

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer was very warm and dry. The record warmth was mainly due to relatively high minimum temperatures for most days. June was 2.5° F warmer than normal, and only 2.03" of rain fell on Poughkeepsie, where the average is 4.43". Five of the first six months of the year were below normal precipitation. July was even warmer, coming in 3.9° higher. Despite the warmth, only one day was a scorcher, when Poughkeepsie hit 98° for a high on 22 July. The month was wet, mainly due to over 2.2" of rain on 31 July. August was even hotter, 4.1° above normal, with only 2.2" of rain, putting the year's precipitation at an even greater deficit with drought conditions developing.

Andrew Farnsworth had quite a day on Hen Island off the City of Rye during the Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count on 12 June. On the Island he found 65 species, including: a Brant, female Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, 28 Great Egret, 34 Snowy Egret, 19 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 5 Osprey, 4 Clapper Rail, 22 American Oystercatcher, a Black-bellied Plover, a Semipalmated Plover, a Spotted Sandpiper, 16 Willet with clear breeding activity, 11 Ruddy Turnstone, a Sanderling, 2 Dunlin, 16 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 5 Laughing Gull, 94 Common Tern, 2 Forster's Tern, a Purple Martin, and 2 Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Osprey nesting continues to expand. A nest was found south of Beacon by the Mearns Bird Club in June. Carina Pooth photographed the nest with two young. This is Dutchess County's first nest since 1923.

Willetts continue to nest on Hen Island in the sound, but three very young "puffball" chicks with two adults at Marshlands Conservancy suggest they may have expanded breeding onto the mainland.

Forster's Terns plus a few Caspian Terns were noted in a number of places up the Hudson River from the end of July through August.

Curt McDermott, along with his wife and daughter, found a Snowy Owl at the Shawangunk and Wallkill Correctional facilities just to the East of the Shawangunk Grasslands on 12 June. Ken McDermott was able to drive by and see the bird as well. The bird was seen the next few days. It was picked up by a rehabilitator after being seen on the ground suffering from the heat. The owl was a previously rehabilitated and released bird. It had been shot, treated the Raptor Trust, and then released on 29 March at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. It was probably present at the correctional facility for two months.

A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers found at a nest hole in Mountain Lakes Park in early June was seen feeding young on 26 June. This is the first confirmed breeding in Westchester County. Birds recorded in the summer the

last two years plus another at Cross River Reservoir on 26 June suggest there may be other breeding pairs as well.

There was a small incursion into non-breeding areas of Red-breasted Nuthatch in late June. A nest cam on a Wood Thrush nest in Rockefeller State Park recorded a visit by a Southern Flying Squirrel in mid-July. The three nestlings did not survive.

On 3 July, Tom Burke found an immature “Brewster’s” Warbler with an adult male Blue-winged Warbler along the Blue Lake Trail in Sterling Forest. Two hundred yards further up the trail an immature “Brewster’s” Warbler with an adult female Golden-winged Warbler was found. Could the four birds be from the same pairing?

Other notable species include: Mississippi Kite, American Coot, Whimbrel, Black Skimmer, Merlin, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Camel Farm 19-19,26 Aug (KM, DB, LS)

Brant: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF); 4 PP 24, 25 Jun (EE).

N. Pintail: Morningside P 7, 8 Aug (JH), first summer record for SULL; 2 Black Dirt region 10 Aug (SB, KA).

Green-winged Teal: 2 MC 18 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Gate of Heaven Cemetery 21 Jul – 31 Aug (LT, SM).

Hooded Merganser: Old Greenhaven Beach, Rye 12 Jun; Bashakill 28 Jun; Neversink R 3 Jul; juv Doodletown 29 Jul.

Com. Merganser: 1 ad, 19 juv Neversink R 4 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF); PP 23, 25 Jun, 8 Jul (LPi).

Ruffed Grouse: 2 Beacon 4 Jul, now scarce in DUTC.

Com. Loon: Rhinecliff 2 Jun; Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Delaware R, Sparrow Bush 30 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: Neversink R 7 Jul; 2 Rockefeller SP 11 Jul.

Am. Bittern: Saugerties 2 Jun; 2 Bashakill 5 Jun; High Falls 16 Jul; Amenia 7 Aug.

Least Bittern: Amenia 7 Jun; Coleman Station 8 Jun; Tivoli Bays 14 Jun; 2 Bashakill 18 Jun; 3 Bashakill 21 Jun; Saugerties 8 Jul; 2 Kingston Pt 10 Jul; Thompson Pd 3 Aug.

Great Egret: 28 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 9 Bashakill 2 Aug; max 67 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P 4 Aug.

Snowy Egret: 34 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 2-4 Stanfordville 31 Jul-13 Aug; Wallkill 6 Aug; 8 Tamarack L 22 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: 1-2 Stanfordville 31 Jul, 1, 6 Aug (DK, CP, HT, BM); Wapinger L 21 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 19 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 24 Jun; 1-2 PP 7, 8 Jul (LPi, EE).

Glossy Ibis: 2 Liberty Marsh 25-26 Jul (RS, LS, DK); Amenia 5,6 Aug (J&WS).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: 5 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; nest south of Beacon Jun-Jul, first nest for DUTC since 1923.

Mississippi Kite: Sterling Forest 9 Jun (NYRBA).

N. Goshawk: Stanfordville 20 Aug.

Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 1, 3 Jun, 1, 7, 26 Jul, 18 Aug; 4 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Sora: 1-2 Mudder Kill Swamp 2, 24 Jun, 3 Jul.

Com. Gallinule: Amenia 7, 25 Jun; 2 ad, 6 yg Saugerties 26 Jun; 5 Bashakill 4 Aug.

Am. Coot: Amenia 7 Aug (MD,JP,WT).

Black-bellied Plover: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Morningside P 31 Jul; 2 Morningside P 2 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: 22 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Spotted Sandpiper: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 3 Apollo Plaza 21 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: Pine Plains 3 Jul; 1-2 Wallkill NWR 3, 4 Jul; 3 Morningside P 7 Aug.

Willet: 16 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF), with clear breeding activity; 2 ad, 3 very young "puffball" chicks MC 30 Jun (TB).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 SGNWR 4, 18 Jun; SGNWR 20-22 Jun.

Whimbrel: PP 9 Jul (EE).

Ruddy Turnstone: 11 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; EGR 18 Aug.

Sanderling: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Dunlin: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Esopus Meadows 5, 6, 28 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: CPP 26 Aug, ph.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Morningside P 9 Aug; Esopus Meadows 2, 3, 5, 6 Aug; Pine plains 28, 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 16 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Wallkill NWR 4 Jul; 2 Blue Chip Farm 9 Jul; Pine Plains 10 Jul; 2 MC 25 Jul; Sharon Station 27 Jul; MC 12 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Esopus Meadows 6 Aug; Hyde P 26 Aug.

Laughing Gull: Kingston Pt 5 Jun, 21, 28 Aug; 5 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Sleightsburgh 20 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Croton-on-Hudson 25 Jul (AS, JG, SE, GG, PL).

Least Tern: 3 MC 25 Jul.

Caspian Tern: 2 Croton-on-Hudson 25 Jul; 2 Sleightsburgh 31 Jul; Esopus Meadows 5 Aug.

C. Tern: 94 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Yonkers 29 Jul.

Forster's Tern: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; PP 25, 28 Jul, 3 Yonkers 29 Jul; 3 Piermont 1 Aug; 2 MC 12, 22 Aug; 7 PP 7, 11 Aug; 3 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P 8 Aug; 9-10 PP 12, 13 Aug; 3 PP 16, 18 Aug.

Black Skimmer: 3 MC 3 Jun (TB, GB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: 2ad, 3 im Gardiner 2 Jun.

Snowy Owl: Shawangunk and Wallkill Correctional facilities 12-17 Jun (CM, KMc, KMi), previously rehabilitated and released bird, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: max 1000 over New Paltz 25 Aug (CG).

E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Dover Plains 2 Jun; Woodstock 26 Jun; Clinton Corners 2 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 10-20 Gramsville 10 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 10 Weston Swamp 10 Jun; Muscote Farm 9 Jul; Rhinebeck 11 Jun; Thompson P 3 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pair at nest hole Mountain Lakes P 5, 19 Jun (SW, ER); feeding young Mountain Lakes 26 Jun (PL), ph, first

confirmed breeding in WEST; Cross River Res 26 Jun (GB).

Merlin: Woodbourne 8 Jun (VF, MC); Kingston 5, 27 Jul; Morningside P 1 Aug (JH).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Vanderbuilt 30 Aug.

E. Wood-Pewee: 6 Bashakill 4 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Slide Mt 4 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Wurtsboro 1 Jun; 2 Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area 2, 3 Jul; Pawling Nature Reserve 21 Jul.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 Chappaqua 12 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Six and a Half Station Rd Sanctuary 18 Aug; Ulster Park 25 Aug; Nuclear L 25 Aug.

Purple Martin: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; MC 14 Jun, 12 Aug; colonies to the north doing well.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small incursion into non breeding areas in late June.

Marsh Wren: max 5 MC 7 Jul.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 singing Minnewaska State Park 20 Jun (DH).

Bicknell's Thrush: 12 Slide Mt 4 Jun (BV).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

“Brewster’s Warbler”: 2 imm, one with m Blue-winged, one with f Golden-winged Sterling Forest 3 Jul (TB), *intro*.

Nashville Warbler: Rockefeller SP 31 Jul.

Cerulean Warbler: 3 Fahnestock State Park 4 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 22 Aug (PL, AS, LT), early, beats earliest record for Aug by 1 day.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Hopeland Trails, Staatsburg 13-18, 20, 23, 25, 26 Jun, 4, 5, 14 July.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 CPP 11, 27 Jun; max 14 SGNWR 10 Jun; CPP 21 Aug.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF).

Blue Grosbeak: ad m & f tending yng at nest site, Black Dirt Region 4, 5, 10 Aug (JH, KM, SB, KA).

Pine Siskin: 2 Parksville 17 Jun (SuRa)