

NYSOA State and County Listing

Determining Regional Totals

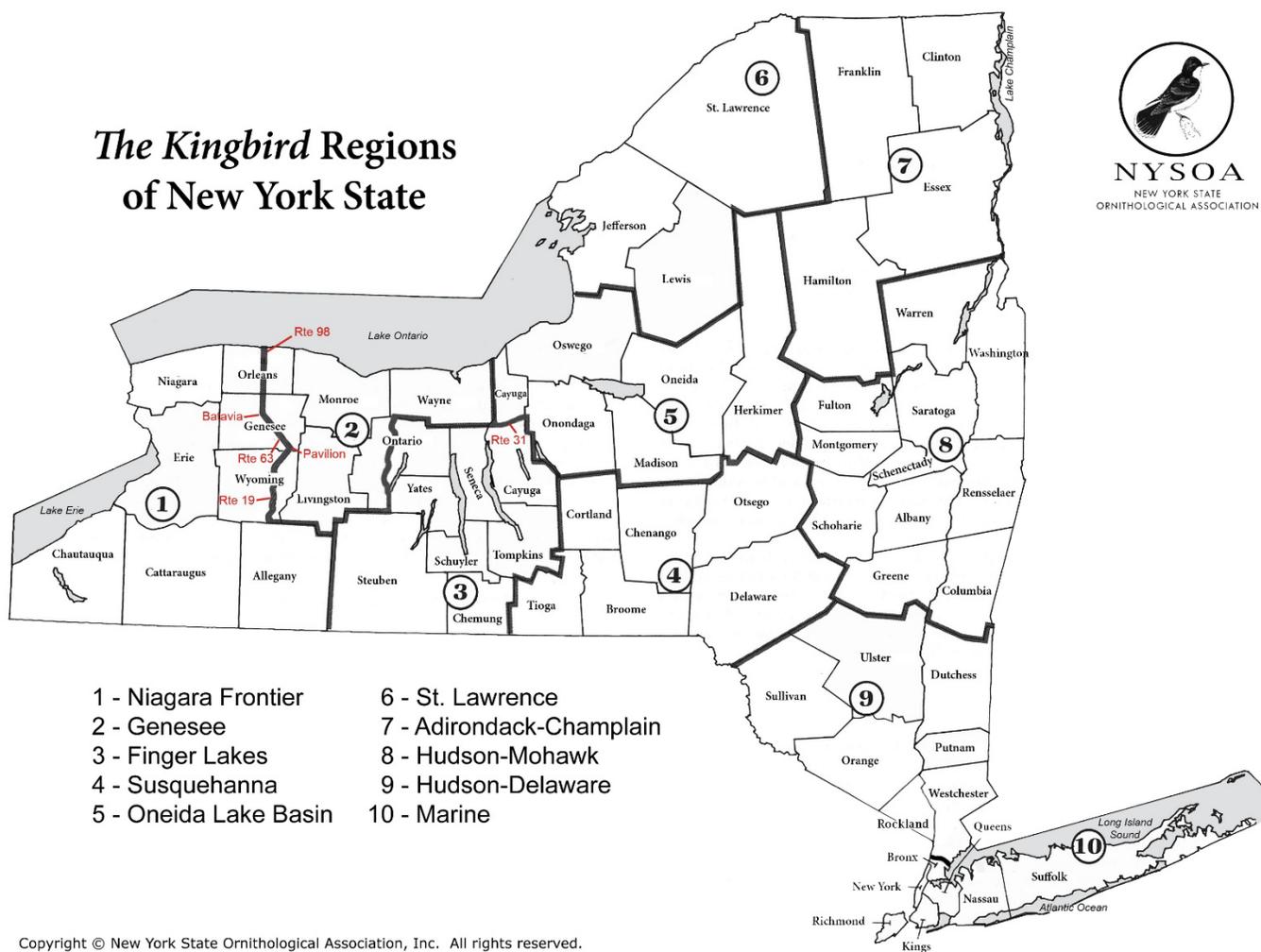
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Last updated 2/23/25

Now that you’ve got your state and county life totals, you may also want to report your numbers for the ten “Kingbird Regions” that NYSOA defined about 75 years ago. This is optional – and considerably more complicated than just writing down numbers displayed on the eBird summary of your county totals.

There are three options:

- (1) **Manual (mostly paper-based) methods**, such as using **pencil & checklist** all year, or **printing and manually consolidating your life lists** at the end of the year for the counties in each region (this becomes complicated for Regions 1, 2, 3, and 8, because several counties are split between two of these regions);
- (2) Using spreadsheets to compile your **eBird data** at the end of the year; and
- (3) Using **AviSys**, an ancient (but still beloved by some old-timers like me) computer app.



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Counties in each region

Region 1: Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Niagara <i>plus parts of Genesee Orleans Wyoming</i>	Region 2: Livingston Monroe Wayne <i>plus parts of Genesee Ontario Orleans Wyoming</i>	Region 3: Chemung Schuyler Seneca Steuben Tompkins Yates <i>plus parts of Cayuga Ontario</i>	Region 4: Broome Chenango Cortland Delaware Otsego Tioga	Region 5: Herkimer Madison Oneida Onondaga Oswego <i>plus part of Cayuga</i>
Region 6: Jefferson Lewis St. Lawrence	Region 7: Clinton Essex Franklin Hamilton	Region 8: Albany Columbia Fulton Greene Montgomery Rensselaer Saratoga Schenectady Schoharie Warren Washington	Region 9: Dutchess Orange Putnam Rockland Sullivan Ulster Westchester	Region 10: Bronx Kings Nassau New York Queens Richmond Suffolk

OPTION 1 - the old-fashioned way (for any of the ten regions)

- **Throughout the year**, you can use NYSOA's handy [checklist booklet](#), assign the regions you bird to checkbox columns, and then check birds off as you see them. Or you can [print off one paper checklist](#) for each region and check birds off on these.
- Or you can print your county totals **at the end of the year** and compare them manually to double-counting species within each region. This gets complicated for Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5.

OPTION 2 - using eBird data (for R4, R6, R7, R8, R9, and R10 and any other region where you had NO birds in counties shown in red italics in the chart above)

This works for the regions whose boundaries all coincide entirely with county lines. Getting your totals for these regions using eBird is a lot more complicated than just grabbing your county totals, because NYSOA's Kingbird regions are not defined in eBird. However, if you are comfortable with spreadsheets, these six of the ten regions lend themselves to using your eBird data.

You can download your eBird data as a csv file and then use Excel in the process defined below.

NOTE: R1, R2, R3, and R5 are the regions in western NY whose boundaries cut through counties. The counties that are split between regions are Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Ontario, and Cayuga. For these four regions, the old-fashioned checklist & pencil approach may work best in any case.

Process for R4, R6, R7, R8, R9, and R10 (using eBird data)

Note: If you use a different version of Excel from ours, the click-by-click may differ slightly.

Prepare a NYS-only backup spreadsheet plus a working file for each region:

1. **Download your eBird data from eBird and save as Excel file (xls orxlsx):**
 - (a) Open eBird.org, click **My eBird** and then **Download my Data** near the bottom of left sidebar.
 - (b) Read the statement on the next page and click **Submit** below it. This will result in an email to you containing a link to a zip file you can download.
 - (c) Download the zip file. When you click on the zip file, it will show a file called **MyEBirdData.csv** containing *all* your eBird data -- both inside and outside NYS.
 - (d) Open this csv file with Excel.
 - (e) If you want to keep all the data for other uses, save the file as **eBirdAll.xlsx** (or eBirdAll.xls).
 - (f) Save the file again as **NYS-orig.xlsx** (or NYS-orig.xls if you are using an older Excel version).
The following steps 2 and 3 will be performed on the NYS-orig file.
2. **Remove all sightings that have dates later than 12/31 of the year being reported:**
 - (a) Click on the **Data** tab in the Excel ribbon at the top of the window, then **Filter** (it has a **funnel** icon). This will put a drop-down arrow at the top of each column.
 - (b) Click the little arrow at the top of Column L (**Date**) and uncheck the box next to the **current** year (i.e. the year following the reporting year). Then click **OK** to filter those new sightings out.
 - (c) Press Ctrl-s to save the **NYS-orig** file (or select File/Save at the top left of the Excel window).
3. **Remove all non-NYS entries in NYS-orig.xlsx and save the cleaned-up file.**
 - (a) Filter mode should still be on (if not, click on that Data/funnel again).
 - (b) Click the little arrow at the top of Column F (**State/Province**) and **uncheck** the box next to (**Select All**).
 - (c) Check the box next to **US-NY**. Then click **OK**. This will **hide** (not remove) the non-NY rows.
 - (d) Click the plus sign next to the **MyEBirdData** tab at the bottom, which will create a new **Sheet1** tab.
 - (e) Click on the **MyEBirdData** tab.
 - (f) Click the triangle at the upper left corner of the **MyEBirdData** sheet, above the row numbers and left of the column letters.
 - (g) Press Ctrl-C to copy all the data.
 - (h) Click on the **Sheet1** tab for the new sheet you created. In that blank sheet, click on cell A1 and then press Ctrl-V. This will paste the NYS data into the new sheet, excluding the non-NY rows (deleting them in this sheet rather than just hiding them as in the **MyEBirdData** sheet).
 - (i) Delete the original **MyEBirdData** sheet by right-clicking its tab, selecting **Delete**, and then confirming Delete in the pop-up window.
 - (j) Press Ctrl-s to save the file (or select File/Save at the top left of the Excel window).
4. **Create a working copy and remove exotics and escapees.**
 - (a) Save the file again as **NYS-working.xlsx** (or **NYS-working.xls** if you are using an older Excel).
 - (b) Go back online, click **My eBird** and change your region to New York, United States.
 - (c) Click on the big "Species observed" number just below the big New York header.
 - (d) Scroll to the bottom of your life list and jot down the names of Exotics/Escapees, if any. If none, skip to (f).
 - (e) **For each Exotic/Escapsee** that you wrote down from your life list in step 4(d), do the following in your NYS-working file:
 - Select Column B (Common Name) by clicking on the "B" at the top of the column.

- Press **Ctrl-F** on your PC (or **Command-F** on your Mac) and enter the species name in the **Find what** field in the popup.
- Click the **Find all** button at the bottom of the popup.
- You will get a list of all the cells in Column B containing that species name.
The "Cell" column in the list tells you the cell/row where each occurrence appears.

Delete these rows to remove all sightings of the Exotic/Escapee.

(f) Save the file (Ctrl-s or File/Save).

7. Now Create a separate Excel file for each region total you will be reporting:

Save the **NYS-working** file as many times as you have region totals to report, naming the files **R1.xlsx, R2.xlsx**, etc.

8. Follow the steps listed in the example below for each of the Region files you have created. Remember, this process may not be the best approach for Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5.

EXAMPLE: What is my life total for Region 10?

1. Open your R10.xlsx file

2. Remove all sightings not in the region you are focusing on:

(a) Click on the **Data** tab in the Excel ribbon at the top of the window, then **Filter**. This will put drop-down arrows on the columns.

(b) Click the little arrow at the top of Column G (**County**) and uncheck **Select All** in the resulting drop-down.

(c) Click the boxes next to the 7 counties that make up Region 10 (Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk). Then click **OK** to filter out the other counties.

3. Create a new sheet with only the Region 10 data:

(a) Click the plus sign next to the first tab to create a new sheet.

(b) Select the original (first) sheet. Click the triangle at the upper left corner of the sheet, above the row numbers and left of the column letters.

(c) Press Ctrl-C to copy all the data.

(d) Click on the tab for the new sheet you just created. In that sheet, Click on cell A1 and press Ctrl-V to paste in the data you just copied (for the 7 counties in Rgn 10).

(e) (*optional*) Delete the original (first) sheet.

(f) For safety's sake, save the file (Ctrl-S or File/Save).

4. Remove all but one sighting per species in the new sheet:

(a) Click **Data** at the top, then **Remove Duplicates**.

(b) In the window that pops up, click **Unselect All**, and then click **Common Name** (or Column B) and **OK**. Confirm in the small window that pops up.

5. Delete rows containing sp., hybrid, and duplicative subspecies:

(a) Select Column B (Common Name) by clicking on the "B" at the top of the column.

(b) Find all the **spuh (sp.)** entries:

- Highlight (select) column B.

- On a PC, press **Ctrl-F** and enter **sp.** in the **Find what** field in the popup.

- Click the **Find all** button at the bottom of the popup.

- You will get a list of all the species cells containing **sp.**

The "Cell" column in the list tells you the cell (row) where each occurrence appears.

- **Delete these rows one at a time (or use the alternative suggestion below).**

TIP: Work from the BOTTOM of the spreadsheet upward as you do the deletions.

If you work from the top down, every time you delete a row, all succeeding row numbers will change!

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH:

- If you are comfortable highlighting them all (one by one) before deleting them all at once, do it that way.

Always check what's in Column B before you select a row for deletion!

And remember, **UNDO (or Ctrl-Z) is your friend if you make a mistake!**

*To double-check that you got them all, re-highlight Column B and repeat the **Find all** exercise.*

(c) Select Column B and do the same thing with **indeterminate (e.g. Greater/Lesser Scaup)**

This time, do a *Find all* on Column B for / (slash)

Check what's in Column B before you delete any row!

And remember, **UNDO (or Ctrl-Z) is your friend if you make a mistake!**

*To double-check that you got them all, re-highlight Column B and repeat the **Find all** exercise.*

(d) Select Column B and do the same thing with **hybrids & subspecies of species already listed e.g. Northern Flicker followed by Northern Flicker (yellow-shafted)**

NOTE: Do NOT delete "Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)" if that is the only entry you have for this species! The same goes for any species listed more than once for subspecies.

HOW TO DO IT: This time, do a *Find all* on Column B for (i.e. left parenthesis

Check what's in Column B before you delete any row!

And remember, UNDO (or Ctrl-Z) is your friend if you make a mistake!

*To double-check that you got them all, re-highlight Column B and repeat the **Find all** exercise.*

6. **Delete rows containing species not on the NYSOA checklist.**

(eyeball check is the only way, sorry!).

7. **FINALLY!** Look at the number of rows that are left in the spreadsheet and subtract one for line 1 (since it contains headers only). This is your species total for the region!

8. Save the file (Ctrl-S or File/Save).

OPTION 3 – using AVISYS

If you still have it, you can use the old but superb bird listing program called AviSys, which allows you to define geographic regions that encompass multiple counties. You can even define your own locations for regions 1, 2, 3, and 5, which have boundaries not wholly coinciding with county lines. For example, you can set up "Cayuga North" and "Cayuga South" because Cayuga is split between regions 3 and 5. Then you have to manually assign your sightings to those partial counties to derive your regional totals. Once you have your data assigned to the regions properly in AviSys, the job is easy. However, it's a bit of a pain syncing between eBird and AviSys.

Note: Jerry Blinn, the creator and maintainer of AviSys, died in 2015. Since that time, a facebook group page was set up by Kent Fiala called AviSys Birding Software, and Kent has been providing some tools and files on his website at avisys.info

Whatever your approach...MAKE SURE YOU DON'T COUNT SPECIES THAT ARE NOT ON THE *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* in your totals (e.g. Chukar, or any NYS species not yet accepted by NYSARC).