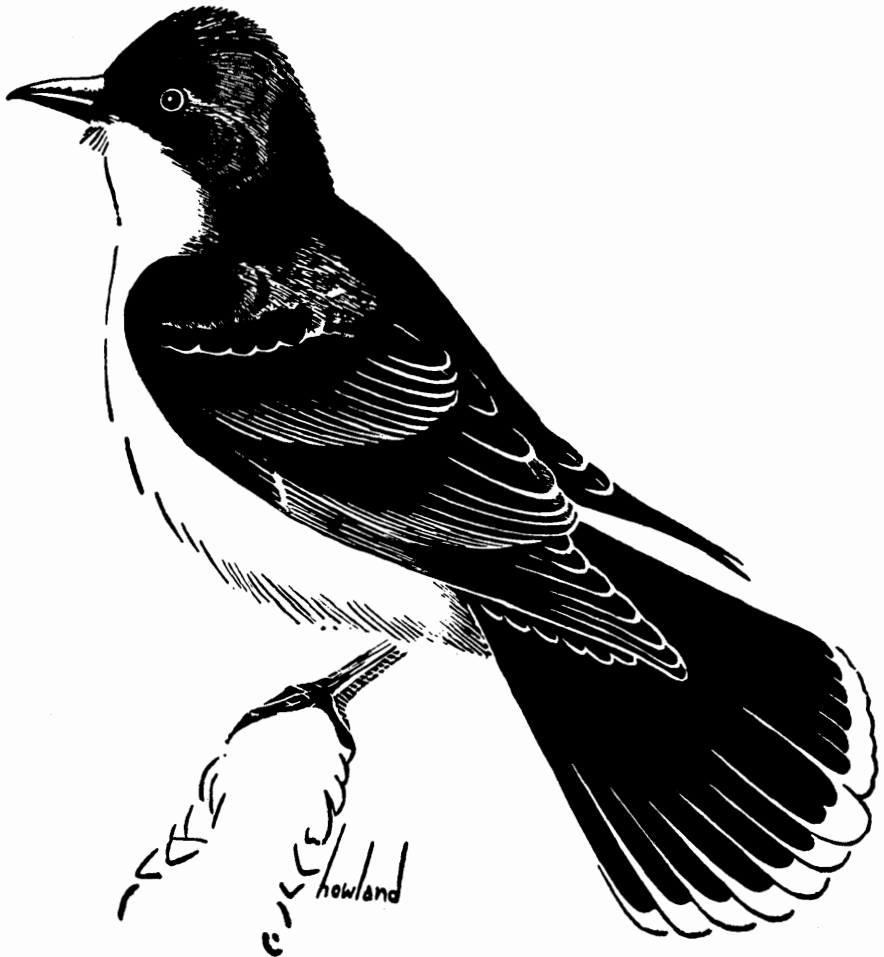


# The **KINGBIRD**



**VOL. 42, NO. 4**

**FALL • 1992**

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

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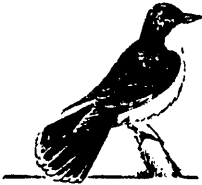
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Juvenile Merlin preening remnant patches of down at nest site near Saranac Lake, Franklin Co., New York, 29 July 1992. Photograph by Mary Colhoun.

## FIRST RECORD OF MERLIN NESTING IN NEW YORK STATE

WRIGHT MONTGOMERY

The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) is a regular visitor to New York State as it passes through to and from its normal nesting grounds, generally across Canada north to the tree line. There has been no confirmed breeding record of Merlin in New York State, although, according to Merriam (1881), the bird is "rather rare, but doubtless breeds." Eaton (1914:102) notes unsubstantiated reports of Adirondack nesting between 1891 and 1905, and Saunders (1929:459) concludes that Merlin probably breed rarely in the State but that an "authentic record of its breeding in the State of New York is still lacking." In Ontario it is generally thought to be more common in the north and "uncommon to rare in both areas," according to Weir (1987). Weir (1987) shows only two nearby confirmed nestings at the same general latitude of northern New York, the first approximately two hundred miles due west, and the second on the southern tip of Georgian Bay. It may be inferred that, while still considered in difficulty, the Merlin is again becoming a comparatively frequent breeder in Michigan (Brewer, 1991). To the east, the southernmost known nestings are in northern Maine. Given this background, it is understandable that a report of possible nesting of Merlin in the Saranac Lake area in mid June by this relatively inexperienced birder was greeted with a high degree of skepticism.

On 11 June 1991, I saw from a great distance a pair of raptors which appeared to be tumbling; later events would suggest exchanging food. Several days later, friends mentioned that they had had a noisy bird in the vicinity of their camp, perching on lakeside treetops since ice out on 3 May. My non-birding friends had concluded it was a kingbird and asked if perhaps I would like to take a look. On 14 June, the bird presented itself, as predicted. After viewing it at some length and then seeing the bird's falcon-shaped wings, a rather rudimentary run through of field marks and size led to the conclusion that I was looking at an out-of-season Merlin. Further, my friends pointed out a somewhat dubious looking nest (spilling fiberglass insulation material!) which had recently been active. At this point I had to leave for my Connecticut home and reported my "find" to a nearby very knowledgeable birder.

On my return to the Adirondacks over the 4 July weekend, New York City birders Dick and Leslie Gershon visiting the area came up with a 99% confirmation after seeing one bird perching and later in hot pursuit of a Yellow-rumped Warbler. On 5 July I finally saw a pair of birds, and on the 7 July I was able to get the cautious friend, whom I had first contacted on 14 June, to visit the site. I was then at least able to obtain his guarded acknowledgement of its existence. A group of four accomplished birders saw the birds on 8 July, and on 12 July, Lewis and Sheila Rosenberg, other New York City birders with a local camp, saw a bird fly into a nest from their position in a boat on the lake. They observed nestlings near the top of a 75 foot spruce, only about 50 feet away from what might now be presumed to be a false nest. A new group of birders, including Frank Nicoletti, was able to identify three downy nestlings together with adult birds, which were considered to be the expected tiaga race of Merlin (Fig. 1). Observers, many of whom filed NYSARC reports, included John Brown, Dewey and Jean Clark, Greenleaf Chase, Richard and Leslie Gershon, Robert Hagar, Selma Isil, Elsbeth Johnson, Robert and Charlotte Ladwig, Ted Mack, Frank Nicoletti, John M. C. Peterson, Lewis and Sheila Rosenberg, Grant Simmons, and Langdon Stevenson.

The nest tree was located about 4 feet from the main entrance to a large camp, which by then was fully occupied. No amount of slamming doors, barking dogs, or motor boats had any perceptible effect on the nesting pair or their young. I was able to photograph the male eating a kill on a tree branch with a 500 mm lens only some 20 feet over a short pathway between the main building and the boathouses, Eaton's early comment of "retiring habits during nesting season" to the contrary.

On 18 July, following a day of heavy rain, the down disappeared and the young birds fledged several days later. They departed the area about 12 August, after providing days of entertainment to campers with their aerobatics while distressing many others with their predawn cries! At one point, all five birds were seen in a line peeling off fighter-plane fashion after an agitated Great Blue Heron, which disappeared rapidly across the lake.

John M. C. Peterson noted that he and Jerry Rosenband had reported seeing a male Merlin in Essex County on 4 Aug. 1977, and

another sighting by Paul Matrey was reported in Newcomb on 4 May 1972. While these are perhaps early or late migration sightings, after his visit, Frank Nicoletti recalled that he had seen a young Merlin barely capable of sustained flight on Cascade Mountain in the summer of 1985.

It appears that there have been at least occasional nestings of Merlin at this latitude in the Adirondacks for many years. There are certainly more birders today, but Mike Peterson's thought is that a nest would likely have been found earlier had it not been for our obvious preoccupation with the Great Depression and World War II, followed by the depredations of DDT. Given the Merlin's recognized nest site fidelity, it is hoped that these birds will be seen nesting in the area in the coming year.

### Acknowledgements

I am pleased to thank John M. C. Peterson for providing me with the literature used in my preparation of this article, and for Mike and Robert Hagar's organization of the observers visiting the nest site. Roxie C. Laybourne of the Smithsonian Institution determined that a feather found in the vicinity of the nest was the fourth primary of an adult female Merlin.

273 Long Meadow Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 13210

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[Photographs of the nest site submitted by John M. C. Peterson were unsatisfactory for reproduction; they have been deposited with the NYSARC - The Editor]

## A WHITE-WINGED TERN NESTS IN NEW YORK STATE

IRENE M. MAZZOCCHI AND SANDRA L. MULLER

The Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) has been classified as a species of special concern in New York State since 1983. In 1989, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) began a study aimed at identifying the factors responsible for the decline of this species in the State. During the 1992 field season, three Black Tern nesting areas in DEC Region 6 were monitored for nesting success.

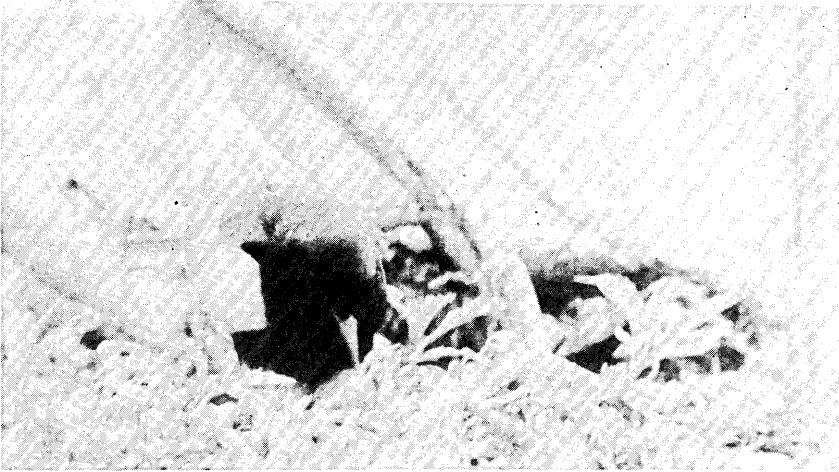
On 17 June 1992, we canoed through the Stone Mills Pool of Perch River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Jefferson County, looking for Black Tern nests. Bob Miller, DEC's nongame wildlife unit leader accompanied us. A nesting colony of approximately thirty Black Tern was located. While examining nests, an unusual call coming from one of the mobbing terns attracted our attention. The call was lower pitched and more "rattle-like" than the typical black tern alarm call. The unusual call came from a bird the size and shape of a Black Tern. It had a white tail, black wing linings, white patches on the upper wing, and reddish feet and legs. This bird, later confirmed as a White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), appeared to have a nest in the midst of the Black Tern colony. We completed the nest examinations and left the area.

That afternoon we returned to confirm that the White-winged Tern was nesting. It was found to be tending a nest with a Black Tern. The nest contained one egg and was indistinguishable from a Black Tern nest. On 22 June, we returned to the site. The White-winged Tern was still present and the nest now contained three eggs.

We continued to monitor the nesting area for the next six weeks. On 8 July, there were still three eggs in the nest. On 13 July, we found two chicks swimming away from the White-winged Tern nest. The chicks did not look any different than Black Tern chicks. The nest was empty. One chick was banded with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service band, but the other was too small. We estimated the chicks to be three to four days old.

Meanwhile, the operations staff of the DEC had constructed an observation platform from which the tern colony was easily viewed.





White-winged Tern on nest, Perch River Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson Co., New York, June 1992. Photograph by Irene Mazzocchi.

Nearly 500 birders visited the site, some from as far away as California. The White-winged Tern regularly could be seen flying in and out of the nest site. This behavior, frequent short visits to the nest, indicated that chicks were present and were being fed by the adult.

On 21 July we again canoed out to the nesting area, eight days after banding one chick from the White-winged Tern nest. There was no sign of chicks or mobbing adults at the nest site. A nearby Black Tern nest, which was expected to have newly hatched chicks, was also empty except for a few eggshell fragments. The area was disturbingly quiet. We proceeded to paddle out to the open water pool and found the White-winged Tern foraging there. There was no sign of the hybrid chicks.

Our observations of the bird's behavior and nesting site led us to believe that the chicks from the White-winged Tern and Black Tern nests were gone. Whether the culprit was a predator or the heavy rainstorm of the evening before we cannot say. We do know that the chicks were too young to be fledged. Although Black Tern

occasionally move their chicks away from the nest, the White-winged Tern was no longer acting as if it was tending chicks. For the next few days, it was occasionally spotted foraging over the open pool. Our last sighting of the White-winged Tern was on the evening of Wednesday 22 July

This is the only the third record of this species and the first documented instance of a White-winged Tern nesting in New York State, and only the second nesting reported from North America. The first, also a hybridization with Black Tern, occurred in Quebec (*American Birds* 40:447, 1181; 1986). Lone migrants of this species now are reported almost annually from the East Coast of the United States and southeastern Canada, and the species has been found casually in the Aleutian Islands. While White-winged X Black Tern hybridization has been noted in Europe, we did not know what to expect from this nest. At least two of the eggs hatched and the chicks seemed healthy. It is unfortunate that the chicks were lost at such an early age.

*Bureau of Wildlife, State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601*

## PROBABLE BREEDING OF CERULEAN WARBLER ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND

PAT LINDSAY AND TOM VEZO

The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) has only been confirmed once as a breeding species on Long Island (Salzman 1983). Bull (1964) stated "one or two birds on eastern Long Island in 1962 and 1963 merely summered, but did not breed." Andrlle and Carroll (1988) note, however, that during the New York breeding bird atlas survey period 1980-1985, one possible and one probable breeding event also occurred on Long Island, in addition to the confirmed breeding record. Zaranski and Baptist (1990) report an easterly expansion of territorial and breeding Cerulean Warbler in Connecticut commencing in the 1960's. Laughlin and Kibbe (1985) report the first Vermont record in 1977, and they comment on the slow but steady expansion of *D. cerulea* in the Northeast. We believe that our observations detailed below are further evidence of this expansion.

On 29 May 1992, while visiting a favorite birding spot in the town of East Hampton, the authors found what appeared to be a small colony of Cerulean Warblers inhabiting a tract of moist woodlands in an area known as the Northwest Woods. The birds were highly active and quite visible as they sang and chased one another. Their activity was largely concentrated around a small pond in the woods. On this date at least two, and possibly three, males were observed. A return visit on 3 June found the birds to be still very active and still favoring the pond area. It was then determined that there were at least three males present. A female was also seen at two different times during the course of the day.

On subsequent visits of 12 and 22 June, the birds had become much less active and more widely dispersed, though still singing persistently. By now the individual territories of the birds could be identified, with the vicinity of the pond hosting one male, and an adjacent section of woods another. The third male was found singing in a grove of Black Locust trees some distance away. No females were seen on these dates, nor on subsequent visits on 7, 10, 11 and 12 July, when many hours of observation failed to produce further evidence of

breeding activity. By the early July visit, the birds were much less vocal, but remained true to their individual sites. By 10 July the locust grove male could no longer be located, and by 17 July the other two birds apparently also had disappeared.

The habitat here can be characterized as Northeastern Deciduous Forest, consisting of mixed hardwoods, oaks (*Quercus*), maples (*Acer*), and hickories (*Carya*), with elements of disturbance succession such as Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and Ailanthus (*Ailanthus altissima*). The trees average 40 to 60 feet in height, with an understory of mixed huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), and viburnum (*Viburnum*). The site is remarkably close to the shore line, and attains a maximum of 30 feet in elevation.

The use of the phrase "probable breeding" as it pertains to this study is consistent with the definition given in Andrie and Carroll (1988:4), i.e.,

Pair observed in suitable habitat in breeding season. Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) on more than one date in the same place. This is a good indication that a bird has taken up residence if the dates are a week or more apart. Bird (or pair) apparently holding territory. In addition to territorial singing, chasing of other individuals often marks a territory.

Although no definitive evidence of breeding was found at this site during the 1992 nesting season, the prolonged presence and the behavioral activity of the warblers strongly suggest that breeding was at least attempted, if not actually carried out. The presence of a singing male at this same site in the spring of 1990 (but not in 1991) lends credence to the theory that the birds may reuse this area periodically. The writers plan to revisit and monitor the locality in future springs in the hope of obtaining more conclusive data on the breeding status of the species here.

An interesting footnote is the observation of at least three Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax viriscens*), two of which defended virtually the same territories as did two of the Cerulean Warbler in these woods. The flycatchers were still on territory and singing as of 29 July, and are also assumed to be breeding here.

The authors wish to extend their thanks to Tony Lauro, Jim Ash and Larry Penny for their advice and contributions of data to this article.

16 Raeburn Court, Babylon, New York 11702

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## NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1992

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1992 winter Waterfowl Count from 11 through 19 Jan, with 12 Jan as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

### The Weather

January picked up where 1991 left off, with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. However, during the afternoon of 10 Jan a cold front entered New York and took most of the following day to finally exit the state. Lots of clouds and precipitation were over New York on 10 Jan and part of 11 Jan. A weak area of high pressure cleared skies later on 11 Jan and for part of 12 Jan. A warm front moved northward during 13 Jan. Snow, sleet and freezing rain returned with the approach of the front. Meanwhile, a storm from the Midwest strengthened significantly and was located near Buffalo on the morning of 14 Jan. Warm temperatures (50°F at Binghamton set a new record) and a sharp cold front produced severe thunderstorms in parts of New York. This large storm moved up the St. Lawrence Valley later that day. A surge of arctic air swept from Canada behind the storm, ending the above normal temperatures. Winter returned with lake-effect snows, subfreezing temperatures and a cold breeze on the 15 Jan. Maximum temperatures were 20°F to 40°F colder than on the previous day. Highs ranged from single numbers over the Adirondacks to the mid 20's on Long Island. Two weak storms from the Great Lakes crossed New York on 16 and 17 Jan. These two systems caused light to moderate amounts of snow. Three to six inch snows were common in upstate New York and up to two inches fell over Long Island. Behind these two storms, lake effect snow resumed with a vengeance on 18 Jan. Squalls struck southeast of both Lakes Erie and Ontario. Some of the snow bands drifted down the Mohawk Valley. Snow squalls moved northward and weakened during 19 Jan. In areas where lake snows did not fall, clear cold

weather prevailed. Many of the coldest temperatures of the period were set during the mornings of 19 and 20 Jan, as readings dropped below -20°F in the Adirondacks and into the teens on Long Island.

### The Count

The count grand total of 396,110 (Table 1) was up an impressive 14.5% over 1991 and 57.4% above the nineteen year (1973-1991) average of 236,633. All four species showing downward trends last year have reversed themselves. However, five species that showed upward trends last year are, unfortunately, in a downward slide this year. They are Canvasback, Oldsquaw, scoter, Common Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser. It was nice to record further increases for Brant, scaup and goldeneye. Other increases noted were American Black Duck, Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and American Coot. This year Canada Goose experienced a slight increase, a not so welcome word to those experiencing nuisance problems from the species.

Comparing 1992 to 1991 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species showed a 13-6 split in favor of increases, although some different species changed as compared to 1991. When comparing 1992 count figures with the 1973-1991 nineteen average (Table 3), there is a 11-2 split, strongly in favor of increases, the same as in 1991.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 5.9% from 1991, including a decrease in Canada Goose of 7.3%. However, Atlantic Brant showed a 25.1% increase. The dabbling ducks also showed an overall decrease of 23.8% from 1991, after the 20.6% increase recorded last year. All species were down, with the exceptions of Gadwall (up 17.0%) and Wood Duck (up 142.3%). Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall decrease of 24.3% compared to 1991. The only bright spots here were 33.5% and 51.9% increases over 1991 for Canvasback and Ruddy Duck, respectively. American Coot also showed a 12.9% decrease from 1991 and a 58.3% decrease from the most recent ten year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were down 13.5% from 1991, and 4.2% below the 1982-1991 average.

Table I. Regional totals for 1992 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated										56	56
Common	3	1	12		13	1	2		1	241	274
Grebe, Pied-billed	7	1	22		3				3	39	75
Horned		25	21		15		18			465	544
Red-necked										2	2
Cormorant, Great										347	347
Double-crested	7				10					167	184
Swan, Tundra	5	3								6	14
Mute		2						196	248	1850	2,296
Goose, Snow	1			4						8	370
Brant		136								22638	22,774
Canada	2229	1603	54267	292	4980	125	469	12716	13598	47731	138,010
Wood Duck	2	35	3		1				5	62	108
Green-winged Teal			1		4				4	529	538
American Black Duck	383	727	3515	241	740	78	160	1112	776	19346	27,078
Mallard	6105	11261	19121	730	5607	220	2462	1586	2353	11082	60,527
Mallard X Black Duck		1			11					45	57
N. Pintail		2	4		4			41	3	297	351
N. Shoveler		3						1		339	343
Gadwall	14	42	46		2	20	2	6	167	1514	1,813
Wigeon, Eurasian			1							9	10
American	29	16	1					10	24	1613	1,693



FALL 1992

Canvasback	3273	51	690				2	2024	597	4515	11,152
Redhead	15	502	6811		88	6			1	58	7,481
Ring-necked Duck	65	18	9		31		5		162	257	547
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, Greater	127	12773			3856		252			30142	47,150
Lesser	38	20	4		5	1		2	17	1107	1,194
species			1277							5268	6,545
Eider, Common										168	168
King										29	29
Harlequin Duck										11	11
Oldsquaw	2555	902			106	8				774	4,345
Scoter, Black		18								124	142
Surf		7								2620	2,627
White-winged	15	698			16					5577	6,306
species		50								618	668
Goldeneye, Common	2401	6518	311	41	4301	364	2417	114	8	3223	19,698
Barrow's										2	2
Bufflehead	209	359	269		174	193	27		86	7760	9,077
Merganser, Hooded	25	42	44	1	20		2	3	129	710	976
Common	2458	112	52	175	2728	76	1421	464	1738	116	9,340
Red-breasted	11	529	13		140					6063	6,756
species					12						12
Ruddy Duck		1							133	2828	2,962
American Coot	100	278	468		2	4			150	342	1,344
unidentified	13					55		15		17	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,090</b>	<b>36,736</b>	<b>86,962</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>22,869</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>7,239</b>	<b>18,290</b>	<b>20,211</b>	<b>181,078</b>	<b>396,110</b>

**Table II. Comparison of 1992 with 1991 for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1992.**

Species	1991	1992	% change from 1991
Mute Swan	1,764	2,293	30.0
Brant	21,086	22,744	7.9
Canada Goose	129,248	138,010	6.8
American Black Duck	21,837	27,078	24.0
Mallard	46,049	60,527	31.4
Gadwall	783	1,813	131.5
American Wigeon	1,201	1,693	41.0
Canvasback	12,821	11,152	-13.0
Redhead	7,419	7,481	0.8
scaup (both species)	38,590	54,889	42.2
Oldsquaw	6,927	4,345	-37.3
scoter (all species)	11,395	9,743	-14.5
goldeneye (both species)	13,699	19,700	43.8
Bufflehead	6,777	9,077	33.9
Common Merganser	13,819	9,340	-32.4
Red-breasted Merganser	7,079	6,759	-4.5
Ruddy Duck	800	2,962	270.3
American Coot	641	1,344	109.7
Total	340,494	390,950	14.8

**Table III. Comparison of 1992 count with 1973-1991 average for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1992.**

Species	1992	Average	% change
Brant	22,744	13,007	74.9
Canada Goose	138,010	50,604	172.7
American Black Duck	27,078	19,700	37.5
Mallard	60,527	26,047	132.4
Canvasback	11,152	10,727	4.0
Redhead	7,481	6,588	13.6
scaup (both species)	54,889	54,002	1.6
Oldsquaw	4,345	4,141	4.9
scoter (all species)	9,743	13,060	-25.4
Common Goldeneye	19,698	11,208	75.7
Bufflehead	9,077	5,057	79.5
Common Merganser	9,340	12,766	-26.8
Red-breasted Merganser	6,756	2,923	131.1
Total	380,840	229,830	65.7

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Aerial Count, 2-8 January 1991. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	174	1,442	1,616
Brant		22,321	22,321
Canada Goose	65,997	18,345	84,342
American Black Duck	10,454	12,321	22,775
Mallard	24,224	1,296	25,520
Canvasback	7,540	2,235	9,775
Redhead	7,864		7,864
scaup (both species)	10,860	19,686	30,546
Oldsquaw	5,106	120	5,226
goldeneye (both species)	3,059	1,066	4,125
merganser (all species)	16,407	3,720	16,407
Total	151,685	82,552	230,517

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
1991 and 1992 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1991  
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1992.**

Species	1991	1992	% change
Mute Swan	1,621	1,616	-0.3
Brant	21,925	22,321	1.8
Canada Goose	75,546	84,342	11.6
American Black Duck	23,709	22,775	-3.9
Mallard	22,289	25,520	14.5
Canvasback	12,818	9,775	-23.7
Redhead	2,065	7,864	280.8
scaup (both species)	44,642	30,728	-31.2
Oldsquaw	2,301	5,226	127.1
goldeneye (both species)	2,941	4,125	40.3
merganser (all species)	14,835	20,127	35.7
Total	225,941	234,419	3.8

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1992 aerial survey was conducted from 6-19 Jan 1992. The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares the 1991 to 1992 aerial survey results. As in most years, the 1992 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not at all resemble the Federation's ground count total.

The 1993 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 16 through 24 Jan, with Sunday, 17 Jan, the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated this year. A special thanks to the Regional Compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The Regional Compilers were:

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Region 1. Wavel Barber | Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine |
| 2. Thomas White        | 7. John Peterson           |
| 3. Eric Donohue        | 8. Paul Grattan            |
| 4. Leslie Bemont       | 9. Helen Manson            |
| 5. Marge Rusk          | 10. Stephen Dempsey        |

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Prothonotary Warbler nest in Allegany County:** On 14 June 1992 at the invitation of Emma Lou King, a cautious and accurate observer from Allentown, New York, we traveled in the King's pontoon boat up Alma Pond, about three miles east of Alma in the Township of Alma, Allegany County, to see a pair of nesting Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) which the Kings had been observing for several days. Near the edge of the lake about a mile from the campground and across the lake from the road, Mrs. King called our attention to a loud, piercing song of five to seven repeated upward slurring notes, each beginning on the same tone: "shreet shreet shreet shreet shreet." The song was of a rich quality and intense. Soon after, the bird appeared and eventually perched for perhaps half a minute on a dead snag on a broken, branchless stub of a flooded tree five feet from shore at about eye level and 20 feet from us. At this time we were able to note all of the diagnostic markings of a Prothonotary Warbler: a warbler-sized bird with its entire head, breast, and most of its abdomen a striking golden yellow, a black bill which appeared longer and heavier than is normal for a warbler, a uniform dark gray back and wings with no markings of any kind, and white lower abdomen, undertail coverts, and part of the underside of the tail. Then the bird entered a hole in the snag, about 8.5 feet above the water's surface. After a few seconds, it looked out the hole for about three minutes, apparently unafraid, or perhaps unaware of us, and then flew to a low dead branch on a maple 35 feet away before disappearing again in the heavy foliage of the trees. During about the period from 1:20 until 2:30 PM, the bird sang at intervals, the periods of silence between groups of calls growing longer and longer, but it seldom came out from the nearly mature maple forest. In New York, Prothonotary Warbler nests sparsely and somewhat erratically in the plains bordering Lakes Erie and Ontario, and locally on Long Island. It was reported possibly nesting in Cattaraugus County by Eaton (p. 402 in Andrlle, R. F., and Carroll, J. B., Eds. 1988. *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y.), but this appears to be the first indication of its nesting in Allegany County.

*Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813, and Elvira and Michael Pitzrick, 4313 Heritage Drive, 2A8, Liverpool, New York 13090*

**An early Hairy Woodpecker fledgling:** An adult male Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) was observed feeding a fledgling at a suet feeder on 29 May 1992 in Glens Falls, Warren Co., New York. This date is 15 days earlier than the earliest fledgling date noted in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll, eds; 1988. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.). Food transfer was observed as well as the diagnostic red forehead of a fledgling. For the adult, the large body size, the proportionally large beak and white, outer tail feathers without black spots, which distinguish the Hairy from the smaller Downy Woodpecker (*P. pubescens*), were observed clearly. Nesting dates are often not reported, so that we do not know if this is an unusually early date, or simply a report of a common but poorly documented timing. We suggest that *The Kingbird* would be an appropriate place for observations on nesting phenology, perhaps restricting such observations to dates that extend known times by more than a week.

*John and Karen Confer and Berthold Seeholzer.* Address correspondence to JLC, Biology Department, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York 14850-7278.

**Extensive repertoire of a Northern Mockingbird:** On 9 May 1992 while visiting an area known as The Valley on the south side of Syracuse, New York, I heard and observed a Northern Mockingbird mimicking the following species of birds: Rufous-sided Towhee, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Flicker, Northern Cardinal, Willow Flycatcher, Red-winged Blackbird, Tufted Titmouse, Barn Swallow, Killdeer, Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Kingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Warbling Vireo, Northern Oriole, American Kestrel, Wood Thrush, Purple Martin, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, and White-breasted Nuthatch. It also gave normal mockingbird calls. The species mimicked are listed as initially heard and written down and do not follow A.O.U. Check-list order. The "runthroughs", as I call them, that followed after the initial list was made were not always in the same order. The changes from one species's song to the next were random as far as I could tell. The calls imitated were not the entire call but portions of songs and calls.

Some species were executed better than others. The best done calls were the American Kestrel, Northern Cardinal and the Red-winged Blackbird. I made it a point to observe the bird or know where it was perched all the time while I was listening and writing the list of mimicked species to satisfy myself that all these calls were from the same source. I did observe a perched European Starling nearby and satisfied myself that the calls were not from that bird when it flew off because the calls continued from the same location where the mockingbird was perched high in a tree top. The fact that many of the species imitated do not normally occur in that particular area consisting of developed homes with some small woods and brushy land nearby, was even more astounding. This bird must have learned many of these calls on its wintering grounds and or in migration. The species which most surprised me was the Willow Flycatcher, which occurs in low numbers in Syracuse. When I heard the Eastern Phoebe, I would not have been surprised also to have heard the Eastern Wood-Pewee. That call was not in this bird's repertoire. The bird was observed and heard off and on after the initial listing from about 1200 to 1500 hours, each time with amazement on my part. Somehow this bird was able in a random fashion to imitate portions of twenty three other species of bird calls that it has heard at some point in time:

*Lee B. Chamberlaine, P.O. Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650-0139.*

*[All of the mimicked species, except Tufted Titmouse, were found nesting in Syracuse during the New York breeding bird atlas field work period, although many were very local in distribution; Tufted Titmouse has since increased in numbers in the Syracuse area and may now nest locally — The Editor.]*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

1992 — a year without a summer. Maybe that's a bit of an overstatement, but certainly it was one of the coldest, wettest summers on record all across the state. All Regions recorded temperatures about 3°F below long-term averages for each month of the season. All noted a wet July, with June actually a bit short on rainfall in most western Regions and August below average in the southeast corner of the State. Most Regions expressed concern over cold in mid to late June, and Region 7 recorded *frost* somewhere in the Region in each month. Several editors commented specifically on rain falling on at least one day of each weekend for a month to as long as the whole season. Experts fingered the recent irruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines as the ultimate setback to the "global warming" that has typified recent seasons.

Cold and wet it was, but what were the weather's effects on bird life? The only well documented general effects of this gray, chilled breeding season were significant nestling losses for Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird and probably Purple Martin. Beyond that, we find only isolated notes of loss and much speculation, the latter even with suggestions of above average success for some breeding species. Region 1 expressed concern that so many ground nesters were brought in for rehabilitation, and House Wren nest success was off locally. Region 2 notes some impact on the nesting success of American Kestrel and concern for marsh nesters due to high water levels. Such high waters drowned Oneida Lake Ring-billed Gull and Common Tern colonies in Region 5, though renesting reduced some of this loss for the terns. There were almost as many comments concerning impact of the weather on vegetation — late crops, delayed haying (maybe a plus for grassland species) and lots of greenery — as there were of specific negative breeding notes.

By scanning the introductory comments of the Regional reports, you can find many positives for the season as well: the summaries of Breeding Bird Surveys in Regions 1 and 4 and notes from Region 6; in the Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush survey results from Regions 7, 8,



and 9; in a banding station report from Region 8; and in notes of increased local interest in wetlands and wildlife and of a positive outcome from a questionable grading project in Region 10.

Moving past immediate concerns precipitated by the weather, there were many interesting records and notes about the several aspects of this complex season. This was one of the more interesting ends to a spring migration in several years. Among the most interesting records are Brant lingering into June in Regions 2 and 9 and to July in Region 6; Common Goldeneye persisting to mid June in Region 8; Rough-legged Hawk on 15 Jun in Regions 2 and 3 and summering in Region 6; a record high count for Red Knot in Region 3; late Dunlin in Regions 2 and 5; Snowy Owl to mid June in Region 2, though highly likely a rehabilitated individual released 3-4 weeks earlier about 5 miles west of the sighting locale; many late warbler migrants, including a state late record for Orange-crowned Warbler in Region 5; and a state record late American Tree Sparrow noted in Region 7. Some of the early June "late" dates seemed more like those considered normal in the 1970's and are notable only relative to their absence in the past five years or so.

There were a host of summer records of unusual non-breeding birds. All but one of the reports are of water-related species: Red-throated Loon in Region 2; Common Loon in eight of 10 Regions, some overlapping with breeding individuals; a July Great Cormorant in Region 10; Horned and Red-necked Grebes in Region 3; a good dispersal of Great Egret in most Regions; a Snowy Egret to Region 7; Snow Goose in Region 9; Northern Pintail in Regions 3 and 9; Greater Scaup in Regions 6, 7, and 9; high numbers Ruddy Duck in Region 1; Pomarine Jaeger in Region 10 and Parasitic Jaeger in Region 1. The lone land bird is Rough-legged Hawk in Region 6. Interestingly, Rough-legged Hawk summered well south elsewhere in the United States this year.

There are a host of good breeding season notes. Many echo continuations of concerns or range expansions ongoing for many years. These include low numbers of Pied-billed Grebe and bitterns, some waterfowl in trouble, some raptors recovering and others in trouble; Black Terns just holding on; Common Nighthawk noted very scarce in six Regions; Whip-poor-will rating as high as "ok" only in

Region 6; Common Raven expanding and increasing; Brown Thrasher numbers low; warblers and vireos a mixed lot, with too little concrete data; most grassland species in trouble; and continued scattered notes of concern over some icterid species. Some of the more interesting or surprising particular notes for the season included Double-crested Cormorant to 5000 pairs on Little Galloo, 598 pairs in Region 9, and nest building and sitting, though no young produced, in Region 2; Canvasback nesting successfully in Region 3; young House Finch, Mourning Dove, and American Robin as favorite foods for nestling Sharp-shinned Hawk; Broad-winged Hawk noted as decreased in breeding areas; rail reports up a bit, including King Rail from Regions 1 and 9 and Clapper Rail at new sites in Regions 9 and 10; Barn Owl from Regions 1, 9, and 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers up in several Regions; Acadian Flycatcher continuing to spread, Willow Flycatcher reports increasing to the north, and a general negative for Least Flycatcher; surprising positives for Cliff Swallow from several Regions; a record late hatching date for Carolina Wren in Region 9; the most Sedge Wren reports in several years from Regions 2, 3, 5, and 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Regions 6 and 7; many interesting notes accompanying the reports on the Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush surveys; Loggerhead Shrike from Regions 2, 3, 5, and 7, though only Region 7 noting a nesting attempt, unsuccessful; Palm Warbler nesting in Region 7, Pine and Prairie Warbler nesting increased, and Worm-eating Warbler feeding young in Region 3; Clay-colored Sparrow at an Atlas site in Region 1; and finally among the finches Red Crossbill nest building in mid August in Region 1 and Evening Grosbeak reports from five Regions, with nesting evident in some. One wonders how much a lack of song on gray days with low temperatures may explain the apparent absence of some of these species.

Beyond these notes are the truly extraordinary breeding season reports: **Great Gray Owl** heard calling *in June* near the Jamestown wintering site; a first state nesting record for **White-winged Tern** in Region 6; the first documented **Merlin** nest for New York in Region 7; a possible **Blue Grosbeak** nesting from Region 4; and **Brewer's Blackbird** perhaps nesting in Region 2.

Even as the breeding season peaks, it begins to wind down with the arrival of fall migrants. Among the earliest are the shorebirds. Among these, we find: both yellowlegs with arrival dates as early as late June, Solitary Sandpiper noted in all ten Regions, as early as 17 Jun; *five* Willet at one time in Region 1; good Whimbrel reports; Western Sandpiper in Regions 2 and 3, plus the first since 1880 in Region 7; a record early Red Phalarope on 24 Aug in Region 10; and good counts of American Oystercatcher and Short-billed Dowitcher also from Region 10. Rounding out these migrant notes, we have Common Goldeneye early in Region 2; Little Gull in Regions 1, 5, and 6; good counts of Chimney Swift in Region 2 and of Cliff Swallow in Region 6; and a record early Lincoln's Sparrow from Region 2. Finally, we have many notes of relatively poor showings for warblers in August, apparently involving both late nesting and late departures or early nest failure and wide dispersal at early dates away from sites of normal fall concentration.

Beyond these relatively typical events, observers found numerous rarities this season. **Brown Pelican** was reported from Regions 1, 8, 9, and in truly impressive numbers from Region 10. **American White Pelican** showed in Regions 1, 5, and 6. Region 10 produced a first state record for **Roseate Spoonbill**, possibly attracted by a troop of pink-dyed Snowy Egret from New Jersey, as well as **Brown Booby**, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, four shearwater species, and **White-faced Ibis**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **Rufous-necked Stint**, and **Long-tailed Jaeger**. **Chuck-will's-Widow** appeared in Regions 2 and 9, as well as in Region 10 where it nests. And the first documented occurrence of a male **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported in Region 9. Given all of these exciting reports and the first nesting records noted above, I find it futile to try to single out one for a BOTS award. Study the details and historical records and nominate your own. While you're doing that, study the Regional reports. All provide insights and observations of some interest.

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**Standard abbreviations:** Regional rarities appear in **UPPER CASE** boldface type in the species accounts; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters;! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CO — confirmed; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; j — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo defines its "summer season" to be the months of June, July, and August, a useful definition for this report. This year the meteorologists characterized that season as cloudy (fifth cloudiest in local weather recording history), cool (fourth coolest), and wet (fourth wettest). Other western New Yorkers simply referred to it as "summerless". We had mean temperatures of 63.4°F, down 2.6° in June, 66.8°F, down 4.0°, in July, and 66.3°F, down 2.5°, in August. Precipitation in June totaled 2.2 inches, down a half inch, 6.0 inches(!) above average at 8.9 inches in July, and August's total of 3.8 inches was 0.4 inches below normal. Clearly July was the worst of a bad lot, setting records for clouds (77 years), temperature (72 years), and precipitation (120 years); but even June, which was pleasant until mid month, turned harshly cold for a week after a front delivered heavy rain on 19 Jun. In the Southern Tier, Vivian Pitzrick also reported "effective frosts" on 11 and 16 Jun. She added that these cold snaps together with day after day of cold misty rain killed many insects. Farmers in her Alle area rightfully complained of poor seed germination because of cold and a disastrous haying season because of rain.

After the May breeding difficulties reported in the last issue, the weather of late June came as a foul blow, hitting just after second attempt Tree Swallow broods hatched. Rich Wells of Springville wrote: "On June 20 and 21 temperatures never reached 50° with a steady drizzle both days. This happened at a time when Tree Swallows are at their peak nesting period. Seventeen nests of young swallows totaling 82 young were killed." Underscoring this tragedy is the comparison of his 1989-1991 average: 249 young fledged, 84% success rate against his corresponding 1992 data: 144 young fledged, 43% success rate. Unlike many other swallow species, Tree Swallow feeds on vegetation (that's how they make it through early spring cold weather), but at this critical time their young clearly need the protein supplied by the insect food that was unavailable. Wells' Eastern Bluebird nesting results showed some recovery from the dire data of my spring report due to second and even third broods. His 1987-1991

average: 188 young fledged, 71% success rate, stands against his 1992 data: 127 young fledged, 59% success rate. One reason for the one-third reduction in young fledged is the fact that nesting attempts dropped 10%. Vivian Pitzrick noted that House Wren responded to the poor weather by delaying their nesting attempts, but Steve Eaton reported only 50% nesting success for this species near his home in the Town of Carrollton. Finally, wildlife rehabilitator Carol Spann of Attica Center reported a significant increase in the number of ground nesting birds brought to her in poor condition due to the wet weather. Among her many Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolinks was even a young Wild Turkey.

The 18 U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys in western New York provide interesting but equivocal results. Two of the routes were not covered. In the following data previous results were extrapolated in order to make reasonable comparisons. Here is how this year's totals for some groups compare with the corresponding averages for the full 26 years of these carefully controlled counts: native non-passerines up 11% and native passerines down 5%, with herons down 8%, waterfowl up 41%, hawks and owls up 21%, gruiforms down 36% at a 25 year low, shorebirds down 8%, gulls and terns up 39%, woodpeckers up 8%, flycatchers up 16%, swallows down 2%, tits up 39%, thrushes and mimic thrushes up 7%, vireos up 24%, warblers up 37%, tanagers and buntings up 46%, sparrows down 11%, icterids down 31% and at a 25 year low, and finches up 33% due to the increase in House Finch. The rise in numbers of vireos and warblers was not due to increases in one or two species; all except Canada Warbler were at or above average and many were at historic maxima. It will be interesting to compare these generally favorable results with next year's when the effects of this breeding season should have had its effect.

A **Brown Pelican** fished from a Niagara River breakwall off LaSalle Park in Buffalo on 9 and 10 Jun. The only other record of this species that I can find is a single bird on the Niagara River in June 1950. Michael Morgante found a **Parasitic Jaeger** in Buffalo on 9 Jul, a first Region 1 record for that month. When this uncommon species does occur here, it leaves by early June and returns in late August. A pair of Barn Owl in the Town of Otto visited a nest box as soon as it was

mounted in late August. This species has been increasingly difficult to find in this region. Ele and Earl Colborn, visitors to this region, identified the call of a Great Gray Owl in a dense Town of Chautauqua pine woodlot in late June. Although the record remains hypothetical, it raises the possibility that the two birds that wintered nearby remaining to nest. A Clay-colored Sparrow was observed by Elizabeth Brooks in the Town of Andover 9-25 Jun, and Bruce Chilton found a pair of Red Crossbill nest building on 14 and 17 August in Golden Hills State Park.

**Contributors:** Robert Andrie, Timothy Baird, Maxine Barber, Wavel Barber, Douglas Bassett, William Bogacki, Elizabeth Brooks, Lois Buck, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Doris Burton, Richard Byron, Al Cala, Nancy Carpp, Bruce Chilton, Earl Colborn, Ele Colborn, Dave Cooper, Willie D'Anna, John Dakin, Len DeFrancisco, Diane DiDomenico, Joseph DiDomenico, Dean DiTommaso, Steve Eaton, Mike Galas, Barbara Halvorsen, Charles Halvorsen, Paul Hess, Tom Harper, Linda Holmes, David Junkin, Marty Junkin, Clarence Klingensmith, Nathalie Leonard, Walt Listman, Alice McKale, Sue Mercer, John Mitton, Michael Morgante, Cathy Mueller, Frank Nicoletti, Harley Northrup, Myrna Pearman, Elvira Pitzrick, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Doris Rising, Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Olga Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, May Ruhl, Sterling Ruhl, Art Schaffner, Ellen Schopp, David Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Robert Sundell, Roger Sundell, Joe Thill, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy, Dorothy Watson, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

**Abbreviations:** AR - Allegheny Reservoir; BH - Barcelona Harbor, Chautauqua L; BSL - Batavia Sewage Lagoons; CL - Chautauqua L; FNSP - Fort Niagara SP; GHSP - Golden Hills SP; INWR - Iroquois NWR; NF - Niagara Falls; PtB - Pt Breeze, L Ontario; TNP - Tiffet Nature Preserve.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** four AR 2 Jun (RbS); one E Otto 3 Jul (TH), summer stragglers. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one CL 11, 12 Jun (AC ph, JD, RbS); two CL 13 Jun (MO), unverified. **BROWN PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** monthly max 152 NF 29 Jun (WW), 376 Buckhorn I SP 29 Jul (WW), 800 NF 19 Aug (DR), continuing near exponential increase. **Great Egret:** monthly max all INWR five 27 Jun

(WW), five 13 Jul (WW), six 29 Aug (WW). **Green-backed Heron:** three BBS total 25 year low. **Green-winged Teal:** one INWR 13, 27 Jun (WW); max eight BSL 8 Aug (FN, WL), summering birds. **N. Shoveler:** arr T Yates 22 Aug (WD, BP). **Ruddy Duck:** unusual summer numbers 13 BSL 22 Jul (WL, FN); nine BSL 13 Aug.

**Osprey:** max six at three nests AR 2 Jun (RbS); five hatched at INWR and a sixth escaped from a rehabilitator in Attica Center while recovering from aspergillosis. **Bald Eagle:** imm at nest INWR 27 Jun-13 Jul (WW); one T Machias 21 Jul (BC, AS); imm PtB 25 Jul (WL). **Red-tailed Hawk:** 150 PtB 24 Aug (WL), an unusual flight on SW winds. **Peregrine Falcon:** imm NF 16-25 Aug (WD, WW), only report. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** 52 BBS total 25 year low. **KING RAIL:** one Tonawanda WMA 16 Jun (MG, GR), unverified. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr three T Yates 22 Aug (WD, BP). **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Goat I 30 Jul (WD, BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr TNP 17 Jul (WW). **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Carleton 22 Jul (FN, WL). **Willet:** arr five BH 17 Jul (LD), early, unverified. **Upland Sandpiper:** max five T Chautauqua 23 Jul (HN); next high two T North Java 14 Jun (LH); only one BBS, continuing decline from 18 in 1969. **Sanderling:** arr two Batavia 8 Aug (FN, WL). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr seven T Yates 22 Aug (WD, BP). **Least Sandpiper:** arr 14 T Yates 22 Aug (WD, BP). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last TNP 10 Jun (WW). **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr Batavia 28 Aug (FN, WL). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 40 T Yates 22 Aug (WD, BP). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** one Prendergast Pt CL 7 Jul (NL, NC), only report. **PARASITIC JAEGER:** *intro*. **Laughing Gull:** one BH 14 Jun (RbS), unverified. **Franklin's Gull:** one BH 9 Jul (RgS), only Jul record in recent years and one of less than ten ever observed in CHAU. **Little Gull:** arr NF 28 Aug (WD); max four Bird I Pier Buffalo 30 Aug (RB, WD). **Caspian Tern:** max seven Shadigee to Olcott 29 Aug (WD, DD). **Black Tern:** max 14 Tonawanda WMA 8 Jul (WW).

**Com. Nighthawk:** one NF 29 Jun (WW), one NF 28 Jul (WW), only Jun-Jul records; max 35 T Kenmore 27 Aug (JT), migrants gathering. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 25 BBS total 26 year max, previous max ten.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr T East Aurora 22 Aug (LH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr two T Alfred 17 Aug (EB). **Acadian Flycatcher:** two ad at nest with y T Hamburg 23-30 Jun (RA), one T Cheektowaga



7 Jun (CR, WW), addition to previously documented breeding areas. **Alder Flycatcher**: 32 BBS total, 26 year max. **Cliff Swallow**: 49 BBS total, 26 year max, continuing a recent increase. **Com. Raven**: max two ad with three y T Ward; four T Andover 9 Jun; four T West Almond 28 Jun (all EB). **Brown Creeper**: four BBS total, 26 year max. **Winter Wren**: five BBS total 26 year max. **Marsh Wren**: ten BBS total 26 year max. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: nine BBS total, 26 year max. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: arr two Amity L 11 Aug (VP). **Swainson's Thrush**: arr T Wales 29 Aug (OR).

**Solitary Vireo**: 11 BBS total, 26 year max. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 23 BBS total, well above average. **Golden-winged Warbler**: none. **Nashville Warbler**: five BBS total, 26 year max. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 63 BBS total, 26 year max, previous max 36; arr GHSP 29 Aug (WD, DD). **Magnolia Warbler**: 27 BBS total, 26 year max, previous max 18; arr Wilson-Tuscarora SP 15 Aug (WD, BP). **Cape May Warbler**: arr T Alfred 29 Aug (EB). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr FNSP 29 Aug (WD). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 11 BBS total, 26 year max. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr Goat I NF 25 Aug (WD). **Blackburnian Warbler**: 19 BBS total, 26 year max; arr T Tonawanda 23 Aug (PH). **Pine Warbler**: one T Lewiston 7 Jun (WD, BP), only report. **Prairie Warbler**: max three ad and four y T Amity 6 Jul (VP); six Alle 3-28 Jun (EB). **Black-and-white Warbler**: arr FNSP 15 Aug (WD, BP). **Prothonotary Warbler**: max four Oak Orchard WMA 26 Jun (GR). **Mourning Warbler**: arr Buffalo 30 Aug (WD). **Com. Yellowthroat**: 298 BBS total, 26 year max. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr GHSP 30 Aug (WD, DD). **Canada Warbler**: arr GHSP 22 Aug (WD, BP).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**: *intro*. **Vesper Sparrow**: max three T Andover 1-26 Jul (EB). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: max nine T Cambria 8 Jun (BC); three BBS total, 26 year average ten, max 38 in 1968. **Henslow's Sparrow**: max three T Clarence 7 Jun (WW); three BBS total, 26 year average six, max 23 in 1968. **Swamp Sparrow**: 33 BBS total, 26 year max. **Dark-eyed Junco**: 38 BBS total, 26 year max. **Orchard Oriole**: two T South Valley 2 Jun (RbS); Alt I male nesting with female Northern Oriole T South Valley 6 Jun (MG, GR, WW), both reports unverified. **Red Crossbill**: *intro*; 16 T Franklinville 16 Aug (BC); one T Ward 7, 9, 11 Aug (EB); 12 T Gerry 22 Aug (RbS). **Pine Siskin**: only reports singles T Alfred 30 Jun (EB), Beaver Meadow WR 18 Jul (TH), and T East Aurora 20 Jul (LH).

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

As was the case over most of the state, this summer was described best as wet. Cold also was applicable, but the wetness seemed to overshadow the depressed temperatures. June was 3.2°F below the normal temperature of 63.5°F. June was the driest of the three months with precipitation total of 1.98 inches, 0.8 less than normal. July continued cold but escalated the wetness. The average temperature of 66.5°F was over 5° below average. Precipitation was more than twice the normal amount at 6.03 inches. August kept chilly, with an average temperature 3.2°F below the norm of 66.3°. The precipitation total of 4.45 inches was 1.25 inches above normal.

Reports from area observers were mixed about the effect of these weather conditions on the birds. Early reports indicated that some species, like the Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow, experienced nesting failure due to the cold and wet conditions. Increased water levels may have caused problems for marsh species such as waterfowl, rails and Black Tern. The vegetation was generally behind schedule, and poor cover early in the season may have been a problem. One observer noted that these factors made it difficult to assess the results of the Breeding Bird Surveys. The wet and cool conditions also may have held normal insect populations behind schedule; this could have impacted insectivorous birds too. This may have been true for flycatchers and vireos, which seemed to go unnoticed on some occasions.

Even with these possible problems, there were no catastrophic results this season. The usual species were encountered and the fluctuations in populations were within expected limits. Common Loon was found on Lake Ontario during all three months for the first time in recent history. Even more startling was a June Red-throated Loon report. Mixed reports came in for Pied-billed Grebe. Some observers felt that the grebes were in trouble while others stated that it looked like they may have had a good season. Either way, breeding numbers are still low in the Region. Double-crested Cormorant nests that were reported at the mouth of Salmon Creek on Braddock Bay

were abandoned before the nesting season was over. This met with mixed feelings. Some observers, and fisherman, were elated that these fish-eating birds did not reproduce. Others look at them as evidence of revitalization of the Great Lakes and had hoped for a first Regional breeding record. Herons and bitterns continued to be of concern. American Bittern was noticeably scarce once again. This species continues to draw attention. Green-backed Heron may be in the same category, with low totals for the season. The jury was out on Black-crowned Night-Heron, as numbers were only scant late in the season, when juveniles and adults become more visible.

Waterfowl numbers were mixed. The only stable populations seemed to be Mallard and Wood Duck. Mute Swan successfully nested on Braddock Bay once again, but an attempted nesting on Buck Pond was not successful. Numbers of this import continue to build. Blue-winged Teal were scarce and recent Green-winged Teal nestings didn't happen this year. American Wigeon and Gadwall were reported but no nestings were noted. Hooded Merganser did nest in the Region, but populations continue to be small. Black Tern numbers were stable as was indicated by the research of Sharon Skelly. An early nest was lost to the cold while a June nest succumbed to high water levels. Some of the highlight species in this group included Brant, White-winged Scoter, Rough-legged Hawk and Dunlin.

Raptors for the most part were not highly noticeable. Red-shouldered Hawk went unreported; this species continues to be in big trouble in the Region. Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel numbers were about normal. The early cold and wet did cause some kestrel nest loss.

Early in the season it appeared as though we might have a good year for cuckoos. Some areas with Gypsy Moths drew concentrations but by the end of the season the general consensus was that it was only a mediocre season for both species. Nighthawks were once again down with a few reports coming from Rochester. Whip-poor-will continues to be nearly nonexistent as a breeder.

Acadian Flycatcher continued to be reported from new locations, but the population is still quite small. It looked like a good season for swallows in general and Carolina Wren numbers continued to build. Sedge Wren was found along the Lake Ontario State Parkway, but

nesting was not confirmed. The thrushes continued to get mixed reviews. Hermit Thrush nested in the high country, but Wood Thrush numbers were poor. A real surprise was a July female Swainson's Thrush sporting a brood patch. Both Gray Catbird and Northern Mockingbird were well reported, but Brown Thrasher seemed on the downside. An August report of **Loggerhead Shrike**, a former Regional nester, was the only one for the season. Vireo reports were too limited to be evaluated. Warbler reports were poor. Golden-winged Warbler continues to decline. Some observers noted that Black-and-white Warbler seemed down. The only bright spots were the continued nestings of Hooded Warbler, the return of Prairie Warbler to a historical breeding site, late Northern Parula in interesting habitat, and several nesting Yellow-breasted Chat. Grassland sparrows continued scarce, with a possible slight increase in Henslow's Sparrow reports. Other species like the Grasshopper and Vesper held their own at best. A real surprise was the Clay-colored Sparrow that took up residence at Mendon Ponds. Icterids seemed to show some seasonal highlights. Besides the traditional nesting of Orchard Oriole, the report of a Western Meadowlark at Point Breeze was met with excitement. **Brewer's Blackbird** sightings throughout the season fueled recent speculation that the species is nesting in the Region. The only notable finch report for the season. Pine Siskin reports came from the Region's southern high country and during a brief stint along the west lakeshore. Purple Finch numbers continued to be low. As is usually the case during this season, there were some leftovers from the spring migration. This year was no exception.

Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher numbers seemed to be good into June. Both Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were reported. Some warblers continued on into June with reports of Northern Parula, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Wilson's. Early returning shorebirds are also a highlight of the season. Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Stilt Sandpiper took advantage of some of the wet conditions and were noted during the season. A **Marbled Godwit** found at Point Breeze by William Symonds on 27 July was the shorebird highlight for the season. Also noted were good numbers of Pectoral Sandpiper. A trickle of warblers was about all of the fall land bird migration that was observed in August.

This usually is not a good season for rarities, but this year a couple of birds were noteworthy. A **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported by Laura and Neil Moon from their residence in Irondequoit on 13 Jun. Rounding out the rarities was the **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Mendon Ponds Park was located by Donna Traver and Carolyn Cass on 16 June. It was quite cooperative and was observed by many.

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**Abbreviations:** BB - Braddock Bay; HB - Hamlin Beach; HL - Honeoye Lake; MPP - Mendon Ponds Park; OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

**Summer reports:** **Red-throated Loon:** one HL 13 Jun, unexpected in summer. **Com. Loon:** one HB 3,17 Aug, unusual in summer. **Least Bittern:** max five WL 9 Aug. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** *intro*. **Brant:** last Manitou 4-7 Jun. **Am. Wigeon:** max seven WL 12 Jul. **White-winged Scoter:** last HB 19 Jun, late. **Com. Merganser:** one BB 30 Jun, unexpected away from breeding population s L Ontario. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one Manitou 23 Jun, three HB 30 Jun, one Manitou 18 Jul, non-breeding birds.

**N. Goshawk:** one Pittsford 14 Aug, only report. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one Hamlin 6 Jun, last MPP 15 Jun, late. **Merlin:** arr Springwater 15-30 Aug (HH), one Rochester 26 Aug (JCz). **Black-bellied Plover:** arr three WL 3 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr four Hamlin 14 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr WL 22 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr WL 16 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr OB 30 Jun. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr WL 17 Jun. **Whimbrel:** arr HB 30 Jun (MD), max nine HB 4 Aug (RMa). **MARbled GODWIT:** *intro*. **Red Knot:** arr HB 28 Aug. **Sanderling:** arr eight OB 15 Jul. **W. Sandpiper:** arr OB 22-23 Aug (mob). **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr PtB 29 Jul (MD). **Pectoral Sandpiper:**

arr Hamlin 18 Jul, max 105 Hamlin 7 Aug. **Dunlin**: last Perinton 6 Jun, late. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max eight Hamlin 21 Aug (SS). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: arr HB 31 Aug, scarcer than usual. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max 18 WL 16 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope**: three Hamlin 15 Jul (MD, WSY), once more frequent than recently. **Caspian Tern**: max 45 WL 11 Aug, low total. **Com. Tern**: max 13 HB 17 Jul, scarce. **Forster's Tern**: one-two BB 21-26 Jun, one WL 2 Jul, one Manitou 20 Aug, numbers lower than in past years.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**: *intro*. **Chimney Swift**: max 235 Brighton 29 Aug (ST), high total. **Snowy Owl**: ad male near BB 16 Jun, probably a rehabilitated bird released nearby in mid May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr HB 4 Aug (JS). **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Hamlin 13 Jul (MD), new location. **Bank Swallow**: max 10,000 WL 25 Jul. **Winter Wren**: one MPP 12 Aug, breeding? **Sedge Wren**: one Hamlin 1-4 Jul (MD, JS), only report. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: last Manitou 3 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Greece 10 Jun; one with brood patch Manitou 30 Jul; one Manitou 30 Aug, unusual number of reports for the summer season. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Hamlin 22 Aug (MD), only report.

**Tennessee Warbler**: last Greece 6 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr Greece 29 Aug. **N. Parula**: one Rush 4 Jun (CC), unusual date and location; arr Manitou 24 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: last Manitou 4 Jun. **N. Waterthrush**: one Greece 18 Aug, migrant. **Wilson's Warbler**: last WL 10 Jun, arr Manitou 20 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: arr Manitou 20 Aug.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: *intro*. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr Manitou 21 Aug, early. **W. Meadowlark**: one PtB 1-30 Jun. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one Hamlin 14 Jun (MD), two Hamlin 1-12 Jul (MD).

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN AND C.R. SMITH

To quote one observer, the summer was characterized by "lousy, wet weather." The month of June was somewhat of an exception, being drier than average, but still cooler than usual. Precipitation for June was one to two inches below normal, with temperatures 2-3°F cooler than thirty-year averages. Indeed, much of Region 3 posted mild to moderate drought conditions for June, according to the Palmer Drought Severity Index. July and August made up for June's moisture deficit, however. It was the coldest and wettest July since records began to be kept in 1895, with precipitation totals five to seven inches above normal and temperatures 2-4°F below average for the month. August continued the summer's cold, wet pattern. An especially strong storm front passed across the region with heavy rains and brisk northwesterly winds on 28 and 29 Aug, in the wake of the effects of Hurricane Andrew, bringing many migrant shorebirds into the region. Overall the summer period of June through August was the third coldest on record.

The usual intensive coverage of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge produced a number of interesting reports. N. Brinkley reported young of Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, **Canvasback**, Hooded Merganser and Common Merganser. Other waterfowl of interest included N. Pintail, Redhead and Common Goldeneye. In general, heavy summer rains and high water levels kept numbers of shorebirds at MNWR to a minimum, though there was a reasonable variety of species represented throughout July and August. Among shorebird reports from this period were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. Osprey again nested on the refuge, and two or three Bald Eagle were present all summer. Other noteworthy observations include **Rough-legged Hawk** in June, and successfully nesting **Sedge Wren**.

Interesting summer reports of waterfowl elsewhere in the Region included a **Red-necked Grebe** and several summering Horned Grebe. Strong northwesterly winds in the wake of hurricane Andrew at the end of August possibly accounted for **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and **Whimbrel** on the Savannah mucklands north of Montezuma NWR. Notable land bird reports include successfully nesting **Long-eared Owl**, as well observations of **Ringed Turtle-Dove**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **Dickcissel**.

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**Abbreviations:** CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake, DL - Dryden Lake; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myers Point, on east shore of CL; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park, at south end of CL.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** one-five SL all summer; one MPt 20 Jul. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Canoga on CL 25 Jul (BG). **Pied-billed Grebe:** nested Corning Pd and Big Flats marsh (DC). **Horned Grebe:** two Elmira 8 Jun, ad Alt MNWR 20 Jun-15 Aug, two ad Alt SL near Geneva 4 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 25 StP 16 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** one MNWR 15 Jul. **Great Egret:** max 16 MNWR 25 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ad Elmira throughout period, no evidence of nesting; three StP 16 Aug. **N. Pintail:** ad male MNWR 6 Jul. **CANVASBACK:** FL MNWR, third nesting record there. **Redhead:** MNWR last week of Aug. **Com. Goldeneye:** MNWR last week of Aug. **Com. Merganser:** two broods of 10 and 11 y Chemung R between Elmira and Wellsburg 20 Jun. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one MPt 28 Jul, one StP 20 Aug.

**Osprey:** *intro*; one StP 18 Aug, one Aurora on CL 21 Aug, 4 Chemung R 20 Aug. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; ad Big Flats 8, 13, 14 Jul, ad Sullivanville Dam 11 Jul. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** one seen taking nestlings from nest of Mourning Dove and of American Robin in Elmira 14, 15, 15 Jun. **N. Goshawk:** ad female Cornell Campus 24 Aug (NB). **Broad-winged Hawk:** one CH 26 Jul. **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** ad light morph 4, 9, 15 Jun MNWR (NB, mob). **Virginia Rail:** one DL 29 Jun. **Sora:** one MNWR 15 Jul. **WHIMBREL:** one Savannah



mucklands n MNWR 29 Aug (AF). **Ruddy Turnstone**: one MPt 31 Jul (KD). **Red Knot**: 250 MNWR 6 Jun. **Sanderling**: one MPt 1 Aug and 4 MPt 19 Aug (KD). **Least Sandpiper**: max ten MPt 28 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: four MNWR 24 Aug (KD, WE). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max six MPt 28 Aug. **W. Sandpiper**: max three MPt 28 Aug (KD). **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MNWR 30 Aug (KD). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: one Savannah mucklands n of MNWR 29 Aug (AF). **Bonaparte's Gull**: two-eight MNWR 15 Jul-30 Aug (NB), one MPt 22 Jul (KD). **Caspian Tern**: CL and MNWR 1 Jul-30 Aug; max 35 MPt 23 Aug; one Elmira 28 Aug, where unusual. **Black Tern**: two MNWR 8 Jun and 22 Jul. **Com. Tern**: three MNWR 22 Jul. **Forster's Tern**: one MPt 24 Aug (KD, mob).

**Ringed Turtle-Dove**: one at feeder Elmira mid Jun to late Aug, doubtless an escape. **Long-eared Owl**: pair with five y Seneca Falls (FB). **Com. Nighthawk**: only migratory groups reported 18-27 Aug, max 150 Elmira 22 Aug. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Rothermich Road Tomp mid-Jul, one Prott's Hill Tomp 2 Aug.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Lansing 26 Aug (KD). **Acadian Flycatcher**: small population established CH (WE). **Purple Martin**: max 450+ MNWR 24 Aug. **Bank Swallow**: about 50 active nests along Chemung R between Elmira and Wellsburg. **Cliff Swallow**: several nesting colonies under bridges in and around Elmira (DD). **Com. Raven**: two Big Flats in Jun; two Sullivanville Dam 18 Aug. **Winter Wren**: singing males at three different Elmira area locations Jun and Jul. **SEDGE WREN**: singing male MNWR 18 May-30 Jul; ad with y MNWR 15 Aug (JW). **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Farley's Pt CL 19 Jul (AF).

**Golden-winged Warbler**: none! **Prothonotary Warbler**: possible nesting along Erie Canal at Armitage Road, near MNWR, 9 and 12 Jun (JB). **Worm-eating Warbler**: ad feeding three y Southport 29 Jul and 1 Aug (DC).

**DICKISSEL**: four males and one female along Route 34 South Lansing Tomp 18 Jun-15 Aug, but no evidence of nesting (WB, mob).

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Summer 1992 was cold, with a soggy July and minimal sunshine. And it rained almost every weekend! It was the coldest summer since 1930, according to National Weather Service records at Cooperstown. Average temperatures for the season were 2.9°F colder than normal. Each of the three months was close to the 3° deficit. At Link Field, Binghamton's Weather Service Station, the highest temperature reading of the summer was 86°F on 14 Jul. The closest thing to a heat wave was a four day period 25-28 Aug, when temperatures reached the low 80's each day. As for cold nights, how about record lows of 43°F on 22 Jun and 39°F the next night? July rainfall totaled 6.32 inches, nearly twice the norm of 3.39 inches. July's excess was balanced by lower than normal precipitation in June and August. June rainfall, only 1.30 inches, was 2.30 inches less than normal. August precipitation of 2.87 inches missed the month's average of 3.35 inches by about a half inch. The growing season, about two weeks late at the beginning of the season, never caught up as spring's cool damp weather persisted. If it was green, whether grass or leaf, it grew abundantly but the rest of the plant world needed more sun and warmer temperatures. It was an off year for black cherries, a favorite of waxwings, thrushes and tanagers. Most berries were abundant albeit late ripening. Corn, too, was slow to mature, alarming farmers who faced the possibility of early frosts. Even the second cutting of hay was a problem for farmers with soaked fields. High water all summer relieved our drought worries but created problems for birds. It nearly eliminated shoreline feeding for herons, certainly hurt nesting success for ducks and buried mud flats and river islands that might have attracted migrating shorebirds. All this, however, didn't deter a Regionally rare **Black Tern** from visiting Whitney Point Reservoir on 30 Aug, where it was spotted by Jay Lehman.

Bill Toner, who conducts a nest box program in CORT, reported a good nesting season for American Kestrel but lower than average numbers for Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird. For the kestrel program, now in its fifth year, Bill recorded eight nesting attempts, of which five were successful. Sixteen young fledged. Of these, six males

had been taken as nestlings by a Cornell Univ. researcher ("having a permit to collect and possess") for studies concerning artificial insemination. Tree Swallow made 35 nesting attempts, of which 16 were successful. However, of the 123 eggs that hatched, only 60 young survived to fledge. Many nestlings were found dead in the boxes after record cold nights 22 and 23 Jun. Cold weather was also blamed for the fact that Eastern Bluebird made only seven nesting attempts. Three of these succeeded and 12 young fledged. Trails for the swallows and bluebirds date back to 1981. "I keep records on all the birds and band what I can," Bill said. "It's interesting, always something to learn."

Eight Breeding Bird Surveys, the same ones as last year, were run with higher 1992 counts of most birds than in 1991. Greg Butcher who does the Dryden (mostly CORT) BBS compared his results with the average number of individuals found on the same route 1966-1977. He concluded "there is good reason to be concerned about pheasants, thrashers, towhee, Savannah Sparrow and meadowlark." Among those he listed with big increases were Ring-billed Gull, Willow Flycatcher, American Crow, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Indigo Bunting.

Hugh Kingery, on his annual August visit to Cherry Valley (OTSE), has done his own census the last four years, adopting the BBS format but not all the rules. He found low counts this year for Hermit Thrush, House Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler and Rufous-sided Towhee. Jay Lehman made a special effort this summer to track endangered sparrows and other "area (CHEN) specialities" which were located during the Atlas years. His excellent findings, including high maxima for woodland warblers, are in the species accounts.

The great rarity of the summer was a pair of **Blue Grosbeak**, probably nesting. Believed the first pair reported in upstate New York, they definitely were the first of their species in Region 4. Unfortunately, breeding was not confirmed. The birds were first encountered by Sara Kinch 10 Jun in an overgrown brushy field about a mile up a hill near her Endicott home. Then and on subsequent visits she heard the male sing and observed behavior from distances of 30 to 40 feet. On one visit she saw a nest about four feet of the ground in a bramble of bushes, but was concerned about disturbing the birds. Later in the month Marie Petuh, and then several members of the

Binghamton Hot Line, saw the grosbeak. After that the birds disappeared. However, Sara found them again in early July about a half-mile farther uphill. "Behavior was the same as that of the first nesting site", she said. This time she was able to get photos of them. At no time, however, were any young found. The adults were last seen 27 Aug. Sara now is waiting for bushes to lose their leaves so that she can relocate the nest she saw and maybe find one at the second site. [Photographs submitted to document this report are not definitive and most resemble Indigo Bunting; additional documentation was not available at press time - *The Editor*]

Counting at Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch began 12 Aug, the earliest date yet in the four year old program, explaining the large increase in raptors present.

It seemed a mostly plus summer. Species missed, such as Pied-billed Grebe, were those affected by high water. **Blue Grosbeak** and **Black Tern** were excellent rarities and several uncommon species, such as Acadian Flycatcher and Common Raven, were present. The total of 148 species for the period is average and ties last year's total.

**Abbreviations:** CRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; FMHW - Franklin Mt Hawk Watch; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PGMA - Pharsalia Game Management Area; S4C - Sherburne 4-Corners; SkyL - Sky Lake Camp, Windsor; WCC - Waterman Conservation center; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir.

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**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** CRes 6 Aug, only report. **Double-crested Cormorant:** singles WPR 7 Jun; Tiog 8 Jun, 25 Aug; CRes 6 and 29 Aug; fewer. **Great Blue Heron:** max 12 two sites BROO, TIOG 12 Aug (MP) . **Great Egret:** arr WPR 25 Aug (EH); one Vestal 31 Aug (SL).

**Green-backed Heron:** max three in 12 widespread reports Jun, Aug. **Canada Goose:** three pairs, total of 14 FL BROO, CHEN, OTSE Jun; 150 Owego all summer. **Wood Duck:** three reports of ad, 18 total FL BROO Jun; post breeding max 24 CHEN 10 Aug (MP), low. **Am. Black Duck:** max 12 IBM Pd 29 Aug, two other reports. **Mallard:** only four reports ad with y Jun, Jul.

**Turkey Vulture:** max six two sites CHEN 21 Jun, OTSE 23 Aug. **Osprey:** arr BROO, OTSE 2 Aug; max four FMHW Aug. **Bald Eagle:** singles Oneonta 20 Jul, DELA, FMHW Aug. **N. Harrier:** max three FMHW Aug; singles BROO 23 Jun, 19 Jul. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max four FMHW Aug; singles BROO, CHEN, TIOG Jun. **N. Goshawk:** one harassed by jays OPM Jul; one FHNC 17 Aug, sometimes missed. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Vestal 31 Aug (SL). **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 31 FMHW Aug; two singles BROO Jul; imm Oneonta Res 5 Aug. **Am. Kestrel:** *intro*. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** singles CHEN Jun, Aug (JS); Dryden BBS, good count. **Ruffed Grouse:** hen with 8 FL BROO 20 Jun (JS), scarce. **Wild Turkey:** flushed hen, at least four just fledged y, OPM 10 Jun (MD), "terrifying"; six ad, eight y BROO 19 Jul. **Virginia Rail:** five singles BROO, CHEN, OTSE Jun, high count. **Com. Moorhen:** one Boland Pd 8 Jul, one Greene 10 Aug (MP, SK), often missed. **Killdeer:** max 30 IBM Pd 29 Aug, scarce. **Greater Yellowlegs:** several reports early Jun, late; arr two sites 5 Aug, early; max three 7 Aug, all BROO (HM, RM, BB). **Solitary Sandpiper:** only two OTSE 7 Aug (HK), scarce. **Upland Sandpiper:** atop utility pole at usual nesting site T Lisle 14 Jun. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max four Vestal 26 Jun; two juv Broo 8 Jul. **Com. Snipe:** max three S4C 16 Jun (JL,EH); one Downsville BBS. **Am Woodcock:** three Jun reports, one Aug. **BLACK TERN:** *intro*.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max seven on five BBS; last 27 Jun, good count. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** two BROO, one DELA Jun, low. **Great Horned Owl:** three singles Vestal, one TIOG, only owl species reported. **Com. Nighthawk:** max six at two Binghamton sites 15 Jun; one Norwich 3 Jun; one Vestal through period; two Goodyear L often in Aug, scarce. **Chimney Swift:** five to six widespread reports/month, max six, good count. **Belted Kingfisher:** female FY at nest hole Endicott 22, 23 Jun; two nest holes Vestal 26 Jun (MP). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one Owego Jun (C&JB); one CHEN 6 Jul (EH), declining? **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 12 on eight BBS, good. **Pileated Woodpecker:** max three (two ad, one y) BROO 8 Jul.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** one WCC 5 Jun (MP), "nice close look and singing". **Purple Martin:** 12 Vestal until 2 Aug (SR); small colonies IBM Golf Course (MP), Owego (C&JB); last WPR 30 Aug (JL), good count. **Tree Swallow:** *intro.* **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max three Dryden BBS; one Corbettsville BBS; one TIOG Jun, Jul, scarce. **Bank Swallow:** 20 Murphy's Sand pit Vestal 26 Jun, "old site there with its big colony destroyed by soil mining" (MP); seven widespread reports to 5 Aug. **Cliff Swallow:** max 17 on three BBS; five widespread Jun reports; one TIOG Jul, last eight 17 Aug, scarce and early departure. **Com. Raven:** pair SkyL "acting very territorial, we feel certain they were nesting; also there 1990" (HM, BB). **Tufted Titmouse:** family of five Goodyear L after 23 Jul; four TIOG 5 Aug. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max seven OPM 13 Aug. **Brown Creeper:** only five, scarce. **Carolina Wren:** four on three BBS; "built nest in bluebird house but didn't lay eggs" Owego (C&JB). **Winter Wren:** four on three BBS; only five others, low. **Marsh Wren:** two S4C 6 and 16 Jun; one Boland Pd 8 Jun (MP), scarce. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 14 PGMA 6 Jun; four Oneonta Res 21, 22 Aug, only reports. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** two BROO 12 Jun and 8 Jul; one OPM 1 Aug, only reports. **E. Bluebird:** *intro.* **Veery:** 84 on eight BBS; 10 banded Vestal Aug, high count. **Swainson's Thrush:** 18 PGMA 6 Jun, two there 16 Jun (JL), good numbers, still limited to CHEN. **N. Mockingbird:** 10 on four BBS, good distribution. **Cedar Waxwing:** widespread reports, lower numbers.

**Solitary Vireo:** max nine PGMA 6 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** six on four BBS, scarce Jul, Aug. **Warbling Vireo:** 33 on seven BBS, good. **Red-eyed Vireo:** 236 on eight BBS, high. **Blue-winged Warbler:** five on two BBS; seven reports BROO, CHEN Jun; last 21 Aug, good. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one Wyok Road BROO 4 Jun (ML); one BROO 10 Jun (WW); one Corbettsville BBS, good count. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Lawrence's type banded Vestal 13 Jun (GK). **Nashville Warbler:** arr WPR 25 Aug (EH). **Yellow Warbler:** 198 on eight BBS, high. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** high counts Jun, Aug. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 20 PGMA 6 Jun (JL); six Downsville BBS, high. **Cape May Warbler:** arr FHNC 25 Aug, only report, scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max five Downsville BBS, four singles Jun, two Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 19 PGMA 6 Jun; 17 on

six BBS. **Black-throated Green Warbler**; ten on five BBS; eight singles Aug, low. **Blackburian Warbler**: max 30 PGMA 6 Jun; two there 16 Jun; (JL); pair SkyL 17 Jun (WW), high. **Prairie Warbler**: pair nesting Endicott (SK); single FHNC 25 Aug, last. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 21 Downs ville BBS. **Am. Redstart**: max 12 Downs ville BBS; high count through period. **Ovenbird**: 124 on eight BBS. **N. Waterthrush**: one McDonough BBS; one OTSE 8 Aug, very low. **Mourning Warbler**: max nine PGMA 6 Jun. **Hooded Warbler**: one Norwich 7 Jun, not found every year (JL). **Wilson's Warbler**: singles banded Vestal 25 and 31 Aug, only reports. **Canada Warbler**: max nine four BBS.

**Scarlet Tanager**: max 40 on seven BBS; 10 to 12 widespread reports Jul, Aug, max seven, low. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 44 on eight BBS; post breeding max five Otse 8 Aug (HK). **BLUE GROSBK**: *intro* (NYSARC). **Indigo Bunting**: max 68 eight BBS. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: 14 on five BBS; three banded 6 Aug, scarce. **Vesper Sparrow**: five 6 Jun and one 16 Jun at three CHEN sites "including two Atlas loc" (JL); two Dryden BBS; one OPM 10 Jun, high. **Savannah Sparrow**: 42 on seven BBS, good Jun counts. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: two on Corbettsville BBS 14 Jun; none CHEN including three previously known active sites (JL); two T Nanticoke BROO 1 Jul (MP), scarce. **Henslow's Sparrow**: ten Tarbull Farms CHEN 7 Jun and 18 including two imm on 26 Jul "still doing well"; five at different site same area 15 Aug (JL). **Swamp Sparrow**: "common" BROO Jun (JS); 15 Otse 8 Aug (HK). **White-throated Sparrow**: max seven McDonough BBS; several widespread nesting sites Jun. **Dark-eyed Junco**: two feeding two cowbirds Windsor 17 Jun (WW). **Bobolink**: 87 on eight BBS; "common" BROO early Aug; last 30 Aug. **E. Meadowlark**: max 17 Lisle BBS; some good localized reports. **N. Oriole**: max 102 on eight BBS; one FY in cottonwood tree BROO 18 Jun and pair feeding two y 8 and 14 Jul, both BROO sites; last two BROO, OTSE 25 Aug, high. **Purple Finch**: nine on four BBS, scarce.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

This was no summer, but the beginning of an extended fall. The average temperature for the three month period was 66.3°F, 2.6° cooler than normal. An unusually cold July with rain every weekend took the joy out of birding for most observers. Total precipitation for July was eight inches, resulting in flooding at Onondaga Lake's outlet to the Seneca River and along the shoreline at Cross Lake. Fortunately, August's below normal rainfall of 2.64 inches helped to bring some relief to an already drenched environment. Lack of available sunshine and the ever persistent rain made for a very poor growing season. The development of fruit on most species of cherry, dogwood and viburnum either didn't materialize or was slow in maturing. Among conifers, spruce trees were found to have an abundant cone crop by season's end.

Seven species of late spring migrants were found along the Lake Ontario littoral in early June. They included Sanderling, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpipers along with Dunlin at Sandy Pond from 1 to 8 Jun. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Selkirk Shores SP on 3 Jun with a Philadelphia Vireo in the same area on 5 Jun. The next day and further to the west a record late **Orange-crowned Warbler** was sighted at Mexico Point.

It was an excellent nesting season for the Common Loon. Eight pairs fledged eleven young, with a late hatching occurring on Bubb Lake on 5 Aug. Loons nested on the Fulton Chain at Fourth Lake for the first time in recent memory. A nest each was lost at Nick's Lake and at Limekiln Lake. In the same region, Ospreys again resumed their nesting activity at Moss Lake with a new nest site near Gull Lake. On Little Island in Oneida Lake, both Ring-billed Gull and Common Tern suffered a complete loss of their nests due to flooding. Once again the terns re-nested with an average success in the number of nestlings hatched.

It was a very poor season for birds whose diet consist primarily of flying insects. Following the cold snap at the end of May, half of the nearly fledged Tree Swallow nestlings had died during the first week



of June. Eastern Bluebird encountered the same fate. A hundred young were found dead along a trail in OSWE. John Rogers reported that 412 Eastern Bluebird successfully fledged this season, about a 34 percent reduction from the previous summer when 580 were fledged.

A wooded ravine called Whiskey Hollow located in the Town of Van Buren ONON became a focus for birders this summer. From one to three **Acadian Flycatcher** were observed for a month at the same site where one was found during the breeding bird atlas field work. Unseasonal was a Northern Parula there on 7 Jul. After the first week in July, these birds were no longer seen, possibly due to the steady rainfall.

With the excessive amount of precipitation in July, mud flats simply didn't exist to herald the arrival of migrant shorebirds. Aside from Sandy Pond, the only available habitat was spring-fed wetlands and the occasional golf course. Twenty-one species were seen, with four records of Whimbrel among the more notable sightings.

Other interesting highlights include the Region's fourth record for both **American White Pelican** and **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. At the inlet to Moss Lake, a seldom seen **Three-toed Woodpecker** was noted, the first since 1984. For the third consecutive year, Sedge Wren was reported, this time at Verona Beach SP. On a telephone pole adjacent to Berwyn Road in the Town of Pompey, a **Loggerhead Shrike**, the first summer record in eight years, was carefully observed; it remained only one day and was probably a migrant. At Erieville, Elva Hawken noted two record early arrivals, a **Prothonotary Warbler** and an extraordinarily early Palm Warbler. Negatives for the season include the continued decline of Least Bittern, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker and the fact that no Henslow's Sparrows were found this season.

Observers reported a total of 196 species and one hybrid for the summer. The most unusual of these were **American White Pelican**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Loggerhead Shrike** and **Prothonotary Warbler**. Other notable species observed were Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee and Sedge Wren. A special thanks to Gary Lee, Bill Purcell and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

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**Abbreviations:** Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill OSWE; NPT - northern Pompey Township ONON; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond OSWE; SSSP- Selkirk Shores State Park OSWE; SVB- Sylvan and Verona Beach ONEI.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** *intro.* **Pied-billed Grebe:** ad with six y Clay Marsh 1 Jul, single Rome 1 Jun-24 Aug. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one SVB 30 Jul (NB), reported irregularly on Oneida L by residents for several days. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 460 Oneida L 22 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** singles Utica Marsh 1 Jun, DH 12 Jun, Oswego 6 Jul. **Least Bittern:** one SPd 8 Jun, only report. **Great Egret:** singles Clay Marsh 8 Jul, OnonL 29 Jul, Baldwinsville 9-29 Aug, W. Winfield 15 Aug, Rome 17 Aug. **Green-backed Heron:** max 16 Clay Marsh 19 Jun. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** eight Oswego 15 Jun, one Baldwinsville 25 Aug. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** one Jamesville 3-5 Jun. **Wood Duck:** max 30 Rome 17, 24 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** max 11 Clay Marsh 31 Aug. **Am. Black Duck:** five Oneida L, Rome 17, 24 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** ten Lysander 23 Aug. **Hooded Merganser:** ten young Sis L Adks 6 Jul. **Com. Merganser:** arr Delta L 24 Aug.

**Osprey:** four Clay Marsh 12 Aug, ten reports. **Bald Eagle:** imm Wood's L Adks 6 Aug. **N. Harrier:** seven reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** eight reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Kasoag BBS 13 Jun. **Broad-winged Hawk:** four reports, scarce. **Am. Kestrel:** five OnonL 29 Jul. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** nine reports. **Virginia Rail:** max 11 Utica Marsh 1 Jun. **Sora:** one Utica Marsh 1 Jun. **Com. Moorhen:** four SSSP 25 Jun, eight reports. **Am. Coot:** seven Utica Marsh 17 Aug. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr and max six SPd 15 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr Lysander 20 Aug. **Killdeer:** max 60 W Monroe 30 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Clay 25 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Lysander 14 Jul; max six there 17 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Lysander 14 Jul; max two there 24 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper:** two Mexico 6 Jun, Alder Creek 7 Jun, singles Pulaski 5 Jun, Rome 6-20 Jul. **Whimbrel:** singles

SPd 30 Jul, 2 Aug, 27 Aug, SVB 1 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr SPd 30 Jul; max nine SVB 1 Aug. **Sanderling**: *intro*; arr and max 55 SPd 30 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: *intro*; arr Lysander 29 Jul; max 92 SPd 30 Jul. **Least Sandpiper**: arr Lysander 17 Jul; max 20 SPd 30 Jul. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: *intro*. **Baird's Sandpiper**: two W Monroe 30, 31 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr Lysander 29 Jul; max four there 13 Aug. **Dunlin**: *intro*. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one Oneida L 26 Aug. **Am. Woodcock**: five reports. **Little Gull**: ad SVB 27 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr Delta L 13 Jul; max 437 Oneida L 26 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: max 64 SPd 23 Aug. **Com. Tern**: max 252 Oneida L 26 Aug, *intro*. **Forster's Tern**: one SPd 26 Jul. **Black Tern**: eight SSSP 5 Jul.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: singles Camillus, Alder Creek and Oriskany Falls BBS 7, 9 Jun. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: singles Camillus 7 Jun, Van Buren 9 Jun. **E. Screech-Owl**: one Erieville 19, 23 Aug. **Barred Owl**: three T Webb Adks, one Labrador Pd 20 Jun. **Com. Nighthawk**: max breeding population three Syracuse June; max 28 migrating Syracuse 26 Aug. **Chimney Swift**: max 13 Alder Creek BBS 7 Jun. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 24 reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two ad Sterling 11 Jun, 1 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: eight McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one Moss L Adks 22 Jul. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one Twitchell L Adks early Aug.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: arr SVB 16 Aug. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 28 SSSP 22 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: *intro*. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one-three Van Buren 6 Jun-7 Jul (PDeB, RK). **Alder Flycatcher**: max ten Alder Creek BBS 7 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: max 31 Clay Marsh 3 Jun. **Least Flycatcher**: max ten McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 13 Cicero 10 Jul. **Purple Martin**: max 40 Cicero 10 Jul. **Tree Swallow**: max 70 SPd 21 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max nine Clay Marsh 26 Aug. **Bank Swallow**: max 830 SPd, DH 9 Aug. **Cliff Swallow**: max 16 Clay Marsh 26 Aug. **Barn Swallow**: max 163 Clay Marsh 26 Aug. **Gray Jay**: singles N Branch Moose R 9 Jul, Old Forge 4 Aug. **Com. Raven**: nine reports. **Boreal Chickadee**: singles Rockdam Rd Moose R area 22 Jul, 7 Aug, Wood's L Adks 6 Aug. **Carolina Wren**: three reports. **House Wren**: max 26 Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun. **Sedge Wren**: three Verona Beach SP after 4 Jun. **Marsh Wren**: max 29 Clay Marsh 3 Jun. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: one Carter Station Adks 13 Jun; arr SVB 30 Aug. **E. Bluebird**: max eight Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun;

*intro.* **Veery:** max 28 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Penn Mt ONEI 13 Jun, outside Adks. **Hermit Thrush:** max 26 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Wood Thrush:** max 30 Kasoag BBS 13 Jun. **Gray Catbird:** max 27 Alder Creek BBS 7 Jun. **Brown Thrasher:** three SSSP 30 Jul, low. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 Rome 17 Aug. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one NPT 26 Jul (DWC, JT).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** *intro.* **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 77 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max three SSSP 11 Jun; arr Dewitt 23 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler:** five reports; arr SPd 9 Aug. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type Camillus 7 Jun, Erieville 28 Jul. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr Erieville 23 Aug. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** *intro.* **Nashville Warbler:** max three McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **N. Parula:** three Old Forge 27 Jun, one McKeever BBS 14 Jun, *intro.* **Yellow Warbler:** max 52 Clay Marsh 3 Jun; arr SPd 30 Jul. **Cape May Warbler:** arr Erieville 24 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max seven Moose R area 28 Jun; arr Erieville 29 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 15 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Blackburnian Warbler:** one in hemlocks Van Buren 7 Jun. **Pine Warbler:** max five SSSP 5 Jul, one McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Palm Warbler:** arr Erieville 24 Aug, record early. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Green Lakes SP 31 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** five Cross L 7 Jun, two Van Buren 9 Jun, 7 Jul, one Lysander 3 Jun, one s Lakeport 14 Jun. **Black-and-white Warbler:** arr SPd 9 Aug. **Am. Redstart:** max 23 McKeever 14 Jun. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one Erieville 28 Jul (EH). **Ovenbird:** max 30 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** max seven Kasaog and McKeever BBS 3,14 Jun. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max 39 Alder Creek and Kasoag BBS 7,13 Jun. **Hooded Warbler:** two SSSP 3,11 Jun, max three Van Buren 7 Jun-7 Jul. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Rome 10 Aug, early. **Canada Warbler:** arr SPd 9 Aug.

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** max six Kasoag BBS 13 Jun. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 52 McKeever BBS 14 Jun. **Field Sparrow:** max ten Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow:** one Rome 17 Aug, only report. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 14 Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** singles Alder Creek BBS 7 Jun, W. Monroe 16 Jun. **Henslow's Sparrow:** none. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 33 Clay Marsh 22 Jul. **White-throated Sparrow:** 53 McKeever 14 Jun. **Dark-eyed Junco:** two pair Camillus, one Van Buren 7 Jun, low altitude for

nesting. **E. Meadowlark**: max nine Alder Creek BBS 7 Jun. **Rusty Blackbird**: one n. branch Moose R 9 Jul. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 94 Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun. **N. Oriole**: max 15 Oriskany Falls BBS 9 Jun. **Purple Finch**: max 15 Erieville. **Pine Siskin**: max 13 McKeever BBS 14 Jun; juv Hastings 16 Jun. **Am. Goldfinch**: max 39 Clay Marsh 8 Jul. **Evening Grosbeak**: at feeders Old Forge entire period.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

The cold weather pattern which began in March continued throughout the summer as the North Country remained above the jet stream and experienced an "Alberta" Summer. June was two to three degrees below average throughout the area. On 16 Jun the low temperatures were 34°F at Wanakena and 39°F at Watertown. July deteriorated quickly as warm weather never came and rainfall dominated the weather for the remainder of the season. Defying geography, STLA was dryer and slightly warmer than JEFF. Watertown had temperatures four degrees colder than average in July and August in contrast to Ogdensburg, which averaged only one to two degrees cooler. Rain showers near Lake Ontario reminded one of lake effect snow showers as JEFF recorded precipitation in excess of six inches for July and August.

There were only a few negative results of the poor weather, the most obvious being the loss of the shorebird flight at El Dorado Shores due to flooding. Mallard duckling production was down fifty percent along the shores of the St. Lawrence River in the Morristown area and broods of Ruffed Grouse were markedly decreased in the Adirondacks, suggesting nesting failures. Most species, however, seemed to cope with the adverse conditions, with some differences

within the Region. Aerial insectivores, for example, fared better in the St. Lawrence Valley than in JEFF.

Lingering waterfowl made the news this summer at the Moses Power Dam as Greater Scaup and Bonaparte's Gull were present all summer, and a very late Brant was found on 6 Jul (BD). A puzzling report from the Moses Dam was "a second year gull on 6 Jun with white wings, about the size of a Great Black-backed Gull" (MB). Glaucous Gull first comes to mind but the extreme spring date for this species is 15 May. A gull fitting this description was photographed at a dump in central New York this winter and identified as a leucistic Great Black-backed Gull. Photographs of white-winged gulls seen out of season may be necessary for their accurate identification. However, the premier water bird of the season was a **White-winged Tern** that **nested** with a Black Tern at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, and was viewed by hundreds during its stay.

Turkey Vulture is now reported daily throughout the Region, this season including the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, Town of Fine. Bald Eagle was well represented with reports of a pair in Louisville (MB), an adult in Colton (DD), and five different immatures and subadults seen along Lake Ontario's shores (GS). Northern Harrier was hard to find away from the Henderson area. Both Northern Harrier and American Kestrel were missed on the open country Breeding Bird Surveys, and Peter O'Shea echoed the absence of kestrel in the Adirondacks. All three accipiters were reported but all contributors agreed that Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were way down compared to the past.

While working on environmental studies for the U. S. Army at Fort Drum, Lee Harper and Tom Miller observed immature **Rough-legged Hawk** on a daily basis throughout the summer period from 1 Jun to 31 Aug. The numbers varied from two to a maximum of five on 15 Jun. Thereafter, only two birds were seen. This represents the first summering records of the species in New York State. Fort Drum, headquarters for the 10th Mountain Division, is situated on several thousand acres of rolling terrain with mixed hardwoods, open fields, lakes and marshes in JEFF and LEWI. The Rough-legged Hawk is a regular winter visitor to the inland areas of the state and is generally present from mid October until April. Previous extreme records for

the species are 20 Jun at W Martinsburg LEWI (*Kingbird*. 25-4: 225; 1975). Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY) lists the following extremes: Lyndonville 26 Jun 1965, Syracuse Airport 8 Jul 1969, near Watertown 9 Jul 1966, and Pompey ONON 21 Jul and 4 Aug 1969. Since most of Fort Drum is off limits to birders, we can only speculate about their regular occurrence on the base.

Common Nighthawk is rarely reported in the Region away from Ogdensburg. Is any one looking in the larger cities? Whip-poor-will, rarely reported, was found in good numbers at Massena by Marilyn Badger and in the Chaumont Barrens by Gerry Smith. Grassland species in general were poorly represented this year. Short-eared Owl was almost missed and there were only isolated reports for Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. Another species of concern, Least Flycatcher was reported only from Massena in early June and from the Wanakena Breeding Bird Survey in the Adirondacks, where their numbers dropped by sixty percent. Common Raven is now extending its range into the Adirondack foothills and the Tug Hill. Peter O'Shea finds them "common in the Towns of Edwards and Russell", and the Walkers found two pairs with young at Whetstone Gulf in Lewis County. O'Shea's sightings from the Adirondacks provided the only reports of American Black Duck, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Boreal Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush and Rusty Blackbird. With the exception of Yellow-throated Vireo, which was missed, vireos and warblers were reported in good numbers. Twenty-two species of warbler were recorded during the breeding season, including **Worm-eating** and **Hooded Warblers**.

Fall migrants appeared in Cape Vincent after a storm with 65 mph winds (the remains of Hurricane Andrew) on 28 Aug. During the two days that followed, Mary and Brian Wood recorded Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, and **Worm-eating Warblers**, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler.

Species unusual in the Region were **Great Egret**, **Am. White Pelican**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Little Gull**, **White-winged Tern**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Orchard Oriole**.

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**Abbreviations:** CV - Cape Vincent; HPt - Holmes Point, T Morristown, SLR; JCSP- Jacques Cartier State Park, T Morristown; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 3 Jul (RL); PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS 12 Jun (RL); RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam; SLR - St Lawrence River; THSF - Tug Hill State Forest, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Louisville, StLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS 2 Jul (RL); WGSP - Whetstone Gulf State Park, T Martinsburg, LEWI.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** max six pairs Cranberry L; pair with chick Huckleberry L StLA 25 Jun. **Pied-billed Grebe:** five PRWMA 7 Jul, four PRWMA 15 Jul, only reports. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one PRWMA 28 Jul (IM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 5000 pair Little Galoo I; large groups LOL and SLR, max 500 Chaumont Bay to Lyme. **Am. Bittern:** reports from PRWMA and Massena only, max six PRWMA 29 Jun. **Least Bittern:** singles PRWMA 20 Jun, 1 Jul, max three 2 Jul. **GREAT EGRET:** singles T Henderson 9 Jul and Massena 6 Jun. **Green-backed Heron:** two T Henderson 10 Jun, four PRWMA 7 Jul, pair with two y HPt. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 20 ad. CV 16 Jul. **Mute Swan:** six-seven ad PRWMA 5 Jun to 15 Jul. **Brant:** *intro.* **Canada Goose:** max 150 RMPD 6 Jul. **Wood Duck:** six PRWMA 6 Jul, common on ponds in T Clifton, Fine and Colton. **Am. Black Duck:** pair on beaver pond Cranberry L Wild Forest 20 Jun. **Mallard:** *intro.* **Gadwall:** two pair WHWMA 5 Jun, one PRWMA 6 Jul, 19 RMPD 6 Jul. **Am. Wigeon:** 12 RMPD 6 Jul. **Ring-necked Duck:** ad male RMPD 30 Jul. **Greater Scaup:** ad males RMPD and Wellesley I. throughout the season. **Com. Merganser:** six females RMPD and nearby Grasse R 30 Jul-20 Aug.

**Osprey:** two active nests at PRWMA, max six there. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **N. Harrier:** reports from Chaumont (probably breeding), T



Henderson and Massena, scarce in StLA. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: pair with y Ogdensburg (PK), singles at CV 28 Jul and 15 Aug, Stony Pt T Henderson 6 Jul. **Cooper's Hawk**: single ad T Henderson 2 Jul, 7 Jul, 25 Aug, imm at feeder 28-30 Aug; one near Port Leyden LEWI 30 Jul, one at feeder Lorraine LEWI 7 Aug, one Wanakena 10 Aug. **N. Goshawk**: singles Antwerp 11 Jun, T Pitcairn 20 Jun, T Fine 3 Aug. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair with nestlings middle branch Grasse R T Clare. **Broad-winged Hawk**: one Massena 11 Jul, imm T Piercefield StLa, five ad Adirondack region of StLA, less frequent than in past years. **Red-tailed Hawk**: two pair nesting Massena 2 Jun. **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**: *intro* **Am. Kestrel**: two pair Massena 17 Jun, pair with y Ogdensburg, max eight (four imm) T Henderson 21 Jul. **Peregrine Falcon**: ad Deferiet 3 Jun (TM); imm Ogdensburg early July (PK). **Gray Partridge**: five Massena 3 Jun, max 52 (four coveys) on back roads near CV, sign of good recovery since the March 1991 ice storm. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: three Massena 1 Jun, one Ogdensburg 8 Jun, only reports. **Wild Turkey**: hens with poults in T Louisville, Massena and CV. **Virginia Rail**: six T Louisville 1 Jun. **Sora**: singles PRWMA 7 Jul and Massena 1 Jun. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: one T Louisville 3 Aug, one PRWMA 15 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Grasse R T Louisville 3 Aug, two near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF 21 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper**: FL T Louisville and Morristown. **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports, max four Massena 6 Jun. **Least Sandpiper**: one MSD 4 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one PRWMA 24 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one Massena 24 Jul. **Com. Snipe**: max 25 Massena 5 Jun. **Am. Woodcock**: max 20 Massena 5 Jun. **LITTLE GULL**: ad RMPD 30 Jul (BD). **Bonaparte's Gull**: present at RMPD from 6 Jul to 25 Aug, max 175 on 20 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 5000 RMPD 20 Aug. **Herring Gull**: max 40 RMPD 30 Jul. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 16 ad RMPD 25 Aug, two imm Morristown 15 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: 400 pair Little Galoo (GS), ad Canton 26 Jun (DD), unusual location. **Com. Tern**: max 100 Massena 1 Aug. **WHITE-WINGED TERN**: ad female PRWMA 23 Jun-21 Jul (mob), first Regional and third State record. **Black Tern**: max 50+ PRWMA 15 Jul.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: one Pierrepont 3 Jun, one Harrisville 16 Jun, one CV 10 Jul, four individuals T Henderson 17 Jun-25 Aug. **E. Screech-Owl**: one ad and one imm CV 13 and 16 Jul. **Great Horned Owl**: reports from six areas, max three Massena 1 Jun. **Barred Owl**: eight reports, max three Antwerp 11 Jun. **Short-eared Owl**: two

Philadelphia 4 Jun. **Com. Nighthawk**: one road kill Sacketts Harbor Aug, max four Ogdensburg 15 Jun, last Star L 29 Aug. **Whip-poor-will**: ten Massena 7 Jun, 11 Chaumont Barrens 15 Jun. **Chimney Swift**: few reports, max 20 Massena 15 Aug (10 imm), last CV 28 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: good numbers from Ogdensburg and Massena only, max eight Ogdensburg. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one CV two days early Jun (NC), one near Woodville T Ellisburg JEFF 28 Jun (LC). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: ad T Henderson 15 and 26 Jun, ad feeding imm there 27 Jun; one PRWMA 29 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: pair Cranberry L Wild Forest 18 Jul, three imm THSF 26 Aug, max ten WBBS.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one THSF 26 Jul. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 17 Massena 5 Jul. **Alder Flycatcher**: three WGSP 10 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: two OBBS, three near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF 21 Jul. **Least Flycatcher**: *intro*. **E. Phoebe**: max 11 T Louisville 1 Jun. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 20 Massena 1 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 20 Massena 7 Jun. **Horned Lark**: one Massena 20 Jul, only report. **Purple Martin**: high numbers along SLR, max 120 (80 imm) Massena. **Tree Swallow**: poor breeding JEFF but late numbers good, max 1000 Three Mile Pt L Ontario 7 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: two Massena 10 Jun, two HPt 15 Jul, three WGSP 10 Jun. **Bank Swallow**: max 60 Massena 10 Jun. **Cliff Swallow**: max 650 RMPD 20 Aug. **Barn Swallow**: max 170 RMPD 20 Aug. **Com. Raven**: *intro*. **Boreal Chickadee**: one Birch Pd, Five Ponds Wilderness. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: reports from CV, Massena, and Tug Hill, max eight THSF 25 Aug. **Brown Creeper**: four Massena 22 Jun, only report. **Winter Wren**: one HPt 15 Jun, one Natural Bridge 18 Jun, three reports from the Tug Hill, three WBBS. **Sedge Wren**: one PRWMA 22 Jul (TB, PN). **Marsh Wren**: four PBBS. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: three WBBS, pair with two y HPt. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one CV 28-30 Aug, seldom found in migration. **E. Bluebird**: seven pair with 18 imm Massena, only two pair with second brood. **Veery**: max 40 Massena 1 Jun, 18 WBBS. **Swainson's Thrush**: common above 1300 ft elevation. **Hermit Thrush**: 15 WBBS, up 50% over previous three years. **Wood Thrush**: max 40 Massena 1 Jun, average numbers on the three BBS. **Gray Catbird**: max 27 Massena 19 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: pairs with y Madrid and Massena, one pair PBBS. **Brown Thrasher**: five Massena 3 Jun, two OBBS only reports.

**Solitary Vireo:** three WBBS; THSF 10 Jun. **Warbling Vireo:** max 23 Massena 7 Jun, average numbers on three BBS. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr CV 30 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 103 WBBS, 40 Massena 6 Jul. **Golden-winged warbler:** two Pierrepont 3 Jun (KC), one PBBS. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type Canton 26 Jun (DD). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr CV 30 Aug, early, seldom reported. **Nashville Warbler:** two THSF 26 Aug. **N. Parula:** one WBBS. **Yellow Warbler:** 50 Massena 6 Jul; 36 OBBS, average. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 14 Massena 6 Jun, 15 WBBS. **Magnolia Warbler:** one Massena 11 Jun, 3 WBBS. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** one Massena 1 Jun, two THSF 26 Aug, five WBBS. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 13 WBBS, eight THSF 26 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** nine WBBS. **Blackburnian Warbler:** one THSF 26 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** six Pleasant L T Macomb 5 Jul, five Massena 1 Jun, five JCSP 15 Jun. **Prairie Warbler:** 5 Limerick Cedars T Brownville Jeff 13 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** one River Rd DeKalb-Gouverneur 10 Jun (CW). **Black-and-white Warbler:** 15 Massena 5 Jun. **Am. Redstart:** 45 Massena 5 Jun, 28 WBBS. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Harrisville 16 Jun; one CV 29 Aug, Regional firsts. **Ovenbird:** max 48 Massena 1 Jun, 16 WBBS. **N. Waterthrush:** five JCSP 15 Jun, four THSF 10 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** two WBBS, three other singles. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 42 Massena 5 Jun, 34 PBBS, average. **HOODED WARBLER:** one Philadelphia 4 Jun (TM), at same site last year. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr CV 28-30 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** two Massena 5 Jun, imm THSF 26 Aug.

**Scarlet Tanager:** max eight Massena throughout season. **N. Cardinal:** max 40 Massena-T Louisville. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 25 Massena 6 Jun. **Indigo Bunting:** max 8 PBBS, two near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** max 13 PBBS, nine Massena 5 Jun. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 200 per day Massena, **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one Sterlingville 3 Jun (TM). **Field Sparrow:** max 10 PBBS. **Vesper Sparrow:** one OBBS. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 18 PBBS, above average, 18 Massena 10 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one PRWMA 22 Jul (TB, PN). **Henslow's Sparrow:** two Philadelphia 4 Jun; about ten Vaadi Road PRWMA 10-22 Jul (mob). **Song Sparrow:** 290 per day Massena. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 17 Massena 5 Jun. **White-throated Sparrow:** 46 Massena 5 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 60 Massena 6 Jun. **E. Meadowlark:** max 55 Massena 5 Jun. **Rusty Blackbird:** singing males Dog Pd T Colton early June. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** singing male

Massena early Jun (MS). **N. Oriole**: max 30 Massena-T Louisville 5 Jun. **Purple Finch**: max 50 per day Massena, 30 Ogdensburg 1 Jun. **House Finch**: "a favorite food of young Sharp-shinned Hawk" (PK). **Pine Siskin**: reports from T Henderson and Ogdensburg, imm Ogdensburg 19 Jul. **Evening Grosbeak**: pairs at feeders in T Henderson, CV, Lorraine and Massena in June and July, unusual.

*2807 Citation Drive, Pompey, New York 13138*

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

The summer of 1992 was generally cool and wet, in marked contrast to the preceding drought year and snowless winter. On 16 Jun, Saranac Lake village was 31°F and, in fact, there was a frost somewhere in the Region during each summer month. June precipitation was below normal at 1.72 inches, but fifteen of the first 21 days of July were rainy, and on 23 Jul the record *lowest* high, just 59°F, for the date was set in the Champlain Valley. Yet, in spite of the damp weather, annual rainfall was still 3 inches below average at the end of July. August saw high water levels along Lake Champlain with a paucity of shorebird habitat.

The greatest impact of this weather was noted with Tree Swallow, although other less obvious insectivorous species may have been affected similarly. Charlcie Delehanty had only one pair of swallows occupy her five available boxes at Tupper Lake. Gary Lee "lost more than half" at Inlet. At Ausable Chasm they "did not nest at the campground, as in other years," according to Sharon Bennett.

A bright spot was the first documented and successful nest of **Merlin** in New York State. The nest was located in a large red spruce at the Cather camp on the south shore of Spitfire L., Town of Brighton, Fran. The adult pair was present 4 May, the day after ice out, according to Abbott and Kay Swift. One was identified as a Merlin on 14 Jun by Wright Montgomery, who notified other birders in early July after seeing the pair. The nest with young was located on 12 July

by Lewis and Sheila Rosenberg, and was subsequently determined to contain three almost fully fledged young with downy heads and half-grown tails. The nest appeared to be an old (1991) American Crow nest, perhaps 4-5 feet from the tip of a tall, mature red spruce which was situated between the lakeshore and the shoreline camp. Sheila Rosenberg reported the three young fledged about 20 Jul, and the family group departed Spitfire Lake about 12 Aug, according to Montgomery. Intriguingly, Don Perry observed two adult and three young Merlin in a large conifer at the Bladgen camp at the end of Rockefeller Camp Road on the west shore of Upper Saranac Lake, Town of Santa Clara FRAN, during the first two weeks of August. The noisy falcons would circle over Perry as he fished, with much activity by the adults near what he believes was the nest tree. This site is 7 miles southwest of the Spitfire Lake site. Montgomery recalls the family group there disappearing for part of the same period, so whether there were indeed two nests can only be resolved if field notes of dates and times are compared, as this editor has urged. Although this appears to be the first documented nest with young of Merlin in New York State, Merriam said it was "Rather rare, but doubtless breeds," in the Adirondacks. Eaton concurred, "This species undoubtedly breeds within the boundaries of the State..." reporting F. T. Pember had a young bird scarcely able to fly at Indian Lake HAMI, and Eaton's party had one on Skylight ESSE in July 1905. Saunders saw an adult male on the Heart Lake Road ESSE 22 Jul 1926. Frank Nicoletti reports having seen a young bird barely capable of sustained flight on Cascade Mt ESSE in summer 1985. The nearest Ontario Atlas record was near Newbore Lake, only about 100 miles west of Spitfire Lake, and in Quebec nesting is reported from the Laurentians, north of Montreal. Observers should be especially alert for reports of noisy hawks about lakeside summer camps, as this raptor continues its recovery from the DDT years.

Other recovering raptors also did relatively well, with Adirondack Ospreys about the same as 1990 and 1991, according to the New York State DEC. The new Crown Point platform was unused, although three Ospreys were still at Bulwagga Bay on 11 Jul. To the north, the Ausable Point WMA platform was again successful, with birds still on the nest 25 July. The three Bald Eagle eyries in FRAN were again active, combining to fledge five young. Although productivity remains stable, there has been no increase in the number of nest sites or eaglets produced since 1989. Gary Lee reported a Golden Eagle at the head of Fourth L HAMI 4-5 Jun; he then had a pair near there 9 Jun. Although

they no longer nest, the continued presence of a pair provides hope; perhaps they should inspect the Vermontville Burn area next year; this burn is the site of the only significant Adirondack forest fire in recent years. Four of *seven* ESSE Peregrine Falcon sites fledged a total of six young: Elizabethtown (two fledged), Keeseville (one fledged), Westport (one fledged), and Wilmington (two fledged). Two Keene pairs (one at a new site) were active, but both failed, while a new North Elba site had a territorial pair; a CLIN site was inactive. In spite of the addition of two sites, productivity remains in a downward trend since 1988 and 1989, when ten young per year fledged.

The Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush survey located birds on 18 Adirondack peaks: Algonquin, Big Slide, Blue, Cascade, Dix, Giant, Haystack, Hurricane, Lower Wolfjaw, Lyon, Phelps, Porter, Rocky Peak, Sawtooth Range, Sentinels, Vanderwacker, Wakely, and Whiteface. Mark Gretch, who found these high altitude thrushes all about his camp below the summit of Hurricane 26-27 June, summed up the feelings of most observers by noting, "I can't remember the last time I had so much fun birding.... It was a textbook perfect search, as far as I'm concerned." The survey also yielded a number of records of other high elevation birds. Those interested in taking part in either the Adirondacks or Catskills in 1993, should the project continue, are asked to contact the New York State coordinator Mike Peterson [RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, NY 12932].

A total of seven Double-crested Cormorant, ten Black-crowned Night-Heron, 1,000 Ring-billed Gull chicks plus six adults, and 200 Herring Gull were banded at the Four Brothers Islands on 13 Jun. The first of the recently fledged, banded Ring-billed Gull cohort was captured alive and released at Montreal on 11 Jul.

The Webb Royce Swamp between Essex and Westport, revitalized in recent years by beavers, continues its renaissance. On an 11 Jul canoe trip, Ted Mack and Mike Peterson found a half dozen Pied-billed Grebe, six Great Blue Heron nests, numbers of adult and immature Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck with broods, several American Black Duck, about 75 Mallard, eight Blue-winged Teal, an **American Wigeon**, Virginia Rail, several adult and young Common Moorhen, Common Snipe, and many singing Marsh Wren. Now the most extensive wooded swamp in ESSE, a decade ago this

was forested bottomland surrounded by shrubby fields, its name but a memory on the old topographic map.

An **American Tree Sparrow** at Blue Mountain Road (near Madawaska) FRAN on 9 Jun (WK) is a record late date for New York State; Bull gives a late date of 11 May (inland — banded and photographed), adding that, "late May dates lack confirmation and require substantiation — preferably by specimen evidence." Accepting this, the single experienced observer stands by the identification, and the sighting is published simply as a matter of record.

A total of 161 species was reported, up from 156 last year and 142 in 1990, yet there were still many obvious misses, undoubtedly seen or heard, but not reported. Reports of "Eurasian Jackdaw" at Saranac Lake 10 Jul-20 Aug probably pertained to a bald American Crow with featherless gray head and neck, or to a "white-winged" crow with one white inner primary on each wing subsequently found there. Finally, to close on a more somber and cautionary note, Jan Trzeciak reports there are now seven reported cases of Lyme Disease in the Malone area.

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**Abbreviations:** APt - Ausable Point Wildlife Management Area; FB - Ferd's Bog, HAMI; MR - Moose River Recreation Area; TL - Tupper Lake.

**Summer reports:** **Pied-billed Grebe:** *intro*; four nests (two with eggs) Cedar R Flow 14 Jun, five family groups there Jul-Aug; two TL Marsh 6 Jul; ad with four y Stoney Creek Pds Jul; pair APt 12 Aug an outstanding summer here. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro*; two Indian L FRAN 6-13 Aug, unexpected. **Least Bittern:** two Scotion Creek CLIN 27 Jun (C&JH), seldom reported. **Great Egret:** two Bombay 26 Jun (WK, CM); max 11 Hogansburg 17 Jul (HW); Lewis 3-6 Aug (NYSP, MP, GC), outstanding for this once rare wader. **Snowy Egret:** Point au Roche 23 Jun (WK), no less impressive. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** *intro*; also two Scotion Creek 27 Jun; 6-8 Hogansburg 17 Jul. **Canada Goose:** record 94 TL municipal park 26 Aug. **Wood Duck:** *intro*. **Am. Black Duck:** *intro*. **Mallard:** *intro*. **Blue-winged Teal:** *intro*. **Gadwall:** pair Four Brothers I 13 Jun. **AM. WIGEON:** *intro*, first summer record for ESSE, extending range s along Champlain from CLIN. **Ring-necked Duck:** hen with duckling Indian L Pd FRAN. **Greater Scaup:** Plattsburgh 10 Aug, early CLIN date by many weeks.

**Turkey Vulture:** nest upper dam Miner Inst. **Osprey:** *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; Seventh L 10 Jun; imm Cedar R Flow 14 Jun-11 Jul; imm Plattsburgh 2 Jul; imm e Chapel Pd 24 Jul, a good summer. **Broad-winged Hawk:** "very scarce" (CD); "shortage" (GL). **Golden Eagle:** *intro*. **MERLIN:** *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*; Whallon's Bay Road 15 Jun probably came from nearby Palisades. **Spruce Grouse:** hen, three-four chicks near Helldiver Pd, MR, 10 Jun (DC, JT, JT); hen with chicks same area 27 Jun (JS); dusting areas with scat Helldiver Pd, seen many times, last with three half grown chicks (GL), extends known breeding range s in HAMI. **Wild Turkey:** Hope Falls 7 Jul; hen with six y plus two other ad MR. **Virginia Rail:** *intro*; one APt 14 Jun; two TL 6 Jul; three APt 25 Jul; plus ad with three y on deck of Westport home each morning (AR)! **Com. Moorhen:** *intro*. **Greater Yellowlegs:** four Wickham Marsh beach 19 Aug (SB, JP); one calling in fog Mountain View L 26 Aug (JT). **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Westville FRAN 6 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper:** Bombay 26 Jun. **W. SANDPIPER:** with four Least Sandpiper for comparison, Mary Ruby Road, Westville FRAN 6 Aug (HK,WK, LS!); only the second county record, the first being 13 Sep 1880, according to Eaton! **Bonaparte's Gull:** 300 Westport 13 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull:** *intro*. **Herring Gull:** *intro*. **Great Black-backed Gull:** Plattsburgh breakwater 10 Aug, early CLIN arr; Port Kent ferry dock 23 Aug. **Com. Tern:** two Plattsburgh harbor 11 Jul (WK, CM), not often reported, although the species nests on Young I, Vt. **Black Tern:** one Hogansburg entire summer (HW), only report!



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**Rock Dove:** band and skeleton only of a racing pigeon found in fireplace chimney of Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay, 10 Jul, belonged to an owner in Fabreville Laval, Quebec. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** three reports, about average. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** max three Cedar Lakes lean-to; also Paul Smiths and Saranac L. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** only report FB early Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** FB 12 Jul, pair feeding single y there 21 Jul; male Vermontville Burn 22 Aug, where many other woodpeckers were noted.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** North Meadow June, South Pd, "really in trouble" (RM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** FB 11 Jun; Haystack 27 Jun; St Regis Falls 1 Jul; Cedar R Flow 10 Aug, a reasonable showing. **Willow Flycatcher:** APt 14 June-27 Jul, now expected; St. Regis Falls 1 Jul (TM), less expected. **Tree Swallow:** *intro*. **Gray Jay:** two ad Osgood Pd 11 Jun (CA); FB 22 Jul (GL). **Blue Jay:** TL max was only 5, numbers appeared down near Elizabethtown as well. **Com. Raven:** max 15 Gabriels BBS 24 Jun; 7 St. Regis Falls BBS 1 Jul; also found by Bicknell's team on Algonquin, Gothics, Haystack, Lyon, and Porter. **Boreal Chickadee:** three banded North Meadow Jun (WL); reported by Bicknell's team from Algonquin, Big Slide, Giant, Haystack, Indian Falls, Porter, and Third Brother; also at Helldiver Pd. **Tufted Titmouse:** three FL Port Kent 31 Jul (SB). **Marsh Wren:** *intro*. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Elk L 20 Jun; Haystack 27 Jun; St. Regis Falls BBS I Jul; Giant 12 Jul; Whiteface 13 Jul; Phelps 16 Jul; a good showing, assisted by the Bicknell's survey. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** APt 27 Jul and nearby Au Sable R delta 13 Aug, good finds although a known locale. **Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro*. **N. Mockingbird:** Beekmantown, Ft. Ticonderoga, Plattsburgh, and Port Kent typical for this locally uncommon species. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** only attempted nesting Ft. Covington abandoned (HW); only 1992 report of this species!

**Tennessee Warbler:** singing male L Placid; at 600-900 m Phelps 16 Jul (J&RH), only reports. **Cape May Warbler:** max three singing males Lake Placid (TM); North Meadow Jun (WL); at 600 m Lower Wolfjaw 8 Jul (J&RH), a respectable showing; Cedar R early Aug, a possible transient. **PALM WARBLER:** ad Yellow race carrying food Spring Pd Bog early Aug (TB) provides continued evidence of nesting on this bog since they were discovered in 1986. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** three

singing males L Placid (TM), only report. **Blackpoll Warbler:** Helldiver Pd; found at higher elevations on Blue Mt, Cascade, Giant, Gothics, Haystack, Hurricane, Lyon, Phelps, Porter, Rocky Peak, Wakely, and Whiteface; almost like the Atlas days of a decade ago.

**AM. TREE SPARROW:** *intro.* **Clay-colored Sparrow:** Sharon Road, Westville FRAN (WK), same spot where found by JP during Atlas fieldwork a decade ago. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** Mary Riley Road, Westville Fran 4-6 Aug (J&RH, WK), rarely reported here. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** at 600-900 m Phelps 16 Jul (J&RH), rather unexpected; Clear Pd 12 Jun and North Meadow Jun, more expected locations. **Dark-eyed Junco:** Oregon type mated with Slate-colored type and raised a family in Inlet backyard, remaining at feeder entire summer season (GL); no description provided of plumage of young. [Female Slate-colored type Junco may closely resemble Oregon Junco and sometimes can be distinguished only in hand; juveniles are nearly indistinguishable — *The Editor.*] **Rusty Blackbird:** St Regis Falls BBS I Jul, only report. **Purple Finch:** one banded as ad male near Elizabethtown 26 Jan 89 was added to Pumpkin the cat's "lifeless list" a mile east of the banding station 7 Aug, having reached reached an age of at least 5 years, 2 months, and apparently slowed down somewhat; other breeding birds left by late Aug. **White-winged Crossbill:** small flock FB Jun-Jul, only report, although a good spruce cone crop is forming. **Pine Siskin:** stayed HAMI entire Jun. **Am. Goldfinch:** banded Elizabethtown 9 Apr 92 retrapped Jenny L 20 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak:** fledglings arr Elizabethtown feeder 17 Jul; other reports from Hope Falls, Gabriels, Spitfire L, St. Regis Falls and Wilmington.

**Addendum:** The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** retrapped at Crown Pt 18 May 92 had been banded as an imm near Kiptopeke, VA, 16 Oct 89.

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN A. MAPES

Unusual weather was the rule for the season in eastern New York. One reporter called it "a year without summer". June was cool and dry, with an unusually cool period from 19 through 25 Jun when the temperature did not even reach 75°F during the days. This was our coolest July on record, dating back nearly 200 years. Mean temperature was nearly 4° below normal and rainfall was 70% above normal.

Records of nesting success and comments on populations were mixed. R. Yunick's banding efforts with Tree Swallow colonies showed early broods prospering from the dry, sunny weather of early June. Late broods suffered from the cold and rain, with many late fledged young found dead in nest boxes. On 5 Jul, 22 dead young were found in eight boxes near of Schenectady.

At his Jenny Lake SARA banding station, Yunick reports a season of contrasts, with strange increases and decreases in avian populations. Species that occurred in greater than usual numbers included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch and Evening Grosbeak. Apparent breeding failures were noted in Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Purple Finch. Low in numbers were Black-capped Chickadee, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird and Red-winged Blackbird. A dramatic downturn for the three icterids, starting in the mid-1980's, was noted. House Finches have declined in numbers at several places where feeding stations are operated year round. At Five Rivers Center, Delmar this was the first noticeable decline since a flock of these westerners appeared in 1979.

There were many Turkey Vulture sightings throughout the period, and it continues to increase in the Region. Bald Eagle was on the upswing in the Region with three nesting pairs, up from up from one pair last year. The SCHO eagles provided the first successful nesting for Region 8, with one chick fledged. Pairs in ALBA and COLU built nests but laid no eggs, typical behavior for young birds. D. Cooper's report of two Common Raven in SCHO, one suspected to be a fledgling,

is our first suggestion of nesting from that county. A survey of mountain tops in the Catskill Forest Preserve documented nesting of Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush. During the period of 19–25 July, these thrushes were found on Hunter, Plateau, Black Dome, Black Head and Westkill Mountains, all located in GREE. No reports of Henslow's Sparrow were received from the Region and the species was absent from its two traditional nesting areas, one in Knox and another at the Saratoga National Historic Park.

Very few reports of migrant shorebirds and warblers were received, but this may reflect the low level of birding effort from late July through the end of August.

**Contributors:** K. Able, K. Beale, B. Boehm, P. Connor, D. Cooper, B. Cook, R. Guthrie, G. Hanson, J. Mackiewicz, A. Mapes, L. Meade, B. Putnam, E. Rising, A. Ross, R. Yunick and Alan Devoe Bird Club (ADBC) monthly reports.

**Abbreviations:** FiveR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake; SNHP – Saratoga National Historic Park; RBHSF – Rossman–Burnt Hills State Forest, SCHO.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** pair Jabe Pd WARR all season (ER), no apparent nesting success; one Moreau L SARA 28 Jun (BP); pair with one chick Thirteenth L WARR after 2 Aug (JM, KA), fledged successfully. **Double-crested Cormorant:** present on Hudson R after mid July. **Great Egret:** two Hudson R COLU 11, 26 Aug (BC); one Ghent 10, 16 Aug, scarce. **Snowy Egret:** one Ghent 15 Aug, only report. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** imm Black Creek Marsh ALBA 22, 24 Jul (KB & BB), first there in several years; one Hudson R at Waterford 26 Aug (SS). **Mute Swan:** increasing but no nesting success reported; new nesting pair Round L SARA, nest easily visible and heavily covered, no eggs hatched; pair L George WARR through all season, no report of nesting; pair on Bell's Pd COLU failed to nest, vacated 10 Jun. **Green-winged Teal:** two Willie Marsh FULT 6 Aug (PC), unusual. **Com. Merganser:** female with eight y Jenny L SARA 3 Jul (RY), first nesting in 23 years; female Fox Creek ALBA 14 Jun (KA), possibly nesting.

**Osprey:** five reports starting 17 Aug. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **N. Harrier:** breeding pair Knox (KA). **Cooper's Hawk:** breeding pair Gallupville

(KB & BB); four other reports. **N. Goshawk**: pair with three y in nest Battenville WASH 14 Jun (BP); two other reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair Hopkins Pd SCHO 5 Jun (DC) only report. **Broad-winged Hawk**: nesting pair Schodack RENS throughout the period, FY 24 Jul (PC), only report. **Com. Moorhen**: nesting Vischer Ferry Preserve first seen 2 Jul (JG), only report. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr Chatham 10 Aug; three FiveR 30 Aug (SS). **Least Sandpiper**: one FiveR 29 Aug (SS), only report.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one Chatham 11 Jul (ADBC), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: numerous over downtown Schenectady mid July (BB), one regular over Saratoga Springs (JG), three there 14 Aug, scarce elsewhere, no migrating flocks noted. **Whip-poor-will**: one Hague 11 & 26 July (LM), only report. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: pair Towpath Road WASH 3 Jun-6 Aug, only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: one Stuyvesant COLU 24 Jun (ADBC), only report.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one FiveR 3 Jun (AM), only spring report; one calling FiveR 26 Jul (AM), early migrant. **Horned Lark**: male Middleburg 19 Jun (KA), only report. **Fish Crow**: suspected nesting at Niskyuna Landfill SCHE (RY); eight at Schenectady Chemical plant 18 Jun (RY), expanding w along Mohawk R? **N. Raven**: two RBHSF 2 Jul (DC), *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: *intro*.

**Philadelphia Vireo**: one Chatham (BC) 15 Aug, early. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one SNHP 27 Aug (JG), scarcer than usual there; one Berne 19 Jun (KA). **Pine Warbler**: male singing RBHSF 30 Jun (DC), only report. **Cerulean Warbler**: one Gallupville 8-9 Jun (BB), not known to breed in that area. **Mourning Warbler**: probable nesting Spier Falls Road SARA 4 Jun (GH); one Berne 14 Aug (KA). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: singing male FiveR 9 Jun (AM), present one day only, only report.

**Vesper Sparrow**: one Knox 18 Jun (KA); one Ghent 5 Jun and 18 Jul (ADBC), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: probable nesting, two locations SNHP (JG); three pairs Knox throughout June (KA). **Orchard Oriole**: probable nesting FiveR (AM), male seen daily through 24 Jun, female seen on three occasions. **Evening Grosbeak**: breeding pair at Petersburg (AR) and breeding for the fourth consecutive year at Jenny L (RY).

**Corrigendum**: The TUFTED DUCK report from Saratoga L (*Kingbird* 42:116) was the fourth, not the first, record at the same location over the past 10 years

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## REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

1992 is turning out to be one of the most exciting weather years for meteorologists and climatologists since the advent of weather record keeping in 1895. Reports from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University state that the summer of 1992 was one of coldest and wettest on record! Keep in mind that this year also brought the warmest winter on record and probably one of the coldest and wettest springs as well. Many of these extremes can be blamed on the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, which spewed immense amounts of ash and dust into the earth's atmosphere. June's average temperature at the Poughkeepsie Airport was 64.9°F. Generally speaking, no location in Region 9 broke 85°F during June. Total precipitation amounted to 4.44 inches, which was 0.78 inches higher than the normal. July was the coldest and wettest since 1895. The Poughkeepsie Airport average temperature was 68.5°F, 3.0° below normal. 5.12 inches of rain fell at the same location, which is 1.48 inches above normal. August was cooler with an average temperature of 67.1°F, 2.6° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.52 inches, which was 0.33 inches below normal.

The cold, wet, chilly summer did have its effects on the birds. In some areas where heavy amounts of rainfall occurred, there was noticeable nesting failure. This led to certain species departing and dispersing early. Examples are low numbers of Chimney Swift, low fledgling numbers of Cliff Swallow at monitored colonies, slightly depressed numbers of Eastern Bluebird fledglings, and decreased numbers of herons and egrets at the Huckleberry Island heronry in coastal WEST.

Conversely, raptor nesting success seemed to be up, with Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon having done notably well. Cooper's Hawk is becoming continually more common as nesting has been extended into the suburbs. An example of this was the pair of Cooper's Hawk that nested in suburban southern West this summer on a branch overhanging the homeowner's driveway! Active Northern Goshawk nests were



reported from ORAN, SULL, PUTN and WEST. Region 9's first nesting Osprey at the Bashakill Marsh fledged three young very late on about 15 Aug. The ULST pair mentioned in the spring report unfortunately lost their active nest in a storm, which blew it down. Better luck next year! An Osprey frequented the Kensico Reservoir in WEST this summer, according to the NYCDEP. This reservoir has many islands and peninsulas offering suitable nesting locations. Keep your fingers crossed. Bald Eagle completed yet another chapter in their success story, with four active SULL nests fledging nine young this year. According to the NYCDEP and NYSDEC the widowed female Peregrine Falcon at the Tappan Zee Bridge in WEST attracted a new mate in the early spring. The pair's two offspring successfully fledged during the first week in July. Last, but certainly not least, was an encouraging word on a sadly declining species. A male and female Northern Harrier were observed at the Galeville Airport on 29 Jul. The female was observed catching and transporting prey. For fear of disturbing this sensitive species, the observer did not pursue confirmation of nesting.

There were many Barred Owl reports from the northern section of region, and the species is still holding on at historical locations in n WEST. Only a handful of Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports were received from many locations, and it definitely was an off year for both species. Other seasonal highlights include a survey to assess of the Catskill populations of the high altitude race, *bicknelli*, of the Gray-cheeked Thrush, which may be a separate species. It was found to be breeding or at least present on at seven peaks, including Slide Mt where it was first discovered more than 100 years ago. If you would like to volunteer for this survey, contact the Region 7 editor, Mike Peterson. White-eyed Vireo was reported from coastal WEST, and Solitary Vireo from several sites in DUTC and northern WEST in June. Yellow-throated, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos were reported in normal numbers. Twenty-four species of "breeding" warblers were reported. Migrant warblers included eight additional species that do not breed here.

Vesper Sparrow was found nesting at Galeville Airport, and Savannah Sparrow was reported ULST and DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow was found nesting at the Galeville Airport. It was widely assumed

that this declining species had abandoned this previous stronghold because of intense human disturbance. Good news on finches comes from SULL. Six Pine Siskin frequented a feeder in early June. Later in early Aug the same observer, Joe Weise, found a dead juvenile Pine Siskin nearby. A Pine Siskin was also noted by Thelma Haight in DUTC on 5 Jun. A Red Crossbill was found in early August by Joe Weise as well. Additionally, adults and what were probably immature Evening Grosbeak were observed at various locations in SULL.

This season's Regional highlights for out-of-range and vagrant species has provided an interesting and exciting mixture. Two **Brown Pelican** were well described from Croton Bay WEST on 30 Jul. The birds were observed flying up and then alighting on the waters of the mouth of the Croton River. This is the first documented Region 9 record (Roy Chapman, NYSARC). A crane of the genus *Grus* was observed flying over the Taconic State Parkway in w DUTC on 11 Aug (LS). It was identified to genus and not to species as it was observed from a moving vehicle in the general vicinity where an escaped Common Crane was seen last winter. A **King Rail** was seen several times at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye beginning on July 1 (TWB). Good written details were received from lengthy study of the bird by the observer. **Black Vulture** put in several appearances in during the summer in DUTC on 20 Jul and 11 Aug, and several frequented the Mohonk Preserve in ULST. The later location may prove to be a nesting site in the near future, because of the birds affinity to this location. A **Chuck-will's-widow** frequented the property of a veteran birder in Putnam Valley. The bird was discovered in late May and recorded until late July (RO'D, NYSARC). Although nesting was not detected, even a territorial male is quite rare away from Long Island. Finally, an excellent description was received from ULST of an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** seen on at the Galeville Airport 29 Jul (JB, NYSARC). The bird was observed feeding on a teasel flower at a distance of approximately eight feet for a good length of time. Although there is no accepted record of this species in New York State, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have been reported several times before. This species is on the lists of many of our neighboring states and is long overdue on ours.

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**Abbreviations:** MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL - Playland, Rye.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** one MC 5 Jun, 1 DUTC 30 Jul. **Pied-billed Grebe:** very few reports. **BROWN PELICAN:** *intro.* **Double-crested Cormorant:** 598 pairs nested at Huck I. **Am. Bittern:** scattered reports from n counties. **Least Bittern:** reported only from historical locations in marshes along Hudson R. **Great Egret:** 59 pairs nested at Huck I. **Snowy Egret:** 40 pairs nested at Huck I. **Little Blue Heron:** ad MC 10 Jun, imm MC 27 Jul, scarce along coast; two ORAN 21 Jul and 14 Aug, inland. **Green-backed Heron:** numbers low along coast. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 130 pairs nested at Huck I. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one pair nested at Huck I; four MC 4 Jun. **Glossy Ibis:** three MC 19 Jul, seven there by 22 Aug. **Mute Swan:** 70 Cornwall Bay 15 Jun, doing quite well inland. **Snow Goose:** one DUTC all summer. **Brant:** eight MC 16 Jun. **Wood Duck:** did well across Region. **Green-winged Teal:** one Harrison 14 Jun, three MC 29 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one PL 12-17 Jun. **Blue-winged Teal:** one all summer MC. **Gadwall:** one MC 15-21 Aug. **Ring-necked Duck:** one Hudson R DUTC 19 Jun. **Greater Scaup:** four Rye 14 Jun. **Com. Goldeneye:** one on Hudson R at Peekskill 19 Jun. **Bufflehead:** one in Rye 12-21 Jun. **Com. Merganser:** up to 57 including y from various locations on Delaware R Sull.

**BLACK VULTURE:** *intro.* **Turkey Vulture:** nest discovered on Cruger's I DUTC may be first for that location. **Osprey:** *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **N. Harrier:** *intro.* **Cooper's Hawk:** *intro.* **N. Goshawk:** *intro.* **Red-shouldered Hawk:** reported nesting DUTC and WEST. **Broad-winged Hawk:** scattered reports from entire Region. **Am. Kestrel:** one Rye 14 Jun; seemed to be present in better numbers. **Merlin:** one DUTC 22 Aug, undoubtedly an early migrant. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro.* **Wild**

**Turkey:** healthy numbers from all counties. **N. Bobwhite:** several reported from DUTC and n West, including one ad with covey of y 14 Jun. **Clapper Rail:** 13 (3 ad, 10 imm) MC 20 Jul. **KING RAIL:** *intro*. **Virginia Rail:** four MC 14 Jun; good numbers at inland marshes throughout Region. **Sora:** two MC late Aug; many reports from inland marshes throughout season. **Crane species:** *intro*. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr MC 13 Jun. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr MC 11 Jun. **Am. Oystercatcher:** two frequented Rye all season. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr MC 2 Jun. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr MC 1 Jul, 25 there 15 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr MC 19 Jul, max seven Rye 19 Jul. **Willet:** three MC 30 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper:** normal numbers. **Whimbrel:** one MC 10 Aug (TWB). **Ruddy Turnstone:** two MC early Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 31 MC 2 Jul; max 460 there 3 Aug; arr at inland locations by mid Jul. **Least Sandpiper:** arr MC 1 Jul. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last six MC 4 Jun (TWB, AG). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr MC 18 Jul. **Dunlin:** one MC 8 Jun. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr MC 4 Jun, 73 there on 3 Aug. **Am. Woodcock:** nesting reported DUTC early Jun. **Com. Tern:** a few noted offshore of Rye. **Forster's Tern:** one MC Jul and mid Aug (TWB).

**Barn Owl:** one Stissing 25 Jul (TH). **Com. Nighthawk:** three DUTC 2 Jun, one MC 3 Jun (AG), not seen later, probably a migrant; has disappeared as breeder from WEST. **Chuck-will's-widow:** *intro*. **Whip-poor-will:** reported from n section of Region only. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** as many as 30 at one time at Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye, in late Aug. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** *intro*. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** two SULL Catskills in Jun and Jul. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Middletown Reservoir ORAN 12 Jun (JPT); ad found dead-on-road on NY/Conn. line in n WEST 14 Jun (JPA); none reported from historical locations in ULST or DUTC.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one DUTC 11 Aug, one ORAN 23 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one DUTC 6 Aug (MVW, DF). **Acadian Flycatcher:** five reported from WEST 13-14 Jun; nine reported from DUTC in Jun. **Alder Flycatcher:** good numbers reported from n sections of Region. **Willow Flycatcher:** 52 SUNY Purchase 14 Jun (DP&TB); 11 Turner Swamp in Mt Kisco. **Purple Martin:** max nine at Rye, scarce. **Fish Crow:** 37 observed calling and flying down Hudson R at Cornwall Bay ORAN 11 Jun (EDT), very high count. **Com. Raven:** two heard calling at Balsam L Mt ULST 11 Jul (EDT). **Red-breasted**

**Nuthatch:** seven n WEST on 14 Jun, where it is uncommon. **Carolina Wren:** late nest DUTC 7 Aug (MVW), eggs hatched on 31 Aug. **Winter Wren:** 13 n WEST 14 Jun. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** six central WEST 14 Jun (S&BL). **E. Bluebird:** *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro*. **Swainson's Thrush:** numerous in ULST Catskills in Jun. **Hermit Thrush:** widely reported from n sections of Region. **Brown Thrasher:** numbers low along coast.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** several at Camp Smith/Doodletown Road ORAN and ROCK respectively. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Lawrence's type Vassar College Campus DUTC all of Jun (SK), female at Rye Nature Ctr on 29 and 30 Aug (TWB, AG); Brewster's type at Doodletown Road ROCK, at USMA Camp Smith and at Bashakill Marsh, all in Jun. **Cape May Warbler:** arr DUTC 31 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** present SULL and ULST Catskills in Jun. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 11 Rye Nature Ctr 22 Aug (TWB). **Blackpoll Warbler:** present ULST Catskills in Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** up to 11 at Doodletown Road ROCK (RJK). **N. Waterthrush:** one Bashakill Marsh early Jun (JPA). **Kentucky Warbler:** one n WEST all season (JPA), one Doodletown Road ROCK (DP, EDT) to 6 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** one Rye 1 Jun, another 31 Aug (TWB); one DUTC 24 Aug (OTW). **Hooded Warbler:** 15 Doodletown Road ROCK; many reports DUTC, PUTN and WEST, a good year for this species. **Wilson's Warbler:** several reports DUTC and s WEST late Aug. **Canada Warbler:** three ne WEST, where they are declining. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** pair SUNY Purchase WEST Jun.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** *intro*. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** regular at MC throughout period. **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC 4 Aug (TWB). **White-throated Sparrow:** noted on many ULST Catskill peaks during Jun. **Dark-eyed Junco:** reported from ULST Catskill peaks in Jun. **Bobolink:** declining numbers in n WEST; max 250+ at once DUTC 19 Aug. **E. Meadowlark:** well reported from DUTC. **Orchard Oriole:** imm male singing Vassar Farm DUTC 1 Jul (SK); regular s WEST through mid Jul. **Purple Finch:** numerous reports from DUTC. **Red Crossbill:** *intro*. **Pine Siskin:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** *intro*.

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The Summer was both cool and wet. The average temperature for June was 1.1°F below normal, 2.5°F below normal for July and 2.4°F below normal for August. There were only a half dozen days with highs above 90°F. For those who dislike the heat, this would have been an ideal period, except for the rain. There was precipitation on at least one of the days of almost every weekend of the season. Rainfall for June was 4.77 inches versus an average of 3.23 inches. Rainfall for July was 0.72 inches above normal, but rainfall for August was 0.54 less than normal. This was barely noticed, since it seemed to fall mostly on weekends. This cool, wet weather pattern may or may not have contributed to the season's very unusual post breeding migrants.

There is increasing interest in the wetlands under the city's jurisdiction, coupled with expanded efforts to maintain and preserve them, by various New York City agencies. The bird life of the marshes on Staten Island is getting visibility that it had not had before. We are indebted to Christopher Aquila of the Salt Marsh Restoration Group of the New York City Parks-Greenbelt Administration and to Lorna Salzman, Carolyn Summers, Dana Lee and Sheila Metcalf representing the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Unit and the City Planning Dept. Aquila reported a breeding population of four pairs of Sharp-tailed Sparrow and six pairs of Seaside Sparrow at Saw Mill Creek on Staten Island. Both species produced fledglings. He reported that he could find no evidence that these species had bred on Staten Island in the last 30 years. Neither species were found on Staten Island during the Atlas period. Aquila also found three pairs of Clapper Rail nesting and observed adults with fledglings. This is another marsh bird that was not reported as nesting there during the Atlas period.

The **Brown Pelican** invasion has finally reached epidemic proportions. Even the popular press, which reports on "oddities" that make the news, has discovered them. Both the *New York Times* in a story dated Southampton, 20 July, and *Newsday* in a story on 17 August reported various sightings and quoted National Audubon

Society experts. According to the news reports, a total of 150 were supposed to have reached the shores of Long Island this summer. For the more scientific purposes of this journal, one must rely on original sources and compilations from knowledgeable birders. Brown Pelican reports started on 9 Jun with 14 at Fire Island and continued until 27 Aug with 14 at Cedar Beach. A maximum of 87 were counted off Jones Beach on 12 Jul by David Mizrahi. Reports came from as far west as Staten Island and as far east as Shinnecock Inlet. Groups of two to three dozen or more were not uncommon during the summer.

The most extraordinary bird of the late Summer was a **Roseate Spoonbill** that appeared on Staten Island in August. This distinctive large white and pink bird should have been easy to spot. Unfortunately, large numbers of egrets from rookeries in New Jersey had been dyed pink to ascertain their post-season dispersal habits. As a result it was difficult to determine just when this species first appeared because of all the large white and pink birds that were in the area. Dates from early August have been mentioned by Henry Flamm and others, but the earliest definitive report came from Lorna Salzman. While on a visit to various wetland sites, she, Carolyn Summers, Dana Lee and Sheila Metcalf found the bird at the Goethals Bridge on 20 Aug. Aquila was called to confirm the identification and took the first photographs. The bird remained until 29 Aug; it was seen each day until 24 Aug and less frequently thereafter. This is the first New York State record for this species. In addition to the spoonbill, both godwits were seen by those who came looking at the marshes. As an added plus, a Red Phalarope was found on 24 Aug.

On 18 Aug a **Brown Booby** appeared on the beach at Amagansett after several days of rain. It flew in off the ocean, circled in front of your Editor [Al Wollin] and vanished. This is the second season in which this rare species from the Caribbean has appeared on Long Island without hurricane assistance.

Beach erosion and storm movement of sand in the Cedar Beach area created deep tidal pools and "unsafe conditions" according to the Town Officials. A regrading effort in the late winter generated a tremendous controversy between the town and various environmental groups. But by the summer, birders were viewing returning migrant shorebirds that included Whimbrel, **Rufous-necked Stint**, White-

rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope and Red Phalarope. The number of Whimbrel seen this season reached an all time high for recent years. The maximum occurred on 2 Aug. Compiling reports from contributors and the New York Rare Bird Alert, there were 35 at Napeague, 3 at Cedar Beach, 3 at the Line Islands and 60 at Cow Meadow, or over a hundred scattered across Long Island on this one day.

The Manomet Bird Observatory Spring/Summer Quarterly reported on the analysis by Dr. Katherine Parsons of the 1990's oil spills in New York harbor on aquatic wildlife. Reproductive success for Snowy Egret and Glossy Ibis was dramatically reduced in both 1990 and 1991.

**Contributors:** Bob Adamo, Christopher Aquila, Jim Ash, John Bull, Andy Baldelli, Jean & Ronald Bourque, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Chip Darmstadt, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Paul H. Gillen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Pat Lindsay, Peter Martin, David Mizrahi, Nature Notes in *The East Hampton Star* by Larry Penny (NN), John J. Ruscica, Eric Salzman, Lorna Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Tom Vezo, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

**Abbreviations:** CB - Cedar Beach; CSCBC - Central Suffolk Co. Breeding Bird Census; DP - Doctor's Path, Riverhead; FI - Fire Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LnIs - Line Islands; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

**Summer reports:** **Cory's Shearwater:** 20 mi s MPt 29 Jul (PM). **Greater Shearwater:** 200 45 mi s MPt 19 Jun (*fide* JA), others 20 mi s MPt 3 Jul (PM). **Sooty Shearwater:** seven 45 mi s MPt 19 Jun (*fide* JA). **Manx Shearwater:** one 20 mi s MPt 3 Jul (PM). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 30 45 mi S of MPt 19 Jun (*fide* JA), others 20 mi s MPt 3 Jul (PM), four ShIn 4 Jul (NYRBA), five ShIn 5 Jul (AB). **BROWN BOOBY:** *intro.* **BROWN PELICAN:** *intro.* **Great Cormorant:** one Zachs Bay, Jones Beach 6 Jul (SS, AW), late. **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** one reported JBWR 9 Aug (NYRBA, no details). **WHITE-FACED IBIS:** one JBWR 16 Jun (NYRBA). **ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** *intro.* **Mute Swan:** 380 on CSCBC 13 Jun, 167 East Pd JBWR 22 Aug; firmly established and continuing to multiply. **Black Scoter:** MPt 16 Aug. **Surf Scoter:** MPt 16 Aug. **White-winged Scoter:** MPt 16 Aug.



**Bald Eagle:** ad pair summered in the Hamptons, feeding among other places at the East Hampton land fill (NN); ad Saw Mill Creek Marsh SI 29 Aug (CA). **N. Harrier:** pair SI from Jun through mid Aug (CA), did not nest there during the Atlas period. **Am. Kestrel:** nests at FBF were down from four last year to one, two y produced (J&RB). **Peregrine Falcon:** six nests hatched 19 eggs, 11 fledged; new this season, a nest on the Pan Am Building. **Black Rail:** one CB 13 Jun (NYRBA), one Oceanside Preserve 24 Aug (John Caspers). **Clapper Rail:** *intro*. **Virginia Rail:** pair nested SI (CA). **Lesser Golden-Plover:** one Riverhead 24 Jul (JR), one to four DP 26–30 Aug, 15 Cutchogue 30 Aug (NYRBA). **Am. Oystercatcher:** 225 LnIs 2 Aug (AL, AB). **BLACK-NECKED STILT:** one JBWR 3–7 July (NYRBA), one DP 19 Jul (Mary Normandia). **Solitary Sandpiper:** one Flushing Airport 10 Aug (George Dadone, mob). **Upland Sandpiper:** a pair apparently bred at FBF, first since 1978 (J&RB), one CB 2 Aug, five Cutchogue 6 Aug (JF), two DP 23 Aug (JF), eight Westhampton Air Force Base, others noted. **Whimbrel:** *intro*, others 16 Jun–Aug 9. **Hudsonian Godwit:** one SI late Aug, two increasing to 14 LnIs 10 Jul–10 Aug; a few JBWR 25 Jul–22 Aug (NYRBA). **Marbled Godwit:** one SI late Aug, one LnIs 23 Aug. **RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT:** singles CB 9 Aug (AL, AB); CB 23–29 Aug (mob, ph); a second stint on 9 Aug awaits positive identification from photos. **Baird's Sandpiper:** CB 25–27 Aug (mob). **Curlew Sandpiper:** one JBWR 6 Aug (NYRBA). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one CB 23–29 Aug, three DP 26 Aug, two Cutchogue 29 Aug (NYRBA). **Ruff:** one black-ruffed bird CB 9–10 Jun (PL, TV), one JBWR 16–18 Jul (JF, Joan Quinlan, mob). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 3500 LnIs 24 Jul (AL, AB). **Wilson's Phalarope:** three JBWR 3 Jul, one LnIs 10 Jul (AL, AB), one LnIs 2 and 8 Aug (AL, AB). **Red-necked Phalarope:** one CB 11–13 Jun (MOB), two LnIs 10 Aug (AL, AB). **Red Phalarope:** one CB 6–7 Jun (PL, TV), juv Goethals Bridge Pd SI 24–29 Aug (HF, John Stonick, mob). **Pomarine Jaeger:** three 20 mi s MPt 29 Jul (PM). **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** ten 45 mi s MPt 19 Jun (fide JA). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** ad JBWR 5 Jul (NYRBA). **Gull-billed Tern:** two Cow Meadow, Freeport, 29 Jul, one flying with a fish in its bill there 2 Aug (SS, AW). **Caspian Tern:** one JBWR 23 Aug, others. **Royal Tern:** two CB 9 Aug, two Oak Beach 24 Aug (PM). **SANDWICH TERN:** two CB 18 Aug (PL, Bob Hines), one CB 27 Aug (mob). **Black Tern:** one LnIs 3 Jul (AL, AB), two Wading River 27 Jul, others late Aug. **Black Skimmer:** 600 CB 26 Aug (AL, AW), large number.

**Barn Owl:** 19 y produced on islands in Jamaica Bay (J&RB), success due to placement of nest boxes. **Chuck-will's-widow:** one calling at dusk Massapequa Preserve 4 Jun (PM), one Riverhead 6 Jun (JR). **Whip-poor-will:** four Riverhead 6 Jun (JR), one Fort Montauk 22 July (JF).

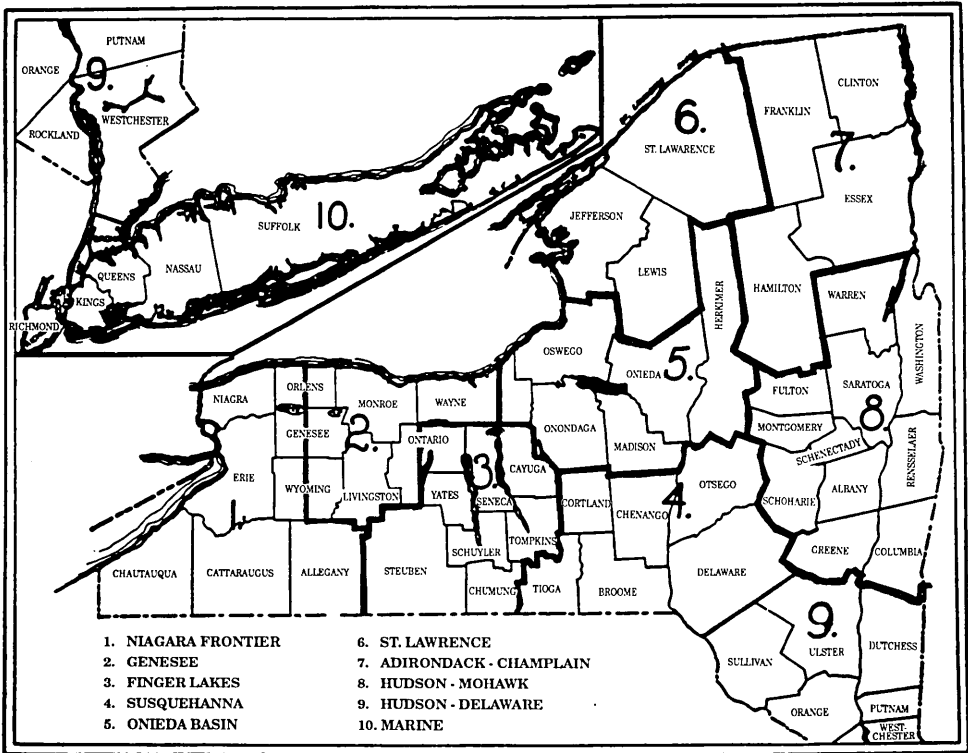
**Golden-winged Warbler:** one Weld Preserve, Nissequogue 20 Aug (JF), three High Rock, SI 30 Aug (CA). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type with three y Muttontown Preserve 11 Jun (A. Lindberg, Herb Mills). **Worm-eating Warbler:** Alley Pd P 30 Aug (LS, mob). **Prothonotary Warbler:** one Ft Tilden 30 Aug (NYRBA). **N. Waterthrush:** two Clove L P SI (HF). **Kentucky Warbler:** one Central P 30 Aug (NYRBA). **Mourning Warbler:** several singles late Aug.

**Blue Grosbeak:** one CSCBC 13 Jun (fide JR). **Dickcissel:** one Jones Beach West End 9 Aug (AW, SS), exceptionally early. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** ten territories FBF (J&RB). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** *intro*. **Seaside Sparrow:** *intro*. **Bobolink:** occasional birds seen during the season FBF (J&RB). **Boat-tailed Grackle:** reports from SI to CB. **Orchard Oriole:** one Manorville 12 Jun (JR), two Mill Neck 26 Jun (Barbara Conolly).

**Correction: Tundra Swan:** 5-7, not 500-700, at Hook Pd winter 1991-92.

*603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550*

# REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February  
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May  
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August  
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November  
Deadline is December 7

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