

REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

The summer season had few extreme weather events, except for two short and modest heat waves. Temperatures were above normal for the first two months, but this was mainly caused by a lack of any usual cool spells. The first heat wave arrived early when temperatures rose into the nineties 7-10 June, with Poughkeepsie reaching 97° on both 9 and 10 June. Yonkers reached 99° on the 10th. The month averaged 3.7° warmer than normal, but with normal rainfall. Poughkeepsie did not reach 90° again until another mini heat wave hit 18-20 July, with temperatures in the low to mid nineties. July was 1.3" wetter than normal in Poughkeepsie, but drier in Yonkers due to the more northern paths of thunderstorms. Poughkeepsie failed to reach 90° in August but dipped down to a low of 45° on the 20th. August was 2.5° cooler than normal and slightly drier in Poughkeepsie, but 1.8" wetter in Yonkers, again due to the pattern of thunderstorm activity. Strong thunderstorms moved through southern Westchester on 15 August, with Pelham Manor recording a wind gust of 71 mph. A cold front on 19 August brought in a few migrants on 20 August, including Broad-wing Hawks at Hook Mountain. Another cold front brought in more migrants on the 27th.

The 33rd Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count was held 7 and 8 June and found 147 species. Highlights from the New York portion were many and included three lingering Purple Sandpipers on Scotch Cap Island off on Rye. The Island also had four Ruddy Turnstones, over 300 Common Terns, five Forster's Terns, and a Black Skimmer. Hen Island had a Black-bellied Plover, two Semipalmated Plover, a pair of Willets, and two Seaside Sparrows.

Marshlands Conservancy and the neighboring community of Green Haven in Rye recorded a Little Blue Heron, two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, a Snow Goose, seven Clapper Rails, Lesser Yellowlegs, 23 Marsh Wrens, a Mourning Warbler, and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This general area in Rye also had 32 Brant, 28 Oystercatchers, three fly over Caspian Terns, and 19 Purple Martins. The waters off Port Chester had two Least Terns.

An immature Great Cormorant was observed at Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 28 June. It was Westchester's third summer record. An immature Little Blue Heron was also seen on the Neversink River, just south of the Sullivan County border on 20 August. Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested in sycamore trees along a residential block on South Fifth Avenue in the city of Mt Vernon. Their story made the local papers. Apparently this was the second or third year in this location, but the first successful breeding year. An immature WHITE IBIS was found near Piermont Pier in Rockland County on 10 August. Carol Weiss, Glenys Foster Roberts, and Alan & Della Wells spotted an ibis flying overhead showing extensive white underneath at 11:30 that morning. A search of a NYDEC area along Sparkill Creek revealed the bird in a mud flat downstream. Photos were taken and posted on the web. The back and upper wing surfaces were dark brown, the breast, belly and rump were white. The head and neck were a very light brown. The legs were very light in color and the bill was pinkish. Attempts later in the day failed to find the bird, mainly due to a higher tide. This is the first record for Rockland County (see p. 355).

Henry Halama and Steve Chorvas observed a Sandhill Crane flying over the confluence of Esopus Creek from the Saugerties Lighthouse spit on 24 August. They first observed it circling and flying south from the boardwalk on their way in at 10:15 a.m., then again about an hour later from the same location on the way out.

A Whimbrel was found at the Pine Island Golf Course in Orange County on the last day of August. A Marbled Godwit visited Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 8 August. It was later seen at nearby Milton Point on 10 and 13 August.

Two Caspian Terns also appeared at Piermont Pier on 27 July, and Forster's Terns were seen away from Long Island Sound at the Neversink Reservoir on 4 July, at Piermont Pier in late July, and a month later on 18 August.

Gene McGarry found an adult male SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER midday on 16 August at Galeville Park. Many people were able to view and photograph it during the next two days.

A Yellow-rumped Warbler was found at the Buttercup Sanctuary East in July, and the only report of Kentucky Warbler was that of a female and two young in Wingdale, Dutchess County.

Lance Verderame found a pair of White-winged Crossbills in Parksville on Cooley Road in Sullivan County 10 August. Arlene Borko and John Haas joined him and found a male singing from high atop a spruce where he was eventually joined by a second and third bird, one of which we believed to be a female. Eight were seen at this location on the 16th. Sightings continued to the end of the month.

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Brian Bury, Jim Carney, Binnie Chase, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Andrew Farnsworth, Dot Fleury, Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Corey Finger, Sibyll Gilbert, John Haas, Henry Halama, John Hannan, Veronika Krause, Gene McGarry, Curt McDermott, Tully McElrath, Alan Michelin, Ann Marie Pozzini, Carena Pooth, Glenis Roberts, Edith & Barry Rosen, Cameron Rutt, William & Lisa Schlesinger, Herb Thompson, Susan Treesh, Lance Verderame, John Workman, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells.

ABBREVIATIONS

EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSSBC – Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; MC – Marshlands Conservancy ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: MC 7-8 June.
Brant: 32 Rye 7-8 June.
Wood Duck: 20 Buttercup 31 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 3 Morningside Park, Fallsburg 16 Aug.
N. Pintail: 5 Amenia 14 Aug (DF).
N. Bobwhite: 2 Bashakill 23 Jun (JHaa, AB).
Great Cormorant: imm EGR 28 Jun (TB).
Am. Bittern: 3 Bashakill 23 Jun.
Great Egret: 12 Pawling 28 Jul; 4 Denning's Pt 21-26 Aug.
Snowy Egret: Hopewell Junction 12 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: MC 7-8 June; imm Neversink R 20 Aug (JC).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 2 MC 7-8 June; 3 nests Mt Vernon Jun - Jul.
WHITE IBIS: imm Sparkill Creek, Piermont 10 Aug (A&DW,CW, GR), photographed.
Glossy Ibis: 21 MC 7 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 eaglets fledged, Stony Point Battlefield 2 Jul.
Broad-winged Hawk: 13 Hook Mt 20 Aug; 33 Chestnut Ridge 27 Aug.
Merlin: Fallsburg 14 Aug.
Clapper Rail: 7 MC and Green Haven 7-8 June.
Sora: Bashakill 23 Jun; Iona Island 22 Aug (CW).
Com. Moorhen: 9 Bashakill 25, 26 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: Esopus Creek from the Saugerties Lighthouse 24 Aug (SC, HH).

Black-bellied Plover: Hen I, Rye 7-8 June; 6 MC 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Hen I, Rye 7-8 June; 12 MC 15 Jul; Monticello 24 Jul; 6 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 38 MC 7 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 28 Rye 7-8 June.
Greater Yellowlegs: 6 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 8 MC 4 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Green Haven, Rye 7-8 June; Monticello 24 Jul, 11 Aug.
Willet: 2 Hen I 7-8 June, 1 on 10 Jun; Rye 13 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: 6 Morningside Park 13 Aug; 8 Rye 13 Aug.
Whimbrel: Pine Island Golf Course 31 Aug (ST, CM).
Marbled Godwit: MC 8 Aug; Milton Pt 10,13 Aug (TB).
Ruddy Turnstone: 4 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June ; 5 Rye 10 Jul; 10 Rye 10 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 59 MC 9 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 9 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: Morningside Park 13 Aug (JHaa).
Purple Sandpiper: 3 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June (GSSBC).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 33 MC 15 Jul; 5 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 9 Piermont Pier 27 Jul.
Laughing Gull: 37 Rye 7-8 June.
Least Tern: 2 Port Chester 7-8 June; 2 MC 7,17 Jul.
Caspian Tern: 3 Rye 7-8 June (GSSBC); 2 Piermont Pier 27 Jul (DC,VF,CW).
Com. Tern: 443 Rye 7-8 June.

Forster's Tern: 5 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June; Neversink Res 4 Jul (JHaa,AB,VF); 4 Piermont Pier 22 Jul (CW); 5 Piermont Pier 27 Jul, 18 Aug (DC,VF,CW).
Black Skimmer: MC 5 Jun; Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: EGR 4,16 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 20 East Fishkill 24 Aug; 71 Bashakill 26 Aug; 51 Chestnut Ridge 25 Aug.
Chimney Swift: 308 Chestnut Ridge 27 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Liberty 17 Aug; Neversink 23 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Neversink 16, 23 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Forestburg 7 Jun; 2 Mianus River George 8 Jun; Amenia 11 Jun; Nuclear L 20 Jul; Deep Hallow 26 Jul.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Galeville Park 16-18 (GM, mob).
Philadelphia Vireo: Denning's Point 27 Aug.
Horned Lark: 5 Red Hook 12 Jul.
Purple Martin: 19 Rye 7-8 June.
Marsh Wren: 23 MC-Green Haven, Rye 7-8 June.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Linear Park, Wurtsboro 9 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Buttercup East 2 Jul (KF).

Blackburnian Warbler: Forestburg 7 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: 4 Narrowsburg 4 Jun; 6 Doodletown 15 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 11 Mianus River Gorge 8 Jun.

Kentucky Warbler: f and 2 yg Wingdale 19 Jul (SG).

Mourning Warbler: 3 Doodletown 7 Jun; MC 31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: White Plains 7 June.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Red Hook 12 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: SGNWR 3 Jun (AP); 3 Red Hook 5 Jul; nesting SULL 13 Jul - 9 Aug (JHaa).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 5-7 June.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 MC 7-8 June.

Seaside Sparrow: 2 Hen I, Rye 7-8 June.

White-throated Sparrow: Forestburg 7 Jun; Buttercup East 2 Jul.

White-winged Crossbill: 3-8 Parksville 10-31 Aug (LV, JHaa,AB).

(973) 252-2712 (work) (914) 237-9331 (h)

E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com

