

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Pine Warbler: last Saranac L 6 Oct. Palm Warbler: last Saranac L 23 Sep. Mourning Warbler: last Saranac L 4 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: squeaky song Paradox 11 Sep (MB). **Black-headed Grosbeak:** *intro*. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Four Brothers Islands 17 Oct (MP). Fox Sparrow: arr Cadyville 16 Oct, Tupper L 22 Oct, Saranac L 7-9 Nov, last Tupper L 20 Nov a good showing. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Saranac Lake 20 Sep. Snow Bunting: small flocks after 29 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: nine feeding on cracked corn at Tupper L feeding station 11 Oct, one there 11 Nov. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 1-3 Owls Head area Oct-Nov (AH, JT! NYSARC). Purple Finch: absent after Oct. White-winged Crossbill: summer flock still feeding in dirt road Owls Head 17 Sep, last 18 there 29 Nov. Pine Siskin: first flocks 30 Lake Placid 7 Nov, 16 Giant Mt. 8 Nov, 50 Tupper L 10 Nov, 11 Essex 22 Nov, by Dec flocks of 50+ widespread, *intro*. Am. Goldfinch: also widespread, but not as numerous as siskins. Evening Grosbeak: arr at feeders from early Oct, max 150 Tupper L 27 Nov suggests a good winter.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

Region 8 was an excellent place to birdwatch this fall. Surely the most impressive sights were the geese — large flocks of Canada Geese and smaller but striking V's of Snow Geese. Birders counted thousands on corn fields in Rensselaer and Albany Cos.

Tomhannock Reservoir seemed reminiscent of the Tule-Klamath area as one V after another appeared in the sky. In the Albany area Thanksgiving was particularly memorable for the almost continual honking of geese overhead.

Birders are all too familiar with confusing fall warblers. The warblers were even more confusing this September because our binoculars were often dripping with water! This was the wettest September on record. There were three major storms and the month as a whole was cool. If the record breaking rainfall didn't get birders' attention, then the beginning of October did. An amazing storm on 4-5 Oct brought strong winds and heavy snowfall to much of our Region. Many deciduous trees were not able to bear the weight of the snow and a great deal of tree damage resulted. Instead of bird song filling the air there was the constant cracking and banging of limbs breaking. Lots of birding hours were spent cleaning up property damage. The weeks that followed continued colder than normal, with more than average precipitation. Another storm, much less severe, struck on 27 Oct. November seemed almost calm by comparison, although there were a number of small storms. Except for two periods of warm temperatures, 3-4 and 17-18 Nov, the month was generally cold with very low temperatures on 20-21 Nov.

Scanning lakes and reservoirs was like flipping through a field guide. Common Loons, along with the three species of grebes and two species of mergansers (Hooded and Common) were seen regularly. More unusual, small numbers of White-winged and Surf Scoters appeared briefly. During a good day in September a birder scoping a lake or reservoir was often treated to Mallards, Black Ducks, small numbers of Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall, along with Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Common Goldeneye. October migration added Ring-necked Duck and Canvasback to the list and Bufflehead arrived in November. Poking about near the shore were always a number of American Coots. Paul Connor spotted an **eider** on the Hudson River near Rensselaer. In confusing juvenile plumage, the bird was recorded as simply an eider species? for now, with details forwarded to the NYSARC.

Quite a nice collection of herons also was found in Region 8. Great Blue Herons were reported from numerous locations throughout the period. A Great Egret was seen from Peeble's Island in mid September and two Snowy Egrets turned up at Vosburgh Marsh on 3 Oct. Bill Lee found a Cattle Egret on a farm near Tomhannock Reservoir, where it kept company with a pony and cow for weeks. Green-backed Herons were reported from six locations during September and October and one Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen by Kevin McGrath from Peeble's Island in mid September.

A birder would have had to drive many miles to see all the sandpipers and plovers that migrated through the Region. Black-bellied Plovers were reported only from Rensselaer, while Lesser Golden-Plovers turned up at the Schenectady Co. Airport and a flock of 12 were seen on Coxsackie Flats. Certain locations in Rensselaer Co. during September were best if birders wanted to find Semipalmated Plovers. Killdeer were reported commonly. Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at three locations while only one Solitary Sandpiper was seen. A drive to Tamarac was required to see the only Upland Sandpiper this fall, and a trip to Basic Reservoir was needed to see the only Ruddy Turnstone. Pectoral Sandpipers were found at four different locations and Common Snipe at three.

One nice but chilly occupation during the fall was listening to owls. Both Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech-Owls livened up the nighttime woods in many areas. Can it be true that Robert Yunick is our only reporter who hears Barred Owls? His report from Jenny Lake on 7 Sep was the only one. A small influx of Snowy Owls made many birders shudder at the thought of a possible severe winter approaching.

Apparently that 4 Oct storm didn't daunt some of our thrushes, since many of the reports contained October dates for Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin. Gray Catbirds were seen until mid November at two locations. Similarly, Region 8's sparrow list is impressive in the number of species reported. Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Song, and Swamp Sparrows moved out, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows moved through, and American Tree, Fox, and some White-Throated Sparrows moved in to overwinter.

Some of our wintering species arrived during the fall and set up residence. A

few Northern Mockingbirds moved around to establish their fall-winter feeding territories, Water Pipits arrived in flocks ranging to one hundred, Horned Larks arrived on 31 Oct, two Northern Shrikes were sighted, and Snow Buntings turned up at four locations. No Common Redpolls were reported but Pine Siskins arrived as early as 17 Oct at Five Rivers.

Contributors: Ken Able, Estelle Anderson, Malcolm Archard, Linda Armstrong, Joseph Bach, M. and H. Burrell, Monty Calvert, Paul Connor, Donald Davis, Dorothy Goodfellow, Dick Guthrie, R. Harrower, A. and M. Kochlein, Bill Lee, David Lee, Gerry Lemmo, Arthur Long, Alan Mapes, Jane McCormick, Kevin McGrath, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Jane Robertson, Walton Sabin, Robert Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: common at Alcove Res, Forest Bay, Saratoga L, Tomhannock Res all period. Pied-Billed Grebe: small numbers seen regularly. Horned Grebe: max 15 Tomhannock Res 15 Nov. Red-Necked Grebe: two Saratoga L 15 Nov. **Great Cormorant:** im Hudson Rivers of Rip Van Winkle Bridge 24 Sep (BC!). Double-crested Cormorant: a few at Catskill, Five Rivers, Greenport, Mohawk-Crescent, Rensselaer; im Bell's Pd unusual in shallow freshwater. Am. Bittern: single report Ft Miller 9 Oct. Great Egret: *intro*. Snowy Egret: *intro*. Cattle Egret: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Brant: two, possibly the same individuals, at L George, L George Village and Saratoga L, late Oct-early Nov, more reports than usual. **Eider, sp.:** *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: small groups through 24 Oct. Osprey: max 7 Amsterdam 20 Sep, individuals seen Catskill, Kinderhook, Germantown, Mohawk River, Troy, Visser Ferry. Bald Eagle: im Rensselaer 20 Sep, im Vosburgh Marsh 3 Oct, ad Mohawk R 30 Nov. N. Harrier: max 4 Cocksackie Flats 18 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk frequent at Helderberg Hawk Watch to mid Nov; hunting feeder in Clarksville Sep-Oct. Cooper's Hawk: singles Castleton 20 Oct and 21 Nov, Five Rivers 23 Nov, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. N. Goshawk: singles Silver Bay 4 Sep, Powell Sanctuary 10 Oct, Cherry Plain 18 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: Paul Connor again is the only observer to report this species Pine Swamp and Helderberg Hawk Watch. Broad-winged Hawk: max 171 migrating Helderberg Hawk Watch 15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: three reports Cocksackie Flats, Saratoga L area in Nov, one light morph Niskayuna. Am. Kestrel: reported 'everywhere'. Merlin: one atop shopping mall in Colonie 30 Oct (DG). Peregrine Falcon: one Schodack Center 10 Oct. Ruffed Grouse: reported most often from Hague. Wild Turkey: few reports, wonder if hunters got the birds or bird watchers. Plovers: *intro*. Greater Yellowlegs: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Sandpipers: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: small numbers Tomhannock Res Sep, Rensselaer Oct, Saratoga L Nov. Ring-billed Gull: large numbers, 300+ Rensselaer after 20 Sep. Herring Gull: smaller numbers Rensselaer after 20 Sep. Great Black-backed Gull: even smaller numbers Rensselaer after 20 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: single report Amsterdam 30 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles Berne 14 Oct (KA), Five Rivers 10 Oct (LA), Powell Sanctuary 10 Oct (DG), late. Snowy Owl: sightings Albany, Corinth, Delmar, Glens Falls, Selkirk early Nov. Barred Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: netted Berne 26 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: active throughout s part of Region during Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report two Pine Swamp 6 Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only report Stockport Station 5 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: arr Schenectady Co. Airport 13 Sep. Fish Crow: numerous reports Five Rivers, Niskayuna, Saratoga, Schodack, Troy; does this number seem fishy to anyone? Com. Raven: reports from Thacher P n to Hague. Carolina Wren : singles Amsterdam in Sep, New Baltimore in Oct, daily at feeder in Clarksville through Nov. House Wren: only reports Germantown 15 Oct and Castleton 20 Oct. Winter Wren: only sightings Jenny L 19 Sep, Amsterdam 19 Oct, Schenectady Oct and

Nov, Tomhannock 26 Nov. Marsh Wren: only report Black Creek Marsh early Sep. N. Shrike: arr Five Rivers 13 Nov, another Amsterdam 15 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Tennessee Warbler: last was only report. Magnolia Warbler: last was only report. Cape May Warbler: only two reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many at L George Village 22 Sep, few Five Rivers 5 Oct, two L Taghkanic 24 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: numerous L George Village-Glens Falls area 11 to 22 Sep. Prairie Warbler: three reports Five Rivers 4 Sep, Schodack Center 10 Sep, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Palm Warbler: one L Taghkanic 24 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Pine Swamp first week Sep. Blackpoll warbler: one Pine Swamp first week Sep. Am. Redstart: last was only report. Ovenbird: only two reports. Com. Yellowthroat: only two singles reported, will more show up on Christmas Bird Counts?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: n most report Silver Bay 4 Sep. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: sightings from L George Village s to Tamarack during Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: max four L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr L George Village 24 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: max at Warren City late Sep. Field Sparrow: last Five Rivers 10 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only reports Brookview 20 Oct, Staats I 28 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last two Brookview 9 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: only report Schenectady Co. Airport early Sep. Fox Sparrow: arr Black Creek Marsh late Sep. Song Sparrow: only reports from s part of Region, L Taghkanic 27 Sep. Swamp Sparrow: most seen in Sep, then at Five Rivers 21 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: arr Five Rivers 14 Sep, many in Oct then few in Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Amsterdam 4 Oct, last Staats I 22 Oct. Snow Bunting: three reports within one week L George, Amsterdam, Raymertown 14-22 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: last reported W. Taghkanic 9 Sep. E. Meadowlark: last Cropseyville 29 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: max 12 Five Rivers 7 Oct. Common Grackle: last 100 W. Taghkanic 9 Sep. Purple Finch: few reported, most left Jenny L early Sep with a few remaining until Nov, small numbers seen Amsterdam 10 Oct, 12 L Taghkanic 24 Oct, six Schodack Center 20 Nov. Pine Siskin: *intro*; max 20 Five Rivers 17 Oct, 20 Tomhannock 8 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Amsterdam 9 Oct, max 25 Five Rivers 16 Oct.

RD 1 Box 159 Feura Bush, N.Y. 12067

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September was cool and rainy with many dreary days which made it difficult to look for fall warblers. In fact some observers found the fall migration disappointing. Hawks were missed in Dutchess County. However hawk watching at Butler, Bear Mountain, Mount Peter and The Trapps met with good results.

October brought a surprise freak storm with snow up to twelve inches deep on 4 Oct that laid waste much of central and eastern Dutchess Co. The heavy, wet snow on top of the fall foliage brought down trees and knocked out power for up to eleven days. Some woodlands will take years to recover. Some may never recover. It will be interesting to see what effects this devastation will have