

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June's weather was remarkable not for any extremes but for how consistently normal the temperatures and precipitation were. July and August continued with consistently normal temperatures, but July was very wet. Poughkeepsie had 7.61" of rain where the normal is 4.72". August was drier, with 3.4" of rain, 0.8" below average.

Six **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** were spotted by DEC people while banding geese at Morningside Park in Sullivan County. They alerted a birder who got the word out, and the geese were seen by a number of birders. Photographs were taken and at least one NYSARC report was

submitted. They were not found the next day. This is a first county record for Sullivan County.

A hen Common Merganser with five young was discovered on the Croton River, just below the dam on 5 July by John Philips. This is Westchester County's first breeding record. Chick numbers were down to two on 15 July.

A pair of American Oystercatchers raised three young on Echo Island, New Rochelle. A number of **AMERICAN AVOCET** reports were received in July. The first was 8 July by Peter Kinney and Joe Lydon while tracking Shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon for the DEC in Newburgh Bay. They spotted the bird floating not far from the Newburgh boat launch. A week later on 14 July an **AMERICAN AVOCET** was found on the swimming beach at Croton Point Park by Christopher Letts. Jim Bourdon photographed the bird before it took off flying to the northeast. This will be Westchester's fifth record. Presumably the same bird was found at Piermont Pier the next day and also videographed. The bird seemed to move farther south out of Region 9 and was briefly seen later in the day in Inwood in upper Manhattan. Another avocet was found later in the month on the Delaware River in Port Jervis on 27 July. A kayaker on the river reported the bird to Scott Baldinger, and he got the word out. The bird was found at Riverside Park, and a number of birders, including Ken McDermott and Bruce Knot, got to see this fourth record for Orange County.

There was an intriguing report by Sean Camillieri of a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** singing along Curtis Ormsbee Trail on Slide Mt. on 19 July. Barbara Mansell found an early **Lark Sparrow** in Clinton Corners on 22 August. It was observed and photographed by a number of birders and was also seen the next day. Grasshopper Sparrows returned to Croton Point Park with at least three singing males. Breeding was confirmed by Anne Swaim on 5 July, when five sparrows were found with one adult carrying food for young. Chris Cording reported a first summer male Summer Tanager with incomplete details in Doodletown on 22 August.

Other notable species include White-crowned Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 6 Morningside P 24 Jun ph (KM, JH, BN, MZ, SB, JJ), NYSARC report submitted.

Brant: Rye 7 Jun; Piermont Pier 3-5,20-22 Jun (AW).

Green-winged Teal: Buttercup Sanc 7 Aug (MR).

Canvasback: Kingston Pt 6 Jul (MD,WT).

Hooded Merganser: 7 Neversink Ri 16 Jun .

Com. Merganser: f with 5 yg Croton River 2-5 Jul, 1st breeding record WEST; down to 2 juv 4 Aug.

N. Bobwhite: Ward Pound Ridge 26 Jul (JV).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Bashakill 6 Jun.

Com. Loon: Hen 1 25 Jun – 2 Jul; Tivoli 9 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Bashakill 21 Jun.

Least Bittern: Saugerties 6 Jul; 2 Buttercup Sanc 24 Jul; 2 Tivoli Bays; Sleightsburgh Spit 9 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: Cortlandt 16 Jul (SH); Sleightsburgh Spit 26 Jul; CPP 3, 4 Aug (CR, JG); 2 Kingston 20-24,27 Aug.

Glossy Ibis: CPP 4 Aug (CR); Sleightsburgh Spit10 Aug (AF,PS,MD,WT).

HAWKS - SKIMMERS

N. Goshawk: Sterling Forest 1 Jun.

Clapper Rail: 2 MC 1 Jun.

King Rail: Wallkill River NWR--Liberty Marsh 26 Jul (MBr).

Com. Gallinule: 2 Bashakill 10 Aug

Am. Coot: Morningside P 1 Aug .

Semipalmated Plover: New Greenhaven Beach, Rye 7 Jun; 12 MC 30 Jul; 2 Tivoli Bays 1 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: pr raised 3 yg Echo Island, New Rochelle 14 Jun – 7 Jul (MBo).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R9): Newburgh 8 Jul (PK,JL); ph CPP 14 Jul (CL,LT); Piermont 15 Jul (EE); Port Jervis 27 Jul (SB,KM,BN,Cu&CIM).

Solitary Sandpiper: CPP 6 Jul.

Willet: MC 2 Jun; Rye 18 Jun; 3 Hen 1 4 Jul; 2 MC 12 Jul; 4 MC 6 Aug; MC 14,15,26,27 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 12 ad, 3 chicks SGNWR 1 Jun; 5 ad, 2 chicks Blue Chip Farm 1 Jun; 4 Blue Chip Farm 4,7 Jun; 4 SGNWR 15 Jun; 7 Blue Chip Farm 8 Jun; Saugerties 4 Jul .

Ruddy Turnstone: Piermont Pier 4 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza 20 Jul (KF,JH,Abo,SB,LV,CP,HT), 5th record SULL.

Sanderling: Piermont Pier 4 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 14 Aug.

Western Sandpiper: MC 29 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: flock overhead in evening MC 1 Jun.

Bonaparte's Gull: Rye 1 Jun; Piermont Pier 6 Jul; 2 CPP 29 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Kinston Pt 8 Aug (P&MW).

Least Tern: 2 MC 2 Jun, 9 Jul.

Caspian Tern: Kingston Point 4 Jul.

Com. Tern: 15 EGR 4 Jul.

Forster's Tern: 4-6 CPP 3, 4 Aug; 2 MC 2-26 Jun.

Royal Tern: 2 New Greenhaven Beach, Rye 7 Jun (AF); PP 20 Jul, photo (KF).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Slide Mt 2 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: some movement 19-22 Aug; 53 Wingdale 20 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Muscote Farm 1,17,29 Jun; 4 Weston Rd Swamp Jun-Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: North Salem 22 Jun, unusual for WEST.

Merlin: Kingston 30 Jun - 23 Jul; Stanfordville 20-28 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Mohonk 7 Jun; Wolf Brook 6 Aug; Montgomery Place 19 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Slide Mt 21 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rye 3 Jun; 2 Mianus River Gorge 8 Jun; 2 Minnewaska SP 12 Jun; Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 14 Jun; 3

Knape Brook, olive 15 Jun; 3 Pawling Nature Preserve 6 Aug.

Horned Lark: juv CPP 4 Aug, unusual location.

Purple Martin: 3 MC 26 Jun.

Cliff Swallow: 20 Cross River Res 28 Jun.

Marsh Wren: 4 MC 28 Jul.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing Curtis Ormsbee trail Slide Mt 19 Jul (SCa); Bashakill 10 Aug (SB).

Bicknell's Thrush: 7 Slide My 21 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 20 Slide Mt 7 Jun.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Hooded Warbler: Pruyin Sanctuary 6 Aug, 1st migrant

Magnolia Warbler: f Rye Lake Peninsula 7 Jun (MBo); Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 9 Jun (MA); Kingston 23 Jun (MD); 1st migr Rockefeller SP 11 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: 1st migrant Tarrytown 16 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 16 Balsam Lake My 21 Jun.

Canada Warbler: 1st migrant Harstdale 6 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Greig Farm 8 Aug (SR).

Lark Sparrow: Clinton Corners 22, 23 Aug (BM,CP,DK)

Grasshopper Sparrow: 5-6 SGNWR 1, 7 Jun; 1-3 CPP 2 Jun – 28 Jul; 5, FY CPP 25 Jul; 2 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 4 Jun; Red Hook 13 Jul; Greig Farm 8 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: singing Shenorock 4 Jun (JAI).

White-crowned Sparrow: Montgomery 15 Aug (DP).

Summer Tanager: imm male Doodletown 22 Aug (CC).

Blue Grosbeak: Valkill 1 Aug (DW).

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