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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

June entered warm and humid, but by mid-month temperatures had moderated, and July and August temperatures were below normal. There was enough rainfall during the summer to offset the dryness of the past several years, but not enough to really break the drought.

The serious defoliation of early June was quickly mended due to adequate rainfall and warm temperatures. Most trees were back in full leaf by the end of June. It remains to be seen what damage occurred to the bird population. Although the leaves returned, the larvae and eggs harbored by the old first crop were not there to sustain the insectivorous birds. Defoliation had nests and young exposed to the sun's heat, and they were easy to find in the bare tree-tops. The forest floor was supporting greenery not usually seen in typically shaded woods. Only next spring will tell what trees will make it thru the winter. Drought and defoliation for several years in a row should take their toll.

Once again the shorebird migration was strong with the exposure of so many reservoir bottoms. Warblers started flooding thru on the 18th of August and were in excellent numbers thru the end of the period. Waterfowl started building on the Hudson in July, and were in excellent numbers on all the weedy bays. Resident sparrows put on a good show at Galeville Airport where two colonies of Henslow's Sparrows were discovered and enjoyed by many birders. Rarities for the period include Louisiana Heron, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Blue Grosbeak and Henslow's Sparrow.

For some time now we have not been receiving notes from Sullivan, Putnam and most of Westchester counties. These areas deserve to have their birds recorded. Can someone out there help?

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Fred & Wava Abbott (F & WA), Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed (RFD), Florence Germond (FG), Jim & Mary Key, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSc), Benton Seguin (BSe), Selden Spencer, Edward D. Treacy (EDT), John Tramontano (JT).

Abbreviations: The first four or five letters of each county; BP—Brown's Pond, Newburgh; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy; PP—Piermont Pier; PR—Pound Ridge Reservation; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—United States Military Academy, West Point; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr on the East Basin of Ashokan 23 July. Pied-billed Grebe: rarely reported away from the usual nesting areas in summer. One Cross River Reservoir 17 July, and another at Esopus Pt. 26 July. Rock had its first breeding record when an adult with four downy young was reported on a clay pit pond in West Haverstraw 12 June (RFD). Double-crested Cormorant: still no evidence of breeding, but numbers continue

to increase each year. Four birds in the area of Kingston Pt. at the start of the season inc. to 40 by its end. Any trip to the Hudson would produce a few along its entire length thru the Region. Snowy Egret: 18 at PP 31 July was an exceptionally large number for so early a date. Five others were at CB thru much of Aug. LOUISIANA HERON: one continued at PL thru 17 June, and was reported again at MC 21 June. Black-crowned Night Heron: two very young birds recently out of the nest and sporting tufts of down were obs 3 July in the Milton Pt. area of Rye. Another young bird showing tufts of yellow down, but full size, was obs at West Haverstraw on 19 June. No actual nests have been obs in the Region in many years. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: recovering from the Great Horned Owl predation of last year at MC. Four nests produced 11 young. Am. Bittern: unreported during summer in Rock for the past 20 years. One at West Haverstraw 13 June (RFD). Glossy Ibis: single birds at PL 1 June and again 18 June. Four in Rye Swamp 24 July. Mute Swan: once again breeding on most lakes and ponds in good numbers. Concentrations of 20 or 25 nonbreeding birds appeared in most of the bays along the Hudson to spend the period. Brant: three off Rye 20 June were a surprise, as was the one at Iona I 29 Aug. Snow Goose: the single bird reported thru winter and spring at various locations in E. Rock was again observed under the Tappan Zee Bridge at Grand View on 14 June. Gadwall: Rock had its second summer record when two were at Nyack 19 July (Donald S. Deed). Their first breeding record was confirmed on 29-30 July when a pair with three grown young were at PP (RFD). Pintail: unusual in summer, two at CB 16 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: first two at CB 8 Aug. More than 100 there by end of period. Am. Wigeon: two CB 16 Aug., inc. to several dozen by end of period. Canvasback: a male at CB thru the period was observed swimming and feeding normally, but was not seen flying. Ruddy Duck: a male in breeding plumage at PP 29 May. There are only two summer records previously; one in July and one in Aug. Com. Merganser: 34 females at Ashokan 17 July, dec. to 18 by 26 July, not reported thereafter.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Red-shouldered Hawk: a nesting pair at Moonbeams Nature Conservancy near Middletown was the first nesting in many years for Oran. Bald Eagle: an imm was near Kingston Pt. for several days after 13 Aug. (Bob Terwilliger). Osprey: an early bird returned to Cornwall Bay 24 Aug., and two were at Iona I 29 Aug. Bobwhite: unexpected were two males singing at PR in June. Not obs in that area in many years. Turkey: continues slow but steady inc. Obs. several times at Bashakill where it is only rarely seen. A small group was obs in June near Westtown, a locality near the N.J. border. Virginia Rail: two pair near Westtown in June (FWA). Am. Coot: one PP 10 Aug. was the first record in Rock since last reported in June of 1953. Surprising considering the large numbers that winter in the co. Semipalmated Plover: one PP 19 July was four days ahead of prev. early date. Max at CB was four on 24 Aug. Am. Golden Plover: at least 50 at WSF from 24 Aug. thru period. Black-bellied Plover: one at PP 31 July was early. Ruddy Turnstone: three CB 8 Aug. inc to five by 24 Aug. **WHIMBREL:** one on a bar in CB 8 Aug. flew up and noisily joined seven more passing over down river (Vaughan Morrison *et al.*). Upland Sandpiper: breeding again at four locations in Oran and Ulst. Migrants inc. to 29 at WSF by 17 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: first migrant 21 July at BP. Max 10 Bullville 16 Aug. Willet: one PP 7 Aug. was Rock fourth local record and the first not in May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 BP 31 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 30 BP 31 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: one CB 16 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one CB 15 Aug., and eight at BP 31 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: eight at PP 19 July were one day ahead of previous early date. Max 30 there by 30 July, and 40 at BP by 31 July. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** two reported at BP 31 Aug (BS). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** first at WSF 8 Aug. Three at SA 24 Aug. inc. to four by 28 Aug. Last report three at WSF 31 Aug. (BS). Sanderling: only report 11 at CB 8 Aug. Laughing Gull: usual influx to mid-Hudson area of imm birds in mid-Aug. Com. Tern: one at KP 4 July. Obs several times later in month. Caspian Tern: two at PP 1 Aug. was Rock's tenth record. Black Tern: one on Hudson off Esopus 8 Aug.; two at CB 17 Aug.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Banded Owl: only report PR 21 June. Com. Nighthawk: 51 over Ft. Montgomery 23 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nesting 18 July at Iona I. Two

young in nest 16 Aug. (BSc). Al Brayton's annual late summer census at Cruger's I yielded more than 24 birds on 30 Aug. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to inc. At least five pair in the Westtown area (F&WA). Red-headed Woodpecker: continues to hold in resident areas. No inc. noted.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: two singing birds at Bashakill thru mid-July. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Rye Nature Center 19 Aug. One singing on Little Tor Mt. 11 June was a late migrant. Six were in the Wittenberg-Slide Mt. area 24 June. Acadian Flycatcher: seen and heard regularly in the usual locations of recent years. Numbers were down last year but seem more normal this—at least seven reports. Willow Flycatcher: BSe feels at least a tenfold inc. over the last two years. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Tamarack Sw 20 Aug. was the first. Another Verbank 29 Aug. Horned Lark: several pairs reported nesting successfully at WSF (no details). Tree Swallow: hordes flying down river during Aug. Bank Swallow: the PR colony in West reported down from 80 pair last year to only 20 pair this year. Cliff Swallow: new colonies reported at Cross River Res. and at Warwick, Purple Martin: five at PL 9 Aug. were migrants. Red-breasted Nuthatch: recovered well from lows of recent years. Exceptional numbers everywhere from 24 Aug. Brown Creeper: six at PR 21 June, and another the same date at Blauvelt. Two singing at Pond Gut Dutch 7 July and four in JMK birdbath at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. House Wren: FG reports young still in the box at Clinton Corners 12 Aug. Gray Catbird: has to be an all time high—many everywhere. Hermit Thrush: at least four singing birds at PR thru season. Young obs there in late June. Several singing 25 June below L Tiorati at about 1,032 ft. Much lower than would be expected. Swainson's Thrush: two migrants at Rye Nature Center 29 Aug.; max five Cruger's I 22 Aug. Gray-cheeked Thrush: five near the summit of Slide Mt. 27 June. E. Bluebird: from the 171 bird boxes monitored by FG and her helpers in central Dutch, more than 400 young emerged of which 333 were banded. The last left on 22 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: more nests than ever reported before because of visibility on defoliated trees. Golden-crowned Kinglet: returned to Kensico Res for the first time since 1976. Four there on 21 June. Another was at Middletown Res for much of the period.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: RFD reports numbers severely down in Rock. TB reports 31 on 21 June count, and he considered this low. Solitary Vireo: at least two males were present at PR thru period. Four singing in Bear Mt. Pk. 13 July were at 800 ft., a new low in altitude. Another at Innisfree, Dutch 29 July. Philadelphia Vireo: one Mine Rd., USMA 16 Aug. was quite early. Another was at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. Warblers: an excellent movement from 18 Aug. on. Reported everywhere. Prothonotary Warbler: the singing male at Bashakill of late May persisted until 10 June when it was seen and heard no more. Worm-eating Warbler: at least four reported along Mine Rd. 3 July. "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers: Donald Deed observed individuals of both hybrids within an 18-hour period near Nyack. 27 June he saw a female "Lawrence's" mated to a Blue-wing. It was carrying food to young that appeared to be Blue-wing. On the morning of 28 June he observed a young "Brewster's" being fed by adult Blue-wings. Tennessee Warbler: one Pond Gut, Dutch 18 Aug. Max three at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: singing in the L Tiorati area 25 June. Cerulean Warbler: also singing at the same place 25 June. Bay-breasted Warbler: exc numbers last week of Aug. Pine Warbler: obs regularly at Ashokan dur June and July. Prairie Warbler: BSe reports them at at least eight locations in Oran. Last obs at Galeville Airport 30 June. Kentucky Warbler: singing bird on Mine Rd. USMA last 31 May was reported again on 1 June for the last time. Another was at Bashakill 3 June. Connecticut Warbler: an imm was obs well at about 20 ft. at Iona I 15 Aug. (EDT). Mourning Warbler: two singing birds at MC 1 July. Absent from Balsam L Mt. where they have summered for several years. Yellow-breasted Chat: the two singing birds at Bashakill persisted to 7 July when they were seen and heard no more. Hooded Warbler: single birds on Mine Rd USMA 21 June and 10 July. A nesting pair and a second nearby male were at PR fire tower in late June. Another pair was discovered at Purchase 19 July. Two sets of fledglings were obs being fed at Bashakill, and a third set at Westtown (no dates). Wilson's War-

bler: first 19 Aug. in Dutch. Max eight Red Oaks Mill 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: three at the Meyer Preserve, Mt. Kisco 21 June, and one Turkey Hollow, Dutch 1 July.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: always uncommon—a few more than usual—three at New Castle and two at Banksville 21 June. Two WSF 15 July and a pair at Bullville (no date). **BLUE GROSBEAK:** an adult male frequented a weedy roadside area at Orange Co. Pk. near Goshen 15-19 July (JT). Indigo Bunting: especially abundant in areas where resident. Purple Finch: continues very low. Only breeding report a female feeding a recently fledged young near PR entrance 26 June. House Finch: continues to inc. SS reports this species responsible for the destruction of more than half his Concord Grape crop. Savannah Sparrow: at least 20 singing birds at Galeville and nearby Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill 30 June. Grasshopper Sparrow: at least six singing birds 3 July at Galeville Airport. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Two colonies at different areas of Galeville Airport from 30 June-28 July. One had six singing birds and the other five. Obs. several birds carrying food (BSe *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two pair frequented MC where a nest was found in June. White-throated Sparrow: one ad on Mine Rd., USMA 10 July. Most unusual there at that time. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Beaver Dam, Dutch 20 Aug.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The weather during the summer was uneventful with the exception of an extremely dry August which followed a wetter than average July. No effect on avian activities was noted, and the breeding season appeared to be quite normal on Long Island. A first breeding record in New York State for Forster's Tern was established when a pair was found at Hewlett Hassock, Nassau County by Jim Browne as this species followed other species of southern affinity in nesting on Long Island (details on page 212). Also confirmed was the breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles when an adult female was seen feeding two juvenals on Black Banks Hassock, Nassau Co. on 23 June. An adult female Boat-tailed Grackle, also feeding two juvenals, was seen 18-19 July at Jamaica Bay (THD *et al.*). These records represent the first confirmed breeding records for New York State although breeding was suspected previously. Least Bitterns, very scarce residents, bred at Jamaica Bay and Spring Creek, and were present at Montauk, and Saw-whet Owls were apparently successful in fledging young in Lattingtown for a third modern breeding record in our Region. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers fledged three young at Nissequogue for the second breeding record for Long Island (S. Duffy).

NEW STATE RECORD

The most exciting bird of the season was the adult-plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that Tom Davis found at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The bird was present 18-24 July and was observed by many delighted birders. Details on page 199.

TERN PREDATION

The good-sized Least Tern colony (300 banded chicks) and an even larger