

of the Henslow's Sparrow. The Slate-colored Junco was reported on two occasions from Thacher Park.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

ROBERT F. DEED

Weather went to violent extremes this summer. After an undistinguished June, the month of July was the second hottest and second driest in 84 years of New York Weather Bureau history. On 11 days, temperatures above 90 were recorded. Then came August—the hottest August and the second wettest month in history.

LOONS — DUCKS: Of the "white" herons, only the American Egret appeared during the summer, and this one only sparingly. In Putnam County, Mrs. George Little saw two near Purdys on Aug. 16, and probably the same birds were seen near Somers. In Rockland, one bird visited the Tappan area on July 26. Pied-billed Grebes again nested at Krumville in Ulster County (Hough) and brought up young.

HAWKS — OWLS: The first Ulster County nesting record for the Upland Sandpiper was made at Kripplebush by Fred Hough. Young were off the nest in mid-June, lingering in nearby pastures.

Shorebirds were trickling down the Hudson Valley toward the end of July. On July 31, at Cornwall Bay in Orange County, Edward D. Treacy found Semipalmated Plover (second occurrence for the Rockland-Orange area) and three Ruddy Turnstone (first record), along with the more usual birds.

Cuckoos were absent or scarce over wide areas of Ulster County (Hough).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A new locality for Red-headed Woodpecker was found between Goshen and Washingtonville, Orange County, making three known sites.

The scarcity of some regular breeders — notably House Wren and Catbird — has aroused some comment. The House Wren, for example, was absent from every one of six habitual sites in the Nyack area. Lay opinion blames the situation on DDT sprays. Another thought: Did last fall's three hurricanes catch migrating flocks in concentrations at dangerous points of passage along the coast?

VIREOS — SPARROWS: The White-eyed Vireo was found along the Wallkill River by Heinz Meng, and the Worm-eating Warbler probably nested in the Lomontville area of Ulster County (Hough).

The Orchard Oriole nested at the same spot for the third year in a row, near Stone Ridge, in Ulster (Hough). This year's nest in a Swamp White Oak was only about 100 feet from last year's nest in an Elm tree. Young left the nest on June 22, and the family quickly vanished.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Late spring weather was satisfactory for breeding except for the June 8-10 flooding of the salt marshes and lowlands due to very high tides. Therefore shore and water birds apparently had few deterring factors in raising young. The tremendous number of young Common Terns in August indicated considerable nesting success, although the western Long Island population of Least Terns appeared less than normal. Almost 100 juvenile Herring Gulls were banded at Captree on Jones Beach. The finding in late July of three Sharptailed Sparrows nests with four eggs each, indicated that first broods had been washed out on the flooded meadows during the above mentioned June 8-10 northeastern storm and a new start had been made. Successful nesting of land birds was reported from the north shore.

As for migrants, there was a continuity of records in June which left one undecided whether shore birds were north or south bound. However, the northern movement of shore birds, in numbers, practically terminated with 150 Black-bellied Plover and 50 Ruddy Turnstones at Oceanside, June 6 (E. Morgan). As early as June 24-26 fair numbers again appeared but

there were intermittent records of a few individuals through June. The first indication of land bird migration was the appearance of Northern Water-Thrush at Great River, August 5, in spite of a month-long drought and extreme heat.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were several records of Common Loon in early June and one on June 16 at Orient; also one record of Red-throated Loon, apparently crippled, July 23 at Moriches. A count of 287 Sooty Shearwaters was made on June 4 between Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets (Puleston, Raynor), and a few Wilson's Petrels appeared off the coast about June 15, with an increase later. Several June records of Gannet came in with two birds off-shore June 15 (I. Alperin).

American and Snowy Egrets appeared early at Jones Beach. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was reported and apparently was breeding both on the north and south shores. Several records of post-breeding Louisiana Heron came in — mid-July into September — at Jones Beach and a late July record of two at Oak Beach (Dr. and Mrs. Kimball). Least Bittern summered at Oceanside. A June record also came from Greenport (R. Latham). Four Brant were seen at Wantagh, June 4 and three at Moriches, June 15. Two broods of Gadwall of six young each, were reported from Jones Beach, also a late Pintail, May 24, three Scaup in late July at Moriches, a Red-breasted Merganser off Amityville and 11 White-winged Scoters daily at Orient. Two Ruddy Ducks were reported at Mecox, June 4 (Puleston, Raynor). Returning ducks showed up at Jones Beach with the remarkable list of 12 Baldpate, 20 Green-winged Teal, eight Shoveller and one European Widgeon, September 4 (Bull, Eisenmann). The European Widgeon precedes the earliest record for this region by eight days.

HAWKS — OWLS: The Red-tailed Hawk was reported in early June at Water Mill and at Upton and Broad-winged Hawk at Upton, June 1. Westward along the north shore, Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks were fairly common as far west as Mill Neck. There has been practically no southern falcon flight and no late summer Duck Hawks reported to date. Several Clapper Rail nests washed out during the early June floods. Very few Sora, Gallinule or King Rail records. A Black Rail was recorded from Lawrence, June 4.

Regarding shore birds a Northern Phalarope was recorded at Moriches, June 6 (R. Grant). On June 24 a Hudsonian Curlew was seen at Jones Beach (A. Penberthy) and on June 26 four Black-bellied Plover and six Dowitchers were noted at Jones Inlet (J. Bull). By July 21 the southern flight was progressing rapidly with 22 Turnstones, one Willet, 18 Knots, three Hudsonian Godwits, an estimated 400 Dowitchers, 200 Sanderlings and 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers on one large sandbar near Moriches Inlet (Elliott). Only Golden Plover record: Idlewild, July 24, one (Mayer, Rose).

A large flight of 30 Pomarine, 12 Parasitic and five unidentified Jaegers were reported on an ocean fishing trip off southern Long Island, June 6, and four Jaegers at Atlantic Beach, June 4. Some 200 Herring Gulls nested at Captree and an estimated 450 Common Terns at Jones Beach.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Two Nighthawks were seen at Riverhead, June 15 (R. Latham); Least Flycatcher was fairly common at Oyster Bay and the eastern most record came from Manorville (Raynor). There were good breeding colonies of Purple Martins at Seaford. The Carolina Wren was noted at Shinnecock Hills in June and six were counted at Greenport, June 19.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were fairly common on the north shore from Mill Neck to Oyster Bay. Many pairs of Red-eyed Vireos had late nests and were feeding fledglings in late August. A singing Parula Warbler was noted at Great River, June 6 to June 30, but no nest was found (Elliott). A Black-throated Green Warbler was present in the West Hills during June. The Louisiana Water-thrush was missing from some former haunts on the north shore.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARRODS: About a half-dozen Bobolinks occupied a grassy tract at Babylon, and an Orchard Oriole was seen daily at Manhasset in June. There were several records of Cardinals feeding young and a feeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Great Neck, July 4 (J. Terres). Several other records of Rose-breasted Grosbeak came in as far east as Cold Spring Harbor and Massapequa. The House Finch is on the increase. The European Goldfinch has suffered a serious decline in numbers. Grasshopper Sparrows were seen in abundance on the cattle-grazed hills at Montauk and a colony of about a dozen birds was found at Westbury. Apparently the Vesper Sparrow has been driven out of western Nassau Co. by building developments, the most westerly singing bird heard this year being at Bethpage.

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