

8 December, 1963

A.F.N.

September was rather dry with normal temp. while October was the warmest ever recorded with an average temp 10° above normal. Precip was average. November was also warm and slightly dry. December has been mild and dry until the 8th when the first measurable snow fell accompanied by high winds.

Geese, Ducks. Possibly more flights of geese were reported than in other years. The first seen were just before the end of September. Ducks have been relatively scarce. The peak at the Imp. Res. was late and has been around 2,000. While these are usually 90% Mallards, all species are down. I've seen no Canvasback all year. Four Gadwalls on 13 August were two months early for us, and a Green-winged Teal on 31 August was a month early. There have been no Goldeneyes. Mergansers, other than a few Hooded, have been entirely missing. Usually we have several flocks of 20 to 30 of the Common by now.

Hawks. We never have any reports of a hawk flight. Some few Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks were seen this fall after a summer of scarcity. Red-shouldered have just about disappeared from this area.

Shorebirds. Generally poor despite an abundance of mud flats. What migration there was started early. On 9 August, following a rain, Joe Kennedy saw an estimated 400 to 500 yellowlegs and Pectorals, the only concentration reported.

Nighthawks. The only flight reported was 45 on 10 September.

Woodpeckers. Many more Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen than in any recent year at least. There were many flocks of 20-30 for several weeks. They were gone by 2 October. Sapsuckers have been somewhat more numerous.

Re-breasted Nuthatches are frequently reported after being absent last year.

Thrushes. Robins seemed at least as numerous as usual. Other species, except bluebirds, were rather scarce. Many comments were received of flocks of these, one being reliably estimated at 100 or more.

Kinglets. Usual numbers of Ruby-crowns, but very few Golden-crowned.

Vireos, Warblers. On 9 Sept. a big wave was noticed about 4 p.m. This was unusual in that nearly 50% were Red-eyed Vireos, and 40% Bay-breasted and Blackpoll. I saw 150 Red-eyed that afternoon. The same time on the following day a similar situation. There were no other important waves. Solitary Vireos were in at least normal numbers but not many Warbling or Yellow-throated. There were several which appeared to be Pine Warblers, a species not previously reported here.

Blackbirds. Few if any Rusty or Brewer's. Flocks of cowbirds were seen in mid-November which is late for them.

Sparrows, Finches. Three Evening Grosbeaks on 11 November, with another at Pleasantville seen by Mrs. Gladys Black the same day. Three Purple Finches on 11 September were very early, and numerous reports since. A small flock of Le'Conte's and two Henslow's seen 19 October by Albert Berkowitz. Harris', at least normal. White-crowned, only a few immatures. White-throat, normal to perhaps down. Fox, normal. Lincoln's, few this fall. Lapland Longspur, one small flock on 3 November seen by Elizabeth Peck.

W. H. Brown