

occasion the Lawrence's was seen feeding a Cowbird, while both a Blue-wing and a Golden-wing were seen feeding another Cowbird. The two nests that were constructed by the Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers were subsequently collected and presented to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell. Blackburnian adults were feeding young at Red Rock on Aug 1 and 3 (Smilow), and a Bay-breasted Warbler was at Nassau on Aug 1 and 7 (Turner). A Nashville Warbler was seen in Niskayuna on Aug 13 (Eddy); this particular bird was so excited about getting somewhere quickly that it hit a window. It was stunned and picked up, but it quickly recovered.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Another southerner which nested locally this summer was the Orchard Oriole. This species was found breeding at Delmar, and as of Jul 26 there were still young in the nest (fide Ralph Palmer). Purple Finches were reported nesting in July at several Columbia County localities. The Pine Siskin was in Amsterdam at least until Jun 15, which is late date for that erratic bird (Fitzgerald). There were quite a few reports of nesting Cardinals from various areas. Not unexpectedly, these reports are becoming more frequent each year. Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in the Meadowdale area on Jun 21 (Stone), and there were other reports.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

For the lower Hudson Valley it was a summer of frequent showers and warm and humid weather. Birding, of course, was at a minimum during this vacation season, but nevertheless field observations were sufficient to give us at least a fair picture of the nesting status of our local birds.

Downstate, particularly in Rockland and Westchester Counties, many "old time" birders are witnessing a shifting and changing of nesting populations due to the development of human communities which has been rapidly changing the face of the countryside since World War II. This means a destruction or displacement of nesting sites, a shifting of nesting species, and a change in the birdwatcher's expectations. In the upper counties this condition is not as pronounced as in the more populated districts of the region. The Bluebird, for instance, has been forced to move on in many areas formerly occupied, its nesting site destroyed by large scale development and land alteration. It is one bird that would respond to nesting boxes placed in fairly open areas of available countryside. This would be a worthwhile project for bird groups. All in all, if we can see amidst the progress of human affairs, it would appear that the nesting season was about normal with the usual ups and downs of certain species.

In pursuit of their Catskill Mountain bird studies Fred Hough and Dan Smiley added another trip on June 13 and 14, this time to Peekamoose Mountain (3843') in Ulster County. Wind, rain and cold (trace of snow) limited the planned scope of activity on this trip, but the prime objective of working out the status of Bicknell's Thrush was, however, accomplished. Peekamoose is topped with a predominant stand of balsam, not an extensive tract, but none the less large enough to form the necessary prerequisite of habitat attracting Bicknell's Thrush. Several birds were noted and one was heard singing at 31 degrees on the 14th in an icy wind whipping violently through the trees over the top. The establishment of Bicknell's on this mountain may well represent the southern extent of its known breeding range.

A Hummingbird was also seen atop Peekamoose, visiting the blossoms of the common Azalea, and it seemed quite out of place.

Loons — Ducks: About mid-July Martha Earl began noticing the Common Egrets about central Orange County. This egret is a regular summer visitant to many parts of our region, usually appearing in July. Two pair of Canada Geese were again found nesting at Swift Pond, near Dover Plains, Dutchess County. They are considered wild birds (Dutchess County Bird Club). Several Wood Ducks brought off their broods in the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary area in Westchester during the early part of the season and were seen by Stanley Grierson.

Hawks — Owls: Through regular observation Dan Smiley reports an upswing in the local Grouse population cycle about the Mohonk Lake property in Ulster County. Apparently the Upland Plover sparingly nests about suitable sites in the Hudson Valley, probably each year. A few years ago a nesting record was made in Ulster Co., and this summer a pair with young were found near Standfordville in Dutchess County (DCBC), making a first known record. The Solitary Sandpiper was found all season about a swamp near Millbrook, Dutchess Co. (DCBC). In Dutchess and Ulster Counties the cuckoos were reported as being more numerous this year.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: In the upper parts of our region the Phoebe seems to have nested in near normal numbers. Swallows also appeared to be normal for the period. In New Paltz, Ulster Co., a pair of Purple Martins used a single apartment box in which to nest (Robert Pyle). The Tufted Titmouse continued to show signs of increase. Two Brown Creeper nesting sites were found in Dutchess Co. this year, one in Bog Hollow, near Dover Plains and the other in Shunpike, Town of Washington (DCBC). In Kingston, Ulster Co., Mr. Raymond Van Valkenburgh had a Carolina Wren nesting in an ornament on his porch. In the early part of the summer a Mockingbird was seen (F. Hough) in Staatsburg, Dutchess Co., and was reported to have stayed there most of the season. Several successful nesting reports on the Bluebird came from Dutchess Co (DCBC), and a few from Ulster County. Elsewhere there was little comment other than a noted scarcity of the bird.

Vireos — Warblers: Observers in Dutchess Co. have failed to turn up any nesting White-eyed Vireos in that area for the past several years. Both Lawrence's and Brewster's hybrids were seen in Dutchess this season (DCBC). Henry and Ilse Dunbar established records that strongly indicate nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in the Black Creek area near "Slabsides" in Ulster County. At least two were seen during June and up to early July. On Aug 4 a male Blackburnian Warbler was noted feeding young near Moores Mills in Dutchess Co. and may well have nested nearby. No previous nesting records have been made for the country (DCBC). On Aug 13 a Northern Waterthrush took to visiting the feeder of Miss Betty Odell at her home in Katonah, Westchester County. It was watched closely for several days.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Cardinal continues to be well established in all areas suitable for it. It has been an off season for the Henslow's Sparrow. The Chipping Sparrow sometimes puts its nest close to the ground. One at Kripplebush, Ulster Co., chose a field site, putting the nest in a small cedar one foot from the ground. At Lomontville, Ulster Co., Henry Dunbar saw a nest five feet from the ground in a pear tree.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Dutchess County Bird Club into the fold of reporting counties for Region 9, thus making our Hudson Valley coverage more widespread and complete. An active club in a great area should indeed bring forth many worthwhile and interesting records.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Breeding results varied on the Long Island nesting grounds, with tremendous success noted in the Jamaica Bay Sanctuary. No violent storms came during early summer to destroy gull or tern colonies, and the lack of extremely high tides aided such birds as rails, Black Ducks, and marsh-breeding sparrows. Rainfall, though, was plentiful, and this offered a good cover crop. Whereas the numerous breeding species of water birds were