

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in June was a near-normal 66.8°F, with 53% sunshine. Precipitation totaled 5.45", 1.71" above normal. July was hot and dry, with temperatures averaging 73.4°, 2.3° above normal, with 68% sunshine. Precipitation was only 0.84", 2.66" below normal, making it the fourth driest July on record. The weather remained hot in August. Temperatures averaged 72.9°, 3.9° above normal, with 62% sunshine. There was a return to more normal rainfall of 3.86".

Reports indicated a mixed breeding season, possibly due to the abnormally cool weather in May. Peregrine Falcons experienced a poor year, with the seven active nests in the Lake George area fledging only four young, contrasting with the 12 young from five nests fledged last year. Of the three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties, two were successful, fledging three

young. In contrast, atlasers confirmed American Kestrel nesting in 25 blocks, with individuals present in an additional 67 blocks. Shorebird habitat was limited, as usual, to the Cohoes and Vischer Ferry areas; only nine species were found.

Bob Yunick again reported record banding results for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with 136 captures, and Tree Swallow, with 562 banded at the five colonies he monitors. Hooded Warbler was present for the fourth year in a row on Beaver Dam Road on the Helderberg Escarpment, with four to five singing males present throughout the breeding season. Henslow's Sparrow was not reported from any location; the Dowmont Road fields used for the past several years were mowed and turned into snowmobile trails last winter.

A total of 172 species was reported during the period, down from last year's 190. This included 9 species of waterfowl, 12 hawks, 3 owls, 9 flycatchers, 7 thrushes, 27 warblers, 8 sparrows and 4 finches.

This is my final report as Region 8 Editor. Many thanks to the individuals who have contributed sightings to me over the years.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Robert Budliger, Steve Chorvas, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Dennis Dempsey, Jane Graves, Evelyn Greene, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Barbara Loucks, Ruth & Sandy Lamb, Andy Mason, Frank Murphy, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, David Russell, Cedar Stanistreet, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA, ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, T Saratoga, SARA; CDWMA – Capital District WMA, RENS; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward, WASH; FtM – Fort Miller, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; LG – L George, WARR; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; PISP – Peebles I SP; 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); StP – Stanton Pd, T Coeymans, ALBA; TRd – Tower Rd, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 Springhill Pd T Hague WARR 12 Jul; CO in 3 Atlas blocks.
Am. Bittern: only 5 reports of singles.
Least Bittern: 2 Hudson 1 Jun (BC); 2 BCM thru Jul (RB); only reports.

Great Blue Heron: max 13 NR 18 Jul.

Great Egret: max 6 Niskayuna Bike Path 31Aug; 5 VF 9 Aug.

Snowy Egret: New St Cohoes 22 Jul; PISP 7 Aug; VF 9 Aug; 2 New St 22 Aug.

Green Heron: 44 reports of singles;

nested in 5 Atlas blocks.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 Dyke Ave Pd Cohoes 24 Aug, only report.

Black Vulture: 2 Palenville 12 Jul (L. Federman); NB 22 Jul (RG).

Wood Duck: max 18 Dyke Ave Pd Cohoes 22 Aug.

Gadwall: 8 StP 10 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: nesting reported in 6 Atlas blocks.

Com. Merganser: nesting reported in 5 Atlas blocks.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nested Glen L WARR 2nd year in a row; Coxsackie 27 Jun; 3 reports Jul; 6 reports Aug.

Bald Eagle: Claverack 8 Jun; 2 ad 2 imm NB 28 Jun; Garnet L 11 Jul; imm Waterford 1 Aug; 2 ad 5 imm NB 16 Aug; 2 imm NR 21 Aug; imm Westerlo 27 Aug.

N. Harrier: reported from 15 Atlas blocks.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 21 reports of singles; nested in 4 Atlas blocks.

Cooper's Hawk: 31 reports of singles; nested in 2 Atlas blocks.

N. Goshawk: reported from 8 Atlas blocks.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from 15 Atlas blocks.

Broad-winged Hawk: 51 reports of singles; nested in 13 Atlas blocks.

Am. Kestrel: 2 ad 5 imm Waterford 31 Jul; 67 reports of singles; CO in 25 Atlas blocks.

Merlin: Cohoes 30 Aug, only report.

Peregrine Falcon: 7 active nests LG area, 4 y fledged; active nest Dunn Mem Br, failed; active nest Castleton Br, 2 fledged; active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, 1 fledged (all BL); 1 ad 2 imm Glens Falls 26 Jul-1 Aug.

Wild Turkey: reported in good numbers throughout Reg.

Virginia Rail: reported from 11 Atlas blocks in ALBA, COLU, GREE, SARA, WARR.

Sora: BCM 21 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 5 Aug, only report.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 New St Cohoes 4 Aug, only report.

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

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 NR 24 Jul; 6 New St Cohoes 4 Aug; 11 New St 24 Aug; only reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: no reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: 34 reports of singles; max 6 PISP 25 Aug; CO in 13 Atlas blocks.

Upland Sandpiper: confirmed nesting T Northumberland SARA 1 Jul; Perth SARA 5 Jul; only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: New St Cohoes 5 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 9 New St Cohoes 4 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 PISP 25 Aug, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: NR 31 Jul; 5 NB 7 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: 300+ CBL 21 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 37 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 10 reports of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 12 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

Great Horned Owl: 8 reports of singles; CO in 2 Atlas blocks.

Barred Owl: 20 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

Com. Nighthawk: reported in 4 Atlas blocks; 3 Gansevoort 23 Aug; 11 Cohoes 24 Aug; 30 Livingston 24 Aug; 3 Albany 25 Aug; 83 Saratoga Springs 28 Aug; 40 Saratoga Springs 30 Aug; 72 Saratoga Springs 31 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: Biers Rd T Coeymans ALBA 2 Jun; 5 Stanton Rd T Coeymans ALBA 2 Jun; Warrensburg area 14 Jun;

Thurman 23 Jun; Claverack 4 Jul; only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 61 banded plus 40 returns JL thru (RY).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 34 reports of singles; CO in 13 Atlas blocks.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 45 reports of singles; max 6 Austerlitz 9 Jul; reported nesting in 43 Atlas blocks.

Pileated Woodpecker: 86 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singing m near CDWMA late Jun; Gallupville 27 Jul, early migrant?; reported from 6 WARR Atlas blocks.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 Austerlitz 11 Jun; 4 SNHP 18 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Plateau Mt 1 Jun; 2 Twin Mt 8 Jun.

Alder Flycatcher: max 5 SNHP 18 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 3 Schodack 2 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 8 Austerlitz 26 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 8 Ghent 2 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Purple Martin: CO in colonies at L. Lonely, Saratoga Harness Track, Saratoga L., all SARA; only reports.

Tree Swallow: 461 nestlings banded at 7 colonies in FULT, MONT, SARA, SCHE, SCHO (RY).

Bank Swallow: 40+ nesting pairs Poolsburg.

Cliff Swallow: CO in 12 Atlas blocks.

Carolina Wren: 30 reports of singles; CO in 4 Atlas blocks.

House Wren: max 6 SNHP 18 Jun.

Winter Wren: 36 reports of singles.

Marsh Wren: max 20 Athens Marsh 1 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 locations on Plateau Mt 1 Jun.

Veery: max 23 PISP 24 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: 22 Plateau Mt 1 Jun; 14 Twin Mt 8 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 13 reports of singles.

Wood Thrush: max 16 PISP 24 Jun.

Gray Catbird: max 13 Kinderhook 2 Jun.

N. Mockingbird: 49 reports of singles; CO in 20 Atlas blocks.

Brown Thrasher: 25 reports of singles; CO in 11 Atlas blocks.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 SNHP 18 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Duaneburg 21 Jul.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Claverack 13 Jun.

Nashville Warbler: 20 reports of singles; arr BMT 21 Aug.

N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: max 11 Kinderhook 2 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 Austerlitz 5 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: 39 reports of singles.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 48 reports of singles.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 66 reports of singles; max 6 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: 51 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: 12 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: 48 reports of singles; CO in 5 Atlas blocks.

Blackpoll Warbler: reported from 5 Atlas blocks.

Cerulean Warbler: 6 PISP 2 Jun; 5 Max V Shaul SP SCHO 23 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 Claverack 9 Jul.

Am. Redstart: max 7 Austerlitz 17 Jun; 28 PISP 22 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: singing m Bemis Heights 25 Jun (Kathy Schneider/Cris Winters).

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Alander Mt

COLU 8 Jun, only report.

Ovenbird: max 11 Austerlitz.

N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles; 2 Bear Swamp 21 Jun; 2 Edie Rd 1 Jun; CO in Block 5781B.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 21 reports of singles; CO in 7 Atlas blocks.

Mourning Warbler: reported from 5 Atlas blocks.

Hooded Warbler: Alander Mt COLU 8 Jun; Holt Preserve 14 Jun; 4-5 Beaver Dam Rd T Berne ALBA thru.

Wilson's Warbler: PISP 25 Aug; BMT 27 Aug; only reports.

Canada Warbler: 18 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Max V Shaul SP SCHO 23 Jun; 85 reports of singles; CO

in 11 Atlas blocks.

E. Towhee: max 6 SNHP 18 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Ghent 26 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: reported from 8 Atlas blocks.

Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from 4 Atlas blocks.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

Swamp Sparrow: max 10 BCM 14 Jul.

N. Cardinal: max 3 Kinderhook 2 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Austerlitz 18 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: 53 reports of singles.

Orchard Oriole: 43 reports of singles; pr Cary Rd 14 Jun (DH).

Evening Grosbeak: reported many locations in WARR.