

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season was very warm and very wet. The first two days of June hit 90° F, but then the month became very wet and cooler. White Plains had nearly three inches of rain on 7 June, and Liberty had over two inches on 11 June. The Bashakill flooded 11 June, allowing John Haas to more accurately count Common Gallinules that breed there. A total of 39 was seen or heard, representing 23 pairs he knew to be present. The flood did not crest until 14 June, and Haven Road remained flooded though 17 June. The water level rose well beyond the nests and many were lost. It was thought that the flooding occurred early enough for many birds to re-nest. The end of June saw a mini heat wave 24-26 June, bumping the average temperatures for the month to a full 3° above normal. Poughkeepsie recorded 7.82" of rain. Normal is 3.73". White Plains had 8.19". Poughkeepsie saw eleven days over 90° in July and reached 97° on 19 June. New Rochelle saw 100.2° on 18 July. The month averaged very warm and wet, 3.2° above normal, with 6" of precipitation. August temperatures were slightly cooler than average. It was still wet. White Plains saw an inch

more rain than normal but Poughkeepsie saw over 7" of precipitation thanks to local thunderstorms dumping over four inches on 10 August.

A probable **Manx Shearwater** was observed and photographed on 7 August by Walter Joseph between 4:30 and 5:00 PM on the Hudson River north of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge across from the Central Hudson power plant. The bird was well described and upwards of 15 photos were taken, which were enlarged and posted along with more details, including the GPS coordinates, on the New York Birders Facebook page. The bird was relatively stationary for 30 minutes, after which the observer had to leave the area. Consensus from the internet deemed it a Manx. A report will be submitted to NYSARC for review. Observers from boat and shore could not relocate the bird the next day.

An **American White Pelican** was discovered on Piermont Pier by Evan Mark and by a few others early on Tuesday afternoon 11 June. It is Rockland County's first record. The next day the bird was seen flying south past Dobbs Ferry by Gail Benson. Apparently one was seen in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, the Sunday before.

Steve Sachs photographed a **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Stateline Lookout, New Jersey as it hunted and moved down the Hudson River on 15 June. It is presumed that the bird was in New York just prior to that.

During the Putnam County Summer Count Charlie Roberto discovered a **Mississippi Kite** in Cold Spring on 2 June. It was seen again on the 11th. Peter Schoenberger discovered one in Saugerties, perched in dead trees on Old Kings Hwy/CR 34, on 8 June. It remained till 11 June, and it was photographed and seen by many observers while they were looking for the King Rail that was nearby. Another Mississippi Kite was reported in Fahnestock SP at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center on 25 June. The sightings were nicely timed with the local emergence of the 17 year cicadas. The King Rail, first detected on 19 May at the Great Vly Wildlife Management Area, Saugerties, continued till 17 June. A Sandhill Crane first observed on 31 May continued to 6 June on Churchland Lane, Saugerties.

Two **American Avocets** were found along the Hudson River in Newburgh 7 August. Willet sightings continue to increase, with multiple sightings and a maximum of six on Hen Island on 9 June and a female with a chick on 13 June; confirmed breeding? Piermont Pier on the Hudson had one in July. For a historical perspective, there were only a dozen records for Westchester County prior to 1996. John Haas found Sullivan County's first Ruddy Turnstone while kayaking at Morningside Park on 28 July. It was photographed and a few other birders were able to see it. The bird was banded, and it was discovered that this bird had been banded on 22 May 2011 on the Delaware Bay in New Jersey. Later, as John was getting out of his kayak, Lance Verderame spotted a Whimbrel flying overhead for the county's only third record. Peter Schoenberger found two Stilt Sandpipers foraging on exposed mud flats at Kingston Reservoir #1, Woodstock on 22 July.

Terns had a good showing this season, with Least Terns at Marshlands Conservancy, Caspian Terns along the Hudson River, and a Black Tern at

Liberty Marsh. Two Roseate Terns were found in Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary on 13 June, marking only the fourth record for Westchester County.

Purple Martin colonies are generally doing well. A new colony, only three years old at Glynwood Farm, Cold Spring, is up to 48 birds. The small Milton Point, Rye colony has not returned due to the destruction of the martin house by super storm Sandy.

A surprising number of usually late fall migrants showed up early, with late August sightings including Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Pine Siskin. In addition, Adrienne Popko found a Wilson's Warbler along Valley Farm Road, Millbrook on 21 July. This unusual July sighting is most likely a very early dispersal.

Thanks to activists' efforts to eliminate or reduce mowing on the Croton Point Park landfill, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark have returned. Unfortunately, in mid-July Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities decided on more mowing and mowed close to and possibly over one of the Grasshopper Sparrow nests. The Grasshopper Sparrow is on the county's own endangered species list. The birds remained until August, but successful breeding was not confirmed.

Jim Vellozzi found two **Lark Sparrows** feeding on the main road in the grass parking lot during a walk around Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye on 27 August. Jack Rothman and Richard Aracil also observed them in the afternoon.

Andrew Block reported a female Painted Bunting from downtown New Rochelle on 3 July.

Other notable species include: Long-tailed Duck, Great Cormorant, Black Skimmer, and Blue Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; HRA – Hudson River Almanac; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; PSC – Putnam County Summer Count.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: 6 EGR 3 Jun; EGR 6 Jun; 3-4 PP 18, 20, 23 Jun; 6 MC 30 Jun.
Gadwall: 2 Sterling Forest SP 19 Jul (RB).
N. Pintail: 4 Pine Plains 28 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: Rondout Res 9, 10 Aug; Ryder Pond, Stanford 15 Aug.
Long-tailed Duck: PP 15 Jun (LP), ph, third June record for Rockland.
Bufflehead: Rondout Res 14 Jun (VF,RM), 1st June record for SULL.
Hooded Merganser: juv Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 18 Jun.
Ring-necked Pheasant: Hickok Brook MUA, Barryville 9 Jun.
Ruffed Grouse: 2 Fahnestock 15, 17 Jun.
Red-throated Loon: EGR 3 Jun (TB).
Com. Loon: EGR 3, 6, 10 Jun; MC 6, 11, 18 Jun, 2 Jul; Tarrytown Res 14 Jun; Hen Island, Rye 26 Jun, 3 Jul; Croton-on-Hudson 10, 24 Jul, 7, 8, 22, 31 Aug; PP 13 Aug.
MANX SHEARWATER: Hudson R between Newburgh and Beacon 7 Aug, ph (WJ), *intro*.
Great Cormorant: imm Wappingers Creek 10 Aug (HRA).
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: PP 11 Jun (EE, MB, PJ), ph, 1st record for ROCK.
Am. Bittern: Constitution Marsh late Jun; Cary Institute 11 Aug.
Least Bittern: Great Vly 1 Jun; Bashakill 18 Jul.
Snowy Egret: 12 Croton-on-Hudson 22 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: imm Wappingers L 13-20 Aug (KH); 1-2 Tivoli Bays 20, 21 Aug (SRO); imm Wappingers Creek 23-25 Aug.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Newburgh 21-31 Aug (BN), 3rd ORAN record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 42 Hook Mt 29 Aug.
SMALL TAILED KITE: Stateline Lookout, NJ 15 June flying in from NY (SS).
Mississippi Kite: Cold Spring 2, 11 Jun (CR, PSC); Saugerties 8-11 Jun (PS, A&DB, SC, mob); Fahnestock SP at Taconic Outdoor Education Center 25 Jun.
center mid Jun (PSC).
Bald Eagle: 7 Hook Mt 29 Aug.
N. Harrier: CPP 19 Aug.
The Kingbird 2013 December; 63 (4)

Broad-winged Hawk: 1st migr Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 17 Aug.
Clapper Rail: Hen I 8, 11 Jun; 1-2 MC 20, 24, 27 Jun, 1, 5, 9, 10 Jul, 9 Aug; 2 Hen I 1 Jul, 27 Aug.
King Rail: Great Vly, Saugerties 1-17 Jun (MR, CF, mob), photo.
Virginia Rail: 4 Great Vly, Saugerties 12 Jul.
Sora: Great Vly, Saugerties 1 Jun, 12 Jul; imm Iona I 30 Aug.
Com. Gallinule: 39 Bashakill 11 June, *intro* has details about nest loss due to flooding.
Sandhill Crane: Saugerties 1-6 Jun (SC, MD, PS, mob).
Am. Golden-Plover: Skinners Lane, Goshen 13 Aug (MZ).
Am. Oystercatcher: 3 Rye 5 Jun; MC 24 Jun; 20 Rye 6 Jul; 2 MC 29 Jul, 6 Aug; 7 MC 4, 26 Aug; 3 EGR 17 Aug.
Am. Avocet: 2 Newburgh 7 Aug (KM, M&SF, KK) ph.
Spotted Sandpiper: Indiana Rd, Goshen 30 Jun.
Willet: 2 MC 6 Jun; 6 Hen I, Rye 9 Jun; MC 24 Jun; 4 ad, 1 chick Hen I 13 Jun; 2 Hen 2 Jul; PP 14 Jul (DC); MC 6 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 Blue Chip Farm 8, 16 Jun; CPP 19 Aug; Black Dirt Region 25, 28, 29, 31 Aug.
Whimbrel: Morningside Park 28 Jul (LV), 3rd SULL record.
Ruddy Turnstone: Morningside P, Hurleyville 28 Jul, (JH,ABO,RD,SB), 1st SULL record, banded on 22 May 2011 at Reeds Beach, NJ; 4 Rye 30 Jul; 10 EGR 22 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: PP 20 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: Pine Island 9 Aug; Skinners Lane, Goshen 9, 10, 13 Aug; Piermont 14 Aug; Morningside P, Hurleyville 16, 17 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: 2 Kingston Res 22 Jul (PS).
Bonaparte's Gull: PP 11 Jun, 30 Jul (EE).
Laughing Gull: 26 CPP 18 Aug.
Least Tern: 2 MC 27 Jun, 12 Jul.
Caspian Tern: PP 14, 15 Jul (DC, CW); 2 CPP 28 Jul (LT, JG, KL, CR); Esopus 11 Aug (JP,WT).
Black Tern: Liberty Marsh 14 Jun (SCA).
Roseate Tern: 2 ad EGR 13 Jun (TB).

Com. Tern: 200 Rye 9 Jun.
Forster's Tern: 2 EGR 13 Jun; 1 ad, 1 juv MC 29 Jul; 2 ad, 4 imm CPP 6 Aug (BS); Croton-on-Hudson 18,22 Aug (BS).
Black Skimmer: Rye 11 Jun (TB); MC 24 Jun (TB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: 13 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 17 Aug; 34 Wingdale 26 Aug; 6 Glen Spey 31 Aug; 35 Stony Pt 31 Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: 7 Woodstock/Saugerties 1-28 Jun; 4 Fahnestock 17 Jun.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 3-4 Weston Rd Swamp Jun-Aug; Muscoot Farm 27, 30 Jun, 6, 14 Jul, 10 Aug.
Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Katonah 9,13 Jul, unusual for WEST.
Am. Kestrel: Ulster 29 Jun; CPP 28 Jul.
Merlin: Aug Apollo Plaza 2 Aug (JH); Forsyth Nature Center 14-16 Aug (MD); Buttercup West 30 Aug (BB, CP).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Wolf Brook MUA, Wurtsboro 6 Jun; MC 30 Aug; 2 MC 31 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Slide/Cornell Mtn 10 Jun; Orangeburg 16 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Bashakill 1 Jun; Mianus River Gorge 8, 9 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: 8 Fir Brook 1 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: Rockefeller Preserve 24 Aug (EE).
Purple Martin: 48 Glynwood Farm, Cold Spring 15 Jun (LT, KB.); MC 18 Jun; 2 MC 19 Aug; 2 Yonkers 20 Aug.
Marsh Wren: max 4 MC 5, 29 Jul.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: MC 19 Aug (FG, RK); Old Minnewaska Trail, Mohonk Preserve 21 Aug (AL), early; Millbrook 28 Aug (AP).
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 Slide Mtn 10 Jun; 3 Cornell Mtn 10 Jun; 1 Wittenberg Mtn 10 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: calling Crawford Town P, Rye Brook 9 Jun.

Am. Pipit: Indiana Rd, Goshen 30 Jun (KM, DaM).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: nested Cold Spring Jun (LK).
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Fahnestock SP 15 Jun.
Prothonotary Warbler: Bowdoin P 25 Aug (KH).
Kentucky Warbler: Fahnestock SP 10 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: Buttercup S 24 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 4 Fahnestock SP 17 Jun.
N. Parula: New Rochelle 24 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: MC 6 Jun
Blackburnian Warbler: Rockefeller SP 15 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 31 Aug.
Canada Warbler: Mianus River George 9 Jun.
Wilson’s Warbler: Valley Farm Road, Millbrook 21 Jul (AP), very early dispersal.
Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 31 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Ulster 29 Jun (MD).
LARK SPARROW: 2 EGR 27, 28 Aug (JV, JR,RA), early, most records are fall and winter.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 CPP 9, 10 Jun; 3 Indiana Rd, Goshen 30 Jun; 4 CPP 8, 28 Jul; 3 CPP 20 Aug.
Nelson's Sparrow: MC 5, 6 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: 6 Fir Brook 1 Jun (LV).
Blue Grosbeak: MC 5 Jun (TB).
PAINTED BUNTING: fem New Rochelle 3 Jul (ABI).
Bobolink: 20 CPP 9 Jun; 30 CPP 28 Jul.
E. Meadowlark: CPP 9 Jun (LT).
Pine Siskin: 6 Mahopac 28 Aug (BM).

EXOTICS

Rose-ringed Parakeet: New City 1 Jun (OB).

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