

Lewis County. An Osprey nest was found at Yellow Lake near Oxbow, St. Lawrence County on Aug 12 by A. W. Allen and at least one immature bird was seen flying near the nest. Later John Belknap saw the nest and birds. Young Coots were seen at Perch River Marsh on Aug 1. It seems that Virginia Rails and Florida Gallinules had a successful breeding season at Perch River Refuge. Semi-palmated Sandpipers were on the rocky shore of the river at Morristown on July 25, our earliest fall arrival of that species (Nichols). An immature Great Black-backed Gull at Red Mill on the St. Lawrence River on June 17 was our first summer record (Nichols).

Swifts — Warblers: In this section most of us do well to see a single nest of the Red-headed Woodpecker in a season, but Belknap recorded three nesting sites north of Watertown this year. On July 5 an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Brantingham Lake (Hallenbeck). Tree Swallows resting on wires and roofs along the St. Lawrence River at Red Mill on Aug 5 were estimated by Nichols at about 2100. They stayed for at least a week, perhaps held by swarms of shad-flies. Bank Swallows were feeding their young in nests near Watertown July 11, but all were gone two or three days later (Clinch). Cape May Warblers arrived early, Aug 14, at Madrid and stayed several days in conifers. Nichols found a singing Pine Warbler in typical breeding territory near Ogdensburg July 18 and one appeared at Madrid Aug 15. On July 4 a Yellow-breasted Chat was seen near Watertown (Allen).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Henslow's Sparrow was heard singing near Potsdam as late as July 31. A male and a female **Pine Grosbeak** were seen near Watertown Aug 13 (Allen). This is probably the first record of a Pine Grosbeak in this section in summer. They are sometimes seen here in late fall and winter. Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were found nesting south of Wanakena, St. Lawrence County June 15.

Correction: Kingbird VII (2) 66, Ruddy Turnstones and Red-backed Sandpipers were found by Gordon at Stony Point May 19.

173 *Haley St., Watertown.*

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

Summer temperatures in the capital district were a bit above normal. June was an especially warm month. Rainfall was relatively light and sporadic. During most of July we were in the throes of our second major drought of the year.

The best record of the period is a Blue Grosbeak seen by two observers in southern Rensselaer County on June 24. This first record for Region 8 highlighted a generally interesting birding season. Tent caterpillar infestation was negligible throughout the period.

Loons — Ducks: Most local observers were made Cattle Egret conscious when one was discovered near Schenectady on May 25. There were many attempts in early June to relocate the bird in the same or nearby areas, but all were unsuccessful. Herons in general seemed relatively scarce this summer. The American Egret was not reported until July 15, when one was seen along the Mohawk at Niskayuna (Schenectady Bird Club). The high count for this species was observed in the Vischer Ponds and Crescent Reservoir area on July 21 (Hallenbeck). Over twice this number were seen last year. Black-crowned Night Herons were way down in numbers. The American Bittern was reported on only a few occasions. At Nassau an immature was seen in a vegetable garden on July 12 (Shineman). The bird was caught the next day and released in a more appropriate habitat. Wood Ducks bred again this year at Vischer Ponds. On June 30 a female with young was seen there (Meritt). Mallard and Blacks were the only other ducks to be recorded.

Hawks — Owls: The increasingly common Turkey Vulture was reported on three occasions. On June 23 one was seen near Catskill, and on June 28 two were at East Chatham (Smilow). One was at Rensselaerville on June 21 (Eaton). As is usual during the nesting season, reports of other hawks were not too plentiful. At Nassau some nine Ruffed Grouse were spotted on July 25 (Smilow, Turner). On

July 27 a Bob-white appeared in Scotia, a record which caused some excitement there. The bird stayed at the same spot until Aug 11, when it disappeared just as suddenly as it had arrived. It appears probable that this bird was one of a group released in Albany County during the early summer. The Bob-white has become more common in Columbia County. There were several observations there in July (Carter, Smilow, Turner). A Florida Gallinule was seen at a Scotia lake on several occasions in June (Hallenbeck). On July 27 an adult Virginia Rail with two coal-black young was seen at Vischer Ponds (Hallenbeck, Meritt), and the birds were noted there again on July 31. A Virginia Rail was at Meadowdale Marsh on Aug 11 (Meritt). Two Woodcock were recorded at Hillside on July 21 (Carter). There were several July and August reports of the Solitary Sandpiper, and on July 14 a Lesser Yellow-legs, a surprise at that date, was seen in Niskayuna (SBC). A Greater Yellow-legs was seen and heard at Rensselaerville on July 31 (Eaton).

In spite of a not overly conspicuous May migration, cuckoos were reported with surprising frequency. Black-bills were a bit the more common. This species bred at East Chatham (Radke), and at Amsterdam the Yellow-billed nested (Fitzgerald). Five species of owls were reported during the summer. At East Chatham two adult Screech Owls with one young were sighted on June 17 (Radke). A Screech Owl was present throughout the period at Guilderland Center (Van Vorst), and one was heard in Niskayuna on Aug 15 (Eddy). On June 14 a Saw-whet Owl was heard at Middle Grove (Hennig), and another was heard regularly at Jenny Lake between July 2 and 26 (Bartlett). At Rensselaerville an immature Saw-whet Owl was seen being mobbed by Robins, Blue Jays, Chickadees, and a Black-throated Green Warbler (Eaton). Horned and Barred Owls were reported regularly from the Jenny Lake area in July. A young Barn Owl, not long out of the nest, was recorded near Rensselaerville on July 19 (Eaton).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: At Old Chatham a Pileated Woodpecker was seen on July 12 (Carter), and on July 23 and 25 two were seen at East Chatham (Smilow). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, not common in the Mohawk valley in summer, was in Niskayuna on July 31 (Eddy).

Alder Flycatchers were regular at Vischer Ponds and Meadowdale Marsh throughout the period. At Berne a Carolina Wren was heard on July 27 (Eaton). This species was definitely established as a breeder in Scotia when parents with two young were sighted on June 14 (Hallenbeck). The birds were present at the same locality throughout the period. Late in July a Carolina Wren in full song appeared at Amsterdam (Fitzgerald), additional evidence of the bird's spread in this area.

A Mockingbird was observed in a Schenectady suburb on June 14 (Meritt). A pure albino Robin was noted at Canajoharie in June and apparently caused much excitement there (fide Fitzgerald). The bird, a young of the year, was photographed and seen by scores of curious observers. A partial albino Robin, with a white head and back but with the familiar red breast, was present during most of June at Nassau (Turner). At Rensselaerville the Veery and Wood Thrush were last heard singing on July 23 and Aug 2 respectively (Eaton).

Vireos — Warblers: A Blue-headed Vireo was at East Chatham on June 1 (Smilow), and this species bred near Rensselaerville (Eaton). A Golden-winged Warbler was recorded at East Chatham through June 11 (Radke), but there were no other reports of this species. There were three scattered reports of the Blue-winged Warbler. From the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve near Rensselaerville many interesting warbler reports were submitted by Steve Eaton. Black-throated Greens were leaving the nest there between the dates of June 11 and Aug 2. A Nashville Warbler was recently out of the nest on June 15. An adult Tennessee Warbler was seen on July 23, and on Aug 10 three Bay-breasted Warblers (one a male still in breeding plumage) were observed. Eaton reports a noticeable group of southbound warblers of several species on Aug 12.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: On the early morning of Aug 11 thousands of Starlings, in several groups, were observed performing aerial maneuvers high in the sky just south of Schenectady. By the latter part of July blackbirds and Bobolinks were gathering and roosting in large flocks preparatory to the fall migration. At Old Chatham an Orchard Oriole was observed on June 6 (Carter); this is the second reported locally this year. A Blue Grosbeak at Brookview on June 24 constitutes a new area record (Dorn). The bird was seen well by two observers, and all characteristic field marks were noted. The Cardinal bred again in Niskayuna this year.

On July 21 a pair with two young began making regular visits to a feeder there (Eddy). A male Cardinal was seen at Galway Lake on July 28 (Fitzgerald), and there was a report from the lower Hudson part of our region on July 27 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Purple Finches were quite commonly reported from most areas. The last Grasshopper Sparrow was heard near Vischer's Ferry on July 27. On Aug. 10 two Henslow's Sparrows were heard at West Glenville, and three others were recorded the following day in the Meadowdale area (Meritt).

In view of the scarcity of Evening Grosbeaks this past winter, a belated report of three at Gore Mountain, Warren County, on May 30 might be of interest.

Correction to spring summary, VII(2): 69: On May 26 a flock of almost 100 Brant, not the 1700 reported, was present near Niskayuna.

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

REGION 9—DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Dry — just about summarizes our summer weather this year and this had to follow on the heels of a relatively dry spring! The few showers that did occur quenched the thirst of the dry earth but little and as a result we could see considerable drought damage to vegetation. Seasonal temperatures varied from periods of warm to spells of cool weather, with a tendency toward cool weather especially during August.

Many of our birders were scattered about the country from coast to coast, leaving only a few "stay at homes" who seem to feel that bird activity was generally unspectacular or just plain normal. As often is the case, however, some good finds were made thus warranting the incentive to keep at it even when things appear dull.

One big question in the minds of many birders this past season has been: "What effect has the gypsy moth spray program had on our birds?" Although some detrimental effects have obviously resulted from this — what seems to be "a necessary evil" — an accurate analysis of the results as far as birds are concerned is not available under the present scope of observations.

Loons — Ducks: Two or three Common Loons were seen several times on the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster during July (Al Feldman; Henry & Ilse Dunbar). This is a first mid-summer record for the Loon in this area. Among other birds, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Deed saw an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the Lake DeForest area of Rockland on Aug 17. Two Canada Geese with five young were observed on the waters of the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester June 5 (Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McWaters). A summer record of the American Brant in Ulster was made by Al Feldman on June 26. He discovered it on the Ashokan Reservoir.

Hawks — Owls: The stocking of Bob-white in many areas of the Hudson Valley has given hopes to many that this fine game bird will again become a familiar part of our countryside bird-life. The Turkey has also been stocked in areas of Sullivan and Ulster and has been met with much interest in hoping that it too will become established. A Bonaparte's Gull appeared about the Ashokan Reservoir and was spotted on July 21 by the Dunbars and Al Feldman. This is a first record for Ulster County. Also on July 21 and previously on July 18 Feldman reports seeing the locally rare Caspian Tern in the Ashokan Reservoir area. Nothing unusual reported among the various owls.

Swifts — Shrikes: The pair of Acadian Flycatchers found by Robert Deed and Eugene Brown last May 17 at Valley Cottage near Lake DeForest, Rockland, remained to nest. The nest was constructed in an oak less than ten feet from the highway and was completed by May 24. Young were found later. The Acadian Flycatcher was also found up in Ulster Co. by Fred Hough and Dan Smiley on June 15 near West Shokan, at a place called Moonhaw which is near the base of Cornell Mt. Two