

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

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With the last days of May, the eventful spring migration faded away rapidly, leaving in its wake the unfolding of what turned out to be a quite normal, unexciting nesting season. In general the weather continued on the cool side throughout most of the summer and the precipitation was sufficient to prevent any great surface drought. For humans it was a controversial season — depending upon your body metabolism, but for the birds there was probably little effect from the weather other than normal. Judging from the reports, it would seem evident that this nesting season was off. How much so cannot be determined from the information at hand. Per-

haps this comes as an anticlimax, leaving us wanting for excitement that we cannot, however, really expect. It was noted by some observers that lateness in the emergence of many insect species continued on into the summer.

LOONS — DUCKS: The Snow Egret, rarer in this region than the American Egret, was reported near Cornwall on the Hudson, Jul 29 and Aug 8 by Ed Treacy. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, also rare in this region, was found on Jul 21 at the New Lake De Forest reservoir in Rockland (Frank & Ruth Steffens) and again on the next day by Robert Deed who reports the record as being the second for Rockland County.

HAWKS — OWLS: Hawk status seemed usual for the season. Wilber Carr reports seeing five Bald Eagles about the Cliff Lake area in Sullivan County during August. Also in Sullivan, a Wild Turkey was seen near Bethel on Jul 20 (McBride). Mrs. George Little of Carmel, Putnam, comments that the lowering of some of the reservoirs in her area by the N. Y. C. Water Department, exposing mud flats, has attracted a fair number of shorebirds. During the summer she has seen such species as: Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Again Ed Treacy reports the locally rare Caspian Tern. Near the Hudson at Cornwall on July 22 he watched three at leisure.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Least Flycatcher was down in numbers in some areas of Ulster (Hough). The House Wren is still below normal in Rockland (Deed). On Slide Mountain, in Ulster, on Aug 4 and 5 Ilse Dunbar, Fred Hough and Dan Smiley were surprised to find the Olive-backed and Bicknell's Thrushes completely silent. They seemed to have done a disappearing act as they were not encountered at any time. More diligent search may have been needed to locate them.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The nest of the Canada Warbler was found near Katonah, in Westchester, on Jul 8 (Russell). On the above mentioned Slide Mountain trip at least three lower zone species of Warblers were noted wandering about the summit or balsam zone. Black-throated Green and Canada Warblers and Redstarts were seen. The Redstarts, mostly females and immatures, were the most common. The usual nesting warblers seemed to be normal on Slide.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: For the past four years the Orchard Oriole has successfully nested at Stone Ridge, in Ulster. They arrived this season on time but were late in starting their nesting operations. This lateness may well have been due to the retarded foliage of May. The nest was finally constructed in the very top of the white swamp oak used the year before. Instead of coming off in latter June it was not until Jul 10 that the young left the nest (Hough). In New City, Rockland, a Purple Finch summered about the home of Frank and Ruth Steffens. A pair of this species was also observed frequently during June and most of July at Stone Ridge, in Ulster, but no evidence of nesting was found (Hough).

Note: Wilber Carr reports that spraying for the Gypsy Moth in the Lebanon Lake and Mongaup Falls area (Sullivan County) seems to have affected the bird population seriously in those areas. Dead Phoebe's and warblers were found and wrens which previously had been thick have disappeared entirely.

Accord 1.