

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, weather in June was extremely wet, with precipitation of 6.69", 3.07" above normal. Temperatures averaged 65.8°F, 1.1° below normal, with only 42% sunshine. July continued wet and cool, with precipitation totaling 4.49", 1.31" above normal. Temperatures averaged 67.6°, 4.2° below normal, tying the record for the coolest July since records began to be kept. There was only 52% sunshine. The cool, damp weather continued again in August, with rainfall of 4.70", 1.23" above normal. Temperatures averaged 68.5°, 4.2° below normal, with 58% sunshine. The summer of 2000 tied for the tenth coolest and 11th wettest on record.

How all this cool, wet weather affected the breeding season is hard to say. There were so many rainy weekends that it was hard to get out into the field. Atlasing was certainly affected by this restriction. Bald Eagle was well represented again with six breeding pairs, up from five in 1999. Five of the nests were successful and 13 young were fledged, three from a single pair. The Merlin pair did not return to their nest site on the shores of Lake George near Bolton Landing, but there is anecdotal evidence of a pair nesting on one of the Lake George islands not far from Bolton Landing. Peregrine Falcon experienced another excellent year in the Region, with at least five active nests in the Lake George area fledging eight young. There were also three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties; as with last year, two were successful fledging five young. Shorebird habitat was essentially nonexistent because of high water; only nine species were found. Henslow's Sparrow again did not breed at the Saratoga National Historical Park and was reported only from Dowmont Road east of Ft. Edward. Grasshopper Sparrow was present at several locations not previously reported, thanks to atlasing efforts. With the heavy cone crops, there is hope that this will be a good year for winter finches. In late August, White-winged Crossbill was reported from both

Albany and Rensselaer counties. Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were all present at Jenny Lake.

One of the most interesting aspects of the summer season was the presence of several "southern" species that are normally rare in the Region, especially during breeding season. Acadian Flycatcher was found in southern Greene County. White-eyed Vireo was present in Columbia County in July. Worm-eating Warbler was reported from five locations and had nesting confirmed in the Town of Coeymans, Albany County. Hooded Warbler was found in three separate locations, most notably at least three singing males in one yard on the Helderberg Escarpment, another not far away in the Town of New Scotland, and one in the Town of Broome, Schoharie County.

Other unusual birds sighted included Long-eared Owl, Sedge Wren and Summer Tanager. One hundred seventy-eight species were reported during the period, down from last year's 184. They included 16 species of waterfowl, 12 hawks, 10 flycatchers, 7 thrushes, 23 warblers, 9 sparrows and 5 finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA, ALBA; CDWMA – Capital District WMA, RENS; CL – Collins Lake, SCHE; CSR – Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FtE – Fort Edward, WASH; HR – Hudson River; JL – Jenny Lake, SARA; MR – Mohawk River; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; PB – Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; SCA – Saratoga County Airport; SNHP – Saratoga-Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TRd – Tower Road, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 3 Jakes Pd T Hague 20 Jul;
Green L FULT 19 Aug; nested Garnet L;
only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Tamarac Rd T
Brunswick 2 Jul (PC); ad carrying food
Logtown Rd marsh T Root MONT 25 Jul

(TP); only reports.

Am. Bittern: 2 BCM 21 Jun; Mill Creek
WARR 2 Jul; only reports.

Least Bittern: BCM 21 Jun (BC); marsh
on E Bay L Champlain T Whitehall
WASH 16 Jul (WE, NM); only reports.

Great Blue Heron: rookery Schodack I

noted 4 Jun (PC); max 10 Tongue Mt 18 Jun.

Great Egret: max 4 MR Colonie 12 Aug.

Green Heron: max 5 MR 12 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad Patroon Creek 1 Jul (AM); only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 35 Colonie Landfill area 11 Aug.

Mute Swan: no reports n of COLU.

Wood Duck: 10 T Taghkanic 9 Jul; bred JL.

Blue-winged Teal: CL 23 Jun; only report.

Hooded Merganser: Niskayuna 14, 17 Jul; only report.

Com. Merganser: 2 ad + 9 y Crane Mt area WARR 22 Jun; 25 NB 13 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: m Ghent 5 Jul (OW, CW).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Ghent 8 Jul; Germantown 25 Jul; only 2 Aug reports of singles.

Bald Eagle: 8 occupied nests in Region; 6 breeding pairs, 2 successful nests 5 y COLU; 1 successful nest 3 y GREE; 2 successful nests 5 y SCHO.

N. Harrier: 2 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 10 Jun (RB), m in courtship flight; Gansevoort 15 Jun; Frederick Rd Guilderland mid-late Jul; no other reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: only 9 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: only 5 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: Mechanicville Res 9 Jul (JG, AV); S. Rensselaer 11 Jul (Tim Dormandy to ADBC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: JL thru; T Stephentown 23 Jun, 11 Jul, 19 Jul; Crane Mt 29 Jun; Austerlitz 6 Jul, 14 Jul, 21 Aug; CDWMA 9 Jul; only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: 17 reports of singles.

Am. Kestrel: 3 FR 9 Jul; 10 Cary Rd FtE 22 Jul; nested Amsterdam, 5 hatched, 4

FL.

Merlin: Gansevoort 25, 26, 29 Aug (BP); only report.

Peregrine Falcon: 5-6 active nests LG area, 8 FL; active nest Dunn Memorial Br, 4 FL; active nest Castleton Br, 1 FL; active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, failed (all BL).

Wild Turkey: good numbers throughout.

Virginia Rail: BCM 20 Jun;

Tomhannock Creek Marsh 2 Jul, 23 Jul; Tamarac Rd Marsh 26 Aug; only reports.

Sora: BCM 20 Jun; Ancram 4 Jul; Germantown 13 Jul.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: no reports.

Killdeer: max 15 FtE 8 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: no reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr FtE 22 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Partridge Run WMA 28 Jul; 3 Schoharie 5 Aug; only reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Claverack 3 Jul; Germantown 21 Jul; Tamarac Rd RENS 23 Jul; only reports.

Upland Sandpiper: 16 FtE 8 Jul; 4 reports of singles.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr FtE 22 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: no reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 Shakers Creek T Colonie ALBA 2 Aug (WL).

Short-billed Dowitcher: NB 12 Aug (RG); only report.

Am. Woodcock: VF 12 Jun (JG); ad + 3 y TRd 1 Jul (JG); "several" PB 12 Jul (RG); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: "several" NB 12 Jul (RG).

Ring-billed Gull: max 1100+ Cohoes 11 Aug (Gerry Colborn).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 15 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6 reports of singles.

E. Screech Owl: only 5 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: only 2 reports of singles; 2 y heard Amsterdam 25 Jul.
Barred Owl: only 1 report.
Long-eared Owl: heard nightly Gallupville 24-27 Aug (Bbo, KB).
N. Saw-whet Owl: S Rensselaer 27 Jun (Tim Dormandy *fide* BC).
Com. Nighthawk: Malta 13 Aug; Slingerlands 21 Aug; 12 Albany 21 Aug; 21 Saratoga 21 Aug; 7 Saratoga 22 Aug; 115 Saratoga 24 Aug; 180 Slingerlands 24 Aug; 20-75 Albany 24 Aug; 57 Saratoga 25 Aug (JG); 45 Slingerlands 25 Aug; 12 Saratoga 26 Aug; 100 Slingerlands 27 Aug; 11 Slingerlands 28 Aug; 9 Slingerlands 31 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: 2 TRd 1 Jul (JG); 5 CSR 20 Jun (JG).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 40 banded plus 9 returns JL thru (RY).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Crane Mt 29 Jun; 2 pairs nested JL.
Pileated Woodpecker: 27 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Meadowdale Rd 13 Aug (L. Alden), early migrant.
E. Wood Pewee: max 5 Medusa BBS 18 Jun; 5 SNHP 23 Jun; 6 Germantown 21 Jul.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 Hunter Mt 19 Jun (RG); Crane Mt area 28 Jun; only reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: T Hunter 1 Jun (WB).
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 TRd 11 Jun; 4 SNHP 20 Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 9 BCM 24 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 15 Medusa BBS 18 Jun.
E. Phoebe: max 18 COLU 18 Jun.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12

Crescent BBS.
E. Kingbird: max 32 Ghent 19 Aug.
White-eyed Vireo: Copake 20 Jul (BC).
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Crescent BBS.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 5 TRd 11 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 16 Crescent BBS.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 53 Warrensburg BBS.
Fish Crow: 5 Amsterdam 11 Jun; ad + FL Castleton 30 Jun; 3 reports of singles.
Com. Raven: reported throughout.
Horned Lark: 3 courtship/territorial flight SCA 18 Jun; only report.
Purple Martin: SL 8 Jun; only report.
Tree Swallow: max 403 Ghent 22 Jul (OW, CW).
Bank Swallow: nesting colony with ca 100 individuals using holes Schodack Valley RENS 8 Jun; 28 nest holes CR29 Sweets Landing FULT 8 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: last 2 Tamarac Pd Brunswick 27 Aug.
Carolina Wren: 9 reports of singles.
House Wren: max 12 Crescent BBS; 10 Cobleskill BBS.
Winter Wren: max 6 Lishakill Preserve 17 Jul (WL); 26 reports of singles, seemed more numerous than usual.
Sedge Wren: 2 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 21 Jun (JG); 1 remained at least thru Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 5 BCM 24 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Gallupville throughout Aug; 3 reports of singles.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 Crescent BBS.
E. Bluebird: numbers generally good.
Veery: max 17 S Berne BBS 24 Jun; 14 CSR 9 Jul.
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 Hunter Mt 10 Jun (RG).
Swainson's Thrush: 3 Hunter Mt 10 Jun; 2 Crane Mt 29 Jun; 3 reports of singles.
Hermit Thrush: max 6 Crane Mt 29 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 14 Crescent BBS;

10 Cedar Bluff Rd SARA 8 Jun; 12 CSR 9 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 34 Crescent BBS.

Brown Thrasher: reported throughout Region; CO Amsterdam.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 7 SNHP 20 Jun; still present SNHP 30 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

Nashville Warbler: max 6 Crane Mt 29 Jun; arr SNHP 25 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 19 Crescent BBS; 10 Cedar Bluff Rd 18 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 Medusa BBS.

Magnolia Warbler: max 3-4 Hunter Mt 10 Jun; 13 reports of singles.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 Crane Mt 29 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 24 Crane Mt 29 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 16 Crane Mt 29 Jun; arr SNHP 18 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: 16 reports of singles; arr SNHP 25 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 4 CSR 9 Jul.

Prairie Warbler: 6 SNHP 20 Jun; 5 TRd 1 Jul.

Palm Warbler: 2 S Rensselaer 21, 28 Jun (*fide* BC); late migrants?

Cerulean Warbler: Gallatin 29 Jun; no reports from SISF.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 10 Cobleskill BBS.

Am. Redstart: max 9 Warrensburg BBS.

Worm-eating Warbler: Gallatin 25, 28 Jun (BC); nested Blossom Hill Rd T Coeymans; seen carrying food 13 Jul (RB); Ancram 16 Jul (BC); Germantown 24 Jul (BC); Copake 15 Aug (ADBC).

Ovenbird: max 32 Warrensburg BBS; 10 SNHP 4 Jul.

N. Waterthrush: only 3 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: FY Langley Rd MONT 14 Jun; 11 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: Hunter Mt 10 Jun; TRd 11 Jun; Dyken Pd RENS 18 Jun; Cabin Creek WARR 30 Jun; Wardsboro T Hague 1 Jul; CDWMA 9 Jul.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 41 Duanesburg BBS; 32 Medusa BBS.

Hooded Warbler: T Broome SCHO 2, 3 Jun (Eileen Corbett); at least 3 singing m Beaver Dam Rd T Berne ALBA thru (MS); Cedar Grove Rd T New Scotland ALBA at least thru mid-July (KO).

Wilson's Warbler: CPHW 27 Aug (RB).

Canada Warbler: max 3 TRd 11 Jun; arr SNHP 17 Aug; several Gallupville last wk Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: f found dead Old Chatham COLU 9 Jun (Kate Dunham, Elisabeth Grace); first report since 1984.

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 CSR 9 Jun; 45 reports of singles; numbers up.

E. Towhee: max 11 SNHP 18 Aug.

Chipping Sparrow: max 24 Warrensburg BBS; 22 Cobleskill BBS; did well JL, 24 banded (RY).

Field Sparrow: max 6 SNHP 20 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: 3 FtE 12 Jun; singing SCA 12 Jun; Kinderhook 4 Jul; 3 Gansevoort 7 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 FtE 10 Jun; 2 Frederick Rd T Guilderland 4 Jul; Ancram 4 Jul; T Ghent 9 Jul; Copake 17 Jul; Taghkanic 9-22 Aug.

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

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 Mill Creek WARR 1 Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: max 9 BCM 24 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 9 Warrensburg BBS.

Dark-eyed Junco: 16 Crane Mt 29 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 5 Gallatin 28 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: max 5 SNHP 13 Jul; 24 reports of singles.

Bobolink: good numbers FtE and SNHP;
max 200+ Gansevoort 28-29 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: good numbers SNHP.

Orchard Oriole: FtE 2 Jun; Amsterdam
14 Jun; Claverack 24 Jun; Ancram 4- 5
Jul.

Baltimore Oriole: max 16 Crescent
BBS; 18+ Meadowdale Rd 18 Aug.

Purple Finch: 93 banded JL Jun-Aug
(RY); reported in small numbers
throughout Region.

Red Crossbill: heard JL 17 Jun (RY);
only report.

White-winged Crossbill: 4 Berlin Mt
RENS 20 Aug (FM); Pinnacle 26 Aug
(RB).

Pine Siskin: Gansevoort 1 Jun; New
Salem 4 Jun; Hillsdale 13-26 Jun; juv
banded JL 3 Jul; 2 banded JL 7 Jul;
Austerlitz 6-7 Aug.

Am. Goldfinch: 40 banded JL thru.

Evening Grosbeak: 4 T Hague 30 Jun; 9
banded JL (RY); only reports.

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