

## REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

The temperature during both June and July was fairly close to normal. The average temperature during June was 66.7 degrees, only .6 degrees below normal, and the average temperature during July was 72.7 degrees, .6 degrees above normal. On the other hand, precipitation differed widely from normal during both months, making June a wet month and July an extremely dry month. June had a total rainfall of 4.38 inches, 1.38 inches above normal. July's total rainfall was only .49 inches, 3.00 inches below the norm. Only four days during July had a total rainfall large enough to measure! The first half of August continued to be unusually dry with temperatures about normal. (All data taken at the Albany Airport.)

The number of breeding bird counts conducted in the Region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased to 15 this year, three more than in 1967, and seven more than in 1966. A total of 107 species was recorded. The following is a list of the 25 most abundant species: Redwinged Blackbird, 2422; Starling, 2008; Robin, 966; House Sparrow, 781; Common Grackle, 695; Song Sparrow, 683; American Goldfinch, 527; Common Crow, 458; Barn Swallow, 424; Chipping Sparrow, 334; Eastern Meadowlark, 289; Wood Thrush, 284; Blue Jay, 241; Yellowthroat, 222; Veery, 220; Red-eyed Vireo 205; Yellow Warbler 202; Brown-headed Cowbird, 201; Catbird 192; Baltimore Oriole, 190; Tree Swallow, 177; House Wren, 171; Bobolink, 172; Rufous-sided Towhee, 169; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 147. New to the "top 25" are Tree Swallow and Yellow-shafted Flicker. Dropped from the list are Mourning Dove and Ovenbird. Twenty-one species were recorded on all 15 surveys, but not all of these species have abundant populations. For instance, the Scarlet Tanager, which was recorded on all surveys, had a total count less than half the number of Rufous-sided Towhees, the least populous species of the "top 25". Once again, Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings dominated the list. Their combined populations are 28.3% of all birds counted on all surveys.

The only real highlight of the period was the Western Meadowlark, the first ever recorded for the Region. Of unusual interest were: an increase in the number of Common Egrets, one Black-crowned Night Heron (after an absence of two years on the list), and a Carolina Wren. Also of special interest were some nesting reports made by several observers, including the first substantiated record of the House Finch nesting in this Region.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JB—James Bush; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JC—Juanita Cook; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; RMCC—Robert McCullough; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; ER—Edgar Reilly; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; NS—Natalie Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: AR—Alcove Reservoir; EG—East Greenbush; Gr—Greenville; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; BBC—Breeding Bird Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three adult pairs and three young Jun 25 L George (*vide* MK). Pied-billed Grebe: one report—Jul 25, 29 Gr (CK). Great Blue Heron; frequent reports of one to three; max ten Aug 12 VFG (RPY). COMMON EGRET: reported during Jul and Aug on ten different dates ranging from Jul 16 through period, from four different areas. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:

one imm seen Bashford Rd by Giddings Pond Aug 18, after having been heard for several weeks (M&AG *et al*). Canada Goose: an unusual report of a flock of ten led by one duck flying north in Nisk Jun 23 (RPY). Brant: five Jun 2 Mohawk R near NWW (WBS); and two Jun 11 near Gr (CK).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Jun 28 Schodack (L&VB). Cooper's Hawk: three reports—scattered dates in widely-separated localities. Red-tailed Hawk: only a total of three on the 15 BBC's; several additional reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Jul in Ghent (P&GE). Broad-winged Hawk: four scattered reports. Marsh Hawk: one Aug 11 VFG (HFB), and one Jul 14 Glenville (EH,RMcC). Osprey: reappeared Aug 3 SCR (HFB,PMcG). Bob-white: reported from eight areas, an apparent increase over the last two years. Virginia Rail: *no* reports. Sora: a pair with at least two young observed Jun 12–25 Chatham (M&AG). Common Gallinule: reported several dates Gr (CK).

Semipalmated Plover: one Aug 3 NWW (HHS), and one Aug 10 Round L (PPW). Upland Plover: reported from three areas—max eight Nisk (RPY). Solitary Sandpiper: one Jul Ghent (GE); one Aug 10 near Nassau (MG,ER, and B. Bluett). Greater Yellowlegs: one migrant Aug 5 Gr (CK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: four Aug 10 Round L (PPW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: scarce, with only a total of three on the BBC reports; four additional reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: also scarce—a total of seven on BBC reports; two additional reports. Barn Owl: one Jun 30 near Gr (*vide* CK). Screech Owl: one Jul in Ghent (P&GE). Great Horned Owl: reported from four areas.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS:** Red-headed Woodpecker: a family in the same area as in the three previous summers, near Gansevoort (F. W. Gubitz). Eastern Kingbird: migrating in moderate numbers the first half of Aug (RPY). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jun 5 Gr (CK); three Jun 9 South Horicon BBC (BRS); and one throughout Jul near Jenny L (R. Stone). Tree Swallow: nest boxes at VFG showed large clutches, but fledging success was down (RPY); one albino was seen Aug 13 Ghent (GE). Bank Swallow: banding carried out at four sites—Glenville Landfill, Hetcheltown Rd sandpit, Clifton Park Landfill, and Lasher's gravel pit near Half-moon—yielded over 1100; birds at the last three sites named, fledged about the dates expected; Glenville began fledging Jul 2–4 and peaked a few days after, the later dates the result of digging disturbances (RPY); there was also a colony of 120 holes in Colonie (HHS). Barn Swallow: migrants or wanderers seen Jul 2 on, in EG (PPW); one albino Castleton (JC). Cliff Swallow: a colony of 15 pair first appeared at Gr, an area in which they had not nested previously, on Jul 27, an unusually late date, and had 14 nests built by Jul 30; nesting was successful, with 12 of the nests occupied and adults feeding young on Aug 15 (CK); two pairs attempted nesting Hillsdale Jun 1 and 8, but were not successful (NS). Purple Martin: colony of 12 in W. Glenville increased to 30, and departed Aug 15 (RMcC). Winter Wren: one pair nested on a porch at Jenny L and fledged four young (C. W. Huntley). **CAROLINA WREN:** one heard singing Jul 3 EG (PPW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two reports—one Jun 17 Durham BBC (CK); one Aug 5 Gr (CK). **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** an unusual summer report—one heard and seen Jul 5–9 Hillsdale (NS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: three reports—two Jun 9 S. Horicon BBC (BRS), a single Jun 16 Medusa BBC (JB), and a single Jul 7 Warren Co (EH).

Warblers: Blue-winged: appears to be extending its nesting range northward—recorded for first time near Petersburg Jun 15 (PPW). Parula: one Jul 7 near Pottersville (PPW). Yellow: migration apparent Aug 1–3 Nisk (RPY); banded: 15 Aug 4, seven Aug 9, and 23 Aug 10 VHG (RPY). Myrtle: apparently increasing—on three identical BBC's, a total of eight in 1968, as contrasted to a total of two in 1967. Bay-breasted: two late migrants Jun 9 South Horicon BBC (BRS). Blackpoll: last migrant Jun 4 Gr (CK). Prairie: reported from several areas in the Region, includ-

ing Gr Jun 5, 8 (CK), Ghent in Jul (P&GE), AR Jun 20 (PPW), and a first record for an area near Petersburg Jun 15 Petersburg BBC (PPW). American Redstart: apparently increasing—a comparison of ten identical BBC's showed a total of 20 in 1967, 50 in 1968.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: flocks of 12 Jul 6, and 18 Jul 14 Colonie (HHS). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: first recorded, for the first time in the Region, Jun 8 Ghent BBC (MDG,PPW), in a field at the junction of Co Highway Rts. 28 and 28B Columbia Co, near Kinderhook Lake; both song and distinctive call notes heard numerous times; subsequently seen and heard by mob; remained until at least Jun 30 (CK). Orchard Oriole: more reports than usual—one male, one female, and one imm seen late Jun Castleton (JC); one adult Glenmont (Robert Korns); one female and one imm Westmere (Sam Madison). Brown-headed Cowbird: a flock of 45 Aug 4 Colonie, only one individual subsequently at Colonie for remainder of period (HHS). Evening Grosbeak: apparently nested Galway L—family of at least five at feeder Aug 25 (Mildred Cray). HOUSE FINCH: a pair appeared at the same feeder from which this species fed during the summer of 1967, from late May on; an imm was fed by the male Jun 19, and on Jun 21, 22, and 23, two imm were fed by the parents at the feeder; the family disappeared the first part of Jul; a pair of Purple Finches raised at least two young in this same area, and appeared at the same feeder in Nisk, giving ample opportunity for careful comparison (GA); also, one seen Bashford Rd, Chatham Center Jul 6 (ER); and a female was seen with a singing male, River Rd, Nisk Jul 6 (HHS). Pine Siskin: two individuals—a pair, or adult and imm—at Jenny L in Jun (Barry S. Havens). American Goldfinch: more than 100 in flock Aug 14 Gr (CK). Grasshopper Sparrow; common in several areas of Columbia Co, at least ten in one area (PPW); one in Castleton to end of period (JC). Henslow's Sparrow: one report—max three, from Jul 15–25 Gr (CK).

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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The month of June was cool and very wet with as much as 6.85 inches of rainfall recorded at Lake Mohonk in the Schawangunk Mountains. July was much warmer and very dry with only 1.45 inches at Mohonk. The weather continued dry thru mid-August, and it was only the extensive rainfall earlier that saved the foliage from harm.

Fred Hough reports the bird life in Ulster as largely normal. A few species were down, but they have been so for several seasons now. Bob Deed reports from the Rockland area that shorebirds and waterfowl have had a "better than usual" season, but that some species of hawks and owls went unreported.

As usual the number of observers in the field was low and this probably accounts for the numbers of many species being less than normal.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester Co; Rock—Rockland Co; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Observers: ERB—Eugene R. Brown; RFD—Robert F. Deed; JD—James Demes; PG—Pat Garthwaite; FG—Florence Germond; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred