

Smiths. Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches are in good numbers. A female House Finch was banded Aug. 13 near Whallonsburg (CS). Several small groups of Pine Siskins were seen. Red Crossbills were seen or heard in July from Paul Smiths and Onchiota to Ferd's Bog. White-winged Crossbill: two males, one singing and several other individuals flying were at Chubb River July 21 (mob); one Haystack Mt. Aug. 9 (TC). Rufous-sided Towhee: none at Tupper where there is usually one or two but AJ found one near Adirondack Loj and RMc had one at Indian Lake June 30. The Champlain Valley is more to their liking. Vesper Sparrows were in fair numbers. They have been hard to find in the last few years. Field Sparrows are very scarce. They were absent from some areas that had them last year.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

The weather for the Region varied for the period as much as the Region's physiography does. July precipitation in amounts of six inches (15+ cm) fell in areas of higher elevations of Albany, Greene, and Rensselaer Counties. However, most of the Region received three inches (7.6 cm) or less, and the City of Albany had about one inch (2.5 cm) for July. The temperatures varied even more dramatically. A warm start for June was thwarted by a very late frost in widely separated locations later in the month. A low temperature of 28° F (-2° C) was recorded on June 26 in Washington Co. On the other extreme, the high temperature for the period came from both southern Rensselaer Co. and Saratoga Springs with vigor, melting 102° F (39° C) on July 14. The first "cold" front came through the area on July 18, and with it came the first fall migrants, including some recently fledged Swainson's Thrushes into the Hudson Valley. Did they come all the way down from the mountains, or did they originate in the lowlands nearby?

Favorable trends noted from the reports received are the continued comeback of the two smaller accipiters and the Red-shouldered Hawk. Also encouraging is the widespread repopulation of Turkey in the Region, as evidenced in part by the record take by hunters during the Spring season which ended in early June. On the topic of mixed blessings is the woeful loss of our white ash trees along the bottomlands. This loss should, however, provide ample nest site opportunities for Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The apparent spread of the mysterious maple wilt through our sugar maples should likewise benefit the Red-headed Woodpeckers in the uplands. Finally, the spread of the practice of early June mowing of hayfields as advocated by agricultural advisors such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, will most likely abet the decline of the grassland sparrows such as Vesper, Henslow's, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, as well as Bobolinks, and perhaps Short-billed Marsh Wrens.

Contributors whose observations are reflected, with thanks, in this report are: Ken Able, William Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, Jim Bush, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, William Gorman, Elisabeth Grace, Monte Gruett, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Bob Marx, Tom Palm-

er, Al Schroeder, Tommy Williams, Hudson Winn, and Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations used in this report are: BBS—Breeding Bird Survey, Col.—Columbia Co., HR—Hudson River, JL—Jenny Lake, NB—New Baltimore. The BBS run this year were: Catskill (observer JB), Cobleskill (KA), Ballston Lake (AS), Duanesburg (BM), Medusa (RG), North Easton (WG), North River (RG), Plattecove (RG), Petersburg (HW), South Berne (KA), and Ghent (MG).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Alcove Reservoir June 21. Double-crested Cormorant: along HR thru period; max 40 Imboc Aug. 19. Great Blue Heron: one S. Berne BBS; three Medusa BBS; three Cherry Plains June 17. **OLDSQUAW:** one female swimming rapidly northward in HR at NB during a driving rainstorm July 18 (RPG).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: reports from Cherry Plain and Helderbergs June & July. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Plattecove BBS seen carrying a Starling; also NB thru period. Cooper's Hawk: one each Cobleskill and Medusa BBS; also Chatham and Castleton reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: three N. River BBS; and three other reports. **BALD EAGLE:** one adult over Catskill June 25 (JB). Marsh Hawk: Aug. 5, 13 & 26 Castleton (JC). Osprey: June 16, 30 & Aug. 13, 26 HR at Castleton (JC). Turkey: large group (60-80) with many juv. in trees at Schoharie July 4; also flocks reported from Col. June & Aug. Sora: one July 22 Rensselaer (PC). Com. Snipe: June 29 thru Aug. 30 Col. & Rens. Co. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Aug. 4 Mohawk River (C & RLaf). **SANDERLING:** one Churchtown Pond Aug. 9 (A & TB). Bonaparte's Gull: four HR at NB Aug. 12.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed & Yellow-billed Cuckoo: both seem to be maintaining their recent gains. Barred Owl: normally heard at JL thru summer, but absent this year (RPY). Red-bellied Woodpecker: nesting in dead ash by Roeliff Jansen Kill, Ancram June 9 (RPG). Red-headed Woodpecker: two June reports from Colonie, and reported again at Stuyvesant. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers: reported in approximately four to one ratio on BBS.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: seven banded late Aug. at NB. Willow Flycatcher: Cobleskill (one) and N. Easton (two) BBS; at Papscanee Cr. 12 on June 3, and 14 on July 22 (PC). Alder Flycatcher: three S. Berne BBS, only report. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one S. Berne BBS. Tufted Titmouse: poorly reported despite recent range expansions. Swainson's Thrush: none on BBS, early migrants at NB July 24. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Cherry Plains July 29—migrants?

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: seems to be doing well with numerous reports of pairs throughout the Region including the higher elevations. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** two Coeymans Aug. 30 (AG & TW). Groups of warblers began moving through JL July 13 (RY). The first noticeable migrants through the lower elevations came a week later. Warblers of note reported this season are: **PROTHONOTARY:** the male that had the light socket in the truck garage in Chatham staked out finally left on June 9. Blue-winged: more widespread and numerous than usual; nine banded at NB, Tennessee: one early migrant banded at NB Aug. 23. Ovenbird: noticeable increase in birds banded at JL with two to three times the number compared to recent years (RY). Canada: reported from their usual mountain haunts; three banded NB Aug. 11-28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: mixed reports, some say numbers down in Col.; R. Yunick banded more than in each of the last two years at JL. Purple Finch: R. Yunick reports double broods at JL; first brood fledged early by July 1; second brood was more successful and fledged by Aug. 16; 64 were banded on Aug. 17. Evening Grosbeak: first report Aug. 30 at Coeymans. Pine Siskin: interesting reports of four at Guilderland June 1 thru 20; also, one each Medusa and N. River BBS. Savannah Sparrow: a strong 13 found on the Cob BBS and five on the NE survey; a healthy enclave exists on the Cocksackie Flats as well. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: no reports. Vesper Sparrow:

a small cluster of about five pairs were located in Northern Col. Co. (TP); other reports are from Chatham and Ghent. White-throated Sparrow: 18 N. River BBS; seven Platte BBS and three each from S. Berne and Medusa BBS.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

June was unnaturally cool, with temperatures ranging largely from the 50's to the 70's ° F. July remained cool till mid-month when it turned seasonally hot and remained so through the rest of the period. Rains were evenly scattered throughout the period, with any prolonged droughts avoided. Reservoirs and streams remained high with minimal exposure of shoreline, but shorebirds made a good appearance anyhow. Stewart Airport, our recently found mecca for shorebirds, is all but destroyed for birding with construction and runway extension taking place, but a few species did show up there. Shorebirds were well reported from Dutchess and Westchester from mid-July to the end of the period.

Florence Germond of Dutchess Co. was tending some 117 bluebird boxes this season with 57 of them occupied. More than 235 young were raised successfully. Twenty-three pairs lost young or abandoned the nest, and triple nesting was attempted in three boxes with two pairs bringing off 12 young each. "Congratulations, Florence!"

Bob Deed thought for a while that he had the first successful nesting of Prothonotary Warblers in Rockland County, and the Region for that matter. A pair was behaving that way in the Hackensack Swamp west of Nyack for several days in early June. Before he could find the nest, a nearby sewage line ruptured, pouring millions of gallons of raw sewage into the swamp on June 22, and he never saw them again after that date.

Contributors and observers cited: John Benzinger, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Fred Hough, Ken McDermott, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Benton Seguin, Robert Speiser, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion van Wagner, Berna Weismann, Leona Wilson.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; MC—Marshlands Conservancy; PP—Piermont Pier; PL—Playland, Rye; SA—Stewart Airport; Dutch—Dutchess Co.; Oran—Orange Co.; Rock—Rockland Co.; Ulst—Ulster Co.; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: three imm on Ashokan thru mid-June (AB). Double-crested Cormorant: more reports than usual, scattered along the Hudson from Esopus to the southern border of the Region. Max of 50 off Scarboro, West at end of the period. Little Blue Heron: one imm at CB July 22 (BS). Great Egret: the usual Aug. influx, most along the Hudson with few inland reports. Snowy Egret: similar to the former species, but in much fewer numbers. Black-crowned Night Heron: max six imm at PP July 17. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: a few at PL and MC, with about eight young raised. Am. Bittern: one at Stissing Aug. 21 was early. Glossy Ibis: one CP July 10 was the only report. Canada Goose: exc numbers thru period, but increases of recent years seem to be leveling off. SNOW GOOSE: