

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Reports from the Albany County Airport indicate that the weather in June was warm and sunny, with an average temperature of 68.6°F and 67% sunshine. Precipitation of 3.60" was slightly below normal. July averaged a cool 69.7°, 2.1° below normal, with 70% sunshine. Precipitation totaled 7.14", over double the normal 3.18". A major precipitation event occurred on the 13th associated with Tropical Storm Bertha, with 4.17" of rainfall. It was the sixth wettest July on record. August had a nearly average temperature of 70.1°, with 80 percent sunshine. Rainfall was slightly above normal, totalling 3.56". There were no 90° readings during any of the three months.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of a generally good, although late, breeding season. The cool wet spring delayed nesting in some species by a week or more, and the mid-July rains caused damage as well. There were apparently late nesting attempts after these rains judging by the many sightings of juveniles being fed well into August. Bald Eagle was well represented with four nesting pairs. There were two occupied nests in GREE and one in COLU which did not produce young. The nest in ALBA fledged two young. In addition, there were many eagle sightings, mainly of adult birds, reported in the Region. Peregrine Falcon numbers continue to increase in WARR, with five pairs present. There were two territorial pairs and three nests producing one young each. Bicknell's Thrush was present at Hunter Mountain, with three individuals either heard or seen by a group led by Larry Federman on July 9. Considering development pressures in the northern Catskills, more attention should be paid to censusing areas where these birds are present. Due to extremely high water levels throughout the Region, there was little suitable habitat for shorebirds, which was reflected in the reports both of low numbers of species and individuals. Only 12 species were observed compared with the 1995 total of 22 species.

Limited monitoring of the grassland bird populations at the Saratoga National Historic Park was undertaken this year, but at least ten singing Henslow's Sparrows were present. Only one person volunteered to help with this project (me). Much needs to be done to adequately inventory both the avian and other natural resources at this wonderful site. I hope that next year more members of the birding community will participate in this effort.

The only unusual bird of the season was the continuing Prothonotary Warbler. 182 species were reported during the period. Only two Regional BBS reports were forwarded to me. I hope that more BBS compilers will send me copies of their reports in the future.

Contributors: Ken Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Lou Esch, Larry Federman, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Ron Harrower, Cliff Lamere, William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Frank Murphy, Karl Parker, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Jim Sotis, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BL - Ballston Lake, SARA; BS - Bear Swamp, ALBA; CDWMA - Capital District Wildlife Management Area, RENS; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; FSF - Featherstonough State Forest, SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward Area, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; LG - Lake George; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SarL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SC - Schodack Center, RENS; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SK - Skidmore College woods, SARA; SS - Stockport Station, COLU; StFl - Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; TRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WRes - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: **Com. Loon:** bred 13th L WARR, fledged one chick (KA, PC); one Jabe Pd WARR 28 Jun (ER); one LG 28 Jun (*fide* LM); one SarL 14 Jul (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** no reports. **Horned Grebe:** one SarL at least through 28 Jun (CL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 52 GI 31 Aug (WE). **Am. Bittern:** only three Jun-Jul reports; arr FiveR 13 Aug (CT). **Least Bittern:** probable breeding VF; one CP 18 Jun, 4 Aug (JS). **Great Blue**

Heron: max 82 T Ballston rookery 16 Jun (BP); y still in nest Bemis Heights rookery 14 Jul (WE). **Great Egret:** one L7 30 Jun (RP), very early; two SS 29 Jul; one Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Aug; one Stockport 10 Aug; five NR 26 Aug. **Snowy Egret:** one Austerlitz 5, 12 Aug (ADBC); two L7 21-30 Aug (RP). **Green Heron:** max ten CP 10 Jul (JS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two PISP 20 Jun (WL); two Ramshorn Creek Sanctuary GREE 5 Aug (RG); one L7 24 Aug (RP). **Mute Swan:** one NR 26 Aug (RP), only report. **Brant:** seen in flight New Salem 16 Jun (D. Bain to BEN). **Wood Duck:** good breeding season at FiveR, VF; max 40 Sheldon Pd SCHE 26 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** one VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug; three SI 31 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one VF 2 Jun (D. Welch to BEN). **Blue-winged Teal:** arr CP 22 Aug (JS); one VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug; 14 SI 31 Aug. **Gadwall:** one Chatham 10 Jul (ADBC). **Hooded Merganser:** one Hague 8 Jun; one S. Rensselaer 14 Jun; one female SNHP 13, 20 Aug (JG). **Com. Merganser:** one female w. 12 chicks Hague 25 Jun; one brood seen JL but prob. not nesting (RY).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture:** max seven T Argyle 31 Aug.

Osprey: one VF 1 Jun (FM); one Livingston 2 Jun (BC); one TRes 14 Jul (WE); one SarL 27 Jul (WE); eight August reports of singles. **Bald Eagle:** six ad, three imm bt. NB-Athens 24 Jun (RG); one ad MR Rexford 23 Jun (WL); two ad, two imm NB Jul (RG); two ad, one imm TRes 14 Jul; one imm SARA various locations Jul; two ad, one imm TRes Aug; one ad Stanton Pd 11 Aug (CT); two active nests GREE, one COLU, all failed; one nest ALBA produced two young. **N. Harrier:** active nest w. transfer of prey observed Berne 29 Jun (KA); ad male, ad female, first yr imm T. Berne/Knox throughout period (KA); one male three female FtE 15 Jun (BP). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** six reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk:** only two reports of singles. **N. Goshawk:** one ad Berne 3 Jun (KA); one FSF 16 Jun (RP). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Hillsdale 29 Jun (ADBC); three Spring L RENS 22 Jun, 14 Jul (PC), probable breeding; one Grapeville GREE 21 Jul through period (PC); heard JL through Jun (RY). **Broad-winged Hawk:** two JL 23 Aug (RY); seven reports of singles. **Golden Eagle:** one possible Schenectady 12 Jul (LE!, NYSARC). **Am. Kestrel:** five nestlings banded near Amsterdam (RY), female observed incubating during Mar; eight SNHP 27 Jul (WE); max four Smith Pd. RENS 30 Aug (PC), apparent family group. **Merlin:** one SI 31 Aug (WE), only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** five nests LG area, three y fledged; one PISP 28 Aug (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** two T Knox 3, 4 Jun (KA); one FtE 14 Jun (BP). **Wild Turkey:** reported in moderate numbers throughout Region; max 100 Millers Corners Rd SCHE 16 Jun (RP). **Virginia Rail:** one ad w. two

downy y VF 29 Aug (JG), late. **Sora**: one VF 14 Jun; two Rotterdam Flats 16 Jun; one Ghent 4 Jul, only reports. **Com. Moorhen**: bred VF; bred CL, at least five families, 30-40 individuals seen during season (JS). **Semipalmated Plover**: two VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug, only report. **Killdeer**: max 66 StFl 14 Jul (WE). **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr one StFl 2 Aug (JG). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr four StFl 14 Jul (WE); max nine SI/PISP 31 Aug (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr one StFl 17 Aug (G. Recer to BEN). **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr two NRP 29 Jul (WE). **Upland Sandpiper**: 11 ad FtE 14 Jun (BP); eight SCA 17 Aug (RP); five reports of singles. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr two StFl 14 Jul (WE). **Least Sandpiper**: arr six StFl 14 Jul; max 10 SI/PISP 31 Aug (WE). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: three StFl 28 Jul (JG, AV), only report. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one SI 17 Aug (G. Recer to BEN), only report. **Com. Snipe**: no reports. **Am. Woodcock**: one NRP 29 Jul; one Livingston 1 Jul. **Com. Tern**: two SL 16 Jun (CL). **Black Tern**: two SL 16 Jun (CL).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: max four Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP); 11 reports of singles. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: seven reports of singles. **E. Screech-Owl**: four reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: two Reist Sanctuary 16 Jun (RP); two Glenville 25 Aug (L. Esch); three reports of singles. **Barred Owl**: pr LG 6 Jun (RH); one-two JL through period (RY), only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Stillwater 23 Jun (WE); two Schenectady 27 Jun (RP); 17 reports bt.19-31 Aug w. total of 577 individuals; max 100+ Slingerlands 24 Aug (AV); 235 Voorheesville 24 Aug (WE); 103 Albany/Guilderland 28 Aug (WE). **Whip-poor-will**: present Stanton Pd ALBA 25 May-19 Aug (CT); one T Hague 27-28 Jun (*fide* LM); one Cold Spring Rd SARA 15 Jun (JG, AVK). **Chimney Swift**: at least 100 PISP/SI through period. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max three Hague 19 Aug; 13 banded JL thru period (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Galway 1-15 Jun (RH); one Clarksville 4 Jun (B. Lasher to BEN), both at feeders. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: only four reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max four T Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: two TRd 1 Jun (BP); one Crane Mt. WARR 16 Jun (JG, AV); one Lens L WARR 29 Jul (PC), still singing. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven SK 27 Jun, 19 Jul; ten NRP 3 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun (JG, AV); one TRd 3 Jun (RB, JG); one SNHP 6 Aug (JG); one SC 21 Aug (PC); one Olana 24 Aug (BC); six banded NB 30 Jul-24 Aug (RG). **Alder Flycatcher**: max ten TRd 1 Jun (BP). **Willow Flycatcher**: max three T Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP).

Least Flycatcher: max six Hoag's Corners RENS 24 Jun (PC); two SNHP 15 Aug (JG). **E. Phoebe:** fledging JL mid-Jul (RY), late. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max five SNHP 21 Jun. **E. Kingbird:** max 18 SNHP 15 Jul. **Horned Lark:** nested SCA. **Purple Martin:** 14-15 prs nested SarL; new colony near SarL. **Tree Swallow:** 342 fledged from 99 nests in 3 colonies monitored by RY. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last one Austerlitz 18 Aug (ADBC). **Bank Swallow:** nested Broadalbin, Guilderland, Spa SP, T. Livingston; max 150 NRP 7 Jul (WE); last ten SF 17 Aug (B. Recer to BEN). **Cliff Swallow:** last one Austerlitz 14 Aug (ADBC). **Barn Swallow:** bt. 500-600 flocking T Sara 20 Aug (JG). **Fish Crow:** three Corinth 15 Aug (B. Carr); five Niskayuna 28 Jul, probable nesting; only two other reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; max five TRd 28 Jun (LE). **Black-capped Chickadee:** excellent breeding year at JL, 27-year high. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** numbers down at JL; 18 banded Jul-Aug. **Carolina Wren:** present throughout period Delmar (RB); two Slingerlands 21 Jul (W. Sabin to BEN), only reports. **House Wren:** max 15 SNHP 21 Jun; nine PB 26 Jul. **Winter Wren:** bred JL-3 fledglings 4 Aug (RY); five reports of singles. **Marsh Wren:** max four VF 5 Aug (LE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** one TRd 3 Jun (RB, JG), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Hillsdale 18 Jul (ADBC), unusual in summer. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** two ad feeding two y SNHP 13 Aug (JG), very late. **E. Bluebird:** max 13 NRP 29 Jul (WE), inc. nine juv; juvs being fed SNHP 2 Aug (JG); good season at FiveR, as of 9 Aug 23 y fledged, eight still unfledged (CT). **Veery:** max six TRd 28 Jun (LE); nest NRP w. five Cowbird, one Veery eggs 7 Jul (WE); numerous nocturnal migrants heard SC 7 Aug (PC). **Bicknell's Thrush:** three Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jul (LF). **Swainson's Thrush:** one SC 7 Jun (PC); two singing Spring L RENS 22 Jun (PC), only two reports. **Wood Thrush:** max 11 Ghent BBS 22 Jun (BC). **Gray Catbird:** max 33 Ghent BBS 22 Jun (BC); 16 HP 24 Aug. **Brown Thrasher:** six reports of singles. **Cedar Waxwing:** widely reported throughout Region; max 15 T Hadley 1 Jun (WL); scarce JL (RY).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo:** max seven CDWMA 22 Jun (PC); five PB 26 Jul (WE). **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max three BL 16 Jun; nine reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo:** max four PISP 31 Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo:** two NB 25 Aug (RG to BEN). **Red-eyed Vireo:** max seven SK 19 Jul. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max eight SNHP 21 Jun. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one male SNHP 9 Jun (G./K. Hanson to BEN); one male Argyle BBS 2 Jun

(BP). **Tennessee Warbler**: no reports. **Nashville Warbler**: max six TRd 1 Jun; arr one SK 28 Aug. **N. Parula**: one TRd 1 Jun; one SK 28 Aug, only reports. **Magnolia Warbler** arr one NB 25 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr NB 25 Aug; three juvenal-plumaged juv begging food Palmer L SARA 24 Aug (RY), late. **Blackburnian Warbler**: one TRd 1 Jun; one Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun; one Crane Mt. WARR 16 Jun (JG, AVK); one hy banded JL 17 Aug (RY). **Pine Warbler**: one Cold Spring Rd SARA 3 Jul; one SNHP 23 Jun, only reports. **Prairie Warbler**: max four TRd 1 Jun; three SNHP 21 Jun. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: no reports. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max 11 Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun (JG, AV); two Twin Mt. GREE 27 Jun (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Cerulean Warbler**: one BL 16 Jun (G. Hanson to BEN); one Castleton Island SP 20 Jun (RG to BEN). **Prothonotary Warbler**: present BL at least through 19 Jun. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one NB 22 Aug (RG to BEN). **Ovenbird**: max nine SNHP 21 Jun; eight SK 22 Jun; below normal numbers JL. **N. Waterthrush**: max three BL 17 Jun; five reports of singles. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: six reports of singles; arr one Guilderland 26 Aug (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: two TRd 1 Jun; one Spier Falls Rd SARA 6 Jun; one male feeding female Yellow-rumped same location 16 Jun (BP); one WRes 18 Aug; one NRP 24 Aug; one NB 28 Aug. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 18 SNHP 21 Jun; 20 HP 24 Aug. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr one HP 24 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: four TRd 1 Jun; two CDWMA 22 Jun; three-four territorial prs BS 6 Jul; arr NB 17 Aug; six reports of singles.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max four SNHP 15 Jul; four Ghent BBS; eight reports of singles. **Indigo Bunting**: max seven SNHP 21 Jun; five SK 19 Jul. **E. Towhee**: max 12 PB 26 Jul. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 32 Ghent BBS 22 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow**: two Hoag's Corners RENS 24 Jun (PC), only report. **Savannah Sparrow**: max four Ghent BBS; only one nesting pr SNHP; one poss nest NRP. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one m Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP); one male Livingston 5 Jun (AV); one male Knox 22-29 Jun (KA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: at least ten singing males present at SNHP (JG). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one Lens L WARR 29 Jul (PC), in bog habitat on east side of lake. **Bobolink**: 30+ prs SNHP colony; max 78+ there 16 Aug (JG); several colonies noted RENS Jun-Jul; sizable migrant flock SC 28 Aug (PC). **E. Meadowlark**: present in good numbers SNHP. **Orchard Oriole**: one Tsatsawassa L Rd. RENS 24 Jun (PC). **Baltimore Oriole**: max ten PISP 31 Aug. **Purple Finch**: reported in small numbers throughout Region. **Red**

Crossbill: 30 heard in flight JL 7 Jul and one there 24 Aug (RY). **Evening**

Grosbeak: one LG 6 Jun; two TRd 28 Jun; low numbers JL.

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