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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June had average temperatures and rainfall, with no days above 90° F. July was very dry, with only 1.95" of rain, 2.7" below normal. There was a minimal heat wave from 19-21 July, which brought the average temperature for the month to 1.3° above normal. August was also dry, with only 2.2" of precipitation, and hot at 2.5° above normal. The season did not see any extreme heat waves. The maximum temperature for Poughkeepsie for the entire season was only 96° on two days in July.

Osprey first attempts at breeding in Ulster County have failed over the past few years. They were finally successful, when on 5 July Nancy Ebel observed and photographed two nestlings in a nest high up in a deciduous tree on Chodikee Lake in the Town of Lloyd. This is the first confirmed modern-day breeding record for the county. On 12 July, participants on a John Burroughs Natural History Society field trip observed one Osprey nestling in a nest on a channel marker in the Hudson River off Kingston Point in the City of Kingston, representing a second confirmed breeding record for the county.

Successful Common Gallinule breeding was noted outside of the Bashakill in two places. On 2 August, Frank Murphy observed one dependent juvenile with one adult Common Gallinule in the southern end of The Great Vly WMA marsh, representing the first recent confirmed breeding record for Ulster County. Previously, during the 2000-2005 NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, it was recorded as a

probable breeder in this location. The marsh along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Amenia in Dutchess County had three broods of young. Chicks were photographed. On 7 August Dorothy Fleury found nine young with two adults, the youngst (tennis-ball sized) of the broods.

An American Avocet was found on Piermont Pier 13 June and photographed by Evan Edelbaum. A few other lucky birders also got a view. This is the third time in four years this species has appeared here.

Matthew Danihel and Stefanie Jenkinson reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull while crawling in traffic on Tappan Zee Bridge on 14 June and gave a good short description. This is the first summer record for Region 9 for this species with ever increasing numbers.

A Merlin has been regularly observed at Forsyth Nature Center in Kingston during the breeding season for the past two or three years. Mark DeDea observed one adult daily through July of this year. On 23 July, Mark observed one adult and one dependent juvenile begging for food, representing the first confirmed breeding record for Ulster County. Mark later observed a maximum of five individuals (age not specified) at this location during August.

Yellow-breasted Chats were observed in four counties. Mark DeDea, Wendy Tocci, and Jessica Prockup observed an adult carrying food to a nest site on 27 June, in a field off SR 28 and Jockey Hill Road in the Town of Ulster. On 23 July, Mark DeDea and Wendy Tocci observed one or two juveniles at the same location.

Other notable species include: Mississippi Kite, Willet, Whimbrel, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin.

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

Brant: Piermont Pier 23 Jun (EE).
Blue-winged Teal: Amenia 15 Aug (DK)
Greater Scaup: Lake Tiorati 10 Jun (AW).
Hooded Merganser: f Van Amirage Millpond, Rye 6 Jun (AF); Cary Institute 30 Jun, 8 Jul (AP, BB, DK); Crum Elbow Creek, Hyde P 7 Jul (KH,DH); Lake Tappan 12 Jul (DB); Alder Lake, Ulster 17 Jul (AM).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 Slide Mt 3 Jun (MD).
C. Loon: Delaware R, Callicoon 21 Jun (RC).
Pied-billed Grebe: Esopus Meadows 27 Jul (JY).
Am. Bittern: 3 yg Amenia 3 Aug (AP,BM), ph.
Least Bittern: Great Vly 11 Jul (PS).
Great Egret: 1-2 Pine Plains 9-29 Aug
Snowy Egret: 8 Esopus Meadows 15 Aug (JY); 5 Kingston Pt 15 Aug (MG).
Tricolored Heron: MC 16 Jun (TB).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: nest with 2 yng Chodikee L 5 Jul (NE), 1st modern-day breeding record for ULST.
Mississippi Kite: ph SGNWR 31 Jul (StB)
Golden Eagle: Giant Ledge, Shandaken 30 Jun (JR).
Clapper Rail: 2 MC 21, 29 Jun, 2 Jul (TB).
Sora: Sharon Station Rd, Amenia 22-24 Aug (SJ), ph.
Com. Gallinule: juv with ad The Great Vly WMA marsh 2 Aug (FM); 9 yg, 2 ad Amenia early Aug, *intro*.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Millbrook 10 Aug.
Am. Avocet: Piermont Pier 13 Jun (NB, EM, KF), ph, 3rd time in 4 years.
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC 2 Jun, 1, 5 Jul, 5, 18, 21 Aug; max 6 MC 7 Jul; 2 EGR 20 Jul.
Willet: 1-3 MC 2, 16, 18, 22, 24, 29, 30 Jun, 1, 5, 8, 10 Jul; 2 ad 2 chicks Hen Island 9, 23 Jun (TB).
Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 Blue Chip Farm 6, 7, 9 Jun; ph CPP 27 Jul (AS, JG, WL, MM, FG).
Whimbrel: Piermont Pier 10 July (EE).
Sanderling: Kingston Pt 25 Aug (MD).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 6 MC 6 Jul; MC 5 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Tappan Zee Bridge, Rockland side 14 Jun (MDa, SJe), good description, 1st Reg summer record.
Caspian Tern: 2 Sleightsburgh Spit 14 Jun (DO); Kingston Point 8 Aug (MD).
Black Tern: Ashokan Res 21 Aug (PP).
Forster's Tern: 1-3 MC 2, 3, 4, 16, 21 Jun, 6 Jul.
Black Skimmer: ad MC 8 Jul (TB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Town of Gardiner 27 Jul, dehydrated young, rehabilitated and released.
Com. Nighthawk: 45 Wingdale 16 Aug
E. Whip-poor-will: Gardiner 30 Jun (MG).
Red-headed Woodpecker: Muscoot Farm 1, 10, 22, 23 Jun, 3, 19 Aug (ES,PL); 2 Elks Memorial Park, Port Jervis 6, 8, 13, 14 Jun (KMi, MZ); 3-7 Weston Swamp 18 Jun, 17 Jul, 9, 10, 13 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: becoming less rare in Westchester in summer; 2 Mountain Lakes Park 5 Jun (PL); Bedford 16 Jun (MM); 2-3 Mt. Holly Sanctuary 5, 16, 18, 24 Jun, 10, 22, 23, 24 Jul (BP); Franklin-Fels Nature Sanctuary, North Salem 6 Jul (TG).
Merlin: juv begging for food Forsyth Nature Center 23 July (MD), *intro*; 5 Forsyth Nature Center Aug (MD).
Monk Parakeet: 8 with large nest Yonkers 10 Aug, a new nest sight in WEST.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 25 Sep (SBa); Woodstock 24 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 Slide Mt 3, 25 Jun (MD, EZ); Ulster Park 27 Sep (JY).
Acadian Flycatcher: 3 Mianus R. Gorge 7 Jun; Hurley 1 Jul; Gardiner 5 Jul; Warwarsing 11 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: CPP 7 Jun (KT); Chappaqua 7 Jun (JA).
E. Kingbird: 18 CPP 7 Aug (AS).
Blue-headed Vireo: 8 Minnewaska SP 9 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: Esopus Meadows 27 Jul (JY); Bashakill 22 Aug (ScB).
Brown Creeper: 2 Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.
Winter Wren: 2 Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.

Marsh Wren: 2 MC 10, 16, 22, 24, 30 Jun, 1, 8, 10, 28-31 Jul, 2, 24 Aug; 3 MC 27 Jul
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Slide Mt 14 Jun (SC).

Bicknell's Thrush: 8 Slide Mt 7 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: becoming scarcer 1-2 MC 16 Jun, 4 Jul

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Buttercup 30 Aug (MR).

Prothonotary Warbler: Scarsdale 29 Aug (TM).

Nashville Warbler: Teatown L 16 Aug (LT).

Mourning Warbler: Grahamsville 12 Jul (FM, DFe).

Hooded Warbler: CPP 24 Aug (FG).

N. Parula: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 5 Jun (KO, PD).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Rockefeller SP 22 Aug (EE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Hopeland Sanc, Staatsburgh 4-18 Jun (StB, DW, SRO); Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 6 Jun (JT); Teatown L Reservation 25 Jun (HS); Jockey Hill Road, carrying food for yg Town of Ulster 27 Jun (MD, WT, JP); 2 juv Town of Ulster 23 Jul (MD, WT); CPP 26- 29 Aug (LT, KB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 CPP 7, 22, 29 Jun, 17 Jul (KT, LT).

Blue Grosbeak: Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 7 Jun (CH, SS); Wallkill R NWR 21, 22, 24, 27-30 Jun (JH); Garrison 5 Jul (JO).

Baltimore Oriole: 26 CPP 7 Aug (AS); 20 CPP 27 Aug (LT, KB).

Purple Finch: Buttercup West 5 Aug.

Pine Siskin: Westmoreland Sanc 10 Jun (SRi); Lake Minnewaska 30 Jun (LJ); Purchase 24 Aug (PR).