfisher: about 20 reports thru. Com. Flicker: one banded Schenectady 22 Nov. Pileated Woodpecker: resident at Jenny L, heard 26 Sept; pair at Amsterdam thru; 12 other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Ghent 6 Oct (BC); one male at West Berne 5 Nov since June 1980 (KA). Red-headed Woodpecker: five Amsterdam 3-7 Sept (TP); two Lyon L 7-30 Sept (JC); Germantown 28 Oct-28 Nov (A & TB); Ghent 2 Nov (B & HG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Old Chatham 26 Sept-10 Oct (KD & EG). Hairy Woodpecker: about 12 reports. Downy Woodpecker: about 30 reports; four banded Jenny L in Nov.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: wave of three to five per day at Niskayuna following cold front of 18 Aug; four at Amsterdam and one at Menands on 7 Sept. Great Crested Flycatcher: six max at Amsterdam 1-7 Sept; Chatham 1-7 Sept. E. Phoebe: nine reports; two Amsterdam thru 11 Oct. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Hagel Hill 21 Sept (V & BA). Two Empidonax flycatchers reported as: Willow Flycatcher: one Amsterdam 3 Sept. Least Flycatcher: Chatham 7 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: one Amsterdam 6 Sept; one Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Horned Lark: one at Amsterdam 10 Oct; nine on 27 Nov; Cocksackie Flats 8 Nov; three other reports in Nov. Tree Swallow: migrating in numbers Hudson R. at Embough Bay 2 Sept; latest of ten other reports 9 Oct Hudson. Bank Swallow: migrating along Embough Bay 2 Sept; Castleton 12-18 Sept; Rough-winged Swallow: Castleton and Ghent Sept. Barn Swallow: migrating along Embough Bay 2 Sept; two Amsterdam 7-9 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Blue Jay: numbers dropping to only six to eight at Jenny L feeder in Nov. Com. Raven: one Alcove Res 20 Sept (RG). Com. Crow: 20 reports. Black-capped Chickadee: 50 in banding net at Jenny L, this period; "modest flight compared to last year's record" (RY). **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one Albany 25 Oct; one SUNYA 29 Oct; one Albany 3 Nov; one Berne 25 Nov; three Chatham 26 Nov; one E. Berne 30 Nov (all KA *et al.*); one Tomhanock Res 1 Nov (MK); one banded New Baltimore 11 Nov (RG); Chatham Res 26 Nov (V & BA). Tufted Titmouse: "scarcer than usual in Schenectady" (RY). White-

breasted Nuthatch: the five banded at Jenny L. Aug-Nov is normal. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one banded at Jenny L in Nov following total absence since Aug; 20 other reports. Brown Creeper: migrants at Jenny L 26-27 Sept; two or three remaining thru 30 Nov; eight other reports. House Wren: one Amsterdam 19 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Winter Wren: one Amsterdam 10 Oct (TP). Carolina Wren: Ghent 26 Sept (B & HG); Ballston L 27 Oct. (BG). Mockingbird: 14 reports thru. Gray Catbird: last of seven reports 26 Oct Amsterdam. Brown Thrasher: Castleton 1-5 Sept; Amsterdam 19 Sept; Am. Robin: often seen congregating in dense conifers as winter approaches. Wood Thrush: four reports in Sept. Hermit Thrush: one Amsterdam 19 Sept. Swainson's Thrush: one banded New Baltimore 19 Sept; Chatham 19-21 Oct; Hagel Hill 1 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one banded New Baltimore 17 Sept. Veery: last banded at Jenny L 7 Sept. E. Bluebird: 20 reports from Amsterdam, Ghent, New Baltimore, Old Chatham, Spencertown and Taghkanic thru. Golden-crowned Kinglet: migrants at Jenny L 26-27 Sept; Castleton-Chatham 26 Sept-30 Nov; Amsterdam 19 Oct-30 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Ghent 12 Sept; one Amsterdam 10 Oct; Castleton-Old Chatham 5-30 Oct. Water Pipit: 20 or more at Amsterdam 10 Oct with last one seen 7 Nov (TP); Castleton 12 Oct-8 Nov (JC). Cedar Waxwing: late fledging of young at Jenny L. 10 Sept; over 100 in flocks migrating past Franklin Fly 15 Sept with many more in the trees below. No. Shrike: an imm Slingerlands 29 Oct; Knox 27 Nov (KA); Clarksville 28 Nov (AR). Starling: 12 reports.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: two Amsterdam 19 Sept. Red-eyed Vireo: latest of 12 reports 19 Sept in Amsterdam. Philadelphia Vireo: Ghent 12 Sept (B & HG); one banded New Baltimore 19 Sept (RG). Warbling Vireo: Castleton 9 Sept; one singing at Franklin Fly 15 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: one Menands 7 Sept; Chatham 7 Sept; West Ghent 16 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Jenny L. 6-7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Nashville Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 12 Sept. No. Parula: several Menands 7 Sept; 18 SUNYA 18 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: several Menands 7 Sept; latest of five other reports 5 Oct Hagel Hill. Cape May Warbler: Ghent 12 Sept. Yellow-rumped Warbler: latest of 11 reports 6 Nov Old Chatham. Black-throated Green Warbler: latest of nine reports 16 Sept Amsterdam. Blackburnian Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Muitzeskill 19 Sept. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Bay-breasted Warbler: three Menands 7 Sept; Jenny L 6-7 Sept; Chatham 7-9 Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: Ghent 12 Sept; Old Chatham 5 Oct. Pine Warbler: Ghent 26 Sept; Castleton 1-3 Oct; Prairie Warbler: Old Chatham 12 Oct. Palm Warbler: one Amsterdam 19 Sept; Old Chatham 16 Sept-4 Oct. Ovenbird: 26 banded Jenny L. 31 Jul-13 Sept; two Menands 7 Sept. No. Waterthrush: one Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 8 Sept. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one SUNY Albany 15 Sept (ST & JCh). Mourning Warbler: one banded New Baltimore 6 Oct-late (RG). Com. Yellowthroat: several Menands 7 Sept; five other reports in Sept. Wilson's Warbler: two Menands 7 Sept; Ghent 17 Sept. Canada Warbler: several Menands 7 Sept. Am. Redstart: several Menands 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: only five banded in Schenectady Sept-Nov. Bobolink: Amsterdam 3-9 Sept. E. Meadowlark: Castleton 3 Sept-Oct; Amsterdam thru 31 Oct; Schodack 5 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: Amsterdam thru 1 Nov. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** Ghent 12 Sept (JC, B & HG); No. Oriole: six Amsterdam 6 Sept; three other reports. Rusty Blackbird: Oom's Pond 5 Oct (PI); Ghent 2 Nov (B & HG); Valatie 28 Nov (DA). Com. Grackle: latest of 13 reports 8 Nov New Baltimore. Brown-headed Cowbird: 25 Amsterdam thru 28 Oct; down to one at Schenectady feeder 22 Nov. Scarlet Tanager: one Amsterdam 7 Sept; three other reports in Sept. Cardinal: much reduced after last year's abundance in Schenectady; four banded 30 Sept-8 Oct Schenectady. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: an imm male at Colonie 10 Nov (RY). **DICKCISSEL:** one imm at Berne feeder 25 Nov (KA). Evening Grosbeak: first report Corinth 13 Sept (RY); 14 reports 27 Sept thru Nov; 60 max at Saratoga L 21 Nov. Purple Finch: abundant at Jenny L with 645 banded plus 109 returns May thru Oct. This represents the second highest number in 12 years. Bob Yunick also notes that the proportion of adults is larger and that the birds stayed later (7 Nov at Jenny

L.). House Finch: 141 banded Schenectady 29 Sept thru Nov, max 70 on 3 Oct, becoming scarce in Nov. Pine Grosbeak: "a flight year" (RY); earliest date 31 Oct Camp Pinnacle (JCh, S & LT); one Jenny L 14 Nov; Old Chatham 14 Nov; two Camp Pinnacle 15 Nov; six Jenny L 21 Nov; one Schenectady 24 Nov; six Berne 19-30 Nov. Com. Redpoll: 12 New Baltimore 3 Nov; one Berne 13 Nov; seven Amsterdam 14-30 Nov; Schenectady 16 Nov; one Altamont 18 Nov. Pine Siskin: six Amsterdam 10 Oct; Ghent 2 Nov; one banded Schenectady 8 Nov; one banded New Baltimore 10 Nov; 100 Saratoga 21 Nov. Am. Goldfinch: 15 reports thru. Red Crossbill: one male Camp Pinnacle 11 Oct, three there on 1 Nov (KA *et al.*); New Baltimore 20 Nov (AG). White-winged Crossbill: 20 Camp Pinnacle 31 Oct; nine there on 1 Nov; one Rensselaerville 5 Nov; four East Berne 30 Nov (all KA *et al.*). Savannah Sparrow: Castleton 7 Sept; one Amsterdam 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: Ghent 1 Oct (B & HG); Chatham 23 Oct (V & BA). Dark-eyed Junco: 85 banded Jenny L May-7 Nov, a winter resident banded 23 Nov 1975 was recaptured; 50 Ghent 27 Nov; eight other reports Oct-Nov. Tree Sparrow: Amsterdam 14 Oct thru; Basic Creek 24 Oct; Hagel Hill 31 Oct; 12 Saratoga 21 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: only two banded Jenny L; two Amsterdam 10 Oct; one banded New Baltimore 14 Oct; Castleton-Hudson 9-29 Oct. Field Sparrow: Amsterdam 12 Sept-10 Oct; Ghent-Old Chatham 17-31 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: two Amsterdam 10-14 Oct; three other reports in Oct; Ghent 2-8 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: first migrant at Jenny L 7 Sept; 101 banded at Schenectady 29 Sept-1 Nov. Fox Sparrow: the five banded at Jenny L and Schenectady 18 Oct-8 Nov is the highest number Bob Yunick has ever banded locally; two Amsterdam 31 Oct-14 Nov; 15 banded New Baltimore 10 Oct-12 Nov; seven other reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 17-26 Sept (B & HG); Hagel Hill 18 Oct (V & BA). Swamp Sparrow: two Franklin Fly 15 Sept; Ghent 17 Sept-2 Nov; two banded New Baltimore 30 Sept and 13 Oct; one Amsterdam 14 Oct. Song Sparrow: eight reports thru. Snow Bunting: one Basic Creek Res 24 Oct (DD), 25 Oct (KA); one Amsterdam 2 Nov; Schodack 7 Nov; Lake Taghkanic 11 Nov.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for the period were a bit below normal, but precipitation was slightly above. The drought of the past several years seems to be breaking and the reservoirs at the end of the period were almost 75% full, to the relief of many of the municipalities. Frosts appeared in the northern portion by mid-September. The damage done by the Gypsy Moth was still being felt this fall by the severely reduced seed and acorn crop. Dogwoods were unharmed, and if anything, put out a good crop of berries. The third week of September was rainy, and held the birds back for several days. A clearing high went through on 20 September, and with it one of the largest migrations of Broad-winged Hawks the region has ever seen. Unfortunately, the Hook Mt. report had not been received at the time of this writing, but I heard that more than 13,000 birds were counted on that date, and a good echo flight was observed the following day. None of the other hawk watches fared as well. The Mt. Peter records were received, and they had several daily records broken, as well as a few seasonal highs. They were: Osprey 39 on 17 September, American Kestrel 135 on 20 September, Sharp-shinned Hawk 200