

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Slightly warmer than average temperatures characterized most of summer 2007. Data collected at Albany International Airport show that June exhibited temperatures 2.5° F warmer than average, with precipitation 0.38" below average. In July a few heavy downpours, notably 2.07" on the 9th and 1.86" on the 8th, tipped the monthly precipitation tally 3.53" above average, but temperatures remained near historic means. August continued warmer than average with much drier conditions. The month's rainfall was 1.34" below average, turning many mudflats into hardpan just as shorebirds moved through.

A **Tricolored Heron** at Visher's Ferry, Saratoga County, was a surprising summer visitor as was the **Glossy Ibis** reported by Vermont Birder Kevin Hemeon wading in the shallows of the Hoosic River bordering Rensselaer and Washington Counties.

Reports of Peregrine Falcons nesting on many of the upstate bridges spanning the Hudson River are certainly not new, but Mike Peterson passed on news of a successful aerie in a quarry near Glens Falls, Warren County. The pair was observed feeding rock pigeons to their young, which successfully fledged despite the mining activities nearby. Andy Mason also notes that a pair has nested at Vroman's Nose, a rock outcropping near Middleburgh, Schoharie County.

Steve Chorvas annually surveys Plateau Mountain in Greene County, rising before dawn to reach the summit to record several of the spruce-fir species that exist on these most vulnerable and southerly islands of boreal habitat. Highlights included 24 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 24 Bicknell's Thrush, and 32 Blackpoll Warblers. The Union of Concerned Scientists recently published a report on the likely effects of climate change on the Northeast, and these high-elevation

Catskill peaks are expected to lose their spruce groves in even lower-emission scenarios by the end of this century. Regional partnerships interested in preserving high-elevation habitats in the Adirondacks, northern New England, and Canada are underway and deserve our support, since Region 8 is very likely to lose the dawn song of many of these species in the not-too-distant future.

Acadian Flycatchers have been creeping ever northward but most go unnoticed. Hope Batcheller photographed and reported one that she spotted near her home in Rensselaer County. Some other strange summer visitors came not from the south but unexpectedly from the north. A Rusty Blackbird lingered near the feeder of John Piwowarski, Hillsdale, Columbia County, for nearly a month, and a Palm Warbler observed in Greenport, Columbia County, was a very rare July sighting.

The grasslands near Goodrich Road in Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, remained productive, with many birders reporting Upland Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Bobolink throughout the breeding season. Less common reports include Sedge Wren and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

Mona Bearor reports that several birders from the Hudson-Mohawk Club conducted road-based surveys of the Fort Edward area grasslands this summer, recording important observations of American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, several sparrows, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COH – T Cohoes ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; SS – Town Sharon Springs SCHO; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Gadwall: Stanton Pd ALBA 14 Jun, possible nest.

N. Pintail: 2 COH 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: COH 3 Aug; 4-mile Pt GREE 25 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: HR at New Baltimore GREE 7 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: Austerlitz COLU 20 Aug.

Com. Loon: imm HR at Albany 5 Jun; max 4 Silver Bay WARR 3 Jul; 2 L George WARR 2 Aug thru.

Pied-billed Grebe: Claverack COLU 27 Jul; MR Lock 2 11 Aug.
Red-necked Grebe: Northwest Bay Bolton WARR 23 Aug.
Am. Bittern: 2 VF 14 Jun.
Least Bittern: Colonie ALBA 29 Aug.
Great Egret: arr 2 Watervliet ALBA 8 Jul; max 11 Cohoes ALBA 3 Aug.
Great Blue Heron: 20 active nests Round L SARA 3 Jun.
TRICOLORED HERON: VF 2-3 Jun, mob.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 COH 3 Aug.
GLOSSY IBIS: Hoosic Falls RENS 28 Jul (KH).
Black Vulture: Charlton SARA 19 Jul; Greenport COLU 26 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Harrier: SS 7 Jun; Ghent COLU 9 Jun; Jefferson SCHO 9 Aug.
N. Goshawk: Austerlitz COLU 21 Jul.
Merlin: Greenfield SARA 22 Jun, eating a chipmunk.
Peregrine Falcon: Queensbury WARR Jun thru, nesting in quarry; Vroman's Nose Middleburgh SCHO 8 Jun.
Com. Moorhen: VF 14 Jun; Coxsackie Res 14 Jun.
Semipalmated Plover: 3 COH 30 Jul.
Killdeer: max Saratoga Sod Farm 26 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 COH 1 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 COH 2 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Ames MONT 7-26 Jun; max 6 FtE 1 Jun-1 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: COH 19 Jul; Stillwater SARA 29 Jul; Claverack COLU 30 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: Stillwater SARA 29 Jul; Claverack COLU 30 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: max 15 COH 21 Aug.
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 2 COH 30 Jul (CF).
Wilson's Snipe: 3 Middle Grove Rd SARA 26 Jun.
Bonaparte's Gull: New Baltimore GREE 24 Jul; L George WARR 7 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 VF 25 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: arr Glenville SARA 20 Aug; max 15 Albany 26 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: Stanton Rd ALBA 14 Jun; Coeymans ALBA 30 Jul; Hillsdale COLU 10 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: South Glens Falls WARR 1 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RENS 10 Aug; 4-mile Pt GREE 25 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 24 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: Petersburg RENS 13 Jun (HB).
Cliff Swallow: active colony E Durham GREE 1 Jun; Saratoga Battlefield NP 5 Aug.
SEDGE WREN: 2 SS 30 Jun (AM).
Bicknell's Thrush: max 24 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).

WARBLERS

N. Parula: Papscanee RENS 20-30 Jun; Fox Hill Rd SARA 26 Jun.
Palm Warbler: Greenport COLU 1 Jul, rare in summer.
Blackpoll Warbler: Albany 2 Jun; max 32 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).
Mourning Warbler: max 3 Greene County Dump 12 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: 2 New Salem ALBA 3 Jun-8 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: VF 20 Aug; Hannacroix P GREE 28 Aug.
Canada Warbler: RENS plateau 12 Jun; 2 VF 20-21 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 25 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun; Chatham COLU 10 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: SS 18 Jun.
Bobolink: max 30 Papscanee RENS 26 Aug, migrating flock.
Rusty Blackbird: Hillsdale COLU 17 Jun-7 Jul (JP), rare in summer.
Orchard Oriole: 2 Schneider Rd Livingston COLU 2 Jun, nesting in abandoned orchard; max 4 E Durham GREE 16 Jul.
Red Crossbill: Porter Corners SARA 16 Jun.
Evening Grosbeak: Hillsdale COLU 1 Jul; max 65 banded Jenny L SARA 30 Apr-31 Aug (RY).