

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

singing birds were noted in typical mature beech and maple habitat on a lower slope at about 1200 feet. Both records are area firsts. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard at Mohonk Lake on the Shawangunks July 18 (Dan Smiley). On July 28 Mrs. Wm. Grierson watched a Blue Jay eat a small snake (probably DeKay's) near her home at Mt. Kisco, Westchester. A Carolina Wren was found far up in the wooded valley below Peekamoose Mt. in the Catskills on Aug 18 (Hough, Smiley). Mr. Irving Kennedy discovered a Mockingbird near New City, Rockland on May 31 and a few days later Mrs. F. Steffens and E. Treacy found its nest in an ornamental shrub. The nest contained an egg and two young. Over in Sparrowbush, Orange County, another Mocker was seen on June 24 (Hammond).

On June 15 and 16 Fred Hough and Dan Smiley returned to the haunts of the Bickell's Thrush in the higher Catskills for another visit. This time it was on Balsam Cap Mt. (about 3850 ft.) The Thrush was seen and heard and another note on its status in the Catskills was made. Martha Earl reports the loss of seven first broods in the nesting Bluebirds about her home area in Blooming Grove, Orange Co. This occurred about a week after the gypsy moth spraying took place and she wonders if it was not responsible for the death of the broods. No deaths were noted in the adult birds and the second broods were successful in all cases.

Vireos — Warblers: Black-poll Warblers were still singing on Peekamoose Mt. in the Catskills on Aug 18 (Hough, Smiley). Henry and Ilse Dunbar found a fair mid-summer population of Mourning Warblers near the Bellayre ski slopes in the Catskills.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Orchard Oriole returned to its nesting site near Stone Ridge, Ulster for the fifth straight year but no nesting took place. The birds disappeared in early June and were not seen again (Hough). Wandering summer Grackles were more prevalent in many areas of Ulster.

Andrew and Bertha McWaters of Westchester discovered a Blue Grosbeak on June 15 near Glenford in Ulster County, while visiting relatives there. It was watched several times that day and the McWaters feel there is no doubt about the observation as being that of this southern species. A pair of Purple Finches were found nesting in Katonah, Westchester (Mrs. Wm. Grierson) and another pair was seen again this year near Stone Ridge, Ulster but no nesting evidence was found (Hough). In May a nest of the Junco was found on the second floor steel work of the Lake Mohonk mountain house in Ulster Co. (Dan Smiley).

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Spring advanced into summer with a long continued dry spell broken by only one early July rain which penetrated the parched powdery earth to only an inch or two. The 1957 spring and early summer was marked by perhaps the worst series of woods fires in the history of eastern Long Island, with hundreds of acres blackened in many areas of the pitch-pine, scrub-oak barrens. The loss of young Prairie Warblers, Northern Yellow-throats and Towhees, not to mention several species of smaller mammals must have run high.

The dry nesting season was presumably beneficial to sea bird colonies especially in the Jones Beach, Oak Beach area where some 200 Herring Gulls, over 300 Common Terns and over 35 Black Skimmers were banded (M. Levine, A. Penberthy, D. Warren). Early June was again highlighted by an enormous flight of Shearwaters. Normally Sooty Shearwaters are the species involved; this year there was an infiltration of Greater also (R. Grant).

Among nesting Herons, Yellow-crowned appears on two eastern Long Island locations, with two well-fledged young at Riverhead, June 22 (D. Puleston, G. Raynor). Estimated numbers were fewer in the large Jones Beach colony of American and Snowy Egrets, Yellow-crowned and Black-