

Addendum: Editor's note — the following additional summer records were received from Mr. Sabin just at press time: Common Egret and Least Bittern at Vischer Ferry on August 6; Iceland Gull and Bonaparte's Gull just north of Albany on June 21. — 652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Weather for the period was close to normal and quite like last summer in that showers helped to hold down any severe drought. Again, summer birding activity was at low ebb, but from the appearances gathered it was near normal season for our nesting species. Bluebirds still continued on the scarce side, and such birds as the Starling and Grackle were in many instances a downright nuisance with their immense numbers. The greatest concentration of these birds seems to follow the lowland and river-bottom areas. This, of course, makes the Hudson Valley ideal.

Loons — Ducks: Mr. and Mrs. John Dye found a Pied-billed Grebe with six young on Jul 8 in an area of Orange Co. known as the Cornwall Bay Marsh. The species nests sparingly in the region and is an interesting bird to study. Least Bitterns were found at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester Co., on Jul 21 (Mr. and Mrs. Hersh Rogosin; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Grierson). Another record came from Dutchess Co. where E. Pink and E. Skidmore saw one at Thompson Pond on Jul 26. To find nests requires a bit of stamina and care.

The Canada Goose was reported nesting in the Bear Mt. area of Orange Co. (Ed. Treacy fide Dye), and it was also seen on the Rondout Res. in Ulster Co. during July (C. Young, W. Claire).

Hawks — Owls: Hawks seemed to be about in their usual summer numbers. Wandering Caspian Terns were seen in the region during June. One was seen at Crugar's Island, Dutchess Co., on Jun 18 (Br. Michael), and another was over the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster Co. on Jun 30 (Al Feldman).

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed a good population in Ulster County this year, and we suspect it may have been the same in other areas too. There were no reports on the Barn Owl from this region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were heard throughout the summer near Kripplebush, Ulster County (F. Hough. Members of the Edgar Mearns Bird Club of Orange Co. feel there is an increase in the number of nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers in this area. Ned Kurtz found the species nesting also near New Paltz, Ulster County. Horned Larks were found nesting on the grounds of two IBM plants in the region, one at Kingston in Ulster Co. (Jeanette Dunn, H. Dunbar) and one at Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County (W. Claire). Henry Dunbar wonders whether IBM supplies nesting Horned Larks at all its plants.

A pair of Cliff Swallows nested again at Bull's Mill, Orange Co., (Martha Earl), and the colonies at the Ashokan Reservoir were apparently successful (Al Feldman). Purple Martins have occupied about six houses erected along the Hudson River area in Dutchess Co. (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen along parts of the Shawangunk range in Ulster Co. during various times in the nesting season, which makes us suspect they are occasionally nesting here (F. Hough, D. Smiley). No one reported any abundance of Bluebirds. One pair showed up at Mohonk Lake, Ulster Co., briefly during early summer, and Dan Smiley states that this was the first time he had seen Bluebirds in the vicinity of the Mountain House. He speculates that the species might be gradually adapting to remoter areas for nesting.

Vireos — Warblers: A White-eyed Vireo was seen by Stanley Grierson near Armonk, Westchester County, on Jun 7.

Little is ever reported on the nesting population of Yellow-throated Vireos in this Valley. We wonder just how much change might be occurring in its status.

Most of the warblers were about in their usual numbers. A Kentucky Warbler was found near Pomona, Westchester County, during early June (H. Kelsey), but no evidence of nesting was found. In a study of the birds of the Catskills the Yellow-throat's nesting territory was again found to range high on the slopes of some of the mountains checked (Hough, Smiley).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The House Sparrow continued in its predation on Japanese beetles.

The most unusual report of the season was that of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie King made through Robert Deed. They reported about 40 Evening Grosbeaks in the yard

of their home in Valley Cottage, Rockland County, on Aug 15! They submitted a feather as evidence, and we certainly hope that others were lucky enough to see these birds somewhere. Another unexpected find was made by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Smiley at Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, where they saw a small flock of Red Cross-bills on Jun 13; the birds appeared to be eating aphids concentrated in curled leaves of an elm tree. Martha Earl again found the Purple Finch nesting near Newburgh, Orange County. They were also found in certain lowland areas of Ulster County, obviously attracted to planted spruce.

Man and Nature are constantly changing the face of the land, and because the Henslow's Sparrow has rather restricted nesting site requirements the bird is seldom static for long. The grassy, weedy, bush-studded field is the favorite habitat, but these are not overly common in our region. Apparently one or two or more such places have returned into being in Rockland County for two Henslow's reports came from that area. One bird was found near Stony Point during July (H. Kelsey) and another with young near Blachard Road in northern Rockland Co. during the same period (Ed. Treacy, P. Jeheber, Margaret and John Dye).

Corrigendum: The Western Grebe reported in the previous summary and mentioned in James Meritt's covering summary was in error; the bird was a Red-necked Grebe.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Again, similar to last year, *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass), *Agrostis*, and *Digitaria sanguinalis* (crab grass) grew abundantly during June and July, which were hot and humid with plentiful rainfall. This speaks for a good seed supply for wintering sparrows and other ground-feeding birds. There were no southerly storms of importance to drive stragglers up the coast and no strong northeastern winds to flood the salt marshes or affect the colonizing terns and skimmers in their sandy, hollowed nests on the beaches. The weather was also favorable to nesting ducks, with well-maintained water levels causing prolific broods both at Jamaica Bay and Jones Sanctuary pond. A lack of prolonged damp periods proved favorable to Tree and Barn Swallow populations, and young Purple Martins were a-wing in early August in fair abundance. A tremendous crop of web-worms hatched in June, almost devastating our Long Island oak woods and leaving many trees almost as devoid of foliage as in winter. With plentiful food provided, aphids, leaf hoppers, etc., in the middle of nesting, land and song birds had a good season and cuckoos were fairly plentiful.

With the spread of herons and egrets northward in recent years, Long Island's nesting colonies are mostly reported from the western end. A newcomer, the Glossy Ibis, bred this summer at Jamaica Bay. There were also first breeding records for American Widgeon and Redhead, although presumably the latter are from young brought to the sanctuary last summer (see *Kingbird*, Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 169).

More encouraging reports came from nesting warblers on eastern Long Island, but records of Carolina Wrens are scarce since the severe snows of last winter. There have been a few records of imported Cardinals from several locations on central and eastern Long Island (Puleston); undoubtedly these were captive birds which had been released. Early fall migration to August 15 was in the doldrums with extremely hot weather and practically no north winds to bring down the few migrants usually appearing around that time. Therefore, only one record of Olive-sided Flycatcher and several of Northern Waterthrush came in before the end of the period.

Loons — Ducks: One or two Common Loons summered. A Horned Grebe was seen at Great Meadow Island, Jones Beach, Jul 11 (Levine) and from Jul 23 to Aug 13 (Buckley); another was seen at Gilgo Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama) and a Gannet same place and date. Pied-billed Grebes brought off two broods at Jamaica Bay, with the first young being seen Jun 4 (Post, Norse, and Heath). There were very few records of shearwaters except for one Sooty off Mecox on Jun 24 (R. Wilcox). Five Wilson's Petrels were seen off Gilgo on Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama). The last spring record of Double-crested Cormorant was three May 30 at Shinnecock; two at Moriches on Aug 12 was the first fall record (G. Raynor).