

REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer started out with average temperatures and rainfall but ended with a very dry August.

The summer usually brings few reports and this year was no exception. But it was made up by a number of unusual sightings.

Included are the results of the survey of Huckleberry Island, Westchester County, organized by David Künstler, done in late May. Although the Double-crested Cormorant population was stable, they continue to decimate the forest and only 60-80% of the original canopy remains. Not surprisingly, Great Egret numbers were down on the island, but some observers commented that numbers were up in Region 9 after post-breeding dispersal. Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were still low. Will the increase in cormorant populations around the state eventually hurt the egret and heron numbers? Only time and good science will tell. On a positive note, four pairs of American Oystercatchers were found on the island.

There were a number of unusually placed ducks. These included reports of Oldsquaw, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and Northern Pintail.

Tom Burke confirmed the breeding of King Rail at Marshlands Conservancy with a report of a downy chick in the company of its parents on 23 June. An American Avocet was present at Marshlands on 6-12 August. It was followed by reports of Red-necked Phalarope and two Whimbrel.

Ellenville in Ulster County continued with its propensity for good *Laridae* with a Forster's Tern found there on 2 & 3 June.

Common Raven numbers continue to increase but no one claimed to have found a nest or other evidence of breeding.

A second singing male Yellow-throated Warbler arrived on the Sullivan/Ulster Co. border. Apparently no females showed. No one reported confirmation of breeding.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found with the expected Saltmarsh species in Marshlands on 12 June during the Greenwich Summer Bird Count. It was reported that the marshes up in Maine had yet to turn green with the delay in warm weather this spring. This may be the reason the birds were still hanging out down here.

An Evening Grosbeak and three White-winged Crossbills were reported. Are these summering "winter finches" a sign of a winter invasion to come?

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Abbreviations: CCP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PCSBC-Putnam County Summer Bird Count, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, MC-Marshlands Conservancy.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-necked Grebe:** one MC through Jun. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 590 pairs Huck I 20 May. **Great Egret:** 31 pairs Huck I 20 May. **Little Blue Heron:** one Piermont 30 Aug; one Oscawana Park 30 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** eight pairs Huck I 20 May. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max three MC thru. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC 9 Jul. **N. Pintail:** one Cornwall Bay 30 Aug. **Greater Scaup:** one EGR 22 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** one Piermont 18 Jul. **Oldsquaw:** one male Fishkill Rural Cemetery 4-24 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle:** one CPP 23-24 Aug; one Stanford 30 Aug. **King Rail:** two adults with one downy young MC 23 Jun, seen throughout summer. **Sora:** one MC 29 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** max 55 western Orange Co. 31 Aug. **Am. Oystercatcher:** max three MC 19 Jun; four pairs found on Huck I 20 May. **Am. Avocet:** one MC 6-12 Aug. **Willet:** two MC 12 Jun. **Upland Sandpiper:** two Orange Co. 17 Aug. **Whimbrel:** two MC 13-14 Aug. **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one MC 1 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one MC 13 Aug. **Forster's Tern:** one Ellenville 2-3 Jun; three MC 28 Jul.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Com. Nighthawk:** two dozen Bedford Hills 26 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Bashakill 7 Jun; two Kitchawan Preserve 10 Aug. **Alder Flycatcher:** one MC 6 June. **Com. Raven:** eleven found on PCSBC 14-29 Jun., still expanding, no evidence of breeding. **Winter Wren:** numbers increasing, with scattered reports outside traditional areas.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **Yellow-throated Warbler:** two singing males on Route 97, Sullivan/Orange Co line thru June, no evidence of breeding.

Kentucky Warbler: widely reported in June. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one Vassar Farms 8-10 Jun; one MC 12 Jun; one SUNY Purchase 18-22 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two MC 12 Jun. **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two 6,12 Jun. **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC 9 Jun. **White-winged Crossbill:** three PCSBC 14-29 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak** one Claryville 7 Jun.

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