

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

The summer report, which is usually highlighted by the breeding season, was overshadowed by the plethora of first Regional and County records along with many storm related sightings due to the direct hit of Hurricane/Tropical Storm *Irene* in late August.

The season started out fairly wet. June was warmer and wetter than average thanks to heavy rains in the days just prior to 24 June. The month came in 2° degrees warmer than normal, with 4.4" of rain in Poughkeepsie and nearly 6" of rain in White Plains, 2.2" higher than average. July was highlighted by a five-day heat wave from 19 to 23 July, with Poughkeepsie reaching 102° F on 22 July. The month came in a remarkable 3.8° warmer than normal but was dry, with only 2.24" of precipitation. August started out very wet, with 17 of the first 20 days having at least some rain. The month was already the second wettest on record by the 20th.

Hurricane *Irene* then hit New York as a tropical storm and dumped 6-11" of rain on the area on 27-28 August. Tuxedo Park recorded 11.48" in a 24 hour period. The center of the storm traveled over the east side of the Region, and a number of storm related birds were reported. Most birds were seen just after the center had passed on the morning of the 28th. By late in the day, many storm related birds had vanished. August easily broke the record for the wettest month. The month was near normal in temperature, but both Poughkeepsie and White Plains finished with 13.25" of rain.

Storm related birds on 28 August included the following: Andy Guthrie, Tom Burke and Gail Benson observed an immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Rye Beach as it traveled from inland to out into Long Island Sound. Details were submitted to this editor. This would be the first record for Westchester County. Benjamin Van Doren reported two adult **Sooty Terns**, two **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and two Black Terns also at Rye Beach. A NYSARC report was submitted for the Sooties and some video of the storm-petrels was taken. On the Hudson River, Lewis & Michael Lolya reported three **Sooty Terns**, eight Black Terns, 20 Common Terns, and a Forster's Tern from Croton Bay. Robert Slechta found five **Sooty Terns** and three Black Terns at Croton Point Park. This is only the second record for Sooty Tern in Westchester. The first were two adults and an immature in Dobbs Ferry 6 September 1979 after Hurricane *David*. David Gange, along with Tait Johansson reported a **Bridled Tern** at Pearson Park, Tarrytown via an eBird report that included a brief but good description on the back, wings, and tail. This would also be a first record for Westchester County, if a NYSARC report is submitted and accepted. Evan Edelbaum found a **Black-necked Stilt** at the old GM plant in Sleepy Hollow. Benjamin Van Doren (photo submitted to this editor), Robert Lewis, Lewis & Michael Lolya were also able to view the stilt. The Lolyas then found three **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and

Benjamin Van Doren reported two **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and a Least Tern on the Hudson near the stilt location. Without sounding like a broken record, the Black-necked Stilt would also be a first record for Westchester County. Another Least Tern was on the Hudson at Piermont Pier, Rockland's first sighting since 1977.

The storm also produced devastating flooding in the entire area. The Black Dirt region of Orange County was hard hit by the flooding, but it set up some great shorebirding that lasted into September. Ken McDermott and Danny Messina found a Whimbrel along with an American Golden Plover, five White-rumped Sandpipers, two Baird's Sandpipers, five Pectoral Sandpipers, and a Stilt Sandpiper on 30 August along with other common shorebirds. A second Whimbrel was found in Ulster County at the Saugerties Lighthouse Trail on 31 August. Three Hudsonian Godwits, in three different inland counties, were found in late August at Piermont Pier, Millbrook, and Kingston. Sanderlings turned up in the Black Dirt region and along the Hudson after the storm.

A Black Tern at the Bashakill on 24 June foreshadowed a huge invasion into the Region just before and especially after the storm. One was inland at Morningside Park 15 August followed by a report from Saugerties 20 August. Then, just before the storm, seven were again at Morningside Park on 25 August and 40 at Piermont Pier the same day. Just after the storm, along with the previously mentioned Black Terns, another eight were off Sleepy Hollow in the Hudson, 12 were on nearby Tarrytown Lake, and two were much further up the Hudson at Kingston.

Along with numerous Common and Forster's Terns that were chased up the Hudson, a **Royal Tern** at Piermont Pier 28 August was Rockland's first record since 1960.

Turning to the other parts of the season, a number of waterfowl lingered into June. Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck were found inland; Brant and White-winged Scoter were on Long Island Sound; and Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, and more Brant were on the Hudson. Ken Harris found an adult male Common Eider at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie on 13 June. The sighting is both rare inland and for time of year. It is the second record for Dutchess County; the first¹ was in October 1979.

The American White Pelican found in late May in Saugerties remained 'til 1 June. A pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons successfully nested in New Rochelle. There was no word on the small colony in Mount Vernon. Rob Stone found a juvenile **White Ibis**, along with a Sedge Wren, at the NY portion of the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge in Pine Island, Orange County on 14 July. He also spotted a Sandhill Crane the night before. All three birds lingered until at least 25 July. After a two day absence, a juvenile White Ibis was found 11 miles away at Bashakill Marsh by John Haas on 28 July and then relocated the next day by Scott Baldinger. It disappeared thereafter. This is the first record for Sullivan County. The ibis was then reported from Wallkill on 31 Jul, with sporadic reports into August. In addition, one to two immature Little Blue Herons were found in this same area.

Peter Schoenberger also found and photographed a Sandhill Crane at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR in Ulster County on 5 June. The bird was initially feeding but flew north after a few minutes.

The heavy rains just before 24 June flooded the Bashakill Marsh and wiped out many Common Gallinule nests. John Haas continually surveyed the marsh for breeding success/ failure and reported on his blog:

- American Bittern – at least three adults – first nesting most likely lost, currently nesting again.
- Least Bittern – between six and eight birds minimum, with five adults and one juvenile photographed. Some of the first nests were lost, birds are nesting again.
- Common Gallinule – at least 25 pairs of moorhens present. First nesting was a total loss, but birds are nesting again, with ample time for a successful season.
- Pied-billed Grebe – at least three adults and one newly hatched chick present. This is the first confirmed breeding in many years (2004). [He subsequently found three half-grown Pied-billed Grebe chicks.]
- Sora – one or possibly two birds were present up until the last flood. Not seen or heard since.
- Virginia Rails – at least four pairs/family groups present and some confirmed breeding prior to floods, with some chicks seen/heard.

A cold front brought in a good wave of migrants on 23 August. Evan Mark found a Prothonotary Warbler at Rockefeller Preserve in the morning and Lewis Lolya found 14 species of warblers, a Philadelphia Vireo, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher in a mixed flock at the preserve the same day in the evening.

Dickcissels were found in late August at Rogowski Farm in Orange County and at Croton Point Park.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Albantides, John Askildsen, Judith Atwood, Scott & Paula Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Robert Bate, Alan Beebe, Gail Benson, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Lynn Bowdery, Tom Burke, David Cartmel, Stephen Chang, Drew Ciganek, Judy Cinquina, Jim Clinton, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Tom & Elda Dow, Jacob Drucker, John & Abby Dux, Evan Edelbaum, Ken & Sue Feustel, Valerie Freer, Richard Fried, Stephanie Garber, David Gagne, Arie Gilbert, John Gluth, Dean Goddard, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Kyla Haber, Ken Harris, Chris Healy, Marcel Jaloveckas, Karen Jaquith, Tait Johansson, Peter Johnson, Deborah Kral, Patrick Landewe, Robert Lebensold, Robert Lewis, Lewis Lolya, Evan Mark, Ken McDermott, Al & Barbara Merrit, Danny Messina, Frank Murphy, Linda Pistolesi, Vince Plogar, Deborah Powell, Scott Rando, Peter Relson, Charles Roberto, Susan Rogers, Jesse Ross, Jim Schlickerrieder, Peter Schoenberger, Edie Schwimmer, Robert Slechta, Ed Spaeth, Dave Spangeburg, Robert Stone, Larry Trachtenberg, Benjamin Van Doren, James Vellozzi, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells, Rosemarie Widmer, Angus Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute for Ecological Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MLR – Mission Land Road, Pine Island; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: Rio Dam 3 Jun (SRa); Poughkeepsie 15-22 Jun (JAt, KJ); Rhinecliff 21 Jun (ESc).
Brant: 17 EGR 6 Jun (TB); 3 EGR 9,13 Jun (TB); Piermont Pier 27 Jun (VP, LP, MJ); 13 Piermont Pier 3 Jul (DCi).
Wood Duck: 42 Bashakill 3 Jun.
N. Pintail: Wurtsboro 4-14 Jun (ABo).
Lesser Scaup: Piermont Pier 8-15 Jul (CW).
Com. Eider: Waryas P, Poughkeepsie 13 Jun (KHar), 2nd DUTC record.
White-winged Scoter: EGR 1 Jun (TB); Rye 13 Jun (TB).
Hooded Merganser: 2 imm Scott's Corner 11 Jun.
Com. Merganser: f, 5 yg Saugerties 1, 5-6 Jun; 3 Wappinger L 6 Jun; 2 CIES 12 Jun; CPP 3 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: Piermont Pier 21, 27 Jun, 8-31 Jul (CH,LP,MJ,CW).
Ruddy Duck: Kiamesha L 1 Jun (RD, VF).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Blue Chip Farm 16 Jun.
Com. Loon: CPP 12 Aug (LL).
Pied-billed Grebe: Bashakill 3, 24 Jun (JH); Saugerties Lighthouse 27 Aug.
WILSON'S STORM PETREL: 2 Rye 28 Aug (BV); 2-3 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (LL,ML,BV, JD, RF, RLew); Dobbs Ferry 29 Aug, video (BV).
Am. White Pelican: north of Saugerties Lighthouse 1 Jun (ABe).
Am. Bittern: 3 ad Bashakill, see *intro*.
Least Bittern: 4 Kingston 11 Jun; Tivoli Bay 15, 16 Jul; 1 juv, 1 ad Bashakill 24 Jun; 6-8 Bashakill, see *intro*.
Snowy Egret: Wappingers Cr 24 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: 1-2 Wallkill NWR 23 Jul-10 Aug.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: pair successfully nested in New Rochelle (RLeb).
Glossy Ibis: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 19 Aug (DGa).
WHITE IBIS: juv Wallkill NWR 14-18, 23-25, 31 Jul, 4,6,10 Aug (RSt, KM); juv Bashakill 28-29 July (JH,ABo,SB), first SULL record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Harrier: SGNWR 16 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Pound Ridge 11 Jun; Mianus River Gorge 12 Jun.
Merlin: Shawangunk 13 Aug.
Clapper Rail: 2 MC 1 Jun, 6 Jul.
Virginia Rail: 4 pr Bashakill, see *intro*.
Sora: 1-2 Bashakill 1-23 Jun.
Com. Gallinule: 28 Bashakill 24 Jun; 23 Bashakill 17 Aug; 25 pr Bashakill, see *intro*.
Am. Coot: Bashakill 15 Jun (JH); Saugerties 12 Jul (DCa).
Sandhill Crane: SGNWR 5 Jun (PS), photo; Wallkill NWR 13, 16-18, 23-24 Jul (RSt).
Am. Golden-Plover: 5 Pine I 27 Aug; 2 Skinners Lane, Goshen 27 Aug; 2 Kingston Pt 27 Aug; MLR Aug 30, 31.
Killdeer: 200 MLR 31 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 3 Piermont Pier 21 Jun (CH); 9 Rye 28 Aug.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (EE, BV), first WEST record.
Willet: MC 5, 16 Jun; 2 MC 10 Jun; 2 Hen I, MC 8 Jul; Rye 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 27 MLR Aug 30; 25 MLR 31 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Blue Chip Farm 16 Jun; Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton 16 Aug; MC 31 Aug (TB).
Whimbrel: MLR Aug 30 (KM, DM); Saugerties Lighthouse Trail 31 Aug (PL).
Hudsonian Godwit: Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi); Hitchcock Farm, Bangall Road, Millbrook 28 Aug (JAs, DK); Kingston 28 Aug (MD,PS,SRo).
Ruddy Turnstone: 250 Acotch Caps 15 Jun; Piermont Pier 27 Aug; 12 Rye 28 Aug.
Red Knot: EGR 28 Aug; 2 EGR 30 Aug.
Sanderling: Rye 28 Aug; Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug; 6 Rye 28 Aug; Piermont Pier 30 Aug; 7 New Hampton 31 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 25 MLR 31 Aug; 125 MC 31 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: 35 MLR 31 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Wallkill NWR 4, 5 Jun; 5 MLR Aug 30; 2 MLR 31 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 MLR Aug 30 (KM, DM); MLR 31 Aug (JH).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 15 MLR 31 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi); MLR 30 Aug (KM,DM); 2 MLR 31 Aug (JH);

Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton 31 Aug (JH,KM).

Buff-Breasted Sandpiper: 3 MLR 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 Skinners Lane, Goshen 16 Aug; 2-3 MC 19,21,23 Aug; Piermont Pier 25 Aug; Morningside P 25-28 Aug; Pine I 27 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Morningside P 8 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 8 Piermont P 21 Aug.

SOOTY TERN: 2 Rye 28 Aug (BV); 3 Croton Bay 28 Aug (LL,ML); 5 CPP 28 Aug (RSI), 2nd WEST record.

BRIDLED TERN: Pearson Park, Tarrytown 28 Aug (DGa, TJ), first WEST record.

Least Tern: 2 MC 16 Jun; 3 MC 3 Jul; 2-4 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (EE,BV,RLew); 4 Piermont Pier 28 Aug (CH,T&ED,DCi,CW), first record for ROCK since 1977.

Caspian Tern: Piermont Pier 1 Jun; Bashakill 14 Aug; 3 Piermont Pier 26 Aug.

Black Tern: Bashakill 24 Jun (JH); Morningside Park 15 Aug (JH); Saugerties 20 Aug (FM); 7 Morningside Park 25 Aug (JH); 40 Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi,CW); 2 EGR 28 Aug (BV); 3 CPP 28 Aug (RSI); 8 Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug (LL,ML,BV,RLew); 8 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (RLew); 12 Tarrytown L 28 Aug (EE); 2 Kingston 29 Aug (MD,KHab,PS,SRO).

Com. Tern: Piermont Pier 7 Aug; 35 Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug; 250 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (RLew).

Forster's Tern: 6 Piermont Pier 30 Jul; 3 Piermont Pier 7 Aug; 8 Piermont Pier 7 Aug 19; Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug; 2 Beacon 28 Aug.

Royal Tern: Piermont Pier 28 Aug (CW), first record for ROCK since 1960.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: imm Rye 28 Aug (AGu, TB, GB), first WEST record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: Piermont 29 Aug (SG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6 Doodletown 12 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: 200 Tuckahoe 20 Aug; 88 Katonah 30 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Esopus/New Paltz 18 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 2 Jun; Woodstock 6 Jun; Lewisboro 2 Aug; Stewart Airport 8 Aug; Rockefeller Preserve 10,22,23,26,29 Aug; MC 31 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 Tarrytown L 30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 2 Jun; Mianus R. Gorge 12 Jun; Bashakill 19 Jun; Nuclear L 10 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Bashakill 2 Jun; Montgomery 17, 18 Aug; Bear Mt SP 20 Aug; Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Sedge Wren: Wallkill NWR 14-18, 23-31 Jul, 4, 6 Aug (RSt).

Marsh Wren: max 4 MC 3 Aug.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: max 8 Doodletown 3 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Westbrookville 2 Jun; Rockefeller Preserve 29 Jun; Rockefeller Preserve 24 Aug; Fishkill 25 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Southland Farm, Rhinebeck 4 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug (EM).

Tennessee Warbler: Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: CPP 29 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: Oldfield Preserve, Waccabuc 1 Jun (TJ); 1- 2 Rockefeller Preserve 4-16 Jun (MB,BV,RB).

Hooded Warbler: 12 singing males Minnewaska SP 8 Jun.

Am. Redstart: 12 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: 3 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 2, m & f Harriman SP 18 Jun; 3 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover Plains 29, 30 Jun (JCl).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Red Hook 6,7,27 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 Indiana Ln, Goshen 4 Jun; CIES 13,18 Jun; Red Hook 29 Jul.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 1 Jul, 11 Aug; 2 MC 7 Jul.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 13 Jul.

Dickcissel: Rogowski Farm on N517, ORAN 27 Aug (DS); CPP 29 Aug (EE).

Bobolink: 100 SGNWR 16 Jun; 1400 Rogowski Farm on N517, ORAN 27 Aug (DS).

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