

REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

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June arrived with cool nights and warm days. Small amounts of rain fell during the early part of the month. By mid-month it was summer, very warm with beautiful clear days and by month's end it was dry. July came in clear with a little but much needed rain. By mid-month we were sweltering in 95° days and hot nights with lots of humidity. A thunderstorm, doing some damage to the north, relieved the dryness. Then July leveled off with beautiful clear, cool days. The katydids started calling 20 July, much too early it seemed. August was, as usual, hot and humid with a few cool days at mid-month, followed by temperatures in the mid 80's. The season cooled off during the last week to 38° some mornings, with near frost to the north. Rain came at the end of August, reviving flowers, gardens and plants and filling low ponds and streams.

The resident birds settled in: nesting Goshawk in both Dutchess and northern Westchester Cos.; Hooded Merganser with young in Dutchess Co. and Henslow's Sparrow in Orange and Ulster Cos. Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase in both Dutchess and Westchester, a real success story. Caspian Tern and **Black Skimmer** were observed at Croton Bay and the Hawk watch started at Butler Sanctuary with a Peregrine Falcon observed. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** appeared in Ulster Co.

Humpo Marsh, west of New Paltz in Ulster County, is the result of Beaver activity about three years ago. The Beaver have left but the impoundment of water remains. This new area is attracting many species of birds. Tree Swallow and bluebirds are nesting in the dead trees. Sora, Virginia Rail and many herons and egrets are observed here. The road passes close by giving good opportunities for observation. This area will prove to be fruitful over the next few years. It will be interesting to watch the development of this site.

Once again the Gypsy Moth population peaked along the Shawangunk Ridges and the oaks and maples were defoliated, thus releasing the forest floor which came alive with new growth. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos flourished on the caterpillars.

The fruit and berry crop seems not quite so abundant this year. The Multiflora Rose, that all important food crop for wintering birds, looks plentiful but already is being eaten. It will be interesting to see how the winter birds fare and how well the winter food lasts.

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Abbreviations: BuS - Butler Sanctuary; WBC - Waterman Bird Club; SCAC - Sullivan County Audubon Society.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: noted at Dutc where known to breed. Double-crested Cormorant: observed from boat in Hudson R. Am. Bittern: one Dieterichs 11

Aug. Least Bittern: pair nesting Constitution Marsh (JR). Great Blue Heron: seven nests, eight young Tamarack Rookery (WBC). Great Egret: seven reported in Dutc during Aug. Snowy Egret: Humpo Marsh (SS). Green-backed Heron: several in Dutc; family of four Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (MVW). Black-crowned Night-Heron: Humpo Marsh (SS). Mute Swan: nesting several places in Dutc. Wood Duck: female with 12 y e Dutc, 15-20 ads and y Stissing. Am. Black Duck: several pairs with y (WBC), numbers seem low. Blue-winged Teal: five Tamarack 29 Aug (HM). Hooded Merganser: female with five y Dieterichs 25 Jun (VP).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Verbank 12 Aug (BB); one Wassaic 16 & 18 Aug. Bald Eagle: ad Constitution Marsh 5 Jun (JR), three sightings BuS 24-30 Aug. N. Harrier: pair Galeville Airport mid Aug (SS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Green Haven 8 Jul (BB); one Millerton-Wassaic 12 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nesting pairs Garrison, Pound Ridge; one Lake Walton 24 Jun. N. Goshawk: pair nesting Mianus Gorge, pair nesting Mack Rd, Dutc, observed with two y watched from downy stage until well feathered and out of the nest (HM, BB). Red-shouldered Hawk: pair nesting S Salem; pair Town of South East (FN). Broad-winged Hawk: occasional in Dutc; pair Hollow Rd 6 July (HM). Merlin: ad BuS 30 Aug. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** ad BuS 31 Aug. Ruffed Grouse: several females with y Dutc. Wild Turkey: two breeding pair Pound Ridge; two females, 15 y Stissing; well reported in Dutc. Virginia Rail: one Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (MVW); Humpo Marsh (SS). Sora: one heard occasionally Stissing June; Humpo Marsh (SS). Com. Moorhen: one found on front lawn Putnam Valley 9 Jun, exhausted and emaciated, died the next day. Semipalmated Plover: three Amenia Landfill 5 Jun. Greater Yellowlegs: one Stanfordville 2 Jun, one Tamarack 7 Jun, one Tamarack 10 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: one Pleasant Valley 7 Jun, one Millbrook 27 July, one Amenia 12 Aug, two Pawling 16 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: nesting several places Dutc. Pectoral Sandpiper: two Pawling 16 Aug. Com. Snipe: one Stissing 22 Aug. Am. Woodcock: two Kidd Lane, Tivoli 10 Jun; one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). Caspian Tern: two in full plumage Croton Bay 16 Aug (JA). **BLACK SKIMMER:** im Croton Bay 30 Aug. (BW, SL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Stissing 2 Jun, one n Dutc 25 Jun (BBS); appeared to flourish on gypsy moth caterpillars Ulst. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: also thrived on the gypsy moth caterpillar (SS); one Vassar Farm 11 Jun; several others Dutc. E. Screech-Owl: heard several places in Dutc. Barred Owl: two pair with y in Poughkeepsie area. Com. Nighthawk: two or three heard in Poughkeepsie 5 Jun, appears to be recovering after a gradual but steady decline as it migrates through area in late summer (SS). Whip-poor-will: one month of June Slate Quarry Rd, Dutc. Chimney Swift: flocks around chimneys in central Dutc; moving all day 26 Aug (AJ). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported up in Putn and w West, four to six daily in Jun, up to twelve birds using two quarts of syrup a week in Jul (FG); male performing loop courtship over female Dover Plains 28 Jun-9 Jul (MY). Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair with young 16 Jul Rhinebeck; several successful nestings in Sull, spreading northward (SCAS).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canoe Hill, Millbrook, 29 Aug, two same area 30 Aug; one Pond Gut, where they appear the same time each year 31 Aug (WBC). E. Wood-Pewee: many reports, still feeding young in nest Thompson Pd 19 Aug (WBC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug; two Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (WBC). Acadian Flycatcher: two Turkey Hollow 3 Jun (WBC). Alder Flycatcher: one Pawling 5 Jun (SG). Willow Flycatcher: several places throughout Dutc. Great Crested Flycatcher: nested in two different dooryards in Dutc, one successful, the other incomplete nest and the stub fell in a storm. Purple Martin: at four colonies in Dutc. Com. Raven: one over Bear Mt 30 Jul, observed well at 50-75 yards as it was harassed by five crows (WF). Cliff Swallow: 19 active nests Apollo Mall, Monticello 19 Jun (SCAS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Mack Rd 19 Jun (WBC); 25 Hyde Park 26 Aug,

moving all day with other swallows (AJ). Brown Creeper: Mack Rd 14 Jun, two 19 Jun (WBC). Carolina Wren: seem to be spreading in Dutc. Winter Wren: pair Mianus Gorge, pair Pound Ridge; singing Deep Hollow, Dutc, 3 Jun and 1 Jul. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Meyer Preserve, Armonk (JA), pair Kensico Res (BW, SL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). E. Bluebird: nesting in dead trees Humpo Marsh, excellent nesting n West, 471 banded by FG, 200 more fledged in Dutc, some had three broods; this is a happy success story! Hermit Thrush: pair Mianus Gorge, 14 Jun, three Overlook Rd, Mohonk Preserve mid Jul (SS); one Verbank 9 & 12 Aug (BB).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Wampus Pd, Armonk (BW SL), three Mianus Gorge, one Wildcat Hollow. one Mack Rd, Dutc, 12 Jun; several other places in Dutc. Yellow-throated Vireo: good numbers in Dutc. Warbling Vireo: abundant in Oran-Sull, doing well in Dutc. Blue-winged Warbler: seem to be nesting well. Golden-winged Warbler: two males, possibly one female Pound Ridge, one N Salem 7 Jun (BW), none Dutc. Brewster's Warbler: one Bedford 15 Jun. Lawrence's Warbler: one near Pound Ridge 14 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: arr Amenia, Pleasant Valley 12 Aug (HM EP). N. Parula: one Armonk 14 Jun (DP) Magnolia Warbler: one Pond Gut 24 Aug (HM), one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). Cape May Warbler: one Pleasant Valley 29 Aug (MVW), two Tamarack 30 Aug (WBC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: two Mack Rd 19 Jun (BB HM). Blackburnian Warbler: two Cold Spring 7 Jun, two Canoe Hill 29 Aug. Pine Warbler: nesting again in pine groves near local Reservoir, West. Kentucky Warbler: two Coony Hill Rd, New Castle, 14 June (PR). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one well observed for five minutes in tree by window Pleasant Valley 14 Aug (EP). Mourning Warbler: one BuS 26 Aug (TM). Hooded Warbler: one Westmorland Sanctuary 14 Jun; up to eight around Siskowit Reservoir all summer, 2 pair Briton Brook Sanctuary. Wilson's Warbler: one Pond Gut 24 Aug (HM). Canada Warbler: one Pound Ridge, one BuS 14 Jun, one 26-27 Aug (MVW). Yellow-breasted Chat: one (SL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: good numbers. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one singing Walkill (TB). Vesper Sparrow: four Haight Hill 26 Aug. (MVW). Savannah Sparrow: one Haight Hill 24 & 26 Aug (MVW). Grasshopper Sparrow: one Woodstock Rd, Dutc, 27 July (MVW). Henslow's Sparrow: singing bird Galeville Airport all summer (JPT, SS). **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one "*nelsoni*" type Constitution Marsh Sanctuary 5 June (JR), seen and heard. Swamp Sparrow: good numbers in most swamp areas, 12 Great Swamp, Pawling, 30 Jun. Bobolink: nesting well in Dutc and Galeville Airport; 20 all in golden fall plumage Tamarack 20 Aug (WBC). E. Meadowlark: did fairly well in Dutc. N. Oriole: still singing end of Aug. Purple Finch: scattered reports throughout Dutc. Pine Siskin: one Rhinebeck area 9 Jun, one at window feeder Stissing 14-15 Jul.

ADDENDA: a few late spring reports from West-Putn. Am. Bittern: one Turner Swamp 26 Apr (JA). Glossy Ibis: flying along Hudson River 22 Apr. Brant: flying n at Tappen Zee Bridge 28 Apr (JA). **BLACK VULTURE:** one Ossining 23 Apr (JK). Osprey: arr BuS 7 Mar (JA), very early. Peregrine Falcon: ad Constitution Marsh 25 Apr (JR). Wild Turkey: two breeding pairs Pound Ridge. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one West 23 May (JK). Acadian Flycatcher: up to four Mianus Gorge. Alder Flycatcher: two Town of Bedford.

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