

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started with the wettest June on record, at least for Westchester County. White Plains had just over 8" of rain. Normal rainfall is just 3.4" for the month. The northern part of the Region fared much better, with Poughkeepsie coming in at 4.6" of rain, 0.8" above normal. All the rain dropped the average temperatures for the first three weeks to 3-6°F below normal. A heat wave from 24 to 27 June helped moderate the average temperatures for the month. July was on the dry side. White Plains dried out from the month before with only 2.0" of rain, 2.2" below normal. Rock Hill in Sullivan County and Poughkeepsie were 1.0" and 1.3" below normal, respectively. Temperatures did not break 90 either in White Plains or Rock Hill in the month. White Plains was 1.8 cooler than average. August started with a week of very humid tropical air, sprouting numerous powerful thunderstorms day after day. Poughkeepsie was hit the hardest and ended up with 6.45" for the month, 2.6" more than normal. The rest of August was dry and warm. This led to White Plains averaging out to a little below normal rainfall for the month. Temperatures were generally around 2°F above normal.

A great find was an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird**, frequenting Rick Horn's feeder near Washingtonville, Orange County, on 1 August. It was only seen again the next day.

The biggest find of the season was an immature **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** found late in the afternoon at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in northern Westchester County on 5 July by Gail Benson and Tom Burke. The bird was flycatching from phone wires just inside the park entrance near the Michigan Road intersection. Thanks to numerous phone calls, about a dozen lucky birders were able to see it. Unfortunately, despite intensive searching, the bird could not be relocated the following day. The bird was photographed and a NYSARC report was submitted. This was Westchester's second record. The first was found by Helen Cruickshank in Rye on 7 May 1945.

Prothonotary Warbler may be the next southern breeder to move into the neighborhood. A singing Prothonotary Warbler was found in Mianus River Gorge on 15 June. Then, on 23 July, Diane Sheridan found one feeding two fledglings in Atlas Block 5459B near the intersection of King and Scotchtown-Collabar Roads, Wallkill, Orange County.

An August 24 cold front brought an influx of many migrants into the area.

Other notable species included both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" hybrid warblers, Summer Tanager, Clay-colored Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

Carroll Arkema, John Askildsen, Gail Benson, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Steve Chorvas, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Lin Fagan, Valerie Freer, Amy & Wes Gillingham, Scott Graber, Theresa Griesbeck, John Haas, Dick Hirschman, Rick Horn, John Kenny, Veronika Krause, Pat Lutter, Keith McDermott, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Pat Pollock, Diane Sheridan, Seldon Spencer, Lloyd & Sandy Spitalnik, John Tirpak, Jane Vecchione, Carol Weiss.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: 60 MC 6 Jun; 2 EGR 12 Jun.

Ruffed Grouse: 3ad, 2y Harriman SP 23 Jun.

Com. Loon: Callicoon Center 6 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: low numbers at Bashakill.

Am. Bittern: 1-3 Bashakill thru.

Snowy Egret: 2 ULST early Aug.

Glossy Ibis: 3 MC 4 Jul.

(JH, AB).

Com. Moorhen: low numbers at Bashakill.

Semipalmated Plover: 22 MC 24 Jul; Piermont Pier 4, 9 Aug; 3 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Killdeer: 37 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: MC 12 Jun; 5 EGR 20, 24 Jun; many Rye Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Merlin: Loch Sheldrake 23-24 Aug, early

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: 1-2 Piermont Pier 4, 7 Aug.

Sanderling: Piermont Pier 4-5 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 130 MC 28 Jul; 3 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: 15 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 4 Aug; 3 Loch Sheldrake 18 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 MC 24 Jul.

Laughing Gull: 28 EGR 20 EGR.

Bonaparte's Gull: Piermont Pier 1-2 Jun.

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 6 Jun; 2 begging juv with ad MC 29 Jul.

Least Tern: 2 MC 2 Jun; 4 MC 4 Jul.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 13 Bashakill 19 Aug; 139 Yonkers 21 Aug; 47 Bashakill 29 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: some reports from SULL only; one still singing Bashakill 29 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 22-30 at one group of feeders, Claryville 22 Jul (RD, TG).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:

Washingtonville 1-2 Aug (RH, L&SS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Livingston Manor 15 Jun (A&WG).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 MC 3 Jun; Wurtsboro 23 Jun; Lenoir Preserve 13 Aug; 2 MC 22-31 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Ellenville 19 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: 3 Harriman SP 12 Jun; 2 Mianus River Gorge 15 Jun; 3 Buttermilk Farm area SULL mid Jun; 3 Wurtsboro 19 Jun; Pond Eddy 5 Jul; pair Rio Reservoir 9, 16 Jul.

Alder Flycatcher: MC 3 Jun; Mianus River Gorge 15 Jun; singing Tusten Mt L 2 Jul.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Ward Pound Ridge 5 Jul (TB!, GB, ph).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Bashakill 29-30 Aug.

Blue-headed Vireo: Pound Ridge Reservation 14 Jun.

Purple Martin: 5-9 Rye Jun and Jul.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: some migrants reported late Aug.

Marsh Wren: 4 MC 6 Jun; 2 EGR 24 Jun; Piermont Marsh 4 Aug.

Bicknell's Thrush: 2 ad, 1 y Wittenberg Mt 6 Jul (CA, JK, SC).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Linear P Summitville 1 Jun; RNC 31 Aug.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Doodletown 8 Jun.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: RNC 31 Aug (TB).

Nashville Warbler: Eldred 26 Jun; Glen Spey 27 Jul.

N. Parula: Wurtsboro 8-9 Jun; Sundown 16 Jun; Eldred 25 Jun; sev Minisink Ford 29 Jun, 4 Jul; 3 Pond Eddy 5 Jul; 2 Narrowsburg 7, 9 Jul; Lumberland 15 Jul.

Blackburnian Warbler: 6 Wurtsboro thru Jun.

Pine Warbler: pr feeding y Blauvelt 28 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Bashakill 19 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: singing male Mianus River Gorge 15 Jun (TB, GB, JT); ad feeding 2 fl Atlas Block 5459B ORAN 23 Jul (DS).

Mourning Warbler: MC 31 Aug (TB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: RNC 28 Aug (TB).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: 1st yr male Katonah 9 Jun (JA).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Spring Farm Mohonk Preserve 1-5 Jun (JV, LF).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 2 Jun (TB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: early migrant Ellenville 19 Aug (VF).

White-throated Sparrow: still singing Fir Brook 26 Jul (VF, MC).

Dark-eyed Junco: feeding y Wurtsboro 1
Jun (JH); 2 ad, 1 juv Beaver L 21 Jun
(JH).

Blue Grosbeak: Clarkstown Dump 13 Jul
(CW).

Bobolink: 13 CPP 28 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: reported from all
counties.

(914) 237-9331 (home)