

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker near Tupper Lake on July 24th (M. K.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a regular summer resident in localized areas but is not general through the mountains — seen at Madawaska Pond area, June 25th (G. M. M.) and July 3rd (M. K.). Winter Wren — more numerous than usual in Tupper Lake (M. K.) and Saranac Lake (G. M. M.) areas. Wood Thrush — greater number than usual in Tupper Lake region (M. K.)

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Fewer warblers than most years (Leo Provost). Pine Warbler, 1 singing at Hague on Lake George (date unknown) (M. K.). Another report of Yellow-breasted Chat in Central Adirondacks at Tupper Lake on June 4th (P. W. Perron).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbirds, flocking at Tupper Lake since mid-July. Cowbird young being fed by Myrtle Warbler (A. A.). Indigo Bunting — very few in Tupper Lake - Saranac Lake area (M. K. and G. M. M.). Evening Grosbeak, reports of breeding more numerous this year than ever — male feeding young at Paul Smith's on July 3rd (M. K.); female feeding juvenal at Saranac Lake, July 5th (G. M. M.); 4 adults and several young at Tupper Lake, July 1st (P. W. P.). No evidence of breeding along Lake Champlain at Keeseville (T. L.). Pine Siskin, June 8th at Tupper Lake (A. A.). Both Crossbills all during period at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.). A notable new record is the Grasshopper Sparrow singing at Saranac Lake, June 24th and July 5th.

Trudeau, New York.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

ALLEN H. BENTON

The almost missing summer of 1954 was characterized by near normal temperature and precipitation in June, with some rainfall on 19 of the 30 days. The ten days from the 17th to the 26th were well above normal temperatures, with a new record of 95° on the 22nd, and constituted about the only summer weather experienced in this area. July was cool and dry, with rain on 22 days at Albany, but in such small amounts that the total was only about one-half of normal quantities. Three new low-temperature records were set during this month.

LOONS — DUCKS: A few reports of Great-blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons indicate that local heronries are still in operation. American Egrets were around most of the summer, with eight reported from Vischer's Ponds on July 18. Mallards and Black Ducks nested successfully at Vischer's Ponds and broods of both were seen on July 18. American Mergansers were seen near Warrensburg on July 17 by Esly Hallenbeck.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Peregrine Falcon was seen on June 26 near South Berne by Sam Madison. A few shore-birds appeared in July, with reports from Vischer's Ponds on July 18 including a Ringed Plover, ten Killdeers, two Spotted Sandpipers, a Greater Yellowlegs, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and seven Least Sandpipers. Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been reported as breeding birds, with the latter apparently more common.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Nighthawks nested in both Albany and Schenectady, and Whip-poor-wills spent the summer at Albany (A. Benton) and Warrensburg (E. Hallenbeck). Least Flycatchers appeared to some observers to be unusually common. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near Warrensburg in mid-June by Esly Hallenbeck. They are known to nest along the edge of the Adirondacks in this vicinity. Local Cliff Swallow colonies were small, but the birds still occupy several barns near Altamont. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen near Warrensburg in mid-June and mid-July by Esly Hallenbeck. Brown Thrashers nested in many localities. Young out of the nest were seen on July 7 at Loudonville by Mabel French. A single Mockingbird appeared at Burnt Hills on June 9, and was considerate enough to perch on the wires in front of the home of a bird student, Mrs. W. R. Foote.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: All four local vireos have been common this year, with the Blue-headed Vireo reported only from the Adirondack portion of the region. Red-eyed, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos have been reported continually. At least 16 species of Warblers have been reported as breeding birds. Worm-eating Warblers still nest at Indian Ladder (near Altamont, Albany Co.) but there appears to be only one pair. Pine Warblers and Prairie Warblers were present in the pine barren in considerable numbers. A conservative estimate might be a dozen pairs of the former and at least twice that many of the latter. A pair of Prairie Warblers were seen attending a large Cowbird on June 28.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The Evening Grosbeak population of the Adirondacks seems to increase yearly. Adults and young were seen in early July at the home of Mrs. Emma Rogers at North River (Warren Co.). Red Crossbills were seen near Warrensburg (Warren Co.) on July 24 by Esly Hallenbeck. A Slate-colored Junco, apparently a breeding bird, was seen at Thatcher Park on July 19 by Mabel French.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

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June and July were hot, without approaching any records, and extremely dry. Water levels were lower than they have been for many years, yet the number of late-summer reports of Herons, Duck, and Rails would indicate no disaster for the marsh nesting birds.

HAWKS — OWLS: Broad-winged Hawks were unusually numerous during the summer, judging by reports. On May 30, one was seen in the Lomontville area of Ulster County, where the species nests. It was carrying a partly decapitated young Screech Owl, which it dropped upon seeing a party of the John Burroughs Natural History Society. On June 22, a Broad-wing was seen carrying a snake at Bedford Hills (Jack Romanowicz). And on July 1, John C. Orth of the Bear Mountain Trail-side Museum found a nest containing three young on the Long Mt. Road. This is believed to be Orange County's first definite nesting record. Also in the Bear Mountain area, an American Egret appeared at Iona Island on June 29 (Orth).

Great Black-backed Gulls summered in the Tappan Zee, off Nyack, in unprecedented numbers, probably more than 20 birds.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The John Burroughs Natural History Society has been conducting a series of studies in the Slide Mountain area that are worthy of emulation by other groups. Parties covered specified areas repeatedly during the nesting season, piecing together a comprehensive picture of local breeding. A trip on Wittenberg Mountain and in Woodland Valley on June 9-10 (Henry Dunbar, Ilse Dunbar, Fred Hough) found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 2,600-foot elevation, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at the 2,800-3,600-foot levels, and Red-breasted Nuthatch in the same area. Golden-crowned Kinglets were also found near the summit (3,792 feet), as well as Bicknell's (Gray-cheeked) Thrush, Purple Finch, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow. Farther down the slopes, the Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes prevailed, along with Mourning Warbler.

At Stone Ridge, Fred Hough heard the Alder Flycatcher on June 30 and July 15. Brown Creepers again nested near Leibhardt, Ulster County (Hough). Bank Swallows rebuilt their community in sand banks at Napanoch, where excavating operations forced them out last year (Hough).

A partial albino Flicker attracted attention in Bedford Hills (George Hasseltine). The Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported in the July issue from Rockland County were seen feeding young in the nest on June 14 and were last seen June 18 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper). Hermit Thrushes appear to be nesting in the Bear Mountain Park in Rockland and Orange Counties. Richard Roche recorded the species eight times during July at Lake Kanawauke, Island Pond, and Pine Swamp, and John Orth found it once at Lake Nawahunta.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blackburnian Warblers were seen frequently at Lake Stahahe and Lake Cohasset, Bear Mountain Park, during June and July (Roche, Orth). The species nests regularly in the higher lands of this area. The Hooded Warbler is still nesting at Lomontville, Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar).