

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-

eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos down 60%-70%. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and towhees seem unaffected. Mimids seem to be down in Rockland Co as a whole.

We have received word of the passing of Mrs. William Grierson, who for so many years has compiled and contributed records to this column from the northern Westchester area. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband Will and her son Stanley. She will be missed as well by many others for many reasons. Although your reporter never met her, Mildred's kindness and consideration was ever evident in her correspondence. It will be difficult for anyone to meet her standards.

Observers cited: GB—Gene Brown; JD—Jeff Daley; DD—Donald Deed; RFD—Robert F. Deed; HD—Herbert Donlan; DF—Davis Finch; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; A, BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; JCO—John C. Orth; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pinks; DS—Dan Smiley; JT—Dr. John Tramontano; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: *WHITE PELICAN*: An adult bird Aug 11 on sand bar in the Hudson R off Moodna Cr, Cornwall; first discovered by a junior high school student, John Small, and confirmed by Al Merritt; the bird left at dusk but returned the next morning and remained till 8:00 a.m. when it flew up-stream; Mr. Merritt took adequate photographs of the bird. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jul 8 Cornwall Bay (PJ); another, possibly the same bird, Jul 21 at Hyde Park (DF,AJ); 1 Aug 1 at L Tappan, Rock (GB,DD). Great Blue Heron: better numbers than usual in Rock where it has been severely reduced for the past few years; 6 Aug 3 Piermont Pier, (RFD); FG and EP visited heronry near Millbrook, Dutch Jun 9 and 29, on Jun 9 they counted 34 birds with 14 young and 6 adults still setting, on Jun 29 all were either with young or off the nest, this is an increase of 3 active nests over their best year, trees are still alive in nest area, and there seems to be plenty of room for expansion of the colony. Green Heron: in excellent numbers thru region. Common Egret: single birds observed in Rock, Oran and Dutch. Snowy Egret: RFD reports 1 Aug 3 at Piemont Pier, the fifth record for RAS and the first there since 1963 as many as 3 spent the month of Aug along the Hudson at Cornwall. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 July 22 Tri-Loba Sanct. Katonah was the first record for that area; an imm was in Moodna Cr July 4 (EDT,HD); 2 Aug 19 Piermont Pier, Rock, (RFD). Least Bittern: sev observed thru July and Aug Moodna Cr, Cornwall; 1 heard calling June 19 at Thompson Pd, Dutch (DF). American Bittern: 2 Jun 19 Thompson Pd (DF). Mute Swan: nested this summer at Iona Is in N Rock, 3 young (JCO). Canada Goose: nesting once again in almost every small pond in the Hudson Highlands. Snow Goose: an unusual record of about 200 flying north over Cornwall Jun 3 (AM). Mallard: from 150-200 thru July and Aug on the Hudson off Cornwall. Gadwall: always very rare; a pr July 19 on the Hudson at Nyack (DD); 2 more Aug 17 on the Hudson south of Bannerman's Is, Dutuh (DF). Blue-winged Teal: very rare in summer; 6 July 29 Pine Plains (TH,VP). Wood Duck: numbers good at Wawarsing (JCO); normal elsewhere.

HAWKS-OWLS: Goshawk: 1 imm flew into window in Highland Mills June 6, later died (AM). Red-shouldered Hawk: more reported this season than usual; 1 from July 4 to Aug 4 near Hopewell Jct, Dutch; observed there regularly in recent summers. (DF); 1 Aug 5 near Tiorati L, Bear Mt Park (RFD); nest site near South Salem, West destroyed by raccoons (SG); 1 ad in nesting territory of last year at Cross River West (Fred Stane). Broad-winged Hawk: no change in numbers; usual nesters observed. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 1 ad at close range at Tompkins Cove, Rock, observed by George W. Hadelor Jr. of Pearl River, he is quite familiar with the species from long observation in the western U.S. and Alaska. Bobwhite: all reports for last few seasons from Dutch, only a few observed there this season. Ring-necked

Pheasant: none reported; would appear reduced. Virginia Rail: 1 Jun 19 Thompson Pd, Dutch (DF). Semipalmated Plover: 2 Aug 19 Piermont Pier (RFD). Killdeer: more reports than usual in the Ulst area. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Aug 2 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,BM). American Woodcock: 3 Jun 22 Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG); reported Jul 30 from Wawarsing (JCO). Lesser Yellowlegs: first Aug 3 Piermont Pier (RFD). Least Sandpiper: about 30 Aug 3 Piermont Pier; numbers good throughout month of August along Hudson, started arriving in mid-July in the Cornwall area. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Jul 24 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT,HD); inc to 2 July 26 (PJ). Semipalmated Sandpiper: about 30 Aug 3 Piermont Pier (RFD). Laughing Gull: absent from mid-Hudson Region thru end of period, usually a few around by that time. Common Tern: 2 Aug 2 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,BM). Mourning Dove: numbers remain high. Cuckoos: numbers up; could they be increasing because of the Gypsy Moth?; the area was heavily infested with this pest thru the season; both species reported down in north central Dutch, but this is the only locale so reporting. Barn Owl: obs a Mohonk, Ulst, in early summer, first record for that area: another thru July and Aug in a barn near Goshen until the barn burned. Screech Owl: at Kripplebush, Ulst, and at Tri-Loba Sanct, Katonah.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-por-will: in the north central Dutch area and at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah. Nighthawk: a late spring migrant Jun 2 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (JD); an early fall migrant Aug 14 over Katonah (SG). Chimney Swift: better than 100 Aug 7 over Mt. Kisco (SG). Hummingbird: reported scarce in Dutch; nested at Weyant's Pd—Jun 2 (Ruth Steffens); nesting also at Kripplebush, Ulst (FH); numbers up in the latter region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: the pair of last spring at Ridgebury, Oran were observed feeding young at the feeder of Mrs. John Arfmann. Red-headed Woodpecker: from 1-3 in the north Middletown area of Oran. (JT). Kingbird: up in Ulst. Trail's Flycatcher: more than usual after very late arr in May; all areas of region report them. Least Flycatcher: numbers less than usual; nesting at Mohonk (DS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report, 2 Jun 3 at Weyant's Pd, Oran, (EDT). Swallows: a large kill reported Jul 11 along Penn Central RR Tracks south of Cruger's Is, Dutch, 137 dead counted with many more in the surrounding marsh and in the river, mostly Bank with a few Trees and at least 1 Barn. (Steve Buzzanuo) Tree Swallow: heavy migration started in early July and continued unabated thru end of period; this species must be a contender for the most numerous in the nation; does not seem to be as sensitive to environmental change as other species. Cliff Swallow: very good numbers dur Jul and Aug at Wawarsing (JCO); the only known nest site in Dutch was abandoned this year, birds arr but failed to build, the reason is not known. Purple Martin: nesting in the New Paltz area (Robert Pyle); nesting in Pleasant Valley and Pine Plains, Dutch; but no increase noted, and possibly a decrease; a new nest site near Middletown, Oran, contained 8 pr (JT). Fish Crow: 1 Jun 13 Middletown (JT). Tufted Titmouse: appears to be doing well around Mohonk, Ulst (DS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: in pine woods area near Kripplebush, Ulst, thru spring and early summer, believed to have nested but not confirmed (FH). Brown Creeper: very few reported. Winter Wren: at least 2 and possibly 3 summered at the Cornwall Nature Museum, Oran; obs again in the Thompson Pd and Turkey Hollow area between Millbrook and Dover Plains, Dutch. Long-billed Marsh Wren: a definite decline in the Thompson Pd and Cruger's Is area of Dutch. Mockingbird: continues to increase thru region; almost every community has several pairs. Bluebird: numbers holding steady; no inc reported but no declines either; WBC reports 18 successful nests with 76 young, 7 not successful with 35 young destroyed. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a few reports from extremes of the region; does not appear to be increasing. Cedar Waxwing: almost absent from region thru spring, but numbers improved to common at end of summer period.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: absent from usual locations; 1 report Jun 5 Deep Hollow Rd., Dutch (MVW). Warblers: generally normal; no movements by end of period. Worm-eating Warbler: a pr observed carrying food into low shrubs at Cornwall Nature Museum, nest could not be found (AM); species obs Jul 31 at Wawarsing (JCO). Brewster's Warbler: 1 Jun 19 Turkey Hollow, Dutch (EP,MVW). Prairie Warbler: plentiful in some areas of Dutch. *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: the Dutch bird obs on May 31 left on Jun 6 (DF); 1 July 27 Butler Sanct, Mt Kisco (Tom and Bill Howe). Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Jun 6 Goose Pond Mt Park, Chester (EDT: A,BM); another Jun 26–27 at Wawarsing (JCO). Hooded Warbler: 1 at Thompson Pd, Dutch, heard singing regularly thru Jun 13. (EP,JD).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: numbers good throughout farm land. Meadowlark: down in the Wawarsing area. Orchard Oriole: none this year from Dutch; a few elsewhere. Baltimore Oriole: obs eating Gypsy Moths and a type of inch worm in Westchester. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: regularly at feeders in Dutch; adults bringing in young to feed thru season. Indigo Bunting: in good numbers after very late arrival. Purple Finch: does not seem to be affected by its look-alike relative the House Finch; resident numbers low but normal and unchanged. House Finch: nesting has spread from the city of Poughkeepsie to the outskirts; nesting widely scattered thru the rest of the county. Grasshopper Sparrow: in usual nesting locations in south and west Oran; at least 2 pr obs regularly thru Jun north of Pine Plains (EP et al); 1 Jun 19 Cold Spring Rd, Standordville (DF). Field Sparrow: up in the Mohonk area of Ulst (DS).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Following last year's format, colonial bird data has been separated from the main body of the report. As usual, a handful of birders are responsible for this very important documentation of our changing environment. Why are the vast majority of birders—largely ecology-minded people—so loathe to document more than rarities, and so apathetic to what is not only important, but exciting. We urge our readers to read Niko Tinbergen's *The Herring Gull's World*, and to "turn-on" to the fascinating, highly-evolved social structure of one of our locally abundant colonial species.

As for rarities, they were down, the season producing only the following small list; Yellow-nosed Albatross, Audubon's Shearwater, Red-breasted Merganser (breeding), Franklin's Gull, Connecticut Warbler (spring migrant), and Canada Warbler (first breeding record).

Contributors frequently cited: TD—Thomas Davis; RG—Robert Giffen; MG—Michael Gochfeld; HH—Howard Honig; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; WP—Will Post.

COLONIAL NESTING DATA

I. Heron Colonies

1. Jones Beach State Park, west of parking field #3 (MG): Common Egret 28; Snowy Egret 100–150; *LOUISIANA HERON*, 1 (4 young banded); Black-crowned Night Heron 50–80; Glossy Ibis 120–140 (by far the largest breeding concentration reported to date.) All the Common and a few Snowy Egrets nested in a pine grove; all other birds were in adjacent phragmites.
2. Cedar Beach (WP): A new colony situated in phragmites. Black-crowned Night Heron 60; and Glossy Ibis 100.