

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

An exceptionally hot, dry summer was experienced in the north country. Temperatures ranged from a low of 48 degrees to a high of 98. Near drought conditions prevailed leaving small streams a series of pools and the larger ones mere trickles. Lake Champlain reached an all time low of about 12 feet below its normal spring level.

LOONS — GULLS: Common Loon, a few years ago very common in summer, now quite common throughout the length of Lake Champlain. A large colony of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls is increasing in numbers on Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain. Black-crowned Night Herons have increased from 27 nests to 29 nests as the Four Brothers colony. We have started to band these birds. Bitterns were not as common this summer probably due to low water in the marshes; Great Blue Heron quite common; Little Green Heron much more common than last year. These records indicate the tree nesting herons more successful in nesting this year than the ground nesters.

HAWKS — OWLS: Due to increased pond and lake margins the sandpipers were common. A Dowitcher was reported at Four Brothers Is. in late June. Greater Yellowlegs were first observed at Au Sable Pt. Aug. 15. Great-horned and Barred Owls were heard during the summer.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Phoebe and Crested Flycatchers were common at Keesville but Alders were seen only occasionally. Least was seen at Port Kent Aug. 13. Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were common. Tree swallows readily accepted small boxes placed on poles and situated about the garden. Each year for the past three years Cliff Swallows have become increasingly scarce until now, in the vicinity of Keesville, they are a rarity. Two pairs of Nighthawks have taken up residence in the village. Prior to this year the only known nesting birds in the vicinity were at Au Sable Forks. Whip-poor-wills were very common especially in the Port Kent and Clintonville areas. Purple Martins were seen only at the park in Plattsburg where a 'colony' house has been provided. They nested years ago at the Port Kent ferry house, until it was torn down. Catbirds, Veerys, Robins and Bluebirds were common at Keesville and abundant at Essex (Mason). Olive-backed and Grey-cheeked Thrushes were seen at Wickam's Marsh during July. Wood Thrushes appeared common at Essex (Mason).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: There were two pronounced waves of warblers in the spring. Most common during the summer were Redstart, Myrtle, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Yellow Warblers; very few Black and Whites were seen. A Prairie Warbler was seen along the Delaware and Hudson R. R. at Burnam's Siding and Nashville Warbler was seen just east of Keesville — both seen repeatedly.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Baltimore Orioles were unusually common this summer and many people have called to describe their particular nesting pair. It is hoped they will revisit us again in such great numbers next year. Scarlet Tanagers were reported by Mason as common in Essex. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common at Keesville and Essex (Mason). Evening Grosbeaks were common here until the middle of July when they suddenly left. A Dickcissel was collected at Keesville on Aug. 13 for the State Teachers College at Plattsburg.

To all of you interested people who may use the above data I hope you can bear with me until my correspondents and I can in some small measure duplicate the concise but friendly reports submitted by Dr. Gordon Meade. The counties of Hamilton, Essex, Franklin and Clinton make up region 7. We would greatly appreciate any information on birds of this area.

Keesville, New York.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The months of June and July were quite dry in the Schenectady area. Precipitation was about two thirds of normal in June and less than half

of normal in July. While June temperatures were average, July temperatures averaged a good 4.2 degrees above normal.

The find of the period was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird seen on two occasions at a marshy area near Schenectady. No other reports are considered out of the ordinary.

LOONS — DUCKS: Late in June a high count of nine American Egrets and some eighty Black-crowned Night Herons was made at Vischer's Ponds, near Rexford, by Hallenbeck and Merritt. Numbers of both species dwindled during July. A few Green Herons were present there throughout the period. Five Canada Geese were observed near Schenectady by Hazel Eddy on July 1. The Black Duck and Wood Duck were breeders at Vischer's Ponds, and the Blue-winged Teal was recorded there by Mr. and Mrs. William Foote on July 28.

HAWKS — OWLS: Few hawk reports were received. During June almost 100 Ring-necked Pheasants were released in the Vischer's Ferry and Burnt Hills area by the Ballston Lake Fish and Game Club. The Florida Gallinule was recorded throughout the period at Vischer's Ponds, and on July 28 several young were seen there by the Footes. A Virginia Rail was heard at Meadowdale Marsh, a few miles south of Schenectady, on July 30, and on the following day several observers enjoyed fine views of four Virginia Rails and three Soras at Vischer's Ponds. Young of both species were seen. On June 26 five Upland Plovers (an adult and four young) were seen near Scotia by Hallenbeck. A few shorebirds trickled into the area late in the period. A Semipalmated Plover, a Solitary Sandpiper, and some twenty Semipalmated Sandpipers were among those observed at Watervliet Reservoir on July 30 (JM). Several observers reported from one to three Wilson's Snipe at Vischer's Ponds late in July, and two Pectoral Sandpipers were reported there on July 28 by the Footes. Allen Benton flushed a Woodcock from his yard in Albany on June 25, and he also reported the species in July. A Screech Owl was present throughout at least the latter part of the period at Guilderland Center (Nelle Van Vorst), and a Great Horned was heard at Alplaus on July 28 (Adeline Heitkamp).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A Pileated Woodpecker was observed flying across the Mohawk River at Vischer's Ferry on June 11 (JM). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported as summering at Jenny Lake, near Corinth (Warren County), by Guy Bartlett. An interesting note concerns the Alder Flycatcher. Quite a few were present throughout the period at Meadowdale Marsh, and the species was also reported from Vischer's Ponds. All of these birds were singing the conspicuous "fitz-bew" song. A pair of these birds at a small marsh less than two miles south of Meadowdale was singing the totally different "way-bee-o" song. The singing of the Alder, or Traill's Flycatcher, in relation to range and habitat, has aroused much interest among ornithologists, and in connection therewith readers are referred to an excellent article by Kenneth C. Parkes entitled "Traill's Flycatcher in New York" in the **Wilson Bulletin** of June, 1954 (Vol. 66, No. 2). Four Cliff Swallows — and two nests — were located by Hallenbeck near Scotia on June 26, and on July 30 a colony was observed at a farmhouse near Altamont (JM). The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported as a breeder in Carman, a Schenectady suburb (NVV). The Carolina Wren was reported from Scotia on June 12 (EH), and the Winter Wren was reported from Jenny Lake (GB). On July 3 two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were observed by Frazer Turrentine and Rudd Stone at Meadowdale Marsh. This is the only local area where these birds can be found with any reasonable degree of certainty.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The Warbling Vireo was present in good numbers at suitable habitats throughout the period. A Golden-winged Warbler and two Yellow-breasted Chats were observed at Albany the first week of July (AB). Myrtles were reported as being unusually common breeders in the Jenny Lake area by Guy Bartlett. On June 4 a Blackburnian Warbler was observed in Thacher Park, near Altamont, and on June 25 a family of Black-throated Blues was observed near Alcove Reservoir (JM).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: One of the rarities of the year to date was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird seen by Robert Underwood and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ottman at Vischer's Ponds on June 5. The bird was seen by Hallenbeck on June 19. The Scotia Cardinal was reported by Hallenbeck, and another individual was reported from Schenectady throughout the period by Hazel Eddy. Young Cardinals were seen near Schenectady in late June by Mrs. Louis Novak — evidence of local breeding for at least the second successive year. The Cardinal was also reported from Amsterdam (Margaret Fitzgerald). There were several scattered June reports

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