

Goldfinch: common summer finch as in previous years. Red Crossbill: many in the NE this year; 10 July 23 and Aug 10 RB (JK); 7 Aug 6 Hatch Br, 2 flocks of 5 to 9 Aug 11 Halfway Br (GTC); pair Aug 3 way to Saranac Inn (HD). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 male seen and heard daily until Aug 20 TL (RM). Savannah Sparrow: pair thru period SL (HD); several pair around Essex S to Ticonderoga (GC). Vesper Sparrow: 1 June 3, 17 and 30 Peasleeville (HMR). Slate-colored Junco; more stayed thru summer than past years; 4 banded 2nd week Aug Speculator (RMCI); 2 young early July SL (GTC); nest with 4 eggs July 4 near TL (RM); 8 thru period RB (JK). Chipping Sparrow: everywhere; over 30 pairs Elk L (FS). Field Sparrow: 1 or 2 heard and reported except from M'ville. White-throated Sparrow: to deviate a little from the cut-and-dried—we often thank St Francis for this modest bird whose cheerful song makes days more musical both at home and on the trail. Swamp Sparrow: 1 June 19 Moose R Plains; 1 2nd week Aug Speculator (RMCI); 8 Elk L (FS). Song Sparrow: common all areas.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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In general, this past summer could be described as very wet, and slightly cooler than average. Rainfall in June amounted to 5.30 inches (data taken at Albany Airport), 2.05 inches greater than the average. Rainfall in July was reported as 5.08 inches, 1.59 more than the average.

16 breeding bird counts for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were run during the month of June and the first part of July, an increase of one over the number run in 1968. The following observations are based on 15 of these surveys. The seven observers and their assistants compiled a list of 103 species. Dropped from our 1968 compilation of the 25 most abundant species (figures taken from the BBC totals) are the Tree Swallow (less than 50% of last year's total), House Wren (decreased from 171 to 107), and Yellow-shafted Flicker (a relatively small decrease); added are Bank Swallow, Ovenbird, and Field Sparrow. As in previous years, more than a quarter of all birds counted on all surveys were Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings (this year 29%).

There were very few late spring migrants reported. Many fall migrants were moving at the beginning of August—notably warblers and flycatchers. With the exception of the Least Flycatcher, all flycatchers were on the move Aug. 2, ahead of an incoming cold front.

Perhaps as a result of the low water level maintained at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area during the summer, breeding activity in that area apparently decreased, as evidenced by the following observations: Green Heron were scarce during June and July—more common in August; the usual nesting waterfowl (Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and Blue-winged Teal) were extremely scarce; no Virginia Rails, Sora, nor Common Gallinule were seen—usually one pair of each is present (RPY).

The only highlights of the period were a Prothonotary Warbler, and a Kentucky Warbler.

Observers cited more than once: GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; PC—Paul Connor; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MLG—Murray L. Gardler; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; CK, HK—Clarissa and Harry Ketcham; WDM—Will Merritt, Jr.; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

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

Abbreviations: Gr—Greenville; JL—Jenny Lake; Mdale—Meadowdale; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; BBC—Breeding Bird Census.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 1 adult and 6 young Jun 8 Medusa Swamp (CK). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jun 8 Delmar Game Farm Pond (WBS). Great Blue Heron: seemed scarce—max 6 Aug 15 VFG (RPY). Common Egret: 1 Aug 14 NWW (HHS); 1 Aug 15 VFG (RPY), probably the same one. Green Heron: max 6 Aug 15 VFG (RPY).

HAWKS-OWLS: Cooper's Hawk: 1 Jul 19 Wolf Hollow (HHS)—only accipiter report. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports from three widely-separated areas. Broad-winged Hawk: reports from three scattered areas; also a total of 4 on the BBC's. Bald Eagle: 1 imm late afternoon Jun 12 SCR (MLG); 2 imm about one hour later SCR (HFB). Osprey: only report—1 Jul 7 JL (GB). Bobwhite: Jun 22 Ghent (W & K Applegate); Jul 15 Muitzeskill (Rena Dodd). Virginia Rail: one report—Black Creek Marsh end of Jun (BW). Common Gallinule: one report—Black Creek Marsh end of Jun (BW).

Upland Plover: Jun 21, Jul 31, Aug 1 and 12 Colonie (HHS); 6 Jun Argyle BBC (PPW); 4 July 5 Albany Airport (BW); 2 young banded Jul, max 3, last Aug 6 Nisk (RPY). Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Jul 4 Schodack Center (PC). Least Sandpiper: 1 Jul 20 VFG (RPY). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 Jul 20 SCR (BRS). Black Tern: 1 in mature plumage Jul 20 SCR (BRS). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: again a total of 3 on the BBC reports; additional reports from six areas. Black-billed Cuckoo: a total of 4 on the BBC reports, also five scattered areas. Screech Owl: 1 Jun North Easton BBC (Bill Gorman). Great Horned Owl: four areas. Barred Owl: max 3 June 26 JL (GB)—only report.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: increasing during Aug, max 3 Aug 15 VFC (WDM,RPY). Pileated Woodpecker: reported from three areas; also 1 on each of three BBC's. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Jun 22, 28 Gr (CK,HK). Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 migrants banded Aug 2 VFG (WDM,RPY). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 adults banded Aug 2-9 VFG (WDM,RPY). Olive-sided Flycatcher: several sites JL area (GB); 2 Jun S. Horicon BBC (BRS) 1 Jul 13 Warrensburg BBC (WBS).

Tree Swallow: due to the low water level at VFG, many of the boxes were made accessible to predators along the shore-line and these nests were destroyed; 9 out of 35 were lost; the number of eggs per clutch was low (3.0), but the fledging success was high on those eggs which did hatch (82%); most fledging occurred in mid-June, later than usual; the last clutch fledged on Jul 22 (RPY). Bank Swallow: colony of 200+ near Schodack (PC); 2219 banded in May, Jun, Jul at four colonies—Clifton Park, Glenville, Halfmoon Landfill, and Hetcheltown Rd; the Glenville colony, which has been worked for the 6th year, was markedly improved over last year, with about double the hole count—356 holes, of which 290 were believed active; the Halfmoon colony was banded this year for the first time, it consisted of 400-500 holes; the Hetcheltown Rd colony was a re-nesting after the original colony of about 100 holes was dug out by excavators, the colony came back stronger than it started, with about 219 holes, of which 181 were believed active (WDM,RPY). Purple Martin: colony of 16 departed from W. Glenville Aug 15 (Robert McCullough)—increase of only 4 during the summer. Brown Creeper: 1 imm banded Aug 9 VFG—very early (WDM,RPY). Winter Wren: increasing at JL (GB). Cedar Waxwing: "dozens" Jul 27 and into Aug Schodack Center (PC); large numbers in Aug VFG, with groups of 50+ common (WDM,RPY).

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo: seems to be increasing—reported from four usual nesting areas; also, 9 Jun S. Horicon BBC (BRS); 1 Jul 13 Warrensburg BBC (WBS). *PROTHONOTARY WARBLER*: 1 adult male in magnificent plumage, caught on the north side of a mist net in a lane set in very thick, low, valley habitat, banded Aug 2 VFG (WDM,RPY)—the first fall record (three previous spring records) and the first record for Saratoga Co. Tennessee Warbler: 1 Jul 13 Warrensburg

burg BBC (WBS); 1 imm banded Aug 2 VFG (WDM,RPY). Yellow Warbler: migrating Aug 1 and 2 VFG (RPY). Myrtle Warbler: apparently increasing—13 on a total of three BBC's; also reported in three additional areas. Bay-breasted Warbler: late spring migrant Jun 8 W. Glenville (EH). Blackpoll Warbler: late spring migrants—Jun 1 Gr (CK); Jun 8 NWW (HHS). Prairie Warbler: reported from two areas in Jun—Gr (CK), and Karner Pine Barrens (HHS). Ovenbird: migrants banded—2 Aug 2, and 1 Aug 9 VFG (WDM,RPY). Northern Waterthrush: 1 banded Aug 9 VFG (WDM,RPY). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Jul 19 Wolf Hollow (HHS); 1 site JL (GB). **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: 1 observed carefully and heard singing for a week in mid-June in a swampy, wooded spot in Altamont (BW, Florence Rogers). Mourning Warbler: 1 imm banded Aug 9 VFG (WDM,RPY); former nesting site at Black Pond near JL abandoned (GB). Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Jun 12 near SCR (MLG); 1 Jul 4 Mdale (HHS). Canada Warbler: 1 early migrant banded Aug 2 VFG, and 1 Aug 15 (WDM,RPY).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: total number on BBC reports down almost one-third from previous year. Orchard Oriole: Jun 18–28 Schodack (L&V Burland) and Ghent (P&GE). Baltimore Oriole: migrating Aug 2 VFG (RPY). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: migrating Aug 2 VFG (RPY). House Finch: 1 pair Jun 11–13 Nisk (Patrick Kilburn). Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from a new area—1 Jun 12 near SCR (MLG); 3 Jun 13 near SCR (HHS). Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Durham BBC (CK); 2 Medusa BBC (Jim Bush). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Jun 21 Karner Pine Barrens (HHS)—unusually late; strong evidence of breeding found at VFG, an elevation of less than 200 feet in the Mohawk Valley (RPY)—an unusual nesting situation.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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Your reporter might better write about the birds of the world rather than the birds of southeastern New York. Most of his contributors gave glowing reports of their birding hours spent outside of the country while on vacation. Those that stayed behind were pretty much house bound with the abundance of rainy days through the month of July. Only a few usable reports were received and they, for the most part, failed to show any special trends in bird populations.

The summer was characterized by the slightly below average mean temperature for June and July, and the well above normal rainfall for the month of July. Better than seven inches for the latter month which is about double the expected total. The sun failed to shine for as much as two weeks in some locations. August was wet in the first half and generally dry for the last.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Rock—Rockland Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point; West—Westchester Co.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, Mrs. William Grierson, Maj. John Getgood, Eleanor Pink, Fred Hough, Al Merritt.

Observers: EB—Enid Butler; FG—Florence Germond; JG—Maj. John Getgood; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; MJK—Mary and Jim Key; ABM—Al and Barbara Merritt; HM—Helen Manson; EP—Eleanor Pink; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: numbers good at Bashakill, Sull. Great Blue Heron: more reports this year than in any recently; as many as 4 in the Moodna Marsh area at Cornwall-on-Hudson; about 10 active nests and 22 young in rookery at Tamarack Swamp near Millbrook, Dutch (WBC). Green Heron: best year for