

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,

one might have thought the winter drought was over, and indeed it was with adequate rain falling thru April and May. But hot and dry conditions returned in June to remain thru the period. June rains were more than 2 inches below **normal**, and barely any precipitation was recorded in July and August save for an occasional thunder shower. The end of the season saw one of the most severe droughts of the century.

The drought condition caused the drawing down of area reservoirs to such a degree that several reporters commented on good shorebirding. The best of these was at L. Tappan on the Rockland Co.-New Jersey border. On July 17, in the northern corner, only an acre of mud was exposed, but it was enough to bring in a Greater Yellowlegs, and ten Least Sandpipers. One week later, five or six acres were exposed, and the count rose to 80 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 15 Least, one Pectoral, and one Spotted along with a half-dozen Killdeer. A week later on July 28, a quarter of the lake bed was exposed, and the count grew to 400 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 20 yellowlegs, four Pectorals, and a few Least. The usual Killdeer were still there. On Aug. 3, the level of the reservoir had dropped some 8 feet, and about 500 shorebirds were present, among them were one Semipalmated Plover, and eight Stilt Sandpipers, the latter being only the fifth record for Rockland.

Gene Brown made his usual June trips to the higher elevations of Harriman Park around Surebridge and Pine Swamps in search of Canadian Zone birds, and came up with excellent results: Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hermit Thrushes, Solitary Vireos, Nashville Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Canada Warblers, and juncos. Several of these species were believed to be nesting, and a few were tending young. How remarkable to have Winter Wrens singing within hearing distance of Acadian Flycatchers, and Canada Warblers within earshot of Hoodeds!

Most birders felt the season was rewarding, but enthusiasm was minimal due to heat and humidity. There were the usual contradictions among observers and reporters; some feeling certain species low in numbers, but others finding them to the contrary. Rarities in the report include: Brant, Peregrine, Merlin, Ruff, Long-eared Owl, breeding Golden-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned, "Brewster's" and Kentucky Warblers, Western Tanager and lots of Orchard Orioles.

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Abbreviations used: First four or five letters of each county; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; mob—many observers; PL—Playland, Rye; SA—Stewart Airport; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: at least two imm all summer on E. Basin of Ashokan (AB). Pied-billed Grebe: one with young on Mill Rd. Dutch June 10 (MVW). Double-crested Cormorant: AB feels they may have bred on some of the smaller islands s. of Kingston. Sev adults and imms. obs there thru period. One at L DeForest June 6, was unusual for that inland lake. Another on Hudson s of Bear Mt. Br. Aug. 11 (BS). Great Blue Heron: a new heronry found in Dutch ab one mile from the previous one at Tamarack Sw. deserted two years ago. About 20 birds there June 14. Green Heron: about 20 at CB regularly, inc. to 30-35 by end of period. Little Blue Heron: an ad at MC June 19-20. Another at PL Aug. 18.

Two different birds in Dutch; one Aug. 2 at Beaver Dam was white, the other Aug. 6 at Pleasant Valley was about half blue. Two more were obs. near Kingston Pt. for three weeks in Aug. Great Egret: there was much talk of great numbers in the Region during late summer, but correspondents failed to write them up. Max number reported were six at CB Aug. 12. First birds appeared most areas July 30-Aug. 1, and were widespread thru area. Snowy Egret: max 19, Kingston Pt. Aug. 19, and 15 Croton July 28. Only scattered single reports elsewhere. Black-crowned Night Heron: sev. post breeding reports in Aug. One CB Aug. 27 inc. to two by Aug. 31. One Beaver Dam Dutch Aug. 8. Yellow-crowned Night Heron. tragedy struck the only breeding colony in the Region July 5 when a Great Horned Owl was obs. killing young in at least three of five nests at MC. Am. Bittern: single birds June 6 and 27 at Salt Point. Glossy Ibis: one at Purchase June 8 and five at MC Aug. 23. Mute Swan: everywhere! nesting on most lakes and ponds. Five non-breeding adults spent the period on CB. BRANT: an imm. with only a trace of neck marking was at Piermont Pier Aug. 18 (Vic Schwartz, Peter Derven). Snow Goose: one with Canadas at Congers June 9 (Vic Schwartz). Green-winged Teal: a single drake feeding at Kingston Pt. July 9, inc. to two there July 13. Wood Duck: max 24 at Conn's Hook July 30. Oldsquaw: one at PL Aug. 23. Hooded Merganser: two imm. at Kingston Pt. July 24 (R. Terwilliger). Com. Merganser: although no details are given, AB feels they could have nested on the upper Esopus Cr. near Ashokan.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Red-shouldered Hawk: David Kunstler, who has undertaken a study of this species near New Paltz, reports five nests with young near there. A single at Turkey Hollow, Dutch June 16. Last nesting that county was 1961. A single seen and heard Stillwell L, USMA Aug. 9. Bald Eagle: a single bird over Butler Sanct., Mt. Kisco Aug. 24. Another over Rt. 9 north of P'kpsie Aug. 26. Both are well within migration limits. Osprey: sev. reports of Aug. birds, also migrants. One over Sleightsberg Aug. 3; another at Bashakill Aug. 24; and another CB Aug. 28. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one ad at Tamarack Pd. Dutch Aug. 30 was obs. for 15 min. with scope and binoculars by four of the most competent birders in the state (OTW, MVW, FG, EP). **MERLIN:** one obs. by BS just north of Ft. Montgomery July 7 was well-described. Bobwhite: only reports of a few single birds. Not quite gone yet. One near L Tappan Aug. 3; another near L Carvel, Dutch June 24; and another near Stockbriar, Dutch July 14; another calling in Town of Lloyd, Ulst one day in July. Virginia Rail: one ad with four imm. June 11 in Dutch. Single birds again June 12 near Millbrook School and June 26 near North Bay, Dutch. Am. Golden Plover: first ad at Purchase Aug. 29. 12 at SA Aug. 30. Black-bellied Plover: one CB Aug. 12, was the only inland report. Upland Sandpiper: one at Purchase July 31 inc. to two by Aug. 6. Reported there for the past three years. Two flightless young at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill were positive breeding evidence. Four to six pair were obs. from June 6-July 15 at SA, but no signs of young birds. Migrants arr July 29 there with 15 max. Solitary Sandpiper: straggling back by late June, with six in Dutch June 28. Three at Mine Rd. USMA Aug. 30. Semipalmated Sandpiper: (see intro remarks on L Tappan). Western Sandpiper: one at PL Aug. 23. Always difficult to find and identify in Region. **RUFF:** a first local record; an imm. female or winter-plumaged bird at L Tappan Aug. 8 by Vic Schwartz was well described (*fide* RFD). Great Black-backed Gull: extraordinary numbers of recent years now back in proportion. Only a dozen or so reported with each trip to the CB area where previously one or two hundred were in residence. Laughing Gull: first imm. arr Conn's Hook area of Hudson July 30. Did not appear farther up river until Aug. 30 at CB. Bonaparte's Gull: one on Hudson at Esopus Aug. 21 was the only inland report. Com. Tern: one Hudson R Town of Esopus Aug. 21 was far upstream. Black Tern: always rare in spring, but expected in fall. Four Hudson R Town of Esopus Aug. 20, inc. to nine by Aug. 24 (AB).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: a banner year for both species. Yellow-billed outnumbered Black-billed by five to one in Rock. Numbers closer in the northern part of Region. Owls: Great Horned reported lower in Ulst. but Barred on the increase there. Screech Owls: reported almost every trip by those who "whistle" for them. Barred Owl:

obs. at Pound Ridge thru June. Breeding again at Winding Hills Park, Oran. **LONG-EARED OWL**: two seen and four heard at Red Oaks Mill, Dutch dur July (JMK). Com. Nighthawk: good migration from Aug. 15. Peaked in Dutch Aug. 26 with 40 near Washington Hollow, and 25 at LaGrange. 34 over Ft. Montgomery Aug. 27 and 41 over Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 30. Chimney Swift: exc. movement Aug. 30 with 50 over Cornwall. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers generally low exc. in Dutch where they were reported "best Aug. in ages." AB turned up only 12 on his annual paddle thru North Bay and Crugers I. which usually produces several dozen. Red-bellied Woodpecker: usual few. Does not seem to increase.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Empidonax flycatchers were moving thru the area in excellent numbers by the last week of Aug. at least 15 different birds were obs in less than three hours the morning of Aug. 27 (EDT). Eastern Kingbird: missing from most of its usual haunts in Rock, but well reported elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: obvious birds reported from Pleasant Valley Aug. 18, Pond Gut Aug. 19, and West Clove Mt. Aug. 19, all Dutch. Other obvious birds were at Mine Rd, USMA Aug. 27 and Cornwall Aug. 29. Acadian Flycatcher: one Rye Nature Center June 3, one Blauvelt June 16, two near Island Pond, Harriman Pk. June 22. Unreported at Bashakill this year, but four June reports from Dutch and two there in July. Willow and Alder Flycatchers seem normal after late arrival in May. Least Flycatcher: low in Rock and Ulst. Olive-sided Flycatcher: earliest arrivals each fall seem to come down the valley near Wawarsing, with the first two there Aug. 14, 15. At least three reports in Dutch thru Aug. 31. Horned Lark: one photographed on July 6 at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill was a fledgling coming into adult plumage. Bank Swallow: about 80 active nest holes at Pound Ridge. All four species of swallows were obs. moving south early in July and by month's end most of the Banks had left. Cliff Swallow: one on Aug. 3 and 9 at West Clove were unusual in that there are no nesting colonies reported from Dutch. Three or four were at Wicopee Aug. 24. Purple Martin: obs. at usual locations and numbers. Fish Crow: more than usual. One at Highland Falls July 4 and a pair calling at Woodlawn Cem., New Windsor, July 5. One Iona I. July 27, and sev. reported far up river at Esopus and Cruger's I. July 1-5. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one near Island Pd. June 22, one Pleasant Valley July 6, 7 where they are always very rare, one from Aug. 8-28 at Pleasant Valley, and two Aug. 28 at Wappingers Falls. Winter Wren: one singing near Blauvelt June 11 was joined by sev. imm. by June 20. Again a male singing there July 27 with at least three others were calling sev. feet away. Singing again from July 5-12 farther away would indicate possible nesting at another site nearby. Two near Island Pd. June 22 and the usual few birds at the usual locations in Dutch dur. June and July. Hermit Thrush: at least three and possibly five singing birds resident at Pound Ridge thru period. Eastern Bluebird: FG reports good nesting numbers *outside* her bluebird trail. First nesting along her trail had heavy losses, but second nesting reported better. One pair still feeding young Aug. 31. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: an unusual report of a pair at Ferncliff, Dutch, feeding a young cowbird which was subsequently killed by a cat. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**: one pr. at Pound Ridge Res. feeding two young June 15 (TB). Second year they bred there. Another pair summered at Middletown Res. but no proof of breeding. Cedar Waxwing: exceptional numbers by end of period. Everywhere!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one June 30 feeding fledged young on Yellow City Rd., Dutch is the first positive county record of breeding. Solitary Vireo: at least three pair and possibly four or five pair at Pound Ridge Res. No breeding proven. One July 3 Turkey Hollow, Dutch. Species formerly bred there prior to 1958. Red-eyed Vireo: exc. movement Aug. 20 along Mine Rd., USMA with at least 20 birds in three hours. Warbling Vireo: numbers unusually good in Rock where on June 6 they outnumbered Red-eyed by three to one. Warblers: unusually heavy movements from Aug. 27-30, with an exceptionally heavy movement on the latter date. Worm-eating Warbler: more summer reports than ever before. Returned to Little Tor and Clausland Mt. in exc. numbers. Unusually high in the Pound Ridge area. Two singing in the Black Rock Forest and two along Mine Rd., USMA thru end of July. One Garrison's Pd. Ft. Montgomery Aug. 10. **"BREWSTER'S"**

WARBLER: one June 9-13, Tower Hill, Dutch was photographed and seen by many. Another was obs. in a bird bath along the Shunpike, Clinton Corners Aug. 10. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** one Aug. 31 West Clove Mt. was very early. Yellow Warbler: last Aug. 30 Mine Rd., USMA. Magnolia Warbler: first three near Clinton Corners Aug. 2. Very early. Exc. numbers everywhere by end of period. Last spring migrant reported at Black Rock June 15 (BS). Yellow-rumped Warbler: a very early bird feeding with a small band of Semipalmated Sandpipers along the shoreline of the Hudson at CB was joined by a Cedar Waxwing, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow and E. Phoebe on Aug. 28 (EDT). One discovered carrying food in Dutch June 18 (MVW). Three other early migrants near P'kpsie Aug. 22. Black-throated Green Warbler: at least six pair at Pound Ridge in mid-June (TB). Cerulean Warbler: an ad. male at Pound Ridge June 15 and relocated there June 25, 26. A max of eight birds was in the Weyant's Pd. area of Mine Rd., USMA July 2. Two more obs. carrying food July 7 near Iona I. (BS). Pine Warbler: obs near Middletown Res. thru season but no breeding proven. One Aug. 28 at Pleasant Valley was an early migrant. (JO) observed this species regularly in pine woods near his home at Wawarsing dur. June and July. Max three July 27. Prairie Warbler: at least six singing birds along Mine Rd. USMA June 1. Three obs. feeding young there near Stillwell Res. July 19. Last there Aug. 16. No. Waterthrush: one feeding along Hudson R shoreline Aug. 29. One Garrison's Pd., Ft. Montgomery Aug. 19. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one at Pound Ridge June 1 was still in the same location July 31. One near L Tappan May 31 remained until June 11 by which time it was joined by another singing male. Connecticut Warbler: only report one at Tamarack, Dutch by four experienced birders. Mourning Warbler: breeding again atop Balsam Lake Mt. in the Catskills. A female obs. near Palisades June 5. A male Aug. 30 at Town of Ulster Dump at Kingston. Yellow-breasted Chat: one pair bred in Purchase. A second male there found no mate. Another bird at Pleasant Valley Aug. 29. Hooded Warbler: four singing birds on Little Tor June 5 with two or three remaining as late as June 17. One singing at Black Rock Forest June 15 and another along Mine Rd., USMA the same date. Wilson's Warbler: one along Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 27 and five other reports from Dutch from Aug. 19 on. Canada Warbler: three at Butler Sanct. Mt. Kisco thru June and July. Max. six in Dutch Aug. 30. First migrant in the Wawarsing Aug. 3.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: to quote from *Mianus Field Notes*: "an observer standing with a class next to a pond at the Rye Nature Center watching a House Sparrow feeding along the edge was explaining about a bull frog which the previous year had struck from the pond and captured a similar bird; the skeptical group was amazed when a bull frog then leapt out and devoured the sparrow, a few tail feathers the last they saw of it," (Tracy Kay). Bobolink: only a couple of pairs continue to breed at Purchase. Good movement thru Dutch from Aug. 25-30. More than 100 obs. Aug. 29 at Norrie St. Pk. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** more than ever before. At least a half dozen individuals in the Purchase area. One on Mine Rd., USMA July 19; three June records, two July, and one Aug. in Dutch. **WESTERN TANAGER:** an adult breeding-plumaged male well-observed and described at Pound Ridge July 5 is the second record for the area. The first was a female found dead at PL Mar. 12, 1961 (TB, Rich Kelley). Verification report filed. Indigo Bunting: a banner year along the Mine Rd., USMA where they are always common. At least 30 birds obs. in a one mile stretch Aug. 27. Purple Finch: three Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 30. Six males and three young near Clinton Corners July 5-8. One nesting pair at Stissing thru July. Grasshopper Sparrow: resident birds at Westbrookville and Unionville. Was present at Galeville Airport, Walkkill in May, but failed to show there thru the period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: continues as a breeder at MC, but only a pair or two this year.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928