

"not remembered previous years" (DM); one Port Kent June 15 (EA, HD); two reported from Wilmington (RM); one female Keeseville July 25 (MR). Savannah Sparrow: nests SL (HD) and RB (JK); one July 17 (MR). Vesper Sparrow: six July 17 (MR.) only report for period. Slate-colored Junco: happily "too many to keep track of" Elk L (FS); otherwise very small numbers in all areas. Chipping Sparrow: good numbers all areas. Field Sparrow: one June 10 SL (HD); one Sabattis June 19 one July 17 (MR); Spy L (DM). White-throated Sparrow: abundant all areas. Lincoln's Sparrow: two, Mad, June 18, one July 17 (MR); five, Mad (RM); one, Mad July 28 (JM); nesting RB (JK); Barnum P July 6 (DY). Swamp Sparrow: small numbers all areas. Song Sparrow: good numbers all areas.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

June was another dry month, with precipitation totalling 1.91 in., 1.34 in. below average. Despite a cool period from June 1-5, temperatures averaged 66.9°, only 0.4° below normal. Temperatures in July averaged 68.9°, 3.2° below normal. The precipitation, 3.52 in., was essentially normal, and afforded some relief to the drought-stricken Region. Precipitation averaged greater than usual in August.

For most observers, the season was a disappointing one. Most warblers seemed to be nesting in reduced numbers throughout the Region. Nesting marsh birds continued their decline, with no reports of nesting Marsh Hawks, Pied-billed Grebes, Gallinules, Least Bitterns or Coot, and only one or possibly two of Virginia Rail and Sora. Herons were also quite uncommon, with only four American Bitterns and no night herons reported. In addition, the nesting birds of prey continued to be scarce, with very few reports of owls and only a scattering of records of hawks other than the Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks. After two good years, the shorebird flight this summer was quite disappointing—probably due to a combination of late-summer rain and an accumulation of grass in some long-dry sections of local reservoirs.

On the other hand, a number of unusual species were reported. This list is prefaced by the Scarlet Ibis (although possibly an escaped bird). Mockingbirds are becoming much more widespread in the Region, with two local nestings reported this year and many additional records. Other unusual species included Bald Eagle, Sanderling, Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler and Cerulean Warbler.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; JL—Jenny Lake; Nisk—Niskayuna; Res—Reservoir; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; RS, MLS—Robert and Mary Lou Shedd; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; BW—Beverly Waite; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Herons were decidedly scarce. Great Blue Heron: few—reported only from BCM, Castleton, Tomhannock Res and VFG, with no known nests. Common Egret: one Jul 22, VFG (BRS) and one Aug 17–18, Tomhannock Res (M. Kilcawley et al.) the only reports. Green Heron: fairly numerous and widespread. No reports of night herons. American Bittern: reported only from BCM, Castleton and VFG, very scarce. *Scarlet Ibis*: a bright scarlet individual with a decurved bill was at JL and Efner L Aug 3–8 and another (probably the same individual) was at Thompson's L Aug 16–18 (bsh, WBS and many others). Although no escaped ibises have been reported in this area, it seems likely the bird was liberated or escaped from captivity. No unusual species of ducks were reported, although adults and young of Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal were seen occasionally.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: unreported in early summer, with flocks of up to six appearing in the Chatham area in Aug (ADBC) and one at Nisk Aug 11 (DJT), scarce. Cooper's Hawk: one, JL, mid-Jul (bsh), the only accipiter seen. Red-tailed Hawk: decidedly uncommon. Red-shouldered Hawk: only records—one, Voorheesville, Jun 12 (PPW); one, Consalus Vly, Jun 20 (SBC); one near Saratoga L Jul 23 (SBC). Broad-winged Hawk: one, Crane Mt., Jul 11 (SBC) and one, Glenville, Jul 26 (EH)—only reports. *Bald Eagle*: an ad flew over the New Scotland dump Jul 3 (RS, MLS). Marsh Hawk: no reports. Osprey: none known nesting in Region 8; reappeared at VFG Jul 31 (BRS). Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse seemed in good numbers. Virginia Rail: two reports—one pair with young in North Troy (Robert and Nancy Brown); one at WR Aug 3 (BW). Sora: an imm at WR Aug 3 (BW). Common Gallinule: none reported.

Semipalmated Plover: one at SCR Jul 31 and Aug 8 (BRS, EH); one at WR Aug 5 (BW). Killdeer: rather common, congregating in late Jul and Aug. Woodcock: few reports. Common Snipe: at BCM June 19 (RS, MLS); at WR Aug 2 (BW). Upland Plover: at least six at a Nisk locality in Jun and early Jul, including 1–2 imm birds. (RPY). Solitary Sandpiper: four reports, Jul 31–Aug 11. Greater Yellowlegs: two at VFG Jul 18 (PPW) and one at WR Aug 2 (BW)—only records. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Aug 2, WR (BW), and one, Aug 11, Vly (JHB, BB). Least Sandpiper: last spring Jun 5, near Scotia (RPY); up to 25 at SCR and VFG Jul 26–31 (BRS, DJT); at WR Aug 2 (BW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring Jun 5, near Scotia (RPY); first fall Jul 28, SCR (DJT), max 20 Aug 8, SCR (EH). *Sanderling*: one at WR Aug 2 (BW). Herring Gulls were the only summering gulls reported. No terns were seen. Both species of cuckoo widely reported. *Barn Owl*: one near Coxsackie Jul 15–Aug 12 (Molly White). All owls seemed very scarce.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: reported to Jul 16 (EH). *Red-headed Woodpecker*: one at Hudson in early Jun (ADBC); a pair with at least one imm (which was fed by one ad, but which could fly) was seen in a large grove of diseased elms near Gansevoort in mid-Jul (PPW, F. W. Gubitz et al.) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: appeared common in known nesting areas at Berlin Mt., North L, JL, and Crane Mt. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one seen and three heard at JL in mid-Jul and very likely bred in the vicinity (bsh). Olive-sided Flycatcher: a late spring

migrant at Central Pk, Schenectady Jun 4 (BRS); a fall migrant at WR Aug 14 (PPW). Bank Swallow: 901 banded at a colony near Scotia compared with 828 last year; an additional 130 returnees were recovered; good nesting success—apparently partly due to a lack of interference with the cliff nesting area during the breeding season—resulted in an earlier exodus than last year, peaking about Jun 25 (RPY). Cliff Swallow: appeared as common as the Barn Swallow in the Warrensburg-Thurman area Jul 11 (SBC); quite uncommon in most lowland areas. Purple Martin: a colony of four pairs located in the Poestenkill area (M. Kilcawley), a new location.

Boreal Chickadee: one seen and heard in the spruce area at the top of Crane Mt. (ca. 3200 ft. elevation) in northern Warren Co Jul 11 (PPW). Tufted Titmouse: reported from several localities throughout period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: fairly common in usual upland nesting areas. *Mockingbird*: two conclusive breeding records—a pair nested in South Schodack and was seen with 2–3 young birds (ADBC), and a pair was seen in Altamont with two young just ready to leave a nest on Jul 8 (BW). This nest, surprisingly, was located in a forty-foot tree about 8 ft. off the ground. There were several additional reports indicative of the influx noted this spring. Hermit Thrush: common in the usual nesting areas, with 15 heard at Crane Mt. Jul 11 (SBC). Eastern Bluebird: about as common as in 1964. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a pair on Schodack Island near Castleton Aug 1 (PPW). Swainson's Thrush: at Berlin Mt. Jun 27 and at Crane Mt. Jul 11 (SBC). No shrikes were seen.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: reported only from JL (bsh). Black-and-white Warbler: few reports—seemed unusually scarce. No Parula Warblers were reported. *Cape May Warbler*: one seen in the northwestern corner of Saratoga Co Aug 1, very early (WBS). *Cerulean Warbler*: a singing male was one of a pair observed Aug 1, Schodack Island near Castleton in a grove of tall poplar a few feet from the Hudson R. (PPW). Northern Waterthrush: in mid-Jul at JL (bsh). Mourning Warbler: at least three pair with young in the JL area Jul 15–17 (bsh). Yellow-breasted Chat: at least two heard in the Meadowdale area during Jun (SBC).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: holding its own as a nesting species; migrants noted from Aug 1 on. Evening Grosbeak: a flock of 15, containing male and female birds, near Lock 7 on the north side of the Mohawk R June 4 (BRS)—a most unusual record; nested in the JL area as usual. Purple Finch: seemed widespread and unusually common during Jun and Jul. Grasshopper Sparrow: very scarce, only report from the Catskill area (JHB). Henslow's Sparrow: no reports. White-throated Sparrow: reported from Consalus Vly and from upland areas just south of Saratoga L in Jun and Jul as well as from the usual nesting places farther north or at higher elevation.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

About half of the usual number of contributors have forwarded notes to your reporter and, with the usual lack of birding in summer, this report is quite brief. Several active birders have remarked that numbers seemed