

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center located at Cornell University, the Hudson Valley's summer weather patterns were, in a word, "blah." There were no major storm systems, no floods, no real heat waves or even chilly temperatures. The thermometer had reached 95°F by 19 Jun, which was bit early in the season. However, temperatures barely could get above 90°F during the rest of the season. August's temperatures were below normal. Precipitation was plentiful. By August, the New York City Reservoir System was 6.3% above normal. In fact, it was the fifth wettest August in 100 years. Overall from a meteorological perspective, one really had nothing to complain about this summer in the Hudson Valley.

As always, the summer reports include a fine mixture new or rare breeding species records and rare non-breeding migrants. Summer bird counts, provide excellent data on the status of local breeding birds. The information accumulated over the years can be invaluable. Knowing this, PUTN birders began one this year using the Putnam CBC circle as the count area. It was a smashing success! Not only were three new breeding species found for the county, but one of them was a successful breeding pair of *Peregrine Falcon* in a natural nest site! Eventually, four young birds fledged. Two other summer bird censuses are conducted in the Region. The Greenwich-Stamford Count, which incorporates the eastern half of WEST, and the Silloway Count which covers Bear Mtn and Harriman SP in ORAN and ROCK.

Of the other nesting species reported, certainly the highlight had to have been the successful breeding pair of *American Oystercatcher* found 12 Jun, which fledged young at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, WEST. This is a first breeding record for WEST, Region 9 and mainland New York. The same sanctuary also was host to breeding Wild Turkey, making quite a combination in Rye's very suburban setting. The previously mentioned breeding Peregrine Falcon took first place as the "find" of the season in PUTN. Not far behind, the R. T. Waterman Bird Club reports finding two different, successful nests of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker also in PUTN, which may represent a new southerly range extension outside of the Catskills. A fine mix of warbler species, totaling 28 in all, were reported from the Region this summer. The Catskills held many of the more typically northern breeders, while the Hudson Valley contributed good numbers of Cerulean, Kentucky, and Hooded

Warblers. Reduced numbers of Golden-winged Warbler were reported this summer in the historical locations. However, they were also reported several new sites. Northern Harrier was found breeding in the ORAN turf farm area by Scott Angus. Scott watched the adults raise the young until the point of fledging. This species was not confirmed as breeding in the Region during the breeding bird atlas field work of the 1980's.

In addition to finding breeding species, one may also locate migrants and out of season rarities. Of the migrants, 27 species of shorebirds were reported, unquestionably the highlight being the *Marbled Godwit* that made an all too brief appearance. Three *Black Vulture* reports are almost expected these days. A thunderstorm which plowed through the Region on 22 Aug deposited impressive numbers of shorebirds at the Pine Island Turf Nursery in ORAN. Scott Angus counted 24 American Golden-Plover, 14 Black-bellied Plover, 15 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 20 Pectoral Sandpiper, four Baird's Sandpiper, 27 Semipalmated Plover, ten Least Sandpiper, two Solitary Sandpiper, one Lesser Yellowlegs and over 100 Upland Sandpiper!

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Abbreviations: DTR - Doodletown Road, n ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye, WEST; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST; G-SSBC - Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count 12 Jun; PutnSBC - Putnam County Summer Bird Count, latter half of Jun.

Summer Records: **Least Bittern:** three PutnSBC. **Am. Bittern:** two near Hudson R DUTC in Aug, no date. **Little Blue Heron:** one MC 6 Aug. **Cattle Egret:** one Hudson R ORAN 7 Jun (EDT). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC early June. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC for one day mid Jun. **Blue-winged Teal:** MC 19 Jun. **Canvasback:** one MC 12 Jun. **Oldsquaw:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Bufflehead:** two Rye 12 Jun. **Com. Goldeneye:** one Rye 19 Jun. **Hooded Merganser:** one DUTC 9 Jun. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one Rye 12 Jun.

Black Vulture: one SULL 4 Jun (Phyllis Jones); two Silloway Count 12 Jun. **Osprey:** two along Hudson R PutnSBC. **Bald Eagle:** one ad, one imm PutnSBC. **N. Harrier:** *intro*. **N. Goshawk:** 21 individuals, including four nests, reported. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro* (Steve Golladay). **Wild Turkey:** *intro*. **N. Bobwhite:** one MC 19 Aug. **Clapper Rail:** one MC all season. **Virginia Rail:** one MC all season. **Com. Moorhen:** up to three Dieterich L DUTC all season. **Black-bellied Plover:** 21 MC 18 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** 60 ORAN 27 Aug (EDT); *intro*. **Am. Oystercatcher:** *intro*.

Willet: Rye 12 Jun, early. **Upland Sandpiper:** four ULST 6 Jul likely breeders; *intro.* **Whimbrel:** one MC 28 Jul (TWB). **Marbled Godwit:** two imm MC 19 Aug (LB, TB). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 15 MC 2 Jun; one at Turf farm, ORAN 27 Aug (EDT). **Baird's Sandpiper:** ad EGR 14-15 Aug (AG, JPA); two imm MC 19-20 Aug (LB, JPA); *intro.* **Pectoral Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Stilt Sandpiper:** one 2-18 Aug MC. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Wilson's Phalarope:** imm MC 16 Aug (AG, TWB). **Com. Tern:** one Hudson R PUTN.

Black-billed Cuckoo: numbers low. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** numbers low. **Barn Owl:** nested successfully ORAN. **Com. Nighthawk:** pair frequented downtown Ellenville ULST through the nesting season, rare, nesting not confirmed. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** *intro.*

Acadian Flycatcher: well represented at historical locations; several sang SULL into late Jul, where occasional only. **Purple Martin:** colonies persisting but only very locally. **Carolina Wren:** numbers well below previous years. **Winter Wren:** numbers down. **Brown Thrasher:** numbers reported to be low.

White-eyed Vireo: pair DTR. **Nashville Warbler:** territorial pair SULL June. **N. Parula:** singing male PutnSBC. **Magnolia Warbler:** male on territory in good habitat ORAN mid Jun. **Blackburnian Warbler:** scattered reports across n part of Region. **Pine Warbler:** abundant near reservoirs with White Pine. **N. Waterthrush:** scattered reports s to n WEST. **Kentucky Warbler:** max probably four DTR, nesting not confirmed; two n WEST. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** a few reports s WEST only.

Vesper Sparrow: one nest ORAN, none from ULST. **Henslow's Sparrow:** unreported. **Orchard Oriole:** well reported. **Pine Siskin:** two SULL 8 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak:** one n WEST 12 Jun; several family groups reported at feeders SULL, nesting not proven.

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