

Lake near Ferd's Bog. This is not the Cascade Lakes near Lake Placid. A pair of Cardinals raised two young at Tupper Lake and one was seen at Indian Lake. A *juv*enal Evening Grosbeak flew into a window, killing itself at Tupper (CD). DM and FS had their highest ever count for Purple Finch at Speculator and it was much the same elsewhere. Nine Pine Siskins at St. Hubert's June 23 was the only report of that wandering species. Rufous-sided Towhee was recorded for Indian Lake and St. Hubert's. A few Red Crossbills were around Paul Smiths. Savannah Sparrows were very scarce. They used to be fairly common. Many people saw the Clay-colored Sparrow at Willsboro found by EJ and JP. It was there June 18 to July 14. Field Sparrows were very scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: pair Blue Mt. Lake June 18 (R & MS) and four Ferd's Bog July 19 (CS, FL) were the most southern reports. Song Sparrows were scarce.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The highlight of the 1980 Summer season was the inauguration of the New York State Breeding Bird Survey. One hundred fifty-four species were logged regionwide with ninety-nine recorded as confirmed breeders. As with any intensive field activity, there are a number of surprises. Likewise, there always seems to be a number of misses or disappointing showings, cause for retrospection. Such was the case for Region 8. Most unfortunate among the absences was not among the birds, but among the birders. The list of participants is a woefully scant roster of otherwise active birders. Perhaps the rather late, hurried and erratic start caused some confusion and loss of momentum in the project.

Among the birds recorded, there were, as mentioned, some hits and misses. Pleasant surprises were the locating of nesting Long-eared Owls, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals. While none of these are new breeding records for the Region, they are seldom found nesting here. More intriguing is the list of possible breeders. Among these are Common Ravens found at Crane Mt., Warren County, Fish Crows from Cementon, Greene County, Rusty Blackbirds from Warren and Washington Counties, and Ring-billed Gulls from Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County.

Most disappointing is the absence of about fifty species from the list of confirmed breeders. Among these are such common species as Green Heron, Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Savannah, Henslow's and Swamp Sparrows. The rest of the species are less common, more secretive, or having a more restricted range, making their absence more understandable—at least for the first year of the project. There are four more years to find evidence of nesting Brown Creepers, Horned Larks, Least Bitterns, and three Accipiters, Bobwhites, and the like.

The season was exceptionally dry. Rainfall records taken by cooperators of

the Eastern New York Chapter of the American Meteorological Society located throughout the Region show that there was a narrow band of above average rainfall easterly from the Mohawk Valley through an area which includes the Albany Co. Airport. The rest of the Region had well below normal precipitation, with drought-like conditions, especially in the southern counties. Temperatures ranged from a low of 29 F (-2C) on June 9 in So. Columbia Co. to a high of 101 F (38 C) on August 21 in sw Saratoga Co. A four-inch snowfall on June 9 caused a brownout of the ferns and firs atop Hunter Mountain.

From Jenny Lake in northern Saratoga Co., Bob Yunick observed a near-record production of Red-breasted Nuthatches and an unusually large post breeding influx of Purple Finches. In New Baltimore, unusually high numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Canada Warblers were banded in July and August.

Contributors to this report include: V & B Able, Elizabeth Anderson, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Janet Carroll, Geoffrey Carleton, Shirley Clark, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Kate Dunham, Rena Dodd, B & H Gardina, Bill Gibson, Elisabeth Grace, Andrew & Richard Guthrie, Phil Ingalls, Mike Kuhrt, Ron & Carolyn LaForce, E. Mansell, Bob Marx, Ed Reilly, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, M & B Ulmer, Elaine Vadnais, Bob Yunick, and all the atlas cooperators who turned their data in.

Abbreviations used here are those that are used in the Breeding Bird Atlas project regarding the breeding status of a species: PO = possible; PR = probable; CO = confirmed. Common words and county names may also be abbreviated now and then.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: PO; summering individuals at Tomhannock and Alcove Res.; also one at L. Taghanic June 3. Pied-billed Grebe: PO; at Castleton (JC). Double-crested Cormorant: numerous reports along Hudson R at Castleton, N. Baltimore, and Imbought; also L. George mid-Aug. (EA). Great Blue Heron: PR; June 1-July 23 Col. Co. Green Heron: PR; several reports. **GLOSSY IBIS:** six Hudson R. at Albany Aug. 8 (ER). Great Egret: numerous late summer reports of post breeding wanderers. Snowy Egret: up to 24 Imbought Bay most of Aug. (BC). Black-crowned Night Heron: CO; S. Schodack (JC). Am. Bittern: CO; Poestenkill. Least Bittern: PO; two reports. Canada Goose: CO; many reports. Snow Goose: one summered at Basic Creek Res. Mallard and Black Duck: both CO. Green-winged Teal: CO; Schoharie Co. Blue-winged Teal: CO; Wash. Co. Am. Wigeon: July 23 Chatham (PI). Hooded Merganser: CO; Crane Mt. Com. Merganser: CO; Schoharie Co.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: PR; surprisingly few reports. All three accipiters listed only as PR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: intermittent-June 1-29 Col. Co. Cooper's Hawk: three reports, Col., Rens. & Saratoga Cos. Red-shouldered Hawk: PR; very few reports. Broad-winged Hawk: CO; only one nesting report. **BALD EAGLE:** one adult each-June 23 Papscanee Cr. (EV) and over JB's house, Catskill, June 25. Am. Kestrel: CO; at least six confirmed nestings. Bobwhite: PR; small group persists near Chatham. Turkey: CO; four confirmed nestings; numerous other sightings from the high country east and west of the Hudson Valley. Virginia Rail: CO; good find. Sora: one, July 13 Papscanee Cr. (PC). Com. Gallinule: CO; near Castleton (JC). Com. Snipe: none reported. Spotted Sandpiper: at least five nestings. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** three in flock of 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Imbought Bay late Aug. (RG & BC). Great Black-backed Gull: up to 40 (mostly imm.) along Hudson R. thru period. Herring Gull: less numerous than preceding, max. 10-15. Ring-billed Gull: PO; good potential for nesting on the larger undisturbed reservoirs such as the Tomhannock and Alcove. No terns reported.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CO; four other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: CO; seven reports. Barn Owl: none reported by atlasers; reports did come from Langley Rd. Mont. Co., and Coxsackie, Castleton, and Coeymans. Screech Owl: PR; only three reports. Great Horned Owl: CO; five nesting reports. Barred Owl: PR; about six re-

ports—no nestings; R. Yunick reports two pairs at Jenny L. after several years' absence. Long-eared Owl: CO; found nesting in Berne, Albany Co.; Paul Connor reports seeing and hearing two or three in Schodack Ctr., June 17-Aug. 25. Whip-poor-will: CO; a good find in Schuylerville by J. Cook; also four plus at Alcove. Com. Nighthawk: PO; very few reports; Albany, N. Baltimore, Castleton, and Catskill. Woodpeckers: Pileated: only PR; widely reported however. Red-bellied: not reported. Red-headed: CO; so. Rens. Co. (KD & EG). Also three pairs along Langley Rd. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CO; several reports. Hairy: CO; only five reports.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers: Yellow-bellied: PO from Hunter Mt. Alder and Willow: each PR; should be confirmed from many locations. E. Wood Pewee: no confirmed nestings. Olive-sided: CO from Crane Mt.; also singing at 13th L. July 12. Horned Lark: no reports. All six swallow species confirmed nesters. **COMMON RAVEN:** PO; Crane Mt.—will the Warren Co. Adirondacks or the Catskills produce the Region's first nesting of this range-expanding species? **FISH CROW:** four at Cementon, June 11 (RG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: CO; reports of individuals from N. Baltimore and Chatham, as well. Brown Creeper: no confirmed nestings. Winter Wren: CO; only from Crane Mt. Carolina Wren: PR; pair at N. Baltimore; another at Buskirk, July 30 (JD). Neither Long-billed nor Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported. Mimids: all three species confirmed breeders; Brown Thrasher being the least numerous. Thrushes: five species were confirmed breeders—the exceptions are Swainson's and Gray-cheeked, both of which are probables from the Catskills. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PR; found nesting at Black Cr. Marsh but not reported in survey. Cedar Waxwing: CO; especially more numerous this year.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The only vireo confirmed to be breeding was the Red-eyed. Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Warbling were each reported as probables. A Philadelphia Vireo in Berne in Aug. was likely an early migrant or wanderer. Warblers: Black-and-white: CO; numerous places. Worm-eating: one mid-June Saratoga Nat'l. Park. Golden-winged: CO; two banded, N. Baltimore. Blue-winged: CO; seven banded, N. Baltimore. No. Parula: none reported. Magnolia: PR; should be on the confirmed breeders list. Yellow-rumped: CO from numerous locales. Cerulean: PO from Selkirk, Albany Co. Blackburnian: PR; numerous scattered reports. Blackpoll: PR from Hunter Mt. Prairie: CO; several locations but not any from Albany Pine Bush. Louisiana Waterthrush: CO. Mourning: PR; Hunter Mt. and other high areas. Wilson's: four banded in N. Baltimore in Aug. Canada: PR; 21 banded in N. Baltimore in Aug. Am. Redstart: not confirmed; seven banded in N. Baltimore.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: PR; several reports, N. Baltimore, Coxsackie and Chatham. **RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** PR; small group found at 13th L. July 12; also reported from Washington Co. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CO; five banded in July, 40 in Aug. in N. Baltimore. Purple Finch: not confirmed breeder anywhere in the Region; Bob Yunick reports a large postbreeding incursion to Jenny L. in Aug. Sparrows: Savannah: PO; found in Castleton, Chatham, Coxsackie, and Austerlitz. Grasshopper: PO; mid-June, Saratoga Nat'l. Historic Park. Henslow's: PR; small colony at 5-Rivers Envir. Education Center. Vesper: CO; one nesting report. Dark-eyed Junco: CO; several reports. White-throated: CO; several widespread reports of nesting pairs. Swamp: PO; few reports, mostly along the Hudson R.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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What with the mid-March snow, and subsequent flooding on March 13-14,