

REGION 7 — NEW YORK

July was uncommonly hot and dry, August normally hot and abnormally rainy, September mild and rather dry. Despite the aridity of most of July, streams and inland marshes seemed to hold up better than usual; the wetness of the spring was undoubtedly the reason. Marsh-dwelling birds appeared to have had a good nesting season.

Loons — Ducks:

By the end of September, Pied-billed Grebes were numerous (**Rockland Audubon Society**). Watson B. Hastings of Dobbs Ferry noted six Horned Grebes on Sept. 20 at Old Greenwich Point, Conn., near our territory. There was no mass flight of "white herons" this year; a few were scattered all over the area.

Least Bitterns attracted unaccustomed notice in Rockland County. Recorded only four or five times previously in that area, they were found repeatedly and in various localities: Piermont Marsh, Iona Island, Hackensack Valley. The maximum seemed to be at least three pairs breeding in a half-mile stretch of the Hackensack Creek, West Nyack.

Wood Ducks, too, had a good nesting season. Up to 50 were reported in flocks on the Hackensack Creek, more than 20 at Stony Point.

Hawks — Owls:

The peak in the early hawk migration in the Hudson Highlands came on Sept. 21 when a **Rockland Audubon Society** party atop Bear Mountain (elev. 1300 ft.) recorded 959 hawks — of which 881 were Broad-wings — in half a day. In the peak half-hour, from 11 to 11:30 a. m. DST, the count hit 574 Broad-wings, a fraction above 19 per minute.

Virginia Rails, like Least Bitterns, were much more conspicuous than usual in Rockland County during the nesting season. A Lesser Yellow-legs stayed at Lake Kanawauke, Palisades Interstate Park, from July 26 to July 29 (Ken Chambers). Common Terns were rather scarce on the Hudson River this year.

Nighthawks were nowhere abundant in early fall migration. Ken Harte of Scarsdale reports 14 for Sept. 21.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Hummingbirds were unaccountably scarce in early summer. Pileated Woodpeckers kept turning up in new localities in Rockland County. The third record for the Rockland area for the Red-headed Woodpecker came as a by-product of the hawk watch on Bear Mountain Sept. 21. An immature male flew close at hand. An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker showed up at Dobbs Ferry on Sept. 24 (Hastings).

Great flocks of swallows passed through the region at the end of August, with a higher proportion of Cliff Swallows than usual. Purple Martins, rare in this area, were at Lake Kanawauke on July 13 (Chambers) and at Blauvelt in Rockland County on Aug. 28. Chambers also saw Bank Swallows at Lake Kanawauke on July 16 and 29. Red-breasted Nuthatches, like last year, appeared early, Aug. 25 at Nyack (Deed); they are so widely reported, and in such numbers, that last winter's invasion seems due for a repeat performance. A Loggerhead Shrike, Sept. 13 at Ferry Point Park, Bronx, was a good find (Harte).

Vireos — Warblers:

A big warbler migration began soon after Aug. 20, with one peak on Aug. 24 and others during September. Up to Sept. 25, Pine and Palm Warblers were very common in lower Westchester (Harte). Magnolia, Canada, and Blackburnian Warblers were generally commoner than usual.

A Blue-headed Vireo summered at Welch Lake, Rockland County (Chambers) and on early date, Sept. 7, was scored for two birds at Larchmont (**Scarsdale Audubon Society**). An unusual experience for Mrs. Francis Irving of West Nyack was to see in one day, July 30, two pairs of hybrids: one made up of a Golden-winged and a Brewster's-type Warbler, the other of a male Lawrence's and a female Blue-winged. The birds lingered around Mrs. Irving's banding station for a few hours but declined to be trapped and banded. An early Black-poll Warbler was recorded by Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper at Nyack on Sept. 9. Mrs. Irving saw a very early Wilson's Warbler on Aug. 18.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Ken Chambers listed a Bobolink at Lake Kanawauke on July 26 (his number of dates from that spot stems from his living there through the summer as curator of a regional trailside museum). Baltimore Orioles were abundant at the end of August. Scarlet Tanagers tended to trickle through.

Purple Finch may have bred at Tallman Mountain Park, Piermont; a male in song was recorded June 8 and June 14, and a female was also seen in early June. Slate-colored Juncos moved south early; we have Sept. 21 dates from Scarsdale and White Plains (Mrs. H. E. Dickinson) and Rockland County.

Robert F. Deed
50 Clinton Ave.
Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Dry weather prevailed in late spring and early summer resulting in successful nesting of both water and land birds. Later in the summer rains refreshed the vegetation and increased the insect crop causing good feeding conditions for young land birds. Two pairs of Red-eyed Vireos at Massapequa were still feeding young on September 8; one male sang at intervals while satisfying the hunger calls of two well fledged juveniles and the husky pleas of a nearly-grown Cowbird which insisted on its share of insects from its foster parents. Distribution of the Cardinal and House Finch showed nesting of both species in several new locations — the former now breeding in Southampton and the House Finch eastward to Bay Shore.

Loons — Ducks:

There was an apparent scarcity of breeding Pied-billed Grebes. A White Pelican showed up at Mill Neck in mid-June and was there until the end of September. There were again one or two records of Snowy Egret nesting, but no report of the American Egret breeding yet. In the Jones Beach colony there were 100 Black-crown Night Herons; Yellow-crowned Night Herons were almost unrecorded. Some good Black and Mallard Duck broods were noted, mostly among ferals. On June 29 there were 40 adult Gadwall and 90 young at Jones Beach. A Black Duck at Gilgo had her nest with four eggs, April 12; 100 were present on Jones Beach pond, June 29; a Wood Duck female had five young on June 15 at Manhasset.

Hawks — Owls:

Red-shouldered Hawk was observed breeding at Manhasset and the West Hills; Osprey was reported at Orient, March 22 on its nesting ground. Several broods of Bob-white were seen at Massapequa. Clapper Rail bred rather commonly in the Oak Beach area. A nest of this species was found with nine eggs at Mill Neck, July 13. There is some decrease in nesting areas due to building which affects the Woodcock and Upland Plover; the latter still persists in one or two locations on Hempstead Plains: Westbury, mid-June, four adults (Elliott). Skimmer and Tern colonies regularly occupied on western Long Island. Ten pairs of Herring Gulls nested at Cap Tree Island; 100 Common Terns on a grassy island off Copaque, on the Great South Bay; and six pairs (estimated) of Roseate Terns were seen carrying food to a nearby colony off Fire Island Inlet (H. Darrow). The Mourning Dove appears to be increasing in numbers during the past several years. There were fewer reports of Black-billed Cuckoo than of Yellow-billed, especially at Mastic (J. T. Nichols). Practically no Owl records came in, aside from the usual Barn Owl reports.

Swifts — Shrikes:

A male Red-headed Woodpecker at nest hole in the Tackapausha Preserve at Seaford was present daily during May and into June 15, but no female was seen and apparently this rare bird on Long Island did not breed (E. Morgan). Three pairs of Phoebe's bred at Manhasset; Least Flycatcher was common on the Woodbury-Syosset and Oyster Bay uplands. Carolina Wren showed no increase as to breeding on western Long Island, but goodly numbers breed in eastern Suffolk county, one record coming from Southampton. A male Mockingbird was observed singing at Merrick from May into July, but no female was seen and the bird probably did not breed. Hermit Thrush colonies continue successfully at Coram and Selden, but Nighthawks, formerly seen there in summer, have not appeared in the last two years. Although classed as rare breeding birds on the outer beaches, both Blue Jay and Chickadee were observed summering and apparently bred at Sunken Forest on Fire Island Beach.