

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather during the earlier part of the breeding season was nearly average with temperatures at Albany just slightly above normal all three months. June and July were on the dry side, but August was very wet. June was cloudier than usual, but no one noticed effects of weather on breeding birds in the Region.

There were reports of a number of less common breeding species worthy of close monitoring. Both Pied-billed Grebe and Least Bittern were reported from two local breeding stations. The rare and elusive Sedge Wren was back in Black Creek Marsh for the second consecutive year. Northern Harrier was reported from more than the usual number of places, as was Red-shouldered Hawk. Whip-poor-will and Worm-eating Warbler are both extremely local breeders in the southern part of the Region. This year they were found in some places where they have not been reported for a number of years. Purple Martin appears to have blinked out in one locality while popping up in another. Overall, the number of colonies in the Region probably is fewer than ten. Cliff Swallow established nice colonies at two sites. The grassland quartet of Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's, Grasshopper, and Vesper Sparrows seem to be stable over the past 5-10 years.

Continuing trends were apparent in a few species. Summering Osprey continue to increase and it is only a matter of time before they nest in the Region. Following the hacking programs, both Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle were reported widely; the falcons now breed at several sites. Common Raven is increasing, especially in RENS and COLU. Cuckoos, especially Yellow-billed, were scarce nearly everywhere.

Irruptive species from last winter were still making their mark. After the explosion of breeding in late spring, Pine Siskin largely disappeared, but Red-breasted Nuthatch stayed around to breed in many places where they do not usually nest. Stunningly, White-winged Crossbill was still around in June, but evidence of nesting was not found. Evening Grosbeak did nest in RENS, well south of its usual breeding range in the State.

There was little shorebird habitat and therefore few reports of these species on southward migration.

Field ornithology in this Region has suffered a setback with the departure of Scott Terrill, who has moved (back) to California. During

his nearly ten years here he made many important contributions, including several first Regional records. In compiling this report I was somewhat handicapped by not having available the reports from the Albany Dial-a-Bird and a couple of key observers in the Region.

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Abbreviations: BICrM - Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; SaraBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park, SARA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: bred Jabe Pd WARR, chick seen 16 Aug (LM, ER); four Thirteenth L WARR all season, no y seen (KPA); singles Jenny L SARA 30 Jun (RPY), Austerlitz 24-26 Jun (CB, MU) were in odd places. Pied-billed Grebe: pair Stony Creek Res SARA (SBT); one Carter L WASH (JS). Double-crested Cormorant: two Catskill 16 Jun, ten there 29 Aug (WC). Least Bittern: bred BICrM, downy y seen 5 Aug (BB, KB); Carter L all season (JS). Great Egret: 15 reports, first 28 Jul. **Cattle Egret**: one Ghent, Stuyvesant 10, 17 Jun (HG, RLH). Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Vischer Ferry 5 Aug (SBT). Wood Duck: female banded Vischer Ferry May, 1987, hit by car and released Colonie 9 Jul (RPY). Blue-winged Teal: one COLU 21-22 Jun (JC), odd date. Bufflehead: two females L George 14 Jun (LM), late. Hooded Merganser: six j Carter L 1 Jul (JS); female Thompson's L ALBA 2 Jun (KPA); one Cherry Plain 11 Jul, three on 26 Aug (PFC).

HAWK-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: one Medusa 30 Jun (BBu, BB, KB), first Regional record. Osprey: five Aug reports. Bald Eagle: two imm, one ad reported. N. Harrier: nested Mott Road SARA, Mahafy Road WASH (BP), Knox (KPA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine reports. Cooper's Hawk: eight reports. N. Goshawk: Thacher SP ALBA all season (BB, KB); singles Cherry Plain 1 Jul, Stephentown 26 Aug (PFC). Red-shouldered Hawk: bred Jenny L, one y fledged 29 Jul, the other two on 10 Aug (RPY); one SaraBNHP 5 Jun (EF); one, two Cherry Plain 11 Jul, 26 Aug (PFC). Peregrine Falcon: nest Whitehall fledged one y, two active sites L George unsuccessful (fide JMCP); three other reports of singles. N. Bobwhite: three reports Chatham (PI, A). Com. Moorhen: Carter L all season (JS). **Sandhill Crane**: one T Argyle 10 Jun, 20 Jul, 18 Aug (SH *fide* BP). Lesser Yellowlegs: 50 Cohoes 25 Jul, 90 on 28 Jul (SBT, KPA), large nos. Upland Sandpiper: six near Minaville 26 Jun (BB, KB). Ruddy Turnstone: one Cohoes 7 Aug. (SBT), rare locally. Sanderling: 12 Cohoes 7 Aug (SBT), large no. Bonaparte's Gull: ad Cohoes 25 Jul (SBT), odd date. Ring-billed Gull: many on L George (LM), Cohoes July-Aug; related to breeding failure farther north? Caspian Tern: singles New Baltimore 1,3 Jun (RPG). Forster's Tern: two New Baltimore 3 Jun (RPG), one Vischer Ferry 24 Aug (SBT) unusual dates. Black Tern: one Poolsburg COLU 22 Aug (PFC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: noted widely RENS (PFC),

few reports elsewhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only three reports. Barred Owl: more numerous than in recent years Jenny L (RPY). Com. Nighthawk: apparently breeding Troy (EF). Whip-poor-will: one Ancram 8 Jun (WC); heard Coeyman's Hollow and Alcove 2 Jul (BB, KB), very local. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Knox 7 Jun (KPA); pair carrying food Minaville 26 Jun (BB, KB); one SaraBNHP 31 Aug (BP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Purple Martin: many at Hague (LM); pair nested Fortsville Road SARA (BP); colony in Kinderhook inactive (AL); very local breeder in Region. Cliff Swallow: 35 nests Basic ALBA (BB,KB), 16 nests on boat house Silver Bay (BN fide LM). Blue Jay: scarce fourth consecutive year Jenny L (RPY). Com. Raven: three+ Cherry Plain all period (PFC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present and probably bred in many unusual areas, viz. L Taghkanic, Kinderhook, Schodack Center, Gallupville, Berne; scarce in Jun Jenny L, many July-Aug (RPY). Carolina Wren: one Vischer Ferry 28 Jul (SBT). **Sedge Wren:** male on territory BICrM (RT). Golden-crowned Kinglet: female gathering nesting material Jenny L 28, 29 Jul (RPY); not known to nest there. E. Bluebird: three broods fledged Livingston (WC). Swainson's Thrush: one Platte Cove BBS (GREE) 16 Jun (WC). Cedar Waxwing: many everywhere; explosion throughout COLU Aug (PI).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Tennessee Warbler: arr Schodack Center 20 Aug (PFC). Cape May Warbler: one male singing Cole Hill SF ALBA where bred last year 16 Jun (KPA). Worm-eating Warbler: two singing Coeyman's Hollow 3 Jun (BB,KB); very local breeder.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: breeding on fruit farm Kinderhook (AL). Savannah Sparrow: reported breeding three areas COLU. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from five localities: Ghent and Churchtown COLU (WC); Altamont (KPA); SaraBNHP (BP, EF); East Road WASH (BP). Henslow's Sparrow: usual breeding stations, Knox, SaraBNHP, Altamont. Dark-eyed Junco: for sixth consecutive year, not as common Jenny L as 1970-84. Some increase over nadir 1985-88. Purple Finch: at Jenny L scarce early, but deluged in Aug (RPY). House Finch: ad male Jenny L 24 Jun, first occurrence; bred Sacandaga Res (RPY). Red Crossbill: fly overs Jenny L 17 Jun, 17,18 Aug (RPY). **White-winged Crossbill:** 18 Knox 2 Jun (KPA); one+ Cole Hill SF 16 Jun (KPA), nesting likely but not proved. Pine Siskin: gone from Jenny L by 15 Jun (RPY); last at feeder Gansevoort 28 Jun (BP); one Chatham 12-24 Jul (JSi). Evening Grosbeak: bred Petersburg, male feeding imm 14 Jul, two imm 31 Aug-8 Sep (AR); male Cherry Plain 11 Jul (PFC).

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