

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

This summer period will go down as one of the coolest of the century. The New York Weather Bureau announced that August was the coldest for that month in the last seventeen years. June was cool and cloudy with rain much of the first week and at well scattered intervals thereafter. July continued the trend, with only a few really warm days at mid-month. The usual drought of mid-summer never materialized, and lawns and gardens remained green and flourishing. As we enter the fall, seeds and fruit are abundant and awaiting migrants.

What with all the work on the N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas, notes come pouring in. There was a time a few years ago when we had to scratch for records; now we have more than we can handle. Shorebird migration was excellent during Aug, and although the variety was wanting, the numbers were great. Migrant warblers were moving thru in early Aug. with an excellent movement noted on 24 Aug. Several species of birds were reported down in numbers by a few observers. Among them were: Least Flycatcher, Wood and Hermit Thrush, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Field Sparrow. On the plus side were increases in Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, E. Bluebird, Warbling Vireo, Orchard Oriole, and Am. Goldfinch. The rarities included in the report are Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, both eagles, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Monk Parakeet, Western Kingbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Dickcissel.

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Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; Basha—Bashakill Swamp; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; PP—Piermont Pier; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

Corrigendum: The Waterman Bird Club May Census on 15 May, 1981 was conducted exclusively in Dutchess Co., not Sullivan as stated in the summer 1982 edition.

The Pine Warbler was observed arriving at Ashokan on 17 Apr, not the Prairie Warbler as stated on p. 220 of that edition.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: although breeding is not proven, an imm was at Ashokan 12 June, and an adult with three imm were there 26 June (FM). Double-crested Cormorant: down from the good numbers of last summer. Only a few birds reported from the lower Hudson; max 12 at Kingston Pt. 6 Aug. Great Blue Heron: numbers still good in Dutch despite the loss of two heronries; very likely still nesting there in yet to be determined location. Nested in two locations at the Basha, only a few nests in each, and numbers of young undetermined. Little Blue Heron: one at Milton Pt., Rye on 19 June, and another at nearby MC 21 July. An adult at Iona I. 26 June and an imm obs several times in the Ten Mile River area of Dutch in Aug. Cattle Egret: more than in recent years. Three in nearby Conn. 20 June. Another near Stone Ridge, Ulst 23 July, and another near Esopus Light 23 Aug. Great Egret: several post breeding wanderers reported. Four at PP 30 July, several Aug reports from the mid-Hudson region, max 19 at Milton Pt., Rye 31 July. Snowy Egret: well scattered

Aug reports especially along Hudson. Max 14 Croton Pt. Aug. 26 and nine at Conn's Hook 8 Aug, the latter seen again 9 Aug. at Garrison's Pd., Ft. Montgomery. Black-crowned Night Heron: things are looking up for this species. More reports than usual. Bob Deed had an imm at West Haverstraw 27 May where he had a downy imm last summer. Two imm were in the same location 26 July. Peter Derven counted nine imm at PP on 28 July. Throughout June both he and Deed noted adults flying south at dusk past Nyack and Grand View; perhaps to Piermont Marsh. This would indicate a possible breeding area up river perhaps in the Haverstraw area, but none has been found. Another heronry probably exists in northeastern, west or southeast Conn. Thirty-six on the Greenwich-Stanford Bird Club 20 June and about 20 at Greenwich Pt. during July would indicate a colony or two must exist in that area, but to date none has been found. Several other imm found thru period at Cruger's I. and CB. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: as indicated in the last edition, sev adults were driven from the nesting area at MC by Great Horned Owls. One pair moved to adjacent Milton Pt. Rye and successfully raised one young. Am. Bittern: one was sounding off on the Hackensack Cr. between West Nyack and Blaauvelt thru May to 1 June. Another was at PP 30 July. **GLOSSY IBIS**: always rare away from the coast, one obs flying over Campbell Hall, Oran 3 Aug. (JFF). Ducks: started concentrating in the CB area by mid-July, hundreds there by end of period. Mute Swan: 30 in the CB area by end of period. Green-winged Teal: always rare in summer. A male in eclipse plumage at PP 30 July was close to the earliest arr date. Wood Duck: breeding in exc numbers in the Basha. A pair in juvenal plumage was at PP 20 and 28 July. There are only two prev records for that location. Com. Merganser: 16 at Ashokan 3 July was reduced to two the next day.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one over Campbell Hall 22 July (JFF). Goshawk: one Clove Valley, Dutch 18 June. One ad with one imm near Eldred, Sull 28 July (Alice Jones). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at Purchase 29 June, and another at Pound Ridge Reservation from mid-June thru 4 July. AB observed four along the Hudson in a canoe trip from Kingston Pt. to Sleightsburg 22 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: the aforementioned canoe trip produced one 22 Aug. One 4 Aug near Amenia. One obs nesting at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall. Its success was not determined (Ken McDermott). Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual, some breeding, RFD and son had this species in all five Rockland Atlas blocks they were covering. Nests with young were found in n. Sull near Willowemoc and in Ulster near Yeagerville. Another was in the Blue Mt. Atlas territory near Peekskill. Another was seen and heard regularly near Ashokan, and another was observed in Dutch 9 June by a Waterman field trip. Broad-winged Hawk: obs in three out of five Atlas blocks in Rockland including an active nest near Spring Valley. A nest within the Monticello limits fledged three young 15 July. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one was flying over the Tamarack area of Dutch 12 Aug. **BALD EAGLE**: reports from the Wassaic and Amenia areas of Dutch on 5 and 24 July. An imm was obs by many in the Tamarack region from 12-25 Aug. Marsh Hawk: one at Purchase 29 June was the only report. Osprey: still no breeding. One at CB 24 July and another Tamarack, Dutch 26 Aug. Am. Kestrel: numbers reported severely reduced according to several reporters. RFD reports it vanished from most of last year's Atlas territories. He observed the species in only two out of five Atlas blocks. One pair at West Haverstraw was discovered on his 15th visit to the block, and a single bird was at Haverstraw on his 18th visit. The only exception was in Dutch where they were reported normal. "Several pair" nested in boxes at the Carey Arboretum. There is one story of Starlings invading one of the boxes and killing the young. Bobwhite: This species barely hangs on from year to year. Several were calling at Buchberg L, Tomkins Cove from 11 June thru 14 July. A small group was flushed from a pasture at Bedford 20 June. One ad with five or six young was near Wassaic near the Conn. line in June. Another was obs almost daily near Hartwood, Sull during July. Ring-necked Pheasant: RFD obs it at Thiels, Orangeburg and Haverstraw. Exc. numbers for Rockland where its habitat is fast disappearing. An ad with young was at Salt Point 19 June, and one was heard at Vassar Farms 16, 20 June. Turkey: continues its increase. Obs with young at Carey Arboretum in June and again in Aug. Clapper Rail: as many as three at MC dur June and July. Virginia Rail: sev birds responded to a Barred Owl tape at dawn on 4 Aug just

west of Harriman Park. Young were obs (DP). Sora: heard on Hackensack Cr. between West Nyack and Blauvelt thru June. Com. Gallinule: obs on the Hackensack thru 1 June. Sandpipers: about 30 Semipalmateds and 20 Least were feeding on the algae mat in CB 23 Aug. Obs there in smaller numbers thru most of Aug. Semipalmated Plover: three at PP 30 July. Killdeer: parents with young obs on Mine Rd, USMA 10 June. Am. Golden Plover: first obs at Warren Sod Farm 19 Aug. In numbers less than a dozen thru end of period. Black-bellied Plover: 12 northern migrants lingered at MC till 2 June, and two were there probably on their way back 31 July. First at Stewart Airport 25 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: obs thru period at Warren Sod Farm, Stewart Airport and Galeville Airport. Max 60 at Warren 24 July. Three groups of juvenals about two-thirds the size of adults and totaling 12 birds were at Stewart 29 June. A pair were at Amenia 16 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: one ad with three young were at Salt Point 20, 21 June. Solitary Sandpiper: first migrants were one at Dover 17 Aug. Another at Millbrook 31 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one Tamarack, Dutch 12 Aug. At MC 30 June inc to 12 by late July. Lesser Yellowlegs: at MC 20 June. May well have been headed either north or south. Several others there dur July. Pectoral Sandpiper: early at PP 28 July. Four at Warren Sod Farm 25 Aug. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one atop the Spillway Dam at Ashokan 14, 15 Aug (Bob Terwilliger). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: two in ad plumage were at Warren Sod Farm 24 July. Five in juvenal plumage were at Stewart Airport 25 Aug (BSe). Great Black-backed Gull: an unusual 200 at PP 30 July. Herring Gull: almost completely absent from the mid-Hudson area thru period; still no explanation. Laughing Gull: started up river from Rock 31 July when the first was found at Conn's Hook, inc to 30 there by period's end. Not reported farther north. Bonaparte's Gull: only one, an ad at CB 4 Aug. Com. Tern: only report up river was an ad at CB 11 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: exc numbers. Breeding again for the fifth year in a hanging flower pot in Dutch, and the third brood at that. **MONK PARAKEET**: one eating mulberries on PP 28 July. Was still there 31 July. Black-billed Cuckoo: numbers down everywhere. Too sudden a reduction to have been caused by the Gypsy Moth crash of last summer. Screech Owl: many reports now that observers are using tapes and imitations to get them to respond. A pair nesting at Clinton Corners lost one young when it fell from nest hole. Great Horned Owl: two young still with downy feathers on their heads were at Stone Ridge, Ulst 23 July. Barred Owl: three recently fledged young near Balsam Lake Mt. Ulst 22 June. Another young bird was obs hopping thru brush near Hartwood, Sull 9 July. Com. Nighthawk: the big migrant push at the end of Aug did not materialize. First migrants obs in modest numbers 14, 16 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: low in most areas. RFD had none in Rock. Dutch numbers seem to be good, and a census by canoe at Cruger's I for three hours 29 Aug produced 15 birds (AB). Woodpeckers: normal.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one in Dutch 10 Aug was obs for only a few minutes (MVW, HM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few more than usual. A spring migrant was at Rye Nature Center 2 June. Three reports from the Basha from 15 Aug. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: Atlas workers have found many more than usual. In at least three locations in Rock dur June and July. Three singing near Narrowsburgh, Sull and four in Ulst near Yeagerville. Seven in the Island pond area of Harriman Pk, and five reports from West. At least two pair were south of the Basha, and at least three reported from Dutch. Willow Flycatcher: after late arrival last spring it was in most of its usual sites. BSe reports fewer in Oran this year. Alder Flycatcher: always far fewer than the Willow, but there were several reports. Least Flycatcher: numbers low. RFD had only one pair in five Atlas blocks. Olive-sided Flycatcher: fall returns on 16, 21 Aug along Mine Rd. USMA. Maxima were four on 26 Aug, and five on 28 Aug in Dutch. Swallows: usual exc migration under way by 1 Aug. Hundreds over Cornwall Bay most evenings in Aug. Tree Swallow: FG reports young still in Bluebird box 29 Aug. Bank Swallow: 30 pair at Pound Ridge in June and at least 300 active nests discovered in a quarry near Bedford Hills in June. Rough-winged Swallow: 25 along roadway at PL feeding upon ants. Cliff Swallow: ab 20 pairs nesting again at Cross River Res. Excellent numbers also at Ashokan Dam. One was settled on an offshore

bar in CB with hundreds of trees 16 Aug. Fish Crow: continues to hold its small numbers in the Hudson Valley. Northernmost found at Kingston Pt. 16 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: a pair nested in a bluebird box in Dutch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at Mianus River Gorge near Bedford in early June. Another at Red Oaks Mill 9 June, and FM reports them a common nester at Ashokan. Brown Creeper: sev at Pound Ridge during June. First migrant along Mine R USMA 16 Aug. House Wren: FG found them troublesome in Dutch where they filled bluebird boxes with sticks, and often took them for nest sites, more this year than in others. Winter Wren: heard reg thru June in Deep Hollow, Dutch and also on 30 June near Thompson Pd. Another was in song south of Basha 31 July. Carolina Wren: very few. May have been damaged by the blizzard of early Apr. Absent from Rock. A pair at Rye Nature Center raised two broods. Two were at Red Oaks Mill thru June. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** one seen and heard at SUNY campus in Purchase. Built a nest and then abandoned mateless 18 July (DP, *et al.*). Thrushes: a Burroughs Club trip up Balsam Lake Mt. 22 June had Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked as well as the more common species. Wood Thrush: most report numbers down. Hermit Thrush: at least five were singing at Pound Ridge 4 July and another singing at L. Tiorati in mid-June. Swainson's Thrush: two spring migrants remained at Pound Ridge till 2 June. E. Bluebird: FG reports summer records better than May. One box still had young 30 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one 20 June at Kensico R. where they formerly bred. Water Pipit: first fall birds noted at Stewart Airport 25 Aug.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: single birds singing at Blauvelt and Haverstraw in early June. Last obs on Mine Rd. USMA 19 June. Solitary Vireo: a pair with three fledglings in Harriman Pk 14 July. Seems to be a regular breeder there above the 550 ft. level. One at Pound Ridge Res. thru June and last seen 4 July. One was at Rio Res 26 July and the first migrant was in the Basha by 3 Aug. Philadelphia Vireo: first migrants in Dutch 23-26 Aug, and in the Basha 24 Aug. Exc numbers by the end of period. Five or six per day in the Basha. Warbling Vireo: exc inc in numbers. Quickly becoming the most numerous vireo at lower elevations. The Greenwich-Stamford Count 20 June had 32 birds with two being the annual average. FM noted them at Ashokan for the first time. Warblers: an exc migration by mid-Aug in Dutch. About half the species were noted in somebody's bird bath in that county. Worm-eating Warbler: adults feeding young in two locations on Dunderberg Mt. 27 June. **"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER:** the male on Mine Rd. USMA was not obs after 8 June. Another male at Pound Ridge was obs feeding a very young juvenal on 11 July. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Rio Res 26 July. Two singing males 18 June in Dutch were later confirmed to be nesting, the first for the county. The first migrant was at Dover, Dutch 7 Aug. Another was obs nesting at Ashokan, usually found at higher elevations in Ulster. Cerulean Warbler: rarely reported in late summer. Two south of Basha in Oran 3, 15 Aug. A pair probably nested at the intersection of Rt. 210 and Cedar Flats Rd. in Stony Pt. where a male was singing thru 20 June. Pine Warbler: quite common at Ashokan thru period. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one on Mine Rd. USMA 19 June. Another in the Basha 17 Aug. One singing on Jockey Hill Rd., Town of Ulster was observed for the second time there on 15 June. It was also there during the summer of '81. Mourning Warbler: one singing at Blauvelt 2 June was late. One at MC, 1, 2 June, two there on 3, 4 and 7 June. The last one there 8 June. Another was at Rye Nature Center 2, 3 June. A fall migrant was in Pleasant Valley 31 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Purchase 22 June-9 July where it formerly bred. JT reports at least three pair confirmed breeders in west Oran. Hooded Warbler: continues slow inc at lower elevations in the Hudson Valley where it was formerly a breeder but was poisoned by insecticides in the 1950's and '60s. At least five in the Armonk-Pound Ridge area, and two or three in the Silver Lake Park and Rye L area. An adult with one young was near Eldred 21 July (Alice Jones). Wilson's Warbler: earliest at Basha 3 Aug. Canada Warbler: earliest Basha 3 Aug.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: of the flocks reported at Thiels last Spring at least one or two pairs remained till 10 June. Nested again in the Bedford area of West, where they were discovered in 1980. Migrants moving south by 21 July. Hundreds were reported in the

Cruger's I area on 29 Aug. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: the bird referred to in the spring report at Stewart Airport in May was obs singing for 15 minutes on 11 May in the company of several E. Meadowlarks (BSe). Orchard Oriole: occurrence usually restricted to a few spring reports, but this year it remained to breed. A pair with three or four young were found at the Stony Point Ski Center 16 June. A male in Rye 20 June was feeding a young cowbird. A pair with a brood was obs 25 June at Stissing, and another pair in Dutch was nesting 18 June, and gone by the 25th. Scarlet Tanager: numbers low in Dutch. Three reports there of adults feeding cowbirds. **BLUE GROSBEAK**: a young male was at MC 1, 2 June. **DICK-CISSEL**: one report from Dutch 20, 21 July. Purple Finch: three at Pound Ridge 13 June and another at Purchase 8 July. 45 were banded at Hartwood during the period, and the first young appeared at feeders there 27 June. Pine Siskin: two adults with three young were at a Hartwood feeder 12 and 18 June. Others were at feeders 7 and 27 July near Winterton. One was at a feeder at Salt Point 3 June and another at Stissing 8 June. Another at a feeder in Clinton Corners 4-16 Aug. Am. Goldfinch: numbers good. One flock of more than 100 was in Dutch 19 Aug. Savannah Sparrow: one was at the south end of the main runway at Westchester Co. Airport from 26 June thru mid-July. At least 15 were at Galeville Airport 7 July. Grasshopper Sparrow: last at Galeville Airport 27 July. Three or four singing males were at LaGrange in June. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: last obs at Galeville Airport 14 Aug, max seven there 7 July. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two were present at MC thru period. Vesper Sparrow: at least three were at Watchtower Farms, Wallkill 12 July. Dark-eyed Junco: three in the Deep Hollow area of Dutch 2 June. One was carrying food.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

Weatherwise, the season got off to a depressing start with seven days of rain. Not surprisingly, cold temperatures went with this rain, the first seven days of June averaging nearly four and a half degrees F below normal. A few days of sunny weather allowed temperatures to climb to normal on 9-10 June before the next storm system came thru 11-14 June. This second rainy spell dropped as much rain as the first but with even colder temperatures, an average of 11° below normal. In terms of weather, the single worst day of the season almost has to be 13 June with temperatures 17° below normal and 1.65 inches of rain. The rest of June saw fairly normal weather with average temperatures and rainfall. Overall, June was three degrees below normal with a total of 5.12 inches of rain, over two inches above normal. July also started cool, the first week averaging five degrees below normal, but without June's rain. After this, July turned warm with the hottest day of the season 18 July when temperatures reached 98° in New York City. In total, July was about a degree warmer than average and its 3.14 inches of rain was about half an inch below normal. Two-thirds of July's rain fell on the 28th, including over an inch in one hour during a thunderstorm. August was close to normal until record and near record cold temperatures at the end of the month, particularly on the 29th. This cold spell helped drop the August average to about a degree below normal. August's rainfall of 4.66 inches, about an inch above normal, combined with June's surplus and July's small deficit, left the season on the plus side for rain. (All weather data for New York City.)