

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June's weather was placid for the most part. There were only two bouts of localized, intense thunderstorms in the northern tier of the Region, on 9 and 21 Jun. In fact, the Hudson valley was experiencing drought conditions with only 85% of the month's average rainfall reported. The high was 92°F on 19 Jun in WEST. July began oppressively hot and muggy. This uncomfortable air mass reached its apex on the annoyance meter on 10 and 11 Jul, when the Poughkeepsie Airport reported 100°F and high humidity. The lack of rain continued, creating a severe drought conditions, through August with only 71% of the average rainfall reported at the latter month's end. A Bermuda high once again stalled over the Region bringing back temperatures in the high nineties from 25 to 28 Aug. There were no effects from Hurricane Emily, which hit the western region of Long Island Sound.

A pair of Common Raven continued at the Harriman SP sanitary landfill through at least mid July. Common Raven is pushing further south and east with every breeding season. They are now nesting near the Hudson River in ULST and are at least resident in PUTN along the Hudson on Breakneck Ridge. The **Black Vulture** pair reported last season at the landfill did not linger past early June. There were a good

number of reports for the species from the Region though. One location that continues to be frequented by these birds is the area of the Mohonk preserve and Minnewaska SP in Ulst.

The Bashakill Marsh Osprey pair fledged three young. Several single Osprey were reported from SULL as well, perhaps searching for additional nesting sites. The Bald Eagle fledgling rate was down almost 50% from last year in SULL, and only five young were produced compared to nine last year. A Hooded Merganser pair fledged young at Ashokan Reservoir. Seldon Spencer reports that a pair of Kentucky Warbler summered in ULST, apparently without nesting success. Several Henslow's Sparrow were reported from a once more popular haunt for that species, the Galeville Airport in ULST. Unfortunately for the sparrows, this site continues to be used for flying radio controlled airplanes.

The Greenwich-Stamford Summer bird count was conducted on 12 Jun. This count includes the eastern half of WEST as well as its namesake towns in Connecticut. The count was quite productive, yielding many species that were either on the southern fringe of their breeding range or are out of season, including Snow Goose, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Northern Goshawk, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, a variety of warbler species, and a first seasonal report of a **Summer Tanager** for WEST and perhaps the entire Region. Unseasonal records also were obtained for Brant. Valerie Freer reported two species normally found in the Adirondacks but seldom in the Catskills. A Common Loon was present on a SULL lake through late August. During the early part of the summer the bird was seen displaying and heard calling. A Northern Saw-whet Owl that was heard calling every night for almost two months in SULL through in early July; there are several records for this species breeding in the Region.

The last of the spring shorebirds departed from the Marshlands Conservancy in WEST by 10 Jun. The first south bound shorebirds were noted by 20 Jun at the same location. The Marshlands Conservancy was host to a number of shorebird species that are regular only there in the entire Region. Lesser Golden-Plover, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Upland, Western, White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers were all notable finds. American Oystercatcher is becoming more conspicuous in the Long Island Sound area of Region 9, and probably will be added to the Region's list of breeding birds soon. Also at the Marshlands Conservancy

during the period were Least Bittern, Glossy Ibis, Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Forster's Tern. Quite a productive birding location!

Many people enjoy summer birding for the local breeding birds, as summer is by many considered a slow time for vagrant species. Not so this summer! An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported from the town of Chester ORAN. The host family reported the bird to the local Audubon chapter, but requested limited visitation by birders, due to a severe illness in the family. Fortunately, John Tramontano, a transplanted birder from California was able to see the bird and also rule out Allen's Hummingbird. There is still no accepted record for New York State. There were two new Regional records as well: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** and **Gull-billed Tern**. A **Red-necked Phalarope** provided a rare but not unprecedented Regional record, and a **Black Skimmer** also was found. **Great Cormorant** has become a bird for all seasons in the Hudson Valley. Richard Guthrie observed an individual from an Amtrack train in Peekskill on 19 Aug! This is the same area where high numbers were observed last winter.

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Abbreviations: DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** *intro.* **Pied-billed Grebe:** breeding reports from SULL. **GREAT CORMORANT:** *intro.* **Least Bittern:** two MC 19 Jun. **Little Blue Heron:** imm MC late Aug. **Tricolored Heron:** one MC 6 Aug; several ORAN during Aug (JPT). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** at least one MC all season. **Glossy Ibis:** singles MC all season. **Snow Goose:** one overhead SUNY-Purchase 12 Jun (RF). **Brant:** five MC 5 Jun. **Green-winged Teal:** arr MC 29 Jul. **Mallard:** hen with downy y ORAN 9 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one DUTC 4 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** arr MC 1 Jul. **N. Shoveler:** one MC 12 Jun. **Gadwall:** pair MC through 21 Jun. **Am. Wigeon:** one MC 12 Jun. **Greater Scaup:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Lesser Scaup:** one EGR 12 Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Bufflehead:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Hooded Merganser:** *intro.* **Com. Merganser:** ad, six y SULL 10 Jun; 50 Delaware R near Hankins 28 Jul.

BLACK VULTURE: *intro.* **Osprey:** *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** *intro.*; fourth year bird frequented Hudson R from Iona to West Point in June. **N. Harrier:**

one Galeville Airport ULST 30 Jul (JB). **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: two reports of imm and ads together SULL early Jul, 15 Aug (JPA, AG), no doubt nesters. **N. Goshawk**: two pair nested in n WEST. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: surprisingly, numerous reports including nest with y, all DUTC. **N. Bobwhite**: two MC through Jun, rare there. **Sora**: max two MC all season. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: arr MC 16 Aug (TWB), another there 28 Aug. **Am. Oystercatcher**: four MC 1 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr WEST 4 Jul. **Willet**: two MC 31 Jul, where uncommon but expected visitor. **Upland Sandpiper**: one MC 31 Jul, rare there; 48 ORAN sod farms 31 Jul. **W. Sandpiper**: arr two MC 26 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MC 31 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MC 13-18 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: last MC 2 Jun; arr MC 3 Jul. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**: one MC 16 Aug (TWB, J&E Caspers). **Laughing Gull**: arr post-breeding ad Hudson R ORAN 20 Jul (EDT). **GULL-BILLED TERN**: one MC 26 Jul (TWB). **Forster's Tern**: arr six MC 6 Aug. **Black Skimmer**: one MC 3 Jul (TWB).

N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 30 EGR end of Aug; 20 at one site in DUTC. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: *intro* (JPT!, NYSARC). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Blue Chip Farms ULST entire period. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: ad with y Cape Pd SULL.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr DUTC 22 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: two reports SULL 25 and 28 Aug (VF). **Alder Flycatcher**: several reports from DUTC, none from WEST. **Acadian Flycatcher**: several Arden Valley Road, Harriman SP. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: ad Storm King Arts Center ORAN 21 Aug (Marc & Harold Schelemer, *fide* Berna Lincoln). **Purple Martin**: low numbers at Rye colony. **Fish Crow**: one DUTC 16 Jun. **Com. Raven**: *intro*. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: five Kensico WEST 12 Jun (S&BL).

Golden-winged Warbler: good breeding year, higher numbers reported. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Lawrence's type n WEST 13 Jun (AG). **N. Parula**: one DTR 13 Jun (RJK). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one s WEST 13 Jun. **Cape May Warbler**: arr DUTC 29 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ad FY Cape Pd SULL 25 Jun (VF). **Blackburnian Warbler**: one Arden Valley Road Harriman SP (JPA, AG). **Cerulean Warbler**: one n WEST 13 Jun (RJK, JPA, AG), rare there; healthy numbers w side of Hudson R. **Worm-eating Warbler**: numbers up from last year. **N. Waterthrush**: one n WEST 13 Jun. **Kentucky Warbler**: several n WEST until mid Aug (JPA); *intro*. **Mourning Warbler**: arr DUTC 28 Aug (OTW). **Hooded Warbler**: 15 DTR 13 Jun (RJK). **Wilson's Warbler**: arr male SULL 24 Aug (VF). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: two MC during Jun.

SUMMER TANAGER: first-year male Halle Ravine Preserve T Pound Ridge WEST 12 Jun (TWB). **Savannah Sparrow:** present at Galeville Airport and nearby Blue Chip Farms ULST. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** present at Galeville Airport ULST (JB). **Henslow's Sparrow:** several heard at Galeville Airport ULST (JB), *intro*. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** six MC 29 Aug. **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC during Jun. **Bobolink:** barely holding on as breeder in WEST. **E. Meadowlark:** low numbers present in WEST. **Orchard Oriole:** many reports throughout Region. **Pine Siskin:** one at feeder in SULL 24-25 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak:** nine at two DUTC locations early Aug (Bob Bowler, Pat Green).

Exotics: Chiloe Wigeon: one MC 4-6 Jun (TWB).

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