

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the weather in June was warm, with precipitation of 3.78", 0.16" above normal. Temperatures averaged 68.4°F, 1.5° above normal, with 77% sunshine. July was relatively cool, with precipitation totaling 3.59", 0.41" above normal. Temperatures averaged 68.9°, 2.9° below normal, with 65% sunshine. The weather turned hot and dry in August, with rainfall of only 2.10", 1.37" below normal. Temperatures averaged 73.7°, 4.1° above normal, with 64% sunshine. August was the 10th warmest on record.

All reports indicate an excellent breeding season. Bob Yunick reported record banding results for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with 116 captures, Tree Swallow, with 476 individuals banded at the five colonies he monitors, and Pine Siskin, with 117 banded, 110 of which were hatching year birds.

Common Loons nesting at Garnet Lake had their young eaten by a Bald Eagle. Bald Eagle was well-represented again with seven breeding pairs, up from six in 2000. Five of the nests were successful and eight young were fledged. Peregrine Falcon experienced another excellent year in the Region with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging 12 young. There were again three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties; two were successful, fledging seven young. Shorebird habitat was limited as usual to the Cohoes and Vischer Ferry areas, with only 12 species found. Atlasers found Sedge Wren in two blocks in Fulton County, although none were present in the Ft. Edward area. Henslow's Sparrow was reported only from Dowmont Road east of Ft. Edward, where there were at least seven singing males present. Some of the "southern" species that were present last breeding season continued to be reported. Although neither Acadian Flycatcher nor White-eyed Vireo put in an appearance this year, Worm-eating Warbler was reported from five locations in Columbia County and Hooded Warbler was found in three separate locations, two in Albany County and one in Taconic State Park, Columbia County, where three singing males were observed in late July.

Other unusual birds sighted included Great Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Rough-legged Hawk, Sanderling, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker and Sedge Wren. One hundred ninety species were reported during the period, up from last year's 178. They included 13 species of waterfowl, 13 hawks, six owls, nine flycatchers, seven thrushes, 26 warblers, ten sparrows and five finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, William P. Brown, Robert Budliger, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Evelyn Greene, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Hudson Mohawk Bird

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA, ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, T Saratoga, SARA; CDWMA – Capital Districe WMA, RENS; FtE – Ft Edward, WASH; FtM – Ft Miller, WASH; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; LG – L George, WARR; L7 – Lock 7 Mohawk Ri; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; SCA – Saratoga County Airport; SI – Simmons I, ALBA; SkW – Skidmore woods, Saratoga Springs; SL – Saratoga L, SARA; 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: Jenny/Efner L SARA thru; nested Garnet L, Loon L; Ireland Vly 9 Jun; Thirteenth L WARR 25 Jun; Lens L WARR 14 Jul; Second Pd T Johnsbury WARR 15 Jul; only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Lily Pd. T Gallatin 22 Jun; 1 ad 2 yg State Wetland #113 Schenectady 24 Jun; FL Schroon Ri T Horicon 17 Jul; VF 29 Jul; only reports.
Great Cormorant: 3 Cocksackie 11 Jun (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: nested HR Germantown (BC).

Am. Bittern: only 6 reports of singles.

Least Bittern: T Ancram 4 Jun; Chrysler Pd T Copake 6 Jun; T Hillsdale 16 Jun; T Ft Ann 29 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: max 18 Cohoes 25 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: imm FR 2 Aug (JG, AV, RY), first report since 1997.

Great Egret: max 9 WR 8 Aug.

Snowy Egret: Peebles I SP 26 Aug (JG, AV).

Green Heron: max 6 Schodack 23 Aug; 27 reports of singles.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad HR Coeymans 27 Jul, only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 20 Copake 16 Jul.

Snow Goose: HR COLU 24 Jun.

Brant: several flocks over NB 1st wk Jun; Coeymans Ldg 12 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 21 Germantown 30 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 16 Ancram 4 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 8 New St Cohoes 25 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: max 7 Ancram 20 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nested Glen L WARR; Cocksackie 27 Jun; reports 7 Jul, 7 Aug.

Bald Eagle: Garnet L thru; 1 ad 4 imm NB 7 Jun; Alcove Res. 8 Jun; 13

Coeymans Ldg 12 Jun; Greenport 19 Jun; ad near Spring L RENS 12 Jul; 3 Rogers I 28 Jul; 1 ad 1 imm Coeymans 29 Jul; 3 imm Cocksackie 5 Aug; 1 ad 1 2nd yr Schodack Ldg 11, 26 Aug; nesting: 7 occupied nests in Reg, 7 breeding pairs, 2 successful nests COLU, 2 yg, 1 successful nest GREE, 3 yg, 2 successful nests SCHO.

N. Harrier: 2 Dowmont Rd FtE 10 Jun; T Charleston 28 Jun; Gansevoort 15 Jun; Frederick Rd Guilderland mid-late Jul;

nested SNHP; no other reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 26 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 34 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: JL 17 Jun; near Edwards Hill Rd WARR 3 Jul; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 23 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: 39 reports of singles; nested Delmar, Dunham Res T Grafton.

Rough-legged Hawk: Gansevoort 9 Jun (BP).

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Cary Rd FtE 18 Aug.

Merlin: Schroon River Rd T Chester 18 Jul (B. Purcell), only report.

Peregrine Falcon: 5 active nests LG area, 12 yg fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem Br, 4 fledged; 1 active nest Castleton Br, failed; 1 active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, 3 fledged (all BL).

Wild Turkey: reported in good numbers throughout Reg.

Virginia Rail: 2 NB 5 Jun; 3 Copake 16 Jul; only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 25 Aug, only report.

Greater Yellowlegs: New St Cohoes 18 Aug; 2 VF 25 Aug; NB 28 Aug; only reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: New St Cohoes 13, 25 Aug; only reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 MR 26 Jul; New St Cohoes 13 Aug; VF 25 Aug; only reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: 25 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: nested T Johnstown FULT; 2 ad 1 imm FtE 14 Jun; only reports.

Sanderling: Coeymans 19 Aug, first report since 1994.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: no reports.

Least Sandpiper: max 4 MR Schenectady 26 Jul; 4 Greenport 19 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 New St Cohoes

25 Aug, only report.

Laughing Gull: 7 ad L7 25 Jul (RY!).

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 NB 13 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 19 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 8 reports of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 14 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 9 reports of singles.

Barred Owl: 12 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: s. of Franklinton Vly T Broome 20 Jun; Gallupville 16 Jul; CDWMA 27 Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: North Creek 4 Jun; 2 Schenectady 18 Jul; 35 Albany 18 Aug; 99 Saratoga Springs 19 Aug; 42

Guilderland 21 Aug; 6 Albany 22 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: Garnet L Rd 10 Jun; Warrensburg 19 Jun; only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 83 banded plus 33 returns JL thru (RY), record numbers.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 33 reports of singles.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Austerlitz 12 Jun (ADBC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 38 reports of singles; reported nesting in 14 Atlas blocks.

Pileated Woodpecker: 63 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Fox Hill Rd 2 Jun; TRd 3 Jun; 4 Garnet L area 9 Jun; 5 WARR reports of singles.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 9 SNHP 21 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Copake 5 Jun, only report.

Alder Flycatcher: max 9 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun; 4 BMT 18 Jul.

Willow Flycatcher: max 5 Germantown 12 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 15 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 9 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 Olana 6 Jun; 6 Gallatin 1 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 15 SNHP 27 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Schodack Ldg 25 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 5 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 13 Ancram 4 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Copake 7 Aug (BC).

Red-eyed Vireo: max 45 Warrensburg BBS 9 Jun.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Horned Lark: nested SCA, only report.

Purple Martin: nested SL, Broadalbin area; Schodack 3 Jun; only reports.

Tree Swallow: max 200 Taghkanic 21 Aug; 41 ad, 25 juv banded Veeder colony N. Broadalbin FULT (RY).

Bank Swallow: max 200+ Papscanee Creek 22 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 6 Clark Rd T Moreau 18 Aug; last Papscanee Creek 20 Aug.

Carolina Wren: 14 reports of singles.

House Wren: max 11 SNHP 27 Jul; 10 Germantown 18 Jun.

Winter Wren: 29 reports of singles.

Sedge Wren: McKay Rd T Perth FULT 28 Jun (TP); Stairs Corners Rd T Perth FULT 5 Aug (DH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Taghkanic 30 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 5 Gallatin 22 Jun; 4 BMT 15 Jul.

Veery: max 9 BMT 15 Jul.

Bicknell's Thrush: nested Hunter Mt.

Swainson's Thrush: 12 reports of singles.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary T Copake 11 Aug.

Wood Thrush: max 16 Cobleskill BBS 24 Jun.

Gray Catbird: max 38 Greenport 1 Aug; 24 Claverack 19 Jul.

N. Mockingbird: 9 reports of singles; max 8 Germantown 18 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: 21 reports of singles;

confirmed nesting in 6 Atlas blocks.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 Gallatin 7 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: T Cairo 4 Jul (WPB).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FL T Catskill 5 Jul (WPB).

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Taghkanic 16 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 13 reports of singles; first migrant SNHP 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 13 Copake 5 Jun; 13 Germantown 12 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 13 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

Magnolia Warbler: 27 reports of singles.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1st migrants SNHP 18 Aug.

Yellow-throated Warbler: imm Millbrook Rd T Claverack 25 Aug (BC).

Blackburnian Warbler: 30 reports of singles; 1st migrant SNHP 18 Aug.

Pine Warbler: only 6 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: max 6 Gallatin 7 Jun; 16 reports of singles.

Blackpoll Warbler: 3 Blackhead Mt 24 Jun, only report.

Cerulean Warbler: no reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Am. Redstart: max 7 Hillsdale 16 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: Ancram 20 Jun; Taghkanic 24 Jun, 8 Aug, 16 Aug; 2 L Taghkanic 17 Jul; 2 Taconic SP 23 Jul; Gallatin 23 Aug.

Ovenbird: max 30 Warrensburg BBS 19 Jun; 21 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 14 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: 8 reports of singles.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 32 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun; 30 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: Guilderland 4, 19 Jun (WE, NM); 2 Holt Preserve 6 Jun (WL);

3 Taconic SP 23 Jul (BC).

Wilson's Warbler: 2 Claverack 25 Aug;
SNHP 30 Aug.

Canada Warbler: max 3 Taghkanic 16
Aug; 13 reports of singles; 1st migrant
SNHP 17 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Greenport 21
Jul; 53 reports of singles; numbers up.

E. Towhee: max 12 Claverack 19 Jul; 10
SNHP 27 Jul.

Chipping Sparrow: max 22 Medusa
BBS 10 Jun; 31 Cobleskill BBS 24 Jun.

Field Sparrow: max 7 Taghkanic 16
Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: 4 Brookview Rd 14
Jun-28 Jul; Castleton 15 Jul; 1-2 singing
in Stephentown 10-29 Jul; nested SCA.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Feura Bush 2, 4
Jun; FY Swamp Rd FtE 7 Jun; 2 T
Ancram 13 Jun; 2-3 Stephentown 24 Jun;
2 T Taghkanic 24 Jun, 18 Aug; McKay
Rd T Perth FULT 28 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 7 Dowmont Rd T
Argyle 27 Jul, only report.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Mud Pds T

Johnsburg WARR.

Swamp Sparrow: max 6 Ancram 4 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12
Warrensburg BBS.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4
Ancram 2 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: 51 reports of singles.

Orchard Oriole: 10 reports of singles;
nested Canajoharie, Linlithgo T
Livingston.

Baltimore Oriole: max 12 Taghkanic 29
Jun.

Purple Finch: 70 banded JL Jun-Aug
(RY); reported in small numbers
throughout Reg.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 Cherry Plain
SP 4 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 21 Garnet L 9 Jun; 117
banded JL thru.

Am. Goldfinch: max 50 Taghkanic 24
Jun; 62 banded JL thru.

Evening Grosbeak: 17 banded JL (RY);
pr Cossayuna 21 Jun; reported from
many locations in WARR.

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