

## REGION 9 - DELEWARE-HUDSON

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June began cold with some nights still in the 40s, then became hot with much rainfall, violent thunderstorms, hail and wind. July came in hot and humid and August followed with record breaking rainfall, as much as 10-15 inches in some areas. This all added up to a pretty wet summer with a bumper crop of mosquitoes. Vegetation was jungle-like in many areas and gardens and lawns flourished. In most cases it was a good growing season. A good crop of winter food seems evident and should see the birds through to spring. It will be interesting to see how many half-hardies remain and whether we will host the northern finches that have been conspicuous by their absence for the past few years. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a hard winter but the wooly bear caterpillars say it may be a mild one. We shall see!

Birds seem to have nested well and produced the usual crop of young. Eleanor Pink reports "the worst August report I have ever done and that's many over the years." However Alice Jones reports that on 7 Aug at her camp near Eldred "back yard area, particularly the apple tree and the bank was loaded with warblers," many around the pan of water put out for the deer and chipmunks. She enjoyed a good variety of warblers, plus tanagers, waxwings and sparrows, over 75 birds all feeding and trying to get at the water which was too deep for them to bathe in. A very interesting observation.

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Abbreviations: EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club

LOONS-DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorant: two 16 Jun (BW). Am Bittern: one Pugsley Hill 4 Aug, on bank over stream (TH). Great Blue Heron: 30 y in 11 nests Tamarack 12 Jun (FG), many wanderers throughout season. Great Egret: several DUTC, ULST, ORAN. Little Blue Heron: one 4 Aug Pleasant Valley (MVW). Green-backed Heron: good numbers, some nesting evidence DUTC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one 16 Jun (BW), two pair with five y WEST, one 28 Jun Cornwall Bay, two Iona Marsh 26 Jul (ET). Wood Duck: one with y L Walton 13 Jun (BM), six Humpo Marsh (SS), many with y WEST. Am. Black Duck: many with y DUTC. Hooded Merganser: several inspecting Wood Duck boxes Bashakill. Ruddy Duck: one Washingtonville Jun (JPT).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Heritage Hills 5 Jun; one Cruger I 25 Aug. Bald Eagle: imm 25 Somers Aug (SL); two imm, one ad Swinging Bridge Res all

season, to the delight of the many fishermen; imm Bashakill Jun, Jul. N. Harrier: one DUTC Jun; one Thompson Pd 22 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: still visiting some feeders DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: few DUTC. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Amenia 18 Jul; one Tivoli 25 Jul; successful nesting Otisville; at least two fledged ORAN-SULL line (JPT); one near Eldred 7 Aug (AJ). Broad-winged Hawk: five Heritage Hills 8 Aug, four Stissing 22 Aug; two y Vassar Farm 26-27 Jul; several others throughout Region. Am Kestrel: good numbers most areas. Peregrine Falcon: imm Warren Sod Farms 2 Jul (EMBC). N. Bobwhite: scattered reports DUTC. Upland Sandpiper: 11 Warren Sod Farms 27 Aug (EMBC). Am Woodcock: one on roadside L Hartwood 4 Jul (M&MT), one 16 Jun (BW), one ad two y Wiccopee 19 Jun. **Caspian Tern**: one flying up the Hudson R near Cruger I 25 Aug (PB), second record for DUTC (first same area 18 Jun 1961).

**PIGEON-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: well reported DUTC, virtually unreported ORAN, SULL, possibly lack of caterpillars (JPT), two WEST (BW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one WEST Jun; one Jul, one Aug DUTC. Com. Nighthawk: only one pair nesting on rooftop Middletown, 23 Somers 25 Aug; good migration flight 27-31 Aug. Chimney Swift: missing from traditional places WEST, good throughout DUTC, especially Pleasant Valley. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: well reported DUTC, excellent year SULL; picking tiny insects from melting fat Eldred (AJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one y near Swan L 8 Aug (VF), one drumming 8 Jul (BB), two Dover 27 Jul (DF). Pileated Woodpecker: two ad, one y Pawling 25 Aug.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one DUTC 29 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: three or four pairs ORAN, nesting Deep Hollow DUTC. Alder Flycatcher: one Galesville Airport 14 Jul (SS); one Buttercup Sanctuary 5 Jun (FG). Willow Flycatcher: breeding well in DUTC. E. Kingbird: nest with large y 13 Aug (MVW). late nesting. Horned Lark: one Hunter Rd SULL 6 Jun (JW). Purple Martin: nested in two or three small colonies DUTC. Com. Raven: one recently fledged y being harassed by N. Oriole, flew to large pine only to be attacked by kingbirds, Claryville 17 Jun; has stayed in this area for the past five summers, probably two breeding pairs (JW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: many stayed through the summer feeding on suet and sunflower seeds; two ad two y near Ellenville (VF). Winter Wren: scattered reports throughout region. Marsh Wren: one e DUTC 21 Jul (BB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Pawling Nature Reserve 27 Aug (PB). E. Bluebird: continues widespread success. Hermit Thrush: heard singing few places DUTC. Cedar Waxwing: enjoyed excellent breeding season most areas. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one transited Campbell Hall ORAN 31 Aug (JPT), one day only.

**VIREOS-WARBLES**: White-eyed Vireo: one Dover area 16 Jun; one Vassar Farm 26-27 Jul. Solitary Vireo: usual places central and e DUTC. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" in bird bath 7 Jul (MVW), one Moonbeam Conservancy 20 Jun, one Jun (BW), two Bashakill. Golden-winged Warbler: one Buttercup Sanctuary 5 Jun. Yellow-rumped Warbler: observed Balsam L Mt 7 Jul (EMBC). Cerulean Warbler: one in song Dunderburg Mt ROCK-ORAN border 26 Jul (ET). Worm-eating Warbler: one Turkey Hollow DUTC 27 Jun;

two Dunderburg Mt 26 Jul; two Mine Rd 1 Aug (ET). Kentucky Warbler: one singing Doodletown Rd 10 Jun (ET); one flitting around a water pan Eldred (AJ), four Westmoreland Sanctuary, Bedford 16-17 Jun (BW), new site. Hooded Warbler: marked increase this year, six Doodletown Rd 10 Jun, four or five there 29 Jul (ET), pair carrying food to nest site Dover DUTC 17 Jun (MVW), ad male Nellie Hill DUTC 29 Jul (BB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: none! Savannah Sparrow: in most farm areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: very common in suitable habitat SULL, ORAN, one or two Shunpike DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: not possible to check the colony at Galesville Airfield due to increased use of controlled area. Swamp Sparrow: good most areas. Bobolink: holding its own. Purple Finch: pairs feeding y. Pine Siskin: scattered reports at feeders.

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