

fairly consistent with conditions in the areas of my correspondents. Boreal species were found actually nesting in the central Adirondacks, when normally they would move farther north.

The Red-headed Woodpecker has evidently made a real invasion into this area, and reports come in which seem to indicate it is generally distributed throughout Essex, Clinton, and Franklin Counties.

Loons — Owls: There were no Loons reported as nesting in the area. Ducks, mostly the puddle variety, nested in less numbers this summer at Ausable Marsh and Wichams Marsh. Blacks, Wood Ducks, and a very few Blue-winged Teal were noted. The Ring-necked Duck nested at Chateaugay Lake, Butternut Pond, and the Upper Ausable Marsh. Common Mergansers nested in an old elm tree between Upper Jay and Jay, along the Ausable River. No other waterfowl were noted as nesters.

The Sparrow Hawk was a very common breeder. A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Ausable Chasm chasing pigeons (Sussdorf). The Barred Owl nested at Cumberland Head (Menustic) and at Ausable Chasm (Sussdorf). The Great Horned Owl nested at Ausable Chasm (Sussdorf) and once again at the village dump in Keeseville (Lesperance). A Barn Owl was recorded at Cumberland Head (Menustic).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawks now are very well established at Plattsburg, a pair nesting at the Champlain Valley Hospital there. The male spent the day on the banister of the fire escape, just outside the operating room. Chimney Swifts were common. A Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from the golf course at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), and there were a few other reports not yet authenticated. The Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers seemed present in normal numbers.

Barn, Rough-winged, and Bank Swallows were common, and Cliff Swallows were again putting in an appearance after two slim years. Chickadees were common all summer at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). The Robin, Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Wood Thrush all were down in numbers and again were very quiet, even after a rain.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were generally scarce and secretive throughout the period; of this group the Solitary seemed to predominate.

The Redstart and Nashville Warbler were most common in the Tupper Lake area (Amstutz), and the Magnolia and Myrtle Warblers were most common in the Keeseville area. One had to hunt very hard to find the Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and even on occasions the Yellow-throat. There was a report of the Mourning Warbler.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The only common species to not show a decrease in numbers were the blackbirds; all species nested in usual abundance. Pine Grosbeaks were in the Tupper Lake area on Aug 3, and White-winged Crossbills were there on Aug 9 (Amstutz). These species are normally not seen until late October.

I know of one Fox Sparrow report. Song, Chipping, Field, Savannah, and Grass-hopper Sparrows sang early and then were quiet along with the rest of the avian population. Juncos were more abundant in the Port Kent area than in recent years.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The summer months in the Capital district were generally pleasant, i. e. cool and dry. June temperatures at Schenectady averaged a good five degrees below normal, and July temperatures were exactly normal. Rainfall during July was a bit above the expected, but it was considerably below the average in June and a bit below the average during the first part of August.

Following the trend of the somewhat late and disappointing spring migration, some species of birds seemed to be scarcer than normal. On the

other hand, the period was not devoid of observations of interest. Chief among these was a July report of White-winged Crossbills at Red Rock.

Again this summer tent caterpillar infestation was negligible throughout the period.

Loons — Ducks: The summer was generally one of the poorest for herons in a good many years. In the Oppenheim area Lawrence Murphy reports all species of herons as being scarce. In the Schenectady area only the Green Heron seemed to be present in expected numbers. The Common Egret was first seen at Vischer Ponds on Jul 20, and the high count during the period was the five seen there on Aug 6 (Hallenbeck).

A few Canada Geese were reported, fifteen being seen at West Ghent on Jun 9 (Erlenbach) and 31 being reported at Old Chatham on Jun 24 (Reilly). Eight Canada Geese were at West Ghent Aug 10 (Erlenbach). The breeding duck population seemed to be certainly no better than average, with the Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, and Blue-winged Teal being the only species to be reported consistently throughout the summer. Several Pintail were observed at Ballston Lake on Aug 10 (Eddy), but there is a possibility these were pinioned birds.

Hawks — Owls: Several Turkey Vultures were reported in Columbia County in June (Alan Devoe Bird Club), and one was seen near Lassellsville, Fulton County, on Jul 6 (Murphy). A Cooper's Hawk was at West Ghent on Jun 6 and 7 (Erlenbach), and a Sharp-shin was in the Oppenheim area on Jun 30 (Murphy). An adult Bald Eagle was seen flying across the Thruway near Catskill on Jun 1 (Meritt). A Pigeon Hawk was found injured in Hudson on Jul 1 (fide Radke); the bird was turned over to the Humane Society but finally died of an apparent spinal injury after three days of care.

Pheasants seemed to be reported in good numbers, but Ruffed Grouse were definitely scarce. One or two Bobwhites were noted in late June at Hillsdale (Carter). A Coot was present at Collins Lake, Scotia, on several June and July dates, and a Common Gallinule was there on Jun 28 and 29 (Hallenbeck). A Gallinule was also reported along the Mohawk at Niskayuna on Jul 13 (Schenectady Bird Club), but this species was not found breeding this year at Vischer Ponds, not to my knowledge was it even recorded there.

Both the Virginia Rail and the Sora appeared at Old Chatham, the former on Jun 15 and 23 and the latter on Jun 18 and 25 (Reilly). Two Virginia Rails were seen at Vischer Ponds on Jul 20 (Meritt). An Upland Plover was seen near Catskill on Jun 13 (Meritt), and this species continued to be reported as relatively common in the Oppenheim area (Murphy). There were no other shorebird reports of interest.

Both species of cuckoos were reported in only moderate numbers at best, but both were nesting at West Ghent (Erlenbach). Although the Saw-whet Owl was reported during the spring from the Jenny Lake area, there were no reports of this bird during the summer. A Great Horned Owl was heard on two occasions early in June at Alplaus (Heitkamp), and the species was reported from Old Chatham on June 3 and 21 (Reilly). Several Screech Owls were reported, and a pair was nesting at New Concord in early June (Radke).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Three early June reports of the Pileated Woodpecker come from Red Rock (Smilow), Burnt Hills (Foote), and Niskayuna (Novak). Subsequent observations indicate this species was not present in below average numbers. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Old Chatham on Jun 2, and on the same date a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was there (Reilly). A Traill's Flycatcher near Crescent Reservoir on Jul 20 was giving the "way-bee-o" song as contrasted to the usual "fitz-bew" rendition heard in this area during the breeding season (Meritt). Phoebe continued to be scarce.

Small Purple Martin colonies were reported at Burnt Hills and Scotia, and in late June a larger colony, with fifty or more birds, was reported in the vicinity of Ravena (Thomas). At Brant Lake, Warren County, Cliff Swallows were feeding young on Jul 4 (Eddy). The Brown Creeper was reported on several June dates at Old Chatham (Reilly). Reports of Carolina Wrens were disappointingly few. One was reported at Collins Lake, Scotia, on Jun 1 and 2, but not subsequently (Hallenbeck). During the past several years the Carolina Wren has been nesting in that area, but

there was no evidence of breeding there this year. A Carolina Wren was at Amsterdam on Aug 11 (Fitzgerald). House Wrens were also generally described as scarce.

Eastern Bluebirds seemed to pick up somewhat in numbers from their dismal spring showing, but as Eleanor Radke points out, this "increase" may be due in part at least to an inclination of observers to report all birds seen of this species in this somewhat unusual year. Several Hermit Thrushes, also a scarce bird this past spring, were at Old Chatham in early June, and several Gray-cheeked Thrushes were also present there then (Reilly). Another Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard at Canaan on Jun 7 and again on Jun 17 (ADBC). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, the first reported locally this year, was at Gallupville on Jun 7 (Zimmer et al.). The spot in which the birds were located was ideal for nesting, but no nest could be found nor could the birds be located thereafter.

Vireos — Warblers: Two Solitary Vireos were at Old Chatham on Jun 3 (Reilly). Yellow-throated Vireos and Warbling Vireos could be consistently heard at many areas during the period.

An adult Blue-winged Warbler was seen feeding young at New Concord on Aug 4 and 5 (Radke). A Golden-winged Warbler was at Nassau on Jul 18, and on Jul 25 a Brewster's Warbler was carefully identified there (Turner). On Jun 7 two to four Cerulean Warblers were seen or heard at Gallupville (Zimmer et al.). This species undoubtedly breeds there. There were no other reports. A Tennessee Warbler was still at Red Rock on Jun 9. The Black-throated Green Warbler was there throughout the period, and young were seen on Aug 11 (Smilow). Black-burnian Warblers were reported quite consistently early in the period at Queechy Lake (Mickle) and Red Rock (Smilow). A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard in the Karner pine barrens near Schenectady on Jul 6 (Meritt).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: An Orchard Oriole, by no means common locally, was at Old Chatham on Jun 26 (Reilly). Cardinals were reported as breeders in several localities, including Hudson (Brown), Niskayuna (Eddy), and Amsterdam (Fitzgerald). At the latter locality three broods were successfully raised. The last of the Evening Grosbeaks to be reported was at Amsterdam on Jun 3 (Fitzgerald). During June the Purple Finch was reported as a breeder in Niskayuna (Eddy).

The rarity of the period is the three male White-winged Crossbills seen at Red Rock on Jul 12 (Smilow). A single bird was noted on Jul 13 and again on Jul 15. Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows appeared to be quite common again this summer in the Schenectady area (SBC). A White-throated Sparrow was present from early July until the end of the period at Amsterdam, and on Aug 1 three Lincoln's Sparrows were together at a feeder there (Fitzgerald).

There is a belated report of a Glossy Ibis seen at Vischer Ponds on May 8. The bird, a female, was collected by a visiting professor from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in connection with professional studies. A skin of the specimen is being made up at the New York State Museum.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

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Weather-wise, the Hudson Valley's summer season was, according to the standards, close to a normal one. This developed chiefly as a result of frequent cooling trends with a lack of any extreme periods of heat. Rainfall came mostly in the form of thunderstorms which occurred frequently enough during the summer to alleviate conditions of surface drought.

Although there was the usual drop in the number of active birders during the summer, the few remaining "afield" seemed to feel that the nesting season was a rather poor one. This outlook was attributed to a series of factors related as — "a bad spring," "too much spraying the previous season,"