

REGION 9 – DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Rainfall throughout the region varied as to locations and thunderstorm activity. The weather station at Mohonk Lake reported 3 in. (7.6 cm) in June and 4.6 in. (11.7 cm) for July. 5.75 in. (14.6 cm) fell during the first 15 days of August. Weather was cooler than usual. The average for July was 68.1° F (20.1° C), 2° F (1.1° C) below the 80 year average of 70.3° F (21.3° C) at Mohonk Lake.

Birders seemed to be more active than usual this summer with some unusually fine records reported. Short-billed Marsh Wren, Acadian Flycatcher, and Kentucky Warbler were turned up in Orange Co., and breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Westchester. Hurricane Belle was a disappointment in the number of exotics it brought, but the numbers were more than made up for by the Yellow-nosed Albatross observed off Croton Point. Warblers made early appearances in Dutchess again this year, and there were some interesting records of northern birds that summered. Two census runs were made thru different territories in the higher reaches of Harriman State Park looking for Canadian type birds. The results are included in the report.

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Abbreviations: Harriman Park Census—HPC-1 June 11, HPC-2 June 13; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Rondout Res. Jul. 14 (KN). **YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS:** 1 adult obs at about 30 ft. off Croton Point by Berna Weissman and William Howe at 1:45 p.m. Aug. 10, the day after Hurricane Belle hit the region. Double-crested Cormorant: present all summer in small numbers off Croton Pt; 1 Cornwall Bay Jul. 26, and another Jul. 28 at Conn's Hook, Highland Falls. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** singles reported in Jun. and Aug. from Cornwall Bay (BS); another at Goshen Jul. 29. Great Egret: in singles and pairs thru region and period. Snowy Egret: also thru period in better numbers than the former species. **LOUISIANA HERON:** 1 imm Croton Pt. Aug. 2-8 (WH). Black-crowned Night Heron: only report 2 Croton Pt. Aug. 2-5. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** 2 ad Croton Pt. Jun. 10 (WH). **GLOSSY IBIS:** 3, Aug. 8 near Marlborough (BS). Mute Swan: inc in the northern part; 1 pr. with 2 imm. at Iona Is. and another pair at Ft. Montgomery with 8 imm; only 1 of the latter survived the snapping turtles. Brant: 31 on Hudson off Dunderberg Mt. Jun. 3 (ET). Snow Goose: 1 with Brant on Hudson off Dunderberg Jun. 3 (ET). Green-winged Teal: rare in summer; 1 in Dutch Jun. 8 and another Croton Pt. Aug. 29. American Wigeon: 1 male Iona Is. Jun. 15; 14 Cornwall Bay Aug. 29. Northern Shoveler: always rare, 2 Cornwall Bay Aug. 14. Lesser Scaup: 1 male Croton Pt. Jul. 14. **COMMON GOLDENEYE:** 1 female on Hudson off Iona Is. Jun. 15-19 (ET). Common Merganser: 4 females Croton Pt. late May thru Jun. 10; a family of 5 on Rondout Res. Jul. 14 (KN).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a nest observed near White L. Sull May 14 contained 1 egg May 20 (MB). **GOSHAWK:** pair nesting on HPC-1, nest not found as observer was too busy defending himself from the attacking adults; this is the third year that territorial adults have been observed in that area (EB). Bald Eagle: 1 ad south of Ellenville, Ulst May 25 (Robert Dirig). Osprey: usually unreported in summer; several scattered records thru period and region; no evidence of breeding. Ruffed Grouse: numbers continue low. Semipalmated Plover: the usual few migrants dur Aug. at Croton Pt. and Cornwall Bay. Black-bellied Plover: 1 or 2 at Croton Pt. and Cornwall Bay in early Aug. Ruddy Turn-

stone: 10 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7-10. **WHIMBREL**: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7 (AM). Upland Sandpiper: 1 with 3 imm near Pine Bush Jun. 19; another Hamptonburgh Aug. 25 (BS). Solitary Sandpiper: 1st Croton Pt. Jul. 12. 1 or 2 present there thru period. Red Knot: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 5. Inc to 3 by Aug. 7. Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 6. Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 Aug. 7 Cornwall Bay; 1 Croton Pt. Aug. 29, 30. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 75 Croton Pt. Aug. 24. Sanderling: 5 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7. Laughing Gull: arr Mid-Hudson Region Aug. 2 max 25 Croton Pt. Aug. 11. Bonaparte's Gull: 1st Aug. 7 Cornwall Bay, and again there Aug. 28-31. Common Tern: singles at Cornwall Bay Aug. 17 and Jun. 23. **LEAST TERN**: 1st Croton Pt. Aug. 3-5; 3 there Aug. 10; 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 10. **ROYAL TERN**: 1 Croton Pt. Aug. 10 in winter plumage after Hurricane Belle. **CASPIAN TERN**: 3 Cornwall Bay Aug. 8. Black Skimmer: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 10 (mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: both species quite scarce. Barn Owl: 1 ad with 2 imm Washingtonville Jun. 19. Whip-poor-will: 1 calling at 9 a.m. Jun. 6 at Long Pond, USMA. Common Nighthawk: usual residents; max movement reported over Nyack; several hundred on Aug. 24 and again on Aug. 25 (RD).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Red Oaks Mill Aug. 23. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: at least 1 and maybe 2 on location on the Orange-Sullivan border at Basher Kill Jul. 17-20 (BS); nest found in Deep Hollow, Dutch Jun. 19, and another nest on Tower Hill Rd., Dutch Jul. 3. Willow Flycatcher: at least 3 pr at Croton Pt. thru period. Alder Flycatcher: 1 singing continuously at Tarrytown Res. Jun. 18; not seen thereafter. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1st at Wawarsing Aug. 15; again on Aug. 21 at Tamarack Sw. Dutch. Horned Lark: 1 ad Jul. 2 at Briarcliff, Dutch. Tree Swallow: usual early Jul. movement; max 500, Dutch, Aug. 14. Bank Swallow: left Cornwall Bay by Aug. 6. Cliff Swallow: new colony near Washingtonville Jun. 12; more than 20 migrants obs Slide Mt. Aug. 31 (JT). Purple Martin: a new colony near Bullville Jun. 13; 5 nest sites under obs in Dutch thru period; another thriving colony found at Rosendale. **RAVEN**: 1 Mohonk Jun. 20 (JS). Fish Crow: usual residents; birds of the spring at Highland Falls inc to 5 (probably a family) by Aug. 2. Remained thru Sept. 5; 10 at Wilbur Blvd, Po'kpsie (M,JK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants at Po'kpsie area last week of Aug.; 7 imm in Norway Spruce at Briarcliff Jun. 16; 2 ad feeding 1 fledged young there Jul. 18; migrants at Croton Pt. and Pleasantville last week of Aug. Brown Creeper: 6 birds and a nest with 6 eggs at Kensico Res Jun. 20; nest empty Jul. 18 (WH); 2 on HPC-1 and HPC-2. Winter Wren: 3 pr heard regularly in Deep Hollow Dutch thru period; 2 on HPC-1. Carolina Wren: continues to increase in all areas. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: first report for Oran, 1 in song Aug. 19. Hamptonburgh near Goshen line; 2 there Aug. 31 (BS). Hermit Thrush: 14 on HPC-1; 5 on HPC-2. Eastern Bluebird: best year yet for nest box project of Waterman Bird Club in Dutch; 66 nesting pairs with 35 successful; 4 nests with eggs as late as Aug. 1. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: more than usual in late summer; rarely obs after Jun. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**: 2 ad with 5 fledged young at Kensico Res Jun. 6; adults still bringing food to nest on Jul. 18; probably a double brood.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: a few more than usual. Solitary Vireo: 8 on HPC-1 and 2 on HPC-2. Worm-eating Warbler: several obs dur nesting period at Mohonk L (JS). Lawrence's Warbler: a male mated to a Blue-wing at Pleasantville; carrying food to nest on Jun. 7. Tennessee Warbler: 1st Aug. 19; 2 or 3 daily from then on. Nashville Warbler: 1st Aug. 14 Tamarack Sw. Magnolia Warbler: 1st Aug. 19 thru period. Cape May Warbler: 1st Aug. 20-31 Pleasant Valley; max 12 Pleasantville Aug. 31. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3 Croton Pt. Aug. 30 were very early. Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 Jul. 5, and 3 Aug. 31 at Wawarsing. Cerulean Warbler: 1 Basher Kill Jun. 3 (BS). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 singing near Silver Mine, Harriman Pk. Jul. 3, 2 ad feeding 1 imm there Jul. 8 (ET); 13 on HPC-1 and 4 on HPC-2; always in high hemlocks. Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 Aug. 15, 1 Aug. 26-31, Pleasant Valley. Blackpoll Warbler: 1st Aug. 24-31. Pine Warbler: 1 Mohonk L Jun. 10 (JS). Prairie Warbler: in 3 localities along Mine Rd. USMA in early Jun. N. Waterthrush: an ag-

gressive territorial bird singing at Butler Sanct. West on Jun. 20. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 in full song moving south along the Basher Kill Aug. 21 (BS). Mourning Warbler: 1st Aug. 14-15 Pleasant Valley; another Jun. 6-7 at Skidmore Sanct. was a spring migrant. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, 1 Mine Rd. Jun. 6. Wilson's Warbler: 1st Aug. 28, Red Oaks Mill. Canada Warbler: 1 ad Thompson Pd. Jul. 2; 2 on HPC-1 and 4 on HPC-2; more summer records than usual; 3 females and 1 male at Butler Sanct. Jun. 20 (WH); first migrants Dutch Aug. 14.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Indigo Bunting: numbers up thru region. Purple Finch: 2 on HPC-1 and 5 on HPC-2. House Finch: continues to increase esp east of Hudson R. Pine Siskin: 1 Pleasantville Jun. 5; several at feeders in Monticello area thru period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a singing male at Croton Pt. Jun. 10 was not seen thereafter. Vesper Sparrow: Waterman Club is keeping records on every bird due to scarcity; 4 reports in Jul. Dutchess Co. Dark-eyed Junco: singles on HPC-1 and HPC-2.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

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The mean temperature for the three months of June, July and August was 73.2° F, 74.8° F, and 74.4° F respectively and the rainfall was 2.78, 1.42 and 6.52 inches. The seemingly high rainfall in August was caused mainly by Hurricane Belle but this total added to the other months total equals 10.72 inches of rain, or less than half last summer's record 22.4 inches for the same period.

The summer season, with the exception of Hurricane Belle, was rather uneventful; which is akin to saying, "with the exception of getting run over by a tank it was a quiet day." The hurricane is discussed at length elsewhere in this issue (see page 184).

The various breeding bird censuses taken in the area reflected no alarming declines although mention was made in each report of the loss of nesting habitat due to developments and road construction. Two interesting increases were noted on the south shore: on August 28 Paul Gillen reported 57 Am. Oystercatchers in one group on Middle Line Island in South Oyster Bay and in late August the writer (AJL) saw 10 Louisiana Herons on Tobay Pond. Such numbers are unprecedented. The most interesting find of the breeding bird censuses was that of a pair of Winter Wrens with two recently fledged young at Connetquot River State Park; a first for Long Island. Another interesting breeding record occurred on Staten Island when a pair of Pine Siskins also with two recently fledged young were found, which appears to be the first coastal record for the region.

Despite extensive searching, no nest was found for the Chuck-will's-widow at Oak Beach although a singing bird was present from June 1 to June 15.

JUNE COUNTS: The Northern Nassau count reported 118 species and 11,366 individuals with an overall stability of numbers when assessed from a three year period of data collection. Species indicating a decline were Green Herons, Least Terns, and Bank Swallows. The reason for this decline is reduction of nesting habitat. A steady decline in number of Rufous-sided Towhees for the three year period was also noted. Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Mockingbirds, Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers were the biggest gainers. Also of note was the finding of two nests of Red-breasted Nuthatches.