

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.

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

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

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

on 26 September, and Red-tailed Hawk 123 on 2 November and 163 on 3 November. Year records were made by Cooper's Hawk, 59; Red-tailed Hawk, 708; Osprey, 209; Peregrine Falcon, 7; and American Kestrel, 592.

Shorebirds were reported as "poor" in most areas, with the reservoirs starting to rise after several years of lowering. However, Brown's Pond at Newburgh and Cross River Reservoir in Westchester set new records both for numbers and species. Northern finches and Boreal Chickadees made a good showing early in the season, and forecast an interesting winter season ahead. Rarities included in the report are: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Whistling Swan, Common Eider, Black Vulture, Northern Phalarope, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, California Gull, Western Kingbird, Wheatear, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Blue Grosbeak.

With this report, your reporter will have completed twenty years at this job, and would like to thank all those who have assisted over the years. Without their help and patience this would have been an impossible task. We look forward to their continued help, and hope that others will join them in sharing their discoveries.

Corrigendum: In the previous edition, the note on two Mourning Warblers at MC 1 July should have been 1 June.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Jim & Mary Key, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Ken McDermott, Vaughn Morrison, Frank Murphy, Ken Niven, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSc), Benton Seguin (BSe), John Tramontano, Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: AR—Ashokan Reservoir; BP—Brown's Pond, Newburgh; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPH—Mount Peter Hawk Watch; PP—Piermont Pier; PL—Playland, Rye; PR—Pound Ridge Reservation; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: first reports Ashokan 13 Sept. Inc to 40 by 6 Oct. Many reports of single to a few birds flying past hawk watches thru Oct. Red-throated Loon: one 31 Oct, Norrie Pt. Dutch. Another 3 Nov at CB. RED-NECKED GREBE: unusual any time. One at PL 31 Oct and again 14 Nov. Horned Grebe: first 12 Oct on the Hudson at Esopus. Four on Ashokan 13 Oct. None elsewhere. Double-crested Cormorant: excellent numbers of summer continued into fall. Last three at New Hamburg 15 Nov. Great Blue Heron: peak at PL 14 by end of Sept. LITTLE BLUE HERON: one at BP 1-16 Sept. CATTLE EGRET: rare anytime, and especially in fall. Two at BP 10 Sept-1 Oct. Snowy Egret: only report one at BP 8-12 Sept. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: only report four dur Sept at MC where they bred. Glossy Ibis: one at MC from 26 Sept-17 Oct. Another at PL 14 Oct. Mute Swan: summer numbers at CB inc to 77 by 31 Oct. WHISTLING SWAN: one on Kingston Reservoir 12 Nov remained there until 22 Nov when hunters drove it to Ashokan where it was last seen 6 Dec. Canada Goose: more resident birds than ever—more than a thousand moving back and forth between Rockland L. and the nearby golf course. Many flocks obs in migration thru Oct, especially 24 Oct and 29 Oct. Brant: one at PP 25 Nov was 21 day later than previous record in Rock, set in 1978. One flock of 300 passed within 1,000 ft of the Mohonk Hawk Watch on 29 Oct, and more than 1,700 passed over Wawarsing that same date. Snow Goose: too many reports to mention. Best movement between 10 Oct and 10 Nov. A few settled in thru the end of the period. Gadwall: three at L. Tappan 18 Sept were early if migrants. A pair bred last summer at PP, and seven were on Rockland L 27 Nov. Pintail: Rock had a female in the Sparkill Cr. at Piermont on 27 Sept, a day prior to the previous early fall date for that co. No. Shoveler: two imm at L Tappan 10 Sept. Previous early date was 15 Sept. Three on Hudson near Esopus 12 Oct. 54 on Rockland L 27 Nov—24 at Traver's Dutch 1 Oct, and 20 Oct at Great Swamp near Pawling 7 Oct. Redhead: the two of

last summer at CB inc to eight by 19 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: a few at most inland ponds dur Nov. Max 100-150 at Verbank that month. Canvasback: more reported than in recent years. Several independent observers estimated between eight and ten thousand on the east side of the Hudson south of Beacon. Excellent numbers reported from almost every weedy bay along the river. Oldsquaw: max 30 at CB 3 Nov. Last nine there 8 Nov. Four other reports in mid-Nov. **COMMON EIDER**: a female at CB 26 Sept was observed as close as 60 ft for two hours by 18 members of the Mearns Bird Club, several of whom are familiar with the species (KM *et al.*). White-winged Scoter: RFD had three males on the Hudson at Piermont 30 Oct, his first record in 11 years. Four were at CB 3 Nov. Surf Scoter: one or two from 31 Oct-16 Nov at MC and PL. A single bird at CB 31 Oct and another with 11 Black Scoters at AR were unusual. Black Scoter: one at MC 1 Nov and two at PL 8-10 Nov. Ten CB 3 Nov and 11 at AR 31 Oct. Ruddy Duck: max 90 at Stony Pt. 19 Nov, and more than 300 in the Tappan Zee near the Grand View-Piermont border 25 Nov. Thirty on Rockland L 27 Nov. Hooded Merganser: first Kingston Res 24 Oct inc to 40 there 11 Nov. Com. Merganser: four over Mt. Peter 30 Sept were quite early. The 20 on AR farther north 22 Sept could be expected. Excellent numbers of winter residents by end of period.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: an unusual report of one semi-tame apparently hand reared imm obs on the roofs and ground of the Fallsburgh area thru 1 Nov (KN). **BLACK VULTURE**: one with a flock of TV's over Minnewaska 1 Nov (JMK). Goshawk: MPHWS tied their previous high of seven for a season. One was at PR 18 Oct and another at MC 1 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one returned to MVW's feeder at Pleasant Valley for the season. Broad-winged Hawk: the Sept total for Butler Sanct. Mt. Kisco was 11,034; including 4,842 20 Sept and another 3,000 21 Sept. The season at Mt. Peter was poor for this species, especially on these dates—but I understand that Hook Mt. beat all their past records (data not available at this printing), with something like 13,000 birds on 20 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: one light phase near Saugerties 5 Nov, and another near Verbank on the early date of 30 Sept. Golden Eagle: one ad over Butler Sanct 8 Oct and an imm over Hook Mt. 12 Oct, one over Mt. Peter 9 Sept were the only reports. Bald Eagle: an imm 12 Aug and an adult 15 Aug in Sull were quite early. Mt. Peter had three and there were several other scattered reports thru the period and region. Two imm were at Rondout Res, their usual wintering grounds, by 28 Nov. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues very low. Eight near 10-Mile River area of Dutch 14 Sept was unusually high. Turkey: four at Bashakill 3 Oct, and 15 north of there at Wawarsing 9 Nov. Virginia Rail: one found dead at Sull Comm. College 10 Sept apparently flew into a wall. Am. Coot: ab 100 along River Rd, Town of Ulster Park 22 Nov. Semipalmated Plover: three imm remained much of Sept on the lowered Cross River Res. A few were at BP from 16-29 Sept with a max of four there 23 Sept. Killdeer: max 120 at WSF 6 Sept. Am. Golden Plover: reported from 6-30 Sept. Max 80 WSF 15 Sept. Black-bellied Plover: ten at BP 14 Oct. Last there 24 Oct. Three at WSF 16 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: single birds at Baird Park, Dutch 4 Nov, and again 7 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: obs at BP from 12 Sept-29 Oct. Max there ten 10 Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: at BP from 2 Sept-20 Oct. Max there 40 2 Sept. Pectoral Sandpiper: at BP from 2 Sept-24 Oct. Max there 41 2 Sept. Four were at Cross River in late Sept, and three were at Baird Park 4 Nov, a very late date. White-rumped Sandpiper: at BP from 10-28 Sept with a max of six there 10 Sept. One reappeared there 24 Oct. Dunlin: one at PP 11 Sept was four days earlier than prev early Rock date. One at Baird Park 4 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: five at MC 21 Sept, two at BP 1 Sept inc to three 3 Sept. Last there 7 Sept. Long-billed Dowitcher: three birds that met the description but were not heard were at MC 21 Sept along with eight Short-bills. Stilt Sandpiper: one imm at Cross River 13 Sept. At BP from 3-26 Sept with a max of 12 10 Sept. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 20 at L Tappan 18 Sept. One dyed with yellow underparts. Max 50 on tidal flat near Sleightsberg 6 Sept. Western Sandpiper: one at MC 5 Sept. Two at BP 8 Sept and one was still there 12 Sept. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: four at WSF 6 Sept were the only ones reported. Sanderling: two near Sleightsberg 6 Sept. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: one BP 5 Sept (VM), and another Washington L, Newburgh 11 Sept was probably the same bird (Fred & Wava Abbott). **ICELAND GULL**: a second year

bird at MC 25 Oct was very early. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one at Harbour I Park Mamaroneck from 26 Oct on may well be the same one that was there last winter. Another of this species has returned for the fourth straight winter at nearby Greenwich Pt., Conn. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: Berna Weissman found this regular visitor at Rockland L for the fourth Oct in a row. Bonaparte's Gull: one CB 4 Nov, another Ashokan 18 Oct, and three at Norrie Pt 14 Oct. Caspian Tern: an ad and an imm at PL 11-13 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues in exc numbers thru region. Max 75 at WSF 14 Nov. Barn Owl: regularly found at several locations, one was at PL 2 Nov. Barred Owl: one MC 11-14 Nov. Short-eared Owl: obs at Purchase 30 Oct and PL 8 Nov. Two were in residence at Galeville by 29 Nov. Saw-whet Owl: only report one at PL 15-29 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: widespread report of migrants in late Aug and early Sept. One exc count of 1,246 was made in the Rye area on 3 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: the Butler Sanct Hawk Watch in West recorded only five for the season where only a few years ago as many as 15 could be expected. One with an injured wing, 17 Sept, was kept alive on honey and water thru early Nov in Sull. Pileated Woodpecker: an unusual report of one frequenting the main downtown intersection of Nyack where it worked the shade trees along the curb only 10 to 15 feet above the heads of pedestrians (RFD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues its slight increase. Working a number of feeders thru the region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: WESTERN KINGBIRD: one at PL from 1-3 Nov. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two at MC and one at Rye Nature Center 5 Sept. Six at Bashakill 11 Sept. Two responded to a tape of their song by singing themselves. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Bashakill also sang to a tape. Another was singing at MC 5 Sept. Four others were at Bashakill 5 Sept, and three were still there 6 Sept. Horned Lark: not many reported. About 15 were at WSF 14 Nov. Tree Swallow: the exc migration of late summer continued into Sept and Oct, with hordes reported in Dutch. At least 5,000 were at Tamarack 10 Sept and more than 4,000 were on power lines along the Shunpike 7 Oct. Com. Crow: the roost at Middletown inc to 8,500 by the end of the period. Fish Crow: five at Mt Peter 14 Nov were unusual so far from the Hudson. **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one at MC 25 Oct and 22-28 Nov. Another at Greenwood Union Cem in Rye 7 Nov. They may all have been the same bird. VF reports banding one at Ellenville 25 Oct, and another 29 Oct. One in Dutch 14 Oct and another near Tamarack, Dutch 30 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more than 30 Sept records from Dutch and 11 during Oct. Winter Wren: three at PR 26 Sept, one at Hook Mt. 30 Sept, one USMA 29 Sept, and another found dead in the road near Monticello 25 Sept. Gray Catbird: exc numbers of summer continued thru mid-Sept. Wood Thrush: one near Shokan 27 Sept and another at Cruger's I 28 Sept were late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one at MC 5 Sept and another Doodletown 20 Sept. E. Bluebird: spreading in exc numbers from the Bluebird Trail area of Dutch. More than 30 at PR 26 Sept, and 15 passed the Mt. Aspetong Hawk Watch near Bedford 12 Sept. **WHEATEAR**: one 27-29 Sept on Cruger's I along the tracks was discovered by Al Brayton and several members of the John Burroughs Assoc.; it was later seen by several members of the Waterman Club and was a new species to the Dutch list. Kinglets: both species arr in good numbers the third week of Sept but disappeared the first week of Nov. Water Pipit: first 21 Sept at Cross River, and 26 Sept at Stewart Airport and WSF. The latter remained until 2 Nov with a max of 45 on 1 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLES: White-eyed Vireo: only report one at MC 21 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: good finds were single birds at MC 5 Sept and 21 Sept; at Rye Nature Center 12 Sept and Butler Sanct. in mid-Sept. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one at MC 1 Nov might be expected, but two at Bashakill on the early date of 30 Aug were most unusual (JT). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported low in the southern part of the region by several reporters, but Dutch reported them abundant where 21 were observed from 1-25 Oct at Red Oaks Mill. Pine Warbler: one on Mine Rd USMA 19 Sept and another near Ashokan 13 Sept. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one near Bashakill 30 Aug. Mourning Warbler: one 19 Sept Mine Rd USMA. Com. Yellowthroat: VF banded only 21; since 1970 she had averaged 38 per season. Yellow-breasted Chat: one near PL 5-8 Nov, one Mine Rd USMA 5 Sept.

Hooded Warbler: a lone report of four at Butler Sanct in mid-Sept. Am. Redstart: abundant in West where 25 were at MC on 5 Sept. Low in the Ellenville with only six banded where they had averaged 19 per season from 1972-1978.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: on 5 Sept more than 2,000 were counted over MC. This did not include at least ten flocks that were heard but not seen. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** a first year male obs for five minutes on 20 Sept near Middletown was the second Orange report this year (JT). Evening Grosbeak: arr most areas in mid-Oct, but very few at feeders at end of period. Nov numbers were less than Oct. Pine Grosbeak: only one reported, and that near the summit of Twin Mt. in the Catskills of Green Co. 13 Nov. Pine Siskin: movements noted in West 11 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: numbers good thru period. One feeding young 30 Oct near Verbank. White-winged Crossbill: a flock of more than 15 first obs at Carey Arboretum 8 Nov; obs again on the 13th and 14th. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: the bird of summer remained at MC thru 15 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: three at Piermont 12 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: first at Bashakill 17 Sept. Field Sparrow: extraordinary numbers of 25 to 30 along Mine Rd 24 Oct. Eight to ten still there 28 Nov. More than 40 were at Monticello 10 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: in good numbers thru Dutch from 5 Oct on. Max 15 at Stonykill 15 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: more than 60 along Mine Rd, USMA 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: moving thru Rock in good numbers 13-14 Nov. Three at CB 19 Oct were early. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual but never common. First near Wawarsing 12 Sept. Five others there; the last 6 Oct. Snow Bunting: small flocks reported from usual locations in Ulst. during first week of Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

September and October were both colder and wetter than average, while November was normal in temperature and substantially dryer than average. On the whole the weather was uneventful, as was the fall season. Observers reported generally poor landbird migration, particularly on eastern Long Island, where banding totals were very low. An exception to the general pattern was a report from Glenn Quinn who experienced a huge flight of warblers at Sands Point on 3 October. Yellow-rumped was the most numerous. Also present in good numbers were Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warblers. Otherwise thrushes were scarce, and warblers and sparrows were low in numbers. The Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow flight was almost absent, White-throated Sparrows low in numbers, Tree Sparrows late in arrival and scarce. With the exception of good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, "winter" birds were seen in small numbers. There were no large flocks of winter finches, no crossbills, a fair flight of siskins, average number of goldfinches, and few Evening Grosbeaks. No large hawk flights were reported but raptors moved along the beaches in modest numbers.

NEW HAWK WATCH LOCATION

North Shore birders have historically traveled south to the barrier beaches for their hawk watching. While some hawks have been noted at Garvies Point Preserve on Hempstead Harbor, Al Bell discovered that a vantage point farther north on the harbor, at the foot of Morgan's Park breakwater, gave him a lot more sky.