

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the weather in June was extremely dry, with precipitation of 2.07", 1.55" below normal. Temperatures averaged 69.7°F, 2.8° above normal, with 61% sunshine. July continued dry, with precipitation totalling 2.24", 0.94" below normal. Temperatures averaged 74.1°, 2.8° above normal, with 64% sunshine. The dry weather ended in August, with rainfall a slightly-below-normal 3.45". Temperatures averaged a nearly-normal 69.1°, with 53% sunshine.

Few observers submitted nesting reports, so it is unclear how the drought affected the overall breeding season. Bob Yunick's impression is that the dryness, constant availability of insects and lack of cool, rainy periods in June at critical fledging times favored the nesting of some

species, notably Tree Swallow, although they were the recipients of extreme blowfly predation. The drought turned the pools at Vischer Ferry into dry weed patches, so nesting marsh birds completely disappeared. However, the less accessible areas remained fairly wet, so chances are that bitterns and rails could nest. Bald Eagle was well represented again with five nesting pairs. Four of these nests were successful and nine young were fledged, three from a single pair. **Merlin** nested on the shores of Lake George near Bolton Landing, marking the **first documented nesting of this species in Region 8**. Peregrine Falcon experienced another excellent year in the Region, with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging nine young. There were also three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties; two were successful, fledging at least four young. Shorebird habitat was limited because of the extreme dryness, but the usual 16 species were reported in small numbers. I made a late June trip to the Black Dome/Thomas Cole area and found Bicknell's Thrush singing on both peaks. I hiked up to the single campsite in the evening and was at the top of Thomas Cole (wearing my headlamp) as it started to get light. Henslow's Sparrow did not breed at the Saratoga National Historical Park and was reported only from Dowmont Road east of Ft. Edward. Things seem to be shaping up for a winter finch incursion. Bob Yunick had a Red Crossbill at his feeder in Jenny Lake in late August, as well as a small number of Pine Siskins.

The rare bird highlight of the summer was a **Franklin's Gull**, which spent several days in July on the Mohawk River in the Cohoes area. Thanks to Walter Ellison for spotting the bird and for his excellent documentation of the sighting. This marks the third Regional record for this species.

Other unusual birds sighted included Brant, Glossy Ibis, Common Tern, Long-eared Owl, Hooded Warbler, Dickcissel and Red Crossbill. There were 184 species reported during the period, including 16 species of waterfowl, 12 hawks, 9 flycatchers, 7 thrushes, 23 warblers, 9 sparrows and 5 finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area ALBA; CBBS - Crescent BBS, 13 Jun; CP - Carter Pond WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward WASH; FtM - Fort Miller WASH; HR - Hudson River; hy - hatching year; JL - Jenny Lake SARA; LG - Lake George WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore GREE; NRBBS - North River BBS, 24-25 Jun; PB - Pine Bush Preserve ALBA; PI - Peebles Island SARA; SCA - Saratoga County Airport; SI - Simmons Island ALBA; SkW - Skidmore woods, Saratoga Springs; SL - Saratoga Lake SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TRd - Tower Road SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA.

LOONS - DUCKS

Com. Loon: 1 Jabe's Pd T Hague 20 Jun;
1 Efner L SARA 4 Jul thru; only reports.
Pied-billed Grebe: 1 FtM 5 Aug (JS),
only report.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 64
Cohoes 21 Aug.
Am. Bittern: 1 Smith's Flats Wetlands T
Hague 26 Jun; 1 FtE 8 Jul; only reports.
Least Bittern: 2 CP 2 Jun; 1 heard VF
thru 9 Jun; only reports.
Great Blue Heron: max 20 HR Albany 7
Jul; 12 New St. Cohoes 20 Jul; no reports
from local rookeries.
Great Egret: max 6 NB 29 Jul.
Green Heron: max 7 BCM 25 Jul.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 imm
New St. Cohoes 14 Jul (SA), only report.
Glossy Ibis: 1 NB 27 Jun (RG).
Turkey Vulture: max 30 Colonie Landfill
area 24 Jul.
Snow Goose: 1 NRBBS (BBu).
Brant: 1 MR PI 10 and 11 Jul (WE).

Mute Swan: no reports n of COLU.

Wood Duck: no breeding reports
received.

Gadwall: max 6 VF 22 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: max 39 MR Cohoes 21
Aug.

Mallard: max 380 MR Cohoes 21 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 13 MR Cohoes
Commons 21 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 1 SI 10 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: 4 PI 31 Jul; 2 MR
Cohoes Commons 21 Aug; only reports.

Bufflehead: 1 FtM 7 and 23 Jul (JS).

Hooded Merganser: 3 juv FtM 3 Jun (JS);
1 Coeymans 16 Jun; 1 Lens L WARR 23
Jun; 1 New St. Cohoes 22 Aug; 1 FR 28
Aug.

Com. Merganser: 1 ad + 6 y Lens L
WARR 23 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 HR Albany 7
Jul (RG).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 JL area thru (RY), may have bred; 1 North Creek area 16 Jun (BPur); 2 FtM 7 Jul; 1 HR Albany 7 Jul; 2 Catskill 24 Jul; 7 reports of singles in Aug.

Bald Eagle: 1 Round L SARA 6 Jun; 1 imm LG T Hague 9 Jun (LM); 1 ad 33 imm NB 20 Jun-26 Jul; 4 imm CISP (RG); 1 imm Cocksackie 7 Aug; 1 imm Spier Falls Rd 18 Aug; 2 ad 2 imm NB 27 Aug; nesting: 5 occupied nests in Region, 4 successful, 7 y fledged, 3 from 1 pair.

N. Harrier: 1 SNHP 5 Jun; 3 FtE 22 Jun and 8 Aug; 1 Canajoharie MONT 19 Jun; 1 Amsterdam 16 Aug; 1 Gansevoort 29 Aug; no nesting observed.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 reports of singles; bred Gallupville.

Cooper's Hawk: 9 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 CBBS; nested JL (RY); House Pd FULT (JB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 SNHP 5 Jun; 1 Grafton Lakes SP 15 Jul; 1 Altamont 8 Aug; 1 Austerlitz 13 and 16 Aug; only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 7 North Creek area 16 Jun; 5 JL 17 Jul; nested JL, Sassafra Nature Preserve, Amsterdam; 15 reports of singles.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 7 Cocksackie 7 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 6 Jefferson SCHO 3 Aug; 15 Cary Rd. FtE 8 Aug; pair Brookview RENS 15 Jun.

Merlin: nested T Bolton Landing; *1st Regional nesting record.*

Peregrine Falcon: 5 active nests LG area, 9 y fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem Br, 3 fledged; 1 active nest Castleton Railroad Br, at least 1 fledged; 1 active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, failed (all BL); 1 ad female FtE 20 Jun (WE); 1 2nd year female Cohoes 21 Aug (WE).

Wild Turkey: reported in good numbers throughout Region.

Virginia Rail: 1 CP 9 Jun; 2 Lens L WARR 23 Jun (PC); 1 ad + 3 y BCM 27 Jun.

Sora: no reports.

Com. Moorhen: 1 VF 6 Jun; 5 CP 25 Aug; only reports.

Am. Coot: 1 ad + 2 y Partridge Run WMA 24-25 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 New St Cohoes 22 Aug (FM), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 10 Cohoes 21 Aug.

Killdeer: max 40 Cohoes 24 Jul; 56 NRP 7 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 PI 31 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 1 SI 10 Jul; 2 FTM 11 Jul; max 24 SI/Cohoes Commons 24 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 FtM 11 Jul.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 Cohoes 11 Jul; max 12 PI 31 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 18 FtE 12 Jun; 5 reports of singles.

Sanderling: 3 Tibbets Ave GI 21 Aug (WE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 5 SI 24 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 SI 10 Jul; max 40 SI 24 Jul.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 New St Cohoes 3 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 Shaker's Creek T Colonie ALBA 2 Aug (WL).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 juv SI 20 Jul (SA); 1 juv SI 21 Jul (WE), only reports.

Am. Woodcock: only 2 reports of singles.

Franklin's Gull: 1 2nd year 10-16 Jul SI (WE, NM, mob), 3rd Regional record.

Ring-billed Gull: max 195 SI 10 Jul; 465 Cohoes 21 Aug (WE).

Com. Tern: 2 NB 29 Jun (RG); 1 Catskill 24 Jul (RG).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 9 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6 reports of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: only 6 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 6 reports of singles; 3 juv NRP 7 Aug.

Barred Owl: 6 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: heard nightly Gallupville 18-24 Jun and 7 Aug (Bbo, KB).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 Rts 4/67

Mechanicville 14 Jun (WL); 1 Glens Falls 15 Jun; 3 Glens Falls 19 Jul (AV); 1

Saratoga; 2 Niskayuna 11 Aug (WL); 29 Albany 16 Aug (BEN); 1 Saratoga 16 Aug; 24 Guilderland 17 Aug; 5 Saratoga 17 Aug; 10 Saratoga 18 Aug; 36 Saratoga 19 Aug; 9 Guilderland 22 Aug; 13 Stuyvesant Plaza 22 Aug; 3 Saratoga 25 Aug (JG); 220 Guilderland 27 Aug (WE); 932 Saratoga 27 Aug (JG); 78 Guilderland 28 Aug; 8 Albany 28 Aug (SS).
Whip-poor-will: 3 TRd 13 Jun (JG, AV); 1 New Hague Rd T Hague 21 and 24 Jun (LM); 1 Northville FULT 28 Jun (FM); 1 Warrensburg 3 Jul (B. Kirker); 1 Schodack 25 Aug (BEN).
Chimney Swift: max 65 Cohoes 21 Aug (WE); 150-200 Saratoga 22 Aug (AH).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 57 banded JL thru (RY), record year.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Plattecove BBS 12 Jun (RG).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 ad + 2 fledglings NB 20 Jun (RG); 2 juvs VF 24 Jul; 12 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nested JL; 3 pairs at nest holes NRBBS (Bbu); 7 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 SNHP 3 Jun (BEN); 1 Powley-Pisceo Rd T Stratford FULT 28 Aug (JG).
E. Wood-Pewee: max 9 SNHP 23 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 NB 25 Aug (RG), only report.
Alder Flycatcher: max 4 SNHP 21 Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 6 TRd 3 Jun (WL).
Least Flycatcher: max 11 Hadley Mt 13 Jun.
E. Phoebe: 22 y banded from 5 nests JL (RY).
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 7 CBBS; 6 CSR 27 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 8 SNHP 21 Jul.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Lens L 23 Jun (PC).
Warbling Vireo: max 10 CBBS.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 11 Hadley Mt 13 Jun.

Fish Crow: pair SUNYA 8 Jul, only report.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Region.

Horned Lark: nested FtE, SCA.

Purple Martin: 1 Ballston L outlet 15 Jul; SL colony not checked.

Tree Swallow: 68 nestlings banded Palmer colony Amsterdam; 162 nestlings banded Veeder colony (RY).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 PI 21 Aug.

Bank Swallow: nesting colony with 50-100 nest holes Rotterdam 23 Jun (WL); max 60 NRP 11 Jul; last 9 NRP 7 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 37 T Gansevoort 7 Aug; last PISP 21 Aug.

Barn Swallow: max 52 NRP 7 Aug; last 6 Slingerlands 18 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: 37 banded JL 22 Jul-31 Aug (RY); sizable irruption anticipated.

Tufted Titmouse: bred again JL, rare in Adirondacks (RY).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 62 banded JL thru (RY), 31-year record.

Carolina Wren: only 4 reports of singles.

House Wren: max 13 CBBS; 8 SNHP 18 Jun; 4 pairs nested Amsterdam, 32 y fledged (TP).

Winter Wren: max 7 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun (JG).

Marsh Wren: max 8 BCM 25 Jun.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 CBBS; 4 NRP 11 Jul; 4 VF 24 Jul.

E. Bluebird: no nesting reports FR; max 8 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun.

Veery: max 22 CSR 22 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: 2 Thomas Cole 25 Jun; 2 Black Dome 25 Jun; 8 Hunter Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 1 Hadley Mt 13 Jun; 5+ Lens L WARR 23 Jun (PC); 6 Black Dome 25 Jun.

Hermit Thrush: max 14 NRBBS.

Wood Thrush: max 14 CBBS; 10 TRd 13 Jun.

Am. Robin: week-old FL banded NB 24 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 38 CBBS.

Brown Thrasher: reported throughout Region; max 4 Plattecove BBS 12 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: max 13 Crescent BBS; 15 Camp Pinnacle 30 Aug.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 10 SNHP 21 Jun; 2 NB 25 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 SNHP 30 Jun (JG).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 SNHP 3 Jun (BEN).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 Ferry Rd 24 Jul (WE).

N. Parula: 2 Hadley Mt 13 Jun; 4 NRBBS; 6 T Stratford FULT 18 Jun; 2 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: max 21 CBBS.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 NRBBS.

Magnolia Warbler: max 5 NRBBS; arr 4 VF 22 Aug; 5 reports of singles.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 10 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 8 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 13 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: 15 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: max 6 CSR 22 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 3 SNHP 21 Jun; 6-8 TRd 3 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Black Dome 25 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: no reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 10 NRBBS; 13 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: max 11 Black Dome 25 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 T Coeymans 16 Jun (RG).

Ovenbird: max 19 SkW 9 Jun; 27 NRBBS; 13 SNHP 23 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: 2 CBBS, only report.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun; 2 ad + 1 y NRP 11 Jul; only reports.

Mourning Warbler: 2 NRBBS, only report.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 15 CBBS; 12 BCM 27 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: 1 banded T Altamont 6 Aug (RG).

Wilson's Warbler: no reports.

Canada Warbler: max 4-6 TRd 3 Jun; 7 NRBBS (Bbu); 2 NB 25 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 CSR 22 Jun; 31 reports of singles; numbers up.

E. Towhee: max 6 PB 13 Jul; 10 NB 6 Aug; 9 SNHP 21 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 15 NRBBS; did well JL 10 y 3 ad banded (RY).

Field Sparrow: max 10 SNHP 21 Jun; 8 PB 13 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: 3 FtE 12 Jun; 1 singing SCA 17 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 64 FtE 12 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 5 FtE 12 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 24 Jun; did not breed SNHP.

Swamp Sparrow: max 9 BCM 27 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 10 NRBBS.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 17 banded JL Jun-Jul (RY).

Indigo Bunting: max 6 SNHP 2 Jun; 6 NB 3 Jul; 16 reports of singles.

DICKCISSEL: 1 singing male

Durkeetown Rd FtE 12-15 Jun (AH, mob), first report since 1996, first summer report since 1974.

Bobolink: reported in good numbers from FtE, SNHP.

E. Meadowlark: good numbers SNHP.

Com. Grackle: max 3000 Chatham 29 Aug (WE).

Orchard Oriole: 1 Schodack 21 Jun (PC); 1 ad male 1 sub-ad male Amsterdam 16 Jun (TP).

Baltimore Oriole: max 9 PI 10 Jul; 6 PB 13 Jul.

Purple Finch: 83 banded (23 hy) JL Jun-Aug (RY); reported in small numbers throughout Region.

Red Crossbill: 1 *neogara* at thistle feeder JL (RY), only report.

Am. Goldfinch: 53 banded JL thru.

Evening Grosbeak: max 13 NRBBS; 12 banded (6 hy) JL (RY); 6 reports of singles.

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