

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

RICHARD E. PHILION

Cooler than normal weather prevailed over Region 8 during the June 1-August 15 period, thus continuing the trend established earlier in the year. The highest temperature recorded was 91° on the 30th of June, to be followed only four days later by the lowest temperature (44°) for the month of July (Albany Airport). In July alone there were 20 degree days (base 65°) accumulated where normally there are none. Precipitation for the months of June and July gave a combined total of 6.7 inches, about normal for the season.

Shorebird migration began in earnest by the third week of July while flycatchers and warblers were moving later in August. The absence of any sustained heat wave and an average amount of rainfall resulted in an unusually green landscape throughout the period—and many a wet vacation.

Seven breeding bird surveys were conducted in the region for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The counts were run between June 6 and July 3rd and a total of 95 species was recorded. This compares favorably with 1966 when 96 species were recorded from eight breeding bird surveys. The twenty-five most abundant: Starling, 909; Redwinged Blackbird, 797; Robin, 472; Grackle, 417; House Sparrow, 366; Barn Swallow, 291; Song Sparrow, 269; Crow, 213; Rock Dove, 170; Wood Thrush, 167; Goldfinch, 146; Bobolink, 116; Chipping Sparrow, 107; Meadowlark, 100; Red-eyed Vireo, 93; Catbird, 80; Cowbird, 80; Yellowthroat, 79; Yellow Warbler 72; Mourning Dove, 67; Flicker, 61; House Wren, 61; Veery, 59; Oriole, 51; Blue Jay, 50; Cardinal, 50.

When viewed in juxtaposition with the list compiled in 1966 the similarities are more striking than not. However, dropped from the list were the Ovenbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Bank Swallow and in their place were added Yellow Warbler, Veery, Bobolink and Cardinal, the latter species having made significant gains as a relatively new arrival to the region. Starlings outnumbered the Redwinged Blackbirds, and Bobolinks not only made the list but rose to twelfth place besides.

Unusual species for the period include Bald Eagle, White-rumped Sandpiper and a White-eyed Vireo.

Observers: DA—Doug Allen; HB—Hazel Bundy; GE—G. Erlenbach; WG—William Gorman; MG—Monte Gruett; MK—Marcia Kent; EM—E. Marsell; REP—R. Phillion; WBS—Walton Sabin; RPY—Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; AP—Averill Park; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WM—West Mt; BBC—Breeding Bird Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 1 July 3 Cobleskill BBC (WBS); Great Blue Heron: 8 Jun 11 Duaneberg BBC (WBS); max 12 Aug 7, 14, and 15 VFWM (HB) (WG). Green Heron: max 12 Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Common Egret: 3 Aug 15 VFWM (WG). American Bittern: 1 Jun 26 North River BBC (WBS); 1 Aug 7 VFWM (HB). Canada Goose: 7 Aug 7 Spencertown (EM)—unusually early migrants or released birds from near-by Delmar Game Farm? Pintail: 4 reported from May 20 to Jun 20 Canaan (GE). Blue-winged Teal: 6 Aug 7 VFWM (HB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Jun 26 North River BBC (WBS); 5 Jul 10 HMBC. BALD EAGLE: 1 adult seen perched on dead elm tree, also in flight 1/2 mile from intersection of Garner Rd and Columbia Co Route 22 (Warren & Kathy Applegate et al). Osprey: 1 Jul 24 and Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Sparrow Hawk: 5 Aug 14 WM (MK). Ruffed Grouse: 2 adults and 3 young Jul 5 Grafton (DA); 11 chicks Aug 23 WM (MK). Virginia Rail: 1 heard thru period AP (REP). Common Gallinule: 1 report in June ne Columbia Co pond (B & H Tullar); 1 Aug 15 Stony Creek (WG). Upland

Plover: 2 Jun 3 Mariaville (DA); total of 7 from BBC's, 6 on Argyle BBC (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 VFWM (HB). *WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER*: 3 Jul 17 VFWM (HB). Least Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 VFWM (HB). Black-billed Cuckoo: only 1 report Jun 27 Argyle BBC (MG). Screech Owl: 1 Aug 15 East Greenbush (WG). Barred Owl: 3 Jul 1 WM (MK).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: none reported on BBC's. Whip-poor-will: several thru Jun at SCR and Clarksville (DA). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 adults feeding 2 young Jun 24 Mariaville (DA). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 singing July 8 Moccasinkill; and 2 singing July 14 Thatcher Park (DA). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Warrensburg BBC (WBS). Purple Martin: 2 Jun 6 No. Easton BBC (WG). Tufted Titmouse: none reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Mockingbird: increasing numbers; 1 Jun 27 Argyle BBC (MG); first in that locality. Eastern Bluebird: reported nesting in Rotterdam and Mariaville (DA); unsuccessful attempts noted in East Greenbush and Mariaville. Cedar Waxwing: first fall migrants 15 Aug 7 VFWM (HB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 documented report Aug 6 Hillsdale (S&R Silverman), first record in Region 8 since 1953. Solitary Vireo: 2 Jun 27 Warrensburg BBC (WBS). Blue-winged Warbler: 2 Jun 11 Duaneburg BBC (DA). Northern Waterthrush: 2 Jun 6 No. Easton BBC (WG). Mourning Warbler: 1 Jun 26 No. River BBC (WBS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: increasing numbers from BBCs'. Red-winged Blackbird: albinism noted on male seen on Ghent BBC, white tail with black outer feather on each side. Baltimore Oriole: some decline over last years BBC. Evening Grosbeak: again breeding at Jenny Lake (RPY). Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Vesper Sparrow: 4 Aug 7 Altamont (WG).

Edgewood Dr. Averill Park, N.Y. 12018.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were close to normal during the nesting season, but precipitation was measured in the extremes. June was on the dry side and the first three weeks of July were even more dry. The last week of July brought almost the entire monthly average with about four and seven tenths inches of rain. August was very wet; with several storms, each bringing more than the monthly average.

Several areas in the region showed severe defoliation by the Gypsy Moth. No noticeable affect was observed on the birdlife, but a definite increase in Cuckoos might be attributed to the infestation. Fred Hough observes in the Ulster Co area that the plants and insects were a little late in their cycle of development. Bird numbers seemed quite normal for most of the period but in some areas the nesting populations and variety seemed better and was characteristic of a decade or more ago. He believes that this was influenced by retarded spring weather conditions on the migration movement causing more birds to exhaust their flight instinct instead of moving on.

Bob Deed reports an encouraging summer for the marsh birds, but a continuing disaster for those of the woodland areas west and south of Nyack that was sprayed aerially with DDT for Gypsy Moths a number of years ago. Birds such as the Wood Thrush and Veery are down in numbers from 50%—60%; Louisiana Waterthrush down more than 90%; Hooded Warbler down more than 90%; Black-throated Green Warbler down 75%; Phoebe down 75%; Prairie Warbler down more than 90%; Red-