

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The weather for this period can be summarized by two words: hot and dry. This summer was the sixth hottest on record for New York with a record number of days with temperatures over the 90° mark. It was also the seventh driest on record for the State. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, in June the extreme southern portion of the Region experienced extreme drought conditions, with the rest of the Region in a moderate drought condition. By August, most of the Region was in an extreme drought with a small portion of SULL being in a severe drought condition. Due to the dry weather and the resulting lower flow of the Hudson River, salt water pushed up the river as far as Poughkeepsie. Unfortunately, no unusual bird species were reported as a result.

Despite the normally slow summer season, several accidental and regionally rare species were found in the Region. A *Mississippi Kite* made a brief appearance. A fading alternate plumage *Rufous-necked Stint* was found in Rye, but it disappeared when the mudflat was flooded by the unusually high tide resulting from Hurricane Felix's passage offshore. Despite extensive searching the next several days the stint was not relocated. Larids were well represented this season with a Lesser Black-backed Gull, the Region's first record of *Gull-billed Tern*, a Caspian Tern, and the Region's first record of breeding *Common Tern*. Owl reports were highlighted by a Barn Owl and several Northern Saw-whet Owl reports. The passerines produced less excitement. A *Blue Grosbeak* was a nice find. Doodletown Road, ROCK, had a good year with many breeding Cerulean and Hooded Warblers, and up to four Kentucky Warbler were reported all period.

A singing male Tennessee Warbler in June was late.

The fall migration began in late June with the first returning shorebirds, the peak being in mid to late August. Yellow Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush began moving in late July followed in August by Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, and Blue-winged Warblers, American Redstart, and Bobolink. Late August also saw the beginnings of the raptor migration. The Robert J. Hammerslag Hawk Watch in Mt. Kisco, WEST, reported small numbers of migrating Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Osprey. Merlin and Bald Eagle were also reported.

Other highlights for the season were Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, American Oystercatcher, Baird's Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, *Black Skimmer*, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Abbreviations: EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; KRes – Kensico Reservoir; LHVBL – Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MC – Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MRG – Mianus River Gorge; PCSBC – Putnam County Summer Bird Count, 10–25 Jun; RTWBC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; RNC – Rye Nature Center.

Observers: John Askildsen, Thomas Burke, Gene Brown, Lysle Brinker, Andrew Farnsworth, Phil Faurot, Valerie Freer, Robert Lewis, Christopher Nadareski, Mary Anne Pitts, Ken Soltesz, Ed Treacy, Henry Turner, Michael Usai.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** one KRes 11 Jul. **Great Cormorant:** one EGR 18 Jun, unseasonal. **Least Bittern:** four PCSBC, one Constitution Marsh 7 Jul. **Great Egret:** 29 DUTC in July (RTWBC). **Snowy Egret:** one PCSBC. **Little Blue Heron:** imm Piermont Pier 28 Jul (CW, GB). **Tricolored Heron:** one MC 23 Jun (TB). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max five MC through period. **Glossy Ibis:** 22 MC 24 Jul. **Green-winged Teal:** arr MC 20 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** two MC 22 Jul. **N. Shoveler:** three MC 24 Aug. **Greater Scaup:** one EGR 18 Jun, two females Cornwall Bay (ET). **Ruddy Duck:** one ULST 4 Jun (VF). **Com. Merganser:** scattered breeding in Catskill Mountains; male KRes 13 Jun.

Black Vulture: two PCSBC, two Bear Mt 23 Jun (LHVBL), regular at Iona I, Bear Mt, and Shawangunk ULST through period. **Mississippi Kite:** one in a field Bedford WEST 27 Aug (JA). **Bald Eagle:** one PCSBC. **N. Goshawk:** scattered reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** two PCSBC, one MC 19 Aug, imm KRes 31 Jul. **Clapper Rail:** max three MC through period. **Virginia Rail:** one MC 28 Jun, one Constitution Marsh 7 Jul. **Black-bellied Plover:** five MC 30 Jul, max 20 MC 4 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** 30 MC 23 Jul, max 45 MC 8 Aug; one Cornwall Bay 16 Jul. **Am. Oystercatcher:** max four Milton Harbor, Rye WEST. **Greater Yellowlegs:** one MC 3 Jul, max 16 MC 30 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** last MC 4 and 6 Jun; arr five MC 1 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** one EGR 15 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** scattered reports. **Upland Sandpiper:** 11 Blue Chip Farms ULST 7 Jul; ten Pine Island Turf Farm ORAN 22 Aug. **Whimbrel:** one MC 31 Jul (TB). **Ruddy Turnstone:** several EGR 20 Aug. **Red Knot:** two MC 20 Aug. **Sanderling:** two MC 28 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 17 MC 4 Jun, last MC 12 Jun; arr Cornwall Bay 16 Jul, max 450 MC 8 Aug. **W. Sandpiper:** one MC 23 Jul. **Rufous-necked Stint:** one in fading Alt plumage MC 18 Aug (MU, NYSARC). **Least Sandpiper:** last MC 4 and 8

June; max 15 MC 4 Jul, two Cornwall Bay 11 Jul. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: three MC 30 Jul, five MC 4-8 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: four Ashokan Res 24 Aug (MU, CN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: two MC 2 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: three MC 11 Jun; max 30 MC 8 Aug. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one in Alt III plumage Ft. Montgomery ORAN 26 Jul-10 Aug (ET, RL). **Gull-billed Tern**: three Hen I Rye, WEST 18 Jun (MU, AF). **Caspian Tern**: one Moodna Creek 7 Jul (ET). **Com. Tern**: 12 EGR 15 Jul; nested Milton Harbor Rye (MU, AF), Regional first. **Forster's Tern**: one Highland Falls 26 Jul, early; 23 MC 8 and 20 Aug. **Least Tern**: max two MC through period. **Black Skimmer**: two EGR 7 Jun; one 13 Aug Rhinecliff DUTC (RTWBC), exception on the lower Hudson.

Barn Owl: one e PUTN PCSBC. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: two PCSBC; scattered additional reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: none. **Whip-poor-will**: one Dover Plains 2 Jun (MP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one RNC 25 Aug (TB). **Acadian Flycatcher**: two MRG 11 Jun; one Doodletown Road ROCK 3-4 Jun; one Wegant's Road West Point 2 Jun. **Alder Flycatcher**: two PCSBC. **Least Flycatcher**: one MC 19 Aug. **Cliff Swallow**: many reports of new colonies. **Winter Wren**: one MRG 18 Jun. **Marsh Wren**: max eight MC through period, others scattered coastally. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: two singing KRes mid Jun (MU). **Hermit Thrush**: two singing PR Jun.

White-eyed Vireo: one MC 2 Jun; max three EGR through period. **Solitary Vireo**: 27 PCSBC. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Doodletown Road ROCK through period. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type PCSBC. **Tennessee Warbler**: one singing Fahnestock SP PUTN in June (PCSBC), late. **Yellow Warbler**: eight MC 15 Jul, migrating. **Magnolia Warbler**: two RNC 25-27 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: five RNC 31 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: six PCSBC, many Doodletown Road ROCK. **American Redstart**: moving by late Jul. **Worm-eating Warbler**: well reported s part of Region. **N. Waterthrush**: 14 PUTN (PCSBC), a high number; one MC 30 Jul. **Kentucky Warbler**: max four Doodletown Road ROCK through period. **Hooded Warbler**: two PCSBC; many Doodletown Road ROCK.

Blue Grosbeak: ORAN 4 Jun (LHVBL). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one Reeves Meadow Suffern 5 Jun (CW). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: max three MC through period; one EGR 18 and 20 Aug. **Seaside Sparrow**: one MC 2 Jun. **White-throated Sparrow**: one MC 10 Jun. **Orchard Oriole**: one MC 4 and 23 Jun; two PR 21 Jun; two KRes 8 Jun. **Bobolink**: several migrating over KRes 23 Aug. **Purple Finch**: male singing KRes 8 Jun.

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