

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for the period averaged close to normal. Precipitation was below average, and almost entirely made up of scattered thunder showers.

The general lack of birding, and rather skimpy reports from contributors precludes any report of general trends. Your reporter observes that herons were lower than usual, whereas breeding waterfowl appeared better. The shorebird movement started in mid-July as expected, but only the Waterman club was doing any observing. Flycatchers continued low as reported last spring until mid-August when they started to pick up in numbers. Tree Swallows were in full movement by mid-July. The Yellow-throated Vireo was virtually unreported throughout the region; but several warbler records of species usually found to the north and at higher elevation were reported in parts of Harriman State Park, suggesting the possibility of breeding. Fringillid numbers were normal. Only two birds of truly unusual status were reported: one, a nesting pair of Goshawk in Dutchess Co, and the other a Northern Phalarope. Both are described in the report.

Observers cited: GB—Gene Brown; FG—Florence Germond; JG—Maj. John Getgood; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; MK—Mary Key; JO—Jack Orth VP—Vivian Parkhurst; DS—Dan Smiley; W,TS—William & Trixie Strauss; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BBS-1—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Orange Co., Jun 7 Westbrookville to Unionville; BBS-2—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Orange Co., Jun 21; Warwick to Guymard; BS-3—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Westchester Co., Jun 23, Somers to Verplank; BFPP—Briarcliff Farms, Pine Plains, Dutch; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point; WBC—Waterman Bird Club. Counties by first 4 or 5 letters. Dutch-Dutchess; Oran—Orange; Putn—Putnam; Sull—Sullivan; Rock—Rockland; Ulst—Ulster; West—Westchester.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: reported nesting in 3 areas of Dutch (WBC). Great Blue Heron: Only a few single birds reported with the exception of the few breeders reported at Tamarack Sw, Dutch, 10 nests active but number of young uncounted. Little Blue Heron: 2 imm Aug 17 BFPP (TH, VP, et al). ~~Black~~ Crowned Night Heron: 1 July 25 Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (MK). American Bittern: 2 flying over Yorktown, West on BBS-3 (JG, EDT); 1 thru June Amenia (W, TS); 1 Aug 6 Wappingers Falls (MK). Mute Swan: 6 near Verplank BBS-3; 1 June 20 Hudson R at Cornwall (JG). Mallard and Black Duck: Young recently off nest obs July 15 in Dutch; normal thru period. Green-winged Teal: 6 July 28 BFPP (TH). Wood Duck: unusual conc of 15 on small pond in Greenville, Oran BBS-2.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: normal to better. GOSHAWK: A pair and nest found June 15 on south side of Stissing Mt, Dutch by nonbirders, 2 ad verified there on July 1 by FG and TH, Dick Guthrie and friend obs 2 imm birds off the nest on July 19, first breeding record for Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: A nest with 2 young reported Jun 10 at Cross River, West (Fred Stone). Osprey: 1 late date Jun 2 at Mt. Kisco (Mrs. Ronald Wells). Red-tailed Hawk: absent from Wawarsing where it has nested for years; generally normal thru rest of region. Broad-winged Hawk: very few reports, probably due to lack of observers. Sparrow Hawk: normal; several reports of nesting. Bobwhite: WBC reports resident population down apparently after severe winter; 1 heard near Westtown, Oran on BBS-1. Ring-necked Pheasant: WBC reports fewer each year in Dutch; perhaps there should be some concern for competition in the future with the recently introduced Green Pheasant; 1 unusual report July 12 on USMA, rarely observed in the highlands (JG). Virginia Rail: only report, 2 in Jun Amenia (W,TS). Common Gallinule: 1 pr with 1 young Amenia (W,TS); 1 ad thru Aug Pleasant Valley (MV). Killdeer: population normal;

usual few nesters. Woodcock: 4 Jun 6 Rhinebeck (FG, OW). Common Snipe: 1 heard courting Town of Greenville, Oran on BBS-2. Spotted Sandpiper: the usual few reports. Lesser Yellowlegs. ab 20 Aug 15 at BFPP (TH, VP). Least Sandpiper: ab 30 Aug 15 BFPP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3-5 Aug 15 BFPP. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 ad in winter plumage Aug 15 BFPP (TH, VP). *NORTHERN PHALAROPE*: 1 ad in winter plumage Aug 17-25 at BFPP (mob), as close as 20 ft obs with scopes and binoculars, first co record since 1924 (WBC). Gulls: normal; by end of season Herring Gulls appeared to outnumber Ring-bills by 4:1. Laughing Gull: unusually good numbers along the Hudson to the mid-Hudson region by the end of period; relatively few adults, most this year's young. Cuckoos: reported poor in Dutch, but just the reverse elsewhere; never more abundant thru rest of region, BBS-1 found 13 Black-billed in 10 stops, Yellow-billed in 6 stops; BBS-2 found 24 Black-billed in 23 stops, and Yellow-billed in 7; BBS-3 found 7 Black-billed, but no Yellow-billed. Screech Owl: the usual few reports. Great Horned Owl: fewer reports than usual; 2 in Dutch; 1 in West. Barred Owl: only 1 report from Dutch.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: almost unreported; 2 in Jun Amenia. Common Nighthawk: first migrants Aug 14 Pleasant Valley; continued in good numbers into the fall season; about 14 obs in Poughkeepsie area thru summer. Chimney Swift: good resident populations throughout region. Ruby-throated Hummingbird; only inc obs in the Wawarsing area, reported nesting in the Kripplebush area for the first time in several years (FH). Pileated Woodpecker. poorly reported in the Hudson Highlands, but good in the Dutch area. Red-headed Woodpecker. 1 all of Jun and Jul BFPP, 2 there on Jul 29 (VP), nesting not confirmed. Flycatchers. most species scarce until Aug 1, then common to end of period. Phoebe: reported normal in the Wawarsing area dur spring and summer, but declining towards the end of period; an interesting report of 2 broods of the same pair lost to what appeared to be an arthropod infestation at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG); 15 on BBS-1 in 13 stops. *YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER*: 1 Jun 15 near Island Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Traill's Flycatcher: 1 singing "fitz-bew" Jun 3 Iona Is; WBC reports 5 pr nesting in Dutch. Least Flycatcher: the scarcity of last spring continued until Aug 1 when a few more were reported. Wood Pewee: up in the Mohonk area (DS), but very few elsewhere. Tree Swallow: normal residents; good movement by Jul 15; abundant by end of period. Bank Swallow: Plentiful in all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: nesting birds seem up. Barn Swallow: normal to better. Cliff Swallow: nested in good numbers at Camp Buckner, USMA; 7 pr nested at farm at Upton L, Dutch. Purple Martin: last report Aug 9 Red Oaks Mill (MK); 3 colonies known in Dutch; Pleasant Valley-4 pr; Amenia-5 pr; BFPP-7 pr; a new nesting location discovered at Westtown, Oran on BBS-1. Common Crow: well reported on all BBS routes. Paridae: a good season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Jun 11 Red Oaks Mill (MK); 2 Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman State Park (GB). House Wren: excellent numbers; Jack Orth reports nesting in 7 out of 7 boxes on his place at Wawarsing, some with double broods; excellent numbers on most BBS routes. Long-billed Marsh Wren: continues good. Mockingbird: nested in the Monticello area (Ken Niven); BBS-1 had 9; BBS-2 had 6 and BBS-3 had 6. Brown Thrasher: generally normal, but BBS-3 had none. Thrushes generally normal. Wood Thrush: BBS-3 had 30. Hermit Thrush: heard singing Jun 15 at Harriman St. Pk. near Island Pd (GB). Bluebird: remains critically low; unreported except for Dutch where WBC bird box program resulted in more than 75 young being banded. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: not usually reported after spring; 1 Aug 8 and again Aug 22 at Wawarsing (JO); 1 Jul 31 Pleasant Valley (Emily Becquet); another July 26 Red Oaks Mill (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: usually unreported in summer; 1 Aug 12 Millbrook (MK). Cedar Waxwing: almost unreported thru spring and summer; DS reports numbers improved in Mohonk area; JG reports 6 Aug 2 USMA and Marty Borko reports mid-Aug arrivals in Wurtsboro area.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: White-eyed Vireo: reported nesting in the New Paltz area (Robert Pyle); regularly obs on Mine Rd, USMA thru Jun 8 (JG). Yellow-throated Vireo: almost unreported. Red-eyed Vireo: normal. Warblers: most resident species normal; numbers off in Putn. Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Jun nesting reports in Dutch (WBC); obs regularly thru period on the south side of the Torn, USMA (JG). Brewsters Warbler: 1 Aug 2 USMA (JG). Nashville Warbler: singing Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Magnolia Warbler: 1 Aug 9 USMA (JG). Black-throated Blue Warbler: heard Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Cerulean Warbler: last obs Jun 21 near Weyant's Pd, USMA (JG). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 obs Jul 6 carrying food near Stissing Mt, Dutch. Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Jun 1 Dutch (FG). Prairie Warbler: good numbers of last spring persisted thru summer; WBC reports 10 to 15 pr nesting in Dutch. Northern Waterthrush: obs Jun 21 and again on Aug 2 on USMA (JG). Hooded Warbler: last obs July 12 near the Torn, USMA very likely breeds there. Canada Warbler: 2 probable migrants Aug 9 at Weyant's Pd, USMA a very early date (JG); 1 Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Red-winged Blackbird: excellent numbers; BBS-2 reports 359 spread over 33 stops. Baltimore Oriole: in good numbers despite loss of elms; 28 birds in 23 stops on BBS-1. Common Grackle: extremely abundant in Putn and No West where BB-3 found 144 feeding on "white moths." Scarlet Tanager: generally normal. Cardinal: JO reports numbers up in the Wawarsing area; BBS-3 produced 16 in West; but generally low thru rest of Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: JO reports numbers better than usual at Wawarsing. Indigo Bunting: generally good locally. Purple Finch: WBC reports 8-10 pr all summer in Dutch. House Finch: WBC reports noticeable increase in Aug, 1 feeder had a flock estimated at 25; first nesting in Monticello area (Ken Niven); 2 obs in Greenville, Oran on BBS-1. Grasshopper Sparrow: numbers normal in Dutch, 8-10 pr all summer; BBS-1 found 3 in usual location near West-town. Vesper Sparrow: seemed quite scarce. Slate-colored Junco: heard calling Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB); obs nesting in a cavity in a yellow birch about 8 ft from the ground on SlideMt (FH).

Autumn reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Once again the summer report is largely drawn from notes taken on Gardiner's Island. Dennis Puleston visited the island June 4-7 and July 2-7 to study the Osprey population. His report not only documents an encouraging number of young Ospreys fledged this year, but also breeding Marsh Hawks, Oystercatchers, Long-eared Owl, and impressive numbers of waterfowl. A heron colony contained breeding Glossy Ibis and Cattle Egret, the first record for New York State. The future of Gardiner' Island as the bird paradise it is today depends on continued maintenance as a non-public area with limited access to serious researchers. It is hoped the island will remain in the capable trust of the concerned Gardiner family.

In a move to advertise the declining numbers of breeding colonial species, we have decided to report on colonies in the introduction rather than under the appropriate family, where the significance is lost among numerous other reports. We petition all observers to visit, census (even guesstimate) numbers of nests and forward reports to us (with exact locations) to make the colonial bird report as complete as possible. The census figures in the following reports are all numbers of breeding pairs: