

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

Hough; EVJ—Eric V. Johnson; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: nested in Pleasant Valley, and Amenia, Dutch (WBC). Great Blue Heron: continues scarce through much of Region, especially Rock—only report from Rock, four, Aug 15 at the new Nauraushaun Res. (JD); one found ill at Waccabuc, West on Aug 10, died on Aug 11 (W.G.Reese); WBC reports nine active nests with 20 young at Tamarack Rookery during Jun and Jul. Green Heron: normal to better. Common Egret: four, near Pine Plains, Dutch, Jul 29–31. (VP). Black-crowned Night Heron: two, Cross River Res. West, Aug 11 (Mildred Kurka); none elsewhere.

Waterfowl: The ample wetness of spring and early summer seemed to have an effect. Most ponds had Canada Geese, Mallards and Blacks. In early Aug. the Hudson R had many Mallards and Blacks with a few Blue-winged Teal. Canada Goose: 12 over Katonah, West, Jul 26. (William and Mildred Grierson). Green-winged Teal: one pair near a small flock of Blue-winged Teal at Nauraushaun Res. Aug 15 (JD); others observed throughout period at Pine Plains (VP). Blue-winged Teal: same dates and locations as Green-winged; no young observed.

HAWKS—OWLS: Most species of Raptors normal. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report one Jul 8, Rhinebeck (OW,PG); Jack Orth reports this species all but disappeared from Bear Mt. Pk; niche successfully occupied by increasing Red-tailed Hawk. Marsh Hawk: unreported. Sparrow Hawk: very few reports from Rock, normal elsewhere. Ruffed Grouse: numbers continue to drop, but still many reported. Bobwhite: WBC reports doing "quite well" in Dutch; observed regularly Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, West. Virginia Rail: one nested Thompson Pond near Pine Plains; one with five young observed Tri-Loba Hill Sanct by Mrs. G. Robert Roy on Jun 18. Sora Rail: one Jun 16 Tri-Loba Hill Sanct; one Jun 10, Briarcliff Farm, Dutch.

Shorebird numbers were up in Rock primarily due to change in habitat. Low water levels of reservoirs near New City and Nauraushaun have proved an attraction for many species. Semipalmated Plover: one Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11 (RFD). Common Snipe: one calling Jul 28, Briarcliff Farm, Dutch (VP). Spotted Sandpiper: normal. Greater Yellowlegs: one Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11, rather early date for Rock. Pectoral Sandpiper: after big movement of last spring, only two reported, Aug 11 Nauraushaun Res. (RFD). Least Sandpiper: migrants already moving thru first half of Jul; six at Stanfordville Jul 14–16 (TH,FG); six at Nauraushaun Res. and at Piermont Pier, Rock Aug 11 (RFD). Semipalmated Sandpiper: moving thru with the previous species; 12 to 15 at Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11.

Great Black-backed Gull: Bob Deed reports this species as the dominant species both individually and collectively at Piermont Pier. On Aug 11 he found better than 100 there, with a few less Herring, about 60 Ring-billed, and 40 Laughing. Common Tern: in good numbers on lower Hudson, several dozen observed from Stony Pt to New York City in mid-Aug. (EDT). Mourning Dove: good increase in numbers in lower Hudson Valley (EVJ); confirmed by FH in Ulst area. Cuckoos: both species unusually scarce. Owls: almost unreported except for Screech—possibly the result of few observers. The Screech Owl was observed at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct and reported in normal numbers from Dutch.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: fewer reported than most seasons—only two in Jun. Common Nighthawk: at least six in Poughkeepsie thru period; good numbers reported from Middletown and Newburgh. Chimney Swift: normal. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: quite scarce in northern portion. Most species of Woodpeckers quite normal. Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Centenary, near New City, Rock Jun 15 (Frank & Ruth Steffens), first Rock report in two years and second in six years (RAS). Eastern Kingbird: after good influx in spring, numbers fell off dramatically until species very uncommon at end of period. Yellow-bellied

Flycatcher: an unusual summer report—one singing repeatedly at Nauraushaun Res. Aug 15, unconfirmed (JD). Trail's Flycatcher: only report, two nesting birds in Dutch. (WBC). Eastern Wood Pewee: rarely common, this year quite scarce. Most species of swallows normal after being unusually scarce in spring. Tree Swallow: nested late and with poor success in Dutch, possibly due to excessive Jun rain. Large numbers of both Tree and Bank massing along the Hudson at Cornwall in early Jul. Cliff Swallow: six active nests at Upton L, Dutch, one nest less than last year. Purple Martin: absent from most nest areas since recent disasters.

Blue Jay: exceptionally good breeding in Lower Hudson Valley (EVJ). Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers seem to be increasing over local lows of last few seasons. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seen and heard at Kripplebush, Ulst thru Jun and Jul; no nesting observed. Brown Creeper: two pairs at Surebridge Swamp, Harriman Section of Bear Mt. State Pk, Jun 15 (ERB). House Wren: population good. Winter Wren: singing at Surebridge Swamp on Jun 5, on Jun 15 six including four grown young in full plumage but noticeably clumsy in flight, with the male singing regularly (ERB); one, Thompson Pond, Dutch, Jun 10 (TH,PG). Carolina Wren: none. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers severely reduced in Piermont Marsh area (RFD). Mockingbird: holding its own; increase of past few years seems to be tapering off. Catbird: good breeding record (EVJ).

Robin: Same as previous species. *HERMIT THRUSH*: usually unreported in summer—four birds singing at Surebridge Swamp, Bear Mt. State Pk, on Jun 5 and again on Jun 15 (ERB); two observed, one singing, Jul 26 at Deep Hollow, Bear Mt. State Pk, near Rt. 6 (Hugh Pembleton). Latter birds near area where your reporter heard them about 12 years ago. Eastern Bluebird: continues low; WBC reports 70 nesting pairs out of 150 boxes provided, in four townships in Dutch. Early hatches had good weather but suffered high predation. Wrens and House Sparrows worst predators, cats and raccoons took some. Second families smaller but with good success. One late nesting, believed a third family, banded Aug 19 at about two weeks age. Cedar Waxwing: numbers good after about two years of scarcity, some nesting reports at end of season. Loggerhead Shrike: an unusual summer date in Rock—Aug 11, one, Piermont Pier, (RFD).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Yellow-throated Vireo: scarce thru period. Solitary Vireo: unusual summer reports in Dutch—one Jun 15 Thompson Pd. (FG), one Jul 6 Deep Hollow Rd (FG). Red-eyed Vireo: numbers severely down from usual. Warbling Vireo: normal to slightly less.

Warblers: Most species scarce in Mohonk area. Other areas did not report similarly. Yellow Warbler: numbers good thru much of Region (EVJ). Cerulean Warbler: the many birds reported in spring failed to stay; usual nesters in Mt. Rutens area of Dutch seemed down again this year. Blackburnian Warbler: nesting in one or two locations in Dutch (WBC). Blackpoll Warbler: last migrant Jun 7 Dutch (WBC). American Redstart: numbers good in lower Hudson Valley (EVJ).

Bobolink: good breeding population. Orchard Oriole: nesting in several locations—one pair at Chester, Oran and one at Green Haven, Dutch. Common Grackle: numbers continue high. Cowbird: less than usual, but still numerous. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: many observers agreed this species was noticeably down in numbers thru spring and summer. Purple Finch: a family of four, Jul 18 & 19, Mt. Kisco, (Wm. & Mildred Grierson); a small band remained at Mohonk L thru summer, fed regularly on sunflower seeds (Dan Smiley). Slate-colored Junco: two, Jul 6, Deep Hollow Rd, Dutch.

ADDENDUM: The 60 Bonaparte's Gull reported at Cruger Is., Dutch by OW et al in the last report [*Kingbird* 18(3): 176, July 1968] were there on May 4, 1968.

Autumn reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928