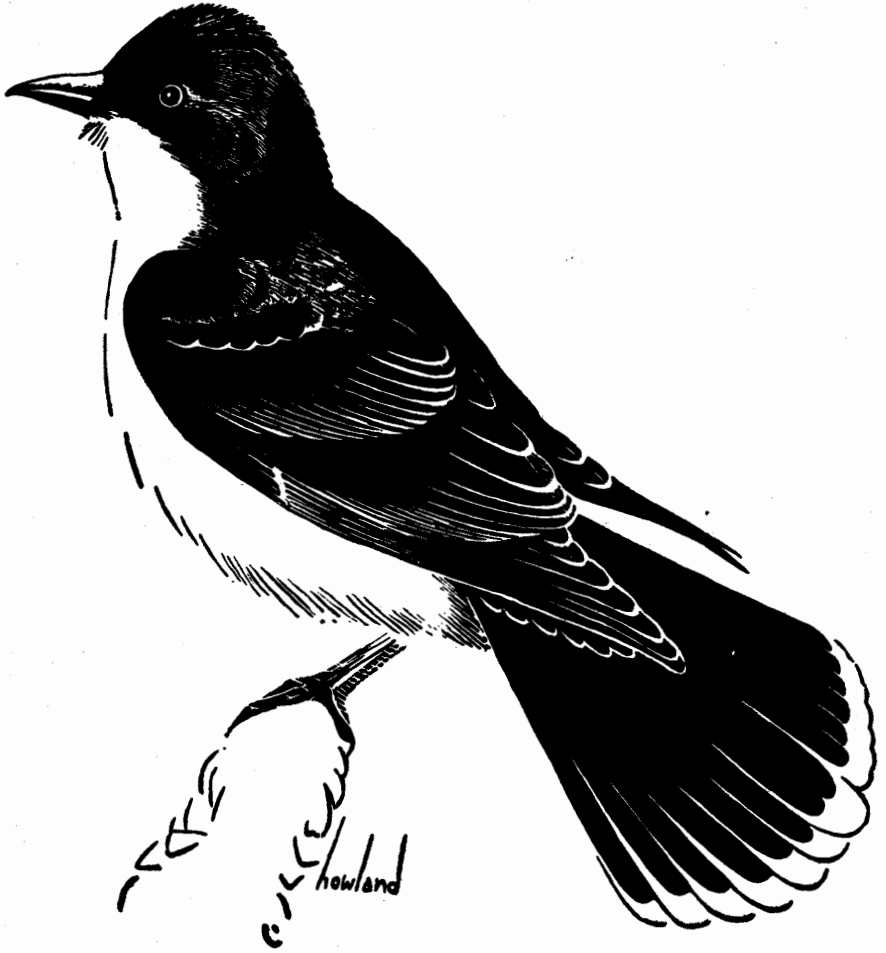


# The KINGBIRD



VOL. 43, NO. 4

DECEMBER • 1993

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

*THE KINGBIRD* (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas.

Memberships are on a calendar year basis only, in the following annual categories: Individual \$18, Family \$20, Supporting \$25 Contributing \$50, The Kingbird Club \$100, Student \$10. Life Memberships are \$300 single, \$400 husband and wife, payable in four consecutive equal annual installments if desired. Applicants for Individual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the Chairwoman of the Membership Committee: Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733.

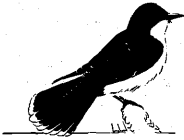
INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE KINGBIRD are \$18 to US addresses, \$23 to all others, annually on a calendar year basis only. Send orders to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, or orders for SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS or REPLACEMENT COPIES (\$5 each) to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

Magazines undelivered through failure to send change of address six weeks in advance will be replaced on request at \$5 each.

All amounts stated above are payable in US funds only.

© 1993 Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Postmaster: send address changes to:  
*THE KINGBIRD*, P.O. BOX 296, SOMERS, NY 10589



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC

---

Vol. 43 No. 4

December 1993

273-352

---

## CONTENTS

Wilson's Phalarope, a New Nesting Species for New York State .....	275
William Krueger	
Cooper's Hawk Nesting in a Suburban Yard .....	278
Polly Rothstein	
New York State Waterfowl Count, January 1993 .....	293
Walton B. Sabin	

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual behavior of immature Ring-billed Gull .....	300
Lee B. Chamberlaine	
Wood Duck attempts to nest in a chimney? .....	301
Ferdinand LaFrance	
American Bittern with young in Essex County .....	302
Barbara Butler and Helen Manson	
Editorial Note — AOU Name Changes .....	302
Highlights of the Summer Season      Robert Spahn .....	303
Regional Reports .....	308

---

---

*Editor* — Paul A. DeBenedictis  
*Highlights of the Season Editor* — Robert Spahn  
*Circulation Manager* — Berna B. Lincoln

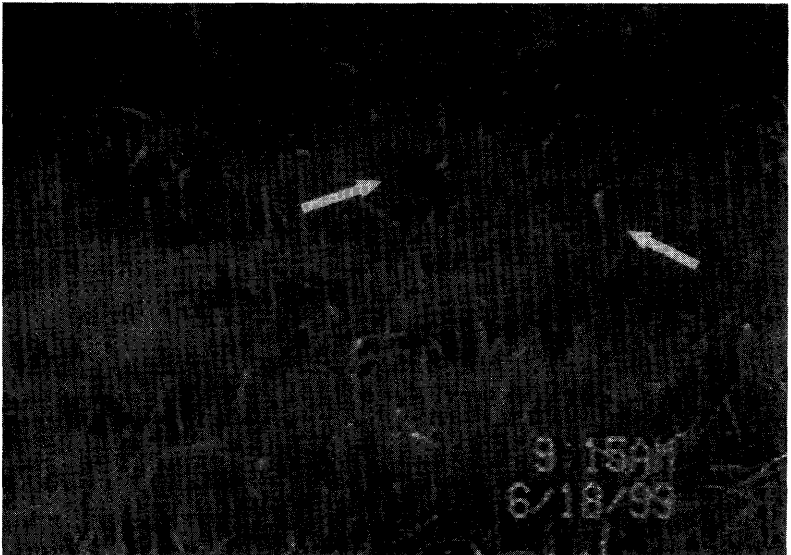
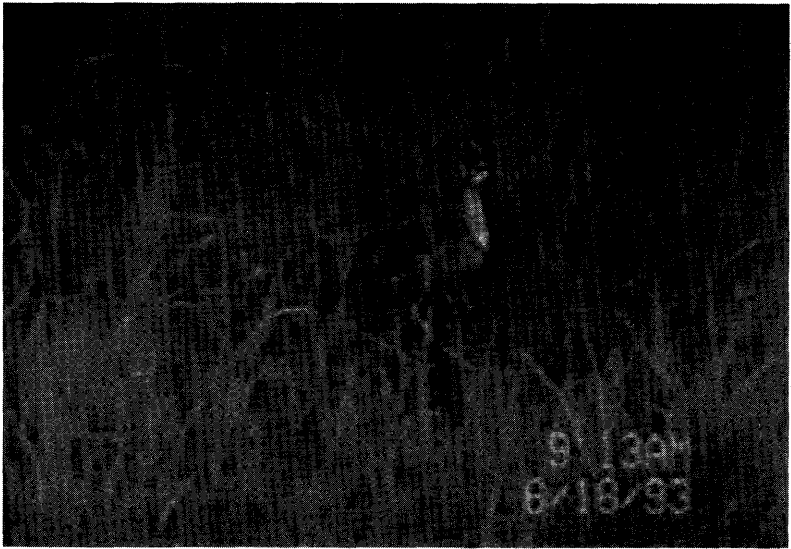


Figure 1. Male Wilson's Phalarope (above), and downy young (left arrow) with adult male (right arrow) Wilson's Phalarope (below) at Lake Champlain, Clinton Co., New York, 18 June 1993. Digitized frames from video by William Krueger.

## WILSON'S PHALAROPE, A NEW NESTING SPECIES FOR NEW YORK STATE

WILLIAM KRUEGER

On the morning of 18 June 1993, Hal Klein, Charlie Mitchell, Roger and Judy Heintz, and I found and videotaped an adult male Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) escorting three chicks toward Lake Champlain in Clinton County, New York. This is the first confirmed record of breeding for this bird in New York State.

The habitat was ideal. Lake Champlain reached an all time high level in late April but had gone down over 4.5 feet by the middle of June. The receding waters exposed successive areas of mudflats, which quickly grew to grass for cover and nesting. The area in which the family group was found, 100-150 feet from the lake, was an as yet unused pasture of long grasses that sloped almost imperceptibly eastward to the lake and northward to a ditch draining into the lake. This field was being used by a dairy herd on 22 June. The quality of the habitat here is indicated by the presence of nineteen other species of shorebird during the spring season, and Black Tern also bred here this year after a long absence.

The five minute video tape shows the adult phalarope leading the chicks (Fig. 1) by walking a few feet, stopping to wait for them to catch up, then moving another few feet. Over the wind and between the singing of Bobolinks, one can hear the male giving a constant soft two note call with a nuthatch like quality but not cadence. The downy young had a blackish median stripe from the crown down the nape. The cheeks were white as were the under parts that were visible. The back pattern was generally of brown stripes on a tawny background but the details were not evident on the tape. The birds were surely aware of our presence but did not seem to be unduly agitated as they made their way past us to the lake.

This find came a month to the day after the pair was first discovered on 18 May, and was the culmination of three weeks' effort. The possibility that phalaropes might be nesting was entertained when both birds were seen again on 27 May. Our hopes rose with each succeeding visit, when the male was seen rising from the same small area of the grassy field on 31 May and on 3, 6, 11 and 15 June. We spaced our visits to minimize disturbance. Our searches for the nest were halfhearted and brief for the same reason. This caution was at least time saving, since a thorough search after the birds had departed failed to disclose the nest. At least two of the chicks fledged. We found two Wilson's Phalaropes in juvenile plumage on 15 July and one on 16 and 19 July within a hundred yards of the nesting area. Videotape of the single bird has one brief

segment which includes a Black Tern feeding young and a Killdeer wandering through.

According to one source (Stout, 1967) there is "scant information" on the breeding of Wilson's Phalarope. Sequential polyandry, where a "female mates with a male, lays eggs and then terminates the relationship with that male while she goes off to repeat the process with another mate" (Erlich, *et al.*, 1988), has been established for the Red-necked and Red Phalaropes but is less certain for Wilson's Phalarope (Hohn, 1980). Hohn states that there is no evidence of territorial behavior or supposed polyandry for the Wilson's. Another claims the hen is territorial and defends the immediate nesting area with distraction displays (Bent, 1962). The usual clutch is 3 or 4 eggs (Erlich, *et al.*, 1988).

We may have missed an opportunity to observe mating behavior between 18 and 27 May. The incubation period for Wilson's Phalarope averages twenty days. Allowing 24 hours for the precocial chicks to prepare for their trip to the lake, the eggs were probably laid on 28 May, four days prior to the last sightings of the hen on 31 May and 1 June. On neither occasion did we observe territorial behavior. We saw only one male on all of our trips and there was nothing to suggest that we were seeing two or more singly. There were no other sightings reported on the New York side of Lake Champlain. We called the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences and the Province of Quebec Society for the Preservation of Birds to see whether the hen had a sailor in any other port. Vermont reported no sightings this spring; Quebec had reports from the Richelieu River, which rises out of Lake Champlain at the Canadian border eight miles to the north and where Wilson's is a rare but regular migrant. If the female did indeed leave to seek another mate she would have had to go farther north than the Richelieu, since breeding has not been reported from that area. However, Wilson's Phalarope has bred on Ile-du-Moine east of Montreal, at Riviere-de-Loup east of Quebec City and on the Madeleine Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Pierre Bannon, pers. comm.).

Breeding of Wilson's Phalarope in New York was not unexpected. Bull (1974) does not mention the possibility of breeding; but it had been confirmed prior to this year near Kingston, Ontario (Cadman, 1987) and Montreal, Quebec (Godfrey, 1986) just miles from the state's border. Since World War II there has been an eastward expansion of the breeding range of this bird that appears to be associated with the development of impoundments for waterfowl and lagoons for sewage treatment (Erskine, 1992). This movement has been documented in the breeding bird atlases of Ohio (Peterjohn and Rea, 1991) Ontario (Cadman, 1987) and the Maritime Provinces of Canada (Erskine, 1992).

In addition breeding has been confirmed as far south as Plum Island, Massachusetts (Peterson, 1992).

Nor was breeding completely unexpected here in Clinton County, even though sightings of Wilson's Phalarope are very rare in the Lake Champlain basin. The only other spring sighting in Region 7 occurred in 1981 during the atlasing period, when a pair was seen from 21-27 May at a spot only a few hundred yards from the 1993 site and when, as Mike Peterson commented recently, "We did everything but confirm it." All Vermont sightings but one have been in the fall and away from Lake Champlain. The lone spring sighting was of an adult female on Grand Isle 20 May 1987. Since the one Vermont and the two New York spring Wilson's Phalarope were first seen between 18 and 21 May, we at least know when to begin looking next year.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank Judy Peterson, Editor of the Vermont Bird Records Committee, and Pierre Bannon of the Province of Quebec Society for the Preservation of Birds, who researched the records of their state and province and generously shared the results. Thanks are also due to Charlie Mitchell for his research on the mating behavior of the phalaropes and to Mike Peterson for suggesting improvements in the manuscript.

40 Colligan Point Road, Plattsburgh, New York 12901

### LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A.C. 1962. *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, Part 1. Dover Publications.
- Bull, J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY.
- Cadman, M.D. 1987. Wilson's Phalarope, in *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario*. University of Waterloo Press, Waterloo, Ontario.
- Erlich, P.R., D.S. Arkin and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. Simon and Schuster, New York.
- Erskine, A.J. 1992. Wilson's Phalarope, in *Atlas of breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*. Nimbus Publishing Co., Halifax.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1986. *The Birds of Canada*, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
- Hohn, E. O. 1980. Wilson's Phalarope, in *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. Knopf, New York.
- Peterjohn, B.G., and D.L. Rea, Eds. 1991. *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus.
- Peterson, W. R. 1992. New England Region. *Amer. Birds* 46:1119-1122.
- Stout, G.D., Ed. 1967. *The Shorebirds of North America*. Viking, New York.

## COOPER'S HAWK NESTING IN A SUBURBAN YARD

POLLY ROTHSTEIN

Serendipity brought a pair of Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) to my yard in Purchase, Westchester County, New York. The hawks fledged three young from a nest there during 1992. Two factors made this nesting noteworthy. Both members of the pair were first year birds in immature plumage, brown with streaked breasts and yellow eyes; and Cooper's Hawk seldom nest in suburbia close to houses.

### THE NEST

In late March, a Cooper's Hawk flew overhead near my house. On 7 April, an immature female Cooper's Hawk flew through a 1/4 inch plate glass window in our living room and was killed. To avoid future hawk-window strikes, we suspended 2 inch wide strips of tape from the edge of the roof down the entire 17 foot height of the window wall. A week later, I saw an immature Cooper's Hawk perched in the back yard. Throughout spring migration, I observed Cooper's Hawks in the area. On 14 June, with Summer Bird Count participants gathered on our back patio to compile subtotals, a Cooper's Hawk flew into the yard, wheeled around and flew back over the house. We followed it or its mate flying with a twig in its mouth to a nest in a Norway Spruce just 20 feet from our front door. What a find to report to the count compilers at Greenwich Audubon! I was chagrined that I hadn't found it myself much earlier.

The stick nest was built on branches on the east (road) side of the main trunk, about 15 feet below the top. The nest tree stood about 70 feet tall, located at the edge of the driveway, its lower branches overhanging our roof. The nest was best viewed from my back yard, where I set up two spotting scopes. Unglazed skylights in the 10 foot overhang in the back roof permitted viewing in the morning when the nest was backlighted. By holding a camcorder up to my spotting scope eyepiece, I was able to videotape life in the nest. One day, I recorded a chick yawning and dozing off. After the young fledged, I obtained many good close-up scenes using that combination of equipment.

The habitat is suburban, with houses on 2-acre lots containing some tall deciduous trees and a few pines and Norway Spruce. Our front yard is an acre of untended woods, about 200 feet deep; the neighbors' yards



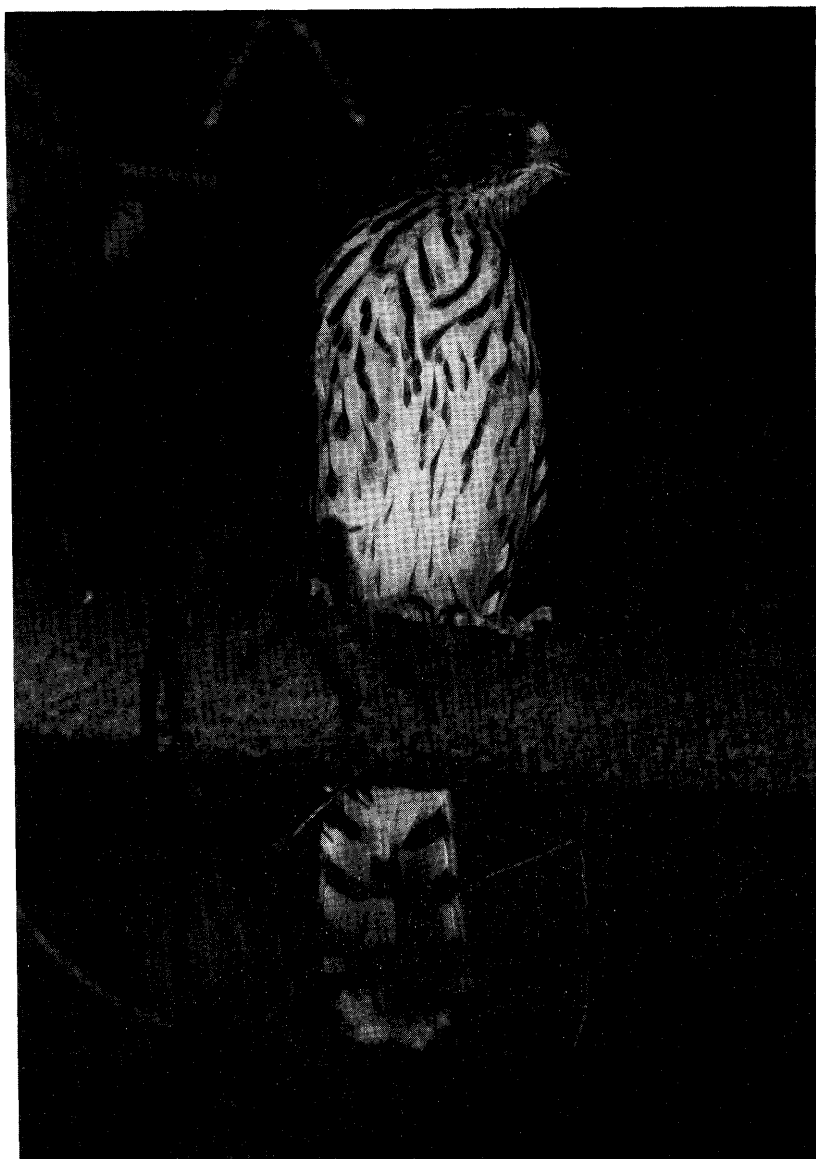


Figure 1. Immature Cooper's Hawk at Purchase, New York. Photograph by David Gardner.

are less dense, though with tall trees, and all houses have lawn in the back. The nest was about 220 feet from the road. To the east across the road is Pepsico's 200+ acre main headquarters and about 800 feet north is the 500 acre SUNY Purchase campus, both partly wooded.

Cooper's Hawks usually build their own nests, and as crows have not nested in our spruce, I suspect these birds built their own nest in our spruce. According to Bull (1974), most Cooper's Hawk nests are in deciduous trees.

## NESTLINGS

In the first week after the 14 June discovery, the female spent most of her time on the nest incubating, and the male was rarely seen. Nesting passerines, especially Blue Jays, chickadees, titmice, and a Carolina Wren occasionally mobbed the nest, and crows did also. Carolina Wren nested in the cover of a propane tank directly under the nest.

20 June: at 8 AM, I first saw the female tearing prey apart and apparently feeding young, but I didn't see the hatchling(s). In the first days after hatching, the male called to his mate every few hours, about six soft "cuh-cuh-cuh"s. She flew to him and usually returned within a few minutes, sometimes with prey. The male was seen infrequently in those days and I never learned where he perched. I believe the male gave her headless and plucked prey because I didn't see her pluck prey and no feathers or prey remains were found under the nest at this time; I wondered what she did with the bones. At the nest, the female broods but is frequently busy tending the chicks. Always alert to sounds in the yard, I watched her react to Downy Woodpecker calls. I never saw her carry twigs or repair the nest, and never found twigs beneath the nest.

24 June: the female moved off the nest for the first time, moving 3 feet to the left for 10 minutes. Ten minutes later, I got my first glimpse of a baby hawk, a fluffy white head with a dark eye, light cere, and dark beak. The next evening a second white head appeared and I watched the female put food into their mouths. They seem lively and healthy, one somewhat more developed. I was surprised I hadn't been able to see them before this. After meals, which take up to a half hour, the female settled down and brooded the chicks.

27 June: the chicks first backed to the edge of the nest, lifted their tails and accomplished the projectile defecation typical of hawks; and the first dark feather shafts showed on the underside of a wing.

Apparently the chicks' body temperature was beginning to stabilize, as the female stayed on her side perch for two hours. The next day, I confirmed three white heads. I suspect that I hadn't seen three before because my view was obscured by the tree trunk. The chicks became active, clambering around the nest and changing places with each other; the female stayed on or near the nest. The chicks were quite clumsy moving around the nest and used their wings for balance. I noticed pinfeathers on the underwing of at least two. The chicks often snuggled in the female's flank feathers and long, fluffy under tail coverts during rest time after meals. At least one chick has pinfeathers visible on upper side of wing and a row of dark spots on its shoulder.

28 June: at 7 PM on I heard the male calling from the yard to the north, a repeated loud, high-pitched, rapid "keh-keh-keh." I found him in a tree and watched him fly off. Two evenings later, I heard the same agitated call and I located the male standing on the neighbor's roof. He went from the roof to the driveway and back twice, then attacked a plastic Great Horned Owl on the front stoop. He made three passes at the owl, hitting it with his talons twice before flying to our front woods. At our request, the neighbors quickly removed the owl and came to view the chicks at the nest. The owl had been put out to scare away rabbits.

1 July: one chick is clearly ahead, with more developed plumage on wings, tail, and back. All three are rapidly developing feathers, but they're still primarily white. They begin to preen.

3 July: I noted that the chicks feed eagerly, but did not compete for food. They defecate after feeding, then rest.

4 July: at 4:30 PM, I watched the female stop feeding the chicks, pick up the prey and fly off, leaving the chicks picking on what was left in the nest. They had grown larger and seemed more surefooted as they moved around. Their faces are still mostly white, but they are growing dark body feathers, which look like porcupine quills on their backs. The older chick sports some dark chest feathers, but the lower belly and thighs are white. They seem to be shedding the down on their faces. The eyes are bluish-gray and the legs are yellow. The young eat, nap, play, and preen in the nest. They stand upright on the nest rim and flap their wings, and hop across the nest. They are very aware of one another; I watched two peck each other's beaks and play tug-of-war with something in the nest, I couldn't tell what. Their activity periods are a few minutes long, then they quiet down and often are not visible. As they preen, their heads rotate far around to permit tending to their own back and wings. When they shake, white down falls like light snowflakes.

5 July: a chick reacted to an airplane overhead, looking up but not tracking it. Later that day it or another chick tracked a plane visually. For the first time a chick moved off the nest. There is astonishing activity in the nest, including leaps that I consider pre-flying. The chicks preen often and pick at their feathers.

6 July: for the first time, the female tore prey apart and the chicks took it from the nest themselves. Feeding is vigorous but not aggressive; in one feeding session, a piece of meat flew to the back of the nest and a chick lunged for it. The chicks' new chest feathers are buff with light brown teardrop centers, giving a streaked appearance. All show dark ear patches in mostly white heads, and they are clearly hawk-shaped. They spend increasing time preening.

7 July: at 7:45 PM, the female had been away from nest for at least 1/2 hour as the chicks slept. When a fire siren went off 1/3 mile away, the chicks perked up and looked around. Within moments the female was hovering over her offspring, and she remained in the horizontal position until it was too dark to see.

8 July: the chicks are feeding on their own, and the next day I note that their heads are more feathered and their backs are darker.

10 July: the chicks are erect on the nest looking more developed than they did yesterday. I note the characteristic long tail with its white terminal band and the flight feathers developing. Their crops are usually bulging; the young parents are excellent providers.

## FLEDGING

Three weeks after hatching, the chicks begin to move around the tree. The young became very active and literally reached new heights.

11 July: the young use their wings in modified flight, fluttering as they leap from an upper branch to a lower branch or to the nest. They play frequently, running back and forth across the nest, disappearing behind the trunk and reappearing on the other side. The oldest chick stood on an open branch at least 5 feet above the nest, preening and scanning every direction. One of the less developed ones ventured higher, but soon dropped down to the nest. Two chicks pulled greenery from the tree, and one put some in the nest.

13 July: at 6:30 PM the oldest chick was lying on its belly with one yellow leg hanging out of the nest. The siblings were also in view. I videotaped the older chick's first flight, 15 feet to the adjacent Norway Spruce and five minutes later, its flight of about 40 feet across the

driveway. During the first flight, the parent called to the chick. The fledgling chick and parent had not returned by 9:10, when darkness closed in.

14 July: in the evening two young are in the nest tree, jumping and flying from limb to limb. After a half hour they rested for ten minutes and then one flapped its wings for five minutes before jumping to an adjacent tree. Moments later, the adult brought food and flew off after a few minutes. The two chicks fed and then moved around the tree. The unfledged chick climbed around the tree and settled on a branch near the nest. At last light, one chick was visible and the one that fledged yesterday had still not been seen.

15 July: early in the morning, two were chicks in the nest. The nest was observed for most of the morning and all three young were fed in the nest. All three were in the tree at 6 PM when the wind picked up, the sky darkened, and it began to rain. When lightning and thunder started, one scurried to the nest and the other two perched underneath.

16 July: at 6 PM with all three young in the tree, I heard the first identifiable chick call, a soft drawn out "peeer" that tapered off. The next day, for the first time, I found prey remains under the nest tree: an American Robin's wing, feather, and pelvis. The female still delivered all the prey to the nest, though the chicks spend time in the adjacent trees. The chicks are still much smaller than the adult female and show white on the heads; one couldn't confuse a parent and young. The chicks sometimes feed without a prey delivery, and I suspect they return to eat leftovers.

## FLEDGLINGS

17 July: Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly came at 6:30 AM to record the young hawks' calls, and they were rewarded with a lot of high-pitched sound and good looks at the fledglings flying. At 11:30 AM, a chick flew over the house to the large oak in the back yard and later amused the observers by lying down on a branch like a nightjar. I observed them lying down frequently, until they left our yard permanently. At 6:15 PM the remaining unfledged chick took its first flight. I taped all three young together before they flew to a neighbor's yard. Their flight was ungainly. They sometimes lost their balance and bumped noisily into branches and foliage. They called to each other while flying. I found American Robin feathers and tail with attached flesh, two pellets containing a bird foot, bones and feathers under the nest tree.

20 July: two chicks flew to the dead larch adjacent the nest tree in the evening and waited while the third fed in the nest and then took a nap. At 6:40 PM, the two flew high up to some oak trees and the third joined them. It seems that 7 PM is flight time at this stage of life. The nest is still the home base and though they are not often in it, the female still brings the food there. Prey found under the nest included the front half of a chipmunk and two wings with unfurled feathers that seem to be from a robin nestling. Cooper's Hawks rob nests occasionally when feeding young.

22 July: all three fledglings returned to the nest for a meal. Then for the next hour, they flew together, calling and occasionally returning to the nest for food. The next evening I heard them calling near the nest tree and they soon returned to the nest for a feeding. There were passerine remains under the nest, and I noticed an increasing amount of whitewash under the large oak tree in the back of the house and on the back patio.

23 July: I found the hind half of chipmunk, two grackle feathers, other bird parts, and part of a pellet below the nest. A fledgling flew down to the back lawn to retrieve prey, a large frog, that was there. When our dog moved toward the hawk, the hawk carried the frog to a tree branch and continued eating it. This was the only time I identified a frog as prey. Later, two chicks were seen walking on our bathroom skylight. At 6 PM, I found all three young in our neighbor's yard, calling and flying from tree to tree, where the young hawks had been seen regularly. I found prey remains, whitewash, and Cooper's Hawk feathers in this yard. The nest tree was no longer the center of activity for the fledglings and we had to check several locations to find them. They favored the southeast side of our yard, a yard near the road, and the White Pines at Pepsico. The young usually were together and called to each other. If not in the nest tree, I could often locate them by their calls or find them perched in one of their favorite trees. They generally stayed within 400 feet of the nest tree, but things change rapidly.

The calls are squeaky or wheezy and high pitched, like a baby's squeeze toy, but with a great deal of variation depending on the message they intend. When a sibling encroaches on another's meal, the warning call is a rapid "keh-keh-keh," somewhat like the male's frantic call during the plastic owl episode. Sometimes they emit a plaintive call, perhaps asking for food, and there are non-frantic calls for communication on the wing or from tree to tree.

One afternoon, two fledglings perched next door, despite children playing there. Later all three young were playing in the dead larch, grabbing the branches, hanging by their beaks like parrots, and chasing each other. They are sometimes seen beak-wiping, which is called "feaking" by falconers.

26 July: I couldn't count on seeing the young in our yard, though the female still brought food to the nest. At 10 AM, two of the young hawks were peering at us from the edge of our roof only 20 feet away. Prey remains collected that day included a Blue Jay head and many American Robin feathers. I saw a fledgling eating a Northern Flicker in an oak near the front door, indicating that the adult was now depositing food away from the nest tree. Later, one of the young ignored harassment by American Robin and Gray Catbird, even when a robin flew directly at it.

27 July: the female brought food to a chick, which carried it to a series of perches, pursued by its siblings. It found privacy on our roof and fed upon the prey for a half hour. It appeared to have cached the unfinished portion for later consumption. About 7:15 PM the three young flew between three adjacent yards several times. There was only one bird prey wing under the nest today, and less whitewash there, indicating that the young fed elsewhere. The prey delivered today was headless.

28 July: a chick feeding was inadvertently flushed from atop the woodpile at the side of our house. The prey remains consisted of the intact head and spine of a Brown Thrasher, picked clean, and a few rufous feathers. All three young perched on the swing set in a neighboring yard.

29 July: all three young hawks were calling and zooming around their expanded home territory. A moment of danger was recorded on tape: two fledglings were on our lawn chasing each other when our dog went after them. She snapped her jaws just an inch from one hawk's tail. Later, the adult brought food, sparking a flurry of calling, chasing, and carrying pieces of prey. They fed in the nest tree but not in the nest. Later, a fledgling flew to a branch in a spruce next to the nest tree and ate prey remains. I heard a parent's alarm call, a high-pitched "keh-keh-keh."

## DISPERSAL

1 August: the fledglings were very active. They carried prey, chased each other, and returned to places where prey leftovers were. The first known hunting success by the young was observed. A chick scratching in the leaf litter like a towhee appeared to be trying to capture bugs. It

caught one and ate it. It continued its search among the leaves and snared a small rodent. We observed a fledgling perched on a low snag eating a large prey item. It repeatedly glanced sideways at a nearby sibling that was ready to pounce. It emitted a rapid, high-pitched "keh-keh-keh" warning call as its sibling buzzed it, and it protected its meal. The young permitted us to approach them quite closely, up to about 12 feet, excellent for photography (Fig 1, 2). One responded to harassment by American Robin and Blue Jay by flying away. Two fledglings called and flew from perch to perch, knocking into each other while vying for space. They have become more aggressive and jump on each other and displace one another from perches. They also remain still and call to their parents to bring food.

3 August: two young were at the edge of my neighbor's yard, one on the ground and the other on a twig 2 feet above the ground, where the birds were approached to within 3 feet. One of them dove from a height of about 30 feet, but came up empty taloned. This was the first observed "stoop." The young birds ventured farther afield each day, out of sight and hearing.

5 August: one fledgling was eating an unidentified gray prey item that seemed sawed off, indicating it had been brought by a parent during the morning. At 5:45 PM, I found all the chicks at Pepsico scratching on the ground for food. As I videotaped the action, four hawks flew out, confirming that at least one parent was still attending the young. Later, one of the young hawks dove down to the ground after prey but was unsuccessful. When the fledglings land on a branch, they twitch their tails sideways several times. After meals, with their crops bulging, they sometimes relax their lower belly feathers. I hardly ever saw the chicks without full crops, proving what good providers the young parents were.

8 August: the young birds were observed all day, alternately feeding, roosting, chasing each other, and flying around together, usually vocalizing. Their progress from even a week ago shows in their skill and ease of flying. Their skill in hunting is slower in developing, but they are practicing. Exciting scenes occurred when one young hawk chased a Red Squirrel round and round the trunk of a White Pine about four feet off the ground, while another unsuccessfully chased a cicada on the ground. It is interesting that the young, before they gain skill at catching birds, hunt for more humble prey on the ground. In another instance, the chicks suddenly took off; an adult must have signaled delivery of a headless chipmunk to a feeding perch. One chick picked it up, but its





Figure 2. Immature Cooper's Hawk at Purchase, New York, August 1992. Photograph by David Gardner.

crop was too full to pack in any more and it carried the prey to a series of perches. Finally it deposited the prey in the spruce, moved to another limb, and sprawled out for a long nap. Another fledgling perched for a long time 15 feet up in a tree. It reacted slightly to Dave Gardner's flash several times, then ignored it and dozed off standing up.

10 August: for two hours, I videotaped a successful hunt. All three young hawks were in a pine at Pepsico, scratching in the needles on the ground and trying to catch prey. They were jumping from the lower tree limbs to the ground and back. Eventually one came up with a small mammal and flew off with it. Soon all three were together on the Pepsico lawn, with no prey in sight, chasing a crow on the ground. After disappearing for 10 minutes, they reappeared in our front yard, energetically calling and flying around the area and back and forth to Pepsico. While one fledgling was eating prey in a spruce, another jumped right on top and both fell about 10 feet to the ground. Within moments, they were back in the tree eating prey. This didn't last long because they were more interested in chasing each other, moving around the trees, and vocalizing loudly. One was seen suspended by its wings between two branches in an often used leafless tree.

11 August: I noted that their faces had become much darker and how sturdy their bodies appeared. I watched all three young together, flying around, spending a few minutes in the nest tree, playing with loose bark and twigs in the dead larch, then being harassed by American Robin and Gray Catbird. They do not stay in one place for very long, and I wondered when they would leave their natal area.

12 August: from 2:45-4:15 PM, a young bird about 8 feet up in the spruce was feeding on a chipmunk that still had its head, a first. For much of the time, a second fledgling, with a full crop, perched above, watching and calling. About 3/4 hour into the meal, the second bird jumped the one that was feeding, which gave the loud, rapid "keh-keh-keh" and protected its meal. The second bird returned to the branch, looked down at its sibling eating, relaxed its lower belly feathers, and called rather plaintively. By 3:35 PM, the third young bird called and soon flew onto the scene. By 4 PM, all three ran on the ground and then flew into a tree, and soon all three were back in the spruce. The well fed one lay down on an upper branch, another fed on the prey, and the third looked on.

13-15 August: previously scheduled but deferred renovation and landscaping began in the front of our house, and the nest tree and dead larch were removed. A neighbor reported that the chicks were in her

yard calling loudly all day during the felling of the tree, and all three were observed on her roof on 15 August. I had requested that the nest be preserved, and the architect obliged. His workers wrapped and tied the nest, and the branches helped break the fall; the nest was salvaged intact with prey remains in it. A 4 foot segment of the tree, including the nest, was given to the Rye Nature Center for a diorama along with the immature female Cooper's Hawk that had crashed through the window in April. The nest construction surprised me, because the chicks often seemed to be deep into it. I had assumed it was bowl shaped; in fact, it was virtually flat on top. The chicks were probably behind the trunk and out of sight due to our obstructed viewing positions. At 15 inches across, it was also smaller than it had appeared. It was made completely of twigs with no bark or other lining. Bird bones were found in the nest.

18 August: I heard hawk calls early in the morning and later saw two fledglings flying. With the nest tree gone and a crew at work all day, I was relieved to see fledgling hawk life as usual. At 5:30 PM, two young were on favored perches near the road. One was about 20 feet up with a full crop, sounding a new call, a sort of a cackle that was somewhere between the "keh-keh-keh" and the shrill "peeeeeer" calls I had earlier heard.

Sightings became infrequent about five weeks after the first chick fledged. Their flying skills had greatly improved but our front woods remained their home base. After 20 August, we never again observed the three young at the same time. Neighbors reported two young in their yard the morning of 30 October, one on a favored perch from fledging days and the other flying nearby. On 31 October, in a field adjacent to the Westchester County Airport, about three miles from home, a Cooper's Hawk flew overhead and perched about 40 feet up in a tree. It was a hatch year bird with bluish eyes. About 20 minutes later, it chased a bird into the trees. I also learned that SUNY Purchase biology students had observed Cooper's Hawk all fall, and as of early February were still seeing an immature Cooper's Hawk on campus. On these dates the hawks could still be around the nest area prior to migrating. Early in December, I saw what appeared to be an adult Cooper's Hawk chase Mourning Doves feeding on our lawn. It had a gray back and appeared small, perhaps a male. The doves escaped and the hawk perched briefly in a tree, twitching its tail sideways in the way that I had seen so many times during the summer. As Cooper's Hawks molt in late summer of their second year, it could have been the male of our pair.

## 1993 NESTING ATTEMPT

16 March: a Cooper's Hawk flew past my house. Our neighbors had reported two of them in their yard and across the street at Pepsico shortly before, but hadn't been able to distinguish whether the hawks were in immature or adult plumage. During the next week, they reported occasional sightings.

27 March: two Cooper's Hawks were chasing each other. Later, one perched in a White Pine at Pepsico, opposite a neighbor's driveway, exactly where the young hawks spent so much time in the weeks after they fledged. A stick nest was found about 25 feet up in that tree. It resembled the 1992 Cooper's Hawk nest.

28 March: an adult Cooper's Hawk stooped a few hundred feet into Pepsico, then flew toward me with prey and fed on a bare limb of a tree in which the young Cooper's Hawks had fed frequently in 1992 in the corner of my yard. It fed for about ten minutes, then flew off with the prey. I felt that this was the male of the 1992 pair. The hawks were evident daily thereafter.

31 March: neighbors reported the familiar "keh-keh-keh" sound in our yard, and later got good looks at the pair: an immature and adult Cooper's Hawk. The immature was eating prey, and the adult took it away. The adult Cooper's Hawk was later located in a tall White Pine on the south edge of her front lawn, in a stick nest. The new nest was around 125 feet from the nest in the White Pine at Pepsico, which apparently had been abandoned. The second nest was a rough, rather sparse and disorderly pile of sticks about 35 feet up. It didn't appear to be a finished nest, and did not appear to be a platform.

3 April: I confirmed that the pair consisted of an adult and an immature bird. For over 2 hours, the pair called to each other and flew around. The calls were sometimes a high-pitched "keh-keh-keh," sometimes about 6 or more strung together: first soft, then louder, then soft again. Some of the calls were just one syllable.

5 April: at 6:45 PM a neighbor saw the immature bird picking up sticks in our yard and in her back yard, then fly around her house to the front and place the sticks in the nest. This was the first nest building observed since 31 March. I arrived in time to see the two Cooper's Hawk perched. The mature hawk was only about 20 feet up, and I had a good enough look to be certain that the adult bird is smaller, the male, and the immature is a female. The adult permitted close approach; I

walked right under him and joined the other observers at the side of their house to watch through binoculars. After about 10 minutes, the male flew to our yard and out of sight; the female flew to our yard and perched in a tree next to our driveway. My neighbor also reported a crow-hawk chase, where a Cooper's Hawk attacked the crow, biting the back of its neck.

6 April: at 8:30 AM I heard a Cooper's Hawk call and saw an immature female perched in tree. Crows harassed it, and I watched it chase a crow until both were out of sight. That evening, the adult male flew very low over our heads in our back yard.

8 April: I watched the female pull at a twig in my neighbor's back yard before she flew toward our back yard and out of sight. Later, at their house, I heard a snap above me, and saw the male biting a twig. He broke it off and flew directly to the nest with it in his talons. He spent about ten or fifteen seconds placing it, then flew to a deciduous tree in our front woods and repeated the process. In all, I observed five instances of the male gathering twigs from live deciduous trees, sometimes carrying the twig in his beak, then flying to the nest and working at building it. The female was not in view, and there was no calling from either bird during this nest building.

9 April: at 8:30 AM I had a long look at the immature female hawk perched about 40' up in our yard. I noted that her tail feathers were quite worn; the white tail band is nearly gone and the tip was so ragged that a spinetail came to mind. She had several large white spots on her back. She seemed more skittish than the male and was more easily flushed. She fled when I peered at her. Ominously, the following weekend was devoid of hawks.

12 April: at 8:30 AM, an immature flew through our back yard to a tree in at a neighboring house. It was a different female bird, the white spots on the back were smaller and fewer, and the tip of the tail was rounded and neater. At 8:45, another immature Cooper's Hawk flew into the yard and perched. It may have been the female with the ragged tail; it was not the neater female described above. The Cooper's Hawk had abandoned the nest, and were not seen again.

## DISCUSSION

There seems to be only one other published record, from California, of a pair of nesting immature Cooper's Hawk, but perhaps one pair in seven involves one immature, usually the female. Cooper's Hawk nests are not especially common anywhere in New York State (Andrle and Carroll, 1988), especially in the rather heavily populated southeastern part of the state. But now that it seems to be more common for Cooper's and their small cousin the Sharp-shinned to take advantage of the easy hunting around bird feeders in winter, suburban breeding may be on the rise. Such incidents should not be discouraged; predation is a natural part of nature and has helped produce the "wild" birds we admire.

Always scanning the trees and sky for birds anyway, I watch for Cooper's Hawks every day. I hope that serendipity will strike again and these beautiful raptors will nest once more around our house. If I get another chance, I'll be a more knowledgeable observer and learn even more about them.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the people who spent many hours observing the Cooper's Hawks during the nesting and fledgling stages: Saul and Dolores Frank, David Gardner, Ted Leviness, Drew Panko, Trudy Battaly, and especially Tracy Maxon, a 10 year old neighbor who shared my joy of observing these birds, and Claudia Leff, who spotted the first nest. Thanks to Dave Gardner for his excellent photographs, some of which grace these pages. Special thanks are reserved for Dean Amadon and Saul Frank, who read the manuscript of this article and offered constructive comments. This amateur especially appreciates the encouragement of Dean Amadon and Saul Frank to write my first bird article. I am deeply appreciative of the help that all of these dedicated birders and one *bona fide* ornithologist offered.

*140 Lincoln Avenue, Purchase, New York 10577*

## LITERATURE CITED

- Andrle, R. F., and Carroll, J. R., Eds. 1988 *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.  
Bull, J, 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday-Natural History Press, Garden City, NY.

## NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1993

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1993 winter Waterfowl Count from 16 through 24 Jan, with 17 Jan as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

### THE WEATHER

Temperatures in New York were above normal once again to start off 1993. January's average temperature was 5.2°F above normal and 2° warmer than January 1992. Most weather stations around the state reported positive departures of at least 3°, while some locations recorded monthly averages that approached 7° warmer than normal.

Precipitation this month was 18% above normal for the state. This was about an inch wetter than January 1992. Long Island was the only region to report a significant negative departure at 72% of normal. Northern portions of the state tallied the largest positive departures.

A low pressure system over southern Lake Michigan and another low off the mid Atlantic coast brought a mix of winter weather on 13 Jan. Up to 10 inches of snow fell in the north, including 9 inches at Ray Brook and 9.5 inches at Malone. Freezing rain and sleet mixed with snow in the Hudson Valley while rain dampened western New York. As the two lows consolidated off the east coast, a northwest flow of colder air overspread the region, changing the precipitation to all snow. When the storm finally cleared out of the eastern part of the state on 14 Jan, western New York, the mid-Hudson Valley and the southern Catskills received 3 to 6 inches of snow. Although snowfall in the Southern Tier amounted to only 1 to 3 inches, central, eastern and northern parts of the state were buried under 7 to 14 inches.

Cloudy skies, cold temperatures and scattered snow showers continued on 15 Jan. Snow squalls dumped 8 to 14 inches south and east of Buffalo while the rest of western and central New York received only about an inch. Highs were near 30°F throughout much of New York on 16 Jan. There was variable cloud cover, with light snow in northern areas in the morning. Freezing drizzle glazed roads in western parts of the state early on 17 Jan. Later in the day, the leading edge of colder air brought light snow to most of the state. Northwest winds behind the front set the scene for lake-effect snow squalls overnight. The squalls continued in western New York on 18 Jan, but there was plenty of sunshine in eastern parts of the state. High temperatures ranged from the low teens in northern New York to the mid 30's on Long Island.

Table I. Regional totals for 1993 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated		6								29	35
Common		4	13		9	1		1		331	359
Grebe, Pied-billed	9	2	14		1		2		8	50	86
Horned		18	34		6					469	527
Red-necked		3			1					2	6
Cormorant, Great									22	553	575
Double-crested	3	14	1		34	2			1	289	344
Swan, Tundra		69	14							3	86
Mute	1	3	1		1			125	381	1,657	2,169
Goose, Snow	1		5					1	2	314	323
Brant										26,377	26,377
Canada	4,288	891	17,335	729	4,154	8	1,187	4,595	12,041	35,924	81,152
Wood Duck	1	1	2	1	3	1				4	13
Green-winged Teal		2			16					309	327
American Black Duck	306	666	2,000	106	377	48	98	1,022	562	18,031	23,216
Mallard	6,092	6,676	5,975	504	4,239	356	1,358	617	1,850	12,410	40,077
Mallard X Black Duck		20	4		2		1			145	172
N. Pintail	4		1		6			8		199	218
N. Shoveler		1							11	257	269
Gadwall	42	59	58		4	4			21	1,378	1,566
Wigeon, Eurasian										7	7
American	6	2				5			1	1,555	1,569



SEPTEMBER 1993

Canvasback	3,621	28	641		7			600	3,021	3,168	11,086
Redhead	194	953	3,763		21					76	5,007
Ring-necked Duck	14	19	31		20		6		347	423	860
Tufted Duck										5	5
Scaup, Greater	6,731	12,636	59		333	5				38,231	57,995
Lesser species	82	90	158		8				126	530	994
Eider, Common	75	10,679	83							8,095	18,932
King										612	612
Harlequin Duck					1					6	6
Oldsquaw	1,655	257	6		8					11	12
Scoter, Black	3	1								2,554	4,480
Surf		1								183	187
White-winged species	37	21								3,905	3,906
Goldeneye, Common	3,080	6,443	477	5	1,812	4,472	1,747	160	85	10,542	10,600
Barrow's										2,125	2,206
Bufflehead	306	766	268		156	95	6	10	59	2,651	20,932
Merganser, Hooded	23	10	58	2	35			4	245	1	2
Common	2,509	209	1,744	154	1,190	1,717	1,133	252	3,835	7,917	9,583
Red-breasted	331	1,380	95		83	31	5			806	1,183
Ruddy Duck										436	13,179
American Coot	58	46	435		1				233	5,752	7,677
unidentified	469	5,000	205						57	2,512	2,745
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,941</b>	<b>46,977</b>	<b>33,480</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>12,528</b>	<b>6,825</b>	<b>5,544</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>191,196</b>	<b>358,295</b>

**Table II. Comparison of 1993 with 1992 for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1993.**

Species	1992	1993	% change from 1989
Mute Swan	2,293	2,169	-5.4
Brant	22,744	26,377	16.0
Canada Goose	138,010	81,152	-41.2
American Black Duck	27,078	23,216	-14.3
Mallard	60,527	40,077	-33.8
Gadwall	1,813	1,566	-13.6
American Wigeon	1,693	1,569	-7.3
Canvasback	11,152	11,086	-0.6
Redhead	7,481	5,007	-33.1
scaup (both species)	54,889	77,921	42.0
Oldsquaw	4,345	4,480	3.1
scoter (all species)	9,743	16,899	73.4
goldeneye (both species)	19,700	20,934	6.3
Bufflehead	9,077	9,583	5.6
Hooded Merganser	976	1,183	21.2
Common Merganser	9,340	13,179	41.1
Red-breasted Merganser	6,759	7,677	13.6
Ruddy Duck	2,962	2,745	-7.3
Total	390,582	346,820	-11.2

**Table III. Comparison of 1993 count with 1973-1992 average for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1993.**

Species	1993	Average	% change
Brant	26,377	13,494	95.5
Canada Goose	81,152	54,974	47.6
American Black Duck	23,216	20,069	15.7
Mallard	40,077	27,771	44.3
Canvasback	11,086	10,748	3.1
Redhead	5,007	6,633	-24.5
scaup (both species)	77,921	54,046	44.2
Oldsquaw	4,480	4,151	7.9
scoter (all species)	16,899	12,894	31.1
Common Goldeneye	20,934	11,633	80.0
Bufflehead	9,583	5,258	82.3
Common Merganser	13,179	12,595	4.6
Red-breasted Merganser	7,677	3,115	146.5
Total	337,589	237,381	42.2

Comparing 1993 to 1992 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species showed a 10-9 split in favor of decreases, although some different species changed as compared to 1992. When comparing 1993 count figures with the 1973-1992 twenty-year average (Table 3), there is a 12-1 split, strongly in favor of increases, as in 1992. The exception here, Redhead, is of concern. A one-third decrease in their numbers compared to 1992 was not helped by the fact that there was also a one-fourth decrease from the twenty-year average.

Because of changes in numbers of less abundant species, Tables 2, 4 and 5 have been altered as follows: scoter (all species) has been added to Tables 4 and 5; Hooded Merganser added and American Coot were dropped from Table 2.

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Aerial Count, 2-22 January 1993. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	201	1,433	1,634
Brant		24,937	24,937
Canada Goose	74,332	16,509	90,841
American Black Duck	9,247	18,395	27,642
Mallard	28,808	2,193	31,001
Canvasback	11,087	1,422	12,509
Redhead	2,400		2,400
scaup (both species)	18,303	27,089	45,392
Oldsquaw	2,043	111	2,154
scoter (all species)		4,805	4,805
goldeneye (both species)	3,233	550	3,783
merganser (all species)	22,121	3,206	25,327
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,775</b>	<b>100,650</b>	<b>272,425</b>

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
1992 and 1993 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1992  
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1993.**

Species	1992	1993	% change
Mute Swan	1,616	1,634	1.1
Brant	22,321	24,937	11.7
Canada Goose	84,342	90,841	7.7
American Black Duck	22,775	27,642	21.4
Mallard	25,520	31,001	21.5
Canvasback	9,775	12,509	28.0
Redhead	7,864	2,400	-69.5
scaup (both species)	30,728	45,392	47.7
Oldsquaw	5,226	2,154	-58.8
scoter (all species)	2,195	4,805	118.9
goldeneye (both species)	4,125	3,783	-8.3
merganser (all species)	20,127	25,327	25.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>236,614</b>	<b>272,425</b>	<b>15.1</b>

After a chilly start on 19 Jan, with lows from 10°F below to 10°F above zero, the mercury rebounded to the teens and 20's under mostly sunny skies. There were a few bands of snow squalls, mainly over Monroe, Wayne, Niagara and Orleans Counties. Temperatures warmed into the 30's and 40's as high pressure built across New York on 20 Jan. Mostly cloudy skies were found over the St. Lawrence Valley, Adirondacks, Mohawk Valley, northern Catskills and eastern Finger Lakes. Mild temperatures continued on 21 Jan. However, the sunshine gave way to cloud cover as a front approached the state. Rain began in western New York in the afternoon and moved into eastern parts of the state by evening. In the lower Hudson Valley and central New York, freezing rain fell where there were still pockets of cold air at the surface. Freezing rain, sleet, snow and rain moved into northern New York on 22 Jan.

It was mostly cloudy and mild on the 23 Jan, with highs in the mid 30's to the mid 40's. The mercury reached the mid 50's in the lower Hudson Valley on 24 Jan, while the rest of the state had highs mainly in the 40's. Southwesterly winds of 20 to 40 mph brought even warmer air to New York on 24 Jan. Albany reached 50°F and Poughkeepsie topped out at 55°F before the clouds rolled in ahead of a strong cold front. Rain ahead of the front changed to snow after the front passed.

## THE COUNT

The count grand total of 358,295 (Table 1) was down 9.5% from 1992 but 46.5% above the twenty-year (1973-1992) average of 244,607. Four of the five species showing downward trends last year have reversed themselves. The exception, Canvasback, continued its downward trend, although it is still slightly above its twenty-year average. However, eight species that had showed upward trends are, unfortunately, in a downward slide this year. They are Mute Swan, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead and Ruddy Duck. It was nice to record further increases for Brant, scaup, goldeneye and Bufflehead. Other increases noted were Tundra Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider and Hooded Merganser. This year Canada Goose experienced a 41.2% decline, a welcome word to those experiencing nuisance problems from the species.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were down 23.6% from 1992, including a decrease in Canada Goose of 12.9%, and Atlantic Brant showed a 45.5% decrease. The dabbling ducks showed an increase of only 0.5% from 1992, after the 23.8% decrease recorded last year. Many species were down, with the exceptions of American Black Duck (up 5.3%), Gadwall (up 10.8%), American Wigeon (up 0.8%), Shoveler (up 84.7%) and Northern Pintail (up 24.7%). Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 21.5% compared to 1992. A few bright spots here were 4.4%, 40.3%, 58.4% and 110.3% increases over 1992 for Redhead, scaup, Ring-necked Duck and scoter respectively. American Coot also showed a 58.0% increase from 1992, but still showed a 32.3% decrease from the most recent ten-year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up only 1.5% from 1992, but 2.7% below the 1983-1992 average.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1993 aerial survey was conducted from 2-22 Jan 1993. The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares the 1992 to 1993 aerial survey results. As in most years, the 1993 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not at all resemble the Federation's ground count total.

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. A special thanks also to the new coordinator for Region 1, Joseph A. DiDomenico, Jr. The Regional Compilers were:

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

The 1994 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 15 through 23 Jan, with Sunday, 16 Jan, the target date.

*652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159-0044*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Unusual behavior of immature Ring-billed Gull:** Living close to Lake Ontario and having probably the largest Ring-billed Gull colony (80,000+ pairs) in the United States nearby on Little Galoo Island provides many chances to observe these gulls on an almost daily basis. On three or four occasions over the years I have observed the following action by immature (first and second year) Ring-billed Gulls: the picking up, flying up and dropping of wood chips or dried-out Alewife carcasses in many repetitions. For lack of a better term or understanding of this action I have called this "playing" and at other times "practice," since these words best describe the reaction of the birds involved. For no apparent reason the gull will quickly pick up a small piece of water soaked wood and immediately fly up into the air about 20 to 25 feet above the water and drop the wood or dried fish, then dive down to pick it up again. This repetitive behavior at times may continue until the bird seems exhausted. Although this behavior involves only one bird at a time, other Ring-billed Gull adults and immatures are "triggered" to mob the performer and attempt to take his catch. Once they learn the object is not food they immediately stop and either leave the area or return to roost on the shore. The performer sometimes also stopped immediately and other times it continued this behavior for a good two to three minutes on its own. The bird involved in these antics seems almost overwhelmed by the action and acts as if possessed by the action itself, repeating it over and over. After one of these flights of "fancy" much preening and strutting may occur or the bird appears dazed and bewildered. The item being used by the gull usually is dropped before the gull settles back on the beach. Thus, the item can be recovered to determine what it is. In only one instance was the item considered edible and then it was an alewife carcass completely dried by the sun and curled into a semicircular shape. The pieces of wood involved are usually the remains of a larger piece of wood that has been eroded by sand and wave action over time and is just barely able to float or is slowly move along the bottom of the water. Wood objects usually are somewhat fish shaped.

These actions always have been observed in the late summer or early fall. This behavior always has involved a flock of gulls of mixed ages. None has been a single immature gull away from the flock. Is this a way for an immature gull to test its hunting skills against other more experienced gulls? Can it can trigger other gulls to mob it and the prey? Is this action or reaction a practice fishing or just for fun? Is it a way for an immature gull to learn how to attack prey and pick it up out of the

water or is it something else? I know we shouldn't think of wild animals in human terms but yet having seen River Otter play with food items and seen their "play slides" on a stream bank, it is hard not to believe that animals don't play or perhaps we should call it entertain themselves. I have seen an American Kestrel in migration dive at other much larger birds of prey also in migration. The intent was not to kill the larger bird for food and the bird was certainly not defending a territory.

A few other active observers in the area have told me when asked, that they too have seen this behavior and that they also wonder what its purpose could be. As far as I am aware there has been no discussion of this behavior in the literature to date.

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

**Wood Duck attempts to nest in a chimney?** On 25 Apr a neighbor called to report that she had a duck in her family room. I found that a bit hard to believe and thought that I may have misunderstood her. "Could you repeat that?" I asked. She said, "a duck, D U C K, duck!" I told her I would be right over. I brought along a fish landing net. On entering her family room, I saw a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) perched on her couch. I quickly netted the bird and released it unharmed. I looked at the fireplace and saw that the drape type screen was only one inch from being completely closed. I did not think that the bird came down the chimney, so we checked all the windows in the house. All were closed and unbroken. I went back to the fireplace and opened the very flexible screen. Inside I found duck feathers indicating that the duck did come down the chimney. The draft on the chimney was open. The fire place chimney was built of large stones and was very rustic. It is my assumption that the female Wood Duck was examining this chimney as a possible nesting site and became trapped. The woman's house is located in the Town of Pompey, Onondaga County. About a quarter mile away is a valley flooded by numerous beaver dams. Summer Wood Duck are not uncommon in this valley. Nesting sites are scarce, however. Last year a Wood Duck nested in a roadside maple over a quarter mile from the beaver ponds. I checked Bent's Life History to see if there were any records of chimney nesting Wood Duck. He listed none but he had two records of Wood Duck nesting in barns. There was also a record of a Wood Duck nesting in a broken off tree top. The nest was six feet down. Bent also listed a Wood Duck nest in a rock fissure.

*Ferdinand LaFrance, 2731 Estey Road, Manlius, New York 13104*

**American Bittern with young in Essex County:** Late in the afternoon of 4 July 1993, while driving on Northwoods Club Road near its Route 28N end in the Town of Minerva, we noticed an adult American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). It was located within 50 yards of the road in a grassy part of a large marsh. The marsh is large, but sprawling, so that much of it is close to the upland edge. Several occupied dwellings exist along the edges. There were grassy areas, open water, and thick cattails in the part of the marsh where the bitterns were observed. The grass was short enough that the bittern was quite visible, especially when it stretched out its neck. We then noticed 3 young bitterns in the grass at various distances from the adult. The young were the same size as the adult, but still had some down on their heads. Next we noticed that the adult was feeding one of the young. The feeding was accomplished by the adult inserting its bill into that of the young. No food had been visible in the bill of the adult prior to this feeding. After a few minutes the adult flew off. The young remained behind, periodically assuming the stretched-neck pose typically associated with bitterns. It didn't work well as camouflage, however, since they were not among reeds or cattails. We later noticed another adult about 30 yards from the young, hunting for food. Had the adult circled around and landed without our noticing or was this its mate?

*Barbara Butler, RD2 Box 161, Verbank, New York 12585, and Helen Manson, 2317 Route 82, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569*

### EDITORIAL NOTE — AOU NAME CHANGES

The American Ornithologists Union Committee on Nomenclature and Classification in its 39th Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list (*Auk* 110:*in press*; 1993) has adopted taxonomic changes that affect three birds on the New York State list. As a result of splits, also involving a species not on the New York State list, the English (and scientific) names of Green-backed Heron revert to Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), of Black-shouldered Kite revert to White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and Lesser Golden-Plover reverts American Golden-Plover. These newly adopted names will be used in *The Kingbird* beginning with volume 44, 1994 (fall migration period). The Seventh Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list is anticipated late in 1994, and additional changes to the names of New York's birds may be expected at that time.

*The Editor*



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The summer of 1993 lacked a single outstanding theme or event. There were a few late spring migrants and some exciting summer finds. It was thought to be a very good summer for breeding birds. The start of fall migration was a bit early and more lively than that of recent years. Much of the state saw a cool early June, with some concomitant Eastern Bluebird nesting losses, particularly in Regions 4, 5, and 8. The rest of the season was warm to hot and dry over all of the State. "Driest in (variably long periods)" appears in several Regional reports and drought is mentioned in Regions 4, 6, 8, and 9. Region 7 seems to have enjoyed the most pleasant summer, while Region 10 reported the largest contrast among intraregional sites, a nearly two inch rainfall difference between The City and eastern Long Island.

After reviewing the reports of late spring migrants, it seems that some observers already have lost a bit of historical perspective. Not very long ago, some migrant flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and many shorebirds were expected during at least the first third of June. Some of this year's interesting late spring records included late Brant in Regions 2, 6, and 9; Oldsquaw in Region 2; White-winged Scoter in Regions 2, 6, and 7; Common Goldeneye in Region 3; a first county record for Willet and a first regional record for Hudsonian Godwit in Region 7; Laughing and Iceland Gulls in Region 2; Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in several Regions; Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Regions 4 and 6; Northern Parula in Region 9; and Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers in several Regions.

There were many exciting summer visitors or stragglers. It is sometimes hard to separate these from late spring or early fall migrants, but here is a try. A rare Red-throated Loon tarried in Region 10, and Common Loon did the same in several Regions (in addition to the normal breeding populations), and Horned Grebe appeared in Region 3. Pelagic trips in Region 10 produced some great birds and excellent counts through the season, with the best skuas in each month - **Great Skua** in June, an unidentified skua in July, and **South Polar Skua** in August; a record high count for Greater Shearwater; and a record high for Manx Shearwater. A Great Cormorant in Region 9 was a first summer record, while Northern Gannet and **Brown Pelican** in Region 10 are now regular, but still relatively rare. Wandering herons were noted across the state, with very good counts for Great Egret. Less widespread were Snowy Egret in Regions 1, 4, and 8; Cattle Egret only in Region 7; Little Blue Heron in Regions 2 and 9; Tricolored Heron and Yellow-crowned

Night-Heron in Region 9; Glossy Ibis in Regions 1 and 9; **White-faced Ibis** in Region 10; and a very rare "Cory's" Least Bittern well described in Region 10. Snow Goose straggled in Regions 2, 3, 6, and 9; Northern Pintail in Regions 2, 5, 7, and 9; American Wigeon in Regions 1 and 9; Redhead in Regions 6 and 7; Greater and Lesser Scaup in Region 9, with the former also in Region 4; and Red-breasted Merganser in the Regions bordering Lake Ontario. Among the raptors, Black Vulture was noted in Region 9, where it seems inevitable that someone will prove it nests; a first Regional Mississippi Kite graced Region 3; Osprey and Bald Eagle reports were widespread, while an immature Golden Eagle was a surprise in Region 6; and a few Peregrine Falcon were noted away from known nesting sites. **King Rail** was noted in Regions 2 and 3. Northern Bobwhite was reported more widely than usual, but with no more information to support a hypothesis other than escape as their origin. **Sandhill Crane** lingered in Region 2 and was a surprise in Region 6, where one was found cavorting (consorting?) with *the* Common Crane which has been reported from various sites around the state for over a year. Unseasonal passerines were Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Region 6, the *lone* Loggerhead Shrike report from Region 7, Wilson's Warbler in Region 2; Summer Tanager in Region 9; Clay-colored Sparrow in Regions 5 and 7; Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Regions 2 and 6 (the latter a first Regional record), White-crowned Sparrow in Region 2, Red Crossbill in Regions 2, 3, and 4 (possibly breeding in the latter), Pine Siskin from six Regions; and many reports of Evening Grosbeak from Regions 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9, where nesting is also a possibility.

Summer is the nesting season, so it is fitting that a good number of interesting breeding records appear in the Regional reports. Starting with the positives, we find Common Loon had a good season; Double-crested Cormorant continues to explode inland (see especially Regions 5 and 6). Canada Goose nesting increases, Am. Black Duck nesting was up a bit in Regions 4 and 6, Northern Pintail nesting was confirmed for the first time in Region 2 and for the first time in 30 years in Region 5; Canvasback nested successfully again in Region 3; and Common Merganser breeding was noted in six Regions. Nesting of Red-breasted Merganser in Region 3, a first for the interior of the state, unfortunately was not accompanied by details to support species identification. Osprey nesting was noted in six Regions, with the first nest in 72 years on Staten Island; Bald Eagle nesting was attempted in five Regions; and a new Merlin nest was found in Region 7. Nesting of **Wilson's Phalarope** was confirmed in the State for the first time in Region 7. Breeding records continue to grow for Ring-billed Gull at inland sites in Regions 3, 5, and 6. Few breeding owl reports were typical, with Short-eared Owl as a probable nester in Region 3 the most notable. There were

a few breeding reports for Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers; Black-backed Woodpecker was noted in Regions 5, 6, and 7, and Three-toed Woodpecker in Regions 6 and 7. The passerine positives included Acadian Flycatcher nesting in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 9; Common Raven noted in seven Regions and probably present in at least two others but no longer considered noteworthy; Carolina Wren a first confirmed Regional nesting in Region 6; Sedge Wren in Regions 1, 2, and 5, and numerous in Region 6; Yellow-throated Vireo reports more widespread than usual; Red-eyed Vireo counts very high in Regions 2, 4, 5, and 6; Northern Parula nesting confirmed in Region 5's lowlands; a State record late egg date for Nashville Warbler in Region 7; Prairie Warbler reports up across the state; Yellow-throated Warbler again present in Region 1; high counts for Cerulean Warbler in Region 3; Prothonotary Warbler in Regions 1, 3, 4, and 5; Kentucky Warbler probable nesting in Region 9; Orchard Oriole up in Regions 1, 8, and 9; and House Finch noted down a bit in Region 8.

The litany of negatives for breeding birds is nearly as long as the positives. Some of these species deserve closer study, so we can more accurately assess their status. The negatives include American Black Duck nesting unreported in Region 2; Blue-winged Teal nesting down in every Region that reported it; Bald Eagle fledging success down in Regions 7, 8, and 9; few nesting reports for Northern Goshawk or Red-shouldered Hawk; American Kestrel numbers causing more concern; Gray Partridge records down in Region 6; Spotted and Upland Sandpiper nesting records down in most Regions; Black Tern colonies along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence suffered from early very high water levels; numbers of both cuckoo species were very low; breeding reports for all of the goatsuckers continued to decline in nearly all Regions; Eastern Wood-Pewee was way down in Regions 1 and 6, Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird flagged for watching in Region 6; Horned Lark was scarce in the three Regions it was noted; Purple Martin low in Regions 1, 4, 6, 9, and 10, and many other swallows species were of concern in one or more Regions, with post-breeding maxima reported this year unimpressive at best; Carolina Wren numbers decreased in Regions 4 and 8; Marsh Wren numbers were low in Regions 1, 4, and 7, Brown Thrasher in Regions 1, 4, and 6 but not mentioned elsewhere, and Mourning Warbler numbers of concern in several Regions; Chipping Sparrow way down as a breeder at the well monitored Jenny Lake area of Region 8, this following large decreases for Purple Finch and then Dark-eyed Junco in the same area in recent years; all grassland sparrows are still of concern, though colonies of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were noted in Regions 3 and 6; Bobolink was down in Regions 1 and 9, but had maxima over 100 in Regions 2, 4, 5, and 6; and Eastern Meadowlark was scarce in Regions 1,

5, and 9. Certainly the plus and minus sides present a mixed picture and lots of potential study projects for next summer.

The final major event of the season is the start of the fall migration, beginning with the earliest shorebird arrivals, Lesser Yellowlegs this year. Shorebird variety was good, numbers typically relatively low. Willet was reported in Regions 2, 7, 9, and 10; Whimbrel reports were more widespread than usual, from five Regions; Marbled Godwit appeared in Regions 1 and 2, as well as the usual Region 10; peeps were all reported, but peak counts were low; Stilt Sandpiper was noted in seven Regions; Buff-breasted Sandpiper was recorded in Regions 3, 8 and 10; dowitcher numbers were low, except for a good count for Short-billed in Region 10; and Red-necked Phalarope was reported in Regions 3, 9, and 10. Gull-billed Tern was noted in Region 9 and continues to nest in Region 10. Generally, the fall tern movement was only fair inland, although Forster's Tern was noted in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 9. There were some good counts for migrating Common Nighthawk in many Regions in late August. Among migrant passerines were Olive-sided Flycatcher in nine Regions; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher recorded in seven Regions, with a State record early arrival banded in Region 3; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 9; early signs of Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch irruptions in Regions 8 and 10; Tennessee Warbler setting a record early inland fall arrival date in Region 3; and several other warblers reported across the state at typical August dates but in better numbers than seen in the past few years.

Once again, the Regional reports contain a wealth of information in the introductory sections. This runs from the usual summaries of weather and its impact to summaries of banding and breeding bird route data and newly found good birding areas are discussed in Regions 7, 8, and 9. Interesting notes included Ruddy Turnstone egg predation in the Oneida Lake tern colony in the Region 5 report, and observation of mixed flock feeding frenzies involving diverse bird species and flying insects in the Region 10 report. See what else you can find of special interest to you!

This season, nearly all of the rarities already have been mentioned. All that remains is to present the BOTS Award for the Summer. This time I split the award into two parts. The one for the breeding BOTS goes to the first confirmed nesting of Wilson's Phalarope in Region 7. The second, for the rarity BOTS, goes to the first documented occurrence of Rufous Hummingbird in the state in Region 9.

*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

**Standard abbreviations:** Regional rarities appear in **boldface** in the introduction to each report and 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. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. - Northern; 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; W. - Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

### **REPORTING DEADLINES**

**Winter Season:** December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

**Spring Season:** March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

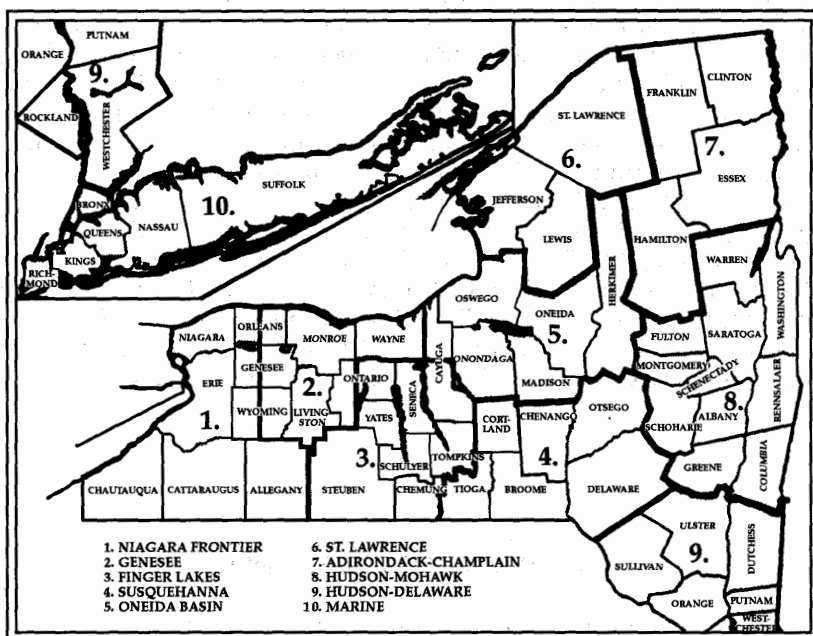
**Summer Season:** June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

**Fall Season:** September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

## REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except* at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

After an up-and-down June, July and August made this the hottest summer since 1987 and the ninth warmest in 120 years of record keeping. Temperature means with departures from historic averages provided by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo are: June 66°F (average), July 73°F (+2°), and August 72°F (+3°). Similar figures for precipitation are: June 5.0 inches (+1.5), July 1.8 inches (-1.3), and 3.9 inches (-0.3). Usually the cool southwest winds off Lake Erie moderate summer temperatures in Buffalo and keep the temperature under 80°F, except for about two weeks. This summer that was not the case: there were 51 days when the temperature reached 80°F and on five of those days it topped 90°F. Lake Erie surface temperature reached 77°F on 12 Jul (only the ninth year since 1926 it became so warm) and remained between 73°F and 75°F through all of August. There were only five August days with any wind out of the north and on those there were only light airs; thus, they provided no significant push to southbound migrants. Vivian Pitzrick reports some loss of Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nestlings at Amity Lake during cold days in early June.

An examination of the totals for the 18 Fish & Wildlife Service June Breeding Bird Counts provides some interesting information. In Region 1 these routes have been censused since 1967. In the species accounts that follow, BBS totals refers to totals from all the June Breeding Bird Survey, and the percentages compare with this year's total with the 27 year count average. The happiest result is the status of summering warblers here. This year's count was 34% above average and, as a check to see that this year is not just an aberration, the counts of the most recent three years are up 26% from that average. This does not signal that warblers are out of difficulty. The problem of their obvious migration deficits almost certainly derives from their far more extensive Canadian breeding grounds and their Central and South American wintering areas. Other groups that are up substantially, together with the percents given as above, are waterfowl, +91%; hawks and owls, +17%; gulls and terns, +366%; tanagers, cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings, +39%; and finches, +37%. Those with substantial deficits are marsh and game birds, -11%; shorebirds, -25%; sparrows, -15%; and blackbirds and orioles, -43%. A long list of individual species show

threatening deficits. Among them are Spotted and Upland Sandpipers, both cuckoos, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Canada Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, all of the grassland sparrows, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, and Eastern Meadowlark.

The influx of fall shorebird and passerine migrants appears to be on schedule and several days ahead of last year's late arrivals. Records of note include a Snowy Egret found on 21 Jun on a Town of Tonawanda golf course. This is the first Regional record for this species since June 1987. In August two rare western shorebirds turned up. On 20 Aug, three **American Avocet** appeared at the mouth of Bemus Creek in Chautauqua Lake. The only other 20th Century record is Benham's five birds in Buffalo 22 Aug, 1972 (*Kingbird*, 1973, 23: 138, photo.) Then a **Marbled Godwit** was observed in the Tiff Nature Preserve on 26 Aug. The only other recent record was a single individual on 2 May, 1990. Two Sedge Wrens found in Buckhorn Island SP on 24 Jun were seen there through 8 Aug. This species, formerly an uncommon summer resident, has been extirpated from the area for at least seven years and probably many more. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was again reported from Allegany State Park in June and early July.

This is my last Regional report. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Region 1 report. The new Region 1 Editor is Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Ext., Niagara Falls, New York 14304.

**Contributors:** Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Robert Andrlle, Paul Benham, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Billie Brown, Les Brown, Bill Burch, Dick Byron, Bruce Chilton, Lelia Cornelius, Willy D'Anna, Michael Davis, Michael Galas, James Gregory, Tom Harper, Paul Hess, Jane Heyer, Linda Holmes, Audrey Horbett, Doris Hurlburt, Walt Listman, Alice McKale, Terry Mosher, Cathy Mueller, Frank Nicoletti, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Olga Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, May Ruhl, Mary Saville, Art Schaffner, Ellen Schopp, Bert Schweigert, Debbie Suggs, Dave Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Michael Turisk, Dorothy Watson, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

**Abbreviations:** ASP - Allegany SP; FMCS - Four Mile Creek SP; GHSP - Golden Hills SP; INWR - Iroquois NWR; MI - Motor I Nature Reserve; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard WMA; PtB - Pt Breeze L Ontario; BISP - Buckhorn I SP; TWMA - Tonawanda WMA.



**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** several summer stragglers, one Amity L 14 Jun (VP); four T Dayton 20 Jun (RS), two NF 26, 30 Jul, 3, 14 Aug (WDA, WW). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 774 BISP 25 Aug (WW), down slightly from last year's 800. **Great Blue Heron:** max 68 OOWMA 20 Jul (LH). **Great Egret:** monthly max two INWR 20 Jun (WL), four 3-20 Jul (WW), six 22 Aug (DR, WW). **Snowy Egret:** *intro* (PB!). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 15 MI 29 Jun (WW). **Plegadis Ibis:** one T Machias 21 Aug (BS). **Green-winged Teal:** max 14 T Randolph 22 Aug (BS), three other reports. **Gadwall:** max 20 INWR 20 June (WL). **Am. Wigeon:** max 22 MI 29 Jun (WW). **Com. Merganser:** eight FL ASP 3 Jul (LH), nine other records through summer. **Red-breasted Merganser:** only record one Goat I NF 24 Jun (WW).

**Turkey Vulture:** max 27 PtB 14 Jun (WL). **Osprey:** at four nests Allegany Res 27 Jun (RS), 12 hacked OOWMA. **Bald Eagle:** evidence of Regional nesting five reports of single imm through summer. **N. Goshawk:** nest with three y T Ward 9-18 Jun (EB); nest with two y T West Almond 18 Jun (EB). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** five BBS total, best count since 1989. **AM. AVOCET:** *intro* (RS!). **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr TWMA 23 Jul (AS, WW). **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr five INWR 14 Jul (WW). **Spotted Sandpiper:** only one BBS total, tie for low with 1991 and down 84%. **Upland Sandpiper** max five BBS total, continuing low numbers and further threatened by loss of breeding areas in T Clarence. **MARbled GODWIT:** *intro* (WW!, mob). **Sanderling:** arr T Ellery 20 Aug (RS). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr four TWMA 23 Jul (AS, WW). **Least Sandpiper:** arr three Cattaraugus State Pd 5 Jul (BS). **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr T Ellery 16 Aug (RS). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr four TWMA 20 Jul (JH, AM). **Dunlin:** last T Ellery 1 Jun (RS). **Stilt Sandpiper:** arr TWMA 23 Jul (AS, WW). **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr seven NF 3 Jul (WW). **Ring-billed Gull:** max 6500± T Yates (WDA); continuing high 1253 BBS total, up 267%. **Caspian Tern:** max three T Ellery 9, 20 Aug (RS), five other summer records. **Forster's Tern:** arr Bird I Pier NR 31 Aug (WW). **Black Tern:** max 15 INWR 15 Jul (WW).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** seven BBS total. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** two BBS total. **Short-eared Owl:** one FL T Yates 18 Jul (WDA), unusual. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 65 T Amherst 25 Aug (PH). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** seven BBS total, equal to the total observed to 1980. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 13 BBS total, up 258%.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last T Ashford 12 Jun (WDA); arr Tiff Nature Preserve 30 Aug (MD, FR). **E. Wood-Pewee:** 32 BBS total, down 24%. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last T Tonawanda 7 Jun (BC); arr T Alfred 12

Aug (EB). **Horned Lark**: 16 BBS total, down 68%. **Purple Martin**: nine BBS total, lowest count and down 67%; 1000± migrating INWR 23 Aug (WW). **Bank Swallow**: max 800± T Dayton 18 Jul (BS); only 25 BBS total, down 65%. **Cliff Swallow**: max 30 T Kiantone 22 Aug (RS). **Com. Raven**: max two T Ward 21 Jun (EB), eight other reports. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: six BBS total. **Winter Wren**: four BBS total, 12 seen in last three years, 14 on all previous counts. **Sedge Wren**: *intro* (CR!). **Marsh Wren**: 12 BBS total, max two before 1989. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: only record two Amity L 2 Jun (VP). **E. Bluebird**: 22 BBS total, up 86%. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 1900 PtB 10 Jun (WL).

**Solitary Vireo**: 16 BBS total, count max and up 272%. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 28 BBS total, up 84%; arr two BISP 28 Aug (WW). **Golden-winged Warbler** and hybrids: absent from BBS since 1981. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type banded T Alfred 16 Aug (EB), three other reports; Lawrence's type ASP 23-27 Jun (RA! mob); Golden-winged Warbler backcross: one T Great Valley 1 Jun-6 Jul (BS). **Tennessee Warbler**: arr two BISP 28 Aug (WW). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: arr INWR 23 Aug (WW). **Magnolia Warbler**: arr two BISP 28 Aug (WW). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr GHSP 21 Aug (BC). **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr three FMCSF 28 Aug (WDA). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: max three ASP 3 Jul (LH), three Jun records. **Prairie Warbler**: four BBS total, count max; 15 other summer reports. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr BISP 28 Aug (WW) and two FMCSF 28 Aug (WDA). **Black-and-white Warbler**: arr one BISP 28 Aug (WW) and two FMCSF 28 Aug (WDA). **Prothonotary Warbler**: max two INWR 2 Jul (WW). **Ovenbird**: 63 BBS total, up 61%. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: last Buffalo waterfront 12 Aug (CM). **Wilson's Warbler**: arr GHSP 21 Aug (WDA, BP). **Canada Warbler**: arr GHSP 21 Aug (WDA, BP). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: only record one ASP 6 Jun (RS).

**Rufous-sided Towhee**: 30 BBS total, down 55%. **Field Sparrow**: 88 BBS total, down 37%. **Vesper Sparrow**: nine BBS total, down 72%, 118 counted in 1967. **Savannah Sparrow**: 236 BBS total, down 37%. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: eight BBS total, down 21%. **Henslow's Sparrow**: three T Clarence 14 Jun (MG) and 21 Jul (LH), absent from BBS total for only the third year. **Bobolink**: 286 BBS total, down 20% and count min. **Red-winged Blackbird**: 1254 BBS total, down 48% and count min. **E. Meadowlark**: 157 BBS total, down 49%. **Com. Grackle**: max 15000 INWR 20 Aug (D&DS); 771 BBS total, down 42%. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: 111 BBS total, down 35%. **Orchard Oriole**: max two at nest T

Somerset 6 Jun (WDA, BP), six other reports. **N. Oriole**: 86 BBS total, down 18%. **Purple Finch**: 39 BBS total, count max and up 124%. **Red Crossbill**: two BBS total, fourth record, unusual; additional undocumented sightings two T Ward 13 Jun (EB) and two T Almond (EB). **Pine Siskin**: max 16 T West Almond 23 Jun (EB).

*295 Robinhill Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221-1639*

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer was warmer and dryer than usual. June started the season in moderation, with an average temperature only 0.4° above normal at 65.5°F. July got things going with an average more than 2° above normal at 72.4°F. August finished the season with an average reading of 71.4°F, which was 3.4° above normal. Dry conditions accompanied the increased temperatures. June's precipitation of 2.76 inches was only a quarter inch below normal. July's rainfall was over an inch below normal at 1.67 inches, and August had the same total as July but was 1.73 inches below normal.

Most observers characterized the nesting season as good to very good. Weather conditions played a key role this year. With the exception of a few hot days, conditions were highly conducive to raising young. In many cases, birds fledged multiple broods. Food was also plentiful, with enough precipitation to promote insect hatches and sufficient moisture for growing fruits and berries.

In addition, this reporting period includes the end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall movements. Late spring migrants seemed fewer than in recent years, but early fall migrants represented what some birders felt was an increase from the not too distant past. Spring departures and first fall arrivals are reported in the species accounts.

The usual few summering loons were reported from Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Few nesting Pied-billed Grebe were found, almost none by Lake Ontario. There were more reports of American Bittern this year, possibly indicating a minor increase. Green-backed Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron seemed down this season. A Little Blue Heron was the only wandering heron reported for the season.

Mute Swan continued its nesting expansion in the Region, with nesting attempts in at least three locations. Not all were successful. A few Canada Geese nested in the Region, a trend likely to continue. Ducks had a mixed season. A number of observers felt that Wood Duck had a good season, as did Mallard. Blue-winged Teal were few and far between. One observer felt that they were selecting more secluded areas and were therefore going unnoticed. No nesting American Black Duck were noted. Green-winged Teal and Gadwall both had successful nestings, but numbers were very small. Genesee Country Nature Center staff member, Milt Adams, reported successful nesting of Hooded Merganser again this year. A number of broods were reported. A real surprise was the nesting of Northern Pintail at Braddock Bay. Brett Ewald and Mike Davids reported the pair throughout the summer and observed young birds late in the season.

Once again there were numerous Turkey Vulture reports. More were noted along Lake Ontario throughout the season. Osprey and Bald Eagle reports were also up away from their expected summer locations. A few Northern Harrier were observed during the season, and the presence of some young birds late in the season hinted at a somewhat successful season. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk numbers seemed to be good, but Northern Goshawk was not recorded as a nester this year. One Red-shouldered Hawk family was reported from Rattlesnake Hill in the southern part of the Region. An American Kestrel nest, monitored by Milt Adams of Genesee Country Nature Center, was destroyed in an early wind storm and consequently abandoned. Three weeks later Milt checked the nest and the adults were on the nest again. The young fledged in late July, which is late for the Region.

Of interest this season were a number of Northern Bobwhite reports, but all are assumed to be products of local game farms or individual releases.

There was a surprising increase in Common Moorhen reports. A number of locations showed higher numbers than in recent Years. The **King Rail** that was found this spring was heard again in early June but not after that. There wasn't much data on locally breeding shorebirds. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper seemed about average for recent years. There were fewer Upland Sandpiper along the Lake Ontario, but good numbers were concentrated at one area in Batavia. Common Snipe continued their poor showing and American Woodcock seemed to be only fair in numbers. The Black Tern colonies in the Region at best held their own. Sharon Skelly once again carried out the research on the Salmon Creek Colony. Her comments indicated that the colony had a

successful season. Eighteen nests were located and others were suspected but not actually seen. The success rate of egg to fledgling was very good, approaching 33%. The Buck Pond colony continued to be reduced and only held a few pairs.

There was not much data on cuckoos, but the general impression was that they were scarce. The same goes for Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk. The former seems to have disappeared as a local breeder and the latter shows very small numbers. Downtown Rochester seems to be the only summer location for the latter.

It seemed like a pretty typical season for most flycatchers. Acadian Flycatcher either is being identified more readily or it is continuing to expand in the Region. Least Flycatcher numbers seemed down a bit along Lake Ontario. Swallow numbers generally were good with only a slight decline in Cliff Swallow due to the destruction of the building at the West Spit of Braddock Bay and the absence of nesting at Hilton High School. Blue Jay was noted in increased numbers this summer, and the Common Raven report from Rattlesnake Hill was good but not totally unexpected. Of interest were the number of breeding Winter Wren, for which Cobbs Hill and Powder Mill Park provided very unusual nesting locations. Sedge Wren was missed once again. The nesting thrushes, Wood Thrush and Veery, continued to be of concern. Wood Thrush was regular, but numbers are still a far cry from recent historical data. Veery was noticeably absent from traditional locations. No Loggerhead Shrike was found this season.

Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos seemed about average. Warbler reports were generally fair for the season. Blue-winged Warbler numbers were strong but Golden-winged Warbler continued its downward trend. The only nesting records of Prairie Warbler were at Letchworth State Park. Observers hinted that Mourning Warbler numbers may have been lower than usual. Hooded Warbler numbers continued to be good. A Wilson's Warbler in mid July was a real surprise, but likely was a nonbreeding male. Scarlet Tanager was noted as scarce by a number of observers. Along Lake Ontario, Indigo Bunting numbers apparently were down, but numbers south of the lake seemed about average. Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrow numbers were low once again. A surprise was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station by Robert McKinney on 1 Jun. It was the fifth spring record, all of them falling between 28 May and 2 Jun. Also of interest was a mid summer White-crowned Sparrow. Brewer's Blackbird

and Orchard Oriole were unreported during the summer months. It wasn't much of a finch season. Purple Finch was scarce, but Pine Siskin on one of the Breeding Bird Surveys was unexpected. Late season Evening Grosbeak reports were a hint of possible things to come.

**Contributors:** Doug Bassett, Sue Boettger, Elizabeth Brooks, Betty Bucyk, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Rich DeCoster, Brett Ewald, Carol Ann & Gary Klue, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshaus, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Karen Huey, Allan Klonick, John Lehr, Gerhard Leubner, Joseph Lipinski, Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Terry & Rabbie Mason, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Richard O'Hara, Elinor & George Osborn, Bill & Betty Powell, Peg Rathbun, Martha Reinhardt, J. Scheible, Mike Scozzari, Pat Seager, Jeanne Skelly, Robert, Susan & Cathy Spahn, Paul Spindler, William Symonds, Ann Watson, Paul Weld.

**Abbreviations:** BB - Braddock Bay; CH - Cobb's Hill; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; LSP - Letchworth State Park; NRd - Norway Road, Gaines; WL - west lakeshore (Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

**Summer reports:** **Little Blue Heron:** imm BB 28 Aug (BE, mob). **Brant:** last Hamlin 28 Jun (MD,WS). **Green-winged Teal:** two BB 1 Jun, nesting? **N. Pintail:** one BB 9-11 Jun, 29 Jul, 5, 11, 27 Aug, unusual nesting in Region. **Ring-necked Duck:** one Charlotte 2 Jun, only report. **Oldsquaw:** last Hamlin 9 Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** 11 Pt Breeze 12 Jun (PS), good Jun total. **Com. Merganser:** one BB 7 Jun, unusual.

**Osprey:** one BB 11 Jul; one DEP 24 Jul, one BB 29 Jul; unusual in Jul. **Bald Eagle:** imm Greece 10 Jul, imm BB 11 Jul, imm Hamlin 23 Jul, when uncommon at those locations. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one BB 10 Aug, unusual. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one BB 19 Aug, uncommon. **Red-tailed Hawk:** albino BB 3 Aug; max 670 BB 27 Aug, good total. **Wild Turkey:** one Pittsford 9 Aug, unusual location. **KING RAIL:** one Hamlin to 8 Jun ( KG, CD-G). **SANDHILL CRANE:** one BB 2 Jun (BE), holdover from good spring; one BB 9 Aug (BE, CC), same bird? **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Irondequoit 16 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** five WL 4 Jun, unusual date. **Semipalmated Plover:** last Hamlin 5 Jun, arr Charlotte 21 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** last Hamlin 4 Jun. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Greece 24 Jun. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BB 28 Jul. **Upland Sandpiper:** max 18 Batavia 17 Aug (PS). **Willet:** one Irondequoit 1 Aug (JC). **Whimbrel:** max two Irondequoit 16 Aug (KG). **Marbled Godwit:** one BB 27 Jul ( BE ), early. **Red Knot:** one Hamlin 5 Aug, only report.

**Sanderling:** arr six Charlotte 16 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 150 BB 1 Jun, good total, last ten Hamlin 2 Jun. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 38 Hamlin 28 Jun (WS), excellent total. **Baird's Sandpiper:** one Manitou 20 Jul, two Charlotte 9 Aug. **Dunlin:** last Hamlin 4 Jun. **Laughing Gull:** one Charlotte 1 Jun (RS), uncommon. **Little Gull:** two Manitou 2 Aug (RO'H), one Charlotte 9 Aug (KG), one Greece 12 Aug (KG). **Iceland Gull:** one Charlotte 1-2 Jun (BM), late. **Common Tern:** two Greece 29 Jul, late; two BB 31 Jul. **Forster's Tern:** one BB 15 Jun, only report. **Black Tern:** *intro.*

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one NRd 19 Jun, one Williamson 11 Aug, scarce. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** max eight Avon 27 Jun, only Regional stronghold for this species.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one CH 3 Jun, one Rochester 3 Jun, last Greece 5 Jun; arr DEP 14 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** one WL 12 Jul, interesting location. **Bank Swallow:** max 1600+ BB 29 Jul. **Com. Raven:** one Rattlesnake Hill WMA 12 Jun, one BB 20 Aug. **Winter Wren:** one Perinton 1 Jun-17 Jul, one Irondequoit 18-23 Jun, one 1000 Acre Swamp 26 Jun, one Power Mill P 26 Jun, 10 Jul; ad, four y CH 2, 6, 17, 30 Jun, 1 Jul, good year. **Swainson's Thrush:** last WL 7 Jun. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 4500+ BB 31 Aug, great total.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Manitou 22 Aug. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one Greece 30 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one NRd 11 Jul, scarce. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type LSP 6 Jun. **Tennessee Warbler:** last Rochester 1 Jun; arr BB 31 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr Greece 22 Aug. **Magnolia Warbler:** arr Greece 17 Aug. **Cape May Warbler:** arr BB 29 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Manitou 16 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr BB 17 Jul, early. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Manitou, Greece 21 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Greece 16 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** one BB 12 Aug, dispersal or early migrant. **Prairie Warbler:** two LSP 6-30 Jun, uncommon. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BB 26 Jul. **Blackpoll Warbler:** last LSP 11 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** max eight NRd 3 Jul. **N. Waterthrush:** one BB 23 Jul, odd location at that date. **Hooded Warbler:** max 31 LSP 6 Jun. **Wilson's Warbler:** one Victor 9 Jul (CD-G), unusual. **Canada Warbler:** one BB 12 Aug, early.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** *intro.* **White-crowned Sparrow:** one Manitou 13 Jul (RO'H), unusual date. **Bobolink:** max 125 BB 31 Aug, good total. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr five DEP 22 Aug, early. **Purple Finch:** two Webster 13 Jun, interesting location. **Evening Grosbeak:** one BB 19, 22, 26 Jul (RO'H, BE), unseasonal.

61 Grandview Ave, Rochester, New York 14612

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. R. SMITH AND C. K. MELIN

Summer began normally for the month of June, with typical temperatures and precipitation for the month. Then came July, with temperatures averaging nearly 4°F above normal for some parts of the Region and precipitation totals for the month one to two inches below average, making it the driest July since 1983, the ninth driest July on record, and the second warmest July since 1964. This was in marked contrast to July 1992, the wettest July in recorded history for the State. Above average temperatures and below normal precipitation continued through the month of August.

Noteworthy observations include 25 species of shorebirds including Whimbrel and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, **Mississippi Kite**, **King Rail**, and nesting Prothonotary Warbler.

**Contributors:** F. Bertram, N. Brinkley, J. Brubaker, D. Clements, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, K. David, Eaton Birding Society, A. Farnsworth, J. & S. Gregoire, K. Griffith, B. Guirey, K. McGowan, J. J. O'Malley, D. Russell, G. Wolford.

**Abbreviations:** ARd - Armitage Road, near junction with Route 89, SENE; CHWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; KHF - Kestrel Haven Farm banding station (John & Sue Gregoire); MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MPt - Myers Point, e shore of Cayuga L; PR - Poplar Ridge; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh, south end of Seneca L; StP - Stewart Park, south end of Cayuga L; WG - Watkins Glen.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** one Cayuga L 29 Jun. **Horned Grebe:** two Seneca L thru Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 22 MNWR 27 Jul, 100-150 MNWR late Aug. **Great Egret:** three MNWR 4 Jun, 11 MNWR 14 Jul, 15 MNWR 31 Jul, three MNWR 10 Aug, 17 MNWR 13 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one MNWR 1 Aug, three MNWR 15 Aug, two MNWR 30 Aug; probable nesting along Chemung R near Elmira. **Am. Bittern:** singles QCM 3 Jun, MNWR 12 Jun, 22 Jul, 24 Jul, 30 Aug. **Least Bittern:** one MNWR 12 Jun and 1 Aug. **Snow Goose:** three MNWR 28 Jun, one MNWR thru Aug (possibly injured); blue morph Route 31 SENE mucklands 29 Jun. **Green-winged Teal:** two MPt 21 Aug, 2 MNWR 30 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** two QCM Jun. **Canvasback:** successful nesting MNWR with 10-25 nestlings reported.



**Com. Goldeneye:** one Seneca L Jun. **Red-breasted Merganser:** nested, 4-15 y, Seneca L [details? - *The Editor*].

**Osprey:** nested MNWR, one MPt 6 Jun and 3 Aug. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** ad KHF 9 Jul, soaring with 17 Turkey Vulture (J&SG, NYSARC). **Bald Eagle:** nested MNWR. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one FLNF 10 Jun. **Wild Turkey:** numerous reports of ad with y. **KING RAIL:** one heard Holding Pt Pd Horseheads early Jun. **Virginia Rail:** one MNWR 1 and 20 Aug, nested Corning Pd area. **Com. Moorhen:** MNWR throughout period. **Black-bellied Plover:** three MNWR 7 Aug, one MNWR 13 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** six ARd 30 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** five ARd 14 Jul, two MPt 4 Aug, nine MNWR 13 Aug, two MPt 18 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** two ARd 20 Jul, six MNWR 13 Aug, one MPt 21 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** two ARd 27 Jun, four on 28 Jun, six on 4 Jul, four on 20 Jul, 70 on 26 Jul; 67 MNWR 13 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper:** two ARd 28 Jun, four ARd 20 Jul; one MPt 29 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper:** four ARd 28 Jun, ten ARd 4 Jul, five MNWR 7 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper:** two locations near Ithaca mid May through Jun; nested Horseheads; singles Enfield 5 Jun, Aurora 9 Jun, FLNF 11 Jul. **Whimbrel:** singles MPt 1 June (KD, mob), MNWR 30 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone:** one MPt 3 Aug. **Sanderling:** two MPt 20 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 25-30 MPt 1 Jun, 37 MNWR 13 Aug, 60 ARd 17 Aug. **W. Sandpiper:** one ARd 28 Jun, two ARd 14 Jul. **Least Sandpiper:** six ARd 4 Jul, 20 on 10 Jul, 34 on 14 Jul, 25 on 20 Jul; 23 MNWR 7 Aug; eight MPt 18 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** singles MPt 2 Jun, ARd 10 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper:** singles ARd 19 Jul, PR 18 Aug; two MNWR 30 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 43 ARd 26 Jul, four MNWR 7 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper:** four ARd 26 Jul, one MNWR 24 Jul and 13 Aug, 10 MNWR 27 Aug. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** three ARd 28 Jul. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** three ARd 10 Jul, one on 11 Jul, four on 26 Jul; singles MPt 2 Aug, MNWR 7 Aug. **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one MNWR 10 Aug. **Com. Snipe:** three ARd 10 Jun, 12 ARd 4 Jul, four MNWR 13 Aug. **Am. Woodcock:** one CHWMA 11 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope:** six MNWR 27 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope:** singles ARd 27 Jul, MNWR 27 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull:** one MNWR 27 Jul, five MPt 31 Jul. **Ring-billed Gull:** attempted nesting near Horseheads failed, successful nesting WG. **Herring Gull:** attempted nesting WG. **Caspian Tern:** two MPt 30 Jun, one MNWR 27 Jul, three WG 29 Jul, 20 MPt 10 Aug, 17 MNWR 13 Aug, six WG 18 Aug. **Com. Tern:** singles MPt 28 Jun, MNWR 23, 27 and 30 Jul. **Forster's Tern:** n end Seneca L early June. **Black Tern:** one MNWR 23 Jul.

**Short-eared Owl:** probable nesting SENE 24–22 Jun. **Com. Nighthawk:** 30 Elmira 12 Aug, 15–20 Geneva 23 Aug, 75 Elmira 23 Aug, 20 Elmira 25 Aug, 50 Elmira 26 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** nested CHWMA 5 Jul. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one PR 2 June, nested near Naples.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one banded KHF 17 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one banded KHF 26 Jul, very early. **Acadian Flycatcher:** nested KHF; singles Cayuta L outlet 3 Jul, CHWMA 5 Jul. **Tree Swallow:** 2400 ARd 21 Jul. **Bank Swallow:** 40 active nests along Chemung R between Elmira and Wellsburg. **Cliff Swallow:** nested Geneva; singles MNWR 10 Aug, PR 18 Aug. **Com. Raven:** one-three Elmira area through period.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** one FLNF 14 Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr FLNF 31 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one banded KHF 2 Aug. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr banded KHF 4 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** three singing males near Ithaca 20 Jun. **Prairie Warbler:** three near Montour Falls mid-Jun, singles KHF 6 Jul, FLNF 14 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr two Sampson SP 29 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Sampson SP 29 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** unusually high numbers along Clyde and Seneca R. **Prothonotary Warbler:** nested, three y fledged, ARd 27 Jun–3 Jul.

**Orchard Oriole:** male Sheldrake thru 27 June. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 10 FLNF 4 Jul. **Henslow's Sparrow:** two FLNF 26 Jun, nested YATE. **Red Crossbill:** one StP 2 Jul.

*449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068*

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Except for a very dry July, the summer's weather in Region 4 was noteworthy only because it was so normal. Lots of sunshine, especially on weekends, was a real crowd pleaser. Temperatures nearly 10° below normal and gusty winds prevailed the first week in June. However, the month's average reading of 63.5°F was only a degree below the norm, according to the National Weather Service at the Binghamton Regional Airport. June's rainfall totaled 3.99 inches, slightly higher than average. Early July was hot, but cooler weather the last two weeks kept the month's average temperature at a very normal 79°F. At Binghamton, July rainfall measured 2.3 inches, more than an inch below normal, but even that completely missed much of the Region. August temperatures averaged a high of 77.6°F, only a degree above normal. However, the median reading for the last week of the month was nearly 10° above normal. Rainfall for August was sporadic. At Binghamton Airport, it totaled 4.28 inches, an inch above normal. Most other areas had less, and DELA reported drought conditions. Vegetation was lush throughout the season. Insects and wild foods seemed plentiful. Both wild and cultivated fruits were late maturing but abundant. Exceptions, at least in OTSE, included Mountain Ash and Black Cherry, both favorites of waxwings thrushes and tanagers. Low water levels by mid July exposed good feeding areas for waders and shorebirds. Smaller marsh birds, even Swamp Sparrow, were scarce.

It was an average to good breeding season for many species. Hens of four duck species were seen with young. A pair each of the less common Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk was reported nesting. The American Kestrel nest box program at Homer and McGraw compared well with the previous five year records, according to Bill Toner, director. Pairs attempted nesting in six of the nine available nest boxes, but three attempts failed. However, 14 young fledged from the three remaining boxes, a very high survival rate. Bill also reported excellent success for his Tree Swallow boxes but disaster for Eastern Bluebird. Of 27 Tree Swallow nesting attempts, 22 succeeded and produced 106 fledglings. Only three bluebird pairs attempted nesting, compared to an average of 12 a year for the previous eight years. "This is cause for concern about the local bluebird population," he concluded. Reports of second nestings from other areas were more encouraging.

Most warbler species fared well. Eight Breeding Bird Surveys were run for the third consecutive year and tallied some very high June counts. In July, Jay Lehman checked woodland warblers in previously productive CHEN forests with good results. Hugh Kingery of Denver, who did his annual August birding survey in the Cherry Valley area on 24 Aug, reported "good variety, no drop in numbers in last six years." Cedar Waxwing was his concern. He found their scarcity "the most notable difference in bird life this summer." Most troubling, however, was the absence of any report for Vesper Sparrow for the first summer of record.

Small migration "waves" were reported at BROO and OTSE on 22 Aug, the first date that overnight temperatures had dipped into the 40s. Steve Rice noted that Red-eyed Vireo and American Redstart moved earlier this August.

Rarities this season included Snowy Egret, Greater Scaup, Short-billed Dowitcher, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. Other summer highlights were a big influx of Great Egret beginning 22 July and an impressive Common Nighthawk migration. Missed species included American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Common Moorhen, Sora, Marsh Wren, Worm-eating Warbler and Vesper Sparrow. The total of 152 species tied 1985 and 1989 for the second highest number since 1979.

**Abbreviations:** ChBr - Chenango Bridge; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch; MSF - Michigan State Forest; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PGMA - Pharsalia Game Management Area.

**Contributors :** Richard Andrus (Downsville BBS), Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos (Oxford BBS), Laura Carter, Mildred Clark, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Dolores Elliott, John Fritz, Elva Hawken (McDonough BBS), Sara Kinch, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch (Vestal bander), Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman (Corbettville BBS), Florence Linaberry, Mary Mahlum, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason (Oneonta BBS), Gordon & Evelyn Mead, Robert Miller (Milford BBS), Susan Moran, Robert Pantle (Whitney Point BBS and Lisle BBS), Marie Petuh, Steve Rice, Joseph Sedlacek, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Chris Vredenburg, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Weed Walkers (Broome Naturalists Club), Irene Wright.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** one Otsego L 1 Jun to 22 Jul, "occasionally nested years ago" (MM); one Goodyear L 10, 11 Aug (IW), only reports. **Double-crested Cormorant:** several seen from canoe on Susquehanna R between Afton & Bainbridge 18 Aug (SM). **Great Blue**

**Heron:** max 10 Brick Pd Owego 24 Aug. **Snowy Egret:** three ChBr 7 Aug; one still there 13 Aug (MDv), first summer report since 1986. **Green-backed Heron:** max five Brick Pd 18 Aug; good numbers through period. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two imm Brick Pd 24 Aug (MP), not found every year. **Mute Swan:** "sitting in a quiet backwater" Susquehanna R 18 Aug (SM canoe trip). **Canada Goose:** of 10 nesting pairs BROO, OTSE, TIOG, six pairs raised two to six y each. **Wood Duck:** several hens with y widespread; max 36 Brick Pd 24 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** two Coventry 21 Aug (JS); single Triangle 29 Aug; early arrivals?, first summer in more than 13 years. **Am. Black Duck:** hen with five y BROO 19 Jun; hen with y CORT 15 Jul; single BROO 29 Jul, good. **Greater Scaup:** female Oneonta Res 12 Jun to 22 Aug (MD), unseasonal. **Hooded Merganser:** BROO 6 Aug, only report, scarce. **Com. Merganser:** hen with 12 y Susquehanna R Oneonta 12, 18, 30 June; one BROO 18 Jul; pair Otsego L 29 Aug.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 15 OPM 2 Aug; one to three widespread through period. **Osprey:** arr CHEN 18 Aug. **Bald Eagle:** arr ChBr. 9 Aug (T&NT); two Aug FMHW. **N. Harrier:** ad with imm CHEN 17 Aug (SM); eight singles mostly BROO Jun, Jul. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** banded Vestal 12 Aug (HM); four singles/month widespread Jun, Jul. **Cooper's Hawk:** singles FHNC 2,3 Jun; Binghamton 17 Jul through period (SR). **N. Goshawk:** nest with y Nanticoke BROO after 13 Jun (T&NT); one n OTSE 30 Aug (HK), sometimes missed. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** singles Petronia L 14 Jun (HM, BB, GK, FL); Jam Pd 19 Jun (JL); Long Pd 27 Jul (HM, mob), only CHEN sites for several years. **Broad-winged Hawk:** "nesting West Hill behind my house" Norwich (JL); two ad OPM 4 Jun. **Am. Kestrel:** *intro.* **Ring-necked Pheasant:** max three BROO 12 Jun (JS); three singles June. **Ruffed Grouse:** ad with five y BROO 3 Jun; six OTSE 5 Aug, scarce. **Wild Turkey:** two hens 18 y BROO Jun ( JS ); many flocks widespread Aug. **N. Bobwhite:** three reports T Maine BROO June; "one ran across road in front of us" 7 Jul (WW). **Virginia Rail:** imm Portlandville OTSE 8 Aug, only report. **Killdeer:** max 15 OPM 28 Aug, scarce. **Greater Yellowlegs:** TIOG 25 Aug (C&JB), only report. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr OPM 22 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** six Jun, four Jul, 12 Aug reports, max four, good count. **Upland Sandpiper:** pair Edwards Hill Road BROO 11 and 19 Jun, where present last six years. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** eight BROO 20 Aug (HM, BB, GK, FL), first since 1987. **Am. Woodcock:** three reports Jun, Aug. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 60 Otsego L 24 Aug.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** singles CORT 28, 29 Jun, TIOG, scarce. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** two Oneonta BBS; one OPM 13 July, scarce. **E. Screech-Owl:** calling CORT after 8 Aug; two n OTSE 29 Aug (HK), good count. **Great Horned Owl:** singles CHEN 21 Jul, OTSE 8 Aug, TIOG, scarce. **Barred**

**Owl:** singles CHEN 16 Jun; BROO 19 and 26 Jun; TIOG Aug; "perfect specimen" found dead Finger Lakes Trail DELA 10 Aug (SM). **Com. Nighthawk:** max 300 Owego to Binghamton 23 Aug; "groups 10 to 15 birds hawking insects along the Susquehanna R & Apalachin Swamp (RP); 162 Apalachin to Endwell 26 Aug (MP, DE); "none the next night", excellent counts. **Chimney Swift:** max and last 25 Broo 26 Aug. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** only report TIOG (G&EM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max three OTSE 16 Jul, fewer overall. **Pileated Woodpecker:** nine widespread Jun, six Aug, good count.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** two Owego sites 13 Aug (C&JB), uncommon. **E. Wood-Pewee:** 15 on six BBS; post breeding max eight OTSE 24 Aug (HK). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one banded Vestal 27 Aug (GK), first fall migrant in three years. **Alder Flycatcher:** 13 on three BBS. **Willow Flycatcher:** 16 on five BBS; last OTSE 24 Aug. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** 33 on seven BBS. **E. Kingbird:** low numbers Aug; poor breeding season? **Horned Lark:** BROO 7 and 19 Jun, 13 Aug, max two, continue scarce. **Purple Martin:** TIOG June; BROO 6 Aug, scarce. **Tree Swallow:** *intro*. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** five BROO reports, three CHEN, one TIOG, last 24 Aug, scarce. **Bank Swallow:** max 40 TIOG. **Cliff Swallow:** max 22 Downsville BBS, scarce. **Barn Swallow:** fewer, "not many around our barns the last couple of years" (MC). **Fish Crow:** BROO 7 Jun (HM), uncommon. **Tufted Titmouse:** numbers reduced. **Carolina Wren:** numbers reduced. **Winter Wren:** four June reports, max three, three others, scarce. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max five two CHEN sites Jul. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one McDonough 19 Jun (JL), "late migrant". **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** singles CORT 3 Aug and BROO 11 Aug, only reports. **E. Bluebird:** *intro*. **Veery:** 83 on eight BBS, scarce in Aug. **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** three Long Pd CHEN 5 Jul (JL), first non-Catskill Mt report in summer and first since 1984. **Swainson's Thrush:** six each PGMA and nearby MSF 11 Jul; one Pheasant Farm Road 5 Jul (JL). **Wood Thrush:** 90 on eight BBS; six banded Vestal Aug, good count. **Brown Thrasher:** eight on six BBS, scarce. **Cedar Waxwing:** *intro*.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** four on three BBS, last at two sites 13 Aug, scarce. **Warbling Vireo:** max 12 three BROO sites 11 Jun (MP), scarce Jul and Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one banded Vestal 29 Aug, often missed. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 79 Downsville BBS, very high. **Blue-winged Warbler:** 20 Jun reports, max four Oxford BBS; two July eight Aug sites max two, excellent. **Golden-winged Warbler:** singles BROO 7 Jun and 17 Jul; imm banded Vestal 1-3 Aug, good count. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type BROO 7 Jun (MP, SK). **Tennessee Warbler:** one BROO 20, 22 Aug

(MP), only report. **Nashville Warbler**: singles Binghamton 7 Jun and McDonough BBS 15 Jun; two Jam Pd CHEN 19 Jun; one CHEN Jul; one banded Vestal 31 Aug, good count. **Yellow Warbler**: 208 on eight BBS, very high. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 82 on eight BBS, excellent. **Magnolia Warbler**: max 21 PGMA & MSF 11 Jul. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max five CHEN 15 Jul and 25 Aug (EH), good post breeding count. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 15 on seven BBS; post breeding max 13 PGMA & MSF 11 Jul, good count. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 19 on seven BBS; six sites 22-26 Aug, max four, scarce. **Blackburnian Warbler**: five on two BBS; max eight PGMA & MSF 11 Jul, good. **Prairie Warbler**: max 12 BORNT Hill Binghamton 7 Jun (MP, SK); nine widespread singles Jun comparable to Atlas period records. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 11 Downsview BBS; at up to six other sites a month, max five, good count. **Am. Redstart**: 36 on seven BBS; 10 Aug reports, max five, good. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one Whitney Pt BBS 11 June; a spring record 1985 but none in summer in at least 14 years. **Ovenbird**: 146 on eight BBS; 12 Aug banding reports max four, high count. **N. Waterthrush**: five on three BBS, 10 other widespread reports Jun, good. **Mourning Warbler**: max four McDonough BBS. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 257 on eight BBS, very high. **Hooded Warbler**: one Corbettsville BBS; male Crumhorn Mt OTSE 22 Aug, often missed. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr OPM 30 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: eight reports Jun/Aug, max three, fewer.

**Scarlet Tanager**: 47 on seven BBS, high count. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 32 on seven BBS and 10 OTSE 24 Aug (HK); otherwise poor numbers through period. **Indigo Bunting**: 70 on eight BBS; last banded 5 Aug, early departure. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: 20 on six BBS; eight Aug reports, max four, highest count in four years. **Savannah Sparrow**: several four BROO sites Aug (JS), generally scarce. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: only one Tarbull Farms CHEN 15 Jul (EH). **Henslow's Sparrow**: nine Tarbull Farms 5 Jul (JL); three CHEN 15 Jul (EH); special checks by observers of previously known sites. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 10 McDonough BBS. **Bobolink**: 110 on eight BBS; 40 flocking OTSE 15 Aug. **N. Oriole**: 71 on eight BBS; 15 Aug reports max three, good count. **Red Crossbill**: five CHEN 15 Jun (EH); breeding was suspected in spring. **Evening Grosbeak**: pair Springfield Center OTSE 5 July (LC); pair Owego 7 July "their beaks a lovely green, very noticeable red legs and feet" (C&JB), first summer reports since 1989.

*7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820*

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DOROTHY W. CRUMB AND JIM THROCKMORTON

TV weatherman Dave Eichorn provided statistics on what can only be described as normal summer weather. The average temperature for the three months was 69.2°F. There were 9 days with temperature over 90°F. The 12.4 inches of rain was 1.03 inches above normal. Water levels were still high from the spring floods which may have influenced nesting. In contrast, July and August were the two driest months ever recorded for the Adirondacks section of the Region.

Several notable nesting reports were submitted. There were two reports of nesting success for Pied-billed Grebe. Three juvenile birds were found at a beaver pond in Baldwinsville on 16 Aug. One juvenile was seen in Clay Marsh ONON on 18 Aug. Four Northern Pintail remained at Clay Marsh through 19 Jun. Two adults with one downy young were seen on 19 Jun. This is the first confirmed nesting in the Region for at least 30 years. Acadian Flycatcher remained at Whiskey Hollow ONON through July. On 18 Jul, Joe Brin observed the pair with at least three young. This is the first confirmed Regional nesting since 1985. A Northern Parula seen feeding young on 27 Jun by Marge Rusk in Whiskey Hollow ONON is the first confirmed nesting of this species in the Region away from the Adirondacks in at least 25 years; Northern Parula is seen in good numbers in the Adirondacks, where it still breeds.

Virginia Gilbert observed a pair of Carolina Wren nesting at Fayetteville in one of the hanging geraniums just outside her kitchen window. They first built a nest in one plant and then moved to an adjoining one. The nest was started on 27 Jun. There were 3 eggs on 5 Jul and the young fledged on 3 Aug. The Carolina Wren seems to have survived the March blizzard well, with many reports this season. Eastern Bluebird may not have survived the storm as well. Many were seen in late February. John Rogers' bluebird trail north of Oneida Lake fledged only 335 young. This compares with 412 last year and over 500 the year before. The combination of last year's low numbers and a violent snowstorm undoubtedly contributed to this low production.

Milo Richmond reported on colonially nesting water birds on Oneida Lake. At peak nesting there were 348 Common Tern nests; 415 Ring-billed Gull nests; 50 Herring Gull and 60 Double-crested Cormorant. Little Island has been managed for the past 8 years for the exclusive



nesting of 400 pair of Common Tern. With the use of a grid work of monofilament fishing line, other species have been encouraged to nest elsewhere. The first 196 Common Tern nests this year were disrupted by a flock of Ruddy Turnstone that appeared on the island about 30 May. By 2 Jun, only 13 nests remained intact. By 16 Jun the remaining 13 had also been lost to turnstone predation. Most eggs had been punctured and eaten, but several were intact except for the tiny hole made by the turnstones. The terns renested and fledged approximately 275 young from 348 nests.

Both species of cuckoo were also scarce, and very low numbers again were reported for the grassland species, including Eastern Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow. For the second year in a row, there were no reports of Henslow's Sparrow.

Double-crested Cormorant were seen in record numbers: 980 were at Sandy Pond on 25 Jul, and 527 were observed on Oneida Lake on 27 Jun. There was a record total of 18 Great Egret seen in the Region including nine at the same time on Onondaga Lake in July and August, but there was still no record of attempted nesting. Bob McKinney found one Snow Goose at Delta Lake on 12 Aug for a first summer record. It remained through the period. Seven Bald Eagle were seen in widely scattered locations throughout the summer. This represents a continued increase in numbers for this species. Three Peregrine Falcon were seen. These are the first sightings of Peregrine Falcon in this Region during the summer outside of the Adirondacks. One was seen spiraling with a group of vultures over a stone quarry in Jamesville on 15 Aug. The 108 Caspian Tern seen by Bill Purcell on 14 Aug at Sandy Pond is an increase in numbers for this species. The 30 Black Tern seen on a gravel island at the inlet to Sandy Pond on 14 Aug represents the highest Regional count since 1984.

Common Nighthawk were seen migrating in record numbers. A total of 532 were counted between 19 and 31 Aug. On 24 Aug, Gene Huggins observed a peak count of 222 near Syracuse University. A migrating Prothonotary Warbler was seen in Erieville on 31 Aug by Elva Hawken. This is the second year one was found in Erieville. Last year one went through on 28 July. Another rarity, a Clay-colored Sparrow was located by John Hanyak on 19 June in the Town of Cicero ONON.

Observers reported 188 species and one hybrid during the summer compared to 196 (plus one hybrid) last year. The most unusual reports were the summer Snow Goose and Peregrine Falcon, Prothonotary Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and confirmed nesting for Northern Pintail, Acadian Flycatcher and Northern Parula.

**Contributors:** Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Dave Eichorn, Robert Evans, Don Feuss, Bill Gruenbaum, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koenke, Gary Lee, Robert Long, Bob McKinney, David Nash, Bill Purcell, Milo Richmond, Marge Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Gerry Smith, Maureen Staloff, Jim Throckmorton, Judy Thurber, Glenn Wolford, Ken Zoller.

**Abbreviations:** Adks - Adirondacks; NPT - northern Pompey Township ONON; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond OSWE; SVB - Sylvan-Verona Beach ONEI.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** three successful Adks nests, Gray L, Little Safford L, and Moss L; a new nest was reported at Gibbs L. **Pied-billed Grebe:** *intro.* **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.* **Am. Bittern:** only two pair 11 Jun Florence ONEI. **Least Bittern:** only two reports, two Dewitt Marsh 7-11 Jul, one Clay Marsh 2 June-21 Jul. **Great Egret:** *intro.* **Green-backed Heron:** max 17 Clay Marsh 13 Jul. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** only report two French Creek WMA, T of Clayton, 18 Aug. **Snow Goose:** *intro.* **Wood Duck:** max 85 Delta L 22 Aug, highest summer count since 1972. **Green-winged Teal:** max 20 Delta L 16 Aug. **N. Pintail:** *intro.* **Blue-winged Teal:** max 15 Delta L 18 Aug; eight reports. **Gadwall:** two Delta L. 18 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** arr OnonL 11 Jul, max 40 Delta L 16 Aug.

**Osprey:** eight reports, max two. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **N. Harrier:** eight reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** eight reports. **Cooper's Hawk:** five reports. **Merlin:** arr Delta L. 28 Aug. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro.* **Wild Turkey:** seven reports. **Virginia Rail:** four reports. **Sora:** three reports. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr SPd 8 Aug; max two Delta L 8 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr SPd 8 Aug; max 27 Delta L 22 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr and max six Delta L 27 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Delta L 27 Jul; max 15 SPd 22 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Lysander 10 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 20 Delta L 12 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone:** *intro.* **Red Knot:** arr SPd 21 Aug; two reports. **Sanderling:** arr and max 25 SPd 25 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr SPd 25 Jul; max 100 Delta L 18 Aug. **Least Sandpiper:** arr Lysander 10 Jul; max 57 Delta L 18 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr and max two Delta L 22 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr SPd 8 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr Delta L 12 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper:** arr and max two OnonL 7 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr Delta L 22 Aug; max five Delta L 28 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr SPd 25 Jul; max 376 SVB 28 Aug. **Caspian Tern:** *intro.* **Com. Tern:** max 62 SPd 29 Aug. **Forster's Tern:** max two SVB 22 Aug, only location. **Black Tern:** *intro.*

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** eight reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** only report NPT 6 Jun. **E. Screech-Owl:** three reports; three y food-begging NPT mid Jun. **Great Horned Owl:** four reports, one nest. **Barred Owl:** four reports; two Whiskey Hollow ONON 7 Jun, new site. **Com. Nighthawk:** *intro.* **Whip-poor-will:** only report four Constantia 6 Jun. **Chimney Swift:** max six; factory chimney torn down in Manlius greatly reduced numbers there. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 24 reports. **Belted Kingfisher:** max 15 N Victory 7 Jun. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** three reports; T Paris ONEI 24 Jul, T Van Buren ONON 25 Jul new locations. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** nine reports. two pair nested successfully 1300 ft elevation NPT. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** nest three y Big Moose-Stillwater Rd HERK 21 Jun; ad Moss L.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Oswego 6 Jun; arr SVB 29 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr SPd 21 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** *intro.* **Least Flycatcher:** max 13 Oriskany Falls 8 Jun. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max nine Alder Creek BBS 12 Jun. **E. Kingbird:** max 17 Cicero Center 12 Jul. **Tree Swallow:** max 150 Oneida L 27 Jun. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** only seven reports. **Bank Swallow:** max 150 W Winfield 30 Jun. **Cliff Swallow:** only six reports. **Gray Jay:** only report two Adks. **Com. Raven:** only two reports; closing the Old Forge Dump has reduced that concentration. **Boreal Chickadee:** two ad feeding two y Moose River Plains 21 Jun. **Tufted Titmouse:** nest, five y W Oswego 22 Aug. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 16 McKeever 13 Jun. **Brown Creeper:** only one report. **Carolina Wren:** *intro.* **House Wren:** max 22 Oriskany Falls 8 Jun. **Winter Wren:** seven reports. **Sedge Wren:** five Caughdenoy ONON mid Aug, only location. **Marsh Wren:** max 30 Clay Marsh 2 Jun. **E. Bluebird:** *intro.* **Veery:** max 24 McKeever 13 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush:** no reports. **Gray Catbird:** max 31 Clay Marsh 30 Jun. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 60 D H 4 Jun.

**Solitary Vireo:** max 18 McKeever 13 Jun. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 100 McKeever 13 Jun. **Golden-winged Warbler:** only three reports. **N. Parula:** *intro.* **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 15 McKeever 13 Jun and Tug Hill 11 Jul. **Blackpoll Warbler:** singing male Old Forge 21 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** singing males in six locations. **Prothonotary Warbler:** *intro.* **Mourning Warbler:** max 10 McKeever BBS 13 Jun.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 11 N Victory 5 Jun. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 39 McKeever 13 Jun. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** *intro.* **Song Sparrow:** max 80 Oriskany Falls 8 Jun. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 41 Clay Marsh 13 Jul. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 33 McKeever 13 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 100 Rome 2 Aug. **N. Oriole:** max 16 N Victory 5 Jun. **Pine Siskin:** two reports, one at feeder NPT 14 Jun-7 Jul, one Stillwater HERK 15 Jul.

3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York 13078

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

The summer season began much like the spring, cold and wet. Temperatures were in the 40's during the first few days of June and water levels on Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River were at record highs. However, after 10 Jun, conditions improved with sunny dry days predominating until the middle of August. Weekend birders were treated to nine straight weekends without precipitation. By the end of July, drought conditions were prevalent. The high water disrupted the Black Tern colonies at Wilson Bay Marsh and Lakeview WMA on Lake Ontario but no other breeding species were hampered. In fact, the drought caused water levels to drop to normal by mid August, resulting in a modest shorebird flight at El Dorado Beach for the first time in three years.

Positives for the season included significant increases in the colonies of Caspian Tern on Little Galloo Island and of Common Tern on the navigation buoys in the St. Lawrence River, improved numbers and breeding of Ruffed Grouse, the first Regional breeding report for **Carolina Wren**, an explosion of Sedge Wren in StLA. In addition there was an increasing number of reports of many species that are not always well represented in the summer report. These included American Black Duck, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Bobolink. Negatives included few Bald Eagle reports, continued decline in American Kestrel, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, low numbers of Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Brown Thrasher and Indigo Bunting. Seldom reported migrants included White-winged Scoter, Whimbrel and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Only two immature Bald Eagle were reported, which is quite low but an immature **Golden Eagle** seen by Lee Chamberlaine on 23 Jun in the Tug Hill in the Town of Montagne LEWI was unusual. Northern Harrier was well represented this year with over 20 reports in JEFF and StLA. American Kestrel was again sparse throughout the Region despite better coverage. A nest box program might be of help, as I have noticed that all the nesting sites around Morristown were in old barns which have fallen down.

The most unusual report for the season was the sighting of a Common Crane with a **Sandhill Crane**, first by Kathy Leconti-Lee in the Town of Lowville LEWI on July 2. The birds were seen by many others until 5 Aug at different locations both feeding and dancing. The Common Crane is a well known escape with a broken toe on its left foot but the relationship is unusual. We can only hope that the Sandhill Crane will find one of its own in future years, as Sandhill Crane is being seen more frequently in the Region.

Coverage of the Region was much better this year due to the efforts of Lee Chamberlaine, Marilyn Badger, Dave Prosser, Dean DiTommaso and Peter O'Shea. Lee's extensive coverage of the Henderson area and his many forays into the Tug Hill resulted in many interesting finds. His observations on flora and fauna are useful as well. Lee noted that White Pine on the Tug Hill are very heavy with cones, which may improve chances to see winter finches; *Microtus* populations are growing in Henderson and Three Mile Bay, good for hawks and owls, and a heavy loss of American Elm to Dutch Elm Disease may bode well for woodpeckers. Marilyn Badger patrols the Massena-Louisville area on foot, car and bike, logging large numbers of the more common species at their June peak, which is valuable data over time. Dave Prosser's many trips yielded Peregrine Falcon, Henslow's Sparrow, Sedge Wren and Prairie Warbler. Dean DiTommaso covered the grasslands in StLA, discovering over 30 Sedge Wren at eleven sites in the Towns of Morristown, Oswegatchie and Lisbon. Because of the cold May, hay fields were slow to grow and cutting was delayed. Some were not cut at all, providing good habitat for Sedge Wren as well as Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. In previous years there had never been more than three locations for Sedge Wren in this area. Dean's list also included Carolina Wren in Massena, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird in Colton. His most unexpected find, however, was a singing male **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. Peter O'Shea, our Adirondack observer, found both Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker and Ruby-crowned Kinglet this summer.

**Contributors:** Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Sheila & Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Paul DeBenedictis, Buzz Devan, Bruce DiLabio, Dean DiTommaso, Lee Harper, Bob Henrickson, Paul Kelly, Gretchen Krebs, Kathy LeConti-Lee, Debbie & Steve Litwhiler, Robert Long, Gene McGory, Peter O'Shea, David Prosser, Gerry Smith, Neal Stewart & Mary Wood

**Abbreviations:** EDS - El Dorado Shores Preserve, JEFF; FrL - Francis L, T Watson, LEWI; FCWMA - French Creek WMA, T Clayton, StLA; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area, T. Henderson, JEFF; HPt - Holmes Point, T Morristown, StLA; LWMA - Lakeview WMA, T Ellisberg, JEFF; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville, JEFF; TLou - T Louisville, StLA; MC - Mill Creek, T Hounsfeld, JEFF; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, Massena; OBBS - Ogdensburg Breeding Bird Survey, 27 Jun (RL); PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia Breeding Bird Survey, 25 Jun (RL); RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam, Massena; SB - Sawyer's Bay, T Henderson, JEFF; SLR - St Lawrence River; THSF - Tug Hill State Forest, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area, T Canton, StLA; WBBS - Wanakena Breeding Bird Survey, 24 Jun (RL); WdBBS - Waddington BBS, 23 Jun (KC); WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Louisville, StLA.

**Summer Reports:** **Com. Loon:** pairs widespread; nested Coles Creek Marina, Potsdam. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 18+ (many imm) PRWMA 4 Aug; one at Indian Creek Nature Center, near Canton through June. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 5000 pair, Little Galloo I, no change, also nested on Gull I in Henderson Harbor and at PRWMA. **Am. Bittern:** PRWMA and Massena only, max three PBBS and PRWMA 4 Aug. **Least Bittern:** single Route 37 TLou 23 Jun (MB) **Great Blue Heron:** nests down by 25 percent Grindstone I due to tree loss from Beavers, March storm and general deterioration (GS). **Green-backed Heron:** reported Massena, T Henderson, PRWMA, Potsdam, numbers down (LC); three pair breeding at HPt. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 30 nests on Gull I, Henderson Harbor; ad EDS 27 Jun; two FCWMA 18 Aug. **Mute Swan:** nine ad PRWMA 13 Jul, no breeding, adverse weather. **Brant:** two RMPD 5 Jun (BDL), late. **Canada Goose:** max 180 PRWMA 29 Aug, few goslings due to poor weather (LC). **Wood Duck:** nested PRWMA, FCWMA, HSUA, Massena and Adirondack ponds. **Green-winged Teal:** one PRWMA 15 Aug (BDv). **Am. Black Duck:** pairs FCWMA, PRWMA and in Beaver ponds T Clifton, T Fine and T Colton; pair with 12 eggs T Louisville 17 Jun (MB); more than usual. **Mallard:** modest recovery in Morristown area but ducklings still down 25 percent. **Blue-winged Teal:** nested TLou, late max 12 EDS 25 Aug, 25 PRWMA 29 Aug. **Gadwall:** pair WHWMA 7 Jun, early max 40 RMPD 5 Jun, late max 165 WHWMA 12 Aug. **Redhead:** two males, one female RMPD 5 Jun, max 37 WHWMA 12 Aug. **Ring-necked Duck:** pair Grasse R TLou 20 Jun;

female with six downy y ULLWMA 30 Jul. **White-winged Scoter**: male RMPD 5 Jun (BD), late. **Hooded Merganser**: pair Grasse R TLou 29 Jul. **Com. Merganser**: pair with 5 y RMPD 6 Jun; female with 23 young SB 5 Jul; female with 17 young EDS 30 Jul.

**Osprey**: two active nests, three y PRWMA. **Bald Eagle**: *intro*; pair Grasse R TLou. **N. Harrier**: *intro* **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: singles Massena 2 Aug, T Henderson and Ogdensburg throughout period, one Colton 21 Jun. **Cooper's Hawk**: two T Pinckney LEWI 16 Aug, singles Canton 9 Jun, T Henderson 3-23 Jul, THSF 19 Jul. **N. Goshawk**: two Massena 6 Jul (GK) **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun; one T Clifton StLA; pair attacking Turkey T Fine (PO). **Broad-winged Hawk**: singles Massena 1 Jun, N Osceola 1 Jul; frequent in Adirondacks, imm conspicuous in early Aug (PO). **Red-tailed Hawk**: numbers increasing in Adirondack park. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon**: ad T Rodman 6 Aug, StLA 15 Jul (DP). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: two Massena 28 Jun, only report. **Ruffed Grouse**: *intro*; ad, four y N Osceola 1 Jul. **Wild Turkey**: max 20 TLou 2 Jun, four Port Leyden LEWI 25 Aug. **Virginia Rail**: max six TLou 2 Jun. **Com. Moorhen**: five PRWMA 13 Jul, four y there 4 Aug, max 25+ there 29 Aug. **Am. Coot**: one PRWMA 29 Aug. **Com. Crane**: *intro*. **SANDHILL CRANE**: *intro*. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr EDS 28 Aug (RP). **Semipalmated Plover**: 10 EDS 28 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: six MC 13 July, one Clayton 4 Aug, one Jamestown Falls Raquette R StLA 21 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr three MC 4 Aug, one RMPD 25 Aug, max six EDS 19 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: singles EDS 30 Jul, 16 Aug, 30 Aug; max six TLou 23 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper**: bred Massena, EDS, T Henderson, MC, Morristown; max eight EDS 19 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports from Massena, TLou, one LC **Whimbrel**: one EDS 16 Aug (GS). **Ruddy Turnstone**: singles SB 21 Aug, EDS 30 Jul. **Sanderling**: present EDS and SB 19-21 Aug, max 12 SB 20 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: one Massena 16 Jul; three EDS 21 Aug, one 28 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: max 6 EDS 21 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: one Massena 21 Aug (DD). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: four MC 13 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one TLou 23 Aug (DD). **Com. Snipe**: max nine OBBS. **Bonaparte's Gull**: imm EDS 30 Jul, five T Henderson 30 Jul, one Pt Peninsula 4 Aug, max 108 (6 imm) RMPD 8 Aug. **Herring Gull**: bred Rock I Cranberry L (PO); max 11 RMPD 5 Aug. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 18 ad RMPD 5 Aug, five imm Morristown 17 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: 896 nests Little Galoo (GS). **Com. Tern**: 650 nests, 80 % on navigation buoys, increase of 150 nests over 1992 (LH). **Black Tern**: *intro*, max 30+ PRWMA, up from last year; ten ad, three nests ULLWMA (KC).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** pair Lowville 16 Jul; singles OBBS, Pt Peninsula 4 Aug, TLou 10 Jun; five individuals T Henderson 6 Jun-27 Aug. **E. Screech-Owl:** ad Ogdensburg 14 Jun, pair Cape Vincent. **Great Horned Owl:** imm Ogdensburg 18 Jul, family group T Henderson 2 Jul, max four TLou-Massena. **Barred Owl:** one T Fine 26 Aug. **Com. Nighthawk:** two pair Ogdensburg, one bird found injured; three ad, two FrL TLou-Massena 2 Aug (MB), 19 Watertown 30 Aug (RB). **Whip-poor-will:** four TLou 3 Jun, three HSUA 30 Jun, one Pierrepont 16 Jun. **Chimney Swift:** several T Henderson, PRWMA, Ogdensburg, HPt; max 30 (20 imm) Massena. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** good numbers from Ogdensburg, Massena and Adirondacks, recovery in JEFF "the most I have seen in years" (LC). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Old Rome Road JEFF 15 Jun. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** pair, two y at feeder 28 Jun till late Jul T Henderson. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** eight N Osceola 1 Jul, max 12 WBBS. **Three-Toed Woodpecker:** one Grass R near Massawepie T Colton StLA (PO). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** three seen in scattered spruce bogs Jun and Jul (PO).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** two FrL 16 Jul, one LWMA 11 Aug, common in Boreal swamps (PO). **E. Wood-Pewee:** max six Massena 1 Jun. **Alder Flycatcher:** singles T Lorraine JEFF 6 Jun, Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun, PBBS; max 12 TLou 3 Jun (MB). **Willow Flycatcher:** singles Stony Pt JEFF 11 Jun, TLou 10-12 Jun, RMPD 16 Jun, OBBS. **Least Flycatcher:** five pair TLou 6 Jun, 12 N Osceola 1 Jul, max 15 WBBS, good recovery in Adirondacks. **E. Phoebe:** max ten PBBS. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 15 Massena 8 Jun, low numbers elsewhere. **E. Kingbird:** max eight Massena 16 Aug; numbers low until Aug when many observed on wires, down 50% on PBBS. **Horned Lark:** one WdBBS, only report. **Purple Martin:** max 48 Massena. **Tree Swallow:** more than last year; 15 pair TLou 11 Jul; max 3000 17 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** four Massena 4 Jun, one PRWMA 13 Jul. **Bank Swallow:** max 30 Massena 10 Jun. **Cliff Swallow:** max 350 RMPD 5 Jun. **Barn Swallow:** low numbers but doing well in StLA, particularly in farm country; three nests under the cliffs at HPt, max 44 OBBS. **Com. Raven:** three nests near Barnes Corners LEWI (GS); two imm on WBBS near Newton Falls, common on roadsides throughout Adirondacks. **Black-capped Chickadee:** max 230 Massena 3 Jun. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** reported TLou, T Henderson, HSUA, EDS and Tug Hill, max four Littlejohn T Worth JEFF 17 Aug. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 45 TLou 2 Jun. **Brown Creeper:** pair



Massena, only report. **CAROLINA WREN**: pair feeding y HPt 12 Aug, first Regional breeding record; singles Massena 22 Aug, Rays Bay T Henderson 15 Aug; pairs Clarks Pt T Henderson 19 Aug, Watertown all summer. **Winter Wren**: one T Henderson 27 Jun, two FrL 16 July, six N Osceola 1 Jul, max 11 WBBS. **Sedge Wren**: *intro*. **Marsh Wren**: 60+ PRWMA 4 Aug. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: one WBBS. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: singles Streeter Bog 15 Jun, Grass R. 2 Jul, both T Colton STLA (PO). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: singles Wellesley I SP 3 Jun (PD), T Lorraine JEFF 30 Aug (S&DL). **E. Bluebird**: 29 pair Massena-TLou area, many y, also bred T Watson, T New Bremen LEWI. **Veery**: max 23 Massena 6 Jun, 17 WBBS. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one TLou 2 Jun (MB). **Hermit Thrush**: 11 WBBS, above average. **Wood Thrush**: max 45 eight locations Massena-TLou 1 Jun -13 Jun, scarcer elsewhere. **Gray Catbird**: max 71 from ten locations Massena 1-27 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: singles Keener Hill Road T Martinsburg LEWI 20 July (BH), Ogdensburg 24 Aug (PK). **Brown Thrasher**: three Massena 5 Jun, three PBBS numbers low

**Solitary Vireo**: 11 WBBS, ten N Osceola 1 Jul, three TLou 10 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: singles Wellesley I SP 3 Jun (PD), N Osceola 1 Jul (LC), Grindstone I 12 Jun (RL). **Warbling Vireo**: max 18 six locations Massena-TLou 3-10 Jun; average numbers on PBBS and OBBS. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 92 WBBS, 64 Massena 6 Jun. **Golden-winged warbler**: one ULLWMA 10 Jun (KC); two PBBS, two JEFF, LEWI 9 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: one TLou 2 Jun, two WBBS. **N. Parula**: singles Grasse and Oswegatchie R T Colton and T Fine STLA (PO). **Yellow Warbler**: 74 Massena-TLou 1-10 Jun, 34 OBBS, average. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 31 Massena-TLou 6 Jun, 18 WBBS, 19 JEFF, LEWI 9 Jun (GS). **Magnolia Warbler**: two Massena 10 Jun, eight WBBS, two N Osceola 1 Jul. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one N Osceola 1 Jul, two WBBS. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ten WBBS, poor; four pair near HPt 3 Jun, two EDS 19 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: six WBBS and N Osceola 1 Jul, singles HSUA 12 Jun, FrL 16 Jul. **Blackburnian Warbler**: four T Lorraine JEFF 6 Jun, three near Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun; one WBBS and Ogdensburg 4 Aug. **Pine Warbler**: 21 (six y) Massena-TLou 3 Jun (MB); four-five males Wellesley I SP 3 Jun; three Jacques Cartier SP 15 Jun, three FrL 16 Jul; three Grindstone I 12 Jun. **Prairie Warbler**: one LC 2 Jun (DP). **Cerulean Warbler**: one Grindstone I 12 Jun (RL). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 16 Massena 3 Jun, well reported from JEFF, LEWI, STLA BBS routes. **Am. Redstart**: 30 Massena 8 Jun, 24 WBBS, widely reported. **Ovenbird**: max 30 Massena 7 Jun, 17 Grindstone I 12 Jun, 16 WBBS and LEWI 9 Jun. N.

**Waterthrush:** 3 Jacques Cartier SP 10 Jun, singles HSUA 11 Jun, N Osceola 1 Jul, Massena 4 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** four WBBS, two LEWI 9 Jun, one TLou 21 Aug. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 85 TLou 9 Jun, 60 Massena 4 Jun, 34 PBBS, average. **Canada Warbler:** singles Massena 4 Jun, HSUA 11 Jun, WBBS.

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 12 Massena throughout season, five PBBS, three Grindstone I 12 Jun, low numbers in JEFF, LEWI. **N. Cardinal:** max 24 Massena-TLou increasing in s JEFF. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 26 Massena 6 Jun, good numbers throughout. **Indigo Bunting:** max three PBBS, two TLou 2 Jun, scarce. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** max 14 Massena 3 Jun., eight PBBS. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 200/day Massena. **Field Sparrow:** max 14 PBBS, three Massena 17 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow:** two Morristown 16 Jun (DD), one Fort Drum Jun (LH). **Savannah Sparrow:** max 11 PBBS, above average, 18 Massena 10 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** pair FY TLou 8 Jun, pair Fort Drum Jun (LH). **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one ULLWMA (DD, NYSARC), first Regional record. **Henslow's Sparrow:** two singing males Amend Road T Orleans STLA 20 Jul (DD), two pair Fort Drum Jun (LH), five PRWMA 17 Jun (DP). **Song Sparrow:** 300/day Massena. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one T Colton 12 Jun (DD). **Swamp Sparrow:** max 30+ PRWMA 13 Jul. **White-throated Sparrow:** 35 WBBS, eight N Osceola 1 Jul, 24 Massena 3 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 110+ PRWMA 13 Jul, expanding in uncut fields. **E. Meadowlark:** max 38 Massena 5 Jun., numbers up on open country BBS routes. **Rusty Blackbird:** three T Colton 12 Jun (DD). **N. Oriole:** few reports, max three N Osceola 1 Jul, families more evident in Jul in T Henderson and HPt. **Purple Finch:** max 45 Massena-TLou 6 Jun, y at feeders T Henderson early July. **House Finch:** max 125 Ogdensburg. **Pine Siskin:** one Wellesley I SP 4 Jun (PD), only report. **Evening Grosbeak:** pair at feeder T Henderson 30 June, max 4 WBBS at Newton Falls, one Barnes Corners LEWI 28 Aug (GS).

*2807 Citation Drive, Pompey, New York 13138*

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Following the cool and wet summer of 1992 and the late snow and floods of this spring, June and July were pleasantly sunny and dry. August rainfall (4.46 inches) was almost an half inch above average, and by the end of the month yearly rainfall (22.71 inches) was almost back to normal, thanks in large part to a downpour of nearly an inch and a half on 24 Aug. The month still had 67% of possible sunshine, above the expected 60%. By the end of the season, Lake Champlain stood at about 95 feet, exposing some shoreline mudflats.

The highlight of the season was the first confirmed nesting of **Wilson's Phalarope** in New York State. The male of the pair that had been previously discovered at the Gravelle Farm, CLIN, on 18 May and remained into June. Finally, on 18 Jun, an alert team led by Bill Krueger found three phalarope chicks, which were videotaped with their parent. The juveniles remained in the area until 19 Jul. Interestingly, this site is only a hundred yards or so from the spot where Mark Gretch found Wilson's Phalarope into June during the Atlas period. Attention is also called to the number of outstanding waterfowl, shorebird, gull, and tern records from the Gravelle Farm in the summer reports that follow.

Another high point was the discovery of an active **Merlin** nest in a White Pine (35 feet high), just 75 feet from the pin on the 18th hole of the Lake Placid Golf Club, ESSE, on 4 Aug. Found by Glen and Sue Cameron, the nest was verified by a number of local birders the next day. Meanwhile, Tom Burke watched another **Merlin** at Blue Mountain Lake, HAMI, each morning from 19-24 July. The falcon would come out and perch on a dead tree on an island in the eastern end of the lake; eventually, it would fly off rapidly, never in the same direction, and generally in pursuit of prey, or to harass passing crows. There was no activity near the 1992 site at Spitfire L, FRAN, where the nest, a used crow nest, blew down over the winter.

The late snows and wet spring had an adverse impact on some other raptors. The number of Osprey nests was about the same as 1990-92, according to the NYS DEC, but the number of young raised was down considerably from recent years. Again, the Crown Point platform was unused, while that at Ausable Point WMA was active. Only two of the three Bald Eagle eyries in FRAN had eggs, and only two young were fledged from one of the active nests. Peregrine Falcon did better, with six

territorial pairs and successful egg-layers in ESSE managing to fledge ten young for the first time since 1988 and 1989: Elizabethtown (two fledged), Keene (two fledged), Keeseville (one fledged), North Elba (two fledged), Westport (one ad. present), Willsboro (new site, two fledged), and Wilmington (one fledged).

The Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush survey located more of these high elevation songsters on Cascade, Colden, Gothics, Hurricane, Lyon, Morgan, Pitchoff, Sawteeth, and Wright Peak.

A total of 13 Double-crested Cormorant, 16 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 1,000 Ring-billed Gull, and 200 Herring Gull were banded at the Four Brothers Islands on 12 Jun. A total of 532 Double-crested Cormorant nests were counted. For the first time ever, Great Blue Heron were found nesting on the Four Brothers, with at least three active nests noted on Island "D." Also seen 12 Jun was a White-winged Scoter swimming past Island "C." Five Lesser Yellowlegs at the islands on 18 Jul were an early Esse arrival. The 19-ft "Four Winds" received a new power lift, battery, and motor overhaul. The first of the recently fledged, banded Ring-billed Gull cohort was caught due to injury and died at North Berwick, Maine, on 25 Jul.

Thanks to the passage of the Environmental Protection Fund, the future of the Webb Royce Swamp between Essex and Westport, part of the 2,000 acre Heurich property, seems assured. On a 10 Jul canoe trip to this largest wooded swamp in ESSE, John Brown and Ted Mack found three Pied-billed Grebe, three Great Blue Heron nests, three Black-crowned Night-Heron, two Wood Duck, six Green-winged Teal, two American Black Duck, 125 Mallard, and a half-dozen each Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper. Hopefully, the Fund will also help provide protection for other Regional gems such as Follensby Pond and Whitney Park.

Thanks largely to an active corps of observers, a total of 174 species was reported, up from 161 last summer, 156 in 1991, and 142 in 1990.

**Contributors:** Thomas Barber, Sharon Bennett, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Glen & Sue Cameron, Dewey & Joan Clark, Charlcie Delehanty, John & Sue Delehanty, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Terry Hall, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hess, Rachel Hopkins, Gene Huggins, Robert Kirker, Hal Klein, Mary Alice Koeneke, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, Stephanie Lemieux, Tich MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Helen Manson, Dick Meisburger, Robert McKinney, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, John & Susan Peterson, Dean Spaulding, Langdon Stevenson, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White.

**Abbreviations:** APt - Ausable Point WMA; FB - Ferd's Bog, HAMI; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; GF - Gravelle Farm, Chazy Landing area, CLIN.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** platform nest HAMI hatched in 25 days. **Pied-billed Grebe:** *intro*; probably nesting Cedar R Flow HAMI; eight CLIN locations. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.*; max 1,000+ FBI 18 Jul. **Least Bittern:** Duck Hole on Northville-Placid Trail FRAN 8 PM, 4 Jun (TB) most unexpected; Ft Montgomery CLIN 25 Jun (MG) more expected. **Great Blue Heron:** *intro.* **Great Egret:** Plattsburgh mudflats 12 Aug (BK); Saranac R, Plattsburgh, 24 Aug (CM), becoming increasingly regular. **Cattle Egret:** Point au Roche 29 Jun 15 Jul; max seven there 14 Jul (BK, CM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** *intro*; also reports from Little Chazy R, Monty Bay, and Riley Brook. **Canada Goose:** Paradox 3 Jun, late; pair and brood of 12 FBI 18 Jul; white neck collar 65J Tupper L 7 Jul; max 78 there 28 Aug, better than expected after spring flooding. **Wood Duck:** *intro.* **Green-winged Teal:** *intro.* **Am. Black Duck:** *intro.* **Mallard:** *intro.* **N. Pintail:** one-three CLIN 4 Jun and 18 Jun (J&RH); GF 8 Jun (MG), unusual. **N. Shoveler:** GF; pair Monty Bay early Jun (MG), similarly unexpected. **Gadwall:** two pair GF area; FBI 18 Jul, a good showing. **REDHEAD:** one Roarkdah Bog near Onchiota FRAN 23 Jul (CM); there are previous breeding records from King's Bay and Upper Chateaugay L CLIN and Saranac R FRAN, but none since 1982. **White-winged Scoter:** *intro.* **Com. Goldeneye:** 12 eggs Monty Bay nest box 4 Jun, with four drakes and six hens present; Ft Montgomery 25 Jun; hen Bear Pd 17 Jul (TM), representative.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 36 Malone 19 Aug (HW), high numbers here. **Osprey:** *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; ad Tupper L 14 Jun; ad perched on swim float on Raquette R (DM); ad Mountain View L 31 Jul (TM, JT). **N. Harrier:** 32 sightings CLIN to mid Aug (MG). **MERLIN:** *intro.* **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro.* **Virginia Rail:** max ten L Alice 25 Jun (MG); seven APt 28 Jun (BK, CM, LS); Webb Royce Swamp 10 Jul (JB, TM), suggests a benefit of high water levels. **Sora:** King's Bay 8 Jun; max four APt 28 Jun; Scotion Creek 29 Jun, a better showing than usual. **Com. Moorhen:** CLIN 4 Jun; with six y Scotion Creek 29 Jun. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). **Semipalmated Plover:** arr mouth of Boquet R 26 Aug; max five Westport 27 Aug (BK, CM). **PIPING PLOVER:** Westport 26-28 Aug (RH, DS, mob), a first ESSE record for this Federally Endangered species; there is a FRAN record from Hatch Brook, near Malone, 6 Aug 1969, by Dirck Benson. **Killdeer:** max 24 Westport 27 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** CLIN 4 Jun, late. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** *intro*; arr GF 6 Jul (MG), early. **Solitary Sandpiper:** *intro.* **WILLET:** two GF 6 Jun

(WK), first CLIN record. **Upland Sandpiper**: old breeding grounds US 9 n Plattsburgh 22 Jun; I-87 between exits 35-36 28 Jun, only reports, but there is little coverage of the vast farmlands south of the Quebec border. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: GF 3-4 Jun (SB, J&RH, HK, BK), first Regional record! **Least Sandpiper**: two GF 6 Jul, only peep report. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: several s Chazy R 4 Jun-15 Jul (mob). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: *intro* (CM!, NYSARC). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr 12 Peru dock 29 Jul; max 75 GF 31 Jul (MG); last two Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Herring Gull**: *intro*. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 10-12 pair FBI 18 Jul. **Com. Tern**: pair Chazy Landing-King's Bay Jun-Jul; St Regis Indian Reservation 31 Jul. **Black Tern**: three-four King's Bay Jun; GF to 5 Aug, where two pair produced three imm (MG); video of ad FY 19 Jul (BK); St Regis Indian Reservation 31 Jul, the most encouraging season in recent memory.

**Com. Nighthawk**: APt; Plattsburgh 4-17 Jun, a rather poor showing. **Whip-poor-will**: two Ticonderoga 3-10 Jun, ditto. **Three-toed Woodpecker**: FB, only report. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: y FB; nest Newcomb 14 Jun (RK); male Northville-Placid Trail near Cedar L Jun (GL).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: two Union Falls Road near Silver L 9 Jun (BK,CM), evidence of possible CLIN breeding. **Willow Flycatcher**: several Scotion Creek 4 Jun (J&RH). **Gray Jay**: FB; Helldiver Pd. **Boreal Chickadee**: Helldiver Pd; Mt. Colden. **Marsh Wren**: many CLIN; two FRAN. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one Riley Brook Swamp (MG), only summer report. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: *intro*. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: Terry Mt 28 Aug (JH), could be a "migrant shrike."

**Yellow-throated Vireo**: Wickham Marsh 27 Jun (LS); ad and two y APt same day (J&RH), healthy showing for a little-reported bird, although from known locales. **Nashville Warbler**: nest with two eggs trail to Weston Mt/Nun-da-gao Ridge 30 Jun (MG), record late egg date.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**: near Mary Riley Road FRAN Jul (TH). **Pine Siskin**: max 20 Elizabethtown feeder 1 Jun (JP). **Evening Grosbeak**: pair Elizabethtown feeder 1 Jun (JP); four Gabriels BBS 1 Jul; max 60 St Regis Falls BBS 8 Jul (TM). **House Sparrow**: leucistic male with white wing patches Wadhams late Jun (DS).

*Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, New York 12932*

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN MAPES

A cooler than normal June gave way to a warmer than usual period in July and August. Temperatures for the whole period averaged about one degree higher than normal. The rainfall total at Albany for the three months was near normal, yet the Region remained in a moderate to severe drought.

Summer observations of Osprey are becoming more frequent. Three pairs of Bald Eagle were present during the nesting season. A pair in COLU was territorial, but laid no eggs for the second consecutive year. In SCHO, a nesting failed at hatching time, perhaps due to weather. The ALBA pair successfully fledged one young. Carolina Wren reports were conspicuously few during the period, after several years of increasing presence. Perhaps the past long, harsh winter reduced their numbers. Nesting success for Eastern Bluebird was only fair, as reported by nest box surveys in SCHO and ALBA. Cool weather seemed to take a toll on nestlings. Some nest box predation was noted at an ALBA site, although the raccoon population (our usual source of predation) suffered a dramatic decline due to the rabies epidemic that hit the central parts of Region 8 this spring. Nestings of Orchard Oriole were confirmed at three locations in the Region this year. Adults were seen feeding fledglings at all three places. House Finch remains lower in numbers at Schenectady and at Five Rivers Center in Delmar, as first reported last winter.

Long-term observations of bird populations conducted by Robert Yunick at Jenny Lake, SARA, produced the following observations. Blue Jay numbers increased after a crash in 1987 and a low population level from 1987 to 1992. Chipping Sparrow was very scarce, continuing a sharp decline in recent years. An irruption year seems to be in the making for Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadee, with good numbers of each banded during August. Dark-eyed Junco has mysteriously disappeared as a breeding species at Jenny Lake. Prior to 1985, it was an abundant nester. Purple Finch had another poor breeding season, following last year's precipitous decline at Jenny Lake, but post-breeding dispersal brought numbers of Purple Finches to the area in August. Of 166 banded, however, 109 were adults and only 57 immature. Yunick reports that young normally outnumber the adults by 2-3:1. Evening Grosbeak was present at lower elevations during July, which is very unusual.

Many reports of Common Nighthawk were received due to a special request for information put out on Bird Line of Eastern New York. The first report of a good sized flock was of 20 birds at Albany on 17 Aug. Fifty were seen over Saratoga Springs on 25 Aug, and 50+ were reported from Albany on 27 Aug.

The Region saw a few rare occurrences during the period. An **American White Pelican** was present on the Mohawk River at the Colonie Town Park from 3 to 6 Jun. An immature **Whimbrel** was seen at a sod farm near Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park on 29 Aug by Jane Graves and Walter Ellison. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found on a baseball field in Green Island, ALBA, on 25 Aug and remained through 28 Aug. The bird was seen by many observers.

**Contributors:** Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Ken Able; Paul Connor; Jane Graves; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andrew Mason (AM); Walter Ellison; Laura Meade (LM); Barb Putnam; Jim Sotis.

**Abbreviations:** FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, Cohoes, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, SARA.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** pair successfully fledged one chick Thirteenth L WARR (KA), second successful year in a row there. **Pied-billed Grebe:** one Carter L WASH 30 Jul (JS), only report. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** several PISP throughout period (BEN). **Least Bittern:** two Carter L WASH Jul-Aug (JS), only report. **Great Blue Heron:** max 13 VFNP 24 Aug (BEN). **Great Egret:** many reports after 14 July, max 17 VFNP 24 Aug (BEN). **Snowy Egret:** several reports after 29 Jul, max 12 VFNP 6 Aug (BEN). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** three reports, one Germantown 31 Jul; two imm VFNP throughout Aug (both BEN); two WASH 5 Aug (JG). **Green-winged Teal:** many reports VFNP late Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** two VFNP 14 Aug (BEN), only report. **Canvasback:** one Hudson R SARA 17 Jun (BEN), ad male Hudson R COLU 13 Jun (PC), unusual.

**Osprey:** four reports, one Germantown 30 Jul (BEN); one Scotia 6 Aug (BEN); one Battenville 7 Aug (JS); one Hudson R COLU 16 Aug (PC). **Bald Eagle:** *intro*. **N. Harrier:** one Jefferson 1 Jun (AM), only report. **N. Goshawk:** three reports, pair defending nest Taborton RENS 12 Jun (PC); ad Knox 17 Jun (KA); ad SBNHP 16 Jun (JG). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Hillsdale 2 Jun (ADBC), only report. **Broad-winged Hawk:** nesting suspected Jenny L SARA (RY) and Schodack



Center (PC). **Am. Kestrel**: considered scarce by two reporters. **Com. Moorhen**: ad with y VFNP 26 Jul (BEN), five imm on 14 Aug (BEN); five-six families Carter L WASH throughout the period (JS), unusually abundant. **Black-bellied Plover**: one 29 Aug Hudson R SARA (BEN), only report. **Semipalmated Plover**: one PISP 16 Aug (BEN), only report. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr two VFNP 24 Aug (BEN). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr several 26 Jul VFNP (BEN); max nine VFNP 24 Aug (BEN). **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr VFNP 26 Jul (BEN). **Upland Sandpiper**: only at two locations, ad singing Northumberland 13 Jun (BP); many reports Ft Edward, two ad, three y 13 June (BEN), max eight ad, five y 20 Jun (BEN). **WHIMBREL**: *intro*. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr three VFNP 3 Aug (BEN); max ten Tomhannock Res 28 Aug (BEN). **Least Sandpiper**: arr VFNP 3 Aug (BEN); max 30 PISP 18 Aug (BEN). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: only two reports, five PISP 18 Aug; four PISP 28 Aug (both BEN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: imm Tomhannock Res 28-31 Aug (WE) unusual. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: *intro*. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: only two reports, Cohoes 15 Aug and Tomhannock Res 31 Aug (BEN), numbers not given. **Bonaparte's Gull**: imm PISP 28 Aug (BEN), only report. **Black Tern**: one near Tomhannock Res 31 Aug (BEN), only report.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: only two reports, one SBNHP 29 Jul (JG), one SaraL 29 Aug (BEN). **Whip-poor-will**: one Hague WARR 25 June (LM); one Cairo 26 Jun (BC), only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: *intro*. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: pair T Kingsbury WASH (BP), probable nesting, only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: only two reports.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Schodack Center 9 Jun (PC), late migrant; one Berne 30 Aug (KA), only reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr Saratoga Springs 16 Aug (JG); one Albany 31 Aug and two Guilderland 31 Aug (BEN). **Tree Swallow**: max 100 VFNP 1 Aug (BEN). **Cliff Swallow**: last three VFNP 24 Aug (BEN). **Barn Swallow**: max 75 VFNP 1 Aug (BEN). **Com. Raven**: average number of sightings, reports from Cambridge, Thatcher P ALBA, North L GREE, Jenny L SARA and Hague. **Swainson's Thrush**: one in song Hadley Mt SARA 4 Jun (JG), only report. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 110 PISP (BEN).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**: one Cambridge 27 Aug (JS), only report. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Freehold 13 Jun (BEN), only report. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Thatcher P ALBA 4 Jul (BEN); one Kiskatom GREE 19 Jun (BEN), only reports. **Cerulean Warbler**: six Castleton I SP 5 Jun (BEN), only report. **Mourning Warbler**: singing male Prospect Mt Warr 8 Jul (BP), only report. **Wilson's Warbler**: one Guilderland 31 Aug (BEN), only report. **Canada Warbler**: one FiveR 25 Aug (BEN), only report.

**Vesper Sparrow:** three males Knox June (KA); four pairs Middleburg 23 Jun (KA), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** three reports SBNHP (BEN); two 12 Jun, one 21 June; three 15 Jul; none elsewhere. **Henslow's Sparrow:** max two SBNHP same dates as preceding; none elsewhere. **Dark-eyed Junco:** New Salem 31 Aug (BEN), early returns to wintering areas in low elevations; *intro*. **Orchard Oriole:** ad FY FiveR 14 Jun, Fort Edward 4 Jul, and Mill Creek Marsh COLU 5 Jul. **Purple Finch:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** SARA and GREE 4 Jul; Clifton Peak SARA 12 Jul; eight Rotterdam 19 Jul, last; none after late July.

*Five Rivers Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, New York 12054*

## REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

June's weather was placid for the most part. There were only two bouts of localized, intense thunderstorms in the northern tier of the Region, on 9 and 21 Jun. In fact, the Hudson valley was experiencing drought conditions with only 85% of the month's average rainfall reported. The high was 92°F on 19 Jun in WEST. July began oppressively hot and muggy. This uncomfortable air mass reached its apex on the annoyance meter on 10 and 11 Jul, when the Poughkeepsie Airport reported 100°F and high humidity. The lack of rain continued, creating a severe drought conditions, through August with only 71% of the average rainfall reported at the latter month's end. A Bermuda high once again stalled over the Region bringing back temperatures in the high nineties from 25 to 28 Aug. There were no effects from Hurricane Emily, which hit the western region of Long Island Sound.

A pair of Common Raven continued at the Harriman SP sanitary landfill through at least mid July. Common Raven is pushing further south and east with every breeding season. They are now nesting near the Hudson River in ULST and are at least resident in PUTN along the Hudson on Breakneck Ridge. The **Black Vulture** pair reported last season at the landfill did not linger past early June. There were a good

number of reports for the species from the Region though. One location that continues to be frequented by these birds is the area of the Mohonk preserve and Minnewaska SP in Ulst.

The Bashakill Marsh Osprey pair fledged three young. Several single Osprey were reported from SULL as well, perhaps searching for additional nesting sites. The Bald Eagle fledgling rate was down almost 50% from last year in SULL, and only five young were produced compared to nine last year. A Hooded Merganser pair fledged young at Ashokan Reservoir. Seldon Spencer reports that a pair of Kentucky Warbler summered in ULST, apparently without nesting success. Several Henslow's Sparrow were reported from a once more popular haunt for that species, the Galeville Airport in ULST. Unfortunately for the sparrows, this site continues to be used for flying radio controlled airplanes.

The Greenwich-Stamford Summer bird count was conducted on 12 Jun. This count includes the eastern half of WEST as well as its namesake towns in Connecticut. The count was quite productive, yielding many species that were either on the southern fringe of their breeding range or are out of season, including Snow Goose, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Northern Goshawk, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, a variety of warbler species, and a first seasonal report of a **Summer Tanager** for WEST and perhaps the entire Region. Unseasonal records also were obtained for Brant. Valerie Freer reported two species normally found in the Adirondacks but seldom in the Catskills. A Common Loon was present on a SULL lake through late August. During the early part of the summer the bird was seen displaying and heard calling. A Northern Saw-whet Owl that was heard calling every night for almost two months in SULL through in early July; there are several records for this species breeding in the Region.

The last of the spring shorebirds departed from the Marshlands Conservancy in WEST by 10 Jun. The first south bound shorebirds were noted by 20 Jun at the same location. The Marshlands Conservancy was host to a number of shorebird species that are regular only there in the entire Region. Lesser Golden-Plover, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Upland, Western, White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers were all notable finds. American Oystercatcher is becoming more conspicuous in the Long Island Sound area of Region 9, and probably will be added to the Region's list of breeding birds soon. Also at the Marshlands Conservancy

during the period were Least Bittern, Glossy Ibis, Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Forster's Tern. Quite a productive birding location!

Many people enjoy summer birding for the local breeding birds, as summer is by many considered a slow time for vagrant species. Not so this summer! An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported from the town of Chester ORAN. The host family reported the bird to the local Audubon chapter, but requested limited visitation by birders, due to a severe illness in the family. Fortunately, John Tramontano, a transplanted birder from California was able to see the bird and also rule out Allen's Hummingbird. There is still no accepted record for New York State. There were two new Regional records as well: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** and **Gull-billed Tern**. A **Red-necked Phalarope** provided a rare but not unprecedented Regional record, and a **Black Skimmer** also was found. **Great Cormorant** has become a bird for all seasons in the Hudson Valley. Richard Guthrie observed an individual from an Amtrack train in Peekskill on 19 Aug! This is the same area where high numbers were observed last winter.

**Contributors:** John P. Askildsen, James A. Beemer, Thomas W. Burke, Dr. Valerie Freer, Roger Frost, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert J. Kurtz, Berna Lincoln, Dr. Seldon Spencer, Edward D. Treacy, The John Burroughs Natural History Society, the members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

**Abbreviations:** DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST.

**Summer reports:** **Com. Loon:** *intro.* **Pied-billed Grebe:** breeding reports from SULL. **GREAT CORMORANT:** *intro.* **Least Bittern:** two MC 19 Jun. **Little Blue Heron:** imm MC late Aug. **Tricolored Heron:** one MC 6 Aug; several ORAN during Aug (JPT). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** at least one MC all season. **Glossy Ibis:** singles MC all season. **Snow Goose:** one overhead SUNY-Purchase 12 Jun (RF). **Brant:** five MC 5 Jun. **Green-winged Teal:** arr MC 29 Jul. **Mallard:** hen with downy y ORAN 9 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one DUTC 4 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** arr MC 1 Jul. **N. Shoveler:** one MC 12 Jun. **Gadwall:** pair MC through 21 Jun. **Am. Wigeon:** one MC 12 Jun. **Greater Scaup:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Lesser Scaup:** one EGR 12 Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Bufflehead:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Hooded Merganser:** *intro.* **Com. Merganser:** ad, six y SULL 10 Jun; 50 Delaware R near Hankins 28 Jul.

**BLACK VULTURE:** *intro.* **Osprey:** *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** *intro;* fourth year bird frequented Hudson R from Iona to West Point in June. **N. Harrier:**

one Galeville Airport ULST 30 Jul (JB). **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: two reports of imm and ads together SULL early Jul, 15 Aug (JPA, AG), no doubt nesters. **N. Goshawk**: two pair nested in n WEST. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: surprisingly, numerous reports including nest with y, all DUTC. **N. Bobwhite**: two MC through Jun, rare there. **Sora**: max two MC all season. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: arr MC 16 Aug (TWB), another there 28 Aug. **Am. Oystercatcher**: four MC 1 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr WEST 4 Jul. **Willet**: two MC 31 Jul, where uncommon but expected visitor. **Upland Sandpiper**: one MC 31 Jul, rare there; 48 ORAN sod farms 31 Jul. **W. Sandpiper**: arr two MC 26 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MC 31 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MC 13-18 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: last MC 2 Jun; arr MC 3 Jul. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**: one MC 16 Aug (TWB, J&E Caspers). **Laughing Gull**: arr post-breeding ad Hudson R ORAN 20 Jul (EDT). **GULL-BILLED TERN**: one MC 26 Jul (TWB). **Forster's Tern**: arr six MC 6 Aug. **Black Skimmer**: one MC 3 Jul (TWB).

**N. Saw-whet Owl**: *intro*. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 30 EGR end of Aug; 20 at one site in DUTC. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: *intro* (JPT!, NYSARC). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Blue Chip Farms ULST entire period. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: ad with y Cape Pd SULL.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: arr DUTC 22 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: two reports SULL 25 and 28 Aug (VF). **Alder Flycatcher**: several reports from DUTC, none from WEST. **Acadian Flycatcher**: several Arden Valley Road, Harriman SP. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: ad Storm King Arts Center ORAN 21 Aug (Marc & Harold Schelemer, *fide* Berna Lincoln). **Purple Martin**: low numbers at Rye colony. **Fish Crow**: one DUTC 16 Jun. **Com. Raven**: *intro*. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: five Kensico WEST 12 Jun (S&BL).

**Golden-winged Warbler**: good breeding year, higher numbers reported. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Lawrence's type n WEST 13 Jun (AG). **N. Parula**: one DTR 13 Jun (RJK). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one s WEST 13 Jun. **Cape May Warbler**: arr DUTC 29 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ad FY Cape Pd SULL 25 Jun (VF). **Blackburnian Warbler**: one Arden Valley Road Harriman SP (JPA, AG). **Cerulean Warbler**: one n WEST 13 Jun (RJK, JPA, AG), rare there; healthy numbers w side of Hudson R. **Worm-eating Warbler**: numbers up from last year. **N. Waterthrush**: one n WEST 13 Jun. **Kentucky Warbler**: several n WEST until mid Aug (JPA); *intro*. **Mourning Warbler**: arr DUTC 28 Aug (OTW). **Hooded Warbler**: 15 DTR 13 Jun (RJK). **Wilson's Warbler**: arr male SULL 24 Aug (VF). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: two MC during Jun.

**SUMMER TANAGER:** first-year male Halle Ravine Preserve T Pound Ridge WEST 12 Jun (TWB). **Savannah Sparrow:** present at Galeville Airport and nearby Blue Chip Farms ULST. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** present at Galeville Airport ULST (JB). **Henslow's Sparrow:** several heard at Galeville Airport ULST (JB), *intro*. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** six MC 29 Aug. **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC during Jun. **Bobolink:** barely holding on as breeder in WEST. **E. Meadowlark:** low numbers present in WEST. **Orchard Oriole:** many reports throughout Region. **Pine Siskin:** one at feeder in SULL 24-25 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak:** nine at two DUTC locations early Aug (Bob Bowler, Pat Green).

**Exotics: Chiloee Wigeon:** one MC 4-6 Jun (TWB).

*Post Office Box 32, Chappaqua, New York 10514*

## REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

According to the Brookhaven National Laboratory Weather Bureau, the summer months of June, July and August were the driest in their 44 years of record keeping. The average rainfall for this period is 11.1 inches, an amount slightly less than the average of 12.01 inches at New York City. This year the actual rainfall was only 4.8 inches at Brookhaven, but was 8.60 inches in Central Park. Thus, eastern Long Island was much drier than the city to the west, and very much drier than average. This summer was also 1-2° warmer than average in every month. While not the hottest summer on record, there were four new or tied highs. The temperature reached a sweltering 102°F on 10 Jul. The combination of hot clear days and controlled irrigation was good for the Long Island farmers, although having to pump water was costly. Home lawns suffered. Surprisingly, late August brought few mosquitoes to bother birders at the beaches, probably a result of less standing water.

On a field trip to Jamaica Bay on 28 Aug, Elsbeth Johnson saw a puzzling small dark Least Bittern. What was described to us proved to be a "Cory's Bittern," a very rare color morph of the Least Bittern. Cory's Bittern was once considered a separate species, although Chapman suspected circa 1895 that it might only be a color morph of the Least Bittern. At best Least Bittern is hard to see and not too plentiful, without the added complications of a polymorphism. The recent literature and field guides make no note of this color phase by name, but do describe a rare color form. This is the first "Cory's Bittern" report of which we know.

For the first time in 72 years, a pair of Osprey nested on Staten Island. Before a success could be recorded, Henry Flamm reported that a violent storm on 10 Jun blew down the nest and breeding for the season was suspended when the birds promptly abandoned the site. On a more positive note, breeding success for Osprey on Long Island has reached a most satisfactory level. For the second year in a row, the Department of Environmental Conservation has removed one of the birds of a clutch to reintroduce the species at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area in the northwest part of the State. In all 12 birds were taken in 1993. They were released in the hopes they will form a permanent colony.

Whimbrel are increasingly more evident along the south shore, mostly on the western half of Long Island. There was one at Democrat

Point on 6 Jul, with reports thereafter from Jamaica Bay, Cow Meadow, the Line Islands, Jones Beach West End, Cedar Beach, and Oak Beach marshes through the end of the period. The peak period was the end of July to beginning of August, when 37 were at Jamaica Bay on July 29 and a dozen were at Cow Meadow about the same time.

Tom Burke, the voice of the NYRBA, in a summary of the season's reports supplied us with most of the following reports of pelagic trips. This year the jet stream was out of its usual place, responsible for the unusually dry summer, and probably affected the Gulf Stream and its associated birds. In any case, this year's reports are unusual for variety and numbers. In the reports following, pelagic species marked MPt were 20–30 miles south of Montauk, and those marked FI were off Fire Island Inlet. In addition, "thousands of shearwaters and petrels" were at Fire Island Inlet on 5 Jul. Later in the season, an Okeanos Foundation boat trip on 20 Aug included a **South Polar Skua**, Cory's Shearwater and Greater Shearwater.

Bob Adamo reported seeing "a flock of about 75 gulls, mostly Laughing Gull, hawking insects like the six Common Nighthawk that were busy working the edges of this unique swarm" at Wading River on 25 Aug. On the next day Peter Martin reported a similar sight at Jones Beach. Here Laughing Gull, Herring Gull and American Crow were feeding on aerial swarms of flying ants. While this type of feeding habit is not extremely rare, it certainly is unusual. The sight of so large a bird as a gull gyrating in the air certainly has its more interesting aspects, particularly when there is a whole sky full of them.

Properly managed Purple Martin colonies held their own this year. Predators and House Sparrows appear to be the major problem. Environmentalists have not paid enough attention to this species. They have not done as much toward maintaining the present population and encouraging new colonies with housing as they have done for Osprey and Barn Owl.

In an after note to the storms of the past year, according to East End fishermen, the flushing action of the tides is supposed to reduce the level of the "brown tide" which has plagued Long Island waters the past few years. They may be correct, since there have no reports of brown tide in the press this year and the scallop harvest has increased.

**Contributors:** Bob Adamo, Howard Boltson, Andy Baldelli, Thomas W. Burke, Irv Cantor, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Paul H. Gillen, Elsbeth S. Johnson, Robert J. Laskowski, Anthony J. Lauro, Pat Lindsay, Peter Martin, Drew Panko, John J. Ruscica, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.



**Abbreviations:** JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS – John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary, Tobay Beach; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JnIn – Jones Inlet; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park; ShIn – Shinnecock Inlet.

**Summer reports:** **Red-throated Loon:** one RMSP 26 Jun (NYRBA). **Cory's Shearwater:** 25 MPt 10 Jun, ten MPt 25 Jun, 12 MPt 2 Jul, 90 FI 3 Jul, 20 MPt 20 Jul. **Greater Shearwater:** 75 MPt 5 Jun, seven MPt 6 Jun, 60 MPt 20 Jun, 1000 MPt 2 Jul, 30 FI 3 Jul. **Sooty Shearwater:** 12 MPt 5 Jun, 15 MPt 6 Jun, 50 MPt 2 Jul, one FI 3 Jul. **Manx Shearwater:** one MPt 6 Jun, four FI 3 Jul. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 750 MPt 5 Jun, 100 MPt 30 Jun, 150 FI 3 Jul, 85 MPt 6 Jun, 30 MPt 25 Jun, 80 MPt 20 Jul. **N. Gannet:** imm FI 5 Jul (PM), one JBWE 22 Jul (AW). **BROWN PELICAN:** two Moriches 30 Jun (AB), five FI Inlet 12 Jul (JF), 12 Moriches 13 Jul (PM), three JnIn 30 Jul (PM), three JBWE 31 Jul (Naomi Zurcher), a much reduced presence this year. **WHITE-FACED IBIS:** one to two Pd X Lawrence 6 Jun-at least Jul 6 (mob). **Least Bittern:** *intro*.

**Osprey:** *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** imm Fresh Kills landfill Staten I mid-late June (HF); one again summered in the Hamptons. **Broad-winged Hawk:** several e SUFF Jul-Aug, one Welwyn 26 Aug (PM). **Ruffed Grouse:** one Brookhaven National Laboratory 1 Jul (JR). **Lesser Golden-Plover:** two Democrat Pt 31 Jul, increased to ten by 21 Aug (NYRBA). **Am. Oystercatcher:** 250 Lnl 22 Aug (NYRBA). **Am. Avocet:** one JBWR 5 Aug (JF). **Willet:** 300 Lnl 3 Jul (NYRBA). **Upland Sandpiper:** five Democrat Pt 26 Jul, building to 60 on 15 Aug and 30 on 21 Aug (MOB). **Whimbrel:** *intro*. **Hudsonian Godwit:** three Line I 3 Jul, nine 24 Jul, seven 1 Aug; one FI 29 Jul; one JBWR 24-31 July and after 20 Aug; two Line I 22 Aug (NYRBA). **Marbled Godwit:** one ShIn 11 July, one JBWR 14-20 Aug, one Line I 22 Aug (NYRBA). **W. Sandpiper:** 150 Line I 24 Jul (NYRBA). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** two JBWR 4 Jul, two Line I 24 Jul (NYRBA). **Baird's Sandpiper:** one Cedar Beach 29 Aug (JR). **Curlew Sandpiper:** one JBWR 28-31 Jul (NYRBA). **Stilt Sandpiper:** scarce this year, arr JBWR 17 Jul. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one Democrat Pt 29 Jul (JF), 11-16 Aug; one Cedar Beach 21-22 Aug; two JBWR 22 Aug (NYRBA); nine Cutchogue 29 Aug (PG). **Ruff:** one Riverhead 9-16 Jul (ES), one JBWR 23 Jul-5 Aug (NYRBA). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 448 Line I 3 Jul (NYRBA). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one Line I 24 Jul, one JBWR 31 Jul (NYRBA). **Wilson's Phalarope:** one JBWR 25-26 Jul, two Line I 22 Aug (NYRBA). **Red-necked Phalarope:** one JBWR 10-11 Jul (NYRBA). **Pomarine Jaeger:** two MPt 5 Jun, one MPt 6 Jun, two MPt 2 Jul, one MPt

20 Jul. **GREAT SKUA**: one MPt 5 Jun. **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**: *intro*. **SKUA**, SPECIES: five MPt 2 Jul. **Laughing Gull**: *intro*. **Herring Gull**: *intro*. **Gull-billed Tern**: one JBWR 5-11 Jul and 27 Jul; several pairs bred on bay islands NASS; max four Oceanside Marine Nature Preserve all season; one Cow Meadow (Freeport) 7 Aug; one JBWR 28 Aug (EJ). **Royal Tern**: two FI 12 Aug (PM). **Black Tern**: one Line I 22 Aug (NYRBA), others reported.

**Barn Owl**: 26 y banded Jamaica Bay by 7 Jul (Don Riepe). **Com. Nighthawk**: *intro*. **Chuck-will's-widow**: calling JFKWS 1 and 6 Jun (PM). **Whip-poor-will**: calling MPt 11 Jun (PM), others Connetquot Preserve SP 11-12 Jun, 13 and 30 Jul (PM).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one JBWR 15 Aug (IC). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one Eastport 12 Jun (NYRBA, no details). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: there appears to be an influx this year, birds arrived early and there are more of them.

**Hooded Warbler**: one Hunter's Woods Riverhead 18 Aug (JF).

**Scarlet Tanager**: several "orange colored" birds reported.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**: several Floyd Bennett Field (NYRBA).

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550

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

### *Appointed Committees*

**Membership:** Myrna Hemmerick, Ch.,

P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733

**Conservation:** Harriet T. Marsi, Ch.,

1053 Powderhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850

**Publications:** Emanuel Levine, Ch.,

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

**Research:** Charles R. Smith

449 Irish Settlement Rd., Freeville, NY 13068

**By-Laws:** Richard Sloss, Ch.,

1300 Seawane Drive, Hewlett Harbor, NY 11557

**Administrative:** Stanley R. Lincoln, Ch.,

P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

**John J. Elliott Memorial:** Paul DeBenedictis, Ch.,

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

**Lillian C. Stoner Fund:** John L. Confer, Ch.,

RD #1, Hammond Hill Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817

**New York State Avian Records:** Robert Andrie, Ch.

Send reports to NYSARC,

159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Attn: Jim Lowe

**Federation Waterfowl Count:** Walton B. Sabin, Ch.

625 Kenwood Ave., Slingerlands, NY 12159

**Circulation Manager:** Berna B. Lincoln

P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

### *Elected Committees*

**Auditing:** Irving Cantor, Richard Sloss, Norman Stotz

**Nominating:** Chad E. Covey, Ch., Harriet T. Marsi, Charles R. Smith

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

*The Kingbird* publishes papers on all aspects of the ornithology of New York State. Manuscripts must be typed single-sided, double-spaced with at least one-inch margins on all sides. Follow similar articles in recent issues as guides to style. Names of bird species follow the most recent A.O.U. Check-list and its supplements. Place tables on a separate page each. Figures should be drawn in black ink. Photographs should be submitted as 35 mm slides or as black-and-white glossy prints. Place all captions on a separate page. Submission of manuscripts on computer diskette (3.5 inch preferred) is encouraged, but identification of the word processing software (including its version) used and printed copy must accompany such submissions. Manuscripts may be submitted to The Editor of *The Kingbird* or to the Chair of the Publications Committee.

***The Kingbird***

Publication of the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs, Inc.  
P.O. Box. 296  
Somers, N.Y. 10589

Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
3rd CLASS  
HOMER, NY 13077  
PERMIT NO. 8

**DO NOT FOLD**

---

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

1993-1994 Officers

**President**

William J. Lee, 2171 Grand Blvd., Schenectady, NY 12309

**Vice-President**

Robert Budliger, 36 Groesbeck Place, Delmar, NY 12054

**Corresponding Secretary**

Valerie M. Freer, 686 Cape Road, Ellenville, NY 12428

**Recording Secretary**

William Reeves, 107 Elberta Drive, East Northport, NY 11731

**Treasurer**

Berna B.Lincoln, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

**Editor of THE KINGBIRD**

Paul DeBenedictis, 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

**Editor of NEW YORK BIRDERS**

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, NY 11520

*continued on inside*