

incursion." (RM); field observers and feeder watchers are in full agreement with this assessment.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

About 150 species were reported during the summer months. However, this figure is derived from just a few locales in Region 8 since only a small number of dedicated birders were active locally. The season is easily summed up, as most of the summer season it was simply too hot to bird watch! According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, this was the second driest June on a statewide basis since records began in 1890. The Center also reports that several temperature records, both maximum and minimum, were broken during the course of the month. Albany experienced a 96° on 15 Jun and a 38° on 11 Jun. The most notable storm for Albany occurred on 22 Jun when thunderstorms with hail and strong winds gusting to 46 mph dumped over an inch of rain. As was the case in June, July also had an abnormally large number of very hot days. Albany reported twelve days of temperatures over 90°. When it wasn't too hot to be out bird watching it was too wet. Although the first half of July was dry, the second half of the month contained a number of heavy rain days, certainly helping out the plants. August as a whole was warm and dry. Albany had a low temperature of 30° and a maximum of 102° that month.

One nice addition to the Region 8 report was the coverage of a marsh in Quakerstreet in the southwest corner of Schenectady Co. just east of the Schoharie Co. line. As mentioned in the individual species accounts this marsh hosted a number of shorebirds not found easily in other areas of the Region. Basic Creek Reservoir, a typical spot for shorebirds, was a dry, grassy field this summer and will continue to be so until the construction on its causeway is completed.

Woodpeckers were a confusing lot for this summer season. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were on everyone's list. Three immature Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen in Cherry Plain on 28 Jul and an immature was banded at Jenny Lake on 13 Aug. However, no Red-Headed or Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported. Northern Flickers were reported as common and Pileated were seen in Cherry Plain, Clarksville, Delmar, Schodack Island, more than usual at Jenny Lake, and Schoharie.

Five species of flycatcher were found commonly in the Region: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbirds. Alder Flycatchers were reported from Five Rivers and Willow Flycatchers were seen on Staats Island, Schodack Center, Castleton as well as Five Rivers. A birder from Indonesia visiting this country whose life's desire was to see all the swallows of the northeast would have done well to visit Region 8. Purple Martins were tough to see with only a single bird reported from Schodack, but Tree Swallows were common nesters in Bluebird boxes. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were re-

ported from four locations, Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows were reported from Basic Res, Five Rivers, Raquette Lake and other spots, and as for Barn Swallows, a visit to any area barn turned these up of course.

Our Region's warbler report was sketchy at best. Sporadic data from June and then Aug really don't represent the Region well as far as warbler breeding and movement. The same can be said of vireos. Warbling Vireos were certainly common in Clarksville and Rensselaer Co, but data on Solitary Vireos and Red-eyed Vireos can't possibly adequately represent the Region as a whole. The only Yellow-throated Vireos were reported by Paul Connor. He noted the species as breeding along the Hudson Valley from Staats Island south to Stuyvesant.

As far as common yard birds such as American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Gray Catbirds, observers reported these species but had no comments as to significant ups or downs in the species populations. Other widespread species such as Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow and Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstart, Com. Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhees, Chipping and Song Sparrows and Am. Goldfinch were noted as simply 'summer breeders' by most observers.

Contributors: Malcolm Archard, Linda Armstrong, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Norman Francher, Dorothy McIlroy, Laura Meade, Mike Peterson, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Alice Ross, Jim Sotis, Hudson Winn, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: CGCC - Columbia Green County Community College; CPI - Cherry Plains; JL - Jenny Lake; Tagh - Taghkanic.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one pair with y Moss L 16 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: single location reported, two Basic Res Jul-Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: single bird Judson Pt 15 Jul, two at JL 26 Jun, the first there in 18 years (RY). Great Blue Heron: seven occupied nests Berne early Jun, other reports of individual birds throughout period. Green-backed Heron: max more than one dozen Schoharie 13 Aug. Canada Goose: reported from seven locations, breeding populations in Black Creek Marsh, Five Rivers. Wood Duck: numerous reports all summer from most reporting locales, known to be breeding in Churchtown, Five Rivers, Cossayuna L. Green-winged Teal: only report one Basic Res 12 Jun. Am. Black Duck: numerous reports. Blue-winged Teal: single location, two Quakerstreet marsh 24 Jul, female with brood 6 and 20 Aug. Am. Wigeon: one Churchtown 27 Aug. Com. Merganser: two breeding locations, female with 14 y Shanty Brook 20 Jun, female with eight y L George Beach 4 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: two locations, Hudson R 19 Aug and Schoharie 21 Aug. Bald Eagle: single report, 2nd year bird identified as hacked in Florida at JL 17 Jul. N. Harrier: two locations, female Five Rivers 8 Aug, Quakerstreet marsh 18 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: few reports, one Schodack 15, 28 Jun, Schoharie 4 Jul. Cooper's Hawk: singles reported Kinderhook 7 Jun, Schodack Center 16 Jun. N. Goshawk: nesting pair again this season Thacher P. Red-shouldered Hawk: two CPI 26 Aug, seen and heard at JL where apparently nested for first time. Broad-winged Hawk: seen throughout season in Ballston Spa and Schodack Center, Ravena 23 Aug, exit 19 Northway 23 Jul. Am. Kestrel: family groups seen Brookview, Five Rivers, Clarksville, Slingerlands, Saratoga Battlefield. Ruffed Grouse: breeding Schoharie, Holmes L. Wild Turkey: breeding East Greenbush, Schoharie, Clarksville. Virginia Rail: ads with y Black Creek Marsh Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: only report one Basic Res 31 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: seen Quakerstreet marsh mid Jul through mid Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max 12 Quakerstreet marsh 30 Jul. Spotted Sandpiper: reported Five Rivers throughout Jul and Aug, Basic

Res 12 Jun, Schodack 28 Jun, CPI 28 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: several along Langley Rd near Minaville 9 Jun. Semipalmated Sandpiper: sole report three Quakerstreet marsh 21 Jul. Least Sandpiper: small numbers Quakerstreet marsh 21 Jul, 6 Aug, 13 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: single report, seven Basic Res 12 Jun. Wilson's Phalarope: female feeding with Killdeer Basic Res 12 Jun. Com. Snipe: only location Quakerstreet marsh through Jul. Am. Woodcock: one Schodack 28 Jun, only two reported from Five Rivers after all seen this spring. Ring-billed Gull: sporadic reports from L George Beach, Castleton and Basic Res. Herring Gull: two reports, COLU and WASH Jul, Rip Van Winkle Bridge 23 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: one reported Rensselaer 28 Aug

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-backed Cuckoo: three reports, Schodack Center 5 Jun-6 Aug, three CPI 28 Jul, roadkill Greenport 22 Jun, fewer than last summer. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two reports, one Schoharie 5 Aug, two CPI 28 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: heard Clarksville, Schoharie mid Jul through Aug. Great Horned Owl: four locations Clarksville, Schodack Center, Schoharie, W. Tagh. Barred Owl: one and sometimes two calling JL Jun and Jul. N. Saw-whet Owl: one calling before dawn Schodack Center 8 Aug (PC). Com. Nighthawk: max 20 Lincoln P in Albany 30 Aug. Whip-poor-will: none reported. Chimney Swift: regularly throughout period Claverack, Five Rivers, L George, RENS. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: all season in Clarksville, Five Rivers, RENS. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *intro*. Hairy Woodpecker: unusual report of ad with red crown extending over forehead to base of bill at Schoharie.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: sole location 12 SCHE Airport 25 Jun. Purple Martin: single bird Schodack 23 Jun. Tree Swallow: nesting in numerous locations Jun, Jul, migration seemed to begin late Jul. N. Rough-winged Swallow: pairs at Castleton and Schodack Valley Jun, occasional at Five Rivers, Basic Res. Bank Swallow: max 100 WASH 26 Jun. Cliff Swallow: *intro*. Blue Jay: reported by all observers as common except at JL where scarce for second consecutive year. Fish Crow: reported from various locations along Hudson R and at Schenectady, where a pair evidently bred in a residential neighborhood. Com. Raven: breeding pair Thacher P, one heard Buck Mt 27 Aug, four CPI 5 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: a record number of 24 banded JL in Jul-Aug when ten to 12 is normal (BY), new FL as late as 27 Jul. Red-Breasted Nuthatch: record year at JL, 25 banded through Aug with first FL 19 Jun. Marsh Wren: common Black Creek Marsh, Papscanee Creek, Schodack Creek. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one area, CPI, four 28 Jul, seven 26 Aug. E. Bluebird: good number, but less than last year, of successful nestings reported from many areas. Veery: commonly reported from Bear Swamp Jul, FL at L Tagh 16 Jul, Poestenkill Jul-Aug, one W Tagh 8 Aug, seen throughout period RENS. Swainson's Thrush: several early migrants heard Schodack Center 26 Aug. Hermit Thrush: three locations, throughout reporting period Poestenkill, three juv banded at JL, two Jul, one Aug, fifteen CPI 28 Jul. Wood Thrush: common Clarksville, Five Rivers, RENS, Schoharie. Brown Thrasher: five locations Pine Bush, L Tagh, Saratoga Battlefield, RENS, Schoharie, Jun & Jul. Cedar Waxwing: most flocks reported during Aug, but one W Tagh 22 Jun, and flock feeding on Jun berries W Tagh 1 Jul.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Blue-winged Warbler: Five Rivers 18 Jun, several L Tagh 25 Jun, Schodack Jun-Jul. Golden-winged Warbler: none. Brewster's Warbler: three on Boehm-Beale property in Schoharie 3, 4, 23 Jul. Tennessee Warbler: arr four Churchtown 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: two reports, Pine Bush 11 Jun, CPI 28 Jul. Chestnut-sided Warbler: residents at Moss L, Poestenkill, RENS, Schoharie. Magnolia Warbler: resident at Poestenkill, CPI. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two locations CPI, Poestenkill. Yellow-rumped Warbler: common summer resident in many locales, a record year at JL with 20 imm and 5 ad banded, first imm banded 8 Jul (BY) usually only four to eight banded in a summer. Black-throated Green Warbler: three reports, four CPI 28 Jul, one 26 Aug, Poestenkill all summer. Blackburnian Warbler: JL occasionally, Poestenkill all season, CPI 28 Jul. Pine Warbler: max five Pine Bush 11 Jun. Prairie Warbler: singing daily CGCC

1 Jun-14 Jul, five Schodack 8 Jun, two 3 Jul. Ovenbird: record year at JL with 58 imm banded Jul-Aug, previous max 25. N. Waterthrush: breeding Clarksville, Five Rivers, Quakerstreet marsh. Mourning Warbler: pair at Moss L 16 Jul. Canada Warbler: summer resident Poestenkill, one CPI 28 Jul and 26 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: most often reported Schoharie and JL, where 14 banded. Indigo Bunting: max three nesting pairs Schoharie, two nesting pairs Clarksville, seen in Jun Saratoga Battlefield, Hudson 14 Jul, RENS. Chipping Sparrow: more cheerful report from JL where a more typical number of 14 were banded; last year the species had continued its long term decline. Field Sparrow: four locations Churchtown 27 Aug (singing), L Tagh 25 Jun-16 Jul, throughout season Schoharie and RENS. Savannah Sparrow: none reported from Five Rivers, reported Gallupville in lush hay fields used for milk cow grazing, two Schodack 5 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: single location, Saratoga Battlefield Jun-Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Swamp Sparrow: one Churchtown 24 Jun, two Copake 25 Jun, one WASH 26 Jun, Black Creek Marsh, RENS, CPI throughout. White-throated Sparrow: male singing JL all summer, newly fledged bird appeared at feeder 9 Jul; two WASH 26 Jun, six CPI 28 Jul, two 26 Aug. Dark-eyed Junco: continues to be extremely scarce JL where abundant prior to 1985; several reported from Clarksville and Thacher P Jul-Aug. Bobolink: max 80 Staats I 21 Aug. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 RENS 23 Aug, frequent summer visitor Schoharie, scarce at JL, none banded where previous typical numbers were 3-10. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 juv males W. Tagh 27 Aug, BC remarks that if each one represents a dead warbler, how much are they be contributing to 'silent spring' syndrome. N. Oriole: reported throughout summer in Clarksville, Delmar, New Scotland, RENS, Schoharie, WASH, Westerlo. Purple Finch: single numbers reported by two observers, Schoharie 18 Jun, W. Tagh late Jun; only large numbers 171 banded at JL during Jul, 227 during Aug (RY). Red Crossbill: none. Pine Siskin: southern parts of Region report siskins at feeders until mid Jun, imms at JL until 15 Jul, with a record total of 204 siskins banded.

RD 1 Box 159 Feura Bush, NY 12067

REGION 9 – DELEWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

What a summer! June came in cool and damp, but by mid month temperatures were 60-80° most days and remained hot and dry well into July. Streams and ponds were low and lawns browned and withered from lack of rain. The rains, over 10 inches, finally came reviving lawns and gardens and filling the streams and ponds. This was followed by a heat wave that lasted for four weeks. Relieved by only a few small showers, the temperature ranged from 80-98°. Not only was it hot but it was muggy with little relief even at night. With the thick haze we could barely see the surrounding hills. A cool north wind finally blew in and for the first time in weeks we could see the Catskill Mountains to the west, blue sky and the stars at night. The last two weeks of August were pleasant with temperatures reading 40-45° in the morning and reaching a fresh 75-80° during the day.

Undaunted, the birds continued to nest and raise their young in spite of the heat. A long list of species were widely reported and did well in suitable habitat throughout the Region this summer: Green-backed Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vul-