

last Tree Swallow fledgling left its box 2 Aug (CD). Near North Hudson, both Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows still were feeding nestlings on 19 Aug (MB). Gray Jay: adults with young, Sabattis Rd 29 June and 20 July (TL). The cattail marshes at Fort Montgomery and Monty Bay had large colonies of Marsh Wrens in July-Aug (MG). A family of Loggerhead Shrikes with two food-begging young was observed by blockbusters near Ft. Covington 22-26 June (JR, CS); this was only the second Regional Confirmed record since 1980.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: A Chestnut-sided Warbler was still feeding a fledgling on the morning of 19 Aug near Paradox (MB). Cape May Warbler: Sabattis Rd. 17 June (TL). Wilson's Warbler: transient at Tupper L 30 Aug (CD). Otherwise, there were no noteworthy sightings this summer, following the five full seasons of Atlas work.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: distraction display near Moira in late June (JR, CS); this species has now been recorded in 12 regional Atlas blocks, Confirmed in three. A flock of 20 House Finches visited an Owls Head feeder 2 July-11 Aug (AH), reflecting the continued northward range expansion. At least some of the Atlas reports of crossbills and siskins date back to this past winter and spring, although sightings continued into the summer. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported and may have nested in Champlain this summer, along the lake in the very northeastern corner of the state (J & MG).

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There is no **Region 8** report as *The Kingbird* has no Editor for Region 8 at this time.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

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Several reporters who mentioned the long-standing drought also noted frequent rains which kept lawns and foliage in excellent condition. These rains also kept fruit and seed crops at high levels even following last year's bumper yield. The drought affected water supplies, and was largely due to a lack of winter snows.

June began colder than usual and continued below normal all month. July temperatures were quite normal. August was above normal, with temperatures reaching the mid-nineties by mid-month. Precipitation was below average for June and July but well above normal for August. The August rains did not raise municipal water supplies, and the appearance of Ashokan's East Basin was worrisome to say the least. Completely empty of water for the entire season,

its bottom was abloom with plant life. The only beneficial aspect of the drought was the increase in birds, especially Indigo Bunting, which fed on the abundant weed seeds. Perhaps opportunistic fall migrants also will avail themselves of this new food source. Shorebirds did not profit from the low water as no mud flats or shore line was exposed in the sea of weeds.

As New York City draws more and more water from the Hudson, the salt water front moves farther up river. At the end of the season it was only a few miles south of the water intake at Chelsea near Poughkeepsie. The effects of increasing the salinity of the lower and mid Hudson will make an interesting study.

Bird life during the period showed no marked changes. Double-crested Cormorants continued their increase. One of two major disappointments to atlasers was their failure to find cormorants nesting in the Region this year. The other was the failure to prove nesting of Black Vulture. All of the accipiters did well this season. Wild Turkey continues its phenomenal increase, and is observed more and more near populated areas, thriving near man. Most reporters stressed the lack of cuckoos, even where Gypsy Moths had population highs. Large areas of Harriman State Park once again were devastated by the pest, only five years after the last infestation. There likely will be severe tree loss this winter as most of the trees damaged in June failed to refoliate as they usually do in July and August. Reports from Dutchess County indicate good numbers of nesting warblers.

Shorebirds were a disappointment, showing poor movements in mid-August. Warblers which usually come through in good numbers in mid-August were scarce to the end of the period. This could be a reflection of the poor northward movement shown last spring.

Although not many rarities were observed, they were of superior quality. They included: Wood Stork, Ring-necked Duck, Black Vulture, American Swallow-tailed Kite, both eagles, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, Kentucky Warbler, "Bullock's" Oriole, Red Crossbill and a belated European Goldfinch.

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Abbreviation: BRF-Black Rock Forest, Cornwall; CB-Cornwall Bay; HSP-Harriman State Park; KP-Kingston Point; MC-Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; PL-Playland, Rye; WSF-Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island; counties abbreviated to first four letters.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one PL 14 June, subad Ashokan 21 July, two others there a week earlier. Double-crested Cormorant: continues to increase on Hudson n to Kingston, but no evidence of breeding; singles at Wanasink L 28 July and Siskowit Res near Pound Ridge 15 June. Least Bittern: reported on Hen I. off Rye 15 June and at MC 25 June and 14 July. Great Blue Heron: two pairs nesting at a beaver pond near Amenia Dump, Dutc; eight nests at Bontecue L near Shunpike, Dutc, were abandoned in June; up to 40 at Tamarack Swamp and Beaver Dam, Dutc, in July. Great Egret: one Ashokan 17-18 Aug

(FM) was a first there; three at Norrie Pt, Dutc, 3 Aug. Snowy Egret: several KP in Aug. Little Blue Heron: one MC after 3 Aug; imm at a small reservoir at Doodletown 14-18 Aug. Tricolored Heron: one MC 31 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm at New Hamburg 6 July, another at CB 23 Aug; two imm and two ad Sleightsburg 17 Aug; seven at KP 4 Aug. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: irregular at MC thru, did not nest. **WOOD STORK:** imm at East Branch Res near Brewster, Putn, 23 Aug found dead in an emaciated state 28 Aug (Ted Gass *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal: one Ashokan 18 Aug and two more KP 25 Aug may have been summer residents. **RING-NECKED DUCK:** male going into eclipse on Neversink Res, Sull, 14 July-24 Aug (BW) most unusual in summer. Greater Scaup: remained at PL to 21 June and at MC to 30 June. Hooded Merganser: hatched ten young at Stissing (TPH). Com. Merganser: what appeared to be six grown young at Ashokan 4-7 July (FM); ad female with seven young at Mongaup Falls, Sull, 20 July and 17 Aug (JA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one over thruway s New Paltz 10 Aug (Bob Arbib), but none in the Goshen area where one or two present the past several springs. Turkey Vulture: RFD reports them in higher numbers in mid and lower Rock, more than 30 daily at the Amenia Dump thru July and Aug. Osprey: singles Kensico Res 14 June and Tamarack, Dutc, 24 July are remarkable summer appearances. **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** one along Palisades Parkway near Exit 8, West Nyack, 22 June (JAs, NYSARC). Bald Eagle: ad with tail and primaries in molt over Granite Springs, West, 13 June; about seven (one tagged ad, two other ad, two subad, one imm) thru period at Rio-Mongaup in Sull (JA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four just-fledged young near Port Jervis Res 23 July (BW); one at KP with a bird in its talons; one at Monticello all summer was taking mainly House Finches; singles at Rio 27 July and Bashakill 31 Aug; one hit a window at Wurtsboro 21 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nested at Pound Ridge Res; one at Wurtsboro after 4 July was seen taking Mourning Doves, young Blue Jays, a Hairy Woodpecker and a young Tufted Titmouse. N. Goshawk: ad so fiercely buzzed Gene Brown in HSP at the same location where similar attacks occurred in 1976 and 1977 that he retreated without even trying to find the nest; imm at Wittenburg Mt 24 Aug; two ad and two young in the Pawling area 11 June; two others Dutc seen taking Mourning Doves. Broad-winged Hawk: young calling thru July at Amenia and Pleasant Valley; two young at Salt Point 25-31 July; a "kettle" of eight Norris Pt, Dutc, 16 Aug is a very early movement. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one seen with rabbit at Cimmarron Pd, Sull, 29 Aug (John Kroeger). Merlin: one eating Tree Swallow at MC 31 Aug. Peregrine Falcon: a nest box installed on the Tappan Zee Bridge to induce wintering birds to breed was occupied by starlings and pigeons instead; a box similarly placed atop the Bear Mt. Bridge remained unoccupied. Wild Turkey: AB had 14 birds, mostly young, behind his home near Saugerties 30 June; up to 30 at Wurtsboro on 16 Aug; ad with seven young at Mongaup Falls 30 Aug; two females with young near Millbrook in Aug; four young near Pawling Nature Preserve 17 July; and a hen with six young near Abel's Pd, Dutc, 10 July. Clapper Rail: five at MC in Aug, nested. Virginia Rail: calling in a marsh near Ashokan 19 June, responded aggressively to tape. Lesser Golden-Plover: disappointing numbers WSF this season, arr three on 13 Aug, max six on 31 Aug. Killdeer: excellent numbers at WSF thru, max 76 on 9 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: two downy young following parent at Ashokan 6 July. Upland Sandpiper: present thru at WSF, four imm and six ad on 29 June, migrants arr by mid-July with 14-20 on 19-20 July, max 25-30 12, 13 Aug. **WHIMBREL:** one on the Hudson at Sleightsburg 25 Aug (RT). Sanderling: juv Cross River Res 31 Aug only report. Least Sandpiper: five at WSF 17 Aug increased to 50 by 27 Aug. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** two WSF 16 Aug, one on 19 Aug. Laughing Gull: young birds found up river starting mid-Aug as usual. **CASPIAN TERN:** one KP 25 July (RT). **FORSTER'S TERN:** on KP 30 July. Least Tern: a few off coastal West early to 17 Aug. Black Tern: five on the Hudson at Sleightsburg and Esopus Pt 25 Aug. Black Skimmer: at MC 16 June.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-hooded Parakeet: banded bird Piermont Pier 6 July (Pete Derven). Cuckoos: most observers had *none*; BW found only one Black-billed at North Salem 9 June and one Yellow-billed in Ulst 19 July; both species heard regularly but not in numbers along Mine Rd, USMA, thru; two Yellow-billed but no Black-billed reported Dutc in June. Barred Owl: one young at Tivoli 8 July (BW); two ad and two imm calling near Saugerties 8 Aug (AB); seven, including several young birds, reported in July from several Dutc localities. Chimney Swift: excellent numbers everywhere. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: AB's annual count by canoe in the bays around Cruger I. produced only seven; FG had two males and two females at her Stanfordville feeder during June and July, three in Aug; an amusing report of one trying to get nectar from flowered pajamas on a clothes line in Dutc. Red-bellied Woodpecker: territorial male near Accord 19 June was at the nw limit of its range in the Hudson Valley; pair with one young at Rhinebeck during July (FG) who reports that she never sees parents with more than one young at any time.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: at several places in the Frost Valley-Willowemoc area, Sull/Ulst (BW); one at the base of Westkill Mt 30 June. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three on Westkill Mt 30 June; only one on Slide Mt 7 July; one at MC 24 Aug; six reports from Dutc after mid-Aug. Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher: regular and apparently much more common than previously presumed in almost all suitable habitat n and w of West Co (BW). E. Kingbird: migrants peaked in Dutc 21-28 Aug. Horned Lark: several ad and at least two young at extreme ne corner Dutc, flying back and forth across the Dutc-Colu border, on 6 July (BW); four ad and four imm at WSF in June (JS), three still present 19 July. Rough-winged Swallow: five young being fed by ad Wurtsboro on 3 July. Cliff Swallow: five nests in Wassaic, Dutc, on 27 May (BW) still active 6 July; more than 50 nests were on buildings of the dividing weir at Ashokan a few years ago but now these "messy and unsightly" nests have been reduced to less than 15 by Water Supply personnel. Barn Swallow: down in Dutc in June and July, numbers somewhat better in Aug. Fish Crow: heard regularly along the Hudson to n border of Region thru; young at New Hamburg 6 July and more than 40 birds at KP 4 Aug. **COM. RAVEN**: flying by Wittenburg Mt 24 Aug, now seen there regularly. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Kensico Res 16 June and exceptionally numerous in Sull, Ulst and Oran this summer (BW); a good migration was underway by late July, with the first at Rye 11 July and excellent numbers thru Aug; up to eight reports from Dutc in Aug. Carolina Wren: two pairs with three young at Red Oaks Mill in July (MK). House Wren: of 20 boxes placed in the Trivoli Bay area by DEC, 18 had nests with a total of 52 eggs and 10 young on 11 June. Winter Wren: five on Waterman Club trip to Deep Hollow 19 June and present thru July. Golden-crowned Kinglet: spring birds at Kensico Res present thru and a female and singing male at a new site at Meyer Sanct, Mt Kisco, on 11 June (BW); breeding in BRF on 23, 31 June (RS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very numerous and spreading in Sull (BW). E. Bluebird: Morton Miller's bluebird trail near Kripplebush expanded to 55 boxes, of which 38 were successful with 283 young fledged by 15 Aug; FG banded 400 young from her 217 boxes in Dutc by late July and feels that she missed at least half that number. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Westkill Mt 30 June and two Slide Mt 7 July. Hermit Thrush: four HSP 14 June; found BRF 5 and 22 June. Am. Robin: 30 Aug is unusually early date for a flock of more than 500 near Pleasant Valley (MVW). Brown Thrasher: numbers very low thru Region. Cedar Waxwing: excellent numbers, especially in late Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: five reported regularly thru at Chappaqua; one near Pawling 10 June, and another near Amenia for the third year on 10 Aug. Solitary Vireo: several in high ground of HSP 14 June; nest with three young at Pound Ridge Res 29 June. Yellow-throated Vireo: one in a mixed warbler flight at Ashokan 25 Aug. Warbling Vireo: at least three sites in Nyack where they formerly nested were occupied by Red-eyed

Vireos this summer, but still present in two other sites near the commercial area; numbers down in Dutc in July. Philadelphia Vireo: one near Haight Hill, Dutc, 22 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: OW and EP feel they are down in Dutc. "Lawrence's" Warbler: male at Bedford 9-16 June. "Brewster's" Warbler: male at Pound Ridge 30 June. N. Parula: male singing at Kensico Res 16 June and another at Long Eddy, Sull, 27 June. Magnolia Warbler: only species with numbers up; found BRF on four dates spanning June (RS); first migrant Doodletown 18 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: four in the high country HSP on 14 June, another at BRF from 26 May to late June. Pine Warbler: breeding confirmed at Cross River Res in early July; singing male still at Titicus Res, West, 9 July. Cerulean Warbler: Rye Lake 16 June; breeding at BRF 21 June; one near Burroughs Sanct, West Park, 29 June. Am. Redstart: RFD had a juv at his home in S. Nyack in early July, not in suitable habitat. Worm-eating Warbler: although known from the Hudson Valley for years, BW also found them in the Delaware Valley for a short distance above Port Jervis. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** a pair at a probable nest in Kakiat Park, Town of Ramapo, 10 June (Sally Gall and Nancy Bristow) "very active, chipping madly and raging at us until we left"; one at Rye Lake 16 June and another at West Point 16 May-24 June. Mourning Warbler: two at MC were well studied for two hours on 31 Aug. Com. Yellowthroat: pair feeding a cowbird at Pleasant Valley 23 July. Hooded Warbler: up to ten at Pound Ridge on 15 June, another at Westmoreland Sanct and one at Butler Sanct same date; breeding at BRF 23 June; male carrying food at Doodletown 6 June and another singing west of Dunderberg Mt the same date. Canada Warbler: found breeding at BRF 5-23 June, and on Schunemunk Mt 30 June; five at Butler Sanct and one at Meyer Preserve, West, 15 June; one Westkill Mt 30 June; four singing males at different sites near Quaker Hill, Dutc, 19-25 June; and a migrant at Ashokan 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at the usual site in Purchase in June and another at PL to 16 June.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: common at Ashokan and reported in excellent numbers Dutc thru July; one on Slide Mt above 3500 ft on 7 July. Savannah Sparrow: excellent numbers Westchester Airport again this summer. Henslow's Sparrow: nesting again at Galeville Airport thru July, numbers not determined. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: up to six at MC thru. Seaside Sparrow: up to five at MC thru. Dark-eyed Junco: three in high country of HSP 14 June. Bobolink: 60-75 migrants at WSF 23-25 Aug. Orchard Oriole: pair at WSF 23 June, two males and an imm there 24 June; at least two pairs nesting Dutc in June. Northern Oriole: female **BULLOCK'S** carefully compared to "Baltimore" and Orchard Orioles at WSF 29-30 June (JS, NYSARC). Purple Finch: four in high country of HSP 14 June; good numbers Dutc may indicate a better fall for them than usual. House Finch: flocking like swallows during the post breeding season near New Paltz (SS); FG seeks information on usurpation of bluebird boxes by this species. **RED CROSSBILL:** family group (pair and one juv) moving near Neversink Res 4 Aug (BW). Am. Goldfinch: particularly abundant in Ulst with groups to 50 feeding in weedy fields (SS). **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** Pete Derven had a banded bird at his Nyack feeder last Feb. Evening Grosbeak: female at Ulster Heights 30 Aug was most unusual.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

There is no **Region 10** report as it has not arrived in time for this issue.