

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany Co. Airport, weather in June was sunny and extremely dry, with a slightly above average temperature of 67.9° and with 69% sunshine. Precipitation of 0.74 in. was 2.88 in. below normal, making it the second driest June on record and the driest since 1964. July's temperature averaged 70.6°, 1.2° below normal, with 66% sunshine. The extremely dry conditions continued, with only 2.34 in. of rain measured, 0.84 in. below normal. August averaged a slightly below normal temperature of 68.6°, with 63% sunshine. Rainfall was 4.64 in., 1.17 in. above normal.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of an excellent breeding season, especially for grassland species. The dry, warm weather aided foraging adults. Bald Eagle was well represented with five nesting pairs. Two of these nests were successful and three young were fledged. The successful nest near Catskill was the first documented along the Hudson River in at least a century and was the subject of a major article in the *New York Times* on May 4 (p.37+). Upland Sandpipers bred again at Ft. Edward, with 11 adults and 3 young seen in early June. Due to the drought, there was a good amount of shorebird habitat, but numbers were down significantly from previous years, with only 14 species reported. This was probably due more to lack of birder effort than anything else. Eastern Bluebirds did well throughout, with 43 young fledged in two nestings at Five Rivers. Bicknell's Thrush was monitored by the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences on Hunter and Plateau mountains GREE during late May and June. Two nests with eggs were located on Hunter Mt., providing the first known confirmation of nesting by this species in the Catskills. The Cerulean Warbler Atlas project produced good results, with two sites surveyed that had not been looked at for many years - Castleton Island State Park and Bouck's Island SCHO. The Massachusetts Audubon Society's grassland bird survey included Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Washington counties in Region 8, where sites were checked by field assistant Lisa Meehan. Henslow's Sparrow numbers at the Saratoga National Historical Park were very low, with only one breeding pair present. However, two other sites were found in Ft. Edward, as well as one in the Town of Canajoharie, with several individuals present. There seems to have been something of an Orchard Oriole explosion, with apparent breeding in COLU, MONT, and WARR. With the initiation of the Important Bird Areas program, the long-overdue monitoring of bird populations at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve was finally begun by the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club with a June 28 "bird blitz" of several areas of the Preserve. Let's hope it continues.

Unusual birds sighted included Glossy Ibis, Barn Owl, Sedge Wren, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Clay-colored Sparrow. 190 species were reported during the period.

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Abbreviations: BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; CDWMA - Capitol District WMA, RENS; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch, ALBA; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FeR - Ferry Rd., SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - Huyck Preserve, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; LG - Lake George, WARR; MA - Massachusetts Audubon Grassland Bird Survey; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; RF - Rotterdam Flats, SCHE; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore College North Woods, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** two Thompson L SP ALBA 2 Jun (W. Watson); pr w. 2 y Garnet L WARR 15 Jun (*fide* DR); two Jabe Pd WARR 12 Jul, 12 Aug (ER). **Pied-billed Grebe:** six y MR near Nelliston 14 Jun (TP), uncommon breeders in Region; 12 BCR 30 Aug (WE). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 66 GI/Cohoes 27 Jul (WE, NM). **Am. Bittern:** one ad, two imm VF 31 Jul (JG); also bred BCM, FtE. **Least Bittern:** no reports. **Great Blue Heron:** max 89 T Ballston rookery 7 Jul (BP); began dispersing late Jul; max 50 VF 28 Jul. **Great Egret:** max 24 VF 10 Aug (AV); 25 RF 30 Aug (RP). **Snowy Egret:** one imm Stillwater 27 Jul (WE, NM); one Putnam Sta. WASH 11-16 Aug (*fide* LM). **Little Blue Heron:** one imm FeR 10 Aug (RG to BEN). **Green Heron:** max 10 VF 3 Aug (JG). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one SI 4 Jul (WE, NM); one Niskayuna 23 Jul (RP); one NRP 27 Jul (WE); one imm VF 2 Aug (BEN); one Cohoes 2 Aug (WE); one ad CL 5 Aug; one imm CL 6, 8 Aug (RP); two imm NR 14 Aug (RP); two MR SCHE 30 Aug (RP); two Cohoes 31 Aug (WE, NM). **Glossy Ibis:** two imm MR btw Cohoes-NR 23-30 Aug (RP, mob). **Mute Swan:** only reported from COLU. **Brant:** one CL 14 Jun (J. Saville

to BEN). **Wood Duck**: good breeding season at FR, VF; max 21 Town Line Rd WASH 31 Jul. **Green-winged Teal**: one VF 27 Jul, 2, 3 Aug; one Cohoes 2 Aug; two Cohoes 24 Aug; five FeR 21 Aug; 15 FeR 24 Aug. **Am. Black Duck**: max 33 Cohoes 2 Aug. **Mallard**: max 214 Cohoes 2 Aug. **N. Pintail**: one FeR 21 Aug (BBi). **Blue-winged Teal**: arr three FtE 27 Jul (WE); max 24 SI 30 Aug (WE, NM). **N. Shoveler**: two f Ferry Rd 23 Aug. **Gadwall**: one Cohoes 27 Jul (WE, NM). **Am. Wigeon**: two BCR 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Ring-necked Duck**: 30 BCR 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Hooded Merganser**: one f w. five y NB 16 Jun (RG to BEN); three HP 30 Aug; five Cohoes 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Com. Merganser**: two GI 13 Jul (WE); two ad w. 17 y L George WASH 9 Jun (BP).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max 60 NB 29 Aug. **Osprey**: one VF 2 Jun (G. Recer to BEN); one Greenport COLU 4 Jun (ADBC); one Livingston COLU 24 Jul (ADBC); three August reports of singles. **Bald Eagle**: one imm Garnet L WARR 14 Jun (*fide* DR); two ad five imm NB 24 Jun (RG to BEN); one ad Batchelorville SARA 30 Jun, seen several times (R. Hays to BEN); one imm MR 19 Jun; one Hague WARR 9 Jul (LM); two ad & two imm NB 28 Jul, 23 Aug (RG to BEN); one imm Lock 9 SCHE 28 Jul (RP); nesting: five occupied nests in Region, two successful, three young fledged. **N. Harrier**: reported from three locations in FtE thru; one T Kingsbury 6 Aug; no nesting observed. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 16 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk**: six reports of singles, including one taking young Am. Kestrel Amsterdam 20 Jun (TP). **N. Goshawk**: one territorial m Edinburg SARA 1 Jun (RY); one Ghent COLU 23 Jun (ADBC); one Harrisburg Rd. WARR 26 Jun (JG); one VF 27 Jun (BEN); one near VF 18 Jul (F. Murphy to BEN); one imm Hague 20 Aug (LM). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: eight reports of singles; probably nested JL (RY). **Broad-winged Hawk**: one carrying food Indian Meadows SCHE 16 Jun (RP); probably nested JL (RY); one dead on nest w. eggs Hague 30 Jun (LM); three Jefferson SCHO 23 Jul (AM); two Windham GREE 7 Aug (AV); "family group" NB 24 Aug (RG to BEN); seven reports of singles. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max ten FtE 27 Jul; nest w. three y Schenectady. **Am. Kestrel**: max 14 New Swamp Rd WASH 24 Jul, 6 Aug (BP); one f fledged five y Amsterdam (TP). **Merlin**: unverified report of two ad w. two y T Hague WARR 27 Jul (Steve Pierce *fide* LM); one BCM 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Peregrine Falcon**: five active nests LG area, six young fledged; one Dunn Mem Br area through period; one imm FtE 20 Jul (WE, NM); one imm StFl 26 Aug (JG); one CPHW 30 Aug. **Wild Turkey**: excellent breeding season. **Virginia Rail**: bred BCM, FtE, VF. **Sora**: one ad & three imm T Argyle WASH 24 Jul, 6 Aug (BP); one ad three imm VF 3 Aug (JG). **Com. Moorhen**: one ad & eight y VF 31 Jul. **Am. Coot**: one MR near Nelliston MONT 14 Jun (TP). **Semipalmated Plover**: arr one Cohoes 27 Jul; max five FeR 24 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 37 Cohoes 27 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr one GI 13 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr 12 Cohoes 27 Jul; max 15 VF 23 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr seven FtE 27 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr

19 Cohoes 13 Jul. **Upland Sandpiper**: 11 ad & three y FtE 11 Jun (BP); 12 T Canajoharie MONT; 14 T Florida MONT; five T Minden MONT; six T Root MONT (all MA); 15-21 SCA 28 Jul, 23, 30 Aug (RP); four reports of singles. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr one MR 19 Jul; max 15 FeR 24 Aug (BP). **Least Sandpiper**: arr one T Argyle 24 Jul; max 24 StFl 27 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper**: one FeR 10 Aug (RG to BEN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: one juv SI 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one FeR 12 Aug (F. Murphy to BEN), only report. **Com. Snipe**: four reports of singles. **Am. Woodcock**: one Indian Meadows SCHE 28 Jul (RP), only report. **Bonaparte's Gull**: five reports of singles. **Ring-billed Gull**: 1st juvs. arr 13 Jul; max 420 GI/Cohoes 27 Jul; 400 GI/Cohoes 2 Aug incl 27 juvs (WE, NM); 1000+ MR/Colonie Landfill 20 Aug (AV). **Herring Gull**: max 120 Cohoes 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 50 Cohoes 3 Aug (WE, NM). **Black Tern**: two Albany area 2 Jun (W. Watson).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 11 reports of singles. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 18 reports of singles. **Barn Owl**: one 6-Mi Waterworks, Rensselaer L ALBA near intersection I87/I90 8 Aug (P Feinberg). **E. Screech-Owl**: five reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: nine reports of singles; two y heard nightly Amsterdam 15 Jul thru (TP), first in four years. **Barred Owl**: two Long Pd. T Hague WARR 31 Aug (BBi); eight reports of singles. **Com. Nighthawk**: one VF 2 Jun (G. Recer to BEN); one Schenectady 9 Jun, 20 Jul (RP); one one SI 4 Jul (WE); five Jonesville 20 Aug; four CL 22 Aug; two Guilderland 22 Aug (WE, NM); ten VF 24 Aug; 168 Saratoga Spgs. 25 Aug (JG); 31 Guilderland 25 Aug; 25-30 Delmar 25 Aug (BB, CB); 84 Saratoga Spgs 28 Aug (JG); one Feura Bush 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Whip-poor-will**: one T Hague WARR 7, 9 Jun, 13, 17 Jul (LM); one PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Chimney Swift**: max ten Slingerlands 24 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 12+ at feeder Warrensburg 20, 28 Aug; 27 banded JL through period, 1st juv JL 25 Jul (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one NB 23 Aug (RG to BEN). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: numerous CISP; three NRP 27 Jul incl one juv (WE, NM); eight reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: bred Amsterdam, three fledged (TP); four CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV); six reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one singing SNHP 4 Jun (JG), late migrant, only report. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 14 SNHP 4-5 Jun; nine CISP 6 Jun; 11 SkW 6 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: no reports. **Alder Flycatcher**: max 12 SNHP 4-5 Jun; 12+ Gallupville 4 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: max seven BCM 6 Jul. **Least Flycatcher**: max four CISP 22 Jun. **E. Phoebe**: max nine SNHP 13 Jul; two broods of four each banded JL 15 Jun, 11 Jul. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 11 SNHP 4-5 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 29 FtE 29 Jul (WE, NM); four prs nested Amsterdam, last 26 Aug. **Horned Lark**: nested SCA (RP). **Purple Martin**: no reports, SL colony not checked. **Tree**

Swallow: over 100 banded by RY Amsterdam. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last two NRP 2 Aug. **Bank Swallow:** no nesting reports received; max 350-400 StFl 18 Aug (JG). **Cliff Swallow:** 11 active nests T Wilton 14 Jun (BP); last Rt. 20 Bluebird Trail 13 Aug (RP). **Barn Swallow:** no reports. **Fish Crow:** four T Mayfield FULT 9 Aug (Bill Evans), probable family group; four reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; max three Amsterdam 20 Jul (TP). **Black-capped Chickadee:** numbers down JL-only 11 banded bt 25 Jul-31Aug (RY). **Tufted Titmouse:** one JL 27 Jul (RY), rare in Adirondacks. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 18 PB 28 Jun (HMBC); 25 banded through period JL; possible irruption (RY). **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max ten SNHP 18 Aug. **Carolina Wren:** eleven reports of singles; numbers up significantly. **House Wren:** max 18 SNHP 4-5 Jun (JG). **Winter Wren:** max five CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV); six reports of singles. **Marsh Wren:** nested BCM, VF; max five BCM 6 Jul (WE). **Sedge Wren:** one singing m SNHP 24 Jun-4 Jul (JG); one singing m New Swamp Rd WASH 27 Jul (WE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** two CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Austerlitz 25 Aug (ADBC), only report. **E. Bluebird:** 43 fledged in 2 nestings 5R (CT); max ten FtE 27 Jul. **Veery:** max eight CISP 6 Jun; nine CDWMA 12 Jul; seven CSR 18 Aug. **Bicknell's Thrush:** 13 banded Hunter Mt GREE, seven banded Plateau Mt. GREE early Jun (VINS); no reports from other GREE peaks. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Poestenkill 6 Jun (BEN), only report. **Hermit Thrush:** max 11 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Wood Thrush:** max eight CISP 22 Jun (JG, AV). **Gray Catbird:** max 24 NRP 27 Jul. **Brown Thrasher:** max five PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Cedar Waxwing:** widely reported throughout Region.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** only three reports of singles. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** only three reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo:** max three CISP 6, 22 Jun; five River Rd WASH 23 Jun. **Philadelphia Vireo:** no reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 30 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **Blue-winged Warbler:** max 27 SNHP 4-5 Jun (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler:** two SNHP 4, 10, 14 Jun; one m Argyle BBS 7 Jun (BP). **Nashville Warbler:** seven reports of singles; arr one T Wilton SARA 29 Aug. **N. Parula:** one singing m Harrisburg Rd WARR 26 Jun; one singing m Amsterdam 14 Aug (TP). **Yellow Warbler:** max 20 CISP 6 Jun; 17 NRP 2 Aug. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max four CDWMA 12 Jul. **Magnolia Warbler:** arr one SNHP 22 Aug (JG). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 11 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr four SNHP 30 Jul (JG). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** one SkW 19 Jun (JG), late migrant; max nine CDWMA 12 Jul; arr one Gallupville 26 Aug (BBo, KB), early migrant. **Blackburnian Warbler:** six reports of singles; arr one Gallupville 24 Aug, early migrant. **Pine Warbler:** max four PB 28 Jun (HMBC); one FeR 24 Aug (BP, early migrant; four reports of singles. **Prairie Warbler:** two Thompsons L SP ALBA 3 Jun (W. Watson); six SNHP 18 Jun (JG); three TRd 26 Jun; 16 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** one

TRd 1 Jun; one Gallupville 4 Jun; arr one Relyea Rd Guilderland 31 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: one Mead's Lane/Van Dyke Rd ALBA 1 Jun; one CISP 11 Jun (JG, AV); two prs Twin Mt. GREE 9 Jul (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Cerulean Warbler**: at least 18 singing m CISP 2, 4, 24 Jun (B. Carr, BB, CB, JG, AV); one singing m Spier Falls Rd SARA 7 Jun (JG); 4-5 singing m Boucks Island SCHO 5 Jun (KA). **Black-and-white Warbler**: only two reports. **Am. Redstart**: max 28 CISP 22 Jun (JG,AV). **Worm-eating Warbler**: two Blossom Hill Rd ALBA 3 Jun (JG, AV), only report. **Ovenbird**: max 21 SNHP 4, 5 Jun (JG); ten SkW 19 Jun (JG); 14 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **N. Waterthrush**: only three reports of singles. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: several along Terwilliger Creek Amsterdam 1 Jun thru (TP); four NRP 27 Jul (WE, NM); last Guilderland 5 Aug (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: seven reports of singles. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 23 SNHP 4, 5 Jun (JG). **Hooded Warbler**: one f Gallupville 1 Jun, stunned by window. **Wilson's Warbler**: one Gallupville 20 Aug, only report. **Canada Warbler**: only three reports of singles. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one PB 28 Jun (HMBC).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max six singing m SkW 19 Jun (JG); four SNHP 3 Jul (JG); eight other reports. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max seven Guilderland 30 Aug. **Indigo Bunting**: max seven SNHP 4, 5 Jun; five PB 28 Jun; seven other reports. **E. Towhee**: max 11 SNHP 4 Jun (JG); 40 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Chipping Sparrow**: no reports. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one singing m SNHP 1 Jul-early Aug (JG, mob). **Field Sparrow**: max 14 PB 28 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow**: max 14 T Canajoharie MONT; seven T FtE; seven MONT; four T Clifton Pk; three T Galway; two T Argyle WASH (all MA). **Savannah Sparrow**: max 52 T Canajoharie MONT; 34 T Root MONT; 30 T Minden MONT; 24 T Half Moon SARA; max 22 FtE; 17 T Florida MONT; 16 T Glen MONT; 16 T Knox ALBA; 11 FULT (all MA). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: four T Berne ALBA; three T Know ALBA; three T New Scotland ALBA; 21 T Canajoharie MONT; 18 T Florida MONT; three T Galway SARA; four T Argyle WASH; eight FtE; four singles (all MA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: two T Canajoharie MONT (MA); three-four singing m Dowmont Rd T Argyle WASH 28 Jun (JG); two Cary Rd. FtE 19 Jul (BP); only one breeding pr SNHP, two broods-five fledged; two other m banded. **Song Sparrow**: max 13 CISP 6 Jun; 16 SNHP 2 Jul; 40 NRP 27 Jul (WE). **Swamp Sparrow**: max 13 BCM 30 Aug. **White-throated Sparrow**: two SNHP 4, 18 Jun (JG), breeding? **Bobolink**: max 90+ in field across from Stop 2 SNHP 30 Jul (JG); 374 MONT (MA); 123 WASH (MA). **E. Meadowlark**: max 125 MONT (MA); 125 SARA (MA). **Orchard Oriole**: one imm m singing Amsterdam 8 Jun; one ad m singing Amsterdam 13, 15 Jun (TP); one imm Sinclair Pt. Sacandaga 13 Jun (BEN); one Kinderhook RENS 21 Jun (BC); bred Stuyvesant COLU (A. Long to ADBC); two juv FtE 19 Jul (WE, NM). **Baltimore Oriole**: max five CISP 6 Jun; seven NRP 2 Aug. **Purple Finch**: "lots" Warrensburg 7, 26 Jun; six BCM 30 Aug;

reported in small numbers throughout Region. **White-Winged Crossbill:** one imm FR 23-24 Aug (KA). **Pine Siskin:** "lots" Warrensburg 7, 16, 26 Jun (M.Di Pietro to BEN); 12 Hague 2,14 Jun (ER). **Evening Grosbeak:** "several" Warrensburg 7 Jun; two families Warrensburg 24 Jul (M. Di Pietro to BEN); three Hague 4, 17 Jun (LM); one Silver Bay WARR 4 Jul (LM).

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