

Loons — Owls: The first Common Egrets, three in number, were seen at Hillsdale on Jul 24 (Fremd), and thereafter they were regularly seen along the river above and below Hudson (Brown, Mickle). American Bitterns were observed at several localities. A female Wood Duck with ten young in tow was seen crossing a road at Hillsdale (Fremd), and a pair with five young was observed at Nassau (Turner). A scaup (species ?), perhaps injured, was at Queechy Lake for about a week beginning Jul 14 (Mickle).

Turkey Vultures were reported in several Columbia County localities. A sharp-shinned Hawk was spotted in Canaan during June (Payne). Broad-winged Hawks appeared to be nesting there as well as in Red Rock. A Coot apparently summered at Vischer Ferry, but no indications of breeding were noted (Hallenbeck).

Both species of cuckoo were quite widely reported in all areas of Columbia County. Screech and Great Horned Owls were both reported from several localities there (Gokay, Reeve, Erlenbach, Silvernail).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were heard during June at Old Chatham (Barten), Canaan (Gokay), and Red Rock (Smilow). There were two or three reports of Pileated Woodpeckers. Tree Swallows had a good nesting season at Nassau, where this year there was more than double the number of productive boxes of any previous year since the boxes were erected in 1955. Bank Swallows were last reported at Ghent on Aug 8 (Erlenbach), and Cliff Swallows were last noted at Canaan on Aug 10 (Gokay). A flock of Rough-winged Swallows was seen along Kinderhook Creek in July (Silvernail).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were fledged from nestings at Nassau (Shineman) and Red Rock (Smilow). A pair of Mockingbirds nested near Scotia in June (Hallenbeck). The following is the "box" score on nesting Bluebirds in the Columbia County area: Nassau, two broods fledged (Turner); Canaan, at least two broods fledged; Chatham, at least one brood fledged (Leslie), and Ghent, at least two broods fledged (Erlenbach.) A very interesting record was that of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Loudonville on Aug 11 (French).

Vireos — Sparrows: One adult and one young Yellow-throated Vireo were at Red Rock on Aug 14, and a Solitary Vireo was there on Jul 31 (Smilow).

Both the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers were reported from Nassau during June (Turner), and the latter species was also seen during that month in Canaan (Payne). The Brewster's Warbler was later found on two separate occasions at Nassau (Shineman, Turner). A Nashville Warbler was spotted at Canaan on Jun 23 (Payne), and there was another at Ghent on Aug 15 (Erlenbach). The Black-throated Blue and Myrtle were seen at Berlin on Jul 23 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers were recorded at Canaan on several occasions (Payne). During June two pairs of Louisiana Waterthrushes nested along a stream at Red Rock (Smilow). A Magnolia Warbler at Ghent on Aug 14 was the first of the fall migration (Erlenbach). A Northern Waterthrush was seen at Loudonville on Aug 11 (French).

There were numerous Columbia County reports of Cardinals, and Purple Finches nested at several localities there. A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen repeatedly in Old Chatham during June (Barten), and the Henslow's Sparrow was spotted on two occasions in July at Nassau (Turner). Very unusual was the presence of a White-crowned Sparrow at Canaan on Jun 25 (Payne).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Our summer Hudson Valley weather was consistent in its pattern of being cool and wet. Although June was near normal in both respects, July ended up cool and wet with August continuing in a similar fashion. As a result it was a lush growing season. As is often the case, local bird populations varied according to comment, with some species increasing and others decreasing. It may be a matter of conjecture, but region-wise it seems safe to say that, in general, it was not a season of profuse abundance among our nesting birds (excluding Grackles, Starlings, etc.). However the case may be, there were several interesting finds, and these happily reflect the serious interest that birders are taking in our local ornithology. Mrs.

William Grierson notes several reports of albinism in birds and other species of animal life in the Westchester County area and wonders what may be causing this abnormal amount.

Loons — Owls: Common Egrets began to appear in various parts of the region during mid-July. Very little was reported concerning any of our summer ducks.

Hawks, like the ducks, received little mention for the period. Dan Smiley banded three young Broad-winged Hawks on Jul 3 near Mohonk Lake, Ulster County. An Osprey was found near Lake DeForest, Rockland County, on Aug 7, constituting a second August record for birders in this area (Bob Deed). There were no comments indicating any change in the Ruffed Grouse status of the region. Released Bobwhite seem to be faring much better in the Dutchess County area than across the River in Ulster County. A Common Tern was at Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster County, on Jun 3 (A. Feldman).

Mourning Doves summered in good numbers. Cuckoos showed a good increase, their first in a number of years. Both species were more common in Rockland County (R. Deed et al), and in Dutchess County the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club noted that the Yellow-billed outnumbered the Black-billed almost four to one. In Ulster County the Yellow-billed also seemed to outnumber the Black-billed. Near Kripplebush, Ulster County, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo nested in a hazelnut bush alongside a garden — a rather open situation (F. Hough). On Jun 22 Dan Smiley found a dead of this species in the waters of Mohonk Lake.

At dusk on Jun 5 William Grierson spotted a Screech Owl sitting on the edge of his bird bath at his home in Mt. Kisco, Westchester. Adding additional weight to the strong possibility that Saw-whet Owls do nest in Ulster County is a record made by Dan Smiley. On Jul 15 a young Saw-whet Owl flew into the Mohonk Lake Mountain House, creating an uprising among the guests. The bird was indignantly captured and turned over to Mr. Smiley, who banded it. After some observation by F. Hough, it was released.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Most observers agreed that there was some scarcity of Hummingbirds this year. Several Rockland County observers were treated to an unusual sight in July. A near-complete albino Ruby-throated was found about the home of Robert Meylan in Bardonia and made an odd contrast with the normal bird. It was creamy above, white below, and showed no metallic coloration at all. The Red-headed was reported in Dutchess County (RTWBC), but it seems to have been missed elsewhere in the region. At Stone Ridge, Ulster County, Barn Swallows still had young in the nest at the end of the period (F.H.). After a great many years Cliff Swallows again nested under the eaves of Henry Dunbar's barn at his residence in Lomontville, Ulster County. Martha Earl, too, was happy to find some Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of a house in Bull's Mills, Orange County. The Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess County is working on a project of building and erecting Purple Martin houses for the Dutchess area. This is a wonderful plan and should pay off in new colonies.

The Tufted Titmouse is continuing to hold its own. F. Germond again reported nesting Brown Creepers in Dutchess County. The Carolina Wren is also continuing to hold its own. Mabel Little reported they nested successfully in her area about Carmel, Putnam County. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was found in two new locations in Dutchess County, about the NYS Conservation swamps near Pleasant Valley (M. Key, J. Key, M. Van Wagner, E. Pink).

There was about the same evidence of Mockingbirds this year as last. Veeries appeared to be off in summer numbers. Nearly everyone felt the scarcity of Bluebirds. Again I would like to encourage groups and individuals to erect houses for Bluebirds at any suitable location. On Jun 12 members of a John Burroughs Natural History Society (Ulster County) field trip party had the good fortune of watching a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers constructing a nest. This was put on a horizontal oak limb about forty feet from the ground; the site was the Chodikee Lake Road west of West Park. This is a first local record of nesting evidence. Cedar Waxwings were not about in any summer abundance.

Vireos — Warblers: Bob Deed's report of numerous Warbling Vireos in parts of Rockland County encourages us to believe that their nesting sites have not been greatly disturbed or altered. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dunbar unexpectedly found a nesting Magnolia Warbler — right in their front yard! The nest was in a Thuja tree three feet above ground, and the site was located at Lomontville, Ulster County.

Two young were fledged. Several pairs of Cerulean Warblers were found about Cruger's Island, Dutchess County, during the summer, most of which were exhibiting complete nesting evidence (RTWBC). Ceruleans were also found across the Hudson in the Black Creek locality of Ulster County, but no one was able to run down a nest. A single male appeared at the Dunbars' residence in Lomontville on Jun 2, but it didn't linger long.

In the ecology of the Northern Yellowthroat, Fred Hough and Dan Smiley have determined its habitat to extend and exist in Canadian flora and faunal situations in Ulster County. Such evidence was seen in a pair found nesting in the Balsam zone on Balsam Lake Mountain 3,700 feet in the Catskills.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The House Sparrow, pest that he is, is showing some signs of paying for his keep in this country. In some localities these sparrows have been observed holding a fair check on emerging Japanese beetles. The Orchard Oriole nested at Red Oaks Mill, near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, in a site that had been used previously (W. Clare, Jr.). Indigo Buntings and Goldfinches were considered on the off side. The Towhee was found on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain and may well have nested there since it was seen in June and August (F. Hough, D. Smiley).

The Henslow's Sparrow was reported in Ulster County but not elsewhere in the region. A Swamp Sparrow was singing lustily in the Mud Pond area atop the Shawangunks, Ulster County, on Jul 17 and was probably nesting at that site.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The summer period was comfortably cool with the official thermometer remaining under 90 degrees Fahren. There was sufficient rain to encourage good vegetation tracts, but no flooded breeding areas resulting from storms with strong northeast winds occurred to the detriment of water birds, breeding rails, Sharp-tailed, and Seaside Sparrows.

Grassy tracts grew luxuriantly with tremendous crops of the Panicums, especially switch-grass (*Panicum birgatum*), *Agrostis*, and *Digitaria*. This speaks well of coming seed crops for migrating and wintering sparrows.

Prodigious flocks of both Grackles and Starlings flying nightly into the tall groves of trees indicated a highly successful season for these aggressive species. The former I hold largely responsible for the elimination by nest-robbing of the attractive little British Goldfinch on Long Island, now unrecorded for the last few years. Likewise, among the less desirable water birds, a great increase has been noticed in breeding Herring Gulls, now known in over a half-dozen colonies from Jamaica Bay eastward to and including Gardiner's Island. In practically all of these colonies one or two pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls, sometimes more, have been reported. With this increase comes a diminishment of the more desirable terns and skimmers, both on eastern and extreme western Long Island, if near these colonies.

Nesting Egrets were reported in several locations. The ever-spreading Cattle Egret was again reported, but apparently not as a breeder. Among the land birds the Hermit Thrush was again scarce in the pine barrens. Pine, Prairie, and Black-throated Green Warblers were up in numbers from the all-time low of 1959 (Puleston). Bluebirds were practically non-existent on Long Island. Cardinals were on the increase, and for the first time in recent years the Tufted Titmouse nested.

Loons — Ducks: An immature Gannet was seen at Short Beach on Jul 16 (P. Post, E. Restivo). The first Double-crested Cormorant was at Shinnecock on Jul 24 (G. Raynor), and six were at South Oyster Bay Aug 15 (J. Elliott). Common and Snowy Egrets bred again at Jones Beach south of the Sanctuary pond. At Jamaica Bay there were 25 pairs of Common and 90 pairs of Snowy Egrets on Jul 16; also noted was a pair of Little Blue Herons, with one young being banded (Post, Restivo). The Little Blue Heron seemed slightly up in numbers elsewhere with several seen on the Moriches flats and six or seven at Jones Beach in early August. On Jun 10 there were two nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Northport (E. Mudge). A Louisiana Heron was at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on Aug 6 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Two Cattle Egrets were reported on Plum Island for about two weeks in June, and