

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

FRED N. HOUGH

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,"

and "disruption of nesting habitats by human encroachment." This all tends to be discouraging, but perhaps with the fall season many of these local setbacks will be absorbed by the over-all migration and will present us with a brighter picture.

A noteworthy study trip to Slide-Cornell Mountains in the Catskills was made by Fred Clough and Dan Smiley on June 21 through 23, once again adding another leaf in the accumulation of knowledge being gathered on the birdlife of this region. With the center of operations located in the primeval Red Spruce tract on the western slopes of Cornell and Friday Mountains, facing Slide Mountain, the party was able to gain a fair amount of information on the status of the birds found about this interesting area. Following are some of the highlights of this study trip. Several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen or heard. One Olivesided Flycatcher was heard in the Red Spruce tract and suggests nesting. A pair of Brown Creepers was observed building a nest under the loose bark of a dead spruce. A Wood Thrush, out of place here, was heard singing for a brief period about our camp in the Red Spruce tract. Swainson's Thrushes were normally common. Bicknell's Thrush, surprisingly enough, was found all the way down to the Cornell-Slide saddle (around 3300 feet) occurring in the Balsam stands, the propinquity of which seems to be a very necessary part of this thrush's nesting habitat. Because of the nature of high-growing Red Spruce, which contrast to the lower and more dense Balsams, not many Bicknell's Thrushes were noticed abounding here, the habitat apparently being less favorable to them. A nest of the Golden-crowned Kinglet was discovered in an exposed Spruce bough, saddled in next to the main stem and about 18 feet above the ground. It contained young which the parent birds were busily feeding. Blackpoll Warblers were found in many places along the slope. A Yellowthroat was heard singing steadily on the eastern slope of Slide at nearly 3600 feet elevation and may well have nested here. A Towhee was heard singing in the Red Spruce tract at about 3350 feet and was considered out of place. Doubt any nesting chance. Additional birds were seen on this trip, along with other information gathered, as we continue to unravel some of the tangled threads of ecological knowledge of the Catskill Mountains and yet still enjoy their inimitable beauty!

Loons — Ducks: In the waterfowl group very little occurred in their nesting habits about our region that would attract our attention. A comment by Bob Deed indicates a scarcity of most herons and bitterns in the Rockland County area. Matha Earl saw her first Common Egret at Bull's Mill, Orange County, on Jul 30.

Hawks — Owls: Hawk activity during the summer was probably near normal although little comment was received on it. No increase was noted in the Ruffed Grouse population around the Catskills. A Black Tern was seen during early Aug about the vicinity of the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County (Al Feldman), making only a second record for this area. Both Cuckoos were reported as very scarce in the lower part of our region but in the upper part were considered a little more abundant. Screech Owls were mixing their calls by the end of Jun in Kripplebush, Ulster County (F. Hough).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Hummingbirds were reported scarce in areas of Rockland (R. Deed) but were normal up in Ulster (F. H.). A Crested Flycatcher nested in a bluebird box set up on the outskirts of New Paltz, Ulster County (Heinz Meng). Mid-summer movement of Swallows in the Ulster area seemed low in numbers with the Barn Swallow appearing to be the most common. Rough-winged Swallows failed

to nest at Mohonk Lake this summer (Dan Smiley). The Cliff Swallows left their site on the Ashokan Reservoir gatehouse Jul 15 (Al Feldman). Bluebirds were reported as down in most counties. Chandler Young saw a Loggerhead Shrike near Kerhonkson, Ulster County, on Aug 10.

Vireos — Warblers: A Blackpoll Warbler was also seen by Chandler Young in the Naponach area, Ulster County, on Jun 20 and is a very late date. The Kentucky Warbler comes into the spotlight again — with two widely separated occurrences in our region. The first record comes from Rockland County, with the discovery of a male being made at Pearl River by Emily Paulson on Jun 4 and again a few days later by Bob Deed et al. in an area near Congers. Although checked by many, no mate or nesting evidence was found. The other record of this beautiful warbler came from up in Ulster County near Brunswick in the Wallkill Valley east of the Shawangunks. Here on Jun 24 Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Young discovered a male singing frequently but again no nesting evidence was found. Both records indicate that there is a good chance that this species does nest spottedly in the Hudson Valley. Records of many years ago list it as a nesting species in the extreme lower Hudson Valley, and undoubtedly the modern force of birders would extend this range up the Hudson if a concerted effort could be made in this direction. Hooded Warblers seemed more abundant about Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, this summer (D. Smiley).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A male Orchard Oriole was seen and heard several times near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, during June and early July but no nesting record was actually made. It is believed (F. H.) that this bird is the offspring of the former nesting pair and was probably nesting in some nearby territory. The song was noted as being different from that of the male of the old pair. A White-throated Sparrow was observed on a few occasions during July at the Spillway area of the Ashokan Reservoir (Henry & Ilse Dunbar).

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The summer was one of mixed productivity with fairly successful breeding of Mallards and Black Ducks, Herring Gulls, Common and Least Terns and less successful breeding for egrets and herons.

Tragically few of the smaller nesting land birds were reported from Central and Eastern Long Island with 40 to 90 percent reduction noted by one observer. Birds largely affected were wrens, vireos, and warblers. Especially hard hit was the Pine Warbler, with several active Suffolk County observers recording not a single individual of this usually fairly common pine barrens species. Diminishment showed in Black and White and Prairie Warblers, Redstarts, and Red-eyed Vireos. Also down in numbers were Phoebes, House Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, White-eyed Vireos, and Field Sparrows. Not in the memory of this writer has such tragedy struck our woodlands or has the pleasure of listening to bird song been denied to such a scale to even the keenest listener. June woodlands on Long Island bore the silence of a late August insofar as the above species were concerned — a tragedy presumably caused by the intensive aerial spraying of woodlands in the spring of 1957 to kill the Gypsy Moth.

Besides the deteriorated small land bird situation, prolonged cold and rain caused great mortality to Purple Martin colonies in May. This condition