

REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer season was one of the driest on record. June had less than 1" of rain and July was under 0.5" for most parts of Region 9. The first half of August was dry as well. Heat waves with high temperatures in the high 90s occurred 7-9 June, 4-6 July, and a prolonged one, 23 July to 2 August. The average temperature for July was 4°F above normal.

Osprey successfully nested and raised two young at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye. This is the **first nesting in Westchester County since the 1890s.**

The Huckleberry Island Nesting Survey conducted on this island in Long Island Sound off New Rochelle, Westchester County on 21 May by David Kunstler found 565 Double-crested Cormorant nests, 25 Great Egret nests, 9 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, 18 adult Snowy Egrets, 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 2 pairs of American Oystercatchers, 107 adult Herring and 44 adult Great Black-backed gulls.

The first Sterling Forest (Orange County) Breeding Bird Survey on 12 June found 98 species, including 21 species of warblers. Highlights included Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue and Nashville warblers, both waterthrushes, Yellow-breasted Chat, Acadian Flycatcher and Purple Finch..

The Greenwich-Stamford (Connecticut) Summer Bird Count on 12 and 13 June yielded 128 species. Highlights of the areas covered in Westchester County included 5 Clapper Rails, 7 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Marshlands Conservancy.

The Putnam County Summer Bird Count tallied 133 species including: 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Common Terns on the Hudson River, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco and Orchard Oriole.

Six Sandhill Cranes were found in Parksville, Sullivan County on 31 July. Unfortunately, the birds were not countable for the many birders who traveled to see them. It was discovered that they are part of "Operation Migration." This experimental program trains cranes to follow ultralight aircraft in order to establish new migration routes. They were originally brought north in back of a truck.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were numerous and appeared to be on the move south during August. Orchard Oriole sightings continue to increase.

Other interesting sightings included out-of-season Red-necked Grebe in New Rochelle on 20 August and Evening Grosbeak in Katonah on 24 August.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP - Croton Point Park WEST; EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary WEST; GA - Galeville Airport ULST; GSSBC - Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; KP - Kakiat Park ROCK; LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MC - Marshlands Conservancy WEST; MRG - Mianus River Gorge WEST; PCSBC - Putnam County Summer Bird Count; PP - Piermont Pier ROCK; RNC - Rye Nature Center WEST; RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club DUTC; SFBBS - Sterling Forest Breeding Bird Survey ORAN; THMUA - Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area DUTC; WPR - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation WEST.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 MC 12 Jun.
Red-necked Grebe: 1 Glen I P, New Rochelle 20 Aug (TB).
Am. Bittern: 1 Bashakill 22 Aug.
Least Bittern: 2 CPP 12 Jun; 4 PCSBC Jun.
Great Egret: 4 Hudson R, Kingston 28 Jul; 8 L Tappan 8 Aug.
Snowy Egret: 1 Staatsburg 8 Aug; 1 Hillside L DUTC 17 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: 1 EGR 12 Jun; 1 EGR 22 Aug.
Green Heron: 1 nest Hudson R DUTC; 1 PP 1 Aug.

Black Vulture: 4 Sloatsburg 25 Aug; 1 Stonykill 31 Aug.
Mute Swan: 170 Hudson R near Kingston 28 Jul; 200 River Rd DUTC Aug.
Greater Scaup: 1 Rye first week of Jun.
Com. Merganser: 2 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 2 Jun.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: successful nest, 2 y MC, *first for WEST since 1890s*.
Bald Eagle: 1 ad Muscoot Res 1 Aug.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 DUTC 22 Jul.
Cooper's hawk: 4 GSSBC 12-13 Jun; 1

Pawling 30 Jun; 3 y Tymor P DUTC 13 Jul.
N. Goshawk: 2 MRG 13 Jun; 4 PCSBC Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: 8 PCSBC Jun.
Red-tailed Hawk: 1 albino WPR 17 Jun.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Cortlandt 5 Jun; 6 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 1 Humeston DUTC 11 Jul.
Merlin: 1 Rye 14 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 Newburgh/Beacon Bridge 20 Jun; 1 Bear Mt Bridge 1 Aug.
Ruffed Grouse: hen with 3 y Myers Preserve 12 Jun.
N. Bobwhite: 2 DUTC 3 Jun; 1 Buckout Rd, Harrison 12 Jun.
Clapper Rail: 5 MC 12 Jun.
Virginia Rail: 5 PCSBC Jun.
Sora: 1 MC 10 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: only reported from Bashakill.
Sandhill Crane: 6 Parksville SULL 31 Jul, trucked into Region as part of "Operation Migration", *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: max 16 MC 25 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: max 24 MC 26 Jun; 1 PP 1 Aug; 10 L Tappan 8 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: max 6 Rye 26 Jun.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 Bronx R Yonkers 12 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: 1 PP 1 Aug; max 4 EGR 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 120 MC 26 Jun; 300 L Tappan 8 Aug; 22 Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 11 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: 1 location omitted 30 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: few PP 1 Aug; 27 Bronx R Yonkers 29 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 MC 17 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 L Tappan 8 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 4 MC 25 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Hudson R near Rhinecliff DUTC 28 Jul (VF).
Com. Tern: max 50 EGR 20 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 1 MC 26 Jun; 1 EGR 20 and 22 Aug.
Least Tern: 2 MC 30 Jun.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 RNC 1 and 3 Jun; 1 KP 6 Jun; 1 WPR 7 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 300 Newburgh 22 Aug (LHVBL).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 DUTC 16-30 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 PCSBC Jun; 1 Pawling Nature Preserve 30 Jun, 1 and 4 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 MC 7, 18 and 19 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: 1-2 DUTC (3 locations); 1 MRG 12 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: 1WPR 5 Jun; 4 Sharparoon 11 Jun; 2 Shaughnessy Rd DUTC 14 Jun; 3 PCSBC Jun.
White-eyed Vireo: 1 Nellie Hill DUTC 11 Jun, carrying food to nest (CP).
Blue-headed Vireo: absent at MRG (GSSBC); 10 PCSBC Jun; 3 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 10 Jul.
Com. Raven: 6 DUTC 2 Jun; 11 PCSBC Jun.
Purple Martin: 4 DUTC 2-17 Jun and Jul; 3 MC 22 Aug.
Bank Swallow: 6 MC 3 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: new colonies at CPP, Muscoot Farm.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: many reports from DUTC; scattered reports from elsewhere.
Brown Creeper: 1 Nanahagan Rd WEST 12 Jun.
Winter Wren: max 7 MRG 12 Jun.
Sedge Wren: 1 WPR 25 Jul (LHVBL).
Marsh Wren: max 17 MC 12 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 WPR 7 Jun; 1 Nanahagan Rd WEST 12 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: 5 Pawling Nature Preserve 4 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: common this summer.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 KP 6 Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Kent Cliffs PUTN 10 Aug (LHVBL).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 PCSBC Jun; 2 Pawling 30 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Mack Rd DUTC 9 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 7 and nest Deep Hollow Rd DUTC; 20 PCSBC Jun; 1 THMUA 26 Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve, 1 feeding juv cowbird 4 Aug (CP).

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 1 THMUA 26 Jun; 2 PCSBC Jun; 3 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 10 Jul; 1 Bashakill 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 1 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 2 PCSBC Jun; 1 Pawling 30 Jun; usual numbers at Doodletown.

Kentucky Warbler: 1 PCSBC Jun; 1 Rockefeller SP end of Jun.

Mourning Warbler: 1 RNC 4 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: good numbers from Doodletown; 1 Myer Preserve 12 Jun; 5 PCSBC Jun; 1 Tymor P DUTC 13 Jul; 3 DUTC 4 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 1 Sharparoon DUTC 11 Jun; 3 PCSBC Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve 4 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: nesting at CPP.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 MC 12 Jun.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: max 6 MC 30 Jun.

Seaside Sparrow: 1 MC 2 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: 4-5 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 2 Jun and 10 Jul; 4 PCSBC Jun, breeding in 2 locations.

Bobolink: nesting at CPP.

Orchard Oriole: 1 Walden 6 Jun; 1 DUTC 14 Jun; many reports in the southern half of the Region; max 3 pairs Crestwood L Yonkers.

Purple Finch: reported mainly from DUTC and PUTN; 1 MC 23 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 Katonah 24 Aug (LHVBL).

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