

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather was quite typical throughout the summer of 2017. After a three-day heat wave in early June, the high temperature never reached 90° F thereafter. The average temperature for the month of June was 68°, which was 0.8° above normal. Rainfall for the month was 1.33" more than the long-term average. July was almost exactly normal, at -0.1° and -0.11". August had a cool finish, with the final week more than 5° below normal, but the month as a whole turned out just 0.9° below average, with 3.76" rainfall, 0.3" more than normal.

Two unexpected species topped the highlights list for summer 2017. On 22 August, Andrea Denton and Lydia Schereen were birding at the Stillwater School Nature Trail in Saratoga County. Viewing from the west side of the Hudson River, they observed and photographed a **White Ibis** on the opposite side. Excerpting from their eBird checklist, "We were on the west side of the Hudson River and the birds were on the east side. There was a Bald Eagle that would chase the White Ibis and four Great Egrets off their perches. The five birds flew as a group each time. We watched this for about 45 minutes until they were out of sight. They kept moving upstream." A remarkable sighting for the Region, I could not locate a similar record in recent years.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was discovered by Mike McGraw and his colleagues on 22 June, while they were doing habitat restoration work at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany County. A field party of eleven observers was quickly assembled, this Regional Editor included, and we bushwhacked our way out to the site. The bird was singing, if that is the term we will assign to the odd series of noises a chat utters, and making display flights for the half-hour we observed it. A second bird (female?) might have been present, as there were some low tones emanating from the tangles underneath the displaying bird, but we could not confirm this. Returns to the site on subsequent days yielded no further observations, although the habitat in the immediate and nearby areas was quite dense and overgrown and seemed suitable for a chat. APBP records showed that the last previous record there was from 1953.

A Snowy Egret was observed and well-photographed at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, Albany County, on 5 June. The seemingly healthy bird was perched on a downed tree in the Beaver Pond. Snowy Egret is typically found in the Region during post-breeding dispersal, so this was a highly unusual date. The previous record of the species at Five Rivers was some thirty years earlier.

Diligent shorebird observing along the Mohawk River corridor in Cohoes, Albany County, yielded Regionally rare Wilson's Phalarope, Ruddy Turnstone, and Stilt Sandpiper in mid-August. A Red-necked Phalarope was observed and

photographed swimming in the middle of Lake George in Warren County on 24 August by RS Dietrich.

Stacy Robinson discovered a **Dickcissel** calling and flying around a hayfield near Lower Rd. in the Town of Putnam, Washington County on 13 August.

211 species were reported during the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Andrea Denton, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, RS Dietrich, Amanda Dillon, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Peter Feinberg, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Mike McGraw, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Lydia Schereen, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; AR – Alcove Res, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMB – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; CCGP – Cossackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; CF – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CRM – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; FR – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; FtEG – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; FV – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; HP – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; OCA – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; PRWMA – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Brant: max 75 Henry Hudson P ALBA 7 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 3 BCR 11 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 40 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 3 Aug.

Common Loon: max 6 Jabe Pd WARR 16 Jul; L Luzerne WARR 15 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: five reports from SARA, WARR, and WASH.

Red-necked Grebe: Stockport Flats COLU 2 Jul; Stillwater SARA 20 Aug.

Am. Bittern: six reports of single birds FULT, WARR, SARA, and GREE.

Least Bittern: max 3 Stillwater School Nature Trail SARA 28 Jul; reports received from seven locations regionwide.

Great Egret: max 18 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 1 Aug.

Snowy Egret: FR 5 Jun; Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 1-7 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: juv Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 1 Aug; juv Mohawk R Cohoes ALBA 12-14 Aug.

Green Heron: max 8 Thurber Pd WASH 19 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Ft Edward WASH 14 Jun; ad Carters Pd WMA WASH 1

Jul; juv The Crossings of Colonie ALBA 24 Jul; Carters Pd WMA WASH 31 Jul.
WHITE IBIS: Stillwater School Nature Trail SARA 22 Aug (ADE, LS), *intro*.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 26 Voorheesville ALBA 7 Jun.

Osprey: max 6 South Bay WASH 7 Aug.

N. Harrier: max 2 FtEG 4 Jun.

Virginia Rail: max 4 FV 25 Jun; near Argyle WASH 28 Jul.

Sora: no reports.

Com. Gallinule: max 13 East Bay WMA WASH 29 Jun.

Am. Coot: Stillwater School Nature Trail SARA 27 Jul; Hudson R near Troy RENN 20 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: near Esperance SCHO 10 Jun; Selkirk ALBA 15 Jul.

Semipalmated Plover: max 25 CF 13 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: W. Ames MONT 12 Jun, only report.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (R8): Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 16 Aug (PF).

STILT SANDPIPER (R8): Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 15 Aug (JC).

Sanderling: Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 16 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Wrights Loop SARA 1 Jun.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 CF 12 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 15 Aug.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (R8): Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 14 Aug (mob).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R8): near Dome I, L George WARR 24 Aug (RSD).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Stanton Pd ALBA 19 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 CF 10 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 Falls View P, Cohoes ALBA 15 Aug.

Caspian Tern: Hudson R at Stockport Creek COLU 28 Jun; 17 Charter Marsh WASH 12 Aug; 8 South Bay WASH 13 Aug.

Black Tern: Round L SARA 4 Jul; CF 12 Aug.

Com. Tern: Ballston L SARA 26 Jul.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 BMB 7 Jun; Schodack I SP 27 Jun; VFNHP 30 Jul; Henry Hudson P ALBA 20 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Kingsbury WASH 2 Jun; WMP 15 Jul; Ghent COLU 19 Aug.

Com. Nighthawk: migrants arr Ballston Spa SARA 13 Aug; max 93 Guilderland ALBA 19 Aug.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: last West Mt Ski Area WARR 11 Jul (mob).

E. Whip-poor-will: max 7 West Mt Ski Area WARR 7 Jul.

Chimney Swift: max 75 CF 3 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 near Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Jun.

Belted Kingfisher: max 6 VFNHP 30 Jul.

Am. Kestrel: max 11 Whitehall WASH 12 Aug.

Merlin: max 3 Rotterdam SCHE 22 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: max 7 (two ad w/five fledglings) Troy RENN 8 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Amy's P WARR 16 Jul, known breeding location; Guilderland ALBA 29 Aug, migrant.

Acadian Flycatcher: near Middleburgh SCHO 1 Jun, 4 Jul; Rensselaerville SF 10 Jun, 2 Aug.

Alder Flycatcher: max 9 BMB 2 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 10 FtEG 3 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 6 near Middleburgh SCHO 4 Jul.

E. Phoebe: max 13 near Hillsdale COLU 31 Aug.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 5 Coveville SARA 10 Jun; Schodack I SP RENN 20 Jun; SNHP 9 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 20 Round L SARA 4 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 SNHP 9 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 20 Pack Demonstration Forest WARR 22 Jul.

Warbling Vireo: max 13 Hudson Crossing P SARA 10 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 37 L Desolation SF SARA 26 Jul.

Com. Raven: max 14 Knox ALBA 1 Jun.

Horned Lark: max 2 Saratoga Cty Airport SARA 1 Jun.

Purple Martin: max 6 Saratoga Springs Waterfront Park SARA 7 Jun; Saratoga Casino and Raceway 26 Jun.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 CF 24 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 109 Papscaanee I NP RENN 16 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 35 Amsterdam MONT 22 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 100 Athens GREE 9 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 APBP 17 Aug.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Anchor Diamond Park SARA 27 Aug.
House Wren: max 13 SNHP 3 Jul.
Winter Wren: max 12 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 10 BCM 4 Jun.
Carolina Wren: max 5 Fultonville MONT 16 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 7 T Bethlehem ALBA 21 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Spruceton Trail GREE 7 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 5 SNHP 31 Aug.
E. Bluebird: max 14 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Jun.
Veery: max 39 Schodack I SP RENN 20 Jun.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 West Mt Ski Area WARR 4 Jun; BMB 7 Jun, late migrants.
Bicknell's Thrush: 2 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jul.
Swainson's Thrush: max 6 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun; Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jul.
Hermit Thrush: max 11 Petersburg Pass RENN 20 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 8 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 7 Jun.
Gray Catbird: max 31 Schodack I SP RENN 20 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 Durham GREE 22 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: max 6 APBP 17 Jun, 25 Jun; Kinderhook COLU 30 Jun.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 35 Schodack I SP RENN 20 Jun.
Worm-eating Warbler: Louise Kerr WMA ALBA 4 Jun; 2 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 14 Jun; APBP 17 Aug; five additional locations in COLU.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 4 Charleston MONT 12 Jun.
N. Waterthrush: max 2 mult loc.
Golden-winged Warbler: near Putnam Sta WASH 4 Jun- 1 Jul; Trout L WARR 3 Jul; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 SNHP 12 Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: near Putnam Sta WASH 4 Jun- 17 Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 6 Crane Mt Trail WARR 12 Jun.
Tennessee Warbler: migrants arr PRWMA 26 Aug; VFNHP 27 Aug; APBP 30 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: max 4 Amy's P WARR 16 Jul.
Mourning Warbler: max 2 Elka P GREE 25 Jun.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 38 SNHP 3 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: five reports ALBA & GREE 1 Jun- 22 Jul.
Am. Redstart: max 39 Schodack I SP RENN 2 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: migrants arr near Hillsdale COLU 19 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 3 Schodack I SP RENN 1 Jun.
N. Parula: breeding locations FULT & WARR 22 Jun- 1 Aug; migrants arr APBP 30 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: migrants arr PRWMA 26 Aug; Wilton Wildlife Preserve SARA 27 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 10 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: max 18 Hudson Crossing P SARA 27 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 16 L Taghkanic SP COLU 28 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: breeding location max 7 Plateau Mt GREE 6 JUN; migrants arr Buckingham Pd ALBA 30 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 10 Spruceton Trail GREE 7 Jun; Amy's P WARR 16 Jul.
Pine Warbler: max 15 Pack Demonstration Forest WARR 22 Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 Pack Demonstration Forest WARR 22 Jul.
Prairie Warbler: max 6 APBP 30 Jun.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 16 Pack Demonstration Forest WARR 22 Jul.
Canada Warbler: max 8 L Desolation SF SARA 1 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: migrants arr APBP 17 Aug.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: APBP 22 Jun (MM), *intro.*

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max L Taghkanic SP COLU 5 Jul.
Clay-colored Sparrow: max 2 FtEG 17 Jun.
Field Sparrow: max 26 Saratoga Spa SP 25 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Saratoga Cty Airport SARA 25 Jun; Kinderhook Colu 10 Jul.
Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Albany Int Airport ALBA 26 Jun.
Grasshopper Sparrow: breeding locations: Saratoga Cty Airport SARA; FtEG; Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU; Albany Int Airport ALBA; Ancram, Claverack, and Kinderhook COLU; Johnstown FULT; max 5 New Swamp Rd, Kingsbury WASH 23 Jul.

Song Sparrow: max 26 Normanskill Farm ALBA 2 Aug.
Swamp Sparrow: max 23 BMB 7 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 6 Edinburgh SARA 10 Jun; L Desolation SF SARA 11 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 9 Petersburg Pass RENN 20 Jun; Spruceton Trail GREE 5 Aug.
Scarlet Tanager: max 7 Amy's P WARR 22 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 Ft Ann WASH 13 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: max 12 APBP 30 Aug.

DICKCISSEL (R8): near Putnam WASH 13 Aug (SR), *intro*.
Bobolink: max 55 OCA 29 Jul.
E. Meadowlark: max 20 FtEG 4 Jun.
Orchard Oriole: max 3 SNHP 26 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: max 9 Hudson Crossing P SARA 10 Jun.
Red Crossbill: 5 Amy's P WARR 16 Jul; 5 Padanarum Rd WARR 19 Jul; only reports.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Padanarum Rd WARR 1 Jun, 22 Jun; 2 Schodack RENN 4 Jun; 2 Providence SARA 15 Jun; only reports.