

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, weather in June was cloudy and wet, with precipitation of 6.59", 2.97" above normal. Temperatures were a slightly-below-average 66.2°F, with 43.5% sunshine. By contrast, the rest of the summer was dry, with July's precipitation totalling 2.74", 0.44" below normal. Temperatures averaged 70.8°F, 1° below normal, with 69% sunshine. August's rainfall was 2.21", 1.26" below normal. There was a slightly above normal average temperature of 71°F, with 69% sunshine.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of a productive breeding season, at least during the early part of the summer, though with some early fledging dates noted. On a 5 June trip to Castleton Island State Park, I noted both Veery and American Redstart fledglings being fed, at least two weeks earlier than dates in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Bald Eagle was well represented again, with five nesting pairs. Two of these nests were successful and four young were fledged, three from a single pair. Peregrine Falcons experienced an excellent year in the Region, as they did throughout the state, with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging eight young. Upland Sandpipers are assumed to have bred again at Ft. Edward, although early haying in that area may have destroyed nests. Only adults were observed in mid June. There was a good amount of shorebird habitat, with 16 species reported, most in good numbers. I received few reports of Eastern Bluebird and none of Bicknell's Thrush. Henslow's Sparrow did not breed at the Saratoga National Historical Park for the first time in many years. They did occur at three sites in Ft. Edward, with several individuals present.

I want to thank folks who live outside the Region but who report to me when they are birding inside the Region. Bill Purcell spent two days in Montgomery County during early June and sent me a list of his extensive sightings in an underbirded area. Thanks also to Dave Russell for his reports from the Garnet Lake area.

Unusual birds sighted included Sanderling, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked Phalarope, Forster's Tern, and Kentucky Warbler. 183 species were reported during the period, down somewhat from last year.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Kate Beale; Beth Bidwell; Brad Bidwell (Bbi); Bob Boehm (Bbo); Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Lee; Barbara Loucks, Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Tom Palmer; Ray Perry; Bill Purcell, Barb Putnam; David Russell; Doug Steele; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Kris Winters, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; CDWMA - Capitol District WMA, RENS; CHSF - Charleston Hill State Forest, MONT; CISP - Castleton Island SP, RENS; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonhaugh State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GL- Garnet Lake, T Thurman, WARR; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Lock 7, Mohawk R, SCHE; LG - Lake George, WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; SCA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); StP - Stanton Pond, ALBA; TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: 1 TRd 7 Jun; 1 FR 23-26 Jun, injured; 2 G 6 Jun; 5 ad GL 1 Aug (*fide* DR); only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Cossayuna L WASH 17 Aug (JS), only report.

Am. Bittern: bred BCM, TRd, VF.

Least Bittern: 1 VF 5, 8, 17 Jun (FM to BEN); 1 NR 7 Jun (RP).

Great Blue Heron: no reports from local rookeries; low numbers in dispersion.

Great Egret: max 21 VF 26 Aug; 20 WR 31 Aug.

Green Heron: max 11 BCM 26 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 CL 6 Jul (RP); 3 ad, 2 imm HR Corning Preserve boat launch 20 Jul (A. Mapes to BEN), only reports.

Turkey Vulture: max 40 Colonie Landfill area 16 Aug.

Snow Goose: 1 Coeymans 22-24 Jun (RG).

Mute Swan: 1 Watervliet 20 Jun; 1 remained StP thru, only reports n of COLU.

Wood Duck: good breeding season at CP, FR, VF; max 20 CP 21 Aug.

Gadwall: 4 New St. Cohoes 2 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: 4 L7 26 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: max 42 MR Cohoes 16 Aug.

Mallard: max 100+ FtM 25 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 7 MR Colonie 16 Aug (WE, NM).

Green-winged Teal: 7 lower MR 9 Aug; max 20 VF 16 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: 1 CL 1 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: 3 CL 11 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 JL 20 Jun (RY); 1 Jabe Pd WARR 9 Jul (LM); 4 August reports of singles.

Bald Eagle: 3 imm NB 5 Jun (RG); 1 3rd yr G L 6, 20 Jun (DR); 3 ad, 3 imm CISP 5 Jun (RG); 4 NB 24 Jul (RG); 4 ad NB 10 Aug (RG); 3 imm CISP 10 Aug (RG); 1 imm Gilboa Res SCHO 15 Aug (Bbi); 2 ad, 4 imm Cocksackie 1 31 Aug (BEN); nesting: 5 occupied nests in Region, 2 nests successful - 4 young fledged, 3 from 1 pr.

N. Harrier: reported from 6 locations in FtE 13-27 Jun; 2 MONT 8 Jun; 1 Duanesburg Rds. SCHE 31 Jul; 1 imm VF 23 Aug; 1 imm NR 26 Aug; no nesting observed.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: only 6 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 13 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 Hague 14 Jun (LM), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 1 Rt. 50 Gansevoort/Wilton 24 Jun; 1 ad Saratoga Springs 9 Aug; probably nested JL.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 2 pr nested NB; prob. nested JL; 10 reports of singles.

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Cary Rd. FtE 19 Jul; breeding noted Schodack Ctr & Nassau RENS (PC); 2 y fledged Amsterdam 12 Jul (TP); family group of 4 Brookview RENS 8 Aug (PC); nested FR 4 m chicks fledged (CT).

Peregrine Falcon: 5 active nests LG area, 8 young fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem. Br. 1 fledged; 1 territorial pr Rip Van Winkle Br. Catskill; 3 CISP area thru (all BL); 1 imm Middleburgh SCHO 15 Aug (Bbi).
Virginia Rail: bred BCM, VF; not reported from other areas where expected.
Sora: 1 VF 22 Aug, only report.
Com. Moorhen: bred BCM, CP, VF; max 6 FtM 21 Aug; 1 ad, 4 y VF 25 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: 1 New St. Cohoes 16 Aug (WE, NM), only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 11 Cohoes, 4 FR 9 Aug; max 24 MR ALBA 16 Aug.
Killdeer: max 104 Cohoes/SI 9 Aug; 66 StFI 9 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 NB 23 Jul; 2 Cohoes 2 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 1 SI 4 Jul; max 76 Cohoes Commons 9 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 4 VF 9 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr 11 Cohoes 2 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 13 FtE 11, 14 Jun (Bbi, BP); SCA 26 Aug (RP); 3 reports of singles.
Sanderling: 3 FtM 31 Aug (JS), first report since 1994.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 1 FSF 31 Jul; max 66 Cohoes Commons 3 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 LR Stillwater 19 Jul; max 114 MR, VF, Cohoes 9 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 Cohoes 2 Aug; 3 Cohoes Commons 3 Aug; 3 FR, Cohoes 9 Aug; 2 Sharon Springs 26 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 juv VF 16 Aug (WE), only report.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 VF 16 Aug (WE), first report since 1993 and 6th Regional report.
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 VF 23 Aug (BEN).
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 reports of singles.
Ring-billed Gull: max 200 incl 1 early juv SI/Cohoes 4 Jul; 650 incl 70 juv Cohoes 20 Jul (WE).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 3rd yr SI 2 Aug (WE), very early.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 75 Cohoes 20 Jul.
Forster's Tern: 1 NB 14 Jul (RG).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 12 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: no reports.
E. Screech-Owl: only 4 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: only 2 reports.
Barred Owl: 3 GL 6 Jun; 3 TP 20 Jun; 3 JL 8, 27 Aug; 3 reports of singles.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Garnet L 6 Jun (DR).
Com. Nighthawk: 1 Slingerlands 14 Aug; VF 15 Aug; 39 Slingerlands, 26 Saratoga 21 Aug; 109 Saratoga 22 Aug; 154 Saratoga 23 Aug; 8 Slingerlands, 28 Schenectady 25 Aug; 36 Slingerlands, 10 Albany, 5 Saratoga 26 Aug; 6 Guilderland 27 Aug; 14 Wash. Ave. Ext. Albany 28 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: 1 Coeymans Hollow ALBA Jun-Jul (CT); 1 CSR 5 Aug (JG).
Chimney Swift: max 200 VF 27 Aug.
Belted Kingfisher: max 7 VF 4 Jul.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 18 banded JL thru, 1 imm 14 Aug (RY).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous CISP; 2 FR 16 Aug; 2 Schodack Ctr. 16 Aug; 6 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nested JL; 9 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 6 TP 20 Jun; 7 reports of singles.
N. Flicker: max 10 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 11 SNHP 29 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 10 SkW 6 Jul; 9 SNHP 26 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 NB 16 Aug (RG to BEN); 1 FR 26 Aug (DS).
Alder Flycatcher: max 6 TRd 7 Jun; 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: max 10 BCM 26 Jul.
Least Flycatcher: max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun.
E. Phoebe: 2 broods of 4-5 each banded JL 23 May, 3 Jul (RY), from f banded 1995.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 CHSF 8-9 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 12 MONT 8-9 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 VF 4 Jul; 4 Lisha Kill SCHE 26 Aug.
Warbling Vireo: max 10 VF 4 Jul.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 40 CHSF 8-9 Jun.
Fish Crow: max 5 Colonie 9 Aug.
Com. Raven: reported throughout Region.
Horned Lark: 4 MONT 9 Jun; nested SCA.
Purple Martin: 3 Chatham 2-4 Jul (ADBC), SL colony not checked.

Tree Swallow: 71 nestlings banded Palmer colony Amsterdam; 179 hatchlings banded Veeder colony (RY).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last L7 26 Aug.

Bank Swallow: nesting colonies T Jackson Garage Greenwich, Rotterdam; 40 FtE 19 Jul; max 300+ StFl 26 Aug.

Barn Swallow: last Blatnick Pk SCHE 26 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: last Greenport 22 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: 16 + 5 returns banded JL 25 Jul-31 Aug (RY); no irruption anticipated.

Tufted Titmouse: one hy banded JL 14 Aug, rare in Adirondacks (RY).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 10 banded JL thru.

Brown Creeper: max 4 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Carolina Wren: only 5 reports of singles.

House Wren: max 8 SNHP 1 Jun.

Winter Wren: 8 reports of singles.

Marsh Wren: nested BCM, CP, VF; max 11 VF 4 Jul.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun, pr w fledglings; 1 Barberville 11 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1ad, 3y VF 4 Jun; 3 VF 4 Jul.

E. Bluebird: no nesting reports FR; max 12 BCM 14 Jul.

Veery: max 30 CHSF 8-10 Jun; 15 VF 4 Jul; fledgling being fed CISP 5 Jun, early (JG).

Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from GREE peaks.

Swainson's Thrush: 3 singing Lens L WARR 13 Jul (PC); 1 NB 24 Jul (RG to BEN).

Hermit Thrush: max 12 CSR 5 Aug.

Wood Thrush: max 30 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Gray Catbird: max 31 VF 4 Jul.

Brown Thrasher: reported throughout Region; max 6 MONT 8-9 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: max 48 FR 28 Aug; pr nest-building TP 20 Jun.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 18 SNHP 1 Jun; 2 FR 16 Aug; 2 NB 25 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 4 reports of singles.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Kinderhook L 4 Jun (CW); 1 NB 10 Aug (RG to BEN).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 TRd 10 Jun (WL), late migrant.

Nashville Warbler: arr one Malta SARA 23 Aug.

N. Parula: 2 GL WARR 6 Jun; 1 Cherry Plains SP 19 Jul, only reports.

Yellow Warbler: max 40 VF 4 Jul.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Magnolia Warbler: max 12 CHSF 8-9 Jun; arr 1 VF 23 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 T Bleeker FULT 1 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 9 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 3 Garnet L 6 Jun; arr 1 Malta 23 Aug, early migrant.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 9 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: arr 1 Austerlitz 29 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 2 SNHP 18 Jun (JG); 4-6 TRd 16 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 JL 29 Aug (RY).

Blackpoll Warbler: 4 reports of singles Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: at least 10 singing m CISP 5 Jun (JG, CW)

Black-and-white Warbler: 19 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: max 25 CISP 5 Jun; 20 CHSF 8-9 Jun; fledgling being fed CISP 5 Jun, early.

Ovenbird: max 10 SkW 6 Jun; 25 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: max 4 Ballston L 24 Jun; 1 Guilderland 12 Jul, observed mobbing cat; 3 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 2 ad 2 y Greenport 4 Jun; 3 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Kentucky Warbler: 1 Austerlitz 27 Aug (M. Lobdell/ADBC), first report since 1988.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 22 SNHP 1 Jun; 30 MONT 8-9 Jun; 28 VF 4 Jul..

Wilson's Warbler: 1 Greenport 4 Jun; 1 VF 17 Jun, only reports.

Canada Warbler: max 4 TRd 7 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

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Scarlet Tanager: 20 reports of singles, numbers up.

E. Towhee: max 13 SNHP 1 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 15 MONT 8-9 Jun; did well JL, 19 hy, 10 ad + 9 returns banded (RY).

Field Sparrow: max 9 SNHP 3 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Cary Rd, FtE 3 Jun; 1 Town Line Rd 13 Jun; 2 T Nassau 31 Aug.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 MONT 8-9 Jun; 11 Cary Rd FTE 13 Jun; 9 Rt 197 FtE 28 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 3 FtE 13 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Hinds Rd, 1 Cary Rd FtE 13 Jun; 4 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 24 Jun; did not breed SNHP.

Song Sparrow: max 80 VF 4 Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: possibly heard 21 Jul in bog near Round Pd where probable breeding noted 6 Jul 1995 (PC).

Swamp Sparrow: max 19 VF 4 Jul; 14 BCM 14 Jul.

White-throated Sparrow: 6-8 TRd 10 Jun; 6 CDWMA 11 Jul, incl begging juvs.

Dark-eyed Junco: 6 TP 20 Jun, incl fledglings & nest w young being raided by Blue Jay; not recorded JL.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 MONTT 8-9 Jun; 7 VF 4 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: max 6 Schenectady Museum Preserve 26 Aug; 15 reports of singles.

Bobolink: max 120 Amsterdam 21 Jul (TP); reported in good numbers from FtE, SNHP.

E. Meadowlark: good numbers SNHP.

Orchard Oriole: 1 Brookview RENS 9 Jun (PC), only report.

Baltimore Oriole: max 15 MONT 8-9 Jun; 13 VF 4 Jul (WE), mainly family groups.

Purple Finch: max 10 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

Pine Siskin: 1 Gansevoort 23 Jun, only report.

Evening Grosbeak: reported in small numbers.

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