

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June was hot and sunny with very little precipitation. Flowers and plants, following the trend set by warm weather early in May, were two weeks ahead of schedule. Once again we broke the record for high temperatures. July was the hottest on record, with many days above 90° and three consecutive days when it reached the 100° mark. A bit of rain at the end of the month brought some relief. Katydid, following the same trend, began to sing on 18 Jul. August brought more relief, with up to five inches of rain and cooler days. Precipitation was below normal for the period in spite of a wetter than average August.

Even with the hot dry summer the fruit and berry crop seemed to be in good supply. Getting an early start may have helped. Corn that was planted early was well above "knee high by the 4th of July," but corn planted late suffered a setback and did not grow much. Acorns and nuts seem in good supply for turkeys, deer and squirrels. Wild grape and wild cherry did well. Dogwood, viburnum, bittersweet, Poison Ivy as well as Multiflora Rose are abundant and should see the birds through the winter. There are also an abundance of weed seeds for sparrows, finches and visiting Snow Bunting.

Birds, as usual, had a busy summer feeding their quickly growing young. A Purple Martin colony near New Paltz reported to have a maximum of 30 pairs lost most of the young to a Great Horned Owl. Carolina Wren seems to have exploded all over the Region, and many nests and young were reported. Bluebirds again did well. Early fall migration was dull except for a good Common Nighthawk flight. Some good birds were found at Marshlands and elsewhere in the Rye area.

I want to thank all of the contributors who have worked with me these past years. The new Region 9 editor, effective the next report, will be **Mr. John Askildsen, 202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506.**

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Abbreviations: JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; MSBC - Marshlands Summer Bird Count 16 Jun; WBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one Fallkill P 9-17 Jun. Double-crested

Cormorant: few along Hudson R Jul-Aug. Am. Bittern: one calling Stissing Jul, only report. Least Bittern: one MSBC. Great Blue Heron: six known heroneries in DUTC all produced many young. Great Egret: 90 MSBC; one-two DUTC throughout Jul and Aug, max nine West Branch Res due to low water level (FB), two Bashakill 23 Jul, three together 20 Jul, five Washington L 25 Jul (ET). . Snowy Egret: 100 MSBC. Little Blue Heron: one Marshlands 28 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad flying down Hudson R past Conn's Hook 9 Jul (ET), imm feeding on mat of Water Chestnuts Cornwall Bay 23 Aug (ET). Glossy Ibis: three MSBC. Brant: seven off Rye MSBC. Wood Duck: seems to be doing well, max 30 Dieterich L Aug (HM). Am. Black Duck: reported from several areas DUTC. Gadwall: one off Rye MSBC. Greater Scaup: six MSBC; four Playland 13 Jul. White-winged Scoter: one Playland 6-13 Jul. Bufflehead: five MSBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** two Warwarsing 22 Jun (JO), two Ellenville 17 Aug (KMcD), one Phillipstown dump 11 Jul-31 Aug. Osprey: four sightings DUTC Jun, two regularly Bloomingburg SULL through mid Jun. Bald Eagle: two of four pair nested SULL, success unknown. N. Harrier: two Waterbury Hill Jun (BB HM); one Marshlands 19 Jul; one Haight Hill 22 Aug (MNW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one hunted three-four times a week Hartwood Club SULL mid Jul, few DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: nested Bangall Road DUTC; imm Doodletown Road 29 Aug (ET). N. Goshawk: pair with two y Mianus Gorge. Red-shouldered Hawk: heard and seen Liberty Jun (VF); three y fledged from nest (JMK), two fledged from nest L Walton DUTC. Broad-winged Hawk: two y at Shunpike (FG). Am. Kestrel: max 20 at two Sod Farms ORAN, ten in one dead tree Pine I (ET). Ruffed Grouse: ad with five y n DUTC. Wild Turkey: many with y DUTC, SULL, max three hens with 31 y 29 Aug (AJ). Clapper Rail: nine MSBC. Virginia Rail: one calling at noon with 98° temperature Iona Marsh 20 Jul (ET). Sora: one Iona Marsh 13 Jul, one Cruger I 20 Jul, three Marshlands 31 Aug, one Stissing 17 Aug. Com. Moorhen: pair with seven y late Jul through Aug walking and feeding on mat of Water Chestnut Dieterich L, Millbrook (HM); Marshlands 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: six MSBC. Solitary Sandpiper: Marshlands 15-16 Jun. Willet: one Marshlands 30 Jun. Upland Sandpiper: three Warren Sod Farm 3 Aug. (ET). Least Sandpiper: two imm Conn's Hook 24 Aug. W. Sandpiper: several Marshlands 19-20 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: max four Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one Marshlands 18 Jul, few Aug. Am. Woodcock: one ad, two y Cary Arboretum, seldom seen in summer; few others all in Jun. Laughing Gull: arr ad Conn's Hook 2 Aug (ET), right on time. Herring Gull: first juv arr Conn's Hook 22 Jul (ET). Com Tern: 99 MSBC; ten Rye coast frequently. Least Tern: ten Rye coast.

PIGEON-WOODPECKER: Black-billed Cuckoo: noticeably low throughout Region. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: ad Beaverkill Campground 15 Jun (VF), one heard and seen mid Jun and 31 Jul (FG). E. Screech-Owl: three answered call, downy FL seen, Doodletown Road 18 Aug (ET). Great Horned Owl: a few noted but no nests. Barred Owl: calling nightly Jul, Aug (JMK), one Val Kill 10 Jun (DH), two MSBC. Com. Nighthawk: number of good flights 20-28 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Dover Plains 1 Jun, four still calling sporadically Eldred 10 Jul (AJ). Chimney Swift: max 75

Millbrook 20-21 Aug (FG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: higher than usual numbers, more people putting out feeders. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Val Kill 7 Jun (DH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided flycatcher: arr Warwarsing 12 Aug. (JO), Pond Gut 25 Aug (HM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Stony Kill 11 Aug (SK), singing Rye Nature Center 18 Aug, one Canoe Hill 24 Aug and one Pond Gut 27 Aug (EP, MVW). Acadian Flycatcher: 14 in five locations MSBC. Purple Martin: at least four pair nested Milewood Road, ten noted 29 Jul, some y (HM); *intro*. N. Rough-winged Swallow: noted in single pairs around many bridges DUTC. Cliff Swallows: max 50 around bridge Skinner Falls 7 Jun, nesting well in SULL; two feeding over Nellie Hill 21 Jun; max 25 with Tree Swallow Millerton, one noted feeding y; no nesting evidence DUTC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers most areas. Brown Creeper: few noted. Winter Wren: reported from Deep Hollow and Pond Gut, where they are known to breed. Marsh Wren: four noted from large marsh Route 199 n DUTC Jul; probably more around then noted, needs more coverage. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five Kensico Res and Meyer Res MSBC. Swainson's Thrush: one 30 Aug (MVW); also at Hartwood Club SULL.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one or two reported from Vassar Farm, Nellie Hill and Haight Hill through the period. Solitary Vireo: three Eldred 19 Jul (AJ), three DUTC mid Jul, one Dennings Road ULST 20 Jul, two Mianus River Gorge MSBC. Tennessee Warbler: arr 26 Aug. (BM); one Doodletown 29 Aug (ET). N. Parula: one L Walton 26-27 Aug (BM), one 29 Aug (ET). Magnolia Warbler: male FY Beaverkill 16 Jun (VF); arr 14 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr 21 Aug (MVW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Brace Mt 28 Jul. (BB), one Dennings Road ULST 20 Jul. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two pair nesting Hartwood Club early summer, singing Liberty 25-26 Jun, feeding on the ground in yard near Eldred 19-31 Jul (AJ). Blackburnian Warbler: arr Canoe Hill 21 Aug (MVW). Pine Warbler: two singing near Eldred 19-31 Jul (AJ); 19 MSBC. Blackpoll Warbler: two Eldred 31 Jul (AJ); one Verbank 8 Jun (BB); one Balsam L Mt 29 Jun (JBNHS), one Rye MSBC. Cerulean Warbler: pair Doodletown 18 Aug (ET), rarely seen after Jun. Worm-eating Warbler: one Stony Kill 8 Aug (SK), one Pawling 3 Jul, one Nellie Hill DUTC 28 Jul. N. Waterthrush: one Val Kill 24 Jul (WBC), one Balsam L Mt 29 Jul (JBNHS). Kentucky Warbler: three MSBC. Hooded Warbler: max 12 Doodletown Road Jul, ten still there 18 Aug (ET); three fledged from nest of four eggs Lake Ellis Road, Dover Plains; pair observed West Clove Mt Road DUTC through Jun; ten MSBC. Wilson's Warbler: arr Marshlands 18 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Wiccopee 21-23 Jun (KMCD-JMK).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Field Sparrow: frequently reported from open farm areas. Vesper Sparrow: two near Eldred 19 Jul (AJ), one Bulls Head Road 3 & 21 Jun, only DUTC report. Savannah Sparrow: few reported DUTC., observed Blue Chip Farm 15 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: still found Blue Chip Farm ULST, none DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: ten MSBC. Seaside Sparrow: one MSBC. Swamp Sparrow: max five 25 Jul Marshall Farm Verbank (HM). Dark-eyed Junco: three Bog Hollow DUTC Jun, five pair nested Hartwood Club early summer, observed Balsam L Mt and Denning Road ULST 20 Jul. Bobolink: several y with flock

Waterbury Hill, where they breed. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: female Marshlands 23 Aug. Orchard Oriole: 28 MSBC. N Oriole: ad with two y mid Aug, still singing at end of month. Purple Finch: pair with y 10 Jul, reported from several areas DUTC. Am. Goldfinch: max 100 all over field and road feeding Waterbury Hill (HM), feeding y Aug.

Late spring report: **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: ad Jefferson Valley 21 May (Teresa Calamari, George Thompkins), at pond edge with Red-winged Blackbird.

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