

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.

Box 46, New Baltimore, New York 12124

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:

all records Dutch, six reports of single birds each, possibly the same bird. Pintail: one female at Mygatt Pd, Dutch Aug. 28 was very early. Green-winged Teal: five Dover, Dutch Aug. 19 were early. Blue-winged Teal: occasionally summers and breeds. One PL June 17 and six Kingston Pt. Aug. 13. Canvasback: one seen irregularly at PL June 7 thru 22 was very unusual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: common in the highlands, but this season was seen regularly in the lowlands of Rock and West near the Hudson. **BLACK VULTURE:** one Bashakill June 10 (BS). Goshawk: a pr fledged two young near Pound Ridge, West. Cooper's Hawk: one Aug. 8, Washington Lake, Newburgh (BS). Red-shouldered Hawk: more reports than usual, but no evidence of breeding. **BALD EAGLE:** one ad in Dutch July 6 (Barbara Ryan). Marsh Hawk: one imm hunting around the dump at CP was probably an early migrant. Osprey: at least two reports of summering birds, one at CB and another at Hackensack Swamp Rock. **MERLIN:** one Washington L. Newburgh Aug. 10 (BS). Ruffed Grouse: numbers good, reported regularly, JO had two young in July and again in Aug. near his home in Wawarsing. Bobwhite: all reports Dutch, continues to hold on in the Verbank area and two or three other locations. Turkey: a pr during June at Millbrook was the only report. Clapper Rail: at least three were heard thru June at MC. Virginia Rail: one imm at MC July 13, and another, apparently a different one, July 29. Semipalmated Plover: four Wappingers L. Aug. 11, 12, one CB Aug. 13. Killdeer: max 48 Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill; and 40 SA July 28. Am. Golden Plover: arr SA Aug. 22. One to four thru end of period there. **WHIMBREL:** two at PL July 28-29 were unusual there. Upland Sandpiper: at least six at Blue Chip Farm June 30. Migrants arr SA July 18, max 25 Aug. 16. Solitary Sandpiper: first three in Dutch Aug. 15 and two at Kingston Point Aug. 17, several others thereafter. Greater Yellowlegs: unusual conc of 20 at SA Aug. 12. Pectoral Sandpiper: 15 Wappingers L. Aug. 12, 21 SA Aug. 13, decreased to three by Aug. 18. Least Sandpiper: first CB Aug. 13. Max ab 50 at CP Aug. 31. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two at PP July 17, max 170 CP Aug. 25. Western Sandpiper: only report two CP Aug. 25. **MARBLED GODWIT:** a first for Dutch. Seen by many on June 3 at Sharon Station. Sanderling: three CB Aug. 13. **AVOCET:** first West record, one in breeding plumage at CP Aug. 25 (BW, Stan Lincoln). Great Black-backed Gull: the most common gull on the Hudson at Cornwall for the period. Laughing Gull: only one or two obs at PP thru early July, then in smaller numbers than usual thru rest of period. In mid-Hudson region numbers were normal with 10 to 12 found at CB or Conn's Hook, Highland Falls. Bonaparte's Gull: one Aug. 28 at Bannerman's, one on the Hudson in Dutch. Another, probably the same bird, at Cornwall Aug. 30. Com. Tern: numbers severely down on the lower Hudson in Tappan Zee where they are usually quite common in late summer. None at Nyack and none at CP thru period. One at Kingston Point Aug. 25 was the only report. Black Tern: one at Ashokan June was probably northbound, two at Kingston Point Aug. 25 were southbound. Black Skimmer: one at MC June 17.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numbers continue good, but no large concentrations. Largest was 20 to 30 on Aug. 13 at Clinton Corners. Cuckoos: both species in good numbers with Yellow-billed far outnumbering the Black-billed. Barn Owl: four July 31 at Beacon were reported to have been there since April. Great Horned Owl: one on Jack Orth's barn in Wawarsing Aug. 15-16. Short-eared Owl: one flushed at MC July 28. Com. Nighthawk: a better migration than usual. Maxima were: 693 over Rye Aug. 30; 210 in Dutch Aug. 28; more than 100 over Armonk Aug. 30. Many other reports of smaller flocks during last week of period. Chimney Swift: more than 100 at P'kpsie Aug. 17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max ten at North Bay, Cruger's I. Aug. 30 (AB). Good reports of single birds and as many as three at feeders in Dutch. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to increase, but slowly. Three on Breeding Bird Survey in Bedford-Pound Ridge, West area were the first for that count.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: missing from many of its haunts of recent years, but numbers still good. Reported from most counties. Willow Flycatcher: numbers excellent. Many field trips reporting six to ten indiv. thru period. Alder Fly-

catcher: much smaller numbers than previous species, but still well represented. Olive-sided Flycatcher: seems to arr earlier each year with the first on Aug. 10 at Wawarsing. Eleven different obs there thru end of period. Rough-winged Swallow: a small colony nesting in Hackensack Swamp thru June until a flood submerged half the nest holes. Cliff Swallow: singles obs at MC July 7 and 29 are unusual there. Thirteen active nests obs on Croton Dam June 20. 72 active nests counted at Ashokan July 1. Disappeared from the Woodcock Mt. Rd. nest site at Washingtonville where they nested for a number of years. Blue Jay: JCO reports numbers down in the Wawarsing area. No nesters observed. Almost normal elsewhere after a bleak winter and spring. **COM. RAVEN**: one at entrance to Minnewaska St. Pk June 20 (Hans Weber). Fish Crow: now a well-established breeder at Hackensack Swamp West Nyack after 50 years of being confined to the Hudson R. marshes. Reported nesting in the Kingston Pt. area this year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported on west shore of Sterling L. Oran June 29 and two at Cedar Pd. Sterling Forest June 30 (JB). Another at the Conference Center, Sterling L. July 4 (RS). Brown Creeper: colony at Kensico Res. not located this year. Carolina Wren: numbers low but hanging on. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers low at CP, but still a few there. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: one well-observed and described at Kripplebush Aug. 9 (FH). First record for Ulst. Hermit Thrush: a small colony numbering about five birds were at Pound Ridge in early July. E. Bluebird: (see introductory notes). Golden-crowned Kinglet: exc reports this season. Singles and pairs reported from several upland localities. Nested at Pound Ridge, with two fledged young being fed on July 4 and 8, one at Ashokan June 3, a pair obs feeding a juvenal at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall July 5 and 7. The latter pair were probably the same birds obs July 15 by KM and party. Probably the first breeding record for Oran.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: absent from most of its usual locations in Rock. Solitary Vireo: more summer records than usual. Two singing birds at Pound Ridge June 24, one remained thru July 8, two Black Rock Forest July 15 may very well have been summer residents. No breeding proven. An adult feeding two young near the nest with a singing adult nearby were observed June 5 south of Island Pond, Harriman St. Pk (JB). **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: one Aug. 16 at Pleasant Valley was unusually early (MVW). Worm-eating Warbler: a rare summer resident on higher hillsides, three July 15 Black Rock Forest. First migrant at Wawarsing Aug. 8. "Lawrence's" Warbler reported again this summer from Croton and Ardsley. Tennessee Warbler: first migrant at Wawarsing Aug. 10. In good numbers in Dutch Aug. 30, 31. Nashville Warbler: one singing near Dismal Swamp, Harriman Pk. June 5, and another near Spruce Swamp in Sterling Forest June 6 (JB). Cape May Warbler: first migrant Aug. 21 at Dover, three others in Dutch till end of period. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one ad and one imm at Winding Hills Pk. Oran Aug. 22, early (KM). A summer bird was found on the west shore of Sterling L. June 29 by JB. Remained thru July 4, but no breeding evidence obtained. Cerulean Warbler: located in four different areas in the hills west of Nyack (RFD). Usual birds scattered along Mine Rd. USMA on June 9, two at Bashakill June 10 (BS). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: a single bird found June 13 on West Shore Rd. Sterling L., remained only a few days (RS, JB). Pine Warbler: obs regularly from Apr. to Aug. Probably nesting in the pine woods near JCO's home in Wawarsing. One singing near Spillway Bridge, Ashokan, June 26 was still there July 1. Prairie Warbler: at least six singing on Mine Rd., USMA June 9. Northern Waterthrush: a single bird near Dismal Swamp Harriman Pk June 5. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: two separate indiv found near Siscowit Res. in Pound Ridge June 17. One female at Long Swamp, Sterling Forest July 3, 5. (RS, JB). Mourning Warbler: one at Rye June 1 was a northbound migrant. A pr of nesting birds were obs near the summit of Balsam Lk. Mt. in the Catskills June 10 and July 7. Six others were obs on the latter date with two carrying nesting materials, and one with food in its bill (AB). Yellow-breasted Chat: a pr obs in Purchase feeding a young cowbird June 30. Another pr thru June at Bashakill. Hooded Warbler: two from late June thru late July at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall. Canada Warbler: first at Wawarsing Aug. 14.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: numbers down. First migrants at CP Aug. 25. Max 50 there Aug. 31. Orchard Oriole: more reports than ever before. Noted on at least six different reports. Nesting prs in Purchase June 10 and Stanfordville in June. Young fledged at the latter location June 28. Indigo Bunting: scarce at Stanfordville, but remains high along Mine Rd. USMA. JCO reports numbers high at Wawarsing. House Finch: exploding! JCO reports that two or three at his feeder in early Aug. inc to 50 or more by the end of the month. Rufous-sided Towhee: reported missing at Woodstock but normal elsewhere. Grass-hopper Sparrow: four near Galeville Airport June 30, and six at Bashakill June 10, three at Stewart Airport July 29. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a few bred again at MC.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Following a mild and wet spring, the summer was nearly normal in temperature without any prolonged hot spells. Rainfall was less than normal with about half the expected amount of precipitation. The weather did not appear to interfere with avian activities throughout the period.

Ospreys

Such was not the case for Ospreys which nest earlier, with their eggs pipping during the second week in May. That period saw heavy rains; large nests twenty to thirty years old on Gardiner's Island were half full of water according to Dennis Puleston. Due to the weather, relatively poor success resulted from a promising start, with many failed nests due to chick mortality. On Gardiner's Island nineteen chicks fledged from twenty-eight nests, compared with thirty-two fledged last year. Plum Island birds were more successful with seventeen young reared from nine nests. The westernmost nest, at Connetquot, fledged two young. A new nest at Caumset, on the north shore on Lloyd's Neck, failed because of the weather.

An Osprey nest platform program initiated by Paul Stoutenburgh on the north fork attracted five new nests which unfortunately failed early, with the chicks dead. Stoutenburgh has developed a simple method for building nest platforms using four-inch galvanized irrigation pipe as support. His method does not require heavy equipment to erect the posts and the pipe guards the nest from predation by raccoons. It is planned to use his methods to erect nest platforms in areas around Mill Neck and Center Island where Ospreys have bred historically. Stoutenburgh would be pleased to share his technique with anyone interested in building platforms.

Eaton's Neck's Least Tern Colony

As far as it is known, the Least Tern colony on Eaton's Neck is the largest on the eastern seaboard. The terns experienced a successful breeding season this year; little predation was evident with only a few dog tracks indicating any disturbance of the terns. Six hundred Least Tern chicks were banded, representing only a portion of the chicks hatched. A minimum of one thousand pairs of