

REGION 8 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June's weather, as reported from the Albany Co. Airport, was warmer and slightly dryer than usual. The average temperature of 68.9°F was 2° higher than normal. The month began cool, but from 13 through 19 Jun mean temperatures were from 7 to 15° above normal, with the highest temperature reading of 95°F on 18 Jun. Sunshine averaged 60%, 5% greater than normal. Precipitation of 3.26 inches was 0.36 inches below normal, most occurring between 12 and 14 Jun. July was a hot, wet month, with the temperature averaging 74°F, 2.2° above normal. Twenty-one days had means above normal. Sunshine averaged 67%, 4% greater than normal. Precipitation totaled 4.25 inches, 1.26 inches above normal. Rain fell on 20 different days, with seven thunderstorms. A destructive storm occurred on 26 Jul brought major wind damage to SARA. By contrast, August was significantly cooler. The temperature averaged 67.1°F, 2.5° below normal. There were no 90° readings, and seven nights when temperatures dipped into the 40's. The average high was over 4° cooler than normal. Precipitation totaled 4.13 inches, 0.66 inches above normal. It was a generally cloudy month, with sunshine averaging 55%, 5% below normal. There were only two days that were completely clear.

Reports indicate a generally good breeding season. Species which

suffer from Raccoon nest predation, such as Mallard and Wild Turkey, fared well because of the significant Raccoon population decline caused by the raccoon rabies epidemic. The mid June heat wave did cause some nesting failures. Robert Yunick reported finding previously banded young Tree Swallow dead in nest boxes. Bald Eagle was well represented, with three nesting pairs present for the third year in a row. A pair in SCHO fledged one young, the COLU pair laid eggs which did not hatch, and the ALBA pair built a nest but laid no eggs. In addition, many eagle sightings, mainly of immature birds, were reported along the Hudson River. Eastern Bluebird nestings were significantly down from last year, probably due to last year's decline in nestling survival because of cool weather. At Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, there were only two nesting pairs, as compared with six pairs last year.

On 31 July, Laurie Freeman spotted approximately twenty American Kestrel eating grasshoppers at the capped Town of Mayfield landfill, FULT. They were using vent pipes as perches, two birds on each pipe. Judging by the amount of droppings on the pipes, the Kestrels had been frequenting the area for some time. Unfortunately, the field was mowed about one week later, and the birds dispersed.

Grassland bird populations at the Saratoga Battlefield were monitored intensively for the first time by Rachel Mazur, a graduate student at SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry at Syracuse. Her most exciting finding was 14 singing Henslow's Sparrow, with 13 confirmed pairs. No detailed information about nesting success was available at the time of writing.

Robert Yunick's long-term monitoring of bird populations at Jenny Lake, SARA, included the following observations. Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present in good numbers, with 25 individuals banded during the period. It was a record year for Tree Swallow; 365 individuals was banded during June and July. Blue Jay remained scarce; none was banded during the period as compared with 8-15 in previous years. Both Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were down from last year's irruptions. Chipping Sparrow was virtually absent; none was banded after two previous years of low numbers. Dark-eyed Junco was present in low numbers after its apparent disappearance as a breeder in 1993; apparently two broods fledged this season. Purple Finch continued its noticeable decline, "the worst showing of this species in 25 years of banding," and only 52 individuals were banded from June through August. Evening Grosbeak bred for the sixth consecutive year.

Although water levels were high at Vischer Ferry and Tomhannock Reservoir, there were many shorebird reports from other areas during migration, principally the Saratoga Sod Farm, Simmons Island, and Myosotis Lake. A total of 22 species of shorebirds was observed during the period, the most noteworthy being American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

175 species were reported during the period.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Brown; Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Donald Cooper; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Bill Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason (AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; J. M. C Peterson; Barb Putnam; Elton Rising; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; ML - Myosotis Lake, ALBA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SSF - Saratoga Sod Farm, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** bred Jabe Pd WARR, two chicks seen 13 Jul-8 Aug, one chick after 30 Aug (LM, ER); three imm L George 17 Jul (WB, JG); two second-year BCRes 23 Jul (WE, NM); four reports of singles throughout Region. **Pied-billed Grebe:** bred BCRes, three ad, one juv seen 23 Jul (WE), only report. **Double-crested Cormorant:** five reports, max 75 Mohawk R SARA 11 Aug (W. Sabin to BEN). **Least Bittern:** ad VFNP after 6 Aug (WE, NM), three on 25 Aug. **Great Egret:** six reports, first 14 Jul. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Mohawk R Halfmoon 27 Aug (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Teal:** four ML 27 Aug (WE, NM) only report. **White-winged Scoter:** one Ft Miller 23 Jun (BP), late. **Bufflehead:** female Clifton P 6 Aug (RB, WE, NM). **Hooded Merganser:** female, six y Goeffroy's Pd COLU 20 Jun (BC); female, two y Duanesburg 8 Jul (DC); female Middle Flow WARR 10 Aug (PC).

Osprey: active nest Beaver Pd WARR unsuccessful (*fide* JMCP); one Jabe Pd WARR 29 Jul (LM, ER); six August reports. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* N. **Harrier:** eight reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** four reports. **Cooper's Hawk:** five reports. **N. Goshawk:** bred Battenville, three y fledged (RR *fide* JS); one Stephentown Center 11 Jul (PC); one VFNP 6 Aug (WE,

NLM, mob). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: frequent Cherry Plain SP area RENS Jun-Jul (PC); one Route 197 at Route 32 SARA 11 Aug (BP); one NRP 23 Aug (WE). **Broad-winged Hawk**: bred Schodack RENS, one or more y fledged (PC); bred Broadalbin, one y fledged (LF); bred Meco FULT, two y fledged (LF); four other reports. **Am. Kestrel**: *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon**: nest Whitehall WASH fledged two y; two nests L George WARR each fledged one y (fide JMCP); two other reports of singles. **Com. Moorhen**: ad, eight y VFNP 31 Jul (WE, NM); one Duanesburg 8 Jul (DC). **Black-bellied Plover**: one SSF 19 Aug (RB, JG). **Am. Golden-Plover**: 19 ad SSF 17 Aug (RB, JG), max 21 on 18 Aug, four remaining 31 Aug (BP). **Semipalmated Plover**: arr five ML 23 Jul (WE); max 27 ML 27 Aug (WE). **Killdeer**: max 220 SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr three ML 23 Jul (WE). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr one ML 23 Jul (WE); max 30 SI 24 Jul (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Gansevoort 13 Jul (BP); max 23 ML 14 Aug (WE). **Upland Sandpiper**: ten ad, four y FtE 8 Jun (BP). **Ruddy Turnstone**: three ad SI 28 Jul (WE, NM). **Red Knot**: two ad SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Sanderling**: six ad SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr five ML 23 Jul (WE); max 24 ML 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Least Sandpiper**: arr eight ML 23 Jul, max 31 on 14 Aug (WE, NM); eight SSF 18 Aug (RB, JG). **Baird's Sandpiper**: one SSF 19 Aug (RB, JG); four ML 20 Aug (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr four SI 24 Jul (WE); max seven ML 7 Aug (WE, NM). **Dunlin**: one SI 10 Aug (BEN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: two ad SI 24 Jul (WE). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one SSF 18-31 Aug (WE, JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: seven ad ML 23 Jul; ad SI 24 Jul; two ad SI 28 Jul (WE, NM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: ad SI 3 Aug (WE, NM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: ten reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one BCWMA 14 Jun (DC); one Castleton I SP 24 Jul (R. Guthrie to BEN); one S. Rensselaer 1 Aug (ADBC). **Barred Owl**: four reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Troy 5 Jun (BEN); one Albany 12 Jun (BEN); six Westmere 12 Aug (WE); seven Saratoga Sp. 17 Aug (JG); 60 Albany 18 Aug (WE, NM); twenty VFNP 24 Aug (R. Guthrie to BEN); nine Gloversville 25 Aug (BEN); 100 Albany 26 Aug (FM). **Whip-poor-will**: two Greenwich 6 Jun (BEN); three Tower Road SARA 12 Jun (JG); one Hague WARR 16-20 Jun (LM); one Warrensburg 18 Jun (BP). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: imm NRP 23 Aug (WE), only report.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Lens L WARR 14 Jul (PC); one ML 20 Aug (WE, NM); one NRP 23 Aug (WE); imm NRP 26 Aug (WE). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: four Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); four Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM). **Tree Swallow**: *intro*. **Cliff Swallow**: two ad N Blenheim SCHO 10 Jul (DC) nest with y?; two SSF 13 Aug (WE, NM); one

NRP 17 Aug (WE). **Fish Crow**: four reports. **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region. **Carolina Wren**: one Schoharie 7 Jun (DC); one NRP 1 Aug (WE); at least two singing throughout period Delmar (RB) only reports. **Winter Wren**: one Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); five Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM); one SSSP 13 Jun (JG); one Plattekill BBS GREE (R. Guthrie to BEN); one Eminence SCHO 20 Jun (DC); one Powell Sanctuary COLU 25 Jun (ADBC). **E. Bluebird**: *intro.* (**Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush**: four Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); eight Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM). **Swainson's Thrush**: three Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); six Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM); one singing Lens L WARR 14 Jul (PC); one singing Taborton RENS 17 Jul (PC). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 200 BCRES 26 Jul (BEN).

Yellow-throated Vireo: three VFNP 31 Jul (WE, NM). **Tennessee Warbler**: one Ann Lee Pd ALBA 31 Aug (D. Beeler to BEN). **Nashville Warbler**: ad Karner Dunes ALBA 31 Jul (WE). **Prairie Warbler**: five reports Jun-Jul; continuing colony Tower Road SARA. **Cerulean Warbler**: one Bouck Road SCHO 10 Jun (DC); one Spier Falls Road SARA 11 Jun (RB, JG). **Mourning Warbler**: one singing Spier Falls Road SARA 1 Jun (JG); one Gilboa Res SCHO 12 Jun (BEN); one Plattekill BBS GREE 18 Jun (R. Guthrie to BEN); one singing Eminence SCHO 18 Jun (DC); ad female feeding FL Stephentown Center 5 Jul (PC). **Wilson's Warbler**: one Chatham 23 Aug (ADBC); one NRP 23 Aug (WE). **Canada Warbler**: one N. Blenheim SCHO 4 Jun (DC); one Chatham 2 Aug (ADBC); one NRP 23 Aug (WE).

Vesper Sparrow: two FtE 26 Jun (BL); one Westerlo 23 Jul (WE), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one Blackhouse Road WASH 11 Jun (RB, JG); three FtE 19 Jun (BP); one Argyle 19 Jun (BP). **Henslow's Sparrow**: *intro.* **Dark-eyed Junco**: *intro.* **Orchard Oriole**: one Loudonville 29 Jul (C. Lamere to BEN). **Purple Finch**: *intro.* **Pine Siskin**: no reports. **Evening Grosbeak**: pair Taborton RENS 3 Jul, two on 26 Jul (PC); one Stephentown Center 6 Aug (PC); bred JL (RY).

Erratum: Peebles I SP, which has previously been assigned to ALBA, is actually in SARA.

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